

past | present | future

ACS



**Archaeological Impact Assessment of  
Strategic Housing Development at  
Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
CONSULTANCY  
SERVICES UNIT

**Client:**

Tetrarch Residential Limited

ITM: 703170, 727170

RMP/SMR Nos: DU021-032----

NIAH Reg. No. 11213030

Magda Lyne

14 December 2021

ACSU Ref.: 2182

HEAD OFFICE

Unit 21

Boyne Business Park

Greenhills, Drogheda

Co. Louth

Tel: 041 9883396

Tel: 041 9835422

Fax: 041 2130310

info@acsu.ie

www.acsu.ie

## PROJECT DETAILS

<b>Project</b>	Proposed Strategic Housing Development at Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin
<b>Report Type</b>	Archaeological Impact Assessment
<b>Archaeologist</b>	Magda Lyne
<b>Client</b>	Tetrarch Residential Limited
<b>Site</b>	Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin
<b>Townlands</b>	Collegeland
<b>ITM Refs</b>	703170, 727170
<b>RMP/SMR No.</b>	DU021-032----
<b>Protected Structure No.</b>	N/A
<b>NIAH Reg. No.</b>	11213030
<b>Report Date</b>	14 December 2021
<b>ACSU Ref.</b>	2182

---

Revision	Date	Description	Status	Author	Reviewed	Approved
1	13.10.2021	Archaeological Assessment Report	Draft	M.L.	D.M	M.L
2	14.10.2021	Archaeological Assessment Report	Final	M.L.	D.M	M.L

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological and cultural heritage impact assessment for a proposed residential development on lands at Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin (ITMS 703170, 727170). This assessment was carried out at the request of the client to accompany a planning application.

The site contains a recorded monument listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for Dublin (1998); field system DU021-032----. The monument is recorded as located within the footprint of the proposed eastern access road, within the current Citywest Hotel & Golf Club. It was identified on a 1971 aerial photograph and was visible as small irregular fields defined by low earthworks. While the area was since landscaped, and no surface remains are visible, there is a potential for sub-surface archaeological remains to survive. Furthermore, the Zone of Archaeological Potential associated with a deserted – medieval settlement DU021-034---- with a number of related monuments is located c. 375m to the south of the site.

There are no Protected Structures listed within the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 within the site. The nearest such structure is Gates and Mill Wall (Forming Old Entrance and Boundary to Swiftbrook Mills) RPS Ref. 314, located c. 325m to the southeast. A structure listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, a late 19th-century water pump NIAH Reg. No. 11213030 is marked as located within the proposed southwest access road. However, it appears that it was wrongly marked, as it is located further south and not within the footprint of the proposed road.

The site was inspected on the 6th of October 2021 by Donald Murphy of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. No structures or features of an archaeological nature were identified within the site.

This assessment included the examination of cartographic and aerial photographs. Examined maps do not depict monuments, features or buildings of archaeological or cultural significance. The 1995 map shows a house with ancillary buildings on the plot within the northwest part of the site. The site appears largely unchanged since 1995, and while some linear cropmarks are visible, these appear to correspond with field boundaries depicted on the 1838 map.

Overall, an examination of the recorded monuments, as well as a review of previous archaeological assessments and excavations undertaken in the environs of the site, suggests that the overall landscape of the site has the potential to contain subsurface archaeological remains, including previously unrecorded and recorded (associated with Field system DU021-032----).

Therefore, it is recommended that archaeological assessment (geophysical survey and test trenching) should be conditioned within any grant of permission for the site and be carried out in advance of construction. This should be carried out by a licence eligible archaeologist working under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. Should archaeological material be identified in the course of test trenching, further mitigation, including monitoring, preservation by record (excavation) or in situ (avoidance), might be recommended.

## Contents

1. INTRODUCTION .....	1
2. THE DEVELOPMENT .....	1
2.1 Proposal .....	1
2.2 Archaeological Requirements .....	1
2.3 Methodology .....	2
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT .....	2
3.1 Archaeological & Historical Background .....	2
3.2 Recorded Monuments .....	5
3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations .....	7
3.4 Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland .....	8
3.5 Cartographic Review .....	8
3.6 Aerial Photography Review .....	9
3.7 Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) .....	9
3.8 Field Survey .....	10
4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	10
5. REFERENCES .....	12

### List of Tables

Table 1	Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site
Table 2	Previous archaeological investigations in the environs of the site
Table 3	Finds registered in the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

### List of Figures

Figure 1	Location of site
Figure 2	Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites
Figure 3	Extract from Down Survey map of County Dublin, Barony of Newcastle (1654-56), showing approximate location of site
Figure 4	Extract from A Survey of the County of Dublin by John Rocque, southwest sheet (1760), showing location of site
Figure 5	Extract from Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin (1816), showing approximate site location

- Figure 6 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site
- Figure 7 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1909 - published 1910), showing location of site
- Figure 8 Extract from Cassini edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (1935-38), showing location of site
- Figure 9 Aerial view of site
- Figure 10 Detail of site development

### List of Plates

- Plate 1: Site overview, facing southeast.
- Plate 2: View from northwest corner, facing southeast.
- Plate 3: View from southeast corner, facing southwest
- Plate 4: View along eastern boundary, facing south.
- Plate 5: Eastern boundary ditch, facing east.
- Plate 6: View along the east boundary, facing south.
- Plate 7: Detail of the late 19th-century water pump NIAH Reg. No. 11213030, facing west.
- Plate 8: Location of the water pump NIAH Reg. No. 11213030, facing northeast.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an archaeological and cultural heritage impact assessment for a proposed development at Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin (ITMS 703170, 727170, Figure 1, 2). This assessment was carried out at the request of the client, in relation to a proposed residential development, to accompany a planning application.

The site contains a recorded monument listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for Dublin (1998). A Field system DU021-032---- is located within the footprint of the proposed eastern access road. Furthermore, the Zone of Archaeological Potential associated with a deserted – medieval settlement DU021-034---- with a number of related monuments is located c. 375m to the south of the site.

There are no Protected Structures listed within South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 within the site. The nearest such structure is Gates and Mill Wall (Forming Old Entrance and Boundary to Swiftbrook Mills) RPS Ref. 314, located c. 325m to the southeast. A structure listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Dublin, a late 19th-century water pump NIAH Reg. No. 11213030 is marked as located within the proposed southwest access road. However, it appears that it was wrongly marked, as it is located further south and not within the footprint of the proposed road.

The site extends across 4.6 hectares and is located to the north of Saggart Village, adjacent to and south of the N7, and to the east of Mill Rd., west of Citywest Hotel Golf Club and within the south part of Collegeland townland.

## 2. THE DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Proposal

This archaeological impact assessment has been carried out at the request of the client in relation to a proposed residential development.

### 2.2 Archaeological Requirements

The client requested an archaeological impact assessment in relation to the proposed residential development at Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin. This was carried out to assess the site's archaeological potential, including the existence of any as yet unrecorded monuments. The purpose of the assessment is to gain an understanding of the historic environment within and surrounding the proposed development area, in order to assess its significance relative to its hinterland and ultimately the impact any proposed development of the site would have on these recorded monuments, protected and historic structures. This assessment will also provide strategies to conserve, protect and interpret any significant heritage assets while developing the site.



## 2.3 Methodology

A desktop survey was carried out involving a literature review and consultation of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) compiled and updated by the National Monuments Service and the National Historic Properties Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The RMP is comprised of manuals that list all known archaeological sites and monuments in a county with accompanying maps (based on Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch maps) locating these sites. All sites included in the RMP are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930–2004). The SMR consists of all records stored in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland national database and is presented in the Historic Environment Viewer, which also includes sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The last published RMP for County Dublin is dated 1998, and as such many of the sites listed in the SMR are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were also consulted to assess the area's archaeological potential. These files list, on a townland basis, all archaeological artefacts in the care of or known to the museum. Such a record can provide evidence for human settlement or activity in the absence of physical remains or documentary references. The results of previous and ongoing archaeological investigations were also taken into account in order to evaluate the level of archaeological remains coming to light in the area. Historical maps held by the Map Library of Trinity College Dublin and aerial photography from the Geological Survey of Ireland were both consulted. These sources can indicate areas of archaeological potential through features like curving field boundaries, crop marks and soil marks and can provide information regarding the nature and extent of recorded archaeological sites that have become denuded since the early 19th century. Historical maps are also useful in identifying other features of cultural heritage significance.

