

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AT
BELGARD SQUARE EAST, BELGARD ROAD
AND BLESSINGTON ROAD, TALLAGHT,
DUBLIN 24**

ON BEHALF OF: RAVENSBROOK LIMITED

AUTHOR: MATT BROOKS

JUNE 2022

IAC PROJECT REF.: J3784

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

DATE	DOCUMENT TITLE	REV.	PREPARED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY
02.06.22	Archaeological Assessment At Belgard Square East, Tallaght, County Dublin 24	1	Matt Brooks	Faith Bailey	Faith Bailey

ABSTRACT

This report has been prepared on behalf of Ravensbrook Limited to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of a proposed development at Belgard Square East, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (Figure 1, ITM 708792, 727673). The report was undertaken by Matt Brooks of IAC Archaeology.

The site is located at Belgard Square East in Tallaght, within the townland of Tallaght. There are no archaeological sites located within the development area but there are ten archaeological sites recorded within 250m. The closest is the zone of archaeological potential associated with the historic town of Tallaght (DU021-037), which is immediately adjacent to the proposed development area to the north and east.

Analysis of cartographic sources has revealed that the proposed development area itself has remained relatively unchanged during the post-medieval period which resided in open fields. It was not until the beginning of the 20th century that the surrounding environs began to undergo development. From at least 1995 onwards, the site and had been developed, with a warehouse occupying the proposed development area until its demolition in 2011.

Analysis of the aerial photographic record available for the area failed to identify any previously unknown archaeological features in the area. A field inspection confirmed the developed urban nature of the existing streetscape and did not identify any previously unrecorded features or areas of archaeological potential.

Given the results of the assessment the proposed development area is considered to possess a low archaeological potential due to the likely disturbance caused by the modern development in the site. It is probable that any archaeological remains that may have been present within the site would have been negatively impacted upon. As such, the risk of adverse impacts on the archaeological resource as a result of the development going ahead are considered to be low.

To mitigate any residual risk of impact to any potential archaeological remains that may exist on site, it is recommended that all ground works be archaeologically monitored during construction.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	I
CONTENTS	II
List of Figures.....	iii
List of Plates	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 General	1
1.2 The Development	1
2 METHODOLOGY	3
2.1 Paper Survey.....	3
2.2 Field Inspection.....	5
3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	6
3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background	6
3.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork.....	10
3.3 Cartographic Analysis	11
3.4 County Development Plan	12
3.5 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland.....	12
3.6 Aerial Photographic Analysis	12
3.7 Field Inspection.....	13
4 CONCLUSIONS	15
5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY	16
5.1 Impact Assessment.....	16
5.2 Mitigation	16
6 REFERENCES	17
APPENDICES	I
Appendix 1 SMR/RMP Sites within the Surrounding Area	i
Appendix 2 Legislation Protecting the Archaeological Resource	v
Appendix 3 Impact Assessment and the Cultural Heritage Resource	viii
Appendix 4 Mitigation Measures and the Cultural Heritage Resource.....	x

FIGURES

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Site location showing nearby recorded monuments
- Figure 2 Proposed Development Layout
- Figure 3 Extract from Rocque (1760) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area
- Figure 4 Extract from Taylor (1816) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area
- Figure 5 Extract from historic OS maps (1843 and 1909) showing the proposed development area
- Figure 6 Satellite imagery of the proposed development area (Google Earth 2020)

LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1 Northern access gate, facing south.
- Plate 2 Interior of site as viewed from northern access gate, facing south.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development at Belgard Square East, Belgard Road and Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (Figure 1, ITM 708792, 727673). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. The assessment was undertaken by Matt Brooks of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Ravensbrook Limited.

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

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed strategic housing development comprises a mixed-use development including 310 no. "Build-to-Rent" residential apartments, a creche and commercial units (c. 2,289 sqm) on a c. 1.26 ha site at Belgard Square East, Belgard Road and Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

The proposed development will consist of the demolition of existing boundary wall and construction of:

1. c. 2,289 sqm of retail/commercial floor space across 10 no. units including retail, restaurant/café and Class 2 financial/professional services and office use, and a crèche (257sqm) at ground and first floor levels;
2. 310 no. build to rent residential apartments including 99 no. one bedroom units, 203 no. 2 bedroom units and 8 no. three bedroom units within a part 6 to part 12 no. storey development across 3 blocks over partial basement;
3. c. 2,223 sqm of communal external amenity space provided in the form of a ground floor garden and external terraces at fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth floor levels; c. 1,026 sqm of public open space provided in the form of a central courtyard with landscaped areas at site perimeters;
4. c. 1,785 sqm of resident support facilities and services and amenities provided at basement, ground and first floor levels;
5. Vehicular access to the basement development from a new access point at Belgard Square East;
6. A new tertiary route will be provided in the southern part of the site linking Belgard Square East and Belgard Road;

7. Provision of 130 no. car parking spaces (including 8 no. club car spaces and 6 no. disabled access spaces) at basement level in addition to 5 no. set down spaces (4 no. serving creche) and 1 no. disabled access space at ground level, layby on Belgard Square East, 6 no. motorcycle spaces and a total of 763 no. bicycle parking spaces;
8. Provision of 4 no. Ø0.3m microwave link dishes to be mounted on 2 no. steel support pole affixed to lift shaft overrun, all enclosed in radio friendly GRP shrouds, together with associated equipment at roof level at Block B;
9. Provision of 3 no. ESB substations with switch rooms and plant rooms at basement level, hard and soft landscaped areas, bin and bicycle stores, public lighting, attenuation, green roof, plant at roof level, service connections and all ancillary site development works.

2 METHODOLOGY

Research for this report was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- South Dublin County Development Plan 2016–2022;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2021);

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

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

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

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

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites

deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

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

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

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

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The South Dublin County Development Plan 2016–2022 was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

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

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2021.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

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

The archaeological and field inspection entailed -

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located at Belgard Square East, Belgard Road and Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Situated in the townland and parish of Tallaght and Barony of Uppercross. There are ten archaeological sites recorded within 250m of the proposed development. The closest is the zone of archaeological potential associated with the historic town of Tallaght (DU021-037), which is immediately adjacent to the proposed development area to the north and east (Figure 1).

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (7000–4000 BC)

Although very recent discoveries may push back the date of human activity by a number of millennia (Dowd and Carden, 2016), the Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence for prehistoric activity in Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had led a primarily, but not exclusively, mobile lifestyle. The presence of Mesolithic communities is most commonly evidenced by scatters of worked flint material, a by-product from the production of flint implements.

