

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
AT  
TAYLOR'S LANE, BALLYBODEN,  
DUBLIN 16**

**ON BEHALF OF:  
SHANNON HOMES DUBLIN UNLIMITED COMPANY**

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## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

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## ABSTRACT

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed residential development at Good Counsel Centre, Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16 (Figure 1; ITM 713658, 726990). It was carried out by Matt Brooks of IAC Archaeology.

The proposed development area is presently occupied by a former college. The associated grounds to the east were part of a small pitch and putt course as early as 1995. The proposed development area also contains a number of mature trees, which may relate to the former Catherine Park demesne in which the proposed development resides. There are no recorded monuments within 500m of the site, the closest being a cluster of monuments associated with the church (DU022-030001) and graveyard (DU022-030002) at Whitechurch, c. 835m southeast of the proposed development area.

Archaeological testing (McIlreavy 2020, Licence No. 20E0143) was carried out over the course of two days in 2020 within the proposed development area. A total of 14 trenches were mechanically investigated across the test area. No areas of archaeological significance were uncovered during testing.

It remains possible that ground disturbances associated with the proposed development may have an adverse impact on isolated archaeological features that may exist outside of the footprint of the excavated test trenches. It is 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 DoH/LGH.

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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 Good Counsel Centre, Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16 (Figure 1; ITM 713658, 726990). 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 Matt Brooks of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company.

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 Dublin, 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 to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical interest.

## 1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposal (Figure 2) is for a strategic housing development comprising the demolition of the former institutional buildings and associated out-buildings, and the construction of 496 no. apartments (in a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed units), retail units, creche, car and cycle parking, bin stores, substations, pedestrian and vehicular accesses and open spaces and all associated works, as described in the statutory notices.

## 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 three 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. The third phase comprised a programme of archaeological test trenching.

### 2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin;
- 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;
- South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022-2028;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022).

**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](http://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 South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022-2028 were 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](http://www.excavations.ie)) from 1970–2022.

## **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 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 2020a, 4). A programme of archaeological testing was carried out within the proposed development area in March 2020. This was undertaken by David McIlreavy of IAC under licence 20E0143. Detailed results of the archaeological testing are included in Section 3.8.

## **3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

### **3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The proposed development area is located within the townlands of Ballyboden, Schollarstown and Newtown, Parishes of Whitechurch, Rathfarnham and Cruagh, and Baronies of Uppercross and Rathdown in County Dublin. There are no recorded monuments within 500m of the site, the closest being a cluster of monuments associated with the church (DU022-030001) and graveyard (DU022-030002) at Whitechurch, c. 835m southeast of the proposed development area. This cluster includes a graveslab (DU022-030003), a cross-slab (DU022-030004) and a font (DU022-030006).

#### **3.1.1 Prehistoric Period**

##### **Mesolithic Period (c. 8000–4000 BC)**

Recent discoveries may suggest the possibility of a human presence in the southwest of Ireland as early as the Upper Palaeolithic (Dowd and Carden 2016), however; the Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence for prehistoric human colonisation of the island of Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have led a primarily mobile lifestyle. The presence of Mesolithic communities is most commonly evidenced by scatters of worked flint material, a by-product of the production of flint implements.

There is no archaeological evidence of Mesolithic activity within the immediate environs of the proposed development area.

##### **Neolithic Period (c. 4000–2500 BC)**

During this period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. The transition to the Neolithic was marked by major social change. Communities had expanded and moved further inland to more permanent settlements. This afforded the development of agriculture, which demanded an altering of the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries were constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time. The advent of the Neolithic period also provided the megalithic tomb. There are four types of tombs in Ireland, namely the Court Cairn, Portal tomb, Passage tomb and Wedge tomb; of which the latter straddles the Neolithic to Bronze Age transition.

While recent years have seen a large increase in the number of identified Neolithic settlement and habitation sites, there is no archaeological evidence to substantiate Neolithic settlement within the immediate environs of the proposed development areas. Two flint scrapers and a flint core have been recovered from the wider landscape (NMI Ref.: 1988:142, IA/129/1996), indicating a Neolithic presence in the wider region.

### **Bronze Age (c. 2500–800 BC)**

This period 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. Megaliths 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.

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). 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); however, the Bronze Age has long been believed to have seen the peak of this activity. 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.

Several of these monuments are known from the wider vicinity of the proposed development area indicating that Ballyboden was populated during the Bronze Age, though none are known within the study area of the proposed development area.

### **Iron Age (c. 800 BC–AD 500)**

There is increasing evidence for Iron Age 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.

There are no known monuments in the vicinity of the proposed development area that would suggest an active presence of Iron Age communities in this area.

#### **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).

Another ubiquitous feature within the early medieval landscape in Ireland was the ecclesiastical enclosure. These large circular/oval enclosures surrounded monastic foundations, which were established across the country to administer to the needs of a dispersed, rural population. Foundations were often set up by a local ruler in order to increase the prestige of his territory. These foundations followed the rule of what has been termed the Gaelic or Celtic Church (O'Sullivan et al .2014) as distinct from the continental monasticism, which followed in the 12th century. Most were dedicated to an Irish Saint and many such foundations have roots in the 6th or 7th centuries.

