IAC Archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AT
GOLF LINKS ROAD,
NEWTOWN, MONALEEN
COUNTY LIMERICK

ON BEHALF OF: HOMELAND PROJECTS LTD

ITM: 562057, 655878

AUTHOR: JOHNNIE GALLACHER

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IRISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY LTD
ARCHAEOLOGY & CONSERVATION CONSULTANTS

T: (01) 201 8380 E: archaeology@iac.ie
Dublin I Belfast IAC.ie

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ABSTRACT

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of Homeland Projects Ltd, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed development at Golf Links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick (ITM 562057, 655878). The assessment was carried out by Johnnie Gallacher of IAC Archaeology. It follows on from a geophysical survey and an archaeological testing assessment, both conducted in 2025.

While no recorded monuments are located within the proposed development area, 19 recorded monuments are located in the 500m study area. The nearest of these comprises ringfort (LI005-037), which is located c. 30m to the north.

During 2025 geophysical survey and test trenching was carried out within the proposed development area. Two small 'pit-type' responses, as well as possible traces of former field boundaries were discernible in the geophysical results. Testing revealed one area of archaeological significance, a charcoal clamp or small kiln, which has been labelled as AA1. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature during the course of testing.

A review of the aerial photographic coverage failed to identify any previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential within the development area. The southern-western portions of the development area have been subject to ground disturbances in the past.

As noted above a single feature of archaeological potential has been identified within the development area comprising a possible kiln or charcoal clamps (AA1). Ground disturbances associated with the proposed development will have a direct negative impact on the archaeological remains identified in AA1.

In addition to the above, it is possible that small-scale or isolated archaeological features or deposits have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level, outside of the footprint of the excavated trenches. If present, ground disturbances associated with the proposed development may have a direct negative impact on any such remains.

While preservation in situ is the preferred mitigation for archaeological remains, this is not viable given the development layout. As such it is recommended that the charcoal clamp or small kiln and any associated archaeological remains in AA1 be subject to preservation by record, (archaeological excavation). This should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under an extension of licence 25E0162, in consultation with the National Monuments Service.

It is further recommended that all topsoil stripping associated with the proposed development be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. 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.
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development at Golf Links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick (Figure 1; ITM 562057, 655878). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. It was undertaken by Johnnie Gallacher of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Homeland Projects Ltd.

The archaeological assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site and the surrounding area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Limerick, the topographical files within the National Museum and all available cartographic and documentary sources for the area. A field inspection has also been carried out with the aim of identifying any previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical interest.

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development comprises of the modification of the Large-Scale Residential Development granted under Application Ref. 23/60842 and Appeal Ref. ABP-319009-24. The proposed modifications, as shown on Figure 2, comprise of:

1. The replacement of 57 no. units comprising of; 06 no. 4 bed semi-detached houses (139.2 sq.m.), 15 no. 3 bed semi-detached houses / townhouses (108 sq.m.), 06 no. 1 and 2 bed apartments (Block A) (54.1 sq.m. – 114.1 sq.m.), 14 no. 1 and 2 bed apartments (Block B)(54.1 sq.m. – 114.1 sq.m.) and 16 no. 1, 2, and 3 bed apartments (Block D)(50.2 – 123.2 sq.m.)
2. With 59 no. units comprising of; 04 no. 4 bed semi-detached houses (134.0 sq.m.), 22 no. 3 bed semi-detached houses (104.4 – 108.6 sq.m.), 04 no. 3 bed semi-detached houses (115.8 sq.m.), 08 no. 3 bed townhouses (109.8 sq.m.), 06 no. 2 bed townhouses (80.2 sq.m.) and 15 no. 1 and 2 bed apartments (61.6 – 71.9 sq.m.)
3. The provision of 5no. additional townhouse units (2 no. 3 beds and 3 no. 2 beds).
4. The omission of the permitted childcare facility with capacity to accommodate 58no. children and the construction of a childcare facility on a site to the west at Evanwood with capacity to accommodate 102no. children.
5. The 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; public lighting; substations; all associated site development works; and all drainage and foul sewer infrastructure and network works including nature-based suds measures.

2 METHODOLOGY

A study area, defined as 500m from the boundary of the proposed development area, was assessed to inform this report. Research was undertaken in four phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site. A geophysical survey and programme of test trenching has also been carried out within greenfield portions of the site and those investigation results have been used to inform this assessment.

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 Council Development Plan 2022–2028;
- Aerial photographs; 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 Council Development Plan 2022–2028 was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

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 and Google Earth.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This 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. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2026.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

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 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 on 26 January 2025 within the proposed development area (Dowling 2025, Licence No.: 25R0036). A summary of the geophysical report is presented in Section 3.8.

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*' (CIfA 2023a, 4).

A programme of archaeological testing based on the results of the geophysical survey was carried out within the proposed development area over the course of two days in March 2025. This was undertaken by Shane Delaney of IAC under licence 25E0162. Detailed results of the archaeological testing are included in Section 3.9 of this report.

3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located in the townlands of Newtown, Kilbane and Ballysimon, in the Civil Parish of Kilmurry, and in the Barony of Clanwilliam, County Limerick. The main portion of the site comprises part of a greenfield with several existing derelict structures in the north. Additionally, a western portion of the proposed development comprises an east-west aligned track, two fields, and a north-south portion of the L1116 road. The southwestern corner of the site has been heavily disturbed in the past. The wider landscape is characterised by existing housing estates on all sides. The M7 road lies c. 200m to the south.

The Newtown/Kilbane townland boundary takes the form of a track/road which constitutes the northern site boundary. This townland boundary and track/road also runs through the western portion of the site. The Kilbane/Ballysimon townland boundary also takes the form of a track/road, and it is also present within the western portion of the site.

While no recorded monuments are located within the proposed development area, 19 recorded monuments are located in the 500m study area. The nearest of these comprises a ringfort (LI005-037) which is located c. 30m to the north..

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period (c. 8000 BC–AD 500)

The River Shannon formed one of the main access routes into mainland Ireland and was a focus for settlement from the Mesolithic (c. 7000–4000BC) period onwards. Within the wider context of County Limerick, a late Mesolithic/ early Neolithic axehead and lithics were found within alluvial deposits on the northern bank of the River Shannon as part of the Limerick Southern Ring Road investigations (Bermingham et al. 2013).

While recent years have seen a large increase in the number of identified Neolithic (c. 4000–2500BC) settlement and habitation sites, there is no archaeological evidence to substantiate Neolithic settlement within the immediate environs of the proposed development areas. While there are no recorded megalithic tombs located within the landscape surrounding the proposed development, a possible Neolithic stone axe was found with a variety of animal bones on the lower part of the estuary foreshore in peats that were dated to the Mesolithic period (O'Sullivan 2001).

The most common Bronze Age (c. 2500–800BC) site within the archaeological record is the burnt mound or *fulacht fia*. Over 7,000 examples have been recorded in the country making them the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland (Waddell 2022). Four *fulachta fia* are recorded in the study area including three located c. 130-170m to the north of the proposed development (LI005-088010, LI005-088009, LI005-088008), and one located c. 305m to the south (L1005-105). These monument types are numerous along the Shannon and within the wider rural landscape.

There is increasing evidence for Iron Age (c. 800BC – AD400) settlement and activity in recent years as a result of development-led excavations as well as projects such as Late Iron Age and

Roman Ireland (Cahill Wilson 2014). Yet this period is distinguishable from the rather rich remains of the preceding Bronze Age and subsequent early medieval period, by a relative paucity within the current archaeological record. The Iron Age in Ireland is problematic for archaeologists as few artefacts dating exclusively to this period have been found and without extensive excavation it cannot be determined whether several monument types, such as ring-barrows or standing stones, date to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age. It is likely that there was significant continuity in the Iron Age, with earlier monuments re-used in many cases. The earliest map of Ireland was drawn by Ptolemy and shows a place referred to as Regia in the approximate location of Limerick city alongside the River Shannon (Spellissy 1998; O'Sullivan 2001). Sites, including burial evidence, have been identified within the wider area, including Ballysimon 1, Rathbane South and Coonagh West 4 that were excavated as part of the Limerick Southern Ring Road (Bermingham et al., 2013). A bronze sestertius of Domitian coin, dating to AD 81–94, was found within the River Shannon to the immediate south of Thomond Bridge (NMI Ref.: 1978:327).