The current archaeological evidence suggests that the environs around Dublin were first inhabited towards the later part of this period. At this time people made crude flint tools known as Larnian (or Bann) Flakes. Small numbers of these flakes have been found along coastal areas of County Dublin such as Dun Laoghaire, Dalkey Island, and Loughlinstown and may indicate small-scale transient settlement along the riverbanks and seashores (Corlett, 1999). There are no known Mesolithic sites located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)

During the Neolithic period, communities generally became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. The transition to the Neolithic was marked by major social change. Communities had expanded and moved further inland to more permanent settlements. This afforded the development of agriculture which demanded an altering of the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time.

While recent years have seen a large increase in the number of identified Neolithic settlement and habitation sites, the period is most commonly characterised by its impressive megalithic tombs. There is a possible Neolithic habitation site c. 3.8km to the northwest of the proposed development area (DU021-012), identified during excavations in advance of a gas pipeline.

Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)

The Bronze Age was marked by the widespread use of metal for the first time in Ireland. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. The construction of megalithic tombs went into decline and the burial of the individual became typical. Cremated or inhumed bodies were often placed in a cist, which is a stone-lined grave, usually built of slabs set upright to form a box-like construction and capped by a large slab or several smaller lintels (Buckley & Sweetman, 1991). Barrows and pit burials are also funerary monuments associated with this period.

As during the Neolithic period, the high ground of the Dublin Mountains to the south of Tallaght may have been perceived as being sacred and a large number of burial monuments dating to this period are recorded within this landscape. The closest of these monuments includes a ring barrow (DU021-052), located c. 4.1km to the southwest of the development area.

Another site type thought to reveal a glimpse of domestic life at this time is the burnt mound and *fulacht fiadh*. A common site within the archaeological record, they are normally interpreted as temporary cooking sites but may have been used for other industrial or even recreational functions. They survive as low mounds of charcoal-enriched soil mixed with an abundance of heat-shattered stones. They are usually horseshoe shaped and located in low-lying areas near a water source and are often found in clusters. Even when levelled by an activity such as ploughing, they are identifiable as burnt spreads in the landscape (Brindley & Lanting, 1990). There is one recorded *fulacht fiadh* (DU022-111), located c. 2.8km to the southeast of the proposed development area, within the townland of Scholarstown.

Iron Age (800 BC–AD 500)

Until recently, the dearth of evidence representing the Irish Iron Age led to it being the most enigmatic and least understood period in Irish prehistory. However, large scale commercial excavations carried out over the past two decades have produced large quantities of new data relating to Iron Age settlement and industry across the country. This raw excavation data is still being analysed and a picture of life during the Iron Age is being assembled (Becker 2012, 1).

As in Europe, two phases of the Iron Age have been proposed in Ireland; the Hallstatt and the La Tène (Raftery, 1994). The Hallstatt period generally dates from 700BC onwards and spread rapidly from Austria, across Europe, and then into Ireland. The later Iron Age or La Tène culture also originated in Europe during the middle of the 5th century BC. This theory however has been challenged in recent years by John Koch and Barry Cunliffe, amongst others. Cunliffe has put forward an opposing theory suggesting that the Insular Celtic Cultures originated in Western Europe (Koch and Cunliffe, 2013).

There is no firmly dated evidence for Iron Age activity within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. However, some monuments, such as barrows or hillforts, located on higher ground, have the potential to have been constructed or in use

during the Iron Age. A stepped barrow (DU021-015003) c. 2.5km to the north is an example of such a monument.

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as largely rural characterised by the basic territorial unit known as túath. Byrne (1973) estimates that there were at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time during this period, each ruling over their own túath. One of the most common indicators of settlement during this period is the ringfort. Ringforts were often constructed to protect rural farmsteads and are usually defined as a broadly circular enclosure. One of the most recent studies of the ringfort (Stout, 1997) has suggested that there is a total of 47,000 potential ringforts or enclosure sites throughout Ireland. They are typically enclosed by an earthen bank and exterior ditch and range from 25m to 50m in diameter. Ringforts can be divided into three broad categories – univallate sites, with one bank or ditch; multivallate sites with as many as four levels of enclosing features and platform or raised ringforts, where the interior of the ringfort has been built up. These enclosed farmsteads were intimately connected to the division of land and the status of the occupant.

The space within the ringfort that was enclosed by the ditch or wall is known as the lios in early literature, while larger fortifications were known as dúns. Ringforts are most commonly located at sites with commanding views of the surrounding environs, which provided an element of security. While raths, for the most part, avoid the extreme lowlands and uplands, they also show a preference for the most productive soils (Stout, 1997). One such site located in close proximity to the proposed development site is a ringfort located c. 1.8km to the northwest (DU021-025).

This period was also characterised by the introduction of Christianity to Ireland. The new religion was a catalyst for many changes, one of the most important being literacy. Irish was written down for the first time using the ogham script. The ogham alphabet is thought to be based on the Latin alphabet of the later Roman Empire and today the majority of the inscriptions that survive are located on pillar stones or boulders. As well as this form of the written word, the church created impressive tomes in their official language, Latin. Examples of these include the Book of Kells and the Book of Durrow as well as other mundane works such as the Annals, which were an account of the history of the church. Monasticism was known in St. Patrick's time (mid-5th century) but it was not until the 6th and 7th centuries that the famous monastic houses such as Glendalough, Bangor, Clonfert, Clonard, Clonmacnoise and Durrow were founded.

The early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure of St Maelruan's is recorded c. 200m to the east of the proposed development area (DU021-037002). The saint established the monastery in 769 AD and the church (DU021-037003) was built on the original location of the monastery. The inner and outer enclosure ditches of the monastery have been identified during several archaeological investigations in the area. The monastery quickly became a centre of learning and was known, along with the monastery at Finglas, as the 'two eyes of Ireland'. Vikings attacked the monastery in

AD 811 but the institution quickly recovered (askaboutireland.ie; southdublinhistory.ie). Many holy sites are often found in association with early ecclesiastical sites. There is a holy tree on the grounds of St Mary's Priory, c. 460m to the east of the development area, which comprises a mature walnut tree (DU021-037012), associated with St Maelruan.

