



Planning & Integrated Development Directorate
Cork City Council,
City Hall,
Anglesea Street,
Cork City
T12 T997

18th May 2026

By Email

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Proposed LRD – Ballyvolane / Laherdane, Cork

Archaeology

This application area was previously surveyed/tested as part of compliance under An Bord Pleanála Ref. 306325-20 / Excavation Licence No. 22E0430.

The testing programme demonstrated that the lands “have been subject to intensive tillage agriculture for many decades and these practices have quite literally left their mark on the underlying substrata. Excluding the evidence of this agricultural activity, the subsoil across the tested area was exceptionally sterile. No artefacts, features or deposits that could be considered to be archaeological in nature were revealed during the testing programme”.

The relevant testing report (and other reports for adjacent lands under An Bord Pleanála Ref. 306325-20) have been submitted to Cork City Council under compliance submissions. The most recent report prepared and submitted was that for Excavation Licence No. 22E0430 / An Bord Pleanála Ref. 306325-20, prepared by Mr David Murphy of this office and undertaken in January 2023.

All relevant reports and letters pertaining to the area are attached.

Yours sincerely

John Crean
BA Hons, MRUP, Dip EIA Mgmt, Dip IoD, MRTPI, MIPI, MInstD
Director
Longview Estates Ltd

Appendix A Archaeology Reports on Lands Subject to Delivery

Two Reports – John Cronin and Associates

Archaeological testing report

Phase 2 Strategic Housing Development Lands, Lahardane and Ballincolly, Ballyvolane, Cork



(Excavation Licence No. 22E0430 / An Bord Pleanála Ref. 306325-20)

Prepared by

David Murphy

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3a Westpoint Trade Centre

Ballincollig

Cork

On behalf of

Temporis Ltd

Unit 74

Penrose Wharf

Penrose Quay

Cork

January 2023

Document Control Sheet

<i>Client</i>	Temporis Limited				
<i>Project Title</i>	Phase 2 Strategic Housing Development Lands, Lahardane and Ballincolly, Ballyvolane, Cork				
<i>Document Title</i>	Archaeological testing report				
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Core data

Excavation Licence Number	22E0430
Licence Holder	David Murphy
Site Type	Rural, greenfield
Testing Commenced	07/12/22
Testing Completed	22/12/22
ITM Reference	569450, 575200
Townland	Lahardane and Ballincolly
County	Cork
OS 6" Sheet	C0063, C0074
Planning Authority	An Bord Pleanála
Planning Ref. No's	306325-20
Archaeological Contractor	John Cronin & Associates
Client	Temporis Limited
Reason for testing	In order to investigate the subject lands for the presence of any unrecorded subsurface archaeological features prior to the commencement of development works and to comply with the recommendations outlined in the project EIAR
Summary of findings	Thirty-six linear test trenches, totalling 3467m, were excavated across the <i>Phase 2</i> lands during the testing programme. While many of the trenches targeted potential archaeological responses identified during a preceding geophysical survey of the <i>Phase 2</i> lands (Detection Device Licence No. 22R0024), none of these responses proved to be archaeological in nature and were either associated with past agricultural activity or natural variations in the underlying subsoil. No artefacts, features or deposits that could be considered to be archaeological in nature were revealed during the testing programme. The testing programme demonstrated that the <i>Phase 2</i> lands have been subject to intensive tillage agriculture for many decades. Excluding the evidence of this agricultural activity, the subsoil across the tested area was exceptionally sterile. This appears to demonstrate that the exposed and high lying site was not a favourable location in terms of historic habitation and can be considered to possess a very low archaeological potential.

1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates (JCA) were commissioned by Temporis Limited to undertake licensed archaeological testing of the *Phase 2* lands at the permitted Strategic Housing Development (SHD) at Lahardane and Ballincolly, to the north of Ballyvolane, Cork. A previous programme of archaeological testing was undertaken within the *Phase 1* portion of the wider development site under Excavation Licence 21E0257 in May 2021. Archaeological features revealed during that testing programme were subject to full archaeological excavation (Excavation Licence 21E0740) in July 2022 (see **Section 2** for further detail).



Figure 1: General location of subject site (highlighted in red) to the north of Cork City
(Source:www.archaeology.ie)

The overall development received planning consent from An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in April 2020 (ABP ref. 306325-20). Although an archaeological condition was not attached to the grant of consent, the EIAR prepared in advance of the planning application recommended the following:

Given the scale and extent of the proposed development within an undeveloped area of farmland, a programme of pre-development licensed archaeological investigations, to comprise a geophysical survey followed by archaeological test trenching, will be undertaken across the proposed development site

The *Phase 2* development lands consist of three complete and four portions of tillage crop fields measuring *circa* 20.5 hectares (ha). The remaining portions of the four fields along with the immediate lands to the south and west, comprising 16.5ha, encompasses *Phase 1* of the development site (see **Figure 2** below).

The subject testing programme was carried out under Excavation Licence 22E0430 and was undertaken between Wednesday 7 December and Thursday 22 December 2022. Thirty-six linear test trenches, totalling 3467m, were excavated across the *Phase 2* lands during the testing programme. While many of the trenches targeted potential archaeological responses identified during a preceding geophysical survey of the *Phase 2* lands (Detection Device Licence No. 22R0024), none of these responses proved to be archaeological in nature and were either associated with past agricultural activity or natural variations in the underlying subsoil. The results of the testing programme are outlined in greater detail in **Section 3**, while individual trench descriptions are described in **Appendix 1**, extracts from the photographic record of the testing programme are provided in **Appendix 2** to this report.

2. Context

Location

The subject site is located within a semi-rural setting, straddling the townlands of Lahardane and Ballincolly on the northern outskirts of Cork City. The landholding is primarily contained within the townland of Lahardane (*Fields A – F*), while one field (*Field G*) is located in the townland of Ballincolly (see **Figure 2** below). The landholding is situated on an elevated site which slopes gradually downwards to the west in the western half of the site, while ground levels in the eastern half are generally level and command good views over the Lee Valley to the south. The site, which has been in continual use as tillage farmland in recent decades, is bound by the R614 to the west, ribbon housing development to the north and agricultural fields to the east and south. The *Phase 2* lands measure a total area of approximately 20.5ha and consist of three complete and four partial tillage fields with NE-SW orientated overhead powerlines extending within the site boundary. The area is within a geological region of continental redbed facies, sandstone, conglomerate and siltstone with soil covers of fine loamy drift with siliceous stones.

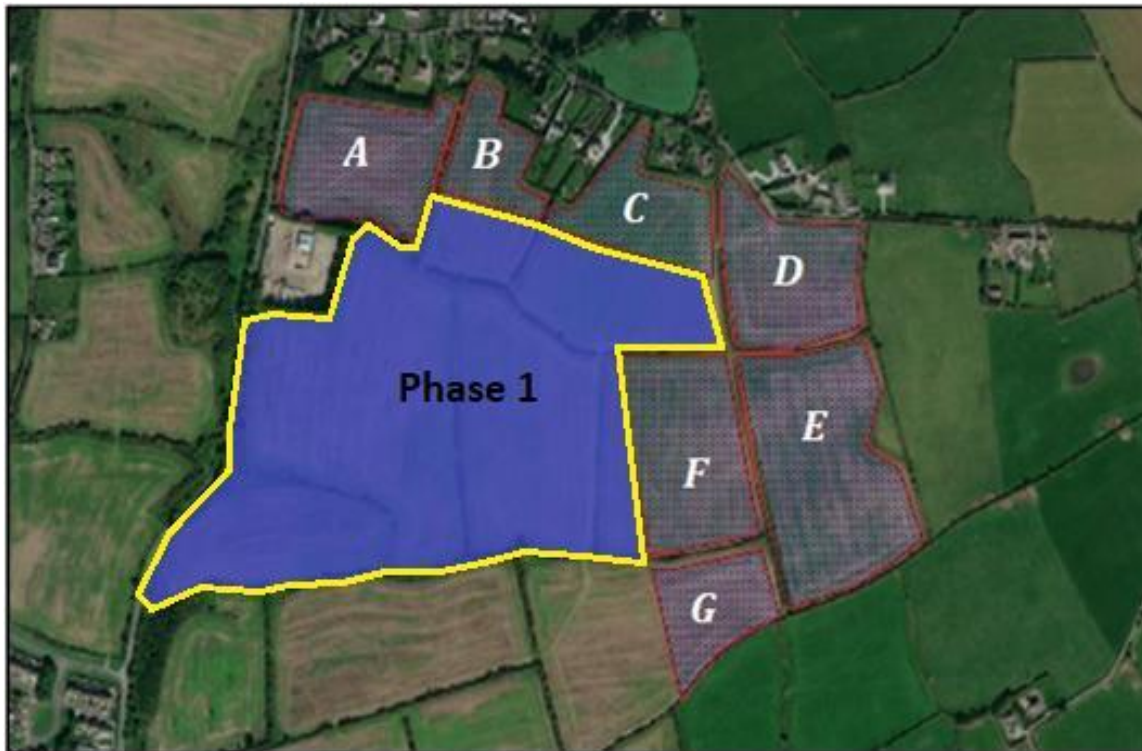


Figure 2: Aerial image showing approximate boundary of the Phase 2 development lands (shaded Fields A-G) in conjunction with Phase 1 lands (yellow polygon)

Archaeological context

There are **no recorded archaeological monuments** (as recorded by the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland*) located within the *Phase 2* portion of the development site. There are ten recorded monuments located within *circa* 500m of the subject lands (see **Figure 3** and **Table 1**). The nearest of these is a ringfort (C0063-114-), located within Ballincroikig townland, *circa* 120m to the west of the north-western corner of the development lands.