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (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).

The ringfort or rath is considered to be the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period (Stout 1997). 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). 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. A ringfort-rath (LI005-037) is located roughly c. 30m to the north of the proposed development area and the Zone of Notification for this ringfort borders the proposed development to its north. In the wider context of the county, West Limerick has one of the highest ringfort densities in the country, at c. 1.52 per square kilometre (Stout 1997). Another ringfort is located c. 417m to the east-southeast (LI006-034).

3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The piecemeal conquest by the Anglo-Normans of Ireland, which commenced in AD 1169, had a fundamental impact on the Irish landscape. Their presence was strongest in the East of the Country, and it is mainly in this region that land was carved up and granted to the newly arrived lords who participated. The main success of the Anglo-Norman occupation was the

welding of scattered territories into a cohesive unit through the introduction of the English form of shire government. The rural landscape became a network of manorial centres; these units would generally contain a castle (motte and bailey), a manorial house and a number of dwellings, with extensive surrounding acreage. During the 14th to 16th centuries, tower houses were the typical residence of the Irish gentry and are a common feature in the Irish landscape. The Anglo-Normans arrived at Limerick in 1175; however, they were forced to withdraw in 1176, and did not succeed in occupying Limerick until 1190, one of the last towns of Ireland to fall to the invaders (Lee 1997). 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.).

The initial settlement was restricted to the walled town which occupied King's Island. Several early sources state that during the early 13th century King John instructed that a castle should be erected (King John's Castle, LI005-017014, and also LI005-017124 ringwork at King John's Castle, located c. 4.6km west) along with a bridge (Thomond Bridge) within the English town of the settlement (Wiggins, 2000). 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). The 12th century ringwork ditch was identified during excavations at the castle in 1990-91, beneath the 13th century masonry (Wiggins, 2000).

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1900)

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.

By the 18th and 19th centuries, a slightly more stable political climate enabled the landed gentry to establish large houses within the landscape. Often these occupied areas on the outskirts of towns. Buildings of architectural heritage value in the vicinity of the proposed development area include Millford house and demesne located c. 2km to the north (NIAH 21818001).

The Rivers Shannon and Abbey enabled large scale milling around Limerick city, with examples including a 17th century watermill (LI005-041) located c. 525m to the southwest. By the 1830s, the linen and cotton industry in the region declined despite efforts made by the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, including the erection of a new linen hall and the holding of a weekly market (ibid.). By the 1850s the previously lucrative linen market in North Munster had collapsed following the Famine, as many of the linen mills had been adapted to grind Indian corn brought in for famine relief (Spellissy, 1998).

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2026) has revealed that five previous programmes of archaeological fieldwork have taken place within 500m of the proposed development site.

The nearest of these comprises a programme of monitoring which took place c. 137m to the northwest (McCutcheon 2003, Licence No. 03E1343). This uncovered a series of features mainly dating to the post-medieval period, including pits, charcoal deposits, linear features, possible drainage features, post holes, cremation burials, and plough furrows.

Another programme of monitoring was undertaken c. 140m south of the proposed development area and it revealed a number of multi period archaeological features (Lynch 2008, Licence No. 07E0934). These features included cremation burials, hearths and a large spread of pits, post-holes and stake-holes.

Monitoring took place c. 205m to the northwest and uncovered remains of a ring ditch, three burnt mounds, cremations and possible cremations (O'Callaghan 2003, Licence No. 03E1717).

Monitoring also took place c. 327m to the south-southwest and revealed a burial and burnt pit of an undetermined date (Collins 2001, Licence No. 01E0030).

Test trenching in 2016 was undertaken c. 460m to the northwest which revealed bronze age features and an undated settlement (Hull 2016, Licence No. 16E0513).

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1841, scale 1:10560 (Figure 3)

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area. The main portion of the site occupies a single parcel of agricultural land. A small structure is noted in the north region of the proposed development area, bordered by a few small trees or shrubs. The western portion of the scheme contains part of three fields as sections of the roads network. The surrounding landscape can be characterized by irregularly shaped agricultural fields and farmsteads.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1903, scale 1:2500 (Figure 4)

There are no discernible differences to the proposed development site between this map and the previous, except an extra outbuilding within the northern region of the area and a footpath crossing the field from east to west. A stream is depicted running along the eastern border of the field. The ringfort located merely c. 30m to the north is present as a circular feature (L1005-037).

3.4 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Limerick Council Development Plan (2022–2028) recognises the statutory protection afforded to all Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 2).

There are 19 recorded monuments within 500m of the proposed development (Table 1; Figure 1; Appendix 1). There are no recorded monuments located within the proposed development area, with the nearest consisting of a ringfort-rath (LI005-037), lying c. 30m to the north.

TABLE 1: Recorded archaeological sites in the study area

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT
LI005-037	Kilbane	Ringfort	c. 30m north
LI005-086	Kilbane	Excavation – miscellaneous	c. 100m northwest
LI005-111	Newtown	Excavation – miscellaneous	c. 100m east
LI005-088002	Kilbane	Flat cemetery	c. 115m northwest
LI005-088003	Kilbane	Excavation – miscellaneous	c. 116m northwest
LI005-088001	Kilbane	Excavation – miscellaneous	c. 117m north
LI005-088008	Kilbane	Fulacht fia	c. 130m north
LI005-068	Newtown	Redundant record	c. 163m east
LI005-088004	Kilbane	Flat cemetery	c. 164m northwest
LI005-088009	Kilbane	Fulacht fia	c. 166m north
LI005-088010	Kilbane	Fulacht fia	c. 169m north
LI005-088006	Kilbane	Excavation – miscellaneous	c. 195m northwest
LI005-088007	Kilbane	Excavation – miscellaneous	c. 247m northwest
LI005-105	Peafield	Fulacht fia	c. 290m south
LI005-088005	Kilbane	Flat cemetery	c. 293m northwest
LI005-082002	Ballysimon	Excavation – miscellaneous	c. 340m south
LI005-082001	Ballysimon	Burial	c. 340m south
LI005-054	Peafield	Enclosure	c. 413m south-southeast
LI006-034	Newtown	Ringfort	c. 413m east-southeast

3.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

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 are not any topographical files relating to the townlands located within the study area as recorded by the National Museum of Ireland regarding artefact discoveries. The nearest recorded file includes two Roman Coins found on the banks of the River Shannon located c. 2.8km to the north.

3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

A review of the Google map repository (2006–2025), shows the main portion of the proposed development site within a parcel of open land bound by suburban residential dwellings on all sides. The north of the site contains some walling and at least three derelict structures. A defunct field boundary is noticeable bisecting the site from north to south. The imagery from March 2025 (the latest available at time of writing) clearly shows the archaeological test trenches excavated at the start of that month (Figure 5).

The western portion of the proposed development comprises an east-west aligned track, two fields, and a north-south portion of the L1116 road. The southern field appears to have been used as a compound area for adjacent developments. This can be seen on the aerial imagery

dated 2006/7 and then in 2018. No signs of previous disturbance were noted in the northern field.

Earlier photography shows the land immediately south as comprising agricultural fields which were successively developed over the course of 19 years, culminating in the dense residential landscape bounding the proposed development site at present. A defunct field boundary is noticeable bisecting the site from north to south. The imagery from March 2025 (the latest available at time of writing) clearly shows the archaeological test trenches excavated at the start of that month (Figure 5).

3.7 FIELD INSPECTION

The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation the proposed development site and its surrounding environs were inspected (Figure 1).