3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The beginning of the medieval period was characterised by political unrest that originated from the death of Brian Borumha in 1014. In 1171 AD, Dublin was besieged and taken by Diarmait MacMurchada and his Leinster forces supported by a force of Anglo-Norman knights led by Strongbow (Richard Fitz-Gilbert de Clare) and Raymond le Gros. Diarmait MacMurchada, deposed King of Leinster, sought the support of mercenaries from England, Wales and Flanders to assist him in his challenge for kingship. Norman involvement in Ireland began in 1169 AD, when Richard de Clare and his followers landed in Wexford to support MacMurchada. Two years later de Clare (Strongbow) inherited the Kingdom of Leinster and by the end of the 12th century the Normans had succeeded in conquering much of the country (Stout & Stout, 1997). The initial stage of the invasion of the country was marked by the construction of motte and bailey castles, which were later replaced with stone fortifications.

After the Anglo-Norman invasion Tallaght was confirmed to the See of Dublin in 1179. During the 13th century the O'Byrnes, O'Tooles and many of the Archbishop's tenants took offensive action and as such many agricultural duties were not carried out. A royal grant to enclose the town was issued to the bailiffs of the town in 1310, although no evidence for the presence of walls has been found. Between 1324 and 1349 Tallaght Castle was constructed although it was reportedly in need of repair a century later. The castle was raided by the O'Toole's in 1331/2 and devastated by the family in 1540 (askaboutireland.ie; southdublinhistory.ie). A gatehouse (DU021-037010) and square tower (DU021-037020), c. 440m to the east of the proposed development, are all that survives of the castle and were incorporated into the current Dominican Priory.

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)

The 18th century witnessed a more pacified Ireland and during this time industry was developed in the landscape. In the area of Tallaght, the water power of the River Dodder was utilised and fed numerous millraces to operate a multitude of mills. The first edition OS map of 1843 shows several of the mills found to the south of Tallaght town during this time. One of the largest, the Haerlem mill complex, c. 1.3km to the southeast, consisted of a flour and woollen cloth mill. The Dublin to Blessington Steam Tramway opened in 1888 and passed through the town providing further economic stimulus (askaboutireland.ie, southdublinhistory.ie). An unclassified mill (DU021-037007) is recorded c. 180m southeast of the proposed development.

With the onset of the 18th century, the political climate settled and this saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. This was largely due to the fact that after the turbulence of the preceding centuries, the

success of the Protestant cause and effective removal of any political opposition, the country was at peace. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be dispersed nationally. During the latter part of the 18th century, the establishment of a parkland context (or demesnes) for large houses was the fashion. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable construction effort went into their creation. Major topographical features like rivers and mountains were desirable features for inclusion into, and as a setting, for the large house and parkland.

Multiple demesne landscapes and large houses were established throughout County Dublin during this period, due to the proximity of the city. The Archbishop of Dublin, Hoadley, ordered the demolition and replacement of Tallaght Castle with the Archbishop's Palace in 1729. However, by 1821 an Act of Parliament was passed to demolish the palace as it was no longer considered safe. Major Palmer carried out the demolition and then built Tallaght House in 1822. The Dominican Order bought the house in 1856 and founded St Mary's Priory on the site of the old palace in 1864 reusing architectural elements, such as a tower from the castle (DU021-037020) and a gatehouse (DU021-037010) from the palace. The old palace gardens were also incorporated into the Priory's grounds. This represents the closest demesne within the area surrounding the proposed development, c. 440m to the east.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2020) has revealed that 13 previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the environs of the proposed development site, seven of which identified differing sections of the two enclosure ditches associated with the early Christian monastic enclosure of St Maelruan's. Two of the investigations uncovered a range of medieval features likely associated with the Archbishop's Palace.

Late 12th-14th century ditches, a pit and post-medieval stone drains were uncovered to the north of the site of the Archbishop's palace. One of the ditches potentially enclosed the palace (Bennett 2010:298). Follow-on excavations revealed two ditches, five linear features, three spreads, a curvilinear ditch and gully, all of medieval date, and a post-medieval field boundary ditch, furrow scars, drains and postholes, c. 250m to the north east of the proposed development area (Licence Ref.: 11E0045). The grounds of St Mary's Priory are located to the north east of the development. These grounds contain the partial remains of Tallaght castle, the first Archbishop's Palace. It is possible the proposed development area may have been part of the estate of the Archbishop's Palace in the 13th to 14th centuries (Ruttle 2012).

Test-trenching near to St Maelruan's church, c. 160m to the east of the proposed development site, identified the outer ditch of the church (Licence Ref.: 95E0155; Bennett 1995:111). Two ditches were also revealed during excavation at the entrance to the Technological University Dublin – Tallaght Campus, c. 245m to the east and are believed to be part of the early monastic enclosure of St Maelruan's (Licence Ref.: 05E0316; Gowen 1991).

Further medieval remains were located between 100m and 200m east of the proposed development site (Licence Refs: 94E0135, 96E0188 and 96E0054). Two ditches associated St Maelruan's early Christian monastic enclosure, which enclosed an existing graveyard, were examined c. 220m to the east (Licence Ref.: 94E0135). The inner ditch contained several sherds of 13th/14th century pottery, and it was filled in by the end of the 14th century. A section of the enclosure ditch was also excavated c. 100m to the south west (Licence Ref.: 96E0188). Features discovered in the immediate area included a grain-drying kiln of 10th/11th century date and several 13th century gullies and pits (Bennett 1997:187). The enclosing ditch was also identified c. 20m to the north west of the development on Blessington Road (Licence Ref.: 96E0054).

The following licences did not produce any features of archaeological significance; 10E0389, 03E0945, 03E0937, and 95E0031.

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

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

The road system around the small town of Tallaght and the Archbishopal Palace are depicted, as are the structures of St Maelruan's church. The proposed development site is located mostly within open fields but also encompasses a main road leading west from Tallaght. Two small buildings are shown just outside of the eastern and western boundaries of the proposed development.

John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin 1816 (Figure 4)

The Archbishop of Dublin's Palace is depicted in greater detail than on Rocque's map. A castle is marked within Tallaght town along with several other structures. A Glebe House and post office is annotated to the northwest of the proposed development, while immediately east lies the church and two smaller buildings just outside of the church's boundary. The development area itself remains in open ground and commons with a road (New Road in 1816) running potentially through its northern portion, while the Jobstown stream is found south.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1834, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 5)

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development. The site is located within one open field between New Road to the north and a mill race to the south. To the east the lands associated with the church are clearly visible of which the development area does not reside. To the west a number of fields are shown with structures either on the road front or well removed from the development area, such as Glebe House to the north west.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1909, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 5)

The site remains within the one field with no structures within it. To the west and south of the field's boundaries lies the mill race with a number of foot bridges. A stone cross is found on New Road to the north east while the east shows the location

of St Maelruan’s Church (DU021-037003) with associated tower, grave yard and cross making up the Ecclesiastical enclosure (DU021-037002).