The Mill Road - Area Plan (2008) and the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 were also consulted as the latter contains a Record of Protected Structures. Further buildings and features of architectural interest in the area that are not included on the Record of Protected Structures are detailed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for County Dublin.

The site visit was carried out; its purpose was to assess whether or not the site contained any evidence for the presence of any previously unrecorded areas or features of historical or archaeological significance.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

### 3.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

The site under discussion is located to the north of the village of Saggart. It lies southwest of Dublin City between N7 and Saggart village. The River Camac runs along the northwest corner of the site. The site is located in the south part of Collegeland townland, in the civil parish of Rathcoole and within the Barony of Newcastle.

An examination of the Placenames Database of Ireland ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)) can reveal important information about an area's natural and cultural heritage. Collegeland townland from Irish Fearann an Choláiste means land of Collage. The name was mentioned as College in 1654 and as lands belonging to Dublin Colledge (Civil Survey VII. 1654-1656; County of Dublin (1945)). There is a number of monuments in the townland, mostly to the north of the site, including ring ditch DU021-103---, and five sites classed as burnt mounds/spreads and fullachta fia DU021-098-102 some identified as a result of geophysical survey 09R0161, its presence confirmed during test trenching 09E420. A recorded monument, Field System DU021-032 (see below) is located within the eastern extent of the site where an access road is proposed. Furthermore, a number of monuments is located in more immediate environs of the site, to the south, in the townland of Saggart. These include monuments located within the Zone of Archaeological Potential associated with Settlement deserted – medieval DU021-034---- that is located c. 375m to the south of the site. Nine monuments are associated and located within ecclesiastical enclosure DU021-034001; and include church DU021-034002, graveyard DU021-034003, cross-slab DU021-034004, architectural fragment DU021-034005, two crosses DU021-034006 and 7, stone head DU021-034008, bullaun stone DU021-034009. Outside of the enclosure are two monuments classed as castle-tower house; located to the southwest DU021-034010 and south DU021-034011 of the enclosure.

## Saggart

The earliest record of Saggart dates to 695 AD. when Abbot of Teg-sacra St Mosacra, took part in a synod and founded a monastery in this area in the seventh century (Gwynn, Hadcock, 1970). A number of pre-Norman monuments are also located in the immediate environs of the town, including stone crosses, medieval church foundations and associated enclosure.

Saggart (*Teach Sagard*) was mentioned in 1179-1275 as *Tassagard, Ecclesia de* (The Most Ancient Register Book of the Archbishops of Dublin before the Reformation edited by John T. Gilbert). The medieval village of Saggart was well documented between the 12th and 17th centuries ([logainm.ie](http://logainm.ie)). This was due to the fact that Saggart became a royal manor and gained the status of the borough by 1332 (Bradley, 1998). In the 14th century, a provost, Thomas Bretnagh was listed as in possession of a farm, burgage land of Saggart with the rent of the demesne land including one water mill (*ibid.*). Due to the village's location near the pale, in the late medieval and early modern period, it was at the mercy of the O'Tooles and the O'Byrnes. Therefore it was frequently subject to destruction and re-colonisation. By the mid-15th century, a decision was made to erect earthen defences. This, however, did not stop Fiach MacHugh O'Byrne, who in 1580 attacked and burnt the settlement. Some remains of the earthen defences must have survived as a *Common-Gate* was mentioned in the 17th century (*ibid.*). An L-shaped bank was excavated under licence 02E0179, and it was suggested that it might have represent the remains of the earthen defences. Ball (1920) mentions two castles in good repair, remains of another castle and thatched houses and cabins by the mid-17th century; these are also depicted on the 1654-56 Down Survey Map of the Barony of Newcastle. The village prospered further following the 1682 grant to Thomas Den to hold a market (D'Alton, 1838).

The original layout of Saggart settlement was linear, with a single main street. The street was intersected by a road running northwest to southeast. The marketplace was probably located at the intersection in the centre of the village, likely triangular in shape as suggestive by plot pattern (SMR DU021-034 file).

### Field system

Field boundaries are the most common archaeological feature in the Irish countryside. These depend on the available sources, but the surface remains of earthen, stone and stone, and earth can still be observed in the Irish landscape, while boundaries in the form of ditches, wooden or wattle fences are usually exposed during excavation. Difficulty in dating upstanding boundaries of stone and earth is due to the fact that their form did not change significantly since prehistoric times, and these would not be dated traditionally, while subsurface remains, generally in the form of ditches or remains of wattle or timber fencing exposed during excavation would include obtain a date from secure context as a part of the post-excavation analysis. The best-known ancient field boundaries in Ireland are stone walls at Belderrig and Céide Fields where dwelling houses and enclosures within an integrated system of stone walls defining fields, spread over 12sq km and largely sealed beneath blanket bog. Céide Fields MA006-032002 represents the most extensive Neolithic site in Ireland; the oldest known field system of pastoral farming, dating c. 3500 BC. The area is proposed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is currently on the tentative list. O'Sullivan and Downey (2004) have highlighted that while these discoveries (Belderrig and Céide Fields) give the illusion that field boundaries and early Irish farming are well understood. More research is required, as many abandoned boundaries visible on the surface in the Irish landscape, usually associated with marginal or pastoral farming land, can represent field systems dating from prehistoric through medieval to the post-medieval period. For example, excavation at Carrownaglogh, where ridge and furrow cereal cultivation took place, dates to Bronze Age (O'Sullivan and Downey, 2004).

Furthermore, early medieval/medieval field systems have not been excavated on a large scale in Ireland as, traditionally, research has focused on the immediate settlements such as ringforts, crannogs and ecclesiastical sites. Due to large developments such as road schemes, substantial tracts of hidden landscapes and settlements are being uncovered in recent years. This allows for greater research into the relationship between sites and their surrounding landscape.

Such monument, field system DU021-032 is located in the east part of the site within the proposed access road footprint. The monument is marked as located within the current Citywest Hotel Golf Club. It was identified on the 1971 aerial photograph and was visible as small irregular fields defined by low earthworks. While the area was since landscaped, and no surface remains are visible, there is a potential for sub-surface archaeological remains to survive.

At Cush, Co. Limerick, a line of rectangular fields were excavated by O Riordain (1940). These were located along the west-facing slopes of the Slieve Reagh hillside, with many of the field boundaries respecting the ringfort ditches. The field enclosures are generally long and thin and run down the hillslope, while those at the northern end appear square in plan. Some of the fields are as long as c. 200m, while others are considerably smaller (see plan in Mytum 1992, 174). The use of some of the fields for crop husbandry was noted by Fowler (1966, 69-71) when he identified a block of ridge and furrow

running east-west across part of the rectangular enclosure attached to the southern group of ringforts which may have been early medieval in date.

Excavations at Lough Gur in Limerick, again by Ó Ríordáin (1949), uncovered field systems associated with hut sites known as the 'Spectacles'. Each unenclosed house site was situated in a small rectangular field overlooking Lough Gur. The fields were only half an acre in size. The field boundaries comprised double-stoned walls with rubble fills and ranging in width between 1m and 3m, except for one made from earth. Their proximity to the houses and small size suggests they were probably used for tillage. Another field bank was situated up the hillside and was probably part of a wider field system used for pasture (Ó Ríordáin 1949, 57-63).