The main portion of the site was inspected by both Dowling (2025) and Delaney (2025) prior to the geophysical survey and programme of test trenching. It was found to comprise a large field of pasture (Plates 1-2). This field is bound by tree-lined hedgerows and surrounded by modern residential estates. The terrain is flat and is traversed from north to south by a shallow ditch that probably represents the remains of a former field boundary. A derelict house and farm sheds occupy the northern end of the site (Plate 3).

The western portion of the proposed development follows an east-west aligned track/road. It also contains two fields; one on each side of the track (Plates 4-5). The southern field bears clear signs of previous ground disturbance. The northern field is in use as a material storage area. A north-south portion of the L1116 road comprises the western limit of this western portion.

3.8 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

A geophysical survey was undertaken on the 26th of January 2025 (Dowling 2025, Licence No. 25R0036, Figure 5). The survey, comprising high resolution magnetic gradiometry, was focused a large pasture field and covered c. 3.2 hectares. The site had not previously been subjected to geophysical survey and it was hoped that the investigation would identify and map any subsurface archaeology that may be present. The geophysical survey did not reveal any anomalies of clear archaeological interest. Two small ‘pit-type’ responses and possible traces of former field boundaries were discernible in the dataset.

3.9 TEST TRENCHING

A programme of archaeological testing, based on the results of the geophysical survey, was carried out within the proposed development area over the course of two days in March 2025 using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat grading bucket. This was undertaken by Shane Delaney of IAC under licence 25E0162 (Figures 6-8).

The trenches targeted geophysical anomalies and open green space in order to fully investigate the archaeological potential of the site. This investigation showed that the

majority of potential anomalies indicated by the geophysical survey are non-archaeological in origin, instead representing agricultural drains, furrows and ditches.

Testing revealed one area of archaeological significance, a charcoal clamp or small kiln identified in Trench 5, which has been designated as Archaeological Area 1. This shallow feature (0.08m in depth) forms a figure-of-eight shape which measures 1.60m x 1.08m in plan (Plate 6, Figure 7). The fill is a pale grey clayish silt containing some burnt stone fragments and charcoal inclusions. There is evidence that the subsoil beneath the feature is scorched red.

Charcoal clamps produce charcoal for use in other activities such as smelting metals. Kilns are ovens which have been used for a variety of industrial purposes such as turning clay into pottery. Both charcoal clamps and kilns have been in use for thousands of years and the dating of AA1 is unclear at present

4 CONCLUSIONS

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of Homeland Projects Ltd, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed development at Golf Links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick (ITM 562057, 655878). The assessment was carried out by Johnnie Gallacher of IAC Archaeology. It follows on from a geophysical survey and an archaeological testing assessment, which were carried out within greenfield portions of the site in 2025.

While no recorded monuments are located within the proposed development area, 19 recorded monuments are located in the 500m study area. The nearest of these comprises ringfort (LI005-037), which is located c. 30m to the north.

The Newtown/Kilbane townland boundary takes the form of a track/road which constitutes the northern site boundary. This townland boundary and track/road also runs through the western portion of the site. The Kilbane/Ballysimon townland boundary also takes the form of a track/road, and it is also present within the western portion of the site.

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2026) has shown that, asides from the 2025 geophysical survey and testing, no previous archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the area of development. The 2025 test trenching resulted in the identification of one area of archaeological significance, a charcoal clamp or small kiln. No dating material was identified during the course of the testing.

A review of the aerial photographic coverage failed to identify any previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential within the development area. A review of the historic mapping coverage has also been conducted and this shows that a small vernacular farmstead was formerly located in the north of the site.

A field inspection has been carried out as part of this assessment. Whilst much of the development area is located within previously undisturbed greenfield, no previously unrecorded sites or areas of archaeological potential were noted.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological resources potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; and burial of sites, limiting access for future archaeological investigation. Upstanding archaeology can be affected adversely by direct damage or destruction arising from development, from inadvertent damage arising from vibration, undermining etc. and also by indirect impacts to a building's visual setting, view or curtilage.

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- A single feature of archaeological potential has been identified, a possible kiln or charcoal clamps, designated as Archaeological Area 1 (AA1). Ground disturbances associated with the proposed development will have a direct negative impact on the archaeological remains identified in AA1.

- In addition to the above, it is possible that small-scale or isolated archaeological features or deposits have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level, outside of the footprint of the excavated trenches. If present, ground disturbances associated with the proposed development may have a direct negative impact on any such remains.

5.2 MITIGATION

- While preservation in situ is the preferred mitigation for archaeological remains, this is not viable given the development layout. As such it is recommended that the charcoal clamp or small kiln and any associated archaeological remains in AA1 be subject to preservation by record, (archaeological excavation). This should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under an extension of licence 25E0162, in consultation with the National Monuments Service.

- It is further recommended that all topsoil stripping associated with the proposed development be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. 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.

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 Limerick City and County Council's executive archaeologist.

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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 (2005–2026).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

SMR NO.	LI005-037
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	562017 , 656069
CLASSIFICATION	Ringfort-rath
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 30m north
DESCRIPTION	On a gently undulating SW-facing slope, on a small undeveloped greenfield area abutting School House Road and otherwise surrounded by housing. Depicted on the revised 1938 ed. OS 25-inch map as a circular-shaped area (approx. 43m NE-SW; 41m NW-SE). Monument described in 1996 as a flat-topped circular-shaped area (diam. 40m) defined by a scarp (H 1.15-1.6m) and a partially infilled outer fosse. There is suggestion of a couterscarp (Wth 10m) to N. Visible as a roughly circular-shaped monument on Digital Globe orthophotos taken 2011-13 and Google Earth orthoimage taken 19/11/2019.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-086
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561923 , 656027
CLASSIFICATION	Excavation – miscellaneous
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 100m northwest
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SW-facing slope, in low-lying pasture, c. 600m to E of the Groody River. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Sarah McCutcheon, Executive Archaeologist, Limerick Co. Co. in 2003 during monitoring (Licence No. 03E1343) of phase 1, Castletroy distributor road (McCutcheon 2003). This revealed a series of features in three fields. Field 1 contained three pits, four further pits containing cremated burials which were all excavated, including one pit with multiple burials; two other pits which might contain cremations were recorded (ibid). In Field 2 twenty small pits/deposits, two linear features, a rectangular feature and a possible drain were recovered, most of which proved post-medieval in date (ibid). Six trenches/drains, six pits, five possible post-pits and eleven stake-holes were also recorded within Field 2, in addition to a shallow, roughly circular-shaped trench (diam. 4.2m). In Field 3, there were six possible pits and four small concentrations of charcoal uncovered (ibid). The road was 400m in length and the initial 220m was in cut and all features were excavated. It would

	appear that those features found across the second half of the scheme were in a fill area and retained in situ.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-111
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Newtown
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	562265 , 655810
CLASSIFICATION	Excavation – miscellaneous
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 100m east
DESCRIPTION	On gently undulating former flat pasture in advance of the construction of the Kylemore Housing estate. Other contemporary prehistoric archaeological sites have been discovered on the Limerick Southern Ring Road that forms the SE boundary of the site (Bermingham et al. 2013), such as a cremation pit (LI006-092005-) 600m to NE and a fulacht fia (LI005-105----) 300m to SW. The archaeological excavations in Newtown were carried out by Linda Lynch (2008) under licence No. 07E0934 across 5 areas (overall dims. 75m E-W X 100m N-S). The results of the excavations recorded numerous features which included 'a large spread of pits, post-holes, stake-holes and cremation burials. These were excavated at the end of 2007 (www.excavations.ie 2007 Site No. 1099; Lynch 2010, 290). The pits and post-/stake-holes were particularly concentrated in one area, with outliers of human cremation burials/spreads and a hearth with associated stake-holes. The latter appears to represent the repeated use of a spit over the fire. Another possible hearth, with associated stake -holes, was located near the centre of the main concentration of pits and post-holes. Only one structure was identified within these features. This was a five -post structure, with four post-holes forming a square plan with a fifth post-hole centrally placed. The plan of the structure was very regular, with the corner post-holes located between 2.4m and 2.5m from each other. A number of the pits had stake-holes in the bases or immediately adjacent to them, suggesting the possible use of marker-posts. Indeed, no definite structure could be determined from the large post-pits that were excavated, which suggests that these may also have functioned as marker-posts. No finds were recovered from any of the features. Flecks of cremated bone were found in a number of pits' (www.excavations.ie 2008 Site No. 765; Lynch 2011, 226). A single 'pit contained a relatively significant amount of immediately identifiable human cremated bone. A number of features were found to truncate others. This, in conjunction with the repeated use of spits over fires, indicates that the site had a certain longevity. However, as yet it is not possible to determine what features are contemporary and whether the site was in use over one long phase or intermittently over a much longer period. Indeed the function(s) of the site may have changed also over time'. Further analysis of the cremated human bone and charcoal are anticipated.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088002

RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561921 , 656054
CLASSIFICATION	Flat cemetery
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 115m northwest
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (License No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan and excavated (License No. 03E1717) by Niamh O'Callaghan later in 2003. Area 6 (50m to S of Area 1) contained four cremation pits which were situated c. 15m to NE of miscellaneous excavation (LI005-088003-). These were similar in size and form to those excavated in Areas 1 and 2. They all contained fragments of cremated bone and a small number of pottery sherds were recorded in two examples. Two of the cremation pits were oval-shaped and two were circular-shaped and all contained charcoal and burnt bone within the deposits (Hurley 2003, 9-10).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088003
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561911 , 656040
CLASSIFICATION	Excavation – miscellaneous
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 116m northwest
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (License No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan and excavated (License No. 03E1717) by Niamh O'Callaghan later in 2003. Situated c. 15m to SW of flat cemetery (F85-F88) (LI005-088002-). A number of features were excavated (F12-F20) and consisted of nine small features all < 1m in maximum dimensions. They included one probable cremation containing charcoal and burnt bone, 7 small spreads all including charcoal and one linear feature containing a clayey silt.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088001
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry

BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561988 , 656127
CLASSIFICATION	Excavation – miscellaneous
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 117m north
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Situated due N of miscellaneous excavations (LI005-086----) (License No. 02E1787) which took place in 2002 on the adjacent distributor road. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (License No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan. The features (F1-F6) were excavated (License No. 03E1717) by Niamh O' Callaghan later in 2003 and consisted of three linear features and three subcircular-shaped features. The former consist of a linear feature (L 7m; Wth 1.3m) aligned NW-SE, a second linear feature (L c. 9m; Wth 0.75-0.9m) aligned ENE-WSW and a third linear feature (L 3m; Wth 0.27m) aligned N-S. The latter consist of an irregular subcircular-shaped feature (L 1.17m E-W; 1.07m N-S), a subcircular-shaped spread (0.42m N-S; 0.34m E-W) and an oval-shaped spread of burnt soil (0.64m N-S; 1.04m E-W) ('Callaghan 2006, 309).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088008
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	562003 , 656155
CLASSIFICATION	Fulacht fia
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 130m north
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (License No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan and excavated (License No. 03E1717) by Niamh O'Callaghan later in 2003. In Area 8, the remains of a possible fulacht fiadh (6m x 5m; D 0.3m) were recorded and consisted of a layer of black silt with heat-shattered stones. There were no features recorded below it, suggesting that this material may have been ex situ.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-068
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Newtown
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	562328, 655825
CLASSIFICATION	Redundant record

DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 163m east
DESCRIPTION	Originally believed to constitute a possible earthwork, this has been disproven.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088004
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561895 , 656101
CLASSIFICATION	Flat cemetery
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 164m northwest
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (License No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan and excavated (License No. 03E1717) by Niamh O'Callaghan later in 2003. A number of features (F21-24 and F89) in Area 1 (west) were excavated including seven roughly circular-shaped cremation pits (average diam. 0.5m; D 0.2m). A substantial amount of bone was recovered from four of the features and occasional sherds of pottery were recorded in three examples. Three phases of cremation burial have been interpreted on the site. The earliest phase involves a linear feature with two cremations cut into the base. There were two stake-holes associated with one of the cremations and the second was surrounded by a circle of ten stake-holes. The second phase of cremations were cut into the fill of another feature, while the final phase consisted of a single cremation.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088009
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	562066 , 656211
CLASSIFICATION	Fulacht fia
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 166m north
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (Licence No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan and excavated (Licence No. 03E1717) by Niamh O'Callaghan later in 2003. In Area 7, the remains of a fulachta fiadh (FF2) were excavated. It comprised of a black silty spread (10.5m x 8.5m; D 0.2m) containing heat-shattered stone and was located approximately 5m from a small stream. Two large, yet shallow rectangular-shaped features (possible troughs) and five small circular pits were

	recorded under the remains of the burnt spread and were all filled with heat-shattered stone (ibid). A second fulacht fiadh (FF3) (LI005-088010-) was found as a result of this excavation (O'Callaghan 2006, 309).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088010
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	562055 , 656212
CLASSIFICATION	Fulacht fia
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 169m north
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (Licence No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan and excavated (License No. 03E1717) by Niamh O'Callaghan later in 2003. In Area 7, the remains of a fulachta fiadh (FF3) were found as a result of this excavation of fulacht fiadh (FF2) (LI005-088010-). It comprised of a smaller black silty spread containing heat-shattered stone (O'Callaghan 2006, 309).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088006
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561846 , 656086
CLASSIFICATION	Excavation – miscellaneous
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 195m northwest
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (License No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan and excavated (License No. 03E1717) by Niamh O'Callaghan later in 2003. In Area 1 (east), a number of features (F58-F74 and F81-F88) were recovered and excavated including a ring-ditch (int. diam. 4m; ext. diam. 5.6m; D 0.24m). There was no stratigraphic relationship between it and the cremation burials. There were two internal pits, although these did not contain cremation burials.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088007
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane

PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561829 , 656149
CLASSIFICATION	Excavation – miscellaneous
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 247m northwest
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (License No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan and excavated (License No. 03E1717) by Niamh O'Callaghan later in 2003. Situated c. 15m to SW of flat cemetery (F85-F88) (LI005-088002-). A total of 9 features were excavated (F75-79 and F92-93) including a large irregular-shaped feature (2.45m N-S; 2.13m E-W) containing burnt stone and charcoal and a large teardrop-shaped feature containing charcoal and fragments of burnt bone. There were also two circular-shaped and three roughly oval-shaped pits containing charcoal and two spreads one of which contained charcoal (Hurley 2003, 9-10).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-105
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Peafield
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	562106 , 655526
CLASSIFICATION	Fulacht fia
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 290m south
DESCRIPTION	In former pasture under the Limerick Southern Ring Road 20m from the townland boundary with Ballysimon. The excavation of a levelled fulacht fia under licence No. 01E0484, identified during monitoring of topsoil stripping, was undertaken prior to the construction of the Limerick Southern Ring Road in June 2001 (Collins 2001; Collins 2003, 242-3). The site was noted as a spread of burnt material (dims. 10m by 8m) centred on a trough feature. The sub-rectangular trough contained the trace of one timber, 1.43m in length, in a very poor state of preservation. Two modern drains were cut into the fulacht fia mound; both were filled with burnt stone. It appeared that the fulacht fia had been levelled during localised land reclamation (Collins 2003, 242-3).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-088005
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Kilbane
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561843 , 656225