Figure 3: RMPs within 500m of the approximate survey area (Source: archaeology.ie)

Table 1: Recorded archaeological sites within 500m of the proposed development

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM (E)	ITM (N)
CO063-114----	Ringfort - rath	Ballincrokig	568749	575550
CO063-115----	Souterrain	Ballincrokig	568606	575623
CO063-070----	Standing stone	Ballincrokig	568362	575517
CO063-071----	Standing stone	Ballincrokig	568408	575616
CO063-072----	Standing stone	Ballincrokig	568595	575769
CO063-073----	Standing stone	Ballincrokig	568746	575969
CO063-082----	Ringfort - rath	Garraneboy	569814	575780
CO063-083----	Standing stone	Lahardane	569938	575407
CO074-132----	Burnt mound	Ballyvolane	569163	574569
CO074-131----	Burnt mound	Ballyvolane	569066	574430

Excavation Database

A review of the Excavations Database (www.excavations.ie) for Lahardane and other surrounding townlands (Arderrow, Ballincolly, Ballincrokig, Ballyvolane and Garraneboy) reveals four entries describing test trenching and monitoring investigations undertaken by Avril Purcell (18E0059; 18E0059 ext.; 20E0586; 21E0109) within proposed development sites in Ballincrokig and Ballyvolane townlands. Additionally, testing programmes undertaken in Ballincrokig (17E0150) by Tobar Archaeological Services and Garraneboy (21E0538) by Tony Miller revealed nothing of an archaeological nature.

In relation to the Ballincrokig investigations, during monitoring of groundworks (18E0059 ext.) at one of the development sites a *fulacht fiadh*/burnt mound was found in low-lying rough ground adjacent to a small stream at the eastern end of a wayleave. The spread was not fully exposed and was preserved *in-situ*. Archaeological testing (20E0586) in advance of a more recent development revealed five archaeological features including a burnt mound spread/*fulacht fia*, three possible pits (located 15-20m north of the ringfort (C0064-114)) and a small deposit of dark brown silty clay and charcoal with fragments of cremated bone (totaling 1.1g). The deposit appeared to be sitting on top of the subsoil and there was no evidence of a pit containing the cremated bone. The burnt mound spread/*fulacht fia* and possible pits were retained *in-situ* within buffer zones.

As previously outlined, a number of phases of licensed archaeological mitigation have been undertaken within the wider subject development site to date. Archaeological testing of the *Phase 1* lands was carried out by Padraig Dunne under Excavation Licence 21E0247 between 17 and 20 May 2021. A total of 22 test trenches, comprising 782 linear metres, were excavated. Potential archaeological features were noted in five of the 22 test trenches. The identified features consisted of a possible circular structure, five linear and curvilinear features, some of which contained post-medieval pottery sherds, five potential pits/post-holes and a possible archaeological surface.

A second phase of archaeological testing (21E0247) was undertaken by Padraig Dunne in July 2021. Seven test trenches and three larger open area cuttings comprising a total area of 2522m², were opened. Definitive archaeological activity was confined to one area of the site surrounding *Cutting 1* and *Trench 4*. In total, 12 archaeological features were identified in *Cutting 1*, while an additional three probable features were identified in *Trench 4* to its immediate north. The features identified in *Cutting 1* consisted of: a ring ditch with a possible long cist and pit revealed internally in its central portion; linear and curvilinear features; possible post-holes and a stone-lined figure-of-eight-shaped kiln. The features identified in *Trench 4* consisted of a possible post-hole, a deposit layer and cluster of probable stake-holes. The area of archaeological potential as defined by the results of both testing programmes is deemed to extend across an area of the site measuring 65m by 65m.

The archaeological features revealed during the combined testing programmes were subject to full archaeological excavation (Excavation Licence 21E0740) in July 2022.

Cartographic review

The cartographic sources examined for the study area include the first edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (surveyed c.1840) (**Figure 4**) and the 25-inch OS map (surveyed c.1900) (**Figure 5**). The subject site is depicted as straddling enclosed agricultural lands on the first edition OS map. A building is shown outside the northwestern portion of the landholding and the existing roadway flanks the western boundary. The 25-inch OS map shows the current field layout within the site, while the adjoining house outside the northwest boundary is annotated as 'Lahardane House' and is more substantial than the structure shown on the 6-inch first edition OS map. There are no potential demesne features associated with the house indicated within the subject site on either OS map. Lahardane House was demolished in the 20th century and a modern warehouse complex now occupies its former location. Neither historic OS map edition depicts any potential unrecorded archaeological features within the landholding.



Figure 4: Extract from the first edition 6-inch OS map with subject site outlined

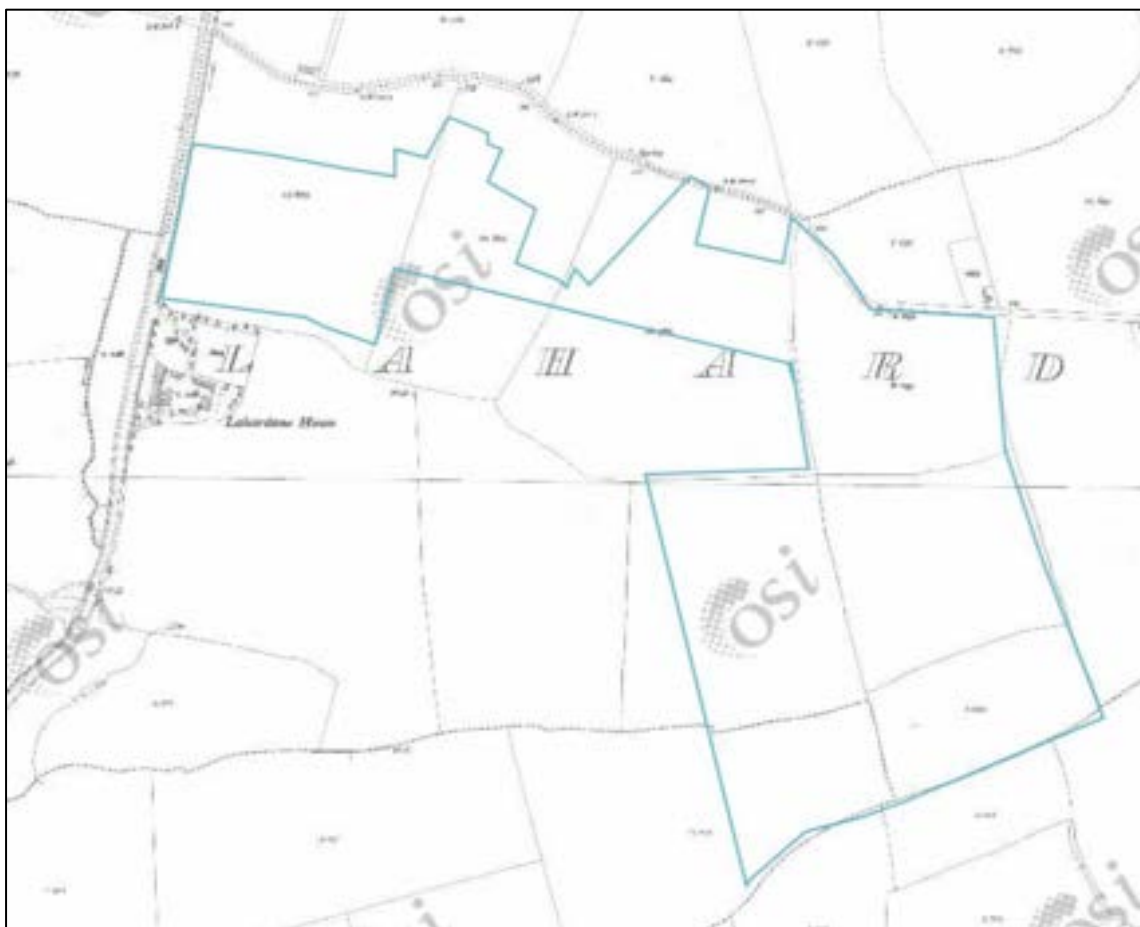


Figure 5: Extract from the 25-inch OS map with subject site outlined [OSI Licence ref. 0003321]

3. Archaeological testing programme

Overview

Archaeological testing of the *Phase 2* lands at the permitted Lahardane SHD was undertaken between Wednesday 7 December and Thursday 22 December 2022. Thirty-six linear test trenches, totalling 3467m, were excavated across the subject area during the testing programme (**Figure 6**). A number of trenches were recessed an appropriate distance from the alignment of overhead powerlines which extended across the site, while two (Trenches 27 & 28) were not excavated due to their proximity to same. While many of the test trenches targeted potential archaeological responses identified during a preceding geophysical survey of the *Phase 2* lands (Detection Device Licence No. 22R0024), none of these responses proved to be archaeological in nature and were either associated with past agricultural activity or natural variations in the underlying subsoil. The test trenches were excavated by a 13-tonne mechanical excavator which operated under constant archaeological direction.

Please consult **Appendix 1** for detailed descriptions of each individual test trench and **Appendix 2** for extracts from the photographic record of the testing programme.