A field system of bank and ditches preceded the construction of ringforts I and II at Lisduggan North, Co Cork. Twohig (1990, 4) suggested that the older linear trenches provided the building material for a series of contemporary field banks. A third ringfort, in proximity to the west of ringfort's I and II, also post-dated a series of linear bank and ditches. These were again probably utilised for the construction of the early medieval field banks. The building material was used in a series of banks which enclosed a range of fields on part of Knocknanuss Hill. The pattern of field systems at Lisduggan North were very irregular, and Twohig (1990) has suggested that they most clearly resemble the field systems uncovered at Cush, Co. Limerick.

At Ballyutoag, Co. Antrim, a group of curvilinear enclosures, representing field systems, were associated with three smaller curvilinear enclosures which enclosed a number of hut sites. The series of curvilinear fields (Williams 1984, 38; Fig. 2) covered an area of approximately 24 acres and were formed by low earthen banks. A group of fields to the west of Enclosure's I and II contained cultivation ridges. Ballyutoag was probably an upland transhumance settlement where cattle grazed for the summer months, and small levels of crop husbandry were undertaken. Excavation of some of the hut sites produced a meagre collection of artefacts which ties in with the evidence from the historical sources stating that booleying was the work of the impoverished classes and mainly women and children (Patterson 1994). The finds and radiocarbon dates from the excavations confirm an early medieval date for the settlement and field systems (Williams 1984, 47).

### 3.2 Recorded Monuments

The site contains a recorded monument listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for Dublin (1998). A Field system DU021-032---- is registered as located within the footprint of the proposed eastern access road. The monument is marked as located within the current Citywest Hotel Golf Club. While the area was since landscaped, and no surface remains are visible, there is a potential for sub-surface archaeological remains to survive. Furthermore, the Zone of Archaeological Potential associated with a deserted – medieval settlement DU021-034---- with a number of related monuments is located c. 375m to the south of the site. The surrounding landscape is also rich in recorded monuments. The following is a list of the recorded monuments within the environs of the proposed development site. These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

Table 1: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the study area

RMP No./ SMR No.	Class/Site Type	Description
DU021-032----	Field system	Located in low-lying pastureland, W of a stream that forms part of the townland boundary around Saggart village. An aerial photograph (FSI 285/6) taken in 1971 shows small conjoined irregular fields defined by low earthworks running on a different axis to the fields in which they appear. This area has since been landscaped for the creation of a golf course. There are no visible remains at ground level.
DU021-034001-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	The walled graveyard has a raised interior and is oval in plan (dims. c. 70m N-S c. 52m E-W). There are traces of an inner fosse at the base of slope running from N to SE (dims. Wth 5-7m, D 0.40m). The plan of the graveyard indicates the probable existence of an ecclesiastical enclosure associated with St. Mosacra who founded a church here in the 7th century.
DU021-034002-	Church	Remains of medieval church are located in the centre of this enclosure (DU021-034001-). This survives to foundation level and comprises nave and chancel with a possible S transept ext. dims. nave L 22.25m, Wth 10.85m, wall T 1.30m; chancel 2.40m, L 4.80m, Wth 6.40m). A mortuary house was built over the E end of chancel. This church was still in good repair in 1615 but had collapsed by 1630 after which time it seems to have been abandoned (Ball 1905, 117; Bradley & King 1987, 293).
DU021-034----	Settlement deserted medieval	Saggart is a small medieval borough located on an exposed position of the March in the late medieval period. It was captured and burnt in 1580 by Fiach Mc Hugh O' Byrne. In the mid 17th century it was described as a village containing two castles in repair and the remains of another castle as well as some thatched houses and cabbins (Ball 1902-20, III, 115). In 1682 Thomas Den was given the right of holding a weekly market and three weekly fairs there (ibid, 116). The layout of the settlement was linear, consisting of a single main street, intersected by a road running NW-SE. The marketplace was probably located at the intersection in the centre of the village where the plot pattern suggests that there may have been a triangular market place.
DU021-034003-	Graveyard	This walled graveyard has a raised interior and is oval in plan, (dims. c. 70m N-S c. 52m E-W). There are traces of an inner fosse at the base of slope running from N to SE (dims. Wth 5-7m, D 0.40m). The plan of the graveyard indicates the probable existence of an ecclesiastical enclosure associated with St. Mosacra who founded a church here in the 7th century. There is a granite slab set upright in the NW end of Saggart graveyard and a plain granite latin cross in the centre of the graveyard and S of church foundations. It is missing one arm (dims. H 0.70m, Wth 0.70m, T 0.15m). (21:34(06)). A granite latin cross lies near foundations of the medieval parish church. A granite finial was originally discovered in 1956 c. 4m out from the SW section of the graveyard wall. It lies NW of the church. A cross base was formerly located at the E end of the graveyard (SMR 21:34(01)). A carved stone head of granite was found in the graveyard (dims. H 0.40m, Wth 0.35m, D 0.15m; Fitzgerald 1906-8, 15, 114; O Riordain 1947, 77, 86).
DU021-034009-	Bullaun stone	A bullaun stone was located at the E end of the graveyard (DU021-034003-) at Saggart. It may have been buried in the fosse.
DU021-034008-	Stone head	A carved stone head of granite was found in the graveyard (DU021-034003-) (dims. H 0.40m, Wth 0.35m, D 0.15m; Fitzgerald 1906-8, 15, 114; O Riordain 1947, 77, 86).
DU021-034007-	Cross	A granite latin cross lies near foundations of the medieval parish church (DU021-034002-). It has a vestigial upper shaft and arms. It has an incised ringed cross head on both faces. The base of the shaft is damaged (Ó Riordáin 1947, 85-86).

RMP No./ SMR No.	Class/Site Type	Description
DU021-034006-	Cross	There is a plain granite latin cross in the centre of the graveyard and S of church foundations. It is missing one arm (dims. H 0.70m, Wth 0.70m, T 0.15m).
DU021-034005-	Architectural fragment	A granite finial was originally discovered in 1956 c. 4m out from the SW section of the graveyard wall. It lies NW of the church. The lower portion is roughly shaped into blunt point. Both arms have a rectangular cross-section terminating in vertical face (dims. Wth 0.60m, T 0.42m, D 0.47m). There appears to be decoration on the underside.
DU021-034004-	Cross-slab	There is a granite slab set upright in the NW end of Saggart graveyard. It is shaped and bordered and bears a single shaft with a ring-headed cross at each end and mouldings along the edge (dims. L 1.42m, Wth 0.32-0.47m, T 0.25-39). ÓhÉalidhe has suggested a tenth-century date (1973, 103, 61; Bradley& King 1987, 2, 294, Swords, K. ed.2009, 101).
DU021-034011-	Castle - tower house	This tower house was incorporated into the E end of a range of outbuildings in the yard of Tassaggart, a 19th-century mansion to the N of Saggart Village. Today what survives is the re-modelled remains of the ground floor and first floor of an oblong structure. This is built of un coursed rubble with a wattle-centred barrel vault on ground floor which runs on a N-S axis (Int. dims. L 5.90m, Wth 3.95, T. 1.25m ). The oven and fireplace on ground floor visible in a previous inspection in 1986 has been filled in. There are traces of an internal stairway in the NE corner. A vaulted passage (L 1.60m, Wth 1.40m) was added to the NW corner. Brick windows have been inserted into the S walls which appear to replace an original splayed embrasures. Brick windows and doorways were also inserted into the roofless upper storey when it was incorporated into the range of out buildings. This level been recently re-roofed (int. dims. L 8.50m, Wth 5.10m). A tower projects from the W end of the S wall.

### 3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

The site was not subject to any archaeological assessments previously. A number of archaeological assessments took place in Saggart and nearby Rathcoole.

Listed below (Table 2) are the investigations located in the environs of the study area that further demonstrate the overall archaeological potential of the site and its surrounding townlands. The details are derived from the *Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland* ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).