The cluster of monuments recorded c. 835m southeast of the proposed development area at Whitechurch is believed to represent one such monastic foundation. An early cross slab (DU022-030003) of probable pre-Viking date (Ó h-Éailidhe 1982) was discovered in the graveyard of the medieval church (DU022-030001), which is known to have been granted to St. Mary's Abbey in the early 13th century. The church is surrounded by a graveyard (DU022-030002), which retains a portion of the curving boundary along its southern extent. The graveyard boundary is depicted as D-shaped on the 1911 OS mapping and may conserve the line of an early medieval enclosure. Such foundations are also known from the wider area and along the Liffey and Dodder (Stout & Stout 1992, 15).

The establishment of the settlement of Dublin by the Vikings in the 9th century was a transformative event for the area. While Viking settlement focused on the Liffey near modern Woodquay, Islandbridge and at Clondalkin, rural Viking settlement in the south of the county has been inferred from the presence of 'Rathdown Slabs'. The graveslab (DU022-030003) at Whitechurch, c. 875m southeast of the proposed development area is recognised as a 'Rathdown slab' (Corlett 1999). The Scandinavian controlled hinterland around Dublin in this period reached the foothills of the Dublin Mountains. Rathdown slabs are believed to be the grave markers of Viking Christians and were influenced by Viking art forms.

### **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.

By the end of the 12th century when the Anglo-Norman's military position was consolidated along eastern Ireland, they started to construct more permanent buildings in the form of stone castles. After the conquest, the land within Ireland was divided up between the supporters of the conquest. The lands around Rathfarnham were granted to Milo de Bret in 1199. They were leased soon afterwards to the Harolds, who remained tenants here until the 15th century. In 1320 Milo de Bret, who resided in Cork, leased part of the lands to his legal adviser, John Graunteste. His son, John le Bret, a sheriff of Cork, was ordered in 1356 to proceed to his manor of Rathfarnham with his followers fully armed, following an attack by the O'Byrnes (Corlett 1999). The threat of attack from the Irish of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains was constant throughout the following centuries.

Another notable feature of the Anglo-Norman rule in the Dublin region was the proliferation in the foundation of European monastic orders in the city and its hinterland. While a small number of Cistercian and Augustinian canons had been established in Ireland prior to the coming of the Anglo-Normans, the new administration facilitated the introduction of the Carmelites, Benedictines, Dominicans Franciscans and Crutched Friars to the country. Much of the Dublin hinterland was granted to these foundations to serve as grange farms (Stout 2014). Whitechurch may have been granted to the Cistercian foundation of St. Mary's Abbey as early as 1189. The land surrounding the church and comprising portions of the modern townlands Taylor's Grange, Harold's Grange, Whitechurch and Ballyroan formed part of the Cistercian 'Grange of the March' – later Harold's Grange (Ó Conbhuí 1963).

#### **3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)**

At the end of the 18th century, Ballyboden Road was a continuation of the road running out from the city via Rathfarnham and it led into the mountains. It branched at Ballyboden, the western route running along Stocking Lane, while the eastern branch ran along Edmondstown Road, both terminating in the mountains to the south. These roads served more than the agricultural areas and mountain grazing, however, as the Owendoher River provided the water power for a number of mills. In the opening years of the 19th century, Stocking Lane continued southward into Wicklow as the Military Road and Taylor's Lane was possibly extended to Ballyboden at that time to improve accessibility to the Military Road. Taylor's map of 1816 shows the junction of Taylor's Lane with Ballyboden Road, though there is no sign of a house to the south of that junction.

The 17th and 18th centuries also saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be located nationwide. Lands associated with the large houses were generally turned over to formal gardens, which were much the style of continental Europe. Gradually this style of formal avenues and geometric garden

designs was replaced during the mid-18th century by the adoption of parkland landscapes – to be able to view a large house within a natural setting. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable constructional effort went into their creation. Earth was moved, field boundaries disappeared, streams were diverted to form lakes and quite often roads were completely diverted to avoid travelling anywhere near the main house or across the estate.

Given its rural character and commanding views of the city and Dublin Bay, the lands containing the proposed development area became popular for persons of means. Several demesne landscapes are visible in the vicinity of the proposed development on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1843; Figure 5). The proposed development area once formed part of Catherine Park/St. Catherine's, a residence is shown on the historic mapping with a small demesne.

St Catherine's was acquired by the Augustinian Order in 1955 as a college for students studying to join the order and extensive buildings were erected at this time, including residences, lecture halls and an oratory. It was then leased to the Health Board and was closed a number of years ago.

### **3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970-2022) has revealed that a number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in the study area, which are summarised below. Archaeological testing carried out within the site in 2020 is detailed in section 3.8.

Four previous archaeological investigations (Bennett 2015-6:267, Licence No. 15E0512) (Bennett 2007:537, Licence No. 07E0224) (O'Carroll 2007, Licence No. 01E0744) (Kavanagh 2009, Licence No. 09E0436) have taken place within the wider landscape of the proposed development area, all of which have failed to identify any features or deposits of archaeological significance.