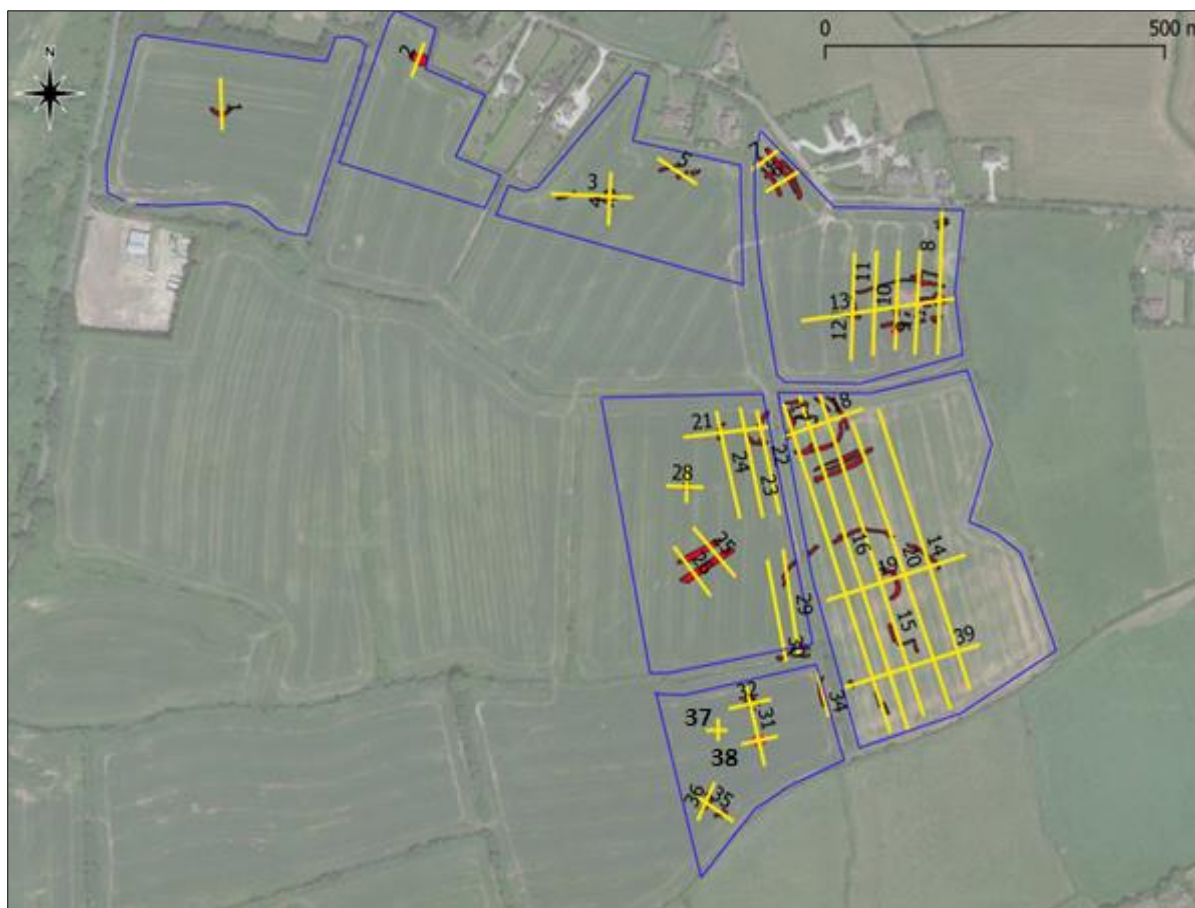


Figure 6: Layout of the archaeological test trenches overlaid over geophysical survey interpretations

Summary

Excavation of the test trenches revealed a relatively consistent stratigraphy across the area with a topsoil composed of a dark greyish brown sandy to silty clay loam which contained frequent small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and a moderate amount of modern inclusions such as plastics and ceramic sherds. The topsoil generally measured between 0.3m and 0.5m in depth and overlay a mixed and stony subsoil. The subsoil most frequently comprised a mid-orangish to reddish brown silty clay mixed with small sub-rounded stones, however, there were also frequent localised concentrations of varying sized angular stones and patches of grey silty clay within the upper subsoil level.

The mixed nature of the subsoil appears to be the result of the repeated heavy ploughing that has occurred as part of the tillage agriculture land use carried out in this area. Evidence of such activity was repeatedly revealed within the excavated trenches in the form of dense concentration of modern plough scars and furrows. Occasional concentrations of backfilled stones, which were uncovered in a number of trenches, all appeared to be related to agricultural field clearance activity.

Across the tested area, numerous, generally shallow, linear features were revealed within the excavated trenches. A representative sample of these features were subject to manual investigation. The more substantial of these linears trended in an east to west direction and likely represent the remains of removed field divisions. One such east to west aligned boundary/division, which was uncovered in Trenches 14, 15, 16, 17 and 20, is depicted on the first edition and 25-inch OS maps. The less substantial linears, which often trended north to south, were all deemed to relate to agricultural activity and likely represent lesser field divisions, drains and cultivation furrows. The fills of the linear features were generally sterile, but some contained modern ceramic sherd inclusions. There was no indication that any of these features were archaeological in nature.

In summation, the testing programme demonstrated that the *Phase 2* lands have been subject to intensive tillage agriculture for many decades and these practices have quite literally left their mark on the underlying substrata. Excluding the evidence of this agricultural activity, the subsoil across the tested area was exceptionally sterile. No artefacts, features or deposits that could be considered to be archaeological in nature were revealed during the testing programme.

4. Conclusions

Conclusions

Archaeological testing of the site of a permitted Strategic Housing Development at Lahardane and Ballincolly, Ballyvolane, Cork was undertaken in order to comply with the recommendations outlined in the Cultural Heritage chapter of the project EIAR and to de-risk the site from an archaeological perspective prior to the commencement of development works. The subject testing programme was carried out under Excavation Licence 22E0430 between Wednesday 7 December and Thursday 22 December 2022. Thirty-six linear test trenches, totalling 3467m, were excavated across the *Phase 2* lands during the testing programme. While many of the trenches targeted potential archaeological responses identified during a preceding geophysical survey of the *Phase 2* lands (Detection Device Licence No. 22R0024), none of these responses proved to be archaeological in nature and were either associated with past agricultural activity or natural variations in the underlying subsoil.

No artefacts, features or deposits that could be considered to be archaeological in nature were revealed during the testing programme. The testing programme demonstrated that the *Phase 2* lands have been subject to intensive tillage agriculture for many decades and these practices have quite literally left their mark on the underlying substrata. Excluding the evidence of this agricultural activity, the subsoil across the tested area was exceptionally sterile. This appears to demonstrate that the exposed and high lying site was not a favourable location in terms of historic habitation and can be considered to possess a **very low archaeological potential**.

Recommendations

Due to the degree of modern agricultural disturbance across the site, the absence of evidence of any archaeological activity within the excavated test trenches (which targeted all potential archaeological responses from the preceding geophysical survey) and the consideration that the *Phase 2* lands possess a **very low** archaeological potential, **no further archaeological mitigation** is considered necessary across the Lahardane SHD Phase 2 development lands.

5. References/sources

Internet resources

Database of Irish Archaeological Excavations,

<http://www.excavations.ie/>

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Historic Environment Viewer

<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>

Geohive Mapviewer Resource

<http://www.geohive.ie/>

Heritage Map Viewer - various interactive heritage maps

<https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>

Teagasc Soil Map

<https://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php>

Appendix 1: Description of test trenches

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
1	45m	N-S	Trench 1 (T1) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35m and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The topsoil consisted of a mid-brown, moderately compacted silty clay loam with regular inclusions of small stones and pebbles throughout. The topsoil sealed an orange, brown, firm clay subsoil that had infrequent inclusions of small stones. Two narrow linears were identified in the north and south ends of this trench and both were sectioned. Both proved to be shallow in depth and are related to ploughing activity. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T1.
2	30m	SSE-NNW	Trench 2 (T2) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.40m and a maximum of 0.45m below current ground level. The topsoil in this trench consisted of a brown, firm, silty clay loam with frequent inclusions of pebbles and small stones throughout. The topsoil sealed a mixed subsoil which was reddish brown, firmly compacted silty clay with frequent inclusions of angular stones throughout. The subsoil in this area contained different bands of angular stones. Several east to west aligned linears were observed. These linears appeared in the form of multiple, narrow scars regularly spaced on the subsoil and were formed by ploughing activity. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T2.
3	75m	E-W	Trench 3 (T3) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.50m and a maximum of 0.50m below current ground level. The topsoil within this trench was a dark brown, silty clay loam with regular inclusions of angular stones throughout. The topsoil contained modern plastics, pottery and small amounts of glass. The underlying subsoil was a very mottled stone rich clay that contained bands of loose gravelly stone and bedrock. The bedrock was located at the centre and towards the eastern end of the trench. The location of the bedrock mirrors the location of the anomalies on the geophysical survey. The length of T3 was shortened by c.15m due to the presence of overhead powerlines. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T3.
4	45m	N-S	Trench 3 (T3) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.50m and a maximum of 0.50m below current ground level. The topsoil within this trench was a dark brown, silty clay loam with regular inclusions of angular stones throughout. The topsoil contained modern plastics, pottery and small amounts of glass. The underlying subsoil was a very mottled stone rich clay that contained bands of loose gravelly stone and bedrock. The bedrock was located at the centre trench. These variations in the subsoil align with the geophysical anomalies. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T4.
5	40m	NNE-SSW	Trench 5 (T5) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35m and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The topsoil in this trench consisted of a brown, firm, silty clay loam with frequent inclusions of pebbles and small stones throughout. The topsoil sealed a mixed subsoil which was reddish brown, firmly compacted silty clay with frequent inclusions of angular stones throughout. A band of shale rich stony clay was observed towards