Table 2: Previous archaeological investigations in the environs of the study area

Excavation.ie ref	Licence No.	RMP/SMR No.	Site Type	Investigation Type
2002:0673 - Saggart, Dublin	02E0179	SMR 21:34	No archaeological significance	Test Trenching

Excavation.ie ref	Licence No.	RMP/SMR No.	Site Type	Investigation Type
1999:268 - THE OLD BURIAL GROUND, SAGGART, Dublin	99E0229	SMR 21:34	Possible Early Christian	Test Trenching
1996:137 - Saggart, Dublin	96E0053	N/A	Proximity to ringfort and ecclesiastical site	Test Trenching
2002:0675 - Garter's Lane, Saggart, Dublin	02E0114	N/A	No archaeological significance	Test Trenching

The majority of the archaeological assessments carried out to the south of the site, in Saggart did not produce any archaeological remains. Surprisingly, excavation under licence 99E0229, within the Old Burial Ground also did not produce any archaeological remains. However, it should be mentioned that under licence 02E0179 during works carried out to facilitate the survey of the industrial archaeology of the site. While there was no evidence for any features or finds of archaeological importance, two of the trenches were excavated through L-shaped bank; recording the profile of the ditches and bank. No datable material was retrieved. It was suggested that the feature might represent the 15th-century defensive enclosure of Saggart or an 18/19th-century field fence.

### 3.4 Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland

The Topographical Files of the National Museum were consulted. No finds are listed for Collegeland townland. However, there are three finds listed for Saggart. These are described in the table below:

Table 3: Finds registered in the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland.

NMI Register No	Component	Find Place	Description
1872:17	Copper	Saggart	Coin
1934:465	Bronze	Saggart/Tassagart	Ring
1988:131	Copper alloy	Swiftbrook House, Saagart	Weight. Found amongst rubble at Swiftbrook House. Could also represent a circular gaming piece of post-medieval date.

### 3.5 Cartographic Review

An examination of pre-Ordnance Survey mapping included the Down Survey map of County Dublin (Figure 3), Barony of Newcastle 1654-56 and Rocque 1760 map of Dublin County southwest sheet (Figure 4). The 1654-56 map depicts the Parish of Saggart, with Saggart on the south side of the river Camac, with two castles and a stump of a Castle labelled and

depicted as well as a number of houses. On the 1760 map, the site is shown as within parts of two pasture fields bounded from the west and southwest by a road and the River Camac. To the south, *Saggart village, Mill, The Castle, Church in Ruins, Chapel, and Saggart House* are labelled and depicted. To the northwest, an area labelled as *The Collage* is shown with Charter School.

Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the area were also examined to identify any possible archaeological features and trace the site's development during the 19th and early 20th centuries (Figures 6–8). These are far more detailed than the earlier maps.

No buildings are depicted on any of the examined Ordnance Survey maps within the site. By the 1837 map, the site consists of parts of six fields. The area labelled as *The Collage* on the 1760s map is no longer shown. The 1907 imagery shows the site within four fields, the internal field boundaries were removed, and it appears that the site was drained and is shown bounded from east and west by wet ditches. No more detail is shown in relation to the site.

### 3.6 Aerial Photography Review

In addition to examining the various editions of the OS maps, aerial photographs from the Geological Survey of Ireland, dating from between 1995 and 2013 and the Google aerial imagery dating between 1995 and 2020 were consulted.

By the 1995 aerial imagery, within the northwest corner of the site, a house within a long rectangular plot is shown. The site is bounded by N7 from the north, a golf course from the east and the residential dwellings from the south and west. It appears that the east-west aligned boundary was removed and is visible in the form of linear cropmark, additional linear cropmarks might represent drains and further suggest the area was reclaimed. A circular cropmark visible, are likely associated with agricultural activity. Sometime before the year 2000 a large carpark was constructed associated with the golf course, and by 2005 the currently standing building and carpark were constructed. No major changes to the site are apparent, however, in 2012, it appears that the southeast corner of the main field was used for dumping grass, with internal roads leading to it. By 2014 a boundary was added, and since, that corner is a part of the golf course. The main part of the site is bounded by mature hedgerows and trees from all the sides, while the proposed access road to the east runs within a landscaped golf course with no surface remains of the monument, field system DU021-032---- recorded at this location visible.

### 3.7 Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

The site contains no protected structures listed within South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 nor structures listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The nearest such structure is Gates and Mill Wall (Forming Old Entrance and Boundary to Swiftbrook Mills) RPS Ref. 314, located c. 325m to the southeast. A structure listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Dublin, a late 19th-century water pump NIAH Reg. No. 11213030 is marked as located within the proposed southwest access road. However, it appears that it was wrongly marked, as it is located further south and not within the footprint of the proposed road.



### 3.8 Field Survey

The purpose of this survey was to assess whether or not the site contained any evidence for the presence of any previously unrecorded areas or features of historical or archaeological significance.

The site was inspected on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 by Donald Murphy of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd (Plates 1-8). No structures or features of an archaeological nature were identified within the site. The site is largely flat; the east part is used as pasture while a strip along the west is covered by rough grass (Plates 1-4). The field is divided internally by post and wire fencing, and along the east boundary run overhead electric cables. Within the northwest extent stand a house within a rectangular plot (Plate 3).

Within the southwest part of the site, at the location of the proposed access road, a structure listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Dublin, a late 19th-century water pump NIAH Reg. No. 11213030 is marked (Figure 7). However, it appears that it was wrongly registered, as it is located further south, in front of an existing residential dwelling, and not within the footprint of the proposed road (Figure 8).

This impact assessment did not identify any surface archaeological features within the site.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study area contains a recorded monument listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP); Field system DU021-032----. The monument is located within the footprint of the proposed eastern access road and marked as located within the current Citywest Hotel Golf Club. It was identified on the 1971 aerial photograph and was visible as small irregular fields defined by low earthworks. While the area was since landscaped, and no surface remains are visible, there is a potential for sub-surface archaeological remains to survive.

The site contains no protected structures listed within South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 nor structures listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. While the late 19th-century water pump NIAH Reg. No. 11213030 is marked as within the footprint of the southwest access road; it appears that it was wrongly registered at this location. The pump is located further south, in front of an existing residential dwelling, and not within the footprint of the proposed road (See Plates 7, 8).

The site was inspected on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 by Donald Murphy of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. No structures or features of an archaeological nature were identified within the site.

This assessment included the examination of cartographic and aerial photographs. Examined maps do not depict monuments, features or buildings of archaeological or cultural significance. The 1995 map shows a house with ancillary buildings on the plot within the northwest part of the site. The site appears largely unchanged since 1995, and while some linear cropmarks are visible, these appear to correspond with field boundaries depicted on the 1838 map.

Overall, an examination of the recorded monuments, as well as a review of previous archaeological assessments and excavations undertaken in the environs of the site, suggests that the overall landscape of the site has the potential to contain subsurface archaeological remains, including previously unrecorded and recorded (associated with Field system DU021-032----).

Therefore, it is recommended that archaeological assessment (geophysical survey and test trenching) should be conditioned within any grant of permission on the site and carried out in advance of construction. This should be carried out by a licence eligible archaeologist working under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. Should archaeological material be identified in the course of test trenching, further mitigation, including monitoring, preservation by record (excavation) or in situ (avoidance), might be recommended.

## 5. REFERENCES

Ball, F. E. 1920 A History of County Dublin, Dublin

Bradley, j. 1998. The Medieval Boroughs of County Dublin' in: c. Manning, (ed.) Dublin and Beyond the Pale: Studies in honour of Patrick Healy pp. 129-144, Dublin

D'Aldon, J., 1838 The Hiberno-Norse coins in the British Museum, London

Fowler, P. J. 1966 'Ridge and furrow cultivation at Cush, Co. Limerick', in North Munster Antiquarian Journal, Vol. 10, 69-71.

Gwynn, A., Hadcock, R., N., 1970 Medieval Religious Houses Ireland, Dublin.

Lewis, S., 1837, A topographical dictionary of Ireland, London

Mytum, H 1992 The Origins of Early Christian Ireland London.