### **3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

#### **William Petty, Down Survey: Barony of Rathdown in County Dublin, c. 1655**

Petty's Down survey represents the first systematic mapping of Ireland on a scale of 40 perches to one inch (the modern equivalent of 1:50,000). It used the previous Civil Survey as a guide and shows many details, such as fortifications, rivers, roads, and structures. The parish of Whitechurch, within which the proposed development area lies, is not depicted in detail on this mapping, as it is labelled as 'the Grange Protestant Land' and therefore not forfeited.

#### **John Rocque's Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760 (Figure 3)**

There is little detail of the proposed development area shown on this map. The Owendoher River is shown running to the west of the proposed development area.

The site itself appears to be occupied by a structure. To the north, a structure is shown on a hill or a possible mound/platform.

### **John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin 1816 (Figure 3)**

By the time of this map in 1816, the village of 'Ballybowden' has been established. Two structures are depicted possibly within the proposed development area, while the 'Kingston' residence is visible to the immediate east.

### **William Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin, 1821 (Figure 4)**

This map depicts how demesne landscapes dominated the wider region around this time. Possible mill races appear to transverse the landscape within and to the immediate east and northeast of the proposed development area, serving the mills at Whitebrook to the east.

### **First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:10560 (Figure 5)**

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area. The site is located within the demesne of Catherine Park at this time. The demesne consists of a cluster of structures in the west of the site, with formal gardens to the south, surrounded by a small parkland. A gate lodge is present to the immediate northwest of the proposed development area. The wider area is dominated by demesne landscapes and mills, including cloth mills, paper mills and cotton mills. A stream, which likely represents a mill race, runs along the southern boundary and appears to feed a cotton mill to the south. The second watercourse which can be seen within the site on Duncan's map is no longer depicted.

### **Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1871, scale 1:10560**

There have not been any significant changes to the proposed development or the surrounding environs.

### **Ordnance Survey Map, 1910, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 5)**

By the time of this mapping, the structure marked on the first edition OS map has been removed and a new house constructed to the east, which is labelled 'St. Catherines'. While the gardens appear to have diminished, the gate lodge remains to the northwest of the site. A smithy is located to the immediate east of the proposed development area. The watercourse along the southern boundary is also still present and runs between a laundry to the south and a paper mill to the east.

## **3.4 DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

The South Dublin County 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 1).

There are no recorded monuments within 500m of the site. The closest comprise a cluster of monuments associated with the church (DU022-030001) and graveyard

(DU022-030002) at Whitechurch, c. 835m southeast of the proposed development area.

### **3.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND**

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Dublin 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. No stray finds are recorded from the proposed development area or surrounding townlands.

### **3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2008–2022), Bing Maps, and Apple Maps revealed that the proposed development area is presently occupied by a former college. The associated grounds to the east were part of a small pitch and putt course as early as 1995. The proposed development area contains a number of mature trees that relate to the former demesne.

While there has been little significant change to the site throughout the period covered by the available aerial photography, it appears in the recent imagery (Google Earth, March 2018) that the golf course has fallen out of use and become overgrown. No previously unknown features of archaeological potential were identified during the aerial photographic analysis.

### **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 proposed development area is located to the south of Taylor's Lane and east of Edmondstown Road, Dublin 16. The site is currently occupied by the Good Counsel Buildings, which date to the 1950s and incorporates elements of a late-19th century house (Plates 1-2). To the north and south of the structure are open greens areas with dispersed mature trees throughout (Plates 3-4). The eastern side of the site is the location of a former pitch and putt course which is occupied by dense mature trees, with evidence for the pitch and putt landscaping evident across the area (Plates 5-6).

### **3.8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING**

Archaeological testing was carried out within the proposed development area, over the course of two days in 2020. A total of 14 trenches, measuring an overall total of 330 linear metres, were mechanically investigated across the test area. Four slit trenches were also monitored across the eastern extent of the site associated with site investigation works. No areas of archaeological significance were uncovered during testing (McIlreavy 2020, Licence No. 20E0143; Figure 6).

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

This archaeological assessment was commissioned by Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological features in advance of a proposed residential development at Good Counsel Centre, Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16. There are no recorded monuments within 500m of the site. The closest comprise a cluster of monuments associated with the church (DU022-030001) and graveyard (DU022-030002) at Whitechurch, c. 835m southeast of the proposed development area.

In 2020 a programme of archaeological testing (McIlreavy 2020, Licence No. 20E0143) was carried out within the proposed development area. No areas of archaeological significance were uncovered during this investigation. Four previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the study area of the proposed development area, all of which have failed to identify any features or deposits of archaeological significance.

Analysis of cartographic sources has revealed that the proposed development area was historically located within several fields containing two structures to the south of Ballyboden village. Possible mill races appear to transverse the landscape within and to the immediate east and northeast of the proposed development area, serving the mills at Whitebrook. The OS mapping places the proposed development area within the demesne of Catherine Park consisting of a cluster of structures at the west of the site, with formal gardens to the south, surrounded by a small parkland. A gate lodge was noted to the immediate northwest of the proposed development area. The wider area is dominated by demesne landscapes and mills, including cloth, paper and cotton mills.