3.4 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2016–2022 recognises the statutory protection afforded to all Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 2).

There are ten archaeological sites within a 250m radius of the proposed development all within the townland of Tallaght, all of which are scheduled for inclusion on the RMP (Table 1; Figure 1; Appendix 1). The nearest recorded monument consists of the archaeological zone of potential for the historic town of Tallaght (RMP DU021-037), which is found at the northern and eastern extents of the proposed development.

TABLE 1: Recorded Archaeological Sites

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE TO SCHEME
DU021-037	Tallaght	Historic town	Immediate north and east
DU021-037003	Tallaght	Church	c. 200m east
DU021-037009	Tallaght	Font	c. 200m east
DU021-037018	Tallaght	Tomb - chest tomb	c. 200m east
DU021-037019	Tallaght	Tomb - unclassified	c. 200m east
DU021-037002	Tallaght	Ecclesiastical enclosure	c. 200m east
DU021-037004	Tallaght	Graveyard	c. 200m east
DU021-037005	Tallaght	Tomb - unclassified (present location)	c. 200m east
DU021-037006	Tallaght	Cross	c. 200m east
DU021-037007	Tallaght	Mill - unclassified	c. 160m south east

3.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

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

No stray finds are recorded from within the proposed development area or its immediate environs.

3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2008–2020), and Bing Maps revealed that the proposed development remains largely unchanged since 1995. No previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential were noted within the

coverage (Figure 6). Although a warehouse did occupy the proposed development area which was demolished in 2011.

3.7 FIELD INSPECTION

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

The proposed development area is bordered to the north, east and west by the existing modern road network and to the south by a fast-food restaurant and associated car park. The site is secured on all sides by tall concrete walls topped with plywood, with access gates to the north, east and west (Plate 1). The interior of the site consists of an open tarmac surface which is overgrown with vegetation (Plate 2). No greenfield areas survive within the limits of the site.

No previously unrecorded features or areas of archaeological significance were identified during the site inspection.



Plate 1: Northern access gate, facing south.



Plate 2: Interior of site as viewed from northern access gate, facing south.

4 CONCLUSIONS

This archaeological assessment was commissioned by Ravenbrook Limited to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological features preceding the development of a residential complex. The scheme is located at Belgard Square East, Belgard Road and Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24. There are no archaeological sites located within the development area but there are ten archaeological sites recorded within 250m. The closest is the zone of archaeological potential associated with the historic settlement of Tallaght (DU021-037), which is immediately adjacent to the proposed development area to the north and east.

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2021) has revealed that no investigations that have been carried out within the proposed development area. However, 13 previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within 250m. Seven of which identified differing sections of the two enclosure ditches associated with the early Christian monastic enclosure of St Maelruan's. Two of the investigations uncovered a range of medieval features likely associated with the Archbishop's Palace. While the remaining four did not produce any features of archaeological significance.

Analysis of cartographic sources has revealed that the proposed development area itself has remained relatively unchanged during the post-medieval period which resided in open fields. It was not until the beginning of the 20th century that the surrounding environs began to undergo development. From at least 1995 onwards, the site and its environs have been highly developed with a warehouse and carparking area occupying the proposed development area until its demolition in 2011.

Analysis of the aerial photographic record available for the area failed to identify any previously unknown archaeological features in the area. A field inspection confirmed the developed urban nature of the existing streetscape and did not identify any previously unrecorded features or areas of archaeological potential.

Given the results of the assessment the proposed development area is considered to possess a low archaeological potential due to the likely disturbance caused by the modern development in the site. It is probable that any archaeological remains that may have been present within the site would have been negatively impacted upon. As such, the risk of adverse impacts on the archaeological resource as a result of the development going ahead are considered to be low.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

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

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Given the level of modern development and associated ground disturbance that has taken place across the proposed development area, it is probable that any possible archaeological remains that may have been present within the site would have been negatively impacted upon. As such, the risk of adverse impacts on the archaeological resource as a result of the development going ahead are considered to be low.

5.2 MITIGATION

- It is recommended that all ground disturbances associated with the proposed development, including site investigations, be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

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

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

6 REFERENCES

- Becker, K. 2012 'Redefining the Irish Iron Age' In: Potterton, M. and Corlett C. (eds) *Life and death in Iron Age Ireland*. Wordwell books, Bray, 1-14.
- Bennett, I. (ed.) 1987–2010. *Excavations: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland*. Bray. Wordwell.
- Brindley, A. L., and Lanting, J. N. 1990. "The dating of fulachta fiadh." *Burnt Offerings. International contributions to burnt mound archaeology*, 55-56.
- Buckley, V. and Sweetman, P.D. 1991. *Archaeological Survey of County Louth*. Dublin.
- Byrne, F. J. 1973. *Irish kings and high-kings*. London: Batsford.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a. Standards & Guidance for Field Evaluation.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b. Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014c. Standards & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Monitoring).
- Corlett, C. 1999. *Antiquities of Old Rathdown: The Archaeology of South County Dublin and North County Wicklow*. Bray. Wordwell.
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. 1999a. *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*. Government Publications Office, Dublin.
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. 1999b. *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation*. Government Publications Office, Dublin.
- Dowd, M. and Carden R. 2016. "First evidence of a Late Upper Palaeolithic human presence in Ireland." *Quaternary Science Reviews* 139: 158-163.
- Environmental Protection Agency. 2015. *Draft Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*. Government Publications Office, Dublin.
- Environmental Protection Agency. 2017. *Draft Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements*. Government Publications Office, Dublin.

Gowen, M. 1991. *Examination of Two Service Trenches for Archaeological Purposes at the New Regional Technical College Site, Tallaght, Co. Dublin*

Koch, J. T., and. Cunliffe, B. W. (eds). 2013. *Celtic from the West 2: Rethinking the Bronze Age and the Arrival of Indo-European in Atlantic Europe*. Oxbow.

National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. *Sites and Monuments Record*, County Dublin.

National Museum of Ireland. *Topographical Files*, County Dublin

Raftery, B. 1994. *Pagan Celtic Ireland: the enigma of the Irish Iron Age*. Thames and Hudson.