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
			the west end of this trench. This shale rich material appeared non archaeological and abutted bedrock at the centre of the trench. These differing forms of natural material correlate with the geophysical anomaly seen in T5. The loose shale rich band of subsoil was tested mechanically and observed to be at least 1m in depth and was sterile throughout. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T5.
6	35m	NNE-SSW	Trench 6 (T6) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35m and a maximum of 0.45m below current ground level. A light brown, moderately compacted silty clay loam topsoil with regular inclusions of small stones throughout sealed a mixed subsoil consisting of bands of firm purple silty clay and stone rich clays. The stone rich clay subsoil was present throughout the south-southwest end of the trench. The trench was sterile throughout with the variations in subsoil correlating with the geophysical anomalies. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T6.
7	30m	NNE-SSW	Trench 7 (T7) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m and a maximum of 0.45m below current ground level. A light brown, moderately compacted silty clay loam topsoil with regular inclusions of small stones throughout sealed a mixed subsoil consisting of bands of firm purple silty clay and stone rich clays. The stone rich clay subsoil was present throughout the south-southwest end of the trench. The trench was sterile throughout with the variations in subsoil correlating with the geophysical anomalies. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T7.
8	125m	N-S	Trench 8 (T8) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The trench slopes downwards south to north as do T9, T10, T11, and T12. The topsoil within this trench consisted of a brown, silty clay loam with stone inclusions at the northern end and centre of the trench, that then changed to a grey, brown silty clay with small stone inclusions throughout towards the southern end. The subsoil was the same stone rich clay that was seen in T13 which intersects this and the above-mentioned trenches. Bands of exposed bedrock were sealed by the topsoil. These areas of bedrock were mixed with bands of loosely compacted gravelly stone. The subsoil changed to a greyish orange marly clay towards the northern end of the trench. Various modern linears were identified and a selection were sectioned. These linears included furrows and stone-filled drains. A short length, c.8m, of the trench was left unexcavated as standing water would have resulted in flooding of the trench had it been dug entirely. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T8.
9	85m	N-S	Trench 9 (T9) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35m and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The trench slopes downwards south to north as do T8, T10, T11, and T12. The topsoil within this trench consisted of a brown, silty clay loam with stone inclusions at the northern end and centre of the trench, that then changed to a grey, brown silty clay with small stone inclusions throughout towards the southern end. The subsoil consisted of bedrock and bands of angular stone at the south and centre of the trench and changed to an orange, grey marly clay towards the north end of the trench. Multidirectional linears in the form of probable furrows and plough scars were evident at subsoil level

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
			throughout the trench. A wider linear towards the northern end of T9 was tested and observed to contain a single sterile fill that was 0.10m in depth. This feature was deemed non archaeological and most likely associated with agricultural activity. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T9.
10	85m	N-S	Trench 10 (T10) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30 and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The trench slopes south to north and is the same as the above-mentioned trenches in this regard. The topsoil within this trench consisted of a brown, silty clay loam with stone inclusions at the northern end and centre of the trench, that then changed to a grey, brown silty clay loam with small stone inclusions throughout towards the southern end. The subsoil consisted of bedrock and bands of angular stone at the south and centre of the trench and changed to an orange, grey marly clay towards the north end of the trench. This change in the topsoil and subsoil takes place north of the intersection of this trench and (T13) and is also visible in the same position in T8, T9, T10, T11 and T12. The remains of earlier field layout was evident in the form of east to west and a north to south orientated linears. These linears were sectioned, with the east west running linear located south of the intersection with T13 being 1.40m wide north south, and 0.35m in depth. This linear was not present in T13 or T9. The linear contained a single sterile brown silty clay fill. A small extension of the eastern side of the trench was excavated to gather the full extent of the width of the north south orientated linear in T10. This linear was c.20m in length north to south, 0.80m wide east to west and 0.15m in depth and contained a single, loosely compacted grey, brown stony silty clay fill. Both these linears appeared to be part of an earlier field layout and were surveyed. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T10.
11	90m	N-S	Trench 11 (T11) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35m and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The topsoil in this trench was a mid-brown silty clay loam with frequent angular stone inclusions at the south and centre that then changes to a grey, brown silty clay with very infrequent stone inclusions. The subsoil consisted of bedrock and bands of angular stone at the south and centre of the trench and changed to an orange, grey marly clay towards the north end of the trench. These changes mirror the other trenches excavated in the same orientation with this area. At the northern end of the trench a probable continuation of the same east west orientated linear seen in T10 was observed and surveyed. Other shallow modern linears were identified within the trench. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T11.
12	90m	N-S	Trench 12 (T12) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m and a maximum of 0.45m below current ground level. The topsoil in this trench was a mid-brown silty clay with frequent angular stone inclusions at the south and centre that then changed to a grey, brown silty clay with very infrequent stone inclusions. The subsoil consisted of bedrock and bands of angular stone at the south and centre of the trench and changed to an orange, grey marly clay towards the north end of the trench. An east west running linear was tested at the southern end of the trench. Another north south orientated linear measuring c20m was observed and tested. Both linears were orientated in a similar way to linears in T10 and could

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
			be part of the same field boundary system. Both contained a single fill with the depth of the north south linear being only 0.10m and the east west linear being 0.38m. Modern pottery was found within the top of the fill of the east west running linear. At the northern end of the trench a 3m wide east west orientated modern ditch containing a single sterile fill was sectioned. This ditch was 1m in depth and appeared machine cut. Modern plastics and pottery were observed within the loosely compacted stony silty clay fill towards the surface. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T12.
13	140m	E-W	Trench 13 (T13) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.25m and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. A mid- brown moderately compacted silty clay loam topsoil with frequent inclusions of small angular stones and pebbles, sealed a reddish-brown stony clay subsoil that was mottled throughout and contained bands of shale and bedrock in parts. These variations matched the geophysical results and may account for these anomalies. A number of modern linears were uncovered with a selection being sampled and surveyed. These features varied in width and depth and were not archaeological. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T13.
14	255m	NNW-SSE	The topsoil within Trench 14 (T14) consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy loam with frequent small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones, there were also inclusions of modern ceramics. The topsoil measured c.0.3 to 0.5m in depth. The subsoil was mixed; most frequently it consisted of mid-orangey brown clayey silt with small sub-rounded stones, there were also patches of concentrated angular stones and patches of grey clay. A number of generally east to west orientated linears crossed the trench. These included one that was depicted on the first edition (6inch) and second edition (25 inch) Ordnance Survey maps. The remainder were all deemed to relate to modern agriculture as field divisions, drains or furrows. The potential anomalies that this trench was positioned to target were not identified beneath the topsoil and nothing of archaeological significance was encountered within T14. <i>*Due to the presence of an overhead power line (OHL) in the northern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a gap in the trench of c.25m was left either side of the OHL alignment.</i>
15	295m	NNW-SSE	The topsoil within Trench 15 (T15) consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy loam with frequent small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones, there were inclusions of modern ceramics within the topsoil which measured c.0.3 to 0.5m in depth. The subsoil was mixed; most frequently it consisted of mid-orangey brown clayey silt with small sub-rounded stones, there were also patches of concentrated angular stones and patches of grey clay. A number of generally east to west orientated linears crossed the trench. These included one that was depicted on the first edition (6inch) and second edition (25 inch) Ordnance Survey maps. The remainder were all deemed to relate to modern agriculture as field divisions, drains and furrows. The potential anomalies that this trench was positioned to target were not identified beneath the

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
			topsoil and nothing of archaeological significance was encountered within T15. <i>*Due to the presence of an overhead power line in the northern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a gap in the trench of c.25m was left either side of the OHL alignment.</i>
16	305m	NNE-SSW	Trench 16 (T16) was excavated to a minimum of 0.35m and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The topsoil consisted of a brown, moderately compacted silty clay loam with frequent inclusions of small stones throughout. Modern pottery, plastics and glass inclusions were observed towards the surface. The subsoil within this trench consisted of a dark orange, brown silty, stone rich, clay. Numerous cultivation linears and plough scars truncated the upper subsoil level at the base of the trench. The removed, east to west orientated, former field boundary was again revealed at the southern end of the trench. This linear was also identified in a similar position in T14, T15 and T20. No archaeological finds features, or deposits were identified within T16. <i>*Due to the presence of an overhead power line in the northern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a gap in the trench of c.25m was left either side of the OHL alignment.</i>
17	300m	NNE-SSW	Trench 17 (T17) was excavated to a minimum of 0.35m and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The topsoil consisted of a brown, moderately compacted silty clay loam with frequent inclusions of small stones throughout. Modern pottery, plastics and glass inclusions were observed towards the surface. The subsoil within this trench consisted of a dark orange, brown silty, stone rich clay. Numerous cultivation linears and plough scars truncated the upper subsoil level at the base of the trench. A selection of these were investigated and were found to contain modern pottery. The removed, east to west orientated, former field boundary was again revealed at the southern end of the trench. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T17. <i>*Due to the presence of an overhead power line in the northern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a gap in the trench of c.25m was left either side of the OHL alignment.</i>
18	75m	E-W	Trench 18 (T18) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The topsoil consisted of a brown, moderately compacted silty clay loam with frequent inclusions of small stones throughout. Modern pottery, plastics and glass inclusions were observed towards the surface. The subsoil within this trench consisted of a dark orange, brown silty stone rich clay. Plough scars were evident truncating the subsoil at various points throughout this trench. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T18
19	130m	E-W	The topsoil within Trench 19 (T19) consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy loam with frequent small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. It contained inclusions of modern