Analysis of aerial photographic record available for the area failed to identify any previously unknown archaeological features in the area. The proposed development area is presently occupied by a former school. The associated grounds to the east were part of a small pitch and putt course as early as 1995 (OSI) and may have been disturbed during the landscaping involved in the construction of this golf course. The proposed development area contains a number of mature trees which may relate to the former demesne. A field inspection confirmed the results of aerial analysis, which noted the presence of the Good Counsel Building, open green areas with dispersed mature trees and the former pitch and putt course.

## 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

- No features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of testing and it is clear that the site has been subject to a level of disturbance. However, it remains possible that ground disturbances associated with the proposed development may have an adverse impact on isolated or small archaeological features that may survive outside of the footprint of the excavated test trenches.

### 5.2 MITIGATION

- It is 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.**

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### **CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

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- John Rocque's *Map of the County of Dublin, 1760*
- John Taylor's *Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816*
- William Duncan's *Map of the County of Dublin, 1821*
- Ordnance Survey Maps of County Dublin 1843, 1871 and 1910

### **ELECTRONIC SOURCES**

- [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2022.
- [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.
- [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.
- [www.geohive.ie](http://www.geohive.ie)– Ordnance Survey Ireland National Townland and Historical Map Viewer (including Aerial imagery 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2013)
- [www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com) – Satellite imagery (2005–2022).
- [www.apple.com/maps/](http://www.apple.com/maps/) - Satellite imagery (2022).

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 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.

### **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.

### **South Dublin County Council Development Plan (2022–2028)**

South County Dublin contains a large number of buildings, structures and sites of architectural, historic and/or artistic importance, in addition to numerous archaeological sites. This significant archaeological and architectural heritage is a valuable resource adding to the historical and cultural character of the County. The Development Plan contains policies which are intended to ensure the protection of this heritage. Village Design Statements can be utilised as a tool to guide development in smaller centres. It should be noted that archaeological sites and archaeological zones of interest are identified by a recorded monument reference number on the land use zoning maps. The recorded monument reference numbers are taken from the Record of Monuments and Places for Dublin, published by Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

#### Policy NCBH13: Archaeological Heritage

Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the Archaeological Heritage of the County and avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.

#### NCBH13 Objective 1:

To favour the preservation in-situ of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHGI (1999), or any superseding national policy document.

#### NCB13 Objective 2:

To ensure that development is designed to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage including previously unknown sites, features and objects.

#### NCBH13 Objective 3:

To protect and enhance sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Area of Archaeological Potential does not detract from the setting of the site, monument, feature or object and is sited and designed appropriately.

#### NCBH13 Objective 4:

To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites including associated features and any discovered battlefield sites of significant archaeological potential within the County.

NCBH13 Objective 5:

To protect historical burial grounds within South Dublin County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.

## **APPENDIX 2 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 3 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.

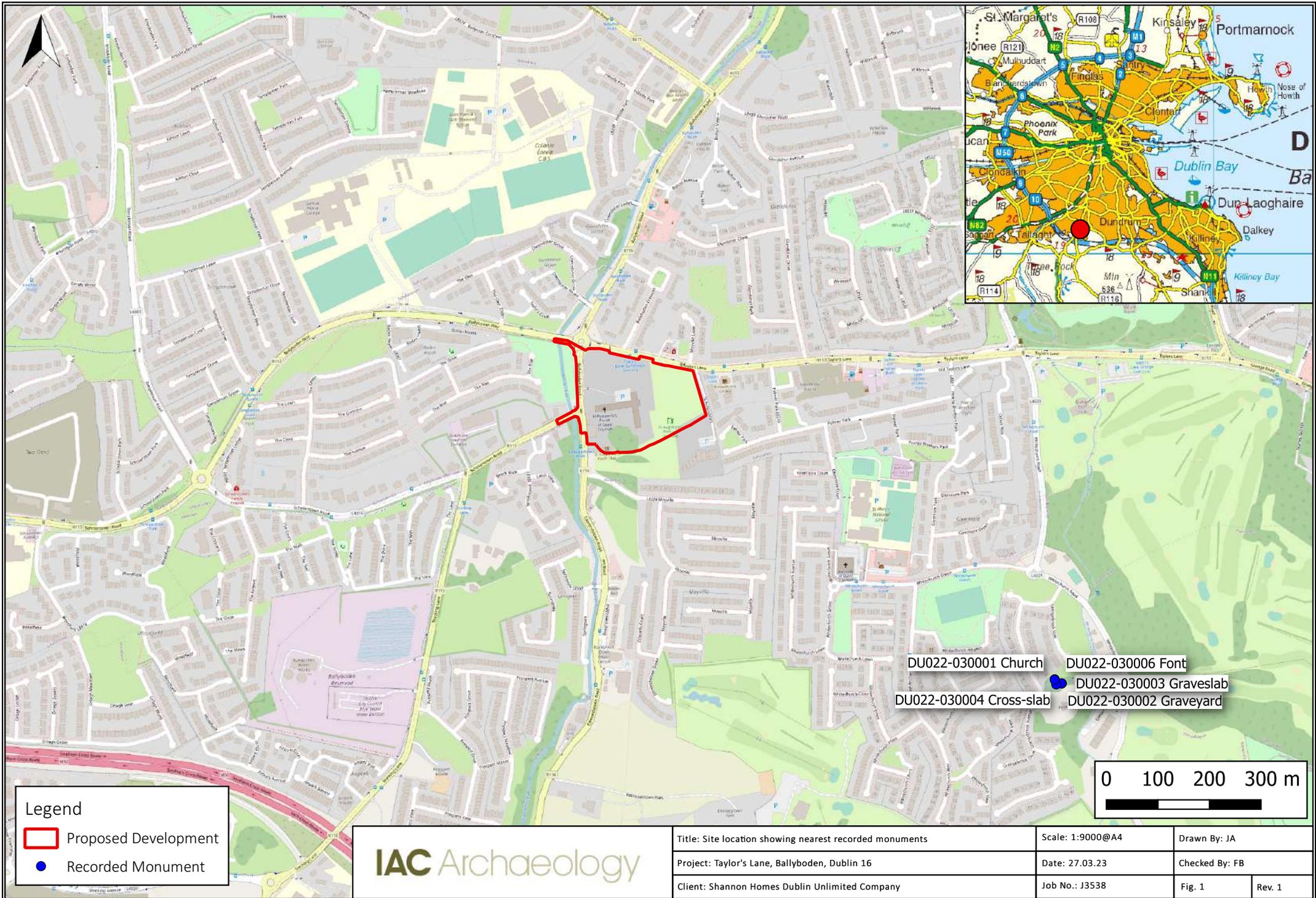
*Archaeological Test Trenching* can be defined as 'a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological 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' (ClfA 2020a).