CLASSIFICATION	Flat cemetery
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 293m northwest
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SSW-facing slope, in pasture, on the N side of Schoolhouse Road, Castletroy. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Flor Hurley in 2003 during monitoring (License No. 03E1382) for a housing scheme known as Glantan and excavated (License No. 03E1717) by Niamh O'Callaghan later in 2003. In Area 2 (125m to N of Area 1), a number of features (F25-F56) were recovered and consisted of 90 circular pits (F25-F56) covering a roughly rectangular-shaped area (12m x 6m). There was no evidence for an enclosing element or superstructure recorded in this area. All but twelve pits contained fragments of cremated bone. One of the cremations was contained in a pot, which was block-lifted, however was in a poor state of preservation upon conservation and little of the pot survived. Nevertheless, a capstone which had helped to cover the pot had assisted in the preservation of the cremated remains contained within. Out of 90 pits excavated, 22 contained fragments of pottery and 6 had a substantial quantity of sherds. Preliminary identification by a prehistoric pottery specialist suggests a Late Bronze Age date (Helen Roche, pers. comm.) (ibid).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-082002
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Ballysimon
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561959 , 655444
CLASSIFICATION	Excavation – miscellaneous
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 340m south
DESCRIPTION	In gently undulating pasture, c. 260m to N of the Groody River. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified in 2001 as human remains and two isolated features discovered during topsoil stripping in advance of the Limerick South Ring Road and subsequently excavated (License No. 01E0030) (Collins 2001, 4). The lower leg bones of a skeleton were revealed during monitoring of the destruction of a badger sett by the Wildlife Section of Dúchas (ibid). These were discovered 0.15m below the ground surface and consisted of the lower portions of the upper leg bones, two kneecaps and the upper portions of the lower leg bones (ibid, 15). The remainder of the lower legs were not in situ and these had been cut post-mortem, in antiquity. The rest of the body was missing from the pelvis upwards. It was clear from the remains that they had been cut in antiquity and post-mortem. The bones represent an adult individual of undetermined sex. The remains had been surrounded by a crude stone setting of twelve stones, which despite the partial recovery of this skeleton, remained undisturbed (ibid). Two isolated pits were recovered in the same field. Both features were circular in plan and showed evidence for heating or burning within them (ibid, 16-18). They were partly filled with heat-reddened subsoil and both had tentative evidence for flues. No finds were recovered from the features (ibid). Area now occupied by the Ballysimon M7 interchange visible on Google Earth orthophoto taken 19/11/2019.

REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-082001
RMP STATUS	No
TOWNLAND	Ballysimon
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	561959 , 655444
CLASSIFICATION	Burial
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 340m south
DESCRIPTION	Archaeological excavation in 2001 under licence No. 01E0030 was summarised by Aegis Archaeology as following; 'The leg bones of a skeleton were revealed during monitoring of the destruction of a badger sett by the Wildlife Section of Dúchas. This monitoring was undertaken as part of the construction of the Limerick Southern Ring-Road. Upper leg bones were first recovered, and two kneecaps. It was thought that the remainder of the skeleton would be present, but upon excavation it was found that only the upper portions of the lower legs were left in situ. It was clear from the remains that they had been cut in antiquity and post-mortem. The bones recovered represented an adult individual of undetermined sex. The remains were found only c. 0.15m below the surface ground level of the badger sett. They were covered with a light mid-brown silty loam topsoil and were cut into and resting upon a very similar material. It appeared from the excavation that the remains had been surrounded by a crude stone setting of twelve stones. Despite the fact that it appeared as though the leg bones had been cut in antiquity and the lower legs and both feet were missing, the stone setting had not been truncated, which was thought to be unusual. Two isolated features located in the same field as the human remains were excavated under the same licence. Both features were circular in plan and showed evidence for heating or burning within them. They were partly filled with heat-reddened subsoil and both had tentative evidence for flues. No finds were recovered from the features' (www.excavations.ie)
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI005-054
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Peafield
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	562284 , 655437
CLASSIFICATION	Enclosure
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 413m south-southeast
DESCRIPTION	On a gentle SW-facing slope, in low-lying pasture, c. 0.4km to NE of the M7 interchange at Ballysimon. Not depicted on OS historic mapping. Identified by Celie O'Rahilly, archaeologist, Limerick Co. Co., as a small, dark circular-shaped feature visible on OSi aerial photography (Ref. OS 3/9160) taken 1985.

	Examination of these OSi aerial images was undertaken prior to the construction of the Limerick South Ring Road in the mid 1990s. Visible as a possible circular shaped pond on Digital Globe orthoimage taken 26/05/2004. No surface remains visible of this feature today on Google Earth orthophoto taken 19/11/2019. The aerial photographic evidence suggests that this was a natural pond type feature rather than an archaeological monument.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	LI006-034
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Newtown
PARISH	Kilmurry
BARONY	Clanwilliam
I.T.M.	562562 , 655715
CLASSIFICATION	Ringfort-rath
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 413m east-southeast
DESCRIPTION	On level pasture within the grounds of Monaleen GAA Club at Peafield 130m SW of the M7 motorway. Depicted on the 1840 ed. OS 6-inch map as a circular enclosure 50m N of its actual location. Described in 1840 as 'Lisheen Fort' consisting of a 'small circular fort, about 150 links [30m] in diameter. It is partly defaced by cultivation' (OSNB Kilmurry Parish, 1165). The site description is based upon the 1897 OS 25-inch map and aerial photography, site consists of a circular shaped area (approx. int. diam. 30m) enclosed by a bank and external fosse overgrown with trees and scrub (external diam. 46m) with entrance gap at SSE. The S and W sides of the monument have been incorporated into historic and modern field boundaries. Monument visible on Google Earth orthoimage taken 22/09/2007 as a tree-covered earthwork with an access road into the GAA club grounds located to the immediate E and N of the monument.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

APPENDIX 2 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 the Department of 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.

Limerick County 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 O38 - Preservation of the Underwater Archaeological Heritage

It is an objective of the Council to seek the preservation (in situ, or at a minimum, preservation by record) of all known and all previously unrecorded sites and features of historical and archaeological record in wetland, riverine, lacustrine, estuarine and or marine environments.

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 O45

Raise public awareness and encourage active participation It is an objective of the Council to generally raise public awareness of the archaeological and historic heritage and to assist and encourage active participation by the public, following consultation with National Monuments Service, in the conservation, consolidation and presentation of landmark sites, where this is appropriate and subject to available resources.

Objective EH O46 - Heritage Plan 2017-2030

It is an objective of the Council to support the archaeological objectives in the Heritage Plan.

APPENDIX 3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND 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 2022). 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 4 MITIGATION MEASURES AND 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.

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, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (CIfA 2023a).

Full Archaeological Excavation can be defined as 'a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design' (CIfA 2023b).

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

Underwater Archaeological Assessment consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to

access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.



IAC Archaeology

Title	Site location showing nearby recorded monuments and townland boundaries	Scale	As shown
Project	Golf links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick	Date	03.06.2026
		Job No.	J4509