Ó Ríordáin, S. P. 1940 'Excavations at Cush, Co. Limerick', in Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, Vol. 45C, 83-181

Ó'Ríordáin, S. P. 1949 'Lough Gur excavations: Carrig Aille and 'The Spectacles'', in PRIA, Vol 52 C, 39-111.

O'Sullivan, M. & Downey, L. 2004. Prehistoric Field Boundaries. Archaeology Ireland, Vol. 18, No. 3, 38-39

Patterson, N 1994 Cattle Lords and Clansmen: The Social Structure of Early Ireland London. Seaver, M 2005 'From mountain to sea: excavations in the townlands of Glebe and Laughanstown, Co. Dublin', in J. O'Sullivan & M. Stanley (eds) Recent Archaeological Discoveries on National Road Schemes 2004, Monograph Series No. 2, Dublin, 51-64.

Twohig, D. C., & McCormick, F. M. (1990). Excavation of Three Ring-Forts at Lisduggan North, County Cork. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy. Section C: Archaeology, Celtic Studies, History, Linguistics, Literature, 90C, 1-33.

Williams, B. B. 1984 'Excavations at Ballyutoag, Co. Antrim', in Ulster Journal of Archaeology, Vol. 47, 37-49.

### Other Sources

GeoHive by Ordnance Survey Ireland (<https://geohive.ie/>)

Google Earth Pro aerial imagery

Mill Road - Area Plan (2008)

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

National Library of Ireland, 7-8 Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Placenames Database of Ireland, developed by Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge (DCU) and The Placenames Branch (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht). ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie))

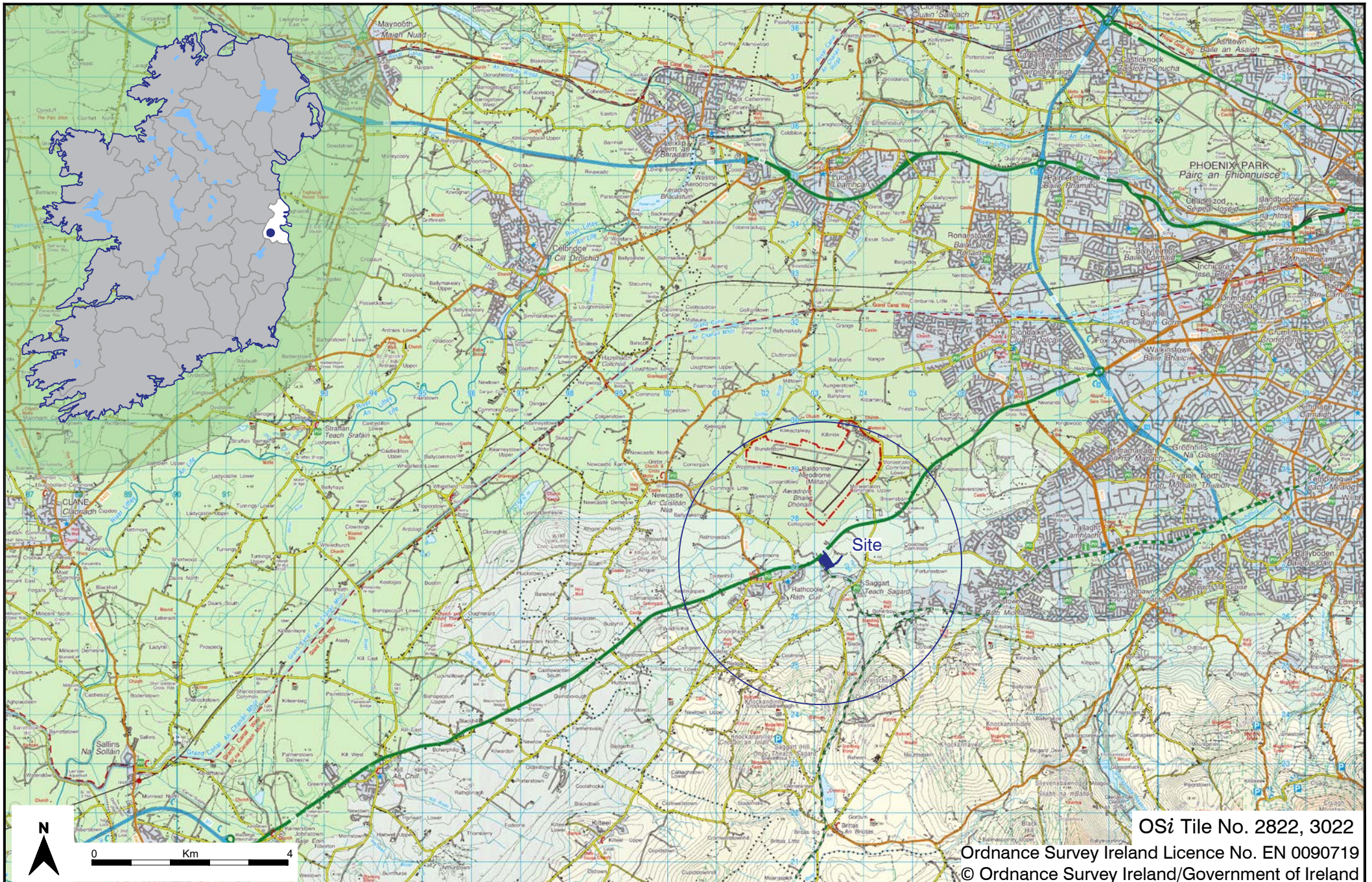
Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022

Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).

The Schools Collection, national Folklore Collection, UCD (<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes>).

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.