*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' (ClfA 2020b).

*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 (ClfA 2020c).

*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.



- Legend**
- Proposed Development
  - Recorded Monument

- DU022-030001 Church
- DU022-030006 Font
- DU022-030003 Graveslab
- DU022-030004 Cross-slab
- DU022-030002 Graveyard



<b>IAC</b> Archaeology	Title: Site location showing nearest recorded monuments		Scale: 1:9000@A4		Drawn By: JA	
	Project: Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16		Date: 27.03.23		Checked By: FB	
	Client: Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company		Job No.: J3538		Fig. 1	Rev. 1



**LEGEND**

OVERALL SITE AREA: 3.8Ha	
NET SITE AREA: 3.5Ha <small>(excluding CCIC area)</small>	
TOTAL NO. OF UNITS: 402 No.	
NET DENSITY: 114.9units per Ha	
<b>UNIT MIX</b>	
1 BED	39 no.
2 BED (3P)	16 no.
2 BED (4P)	286 no.
3 BED (5P)	61 no.
<b>Total</b>	<b>402 no</b>

— SITE BOUNDARY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS APPLICATION  
— EXTENT OF APPLICANT'S OWNERSHIP  
— Watermain Wayleave  
● Existing Tree to be Retained - refer to arborist report  
 f.f.l Ground Floor - finished floor level  
 M existing / proposed level

Note:  
This site plan is to be read in conjunction with the DBFL and Doyle O'Trotigh drawings and documentation

**NOTES:**  
DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS. WORK TO FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY. ARCHITECT TO BE NOTIFIED OF ALL DISCREPANCIES.