Drawn By	JG
Checked By	FB
Approved By	FB
Fig. 1	Rev. -

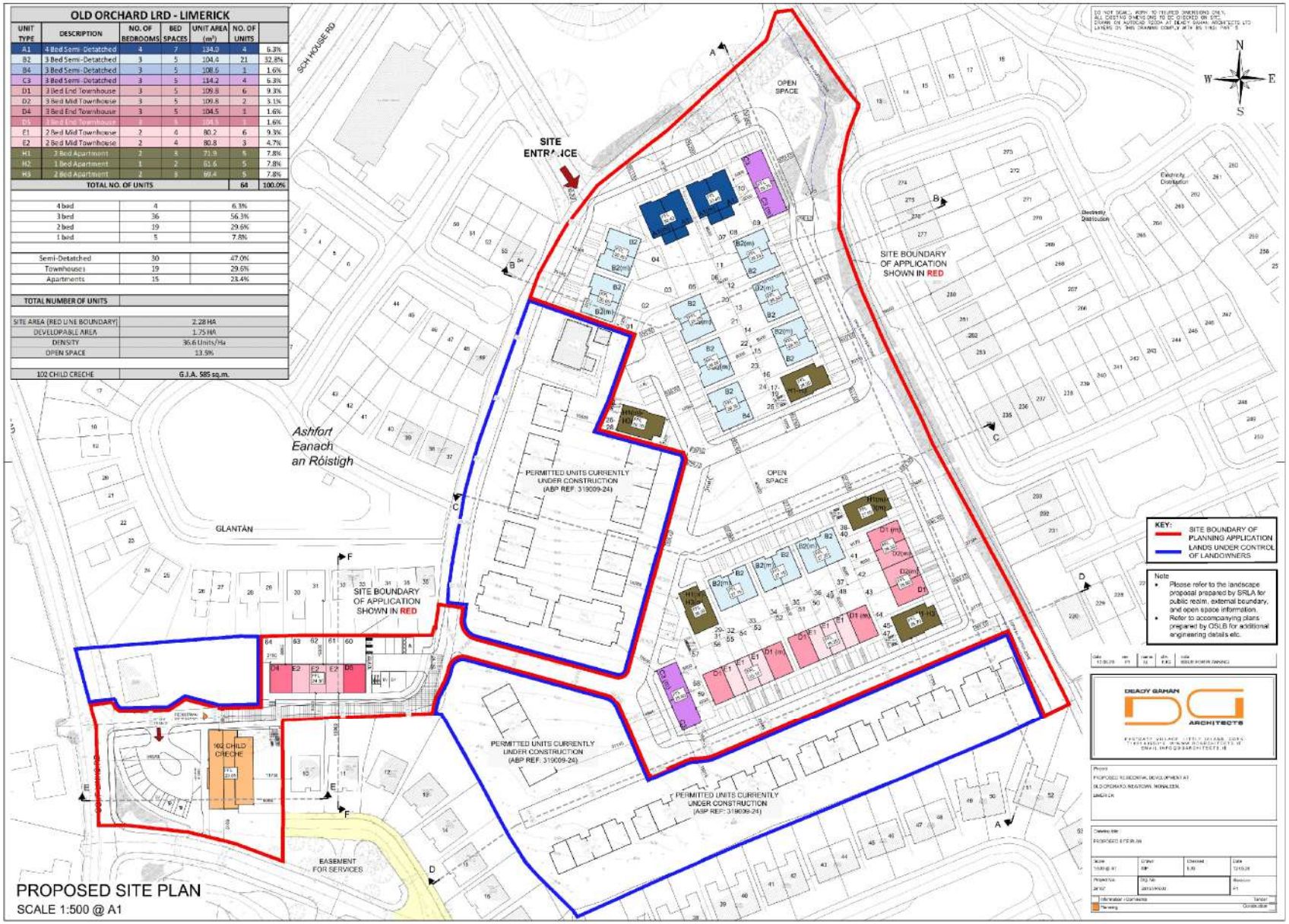
OLD ORCHARD LRD - LIMERICK

UNIT TYPE	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF BEDROOMS	BED SPACES	UNIT AREA (m²)	NO. OF UNITS	
A1	4 Bed Semi-Detatched	4	7	134.0	4	6.3%
B2	3 Bed Semi-Detatched	3	5	104.0	21	32.8%
B4	3 Bed Semi-Detatched	3	5	106.6	1	1.6%
C3	3 Bed Semi-Detatched	3	5	114.2	4	6.3%
D1	3 Bed End Townhouse	3	5	109.8	6	9.3%
D2	3 Bed Mid Townhouse	3	5	109.8	2	3.1%
D4	3 Bed End Townhouse	3	5	104.5	1	1.6%
D5	3 Bed End Townhouse	3	5	104.5	1	1.6%
E1	2 Bed Mid Townhouse	2	4	80.2	6	9.3%
E2	2 Bed Mid Townhouse	2	4	80.8	3	4.7%
H1	3 Bed Apartment	2	3	71.9	5	7.8%
H2	1 Bed Apartment	1	2	51.6	5	7.8%
H3	2 Bed Apartment	2	3	69.4	5	7.8%
TOTAL NO. OF UNITS					64	100.0%

4 bed	4	6.3%
3 bed	36	56.3%
2 bed	19	29.6%
1 bed	5	7.8%

Semi-Detatched	30	47.0%
Townhouses	19	29.6%
Apartments	15	23.4%

TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS	
SITE AREA (RED LINE BOUNDARY)	2.28 HA
DEVELOPABLE AREA	1.75 HA
DENSITY	36.6 Units/Ha
OPEN SPACE	13.5%
102 CHILD CRECHE	G.I.A. 585 sq.m.



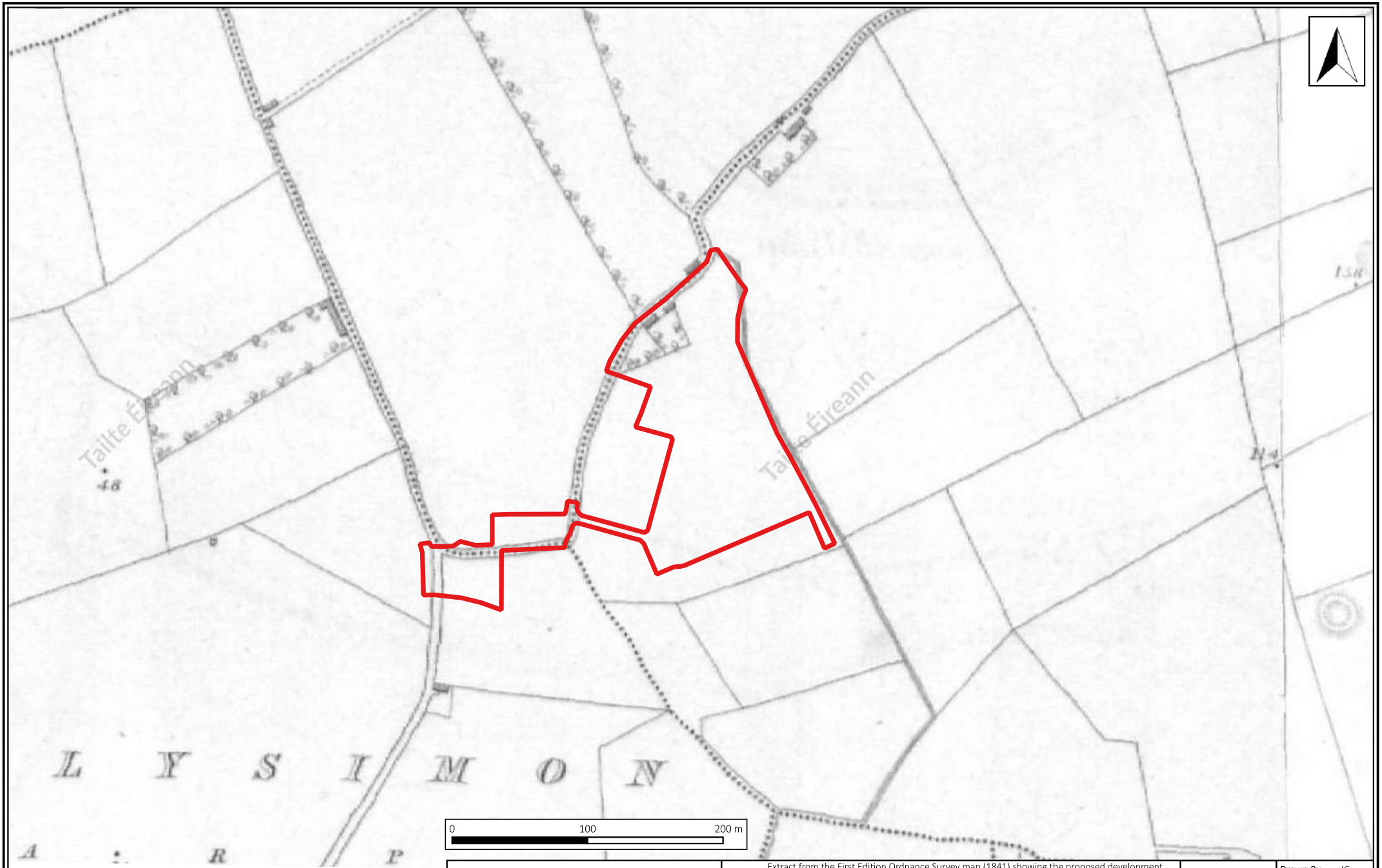
PROPOSED SITE PLAN
SCALE 1:500 @ A1

0 100 200 m

IAC Archaeology

Title	Plan of proposed development	Scale	1:500 @ A1
Project	Golf links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick	Date	03.06.2026
		Job No.	J4509