Project Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin

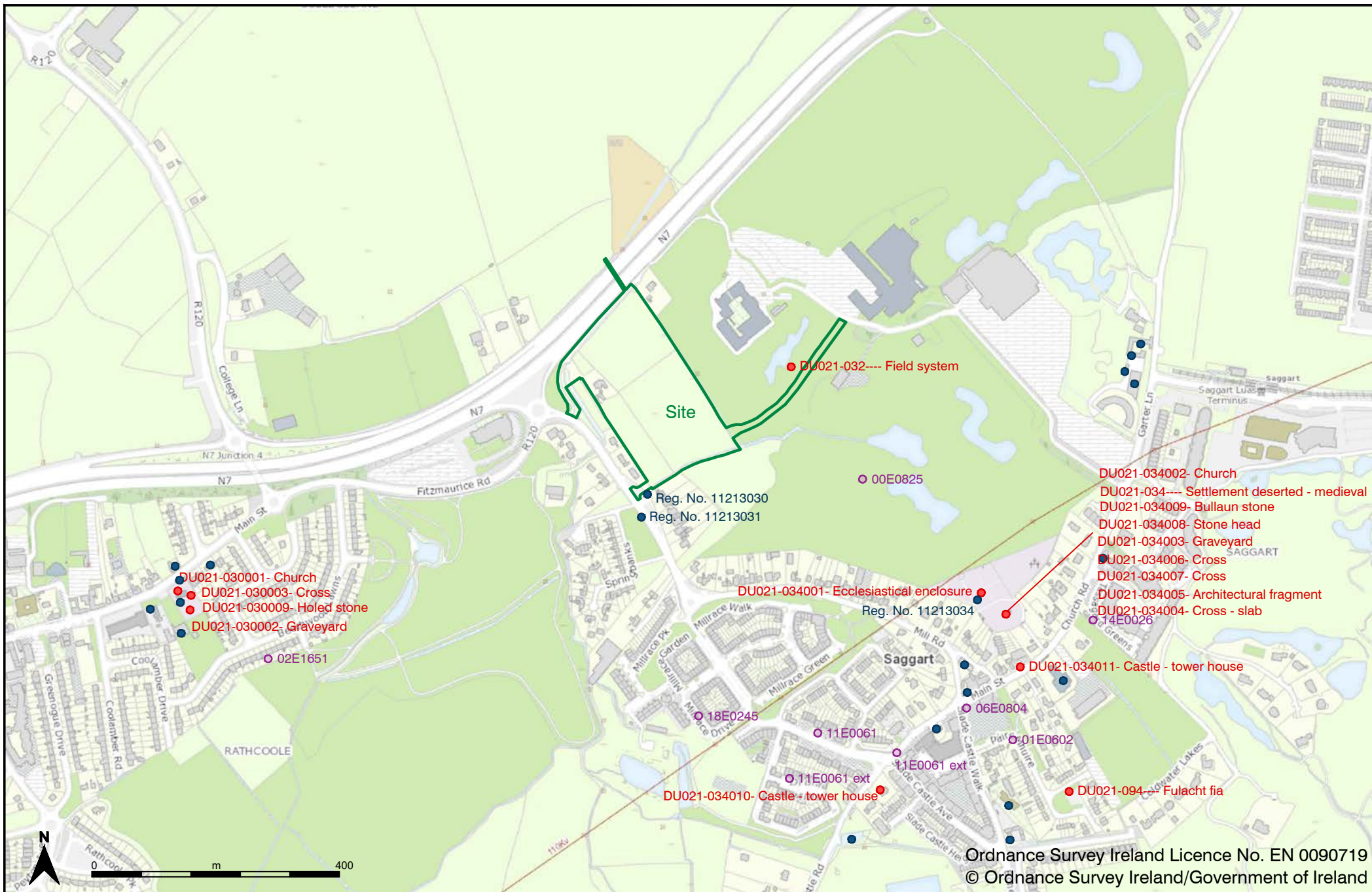
Date December 2021

Drawing No. 2182\_C0001

Figure 1 Location of site

Scale 1:100,000 @ A4





**Project** Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin

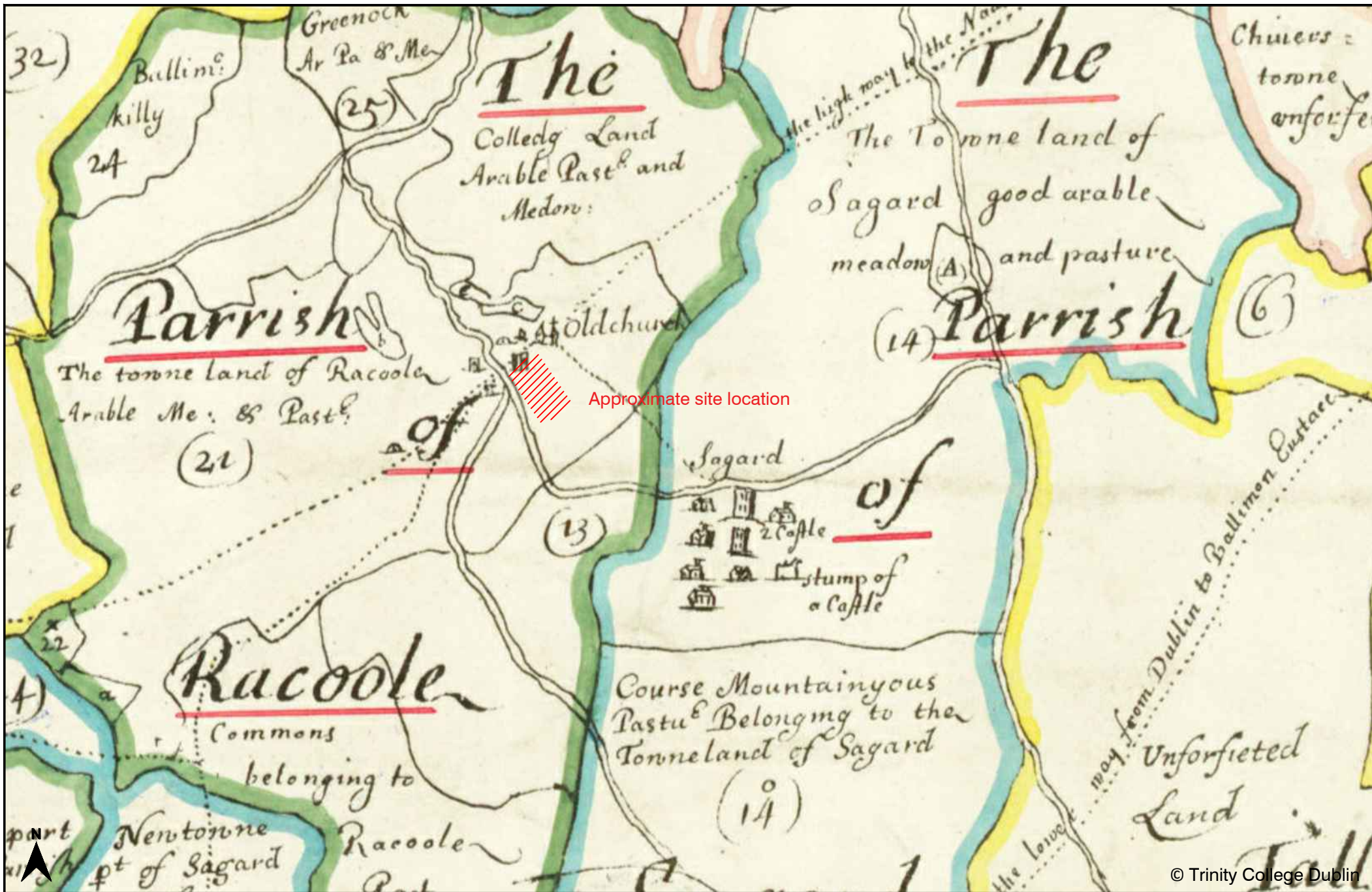
**Date** December 2021

**Drawing No.** 2182\_C0002


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

**Scale** 1:8,000 @ A4





© Trinity College Dublin

<p>Project Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin</p>	<p>Date December 2021</p>	<p>Drawing No. 2182_C0003</p>	
<p>Figure 3 Extract from Down Survey map of County Dublin, Barony of Newcastle (1654-56), showing approximate location of site</p>		<p>Scale Not to scale</p>	



© Bibliothèque nationale de France

**Project** Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin

**Date** December 2021

**Drawing No.** 2182\_C0004

**Figure 4** Extract from An actual survey of the county of Dublin by John Rocque - southwest sheet (1760), showing approximate location of site