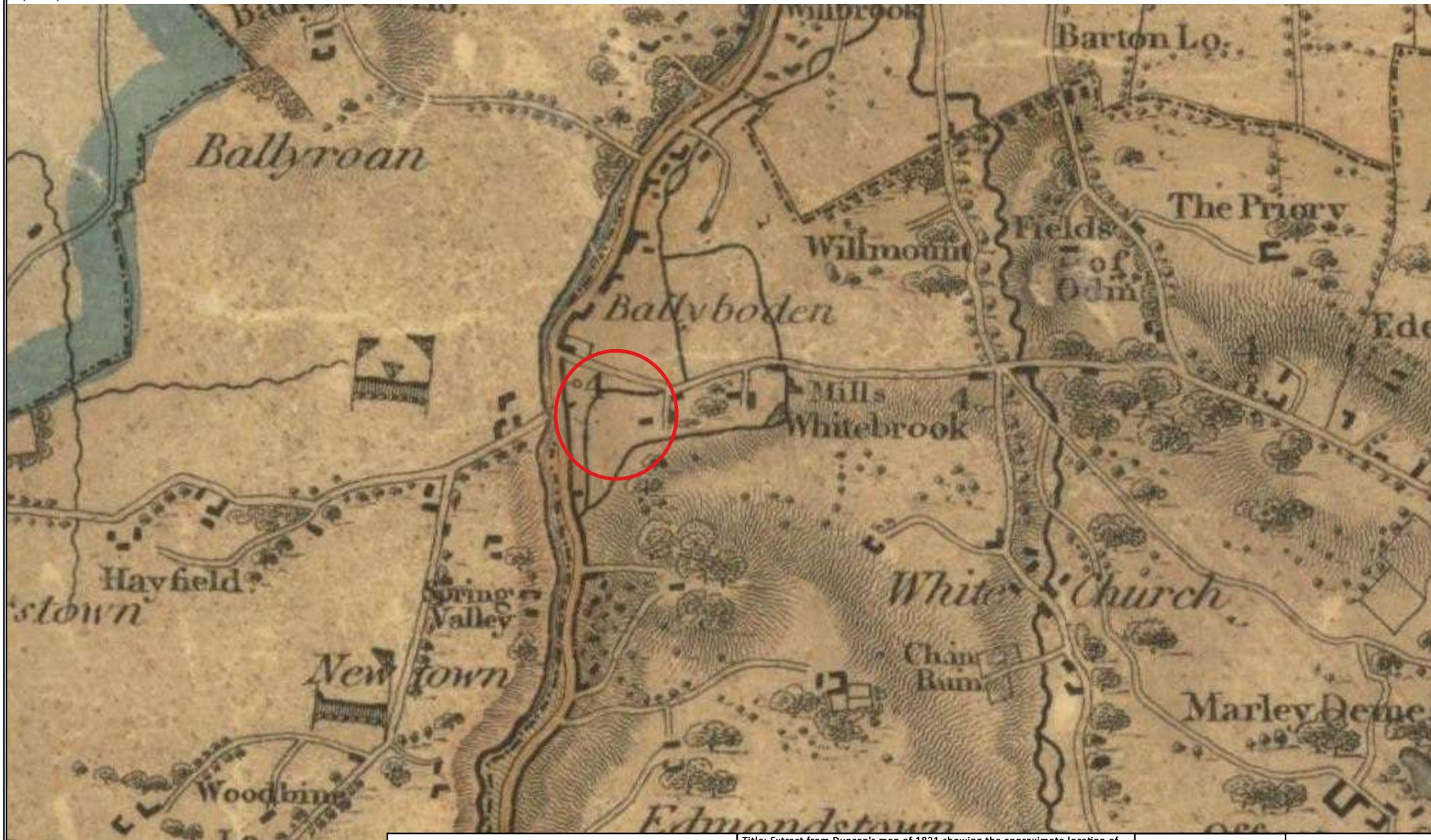
Title: Plan of proposed development		Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA	
Project: Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16		Date: 27.03.23	Checked By: FB	
Client: Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company		Job No.: J3538	Fig. 2	Rev. 0