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
			ceramics and measured c.0.3 to 0.5m in depth. The subsoil was mixed; most frequently it consisted of mid-orangy brown clayey silt with small sub-rounded stones, there were also patches of concentrated angular stones and patches of grey clay. A number of generally north to south orientated shallow linears extended across the trench. They were all deemed to relate to modern agriculture such as field divisions, drainage ditches and furrows. The fills of all these linears were generally sterile but occasional contained modern ceramic sherd inclusions. A small extension was opened on the eastern side of T19 to investigate an area of potential activity. The revealed activity was found to have been caused by root action and land clearance. No archaeological finds features, or deposits were identified within T19.
20	265m	NNW-SSE	The topsoil within Trench 20 (T20) consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy loam with frequent small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. The topsoil, which measured c.0.3 to 0.5m in depth, also contained inclusions of modern ceramics sherds. The subsoil was mixed; most frequently it consisted of mid-orangy brown clayey silt with small sub-rounded stones, there were also patches of concentrated angular stones and patches of grey clay. A number of generally east to west orientated linears crossed the trench. These included one that was depicted on the first edition (6inch) and second edition (25 inch) Ordnance Survey maps. The remainder were all deemed to relate to modern agriculture and likely represented the remnants of removed field divisions, drains or furrows. The potential anomalies that this trench was positioned to target were not identified beneath the topsoil and nothing of archaeological significance was encountered within Trench 20. <i>*Due to the presence of an overhead power line in the northern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a gap in the trench of c.25m was left either side of the OHL alignment.</i>
21	80m	E-W	Trench 21 (T21) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30 and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. A dark grey, brown, silty clay loam topsoil that had regular inclusions of angular stones throughout, sealed a reddish brown, mottled clay that had frequent inclusions of patches or bands of shale rich loose stones. These bands of differing subsoil were seen throughout the trench. The trench contained multiple plough furrows and scars, these trended roughly north to south. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T21.
22	90m	N-S	Trench 22 (T22) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35 and a maximum of 0.45m below current ground level. A dark grey, brown, silty clay loam topsoil that had regular inclusions of angular stones throughout, sealed a reddish brown, mottled clay that had frequent inclusions of patches or bands shaley loose stones. These bands of differing subsoil were seen throughout the trench. An east to west orientated linear was uncovered towards the northern end of the trench. This linear corresponds to a likely removed field divisions which was also revealed in T17, T16, T15 and other trenches to the east. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T22.

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
			<i>*Due to the presence of an overhead power line in the northern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a gap in the trench of c.25m was left either side of the OHL alignment.</i>
23	95m	N-S	Trench 23 (T23) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35 and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. A dark grey, brown, silty clay loam topsoil that had regular inclusions of angular stones throughout, sealed a reddish brown, mottled clay that contained frequent bands of loose shaley stone. These bands of differing subsoil were seen throughout the trench. The trench contained an east west linear in the same orientation and position as that observed in T22. This linear was sectioned and observed to contain a single stone rich fill that was shallow in depth (0.17m). This linear was deemed to related to agricultural activity. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T23. <i>*Due to the presence of an overhead power line in the northern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a gap in the trench of c.25m was left either side of the OHL alignment.</i>
24	95m	N-S	Trench 24 (T24) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35 and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. A dark grey, brown, silty clay topsoil that had regular inclusions of angular stones throughout, sealed a reddish brown, mottled clay that had frequent inclusions of patches or bands of shale rich loose stones. These bands of differing subsoil were seen throughout the trench. Across the trench, the upper subsoil level was frequently truncated by shallow plough scarring. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T24 <i>*Due to the presence of an overhead power line in the northern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a gap in the trench of c.25m was left either side of the OHL alignment.</i>
25	60m	NW-SE	Trench 25 (T25) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.40m and a maximum of 0.45m below current ground level. The topsoil in this trench was a dark brown silty clay loam with frequent inclusions of small angular stones throughout. The subsoil comprised an orangish brown, firmly compacted mottled clay with regular inclusions of stones. The subsoil within this trench was truncated by multiple modern plough scars. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T25.
26	55m	NW-SE	Trench 26 (T26) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.40m and a maximum of 0.45m below current ground level. The topsoil in this trench was a dark brown silty clay loam with frequent inclusions of small angular stones throughout. The subsoil comprised an orangish brown, firmly compacted mottled clay with regular inclusions of stones. The subsoil within this trench was frequently truncated by modern plough scars. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T26.
27		E-W	Not excavated due to overhead powerlines.
28		N-S	Not excavated due to overhead powerlines.

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
29	95m	N-S	Trench 29 (T29) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35m and a maximum of 0.45m below current ground level. A dark grey, brown, silty clay loam topsoil that had regular inclusions of angular stones throughout, sealed a reddish brown, mottled clay that had frequent inclusions of patches or bands of shale rich loose stones. Modern refuse in the form of glass, pottery and plastics were observed throughout the topsoil. The trench contained a number of narrow and shallow linear features. A sample of these were investigated and all were deemed to be related to modern ploughing activity. A slightly more substantial linear revealed at the southern end of the trench contained a single sterile stone rich clay fill and measured only 0.25m in depth, it likely represents a removed field division or drainage channel. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T29.
30	90m	N-S	Trench 30 (T30) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m and to a maximum of 0.40m under current ground level. The topsoil in the trench was a dark grey, brown, silty clay loam with very frequent inclusions of angular stones that sealed a reddish-brown clay subsoil that contained areas of stone throughout. At a point c.25m from the southern end of the trench an area of black loose angular stone rich material was observed. The area contained no charcoal though the silty clay appeared rich in organic material. The area extended north to south for a distance of approximately 15m and was observed throughout the full width of the trench where seen. This area of stone was mechanically sectioned and it was determined that given the sterile nature of the deposit (to a depth of 1.20m) and lack of any discernible structure to the cut, that it was non archaeological and most likely related to field improvement works within the field or possibly back filled material other modern activity. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T.30.
31	70m	N-S	Trench 31 (T31) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m and to a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. Light brown silty clay loam topsoil with frequent inclusions of stones throughout. Regular inclusions of modern pottery, plastic and glass throughout the topsoil. Underlying subsoil was a reddish brown stony clay with bedrock visible below the topsoil at the southern end of the trench. An E-W running linear just north of the interception of T31 and T33 was observed and investigated. The linear was 0.90m wide, 0.25m deep, contained a sterile fill and was deemed to be of agricultural in origin. Other agricultural furrows and plough scars were evident running N-S throughout the trench. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within Trench 31.
32	40m	E-W	Trench 32 (T32) was excavated from a minimum depth of 0.30 and to a maximum depth of 0.40m below current ground level. A light brown, moderately compacted stony silty clay loam topsoil sealed a firm, reddish brown, stony clay subsoil. This trench was very sterile throughout. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within Trench 32.
33	30m	E-W	Trench 33 (T33) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m and to a maximum of 0.35m below current ground level. A light brown, moderately compacted stony silty clay loam topsoil sealed a firm, reddish brown, stony clay subsoil. This trench was very sterile throughout. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within Trench 33.

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
34	40m	N-S	Trench 34 (T34) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35m and to a maximum depth of 0.45m below current ground level. A blackish brown silty clay loam topsoil overlay a firm, reddish brown, stony clay subsoil. Both the topsoil and subsoil contained modern inclusions in the form of pottery and plastics. T34 runs parallel to a modern division in the form of a hedgerow. A number of E-W running linear features were investigated and found to be non-archaeological. A probable field division was identified running east-west within the southern side of the trench. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T34.
35	40m	NNW-SSE	Trench 35 (T35) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m to and a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. A brown silty clay loam topsoil with frequent inclusions of stone throughout sealed a reddish-brown stony clay subsoil, with bedrock in areas towards the SSE end of the trench. A number of agriculture related shallow linears were uncovered within the trench but none were deemed to be archaeological in nature. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T35.
36	35m	NNE-SSW	Trench 36 (T36) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m and to a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. A brown silty clay loam topsoil with frequent inclusions of stone throughout sealed a reddish-brown stony clay subsoil. Plough scars and furrows associated with modern agriculture were evident truncating the upper subsoil level across the trench. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T36.
37	15m	N-S	Trench 37 (T37) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35m and to a maximum depth of 0.45m below current ground level. A brown silty clay loam topsoil with moderate to firm compaction sealed a reddish-brown, to orange in places, firm clay subsoil. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T37.
38	15m	E-W	Trench 38 (T38) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.35m and to a maximum of 0.45m below current ground. A brown silty clay loam topsoil with moderate to firm compaction sealed a reddish-brown, to orange in places, firm clay subsoil. A furrow located at the west end of T37 was observed to be 0.12m in depth and corresponded with other similar agricultural features in the area. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T38.
39	130m	E-W	Trench 39 (T39) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.30m and to a maximum of 0.40m below current ground level. The topsoil consisted of a brown, moderately compacted silty clay loam with frequent inclusions of small stones throughout. Modern pottery, plastics and glass inclusions were observed towards the surface. The subsoil within this trench consisted of a dark orangish brown silty, stone rich, clay. A number of generally north to south orientated linears were revealed and investigated within the trench. They were all deemed to relate to modern agriculture as field divisions, drains or furrows. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within T39.