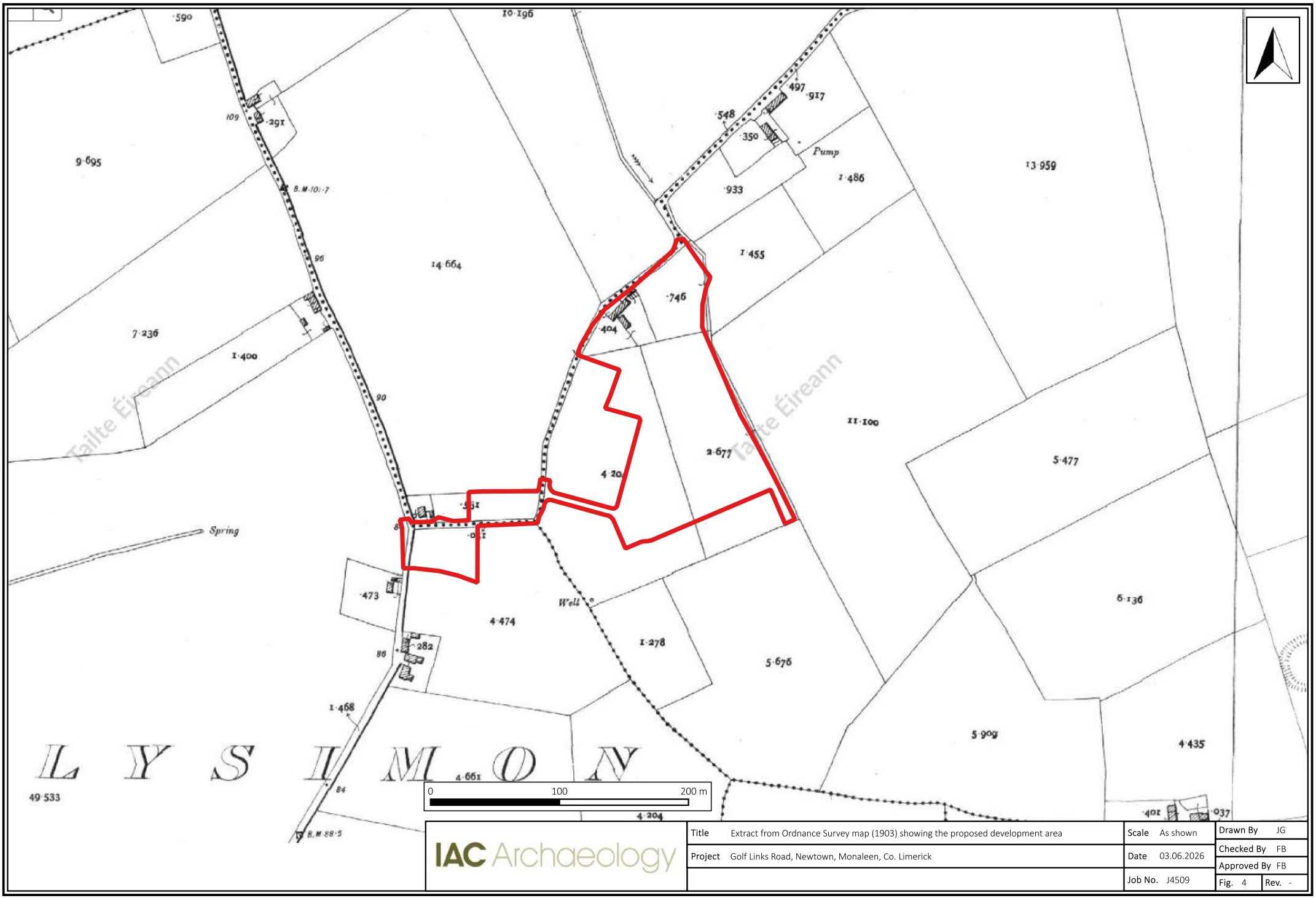
Drawn By	JG
Checked By	FB
Approved By	FB
Fig. 2	Rev. -



IAC Archaeology

Title	Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1841) showing the proposed development area	Scale	As shown
Project	Golf Links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick	Date	03.06.2026
		Job No.	J4509

Drawn By	JG
Checked By	FB
Approved By	FB
Fig. 3	Rev. -



IAC Archaeology

Title	Extract from Ordnance Survey map (1903) showing the proposed development area	Scale	As shown
Project	Golf Links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick	Date	03.06.2026
		Job No.	J4509

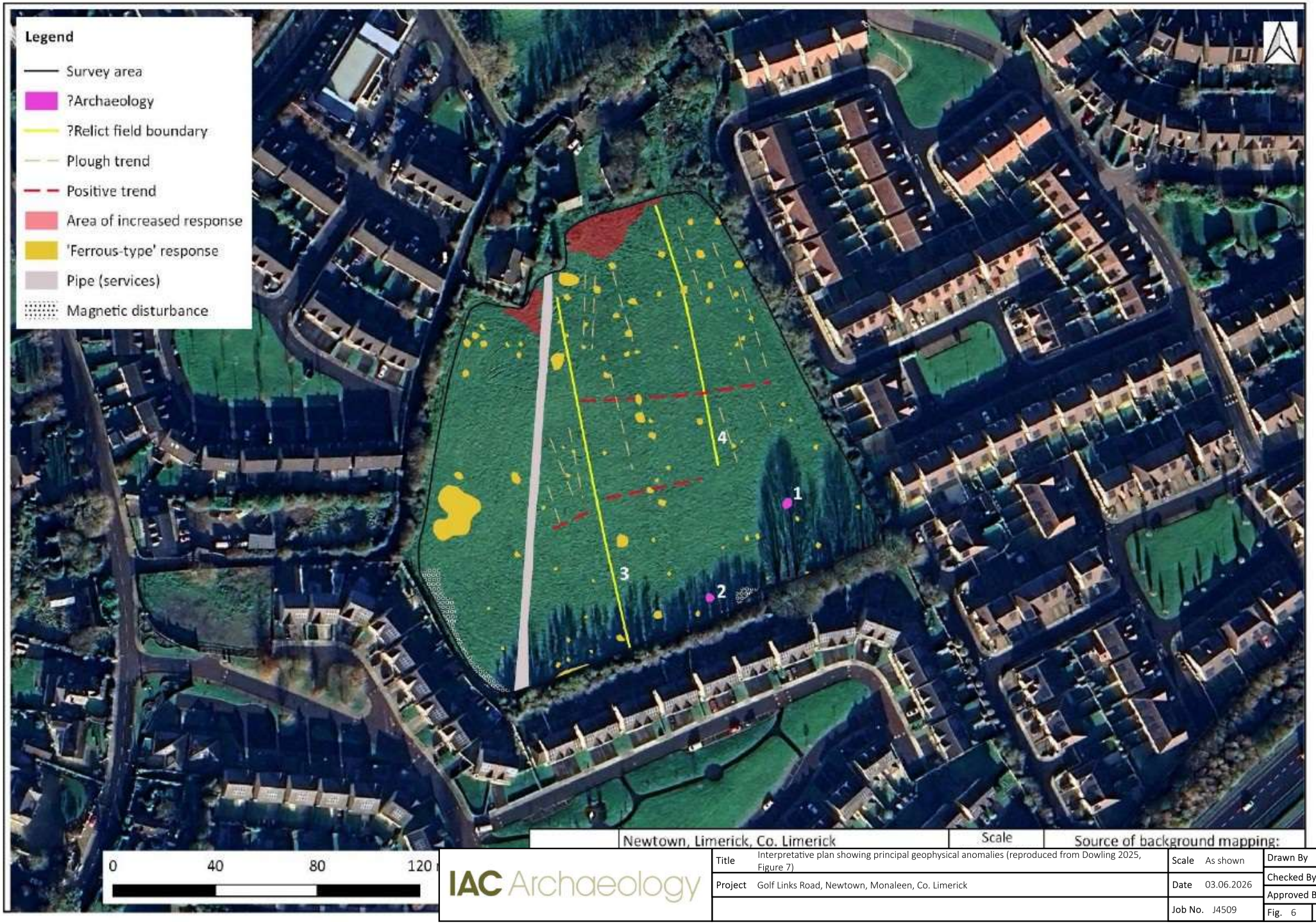
Drawn By	JG
Checked By	FB
Approved By	FB
Fig. 4	Rev. -