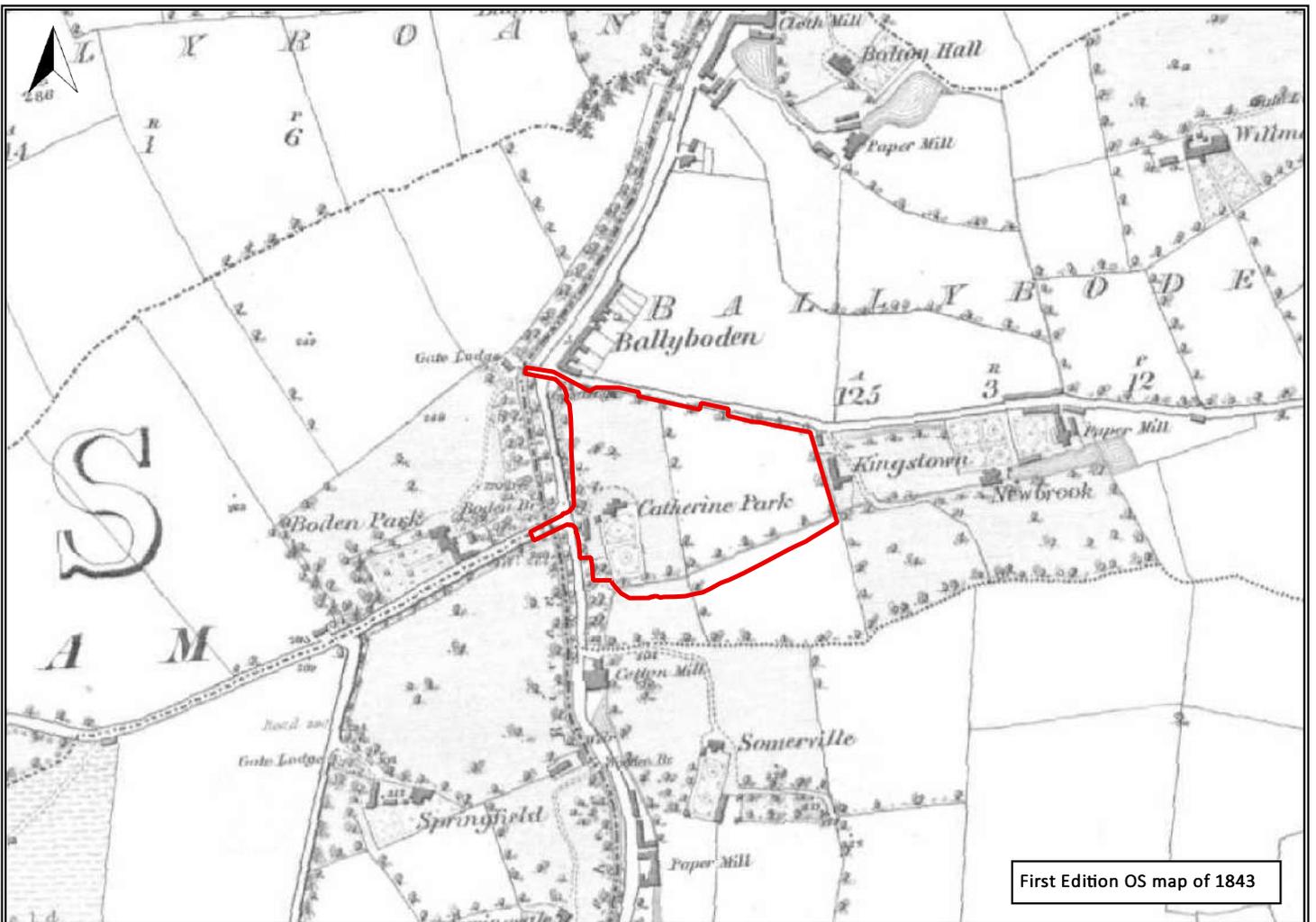
Rocque 1760



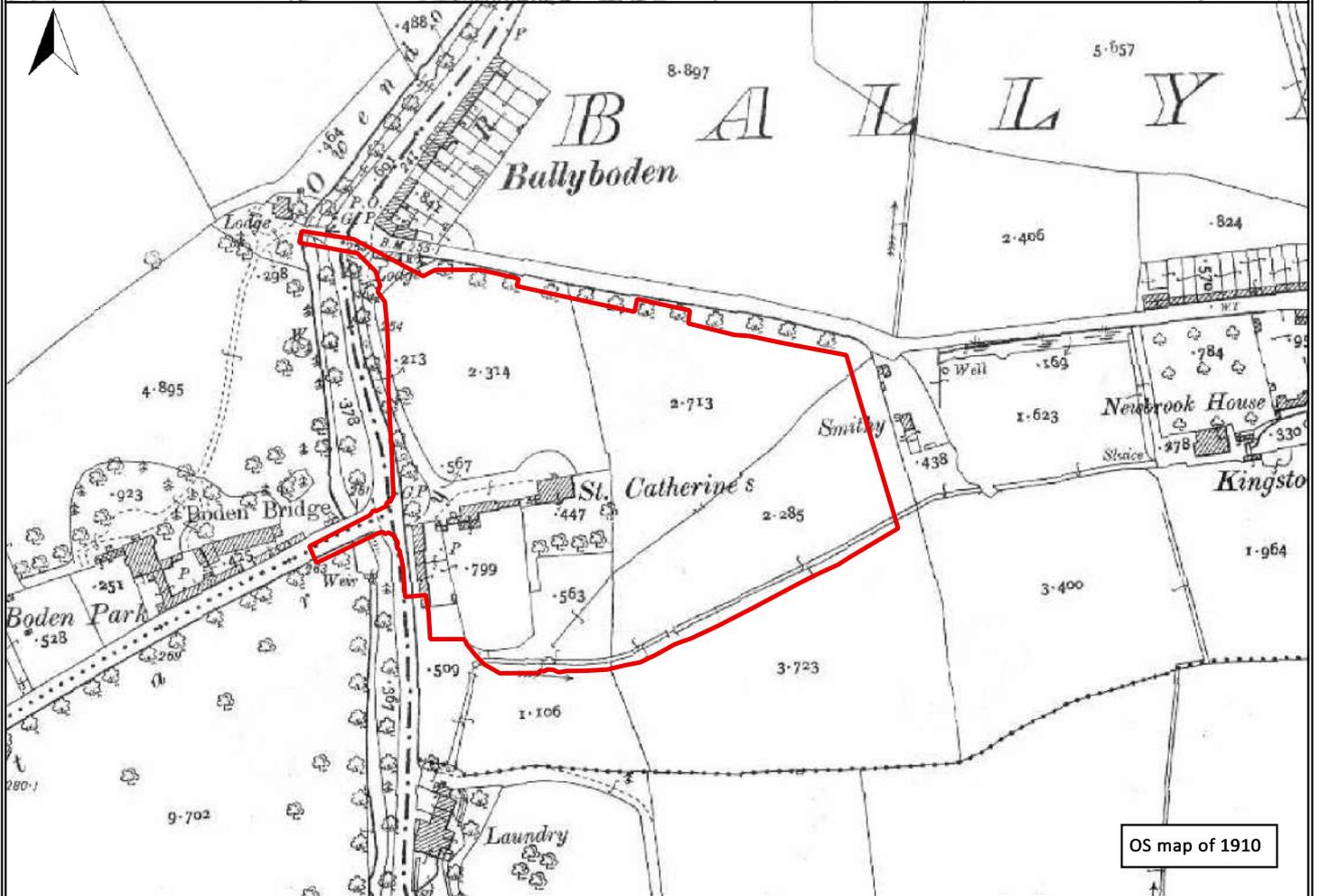
Taylor 1816



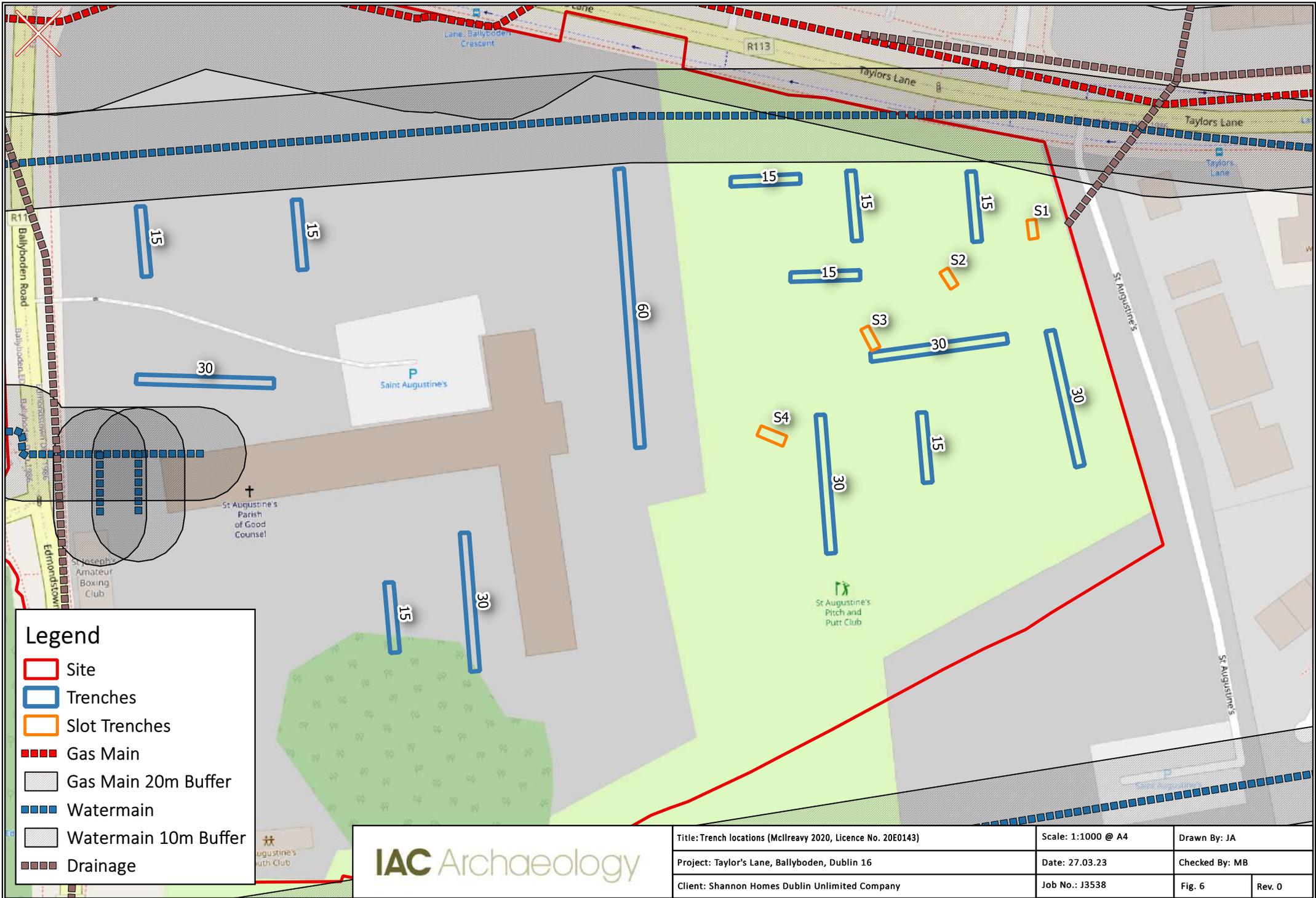
<b>IAC</b> Archaeology	Title: Extract from Duncan's map of 1821 showing the approximate location of the proposed development area		Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA	
	Project: Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16		Date: 27.03.23	Checked By: MB	
	Client: Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company		Job No.: J3538	Fig. 4	Rev. 0



First Edition OS map of 1843



OS map of 1910



**Legend**

- ▭ Site
- Trenches
- Slot Trenches
- Gas Main
- Gas Main 20m Buffer
- Watermain
- Watermain 10m Buffer
- Drainage

<b>IAC Archaeology</b>		Title: Trench locations (McIlreavy 2020, Licence No. 20E0143)		Scale: 1:1000 @ A4		Drawn By: JA	
		Project: Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16		Date: 27.03.23		Checked By: MB	
		Client: Shannon Homes Dublin Unlimited Company		Job No.: J3538		Fig. 6	Rev. 0



Plate 1 Front elevation of Good Counsel building, facing southeast



Plate 2 Rear elevation of Good Counsel building, facing northeast



Plate 3 Area to north of Good Counsel building, facing northeast



Plate 4 Area to south of Good Counsel building, facing southwest



Plate 5 Former pitch and put course, facing south southeast



Plate 6 Former pitch and put course, facing east