Ruttle, E. 2012. *Third Level Bundle Two PPP Project, Institute of Technology Tallaght Site, Tallaght, Dublin 24 Final Excavation Report Contract Stage iv*

Stout, M. 1997. *The Irish Ringfort*. Dublin. Four Courts.

Stout, G. and Stout, M. 1997. Early Landscapes: from Prehistory to Plantation. In F.H.A. Aalen et al. (eds), *Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape*. Cork. Cork University Press.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

William Petty's Down Survey Map, Barony of Newcastle, 1655-8

John Rocque's an Actual Survey of the County of Dublin, 1760

John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin 1816

Ordnance Survey maps of County Dublin, 1843-1909

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970-2021.

www.archaeology.ie – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.

www.osiemaps.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs dating to 1995-2013 and 6-inch/25-inch OS maps.

www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

www.askaboutireland.ie – The History of Tallaght.

www.southdublinhistory.ie – Tallaght – History and Chronology.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

SMR NO.	DU021-037
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006/727757
CLASSIFICATION	Historic town
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	To immediate east and north
DESCRIPTION	In the twelfth century Tallaght formed part of the See lands of the Archbishop of Dublin and is listed among the lands confirmed to Archbishop Laurence O'Toole by Pope Alexander III in 1179 (Sheehy 1962, I, 27). The archbishops founded a borough here and an extent of 1326 mentions that there were then 15 burgesses rendering 15 shillings per annum (Mc Neill 1950, 181). Apart from the burgesses there were also free tenants, eighteen cottiers and four betaghs residing at Tallaght. It was one of the most important ecclesiastical manors in County Dublin throughout the Middle Ages. By the Sixteenth century it was the Archbishop's principal residence outside the city (Handcock 1899, 11). The street pattern of the medieval borough was linear and appears to have consisted simply of main street which expanded at its west end to form the market place, where the road forked N past St Mael Ruains church and south towards Oldbawn. The archbishop's palace lay on the N side of the road and the long plots on the S side are probably the remains of the medieval burgage plot pattern.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037003
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709025/727798
CLASSIFICATION	Church
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m east
DESCRIPTION	No information in file.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037009
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709025/727798

CLASSIFICATION	Font
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m east
DESCRIPTION	This is a large granite basin formerly known as St. Mollrooneys Lossit (DU 21:37(09). It is a long, horse-shoe shaped basin with uneven sides and a concave base (Ball 1899, 99-103, Price 1942, 39-40, Handcock 1899, 29-36). (DU21:37(01). It is known as St. Maelruan's Griddle and Loaf (dims. H 0.85m, Wth 0.52m, T 0.13m).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037018
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709025/727798
CLASSIFICATION	Tomb - chest tomb
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m east
DESCRIPTION	One of a number of seventeenth century tombs in the churchyard (DU021-037004-). This altar tomb was located near "the lossit" (font, DU021-037009-) (Fitzgerald 1906-8, 3). It commemorates members of the Reilly family who died in the late 17th century (Fitzgerald 1906-8, 33).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037019
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709025/727798
CLASSIFICATION	Tomb - unclassified
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m east
DESCRIPTION	One of three 17th century tombs in the churchyard (DU021-037004-). Inscribed 'Murce. Walsh died 6th April 1685' (Price, L. (ed) 1942, 39-41). Compiled by Geraldine Stout
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037002
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006/727757
CLASSIFICATION	Ecclesiastical enclosure
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m east

DESCRIPTION	The probable position of the ecclesiastical enclosure which surrounded the monastery is indicated by the curvature of the present graveyard boundary on the SW side of the medieval parish church and the apparent continuation of that curvature across the road on the W side where it is thought to have continued around into the present priory lands. Test trenching in 1991 prior to construction of the new regional technical college failed to identify a corresponding section but two ditches were revealed which may be part of an inner enclosure. These had been in-filled in the 13th-14th-century (Wth 5-8m, D 1.4m). They were similar to concentric ditches identified to the SW of the present church boundary (Hayden 1991, 29; 1991, 17). In 1995 test trenching west of St. Maelruan's revealed a single ditch (Wth 4.7m, D1.2m). A sherd of medieval pottery was found in the basal layer. (Mc Conway 1996,) See DU021-037001-for report.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037004
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006/727757
CLASSIFICATION	Graveyard
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m east
DESCRIPTION	The probable position of the ecclesiastical enclosure which surrounded the monastery is indicated by the curvature of the present graveyard boundary on the SW side of the medieval parish church and the apparent continuation of that curvature across the road on the W side where it is thought to have continued around into the present priory lands. Test trenching in 1991 prior to construction of the new regional technical college failed to identify a corresponding section but two ditches were revealed which may be part of an inner enclosure. These had been in-filled in the 13th-14th-century (Wth 5-8m, D 1.4m). They were similar to concentric ditches identified to the SW of the present church boundary (Hayden 1991, 29; 1991, 17). In 1995 test trenching west of St. Maelruan's revealed a single ditch (Wth 4.7m, D1.2m). A sherd of medieval pottery was found in the basal layer. (Mc Conway 1996,) See DU021-037001-for report.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037005
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006/727757
CLASSIFICATION	Tomb - unclassified (present location)
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m east
DESCRIPTION	No information in file.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037007
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	708990/727600
CLASSIFICATION	Mill - unclassified
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 160m
DESCRIPTION	According to sources (Scantlebury, 1960), Saint Óengus the Culldee who was a bishop and writer living in the early 9th century, held to be the author of Féilire Óengussa and possibly of the Martyrology of Tallaght entered Tallaght monastery in disguise as a lay brother. He was given charge of the kiln and mill as one of his early duties. A mill race marked on the first ed. OS 6-inch maps may follow the course of an early mill race associated with this mill (pers comm Clare Crowley).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037006
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006/727757
CLASSIFICATION	Cross
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m
DESCRIPTION	A small Latin cross stand on a pyramidal base which in turn stands on a circular granite stone, possibly a millstone in the graveyard S of the medieval parish church. There is a deeply incised line on one of the faces of cross close to the base of the shaft (Handcock, 1899). Scantlebury states that St Maelruan's 'grave in the churchyard is pointed out where stands the base and part of the head of a small plain cross of granite' (1953, 67). He also points out the former veneration of the locals for this, stating that they 'would not suffer any corpse to be interred too near it' and that 'they were accustomed, too, to measure their family graves as being so many feet or yards from St Maelruan's grave' (Scantlebury 1953, 67).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

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

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

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

OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

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

REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

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

PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site

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

RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

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

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

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

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

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000

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

development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022

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

Policy AA1: It is the policy of the Council to protect and conserve the archaeological heritage of the County.