**Scale** Not to scale

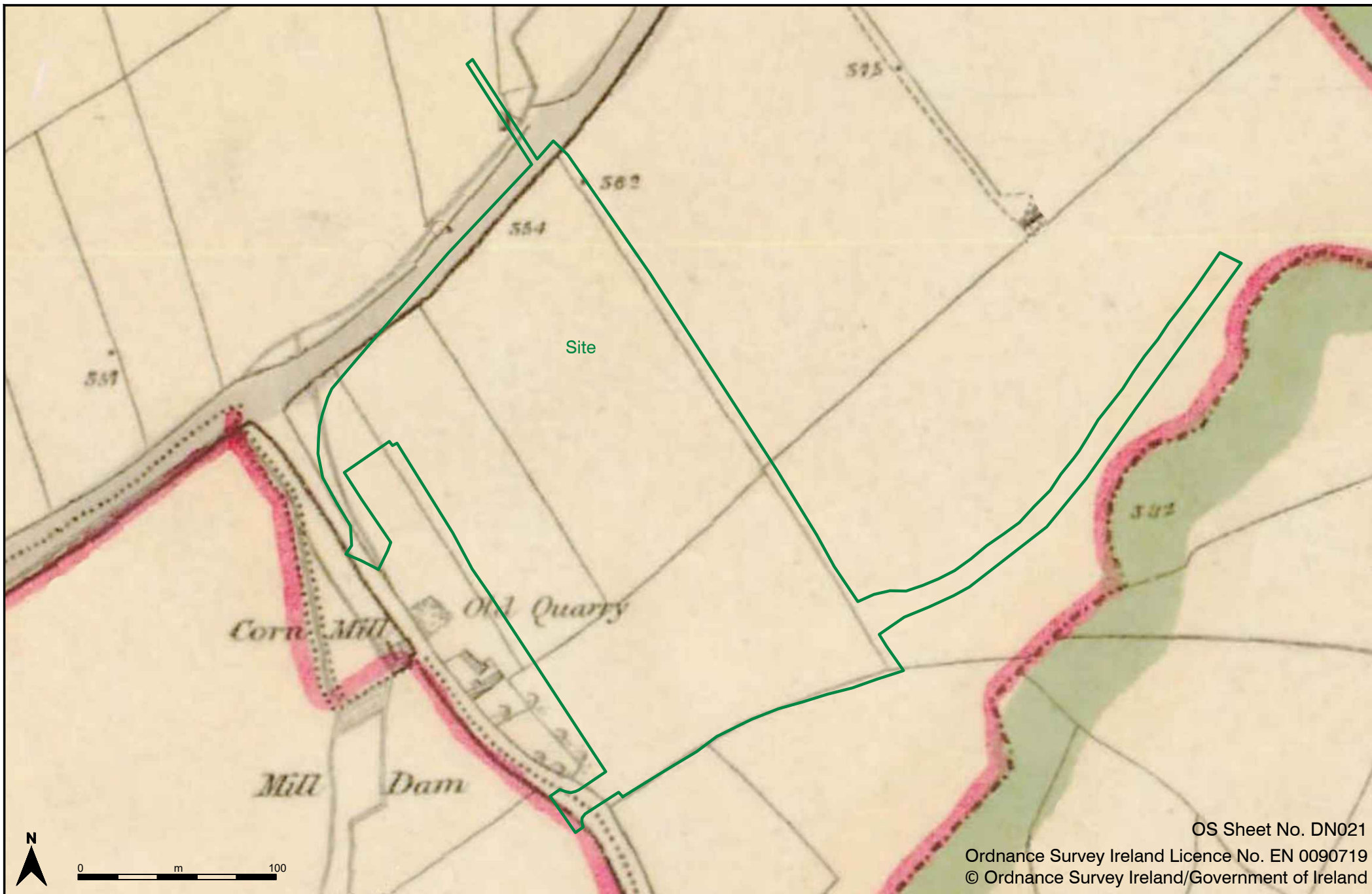






© South Dublin Historical

<b>Project</b> Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin	<b>Date</b> December 2021	<b>Drawing No.</b> 2182_C0005	
<b>Figure 5</b> Extract from Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin (1816), showing approximate site location		<b>Scale</b> Not to scale	