Appendix 2: Photographic record



Plate 1: View of the completed Trench 1 from its northern end, facing south



Plate 2: View of the completed Trench 2, facing north-northeast



***Plate 3:** View along Trench 3, facing east*



***Plate 4:** View along Trench 4 from its southern end*



***Plate 5:** View along the completed Trench 5, facing south-southwest*



Plate 6: View along the completed Trench 6, facing south-southwest



Plate 7: View along the completed Trench 7 facing north-northeast



Plate 8: View along Trench 8 from its southern end, facing north



Plate 9: View of modern stone-filled land drain revealed within Trench 8



Plate 10: View along the completed Trench 9, facing north



Plate 11: View of investigated shallow linear feature uncovered at the northern end of Trench 9, facing east



Plate 12: View northwards along Trench 10. Shallow N-S linear feature evident



Plate 13: View of investigated shallow E-W aligned linear feature uncovered in central portion of Trench 10



Plate 14: View across the completed Trench 11, facing north



Plate 15: View of the completed Trench 12, facing north



Plate 16: View of E-W aligned modern linear feature revealed at the northern end of Trench 12, modern ceramics and plastic were contained within the stony fill



Plate 17: View of the completed Trench 13, facing east



Plate 18: View of the excavated Trench 14, facing south-southeast



Plate 19: View of remnants of E-W aligned field boundary revealed at the southern end of Trench 14



Plate 20: View along Trench 15, facing northwest



Plate 21: View of Trench 16, facing south



Plate 22: View southwards along Trench 17



Plate 23: View of investigated former field boundary remnants at the southern end of Trench 17



Plate 24: View of the excavated Trench 17, facing west



Plate 25: View of Trench 18 from its eastern end



Plate 26: *View of shallow N-S aligned agricultural linear investigated within Trench 18*



Plate 27: *Shallow agriculture related linear features revealed and investigated within Trench 19, facing east*



Plate 28: View of shallow E-W aligned linear revealed and investigated within Trench 19



Plate 29: View of the excavated Trench 20, facing south-southeast



Plate 30: View of Trench 21, facing west



Plate 31: View of Trench 22, facing north



Plate 32: View of Trench 23, facing north



Plate 33: View of Trench 24, facing north



Plate 34: View of the excavated Trench 25, facing southwest



Plate 35: View of N-S aligned plough scars uncovered within Trench 26



Plate 36: View of the excavated Trench 29, facing south



Plate 37: View of the excavated Trench 30, facing north



Plate 38: View of modern disturbance uncovered within Trench 30, facing east



Plate 39: View of shallow E-W aligned linear revealed within Trench 31, facing west



Plate 40: View of shallow N-S aligned cultivation linear revealed at the southern end of Trench 31, facing south



Plate 41: View of the excavated Trench 32, facing west



Plate 42: View of the excavated Trench 33, facing west



Plate 43: View of the excavated Trench 34, facing north



Plate 44: *View of investigated shallow probable field division revealed within Trench 34*



Plate 45: *View of the excavated Trench 35, facing north-northwest*



Plate 46: View of the excavated Trench 36, facing northeast



Plate 47: View of excavated Trench 37, facing north



Plate 48: View of excavated Trench 38, facing east



Plate 49: View of the excavated Trench 39, facing west



Plate 50: View of plough scars/furrows revealed within Trench 39, facing north

Archaeological Impact Assessment
Development lands at Ballincolly, Ballyvolane, Cork



(Excavation Licence No. 25E0225)

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1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates (JCA) were commissioned by Temporis Limited to undertake archaeological impact assessment (based on a programme of licensed testing) of lands at a proposed development site set within two land blocks at Ballincolly, to the north of Ballyvolane, Cork. Previous programmes of archaeological testing were undertaken within the *Phase 1* and *Phase 2* portions of the wider development site under Excavation Licence 21E0257 in May 2021 and Excavation Licence 22E0430 in December 2022. Archaeological features revealed during that testing programme were subject to full archaeological excavation (Excavation Licence 21E0740) in July 2022 (see **Section 2** for further detail).



Figure 1: General location of subject site to the north of Cork City (Source: www.archaeology.ie)

The subject lands comprise of two land parcels to the south of the *Phase 1* development lands and to the southwest of the *Phase 2* lands.

The subject testing programme was carried out under Excavation Licence 25E0225 and trenching undertaken within the western land block was carried out between Friday 11 April and Tuesday 15 April 2025, and trenching within the eastern land block was carried out between Thursday 15 May and Monday 19 May 2025. Sixteen linear test trenches, totalling 2670m, were proposed, however, Trenches 1 and 16 and portions of Trenches 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 were not excavated due to modern disturbance, access issues and overhead powerlines (see **Appendix 1**). While a number of levelled historic field boundaries and disturbance related to agriculture was noted, no finds or features of an archaeological nature were identified during the programme of testing. The results of the testing programme are outlined in greater detail in **Section 3**, while individual trench descriptions are included in **Appendix 1**, extracts from the photographic record of the testing programme are provided in **Appendix 2**.

2. Context

Location

The subject site is located within a semi-rural setting, consisting of two land parcels in the townland of Ballincolly on the northern outskirts of Cork City (see **Figure 1** above). The landholding is situated on an elevated site which slopes gradually downwards to the west in the western half of the site, while ground levels in the eastern half are moderately sloping to the west and command good views over the Lee Valley to the south. The site, which has been in continual use as tillage farmland in recent decades, is bound by a housing development under construction to the north and east and agricultural fields to the west and south. The area is within a geological region of continental redbed facies, sandstone, conglomerate and siltstone with soil covers of fine loamy drift with siliceous stones.

Archaeological context

There are **no recorded archaeological monuments** (as recorded by the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland*) located within the subject lands. There are three recorded archaeological sites within c.500m of the site boundary (see **Figure 2** and **Table 1**). The nearest of these is a burnt mound (CO074-132----) located to the south of the subject lands.



Figure 2: RMPs within 500m of the approximate development area (test trenches shown in orange) (Source: archaeology.ie)

Table 1: Recorded archaeological sites within 500m of the proposed development

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM (E)	ITM (N)
CO074-172----	Fulacht fia	Ballyvolane (Cork By.)	569039	574409

<i>SMR No.</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Townland</i>	<i>ITM (E)</i>	<i>ITM (N)</i>
C0074-132----	Burnt mound	Ballyvolane	569163	574569
C0074-131----	Burnt mound	Ballyvolane	569066	574430

Excavation Database

A review of excavations carried out within the townlands of Arderrow, Ballincolly, Ballincrokig, Ballyvolane, Garraneboy and Lahardane, which fall within the 500m buffer around the subject site, was undertaken. A *fulacht fiadh*, a standing stone and a possible souterrain were investigated in 2018 (18E0059) within the townland of Ballincrokig, a *fulacht fia*, cremation burial and possible pits (20E0586) were investigated within Ballincrokig in 2020, cremated bone (23E0827), a ringfort and a burnt spread (23E0365) were investigated within the townland of Ballincrokig in 2023. A burnt mound and *fulacht fia* were investigated (21E0109) within Ballyvolane townland in 2021.

A geophysical survey was carried out within a development area directly to the north and east of the subject lands. As outlined above, archaeological testing (21E0247, 22E0430) was carried out to investigate the results of the geophysical survey and these programmes of testing identified a kiln, ring ditch, pits and post-holes within the lands to the north. These features were subsequently excavated under licence 21E0740.

Cartographic review

The cartographic sources examined for the study area include the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map (1837-42), (**Figure 3**) and the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (1888-1913), (**Figure 4**). The subject site is depicted on the first edition 1:10,560 OS map (1840) as a number of partial and complete agricultural fields. The second edition 1:2500 OS map conforms to the present field layout. Modern aerial images shows significant ground disturbance to areas directly to the north and east where housing construction is ongoing.



Figure 3: Extract from the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map (1837-42) with approximate location of both land parcels framed [OSI Licence ref. 0003321]