Policy AA2: It is the policy of the Council to secure the preservation (i.e., preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest.

Policy AA3: It is the policy of the Council to favour the preservation in situ of archaeological remains or objects in their settings.

Policy AA4: It is the policy of the Council to ensure that development within the vicinity of a recorded monument or zone of archaeological potential does not seriously detract from the setting of the feature and is sited and designed appropriately.

Policy AA5: It is the policy of the Council to protect historical burial grounds within South Dublin County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.

Policy AA6: It is the policy of the Council to conserve and protect areas designated as Areas of Archaeological Potential.

APPENDIX 3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

Impacts are defined as ‘the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development’ (Environmental Protection Agency 2017). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

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

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

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

PREDICTED IMPACTS

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

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

APPENDIX 4 MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

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

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

DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

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

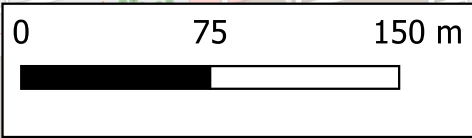
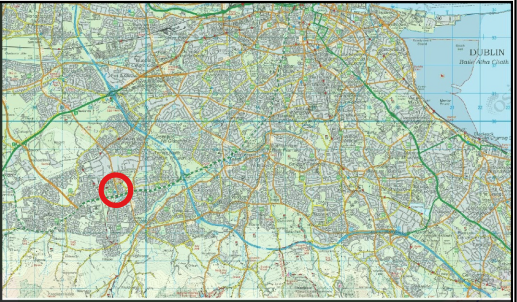
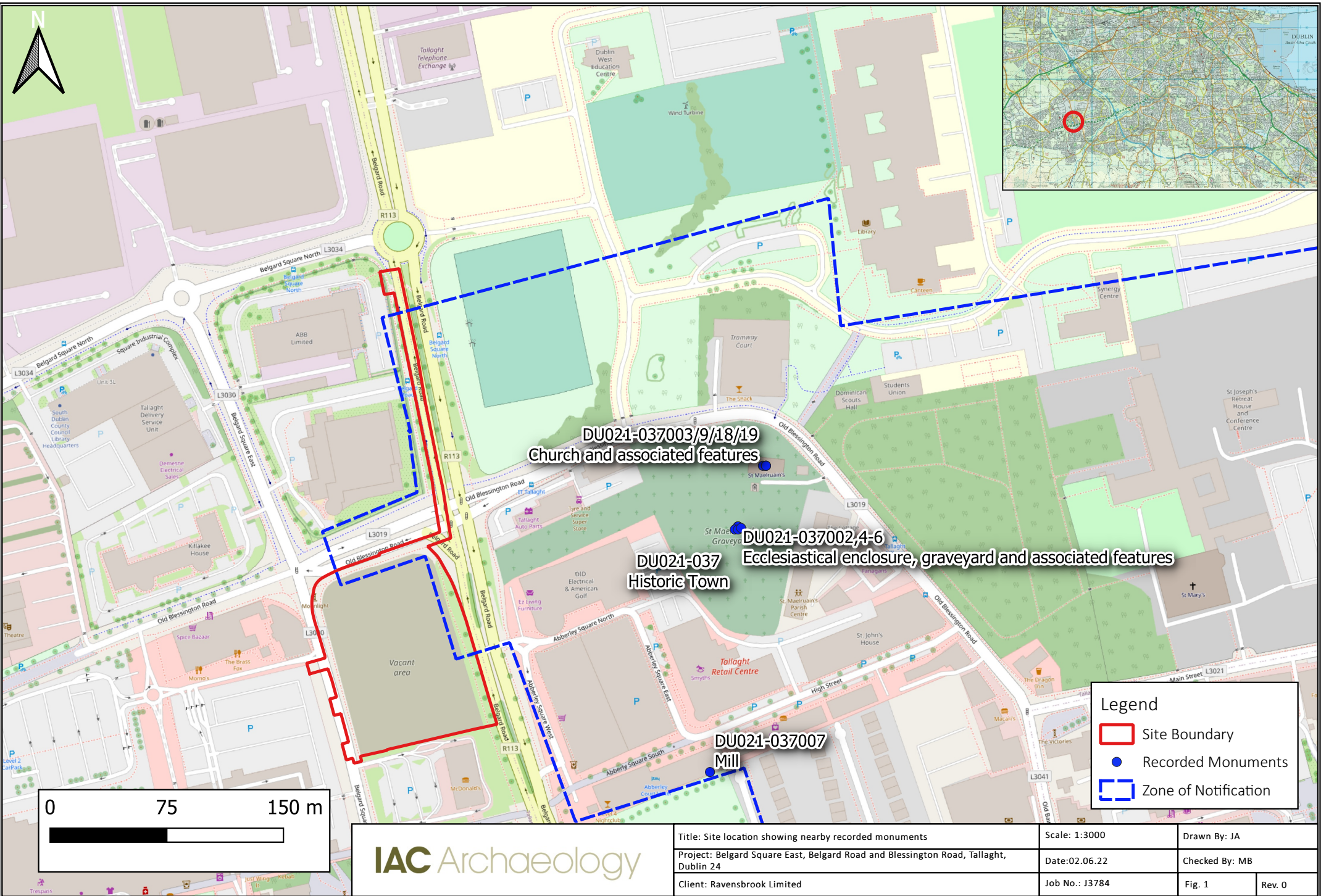
Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as ‘a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (ClfA 2020a).

Full Archaeological Excavation can be defined as ‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’ (ClfA 2020b).

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be

disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (ClfA 2020c).

Underwater Archaeological Assessment consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.