OS Sheet No. DN021

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0090719

© Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland

**Project** Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin

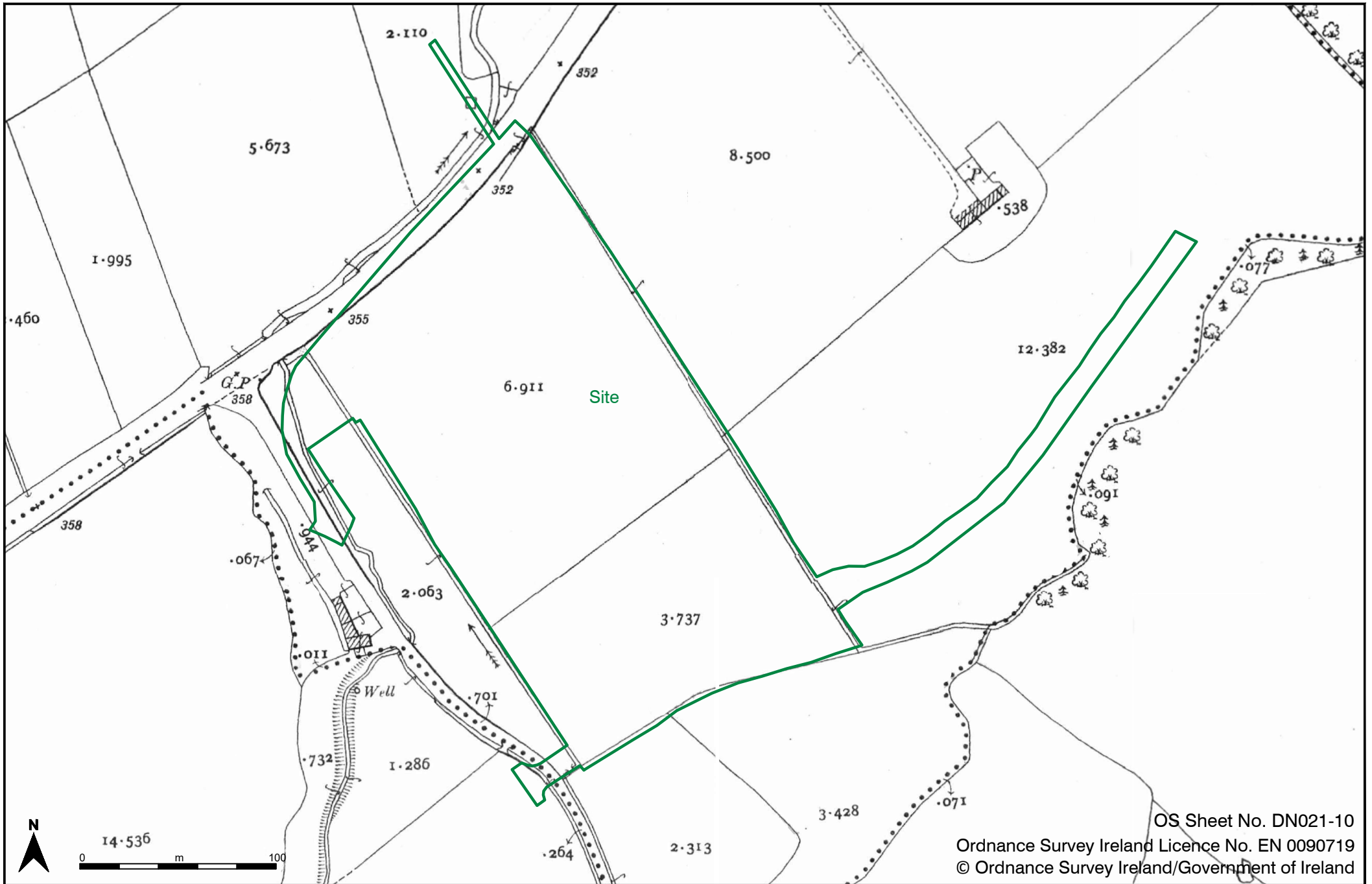
**Date** December 2021

**Drawing No.** 2182\_C0006

**Figure 6** Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site

**Scale** 1:2,500 @ A4





OS Sheet No. DN021-10

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0090719

© Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland

Project Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin

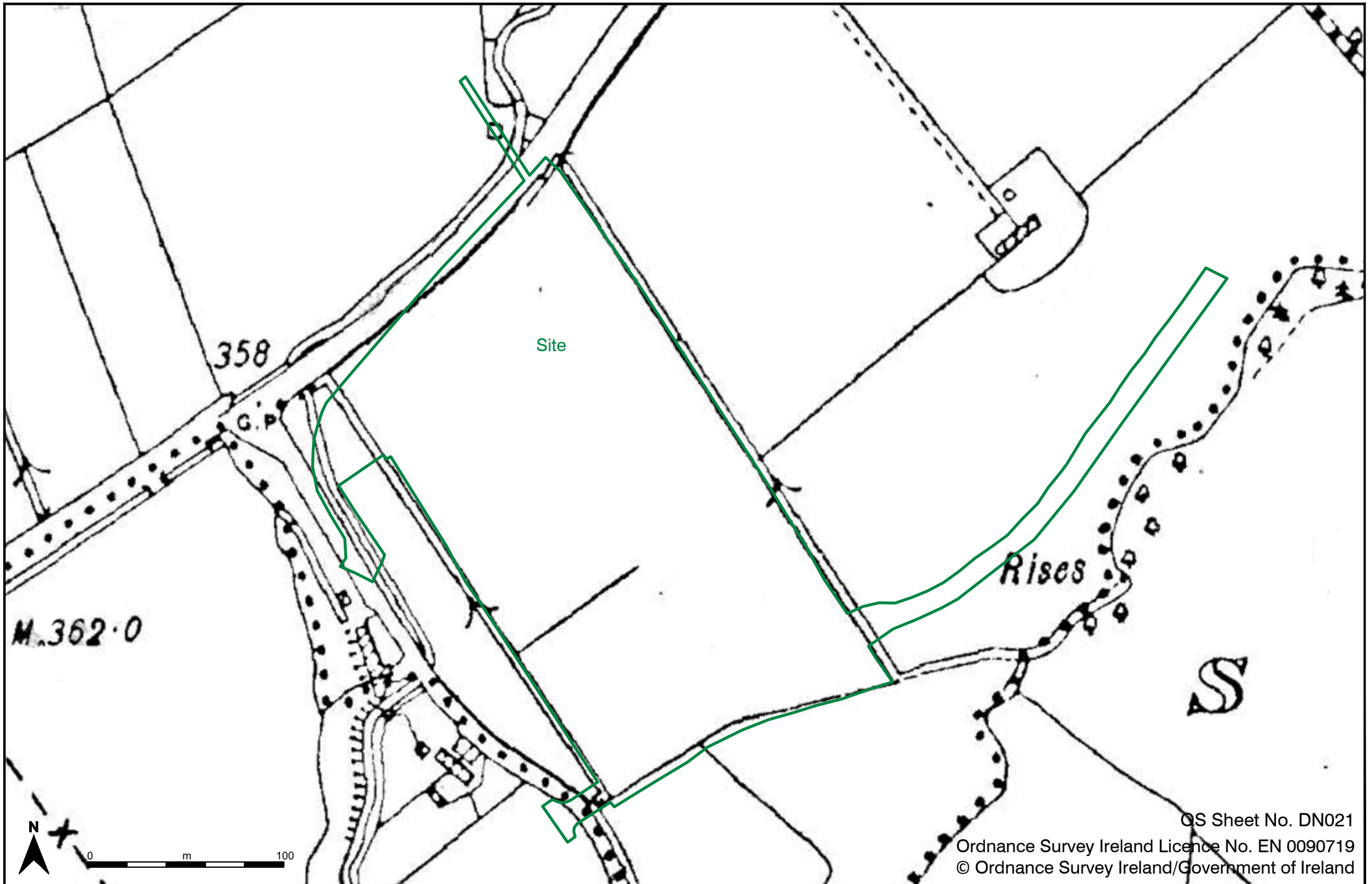
Date December 2021

Drawing No. 2182\_C0007

Figure 7 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1909 - published 1910), showing location of site

Scale 1:2,500 @ A4





OS Sheet No. DN021

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0090719

© Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland

**Project** Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin

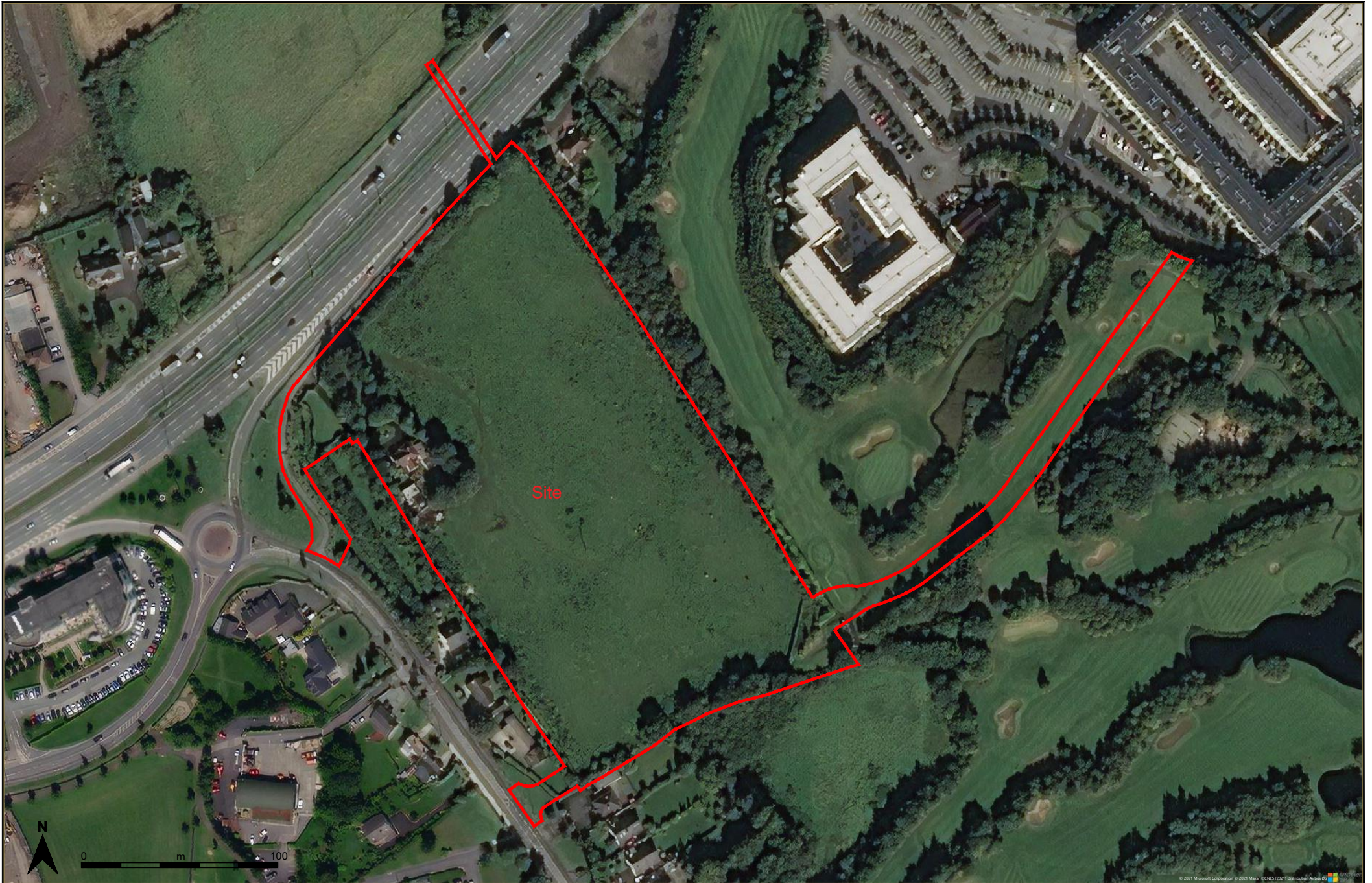
**Date** December 2021

**Drawing No.** 2182\_C0008

**Figure 8** Extract from Cassini edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (1935-38), showing location of site

**Scale** 1:2,500 @ A4





**Project** Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin

**Date** December 2021

**Drawing No.** 2182\_C0009

**Figure 9** Aerial view of site

**Scale** 1:2,500 @ A4



Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0090719  
 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland


<b>Project</b> Mill Road, Saggart, Co. Dublin	<b>Date</b> December 2021	<b>Drawing No.</b> 2182_C0010	
<b>Figure 10</b> Detail of site development		<b>Scale</b> 1:2,500 @ A4	



Plate 1: Site overview, facing southeast.



Plate 2: View from northwest corner, facing southeast.



Plate 3: View from southeast corner, facing southwest



Plate 4: View along eastern boundary, facing south.



Plate 5: Eastern boundary ditch, facing east.



Plate 6: View along the east boundary, facing south.



Plate 7: Detail of the late 19th-century water pump NIAH Reg. No. 11213030, facing west.



Plate 8: Location of the water pump NIAH Reg. No. 11213030, facing northeast.