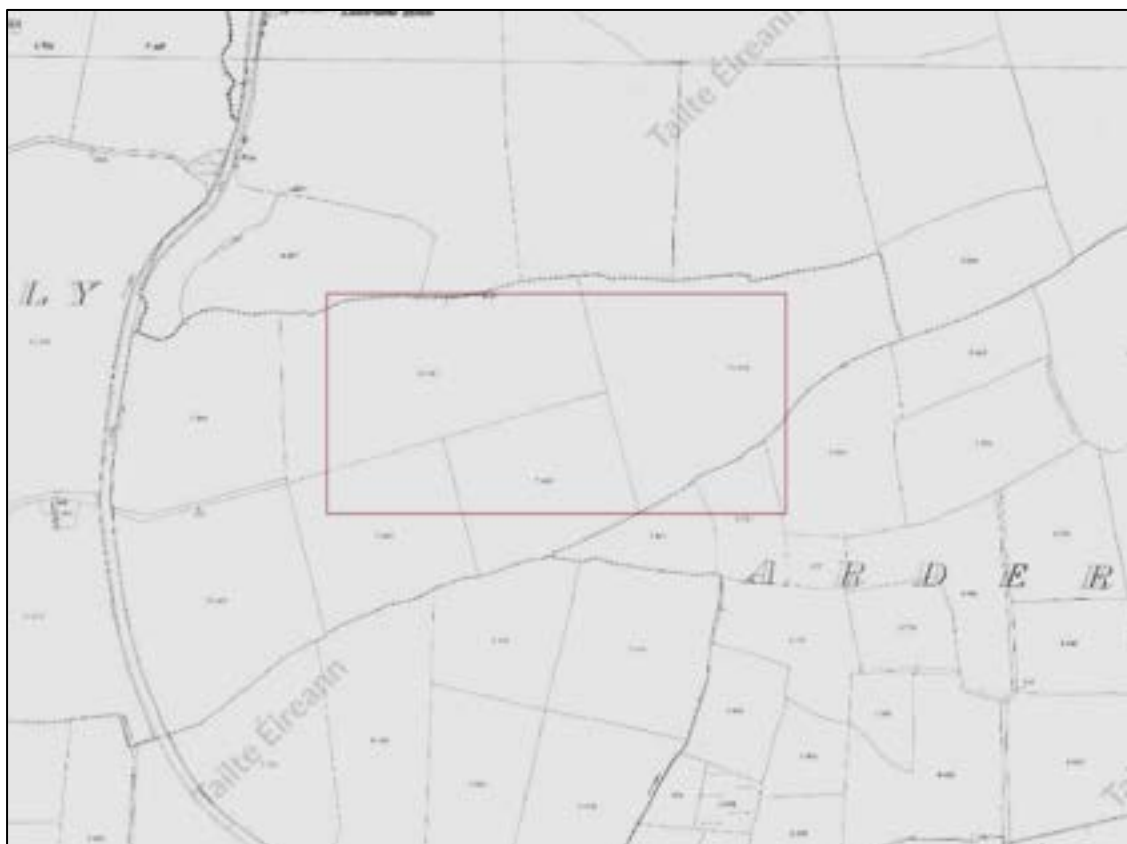


Figure 4: Extract from the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (1888-1913) with approximate location of both land parcels framed [OSI Licence ref. 0003321]

3. Archaeological testing programme

Overview

Archaeological testing of the subject lands was undertaken within the western land block between Friday 11 April and Tuesday 15 April 2025, and trenching within the eastern land block was carried out between Thursday 15 May and Tuesday 20 May 2025. Sixteen linear test trenches, totalling 2670m, were proposed. A number of trenches were recessed an appropriate distance from the alignment of overhead powerlines which extended across the eastern land parcel (Trenches 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15), while two (Trenches 1 & 16) were not excavated due to modern disturbance (Trench 1) and access issues (Trench 16) (see **Appendix 1**). While a number of levelled historic field boundaries and disturbance related to agriculture was noted, no finds or features of an archaeological nature were identified during the programme of testing. Individual trench descriptions are included in **Appendix 1** and extracts from the photographic record of the testing programme are provided in **Appendix 2**.

The test trenches within the western land parcel were excavated by a 13-tonne mechanical excavator which operated under constant archaeological direction while those within the eastern land parcel were excavated by a 21-tonne mechanical excavator which operated under constant archaeological direction.



Figure 5: Trenches as proposed shown in orange (Source: archaeology.ie)

Summary

Excavation of the test trenches revealed a relatively consistent stratigraphy across the area with a topsoil composed of a mid-brown silt which contained frequent small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and a moderate number of modern inclusions such as plastics and ceramic

sherds. The topsoil generally measured between 0.3m and 0.5m in depth within the western land parcel and between 0.1 and 0.2m within the eastern land parcel and overlay a mixed and stony subsoil. The subsoil most frequently comprised a mid-orangish to reddish brown silty clay mixed with small sub-rounded stones, however, there were also frequent localised concentrations of varying sized angular stones. Occasionally outcrops of bedrock formed of Old Red Sandstone were noted within the southern end of the eastern land parcel.

The mixed nature of the subsoil appears to be the result of the repeated heavy ploughing that has occurred as part of the tillage agriculture land use carried out in this area. Evidence of such activity was repeatedly revealed within the excavated trenches in the form of a concentration of modern plough scars and furrows. Occasional concentrations of backfilled stones, which were uncovered in a number of trenches, all appeared to be related to agricultural field clearance or land improvement activity.

Across the tested areas, numerous, generally shallow, linear features were revealed within the excavated trenches. A representative sample of these features were subject to manual investigation. The more substantial of these linear features likely represent the remains of removed field divisions. One such east to west aligned boundary/division, which was uncovered within Trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, is depicted on the first edition (1:10,560) and the second edition (1:2500) OS maps. The less substantial linear features, which often trended north to south and east to west, were all deemed to relate to agricultural activity and likely represent lesser field divisions, drains and cultivation furrows. The fills of the linear features were generally sterile, but some contained modern ceramic sherd inclusions. There was no indication that any of these features were archaeological in nature.

In summation, the testing programme demonstrated that the subject lands have been subject to intensive tillage agriculture for many decades and these practices have left their mark on the underlying substrata. Excluding the evidence of this agricultural activity, the subsoil across the tested area was exceptionally sterile. No artefacts, features or deposits that could be considered to be archaeological in nature were revealed during the testing programme.

4. Conclusions

Conclusions

Archaeological testing of the site of a proposed development at Ballincolly, Ballyvolane, Cork was undertaken ahead of a proposed planning application. The subject testing programme was carried out under Excavation Licence 25E0225 between Friday 11 April and Monday 19 May 2025. No features noted during the programme of testing proved to be archaeological in nature and features that were identified were either associated with past agricultural activity or natural variations in the underlying subsoil.

No artefacts, features or deposits that could be considered to be archaeological in nature were revealed during the testing programme. The testing programme demonstrated that the subject lands have been subject to intensive tillage agriculture for many decades. Excluding the evidence of this agricultural activity, the subsoil across the tested area was exceptionally sterile. This appears to demonstrate that the exposed and high lying site was not a favourable location in terms of historic habitation and can be considered to possess a **very low archaeological potential**.

Recommendations

Due to the degree of modern agricultural disturbance across the site, the absence of evidence of any archaeological activity within the excavated test trenches and the consideration that the subject lands possess a **very low** archaeological potential, **no further archaeological mitigation** is considered necessary across the subject lands.

5. References/sources

Internet resources

Database of Irish Archaeological Excavations,

<http://www.excavations.ie/>

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Historic Environment Viewer

<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>

Geohive Mapviewer Resource

<http://www.geohive.ie/>

Heritage Map Viewer - various interactive heritage maps

<https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>

Teagasc Soil Map

<https://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php>

Appendix 1: Description of test trenches

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
1	175m ^{*1}	E-W	This trench was not excavated as a construction road related to ongoing construction in an adjoining area directly to the north occupied this area.
2	180m*	E-W	This trench was located within the western land parcel. The westernmost c.10m and c.50m at the eastern end of the trench were within previously disturbed areas. Topsoil within this cutting was a mid-brown silt measuring 0.4-0.5m thick. Topsoil was very stoney and contained frequent fragments of modern pottery, glass and plastic. Subsoil was a very stoney yellow clay at the west and a very stoney red silty clay at the east. Occasional east to west furrows measuring c.0.4m wide were noted crossing this cutting. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this trench.
3	185m*	E-W	This trench was located within the western land parcel. The westernmost c.6m of the trench were within a previously disturbed area. Topsoil within this cutting was a mid-brown silt measuring 0.3-0.4m thick. Topsoil contained frequent stone and fragments of modern pottery, glass and plastic. Subsoil was mixed red and yellowy orange silty clay with occasional stone. A series of northwest to southeast agricultural furrows, measuring c.0.2m wide, were noted at the east end of the cutting. A series of north to south 0.5m wide agricultural linear features were noted at the centre of the cutting. Nothing of an archaeological nature was noted within this cutting.
4	180m	E-W	This trench was located within the western land parcel. Topsoil within this cutting was a mid-brown silt measuring 0.4-0.5m thick. Topsoil was very stoney and contained frequent fragments of modern pottery, glass and plastic. Subsoil was mixed red and yellowy orange silty clay with occasional stone. An area of disturbance, similar to that noted in Trench 5, possibly related to historic quarrying or land improvement works, was noted c.25/30m from the west end of the trench and extending for c.20m with the cutting. This irregular area of disturbance contained broken stone, occasionally charcoal, modern iron and modern pottery fragments. East to west plough scarring was noted at the east end of the cutting. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted within this cutting.
5	180m	E-W	This trench was located within the western land parcel. Topsoil within this cutting was a mid-brown silt measuring 0.3-0.5m thick. Topsoil contained frequent stone and fragments of modern pottery, glass and plastic. Subsoil was mixed red and yellowy orange silty clay with occasional stone. An area of disturbance, similar to that noted in Trench 4, possibly related to historic quarrying or land improvement works, was noted c.25/30m from the west end of the trench and extending for c.15m with the cutting. This area of disturbance was represented by intermittent broken stone, occasionally charcoal flecks and infrequent modern pottery. A series of north to south linear ditch features, mirroring

¹ Trenches marked with an * were not excavated to their full extent due to on-site constraints