IAC Archaeology

Title	Extract from Google Earth (03/2025) showing the archaeological test trenches	Scale	As shown
Project	Golf Links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick	Date	03.06.2026
		Job No.	J4509

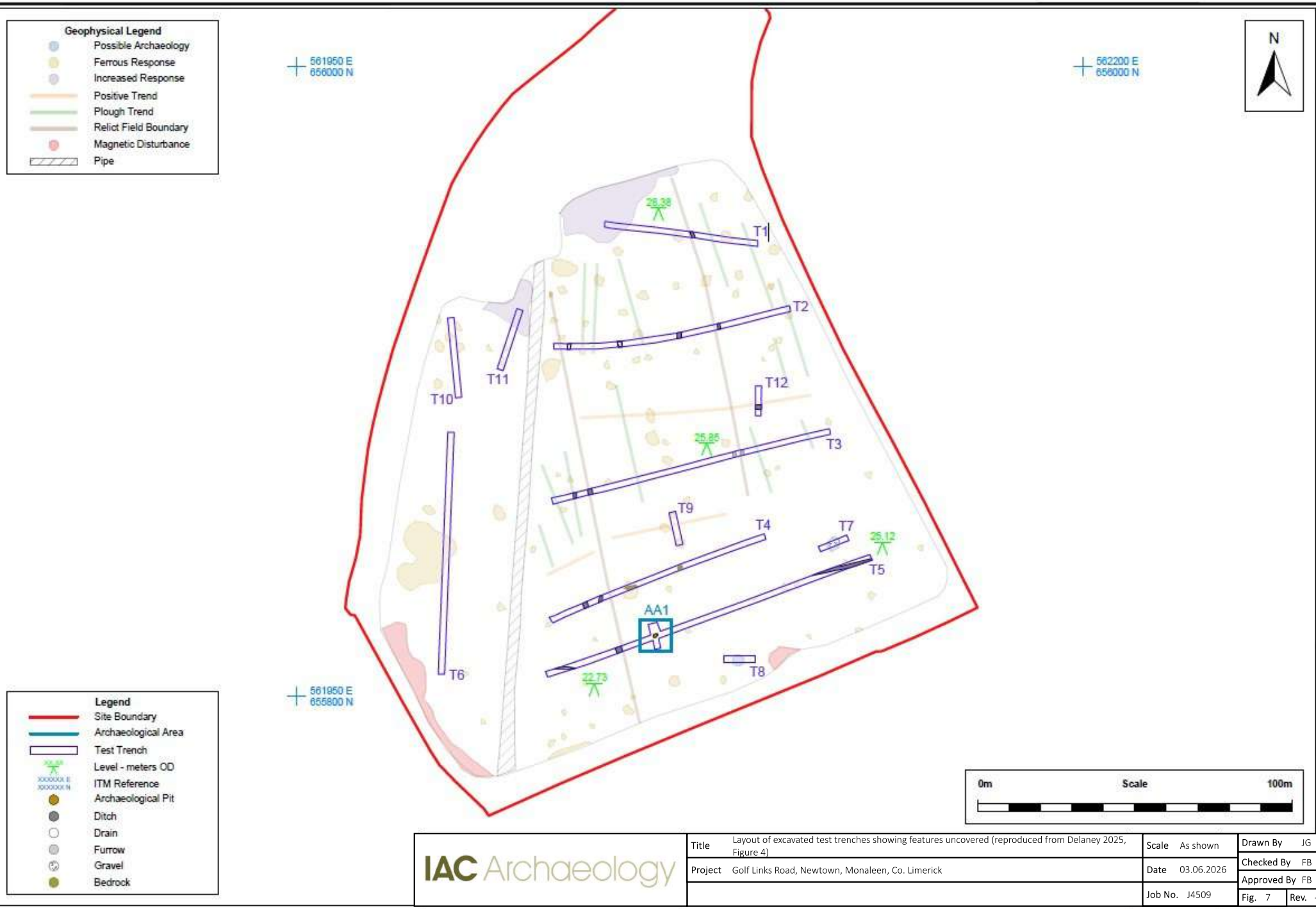
Drawn By	JG
Checked By	FB
Approved By	FB
Fig. 5	Rev. -



	Newtown, Limerick, Co. Limerick	Scale	Source of background mapping:

IAC Archaeology

Title	Interpretative plan showing principal geophysical anomalies (reproduced from Dowling 2025, Figure 7)	Scale As shown	Drawn By JG
Project	Golf Links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick	Date 03.06.2026	Checked By FB
		Job No. J4509	Approved By FB
			Fig. 6 Rev. -



IAC Archaeology

Title	Layout of excavated test trenches showing features uncovered (reproduced from Delaney 2025, Figure 4)	Scale As shown	Drawn By JG
Project	Golf Links Road, Newtown, Monaleen, Co. Limerick	Date 03.06.2026	Checked By FB
		Job No. J4509	Approved By FB
			Fig. 7 Rev. -



Plate 1: Main portion of the proposed development area, facing south



Plate 2: Main portion of the proposed development area, facing north



Plate 3: Structures in the north of the main portion, facing south



Plate 4: Northern field in the site's western portion, facing west

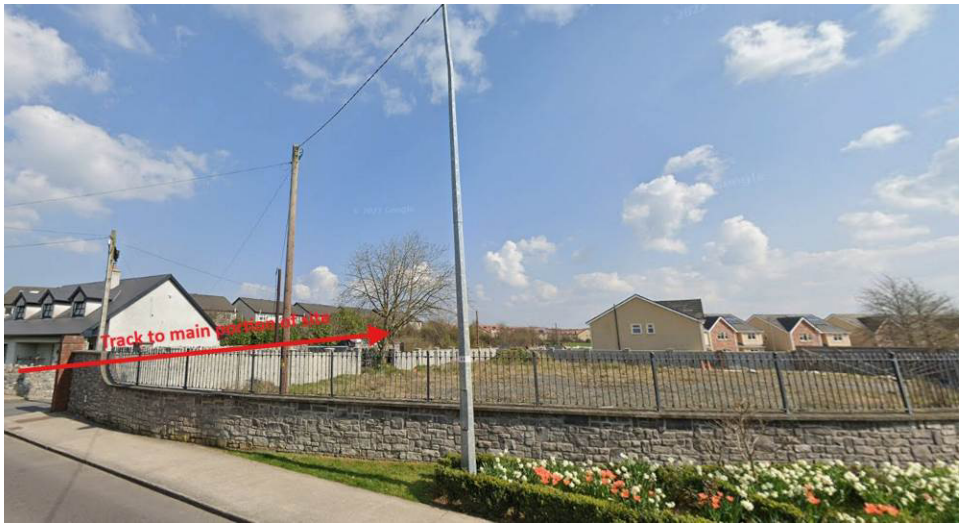


Plate 5: Southwest portion of the development area, facing east-northeast from the L1116



Plate 6: Trench 5, Clamp/Kiln (AA1), facing north