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
			those shown on historic mapping, were noted within the cutting. Nothing of an archaeological nature was noted.
6	180m	E-W	This trench was located within the western land parcel. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.4-0.5m thick. Topsoil contained frequent stone and fragments of modern pottery, glass and plastic. The subsoil was formed of an orange clay at the east and a yellow stoney clay at the west. A series of north to south linear ditch features, mirroring those shown on historic mapping, were noted within the cutting. These included a double ditch and bank was noted within this cutting (also noted within Trench 7 and 8). The ditches forming this were c.1.5m wide and the levelled bank was c.2m wide. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
7	170m	E-W	This trench was located within the western land parcel. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.3-0.5m thick. Topsoil contained frequent stone and fragments of modern pottery, glass and plastic. The subsoil was formed of an orange clay at the east and a yellow stoney clay at the west. A double ditch and bank was noted c.80m from the east end within this cutting (also noted within Trench 6 and 8). This feature mirrored the line of a field boundary shown on historic mapping. The ditches forming this were c.1.5m wide and the levelled bank was c.2m wide. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
8	170m	E-W	This trench was located within the western land parcel. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.2-0.4m thick. Topsoil contained frequent stone and fragments of modern pottery, glass and plastic. The subsoil was formed of an orange clay at the east and a yellow stoney clay at the west. . A double ditch and bank was noted c.80m from the east end within this cutting (also noted within Trench 6 and 7). This feature mirrored the line of a field boundary shown on historic mapping. The ditches forming this were c.1.5m wide and the levelled bank was c.2m wide. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
9	165m*	N-S	This trench was located within the eastern land parcel. An overhead powerline crossed the line of the trench towards the south end of the cutting. Due to the presence of an overhead power line (OHL) in the southern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a c.20m portion of the trench was not excavated where the powerline crossed. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.15- 0.2m thick. Topsoil contained occasional stone and occasional fragments of modern pottery, glass, and plastic. Subsoil was formed of a stoney orange clay with occasional bands of Old Red Sandstone bedrock, especially at the south end of the cutting. Occasional east to west plough scarring was noted across the cutting. A c.10m wide band of disturbance containing stone and occasionally fragments of modern pottery was noted towards the centre of the cutting. This feature mirrored the line of a field boundary shown on historic mapping and was also evident within trenches 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
10	160m*	N-S	This trench was located within the eastern land parcel. An overhead powerline crossed the line of the trench towards the

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
			south end of the cutting. Due to the presence of an overhead power line (OHL) in the southern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, a c.20m portion of the trench was not excavated where the powerline crossed. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.2- 0.3m thick. Topsoil contained occasional stone and occasional fragments of modern pottery, glass, and plastic. Subsoil was formed of a stoney orange clay with occasional bands of Old Red Sandstone bedrock at the south end of the cutting. Occasional c.0.1m wide east to west cultivation linear features were noted across the centre of the cutting. A c.10m wide band of disturbance containing stone and occasionally fragments of modern pottery was noted towards the centre of the cutting. This feature mirrored the line of a field boundary shown on historic mapping and was also evident within trenches 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
11	160m*	N-S	This trench was located within the eastern land parcel. An overhead powerline crossed the line of the trench towards the south end of the cutting. Due to the presence of an overhead power line (OHL) in the southern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, the southernmost c.35m of the trench was not excavated where the powerline crossed. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.1- 0.2m thick. Topsoil contained occasional stone and occasional fragments of modern pottery, glass, and plastic. Subsoil was formed of a stoney orange clay with occasional bands of Old Red Sandstone bedrock at the south end of the cutting. Occasional c.0.1m wide and 0.05m deep east to west and north to south cultivation linear features were noted across the cutting. A c.10m wide band of disturbance containing stone and occasionally fragments of modern pottery was noted towards the centre of the cutting. This feature mirrored the line of a field boundary shown on historic mapping and was also evident within trenches 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
12	155m*	N-S	This trench was located within the eastern land parcel. An overhead powerline crossed the line of the trench towards the south end of the cutting. Due to the presence of an overhead power line (OHL) in the southern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, the southernmost c.30m of the trench was not excavated where the powerline crossed. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.1- 0.2m thick. Topsoil contained occasional stone and occasional fragments of modern pottery, glass, and plastic and very infrequent modern metal objects. Subsoil was formed of a stoney orange clay with occasional bands of Old Red Sandstone bedrock at the south end of the cutting. Occasional c.0.1m wide and 0.05m deep east to west and north to south cultivation linear features were noted across the cutting. A c.10m wide band of disturbance containing stone and occasionally fragments of modern pottery was noted towards the centre of the cutting. This feature mirrored the line of a field boundary shown on historic mapping and was also evident within trenches 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
13	155m*	N-S	This trench was located within the eastern land parcel. An overhead powerline crossed the line of the trench towards the

Trench No.	Trench length	Orientation	Description of trench
			south end of the cutting. Due to the presence of an overhead power line (OHL) in the southern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, the southernmost c.25m of the trench was not excavated where the powerline crossed. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.1-0.2m thick. Topsoil contained occasional stone and occasional fragments of modern pottery, glass, and plastic and very infrequent modern metal objects. Subsoil was formed of a stoney orange clay with occasional bands of Old Red Sandstone bedrock at the south end of the cutting. Occasional c.0.1m wide and 0.05m deep east to west and north to south cultivation linear features were noted across the cutting. A c.10m wide band of disturbance containing very frequent stone and occasionally fragments of modern pottery was noted towards the centre of the cutting. This feature mirrored the line of a field boundary shown on historic mapping and was also evident within trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
14	155m*	N-S	This trench was located within the eastern land parcel. An overhead powerline crossed the line of the trench towards the south end of the cutting. Due to the presence of an overhead power line (OHL) in the southern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, the southernmost c.25m of the trench was not excavated where the powerline crossed. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.1-0.2m thick. Topsoil contained occasional stone and occasional fragments of modern pottery, glass, and plastic. Subsoil was formed of a stoney orange clay with occasional bands of Old Red Sandstone bedrock at the south end of the cutting. A c.0.5m wide and 0.2m deep north to south linear feature were noted at the north end of the cutting and post-medieval pottery was noted within this feature. East to west plough scarring was noted at the south end of the cutting. A c.10m wide band of disturbance containing very frequent stone and occasionally fragments of modern pottery was noted towards the centre of the cutting. This feature mirrored the line of a field boundary shown on historic mapping and was also evident within trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
15	150m*	N-S	This trench was located within the eastern land parcel. Due to the presence of an overhead power line (OHL) in the southern portion of the field, and the health and safety concerns associated with this, the southernmost c.25m of the trench was not excavated where the powerline crossed. Topsoil within this cutting was formed of a mid-brown silt measuring 0.1- 0.4m thick. Topsoil contained occasional stone and occasional fragments of modern pottery, glass, and plastic and infrequent modern iron objects. Subsoil was formed of a very stoney orange clay with occasional bands of Old Red Sandstone bedrock at the south end of the cutting. Occasional c.0.5m wide and 0.05m deep north to south and east to west agricultural linear features were noted across the cutting of the cutting. A c.10m wide band of disturbance containing very frequent stone and occasionally fragments of modern pottery was noted towards the centre of the cutting. This feature mirrored the line of a field boundary shown on historic mapping and was also evident

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Trench length</i>	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Description of trench</i>
			within trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this cutting.
16	150m*	N-S	The proposed location of Trench 16 was separated from the subject lands by harris fencing associated with development in the adjoining lands to the east and was therefore not available for testing. It should be noted that the developments to the east were subject to geophysical survey and a programme of archaeological testing (as discussed above), and nothing of archaeological significance was noted.

Appendix 2: Photographic record



Plate 1: Aerial view of trenching works within western land parcel, facing west



Plate 2: View of the completed Trench 2 from its eastern end, facing west



Plate 3: View of the completed Trench 2, facing east



Plate 4: View along Trench 3, facing west



Plate 5: View along Trench 3 from its western end



Plate 6: View along Trench 4 from its western end



Plate 7: View along Trench 4 from its eastern end



Plate 8: View along Trench 5 from its western end



Plate 9: View along Trench 5 from its eastern end



Plate 10: View along Trench 6 from its eastern end



Plate 11: View of historic field boundary within Trench 6, looking south



Plate 12: View along Trench 6 from its western end



Plate 13: View along Trench 7 from its western end



Plate 14: View of field boundary shown on historic mapping within Trench 7 looking east



Plate 15: View along Trench 7 from its eastern end



Plate 16: View along Trench 8 from its eastern end



Plate 17: View of plough scarring with Trench 8 looking southeast



Plate 18: View along Trench 8 from its western end



Plate 19: Aerial view of eastern land parcel (foreground) and western land parcel (upper right), looking west



Plate 20: View along the completed Trench 9, facing north



Plate 21: View along the completed Trench 9 facing south



Plate 22: View of portion of Trench 9 south of overhead powerlines looking north



Plate 23: View of complete Trench 10 looking north



Plate 24: View of complete Trench 10 looking south



Plate 25: View of portion of Trench 10 south of overhead powerlines looking north



Plate 26: View along the completed Trench 11, facing north



Plate 27: View across the completed Trench 11, facing south



Plate 28: View across the completed Trench 12, facing north



Plate 29: Area of disturbance within Trench 12 associated with historic field boundary (also noted within Trenches 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15)



Plate 30: View across the completed Trench 12, facing south



Plate 31: View of the completed Trench 13, facing south



Plate 32: View of Trench 13 looking north



Plate 33: View of the completed Trench 14, facing north



Plate 34: View of the historic field boundary with Trench 14, facing south (also noted within Trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15)



Plate 35: View of the excavated Trench 14, facing south



Plate 36: View of Trench 15 looking north



Plate 37: View of north to south agricultural linear feature within Trench 15 looking north



Plate 38: View along Trench 15, facing south