IAC Archaeology

Legend	
	Site Boundary
●	Recorded Monuments
	Zone of Notification

Title: Site location showing nearby recorded monuments		Scale: 1:3000	Drawn By: JA	
Project: Belgard Square East, Belgard Road and Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24		Date: 02.06.22	Checked By: MB	
Client: Ravensbrook Limited		Job No.: J3784	Fig. 1	Rev. 0

ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED ON SITE
NO DIMENSIONS TO BE SCALED FROM THIS DRAWING
DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH RELEVANT CONSULTANTS DRAWINGS



- KEY**
- APPLICATION SITE BOUNDARY
 - PUBLIC REALM
 - PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
 - COMMUNAL OPEN SPACE



1 PROPOSED EXTERNAL AREA USES SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1:500

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK
01	06/02/22	ISSUED FOR PLANNING APPROVAL	BR	CS
02			CS	BR

STATUS CODE DESCRIPTION:
ISSUED FOR PLANNING APPROVAL

CLIENT
Ravensbrook Limited

PROJECT
Belgard Square East, Belgard Road and Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

DRAWING
PROPOSED EXTERNAL AREA USES SITE PLAN

PROJECT NUMBER	DATE
958819	30/04/22
SCALE: A1:	DRAWN/CHECKED:
As indicated	CSJ BR

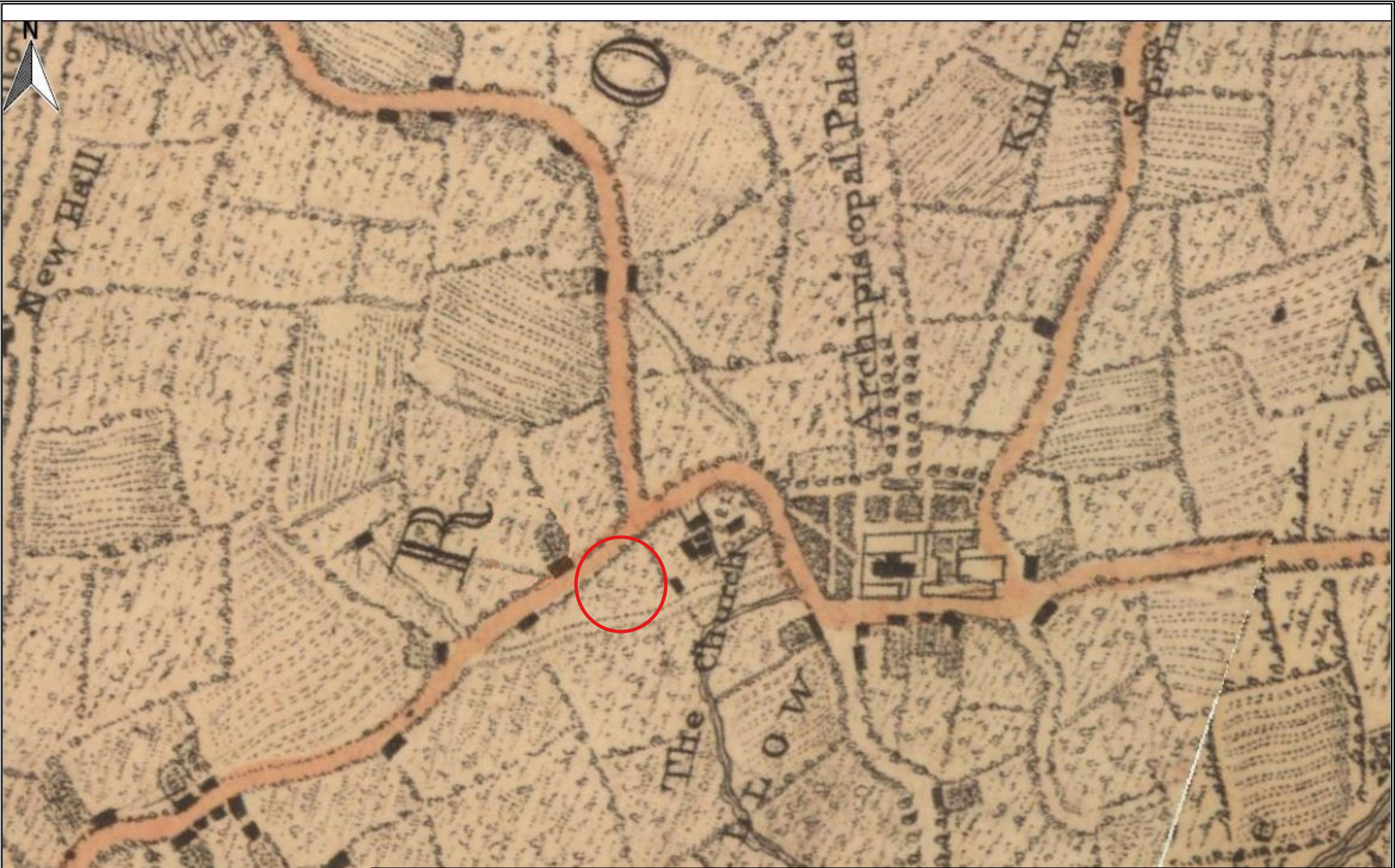
STATUS CODE:	DRAWING NUMBER	REVISION
A1	BR-HUL-A-003	P1

Henry J Lyons

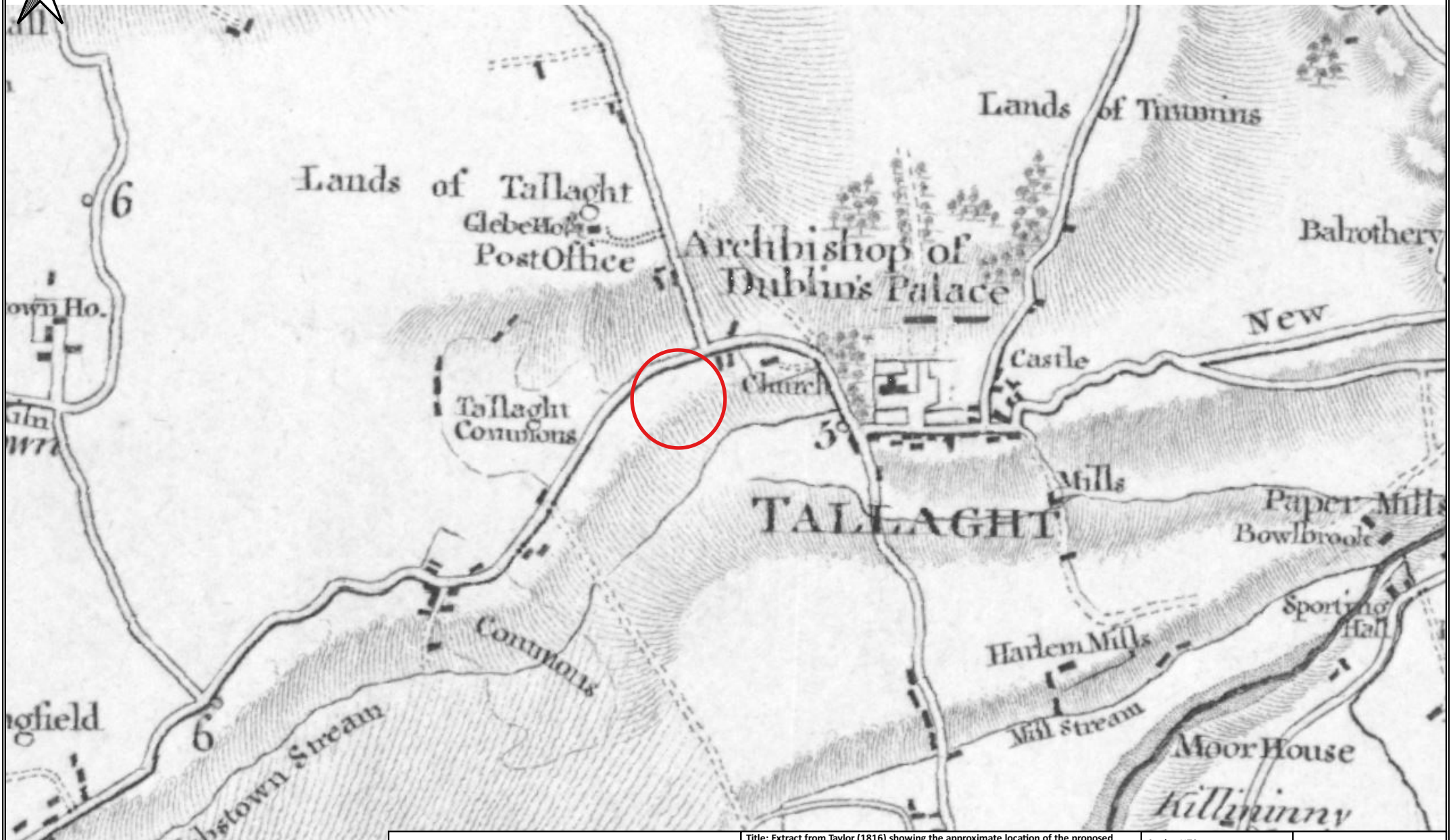
Architects + Interiors
henryjlyons.com

+353 1 888 3333
info@henryjlyons.com

51-54 Pearse Street
Dublin D02 K606



IAC Archaeology	Title: Extract from Rocque (1760) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area	Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA	
	Project: Belgard Square East, Belgard Road and Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Date: 02.06.22	Checked By: MB	
	Client: Ravensbrook Limited	Job No.: J3784	Fig. 3	Rev. 0



IAC Archaeology

Title: Extract from Taylor (1816) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area

Scale: NTS

Drawn By: JA

Project: Belgard Square East, Belgard Road and Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Date: 02.06.22

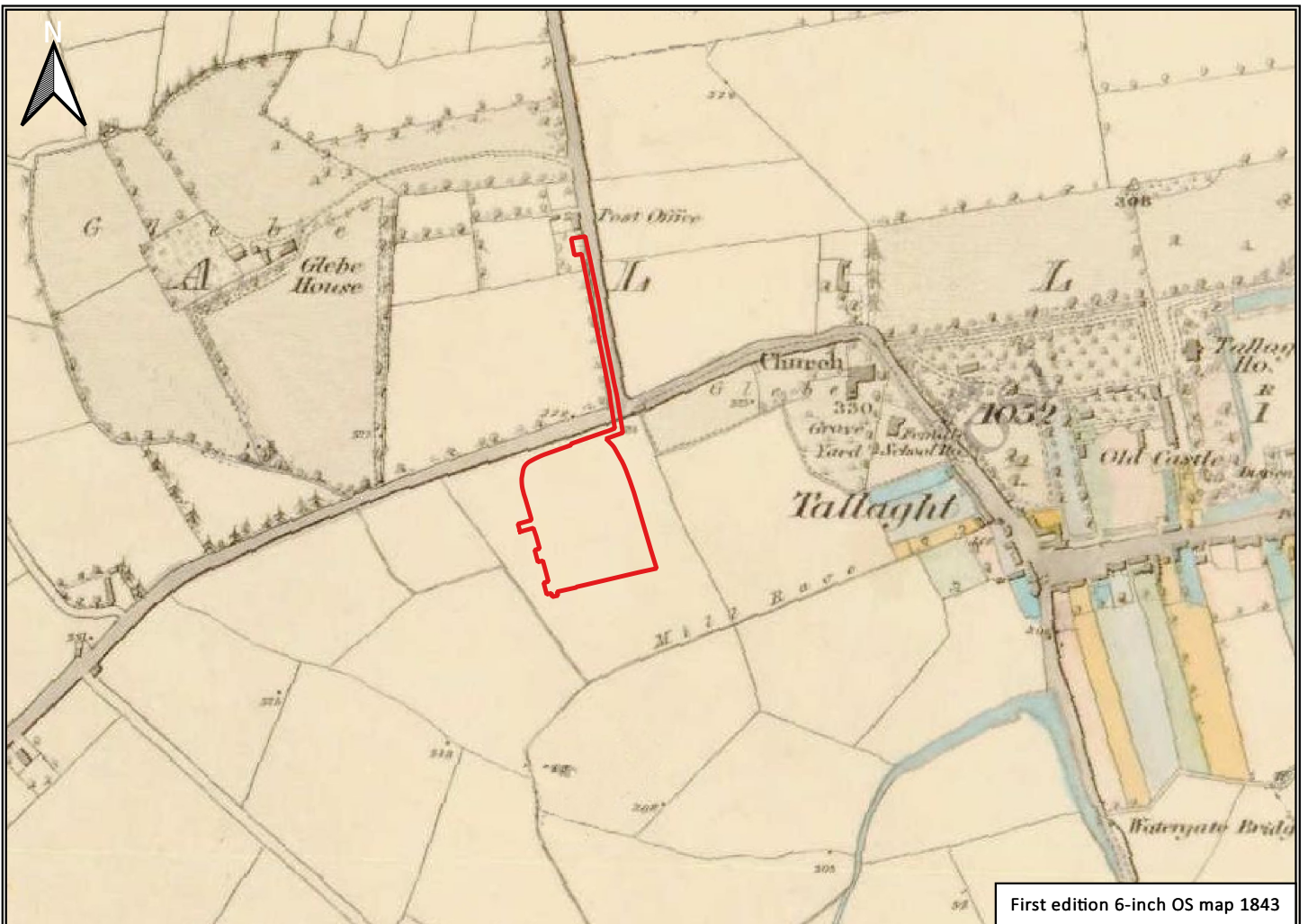
Checked By: MB

Client: Ravensbrook Limited

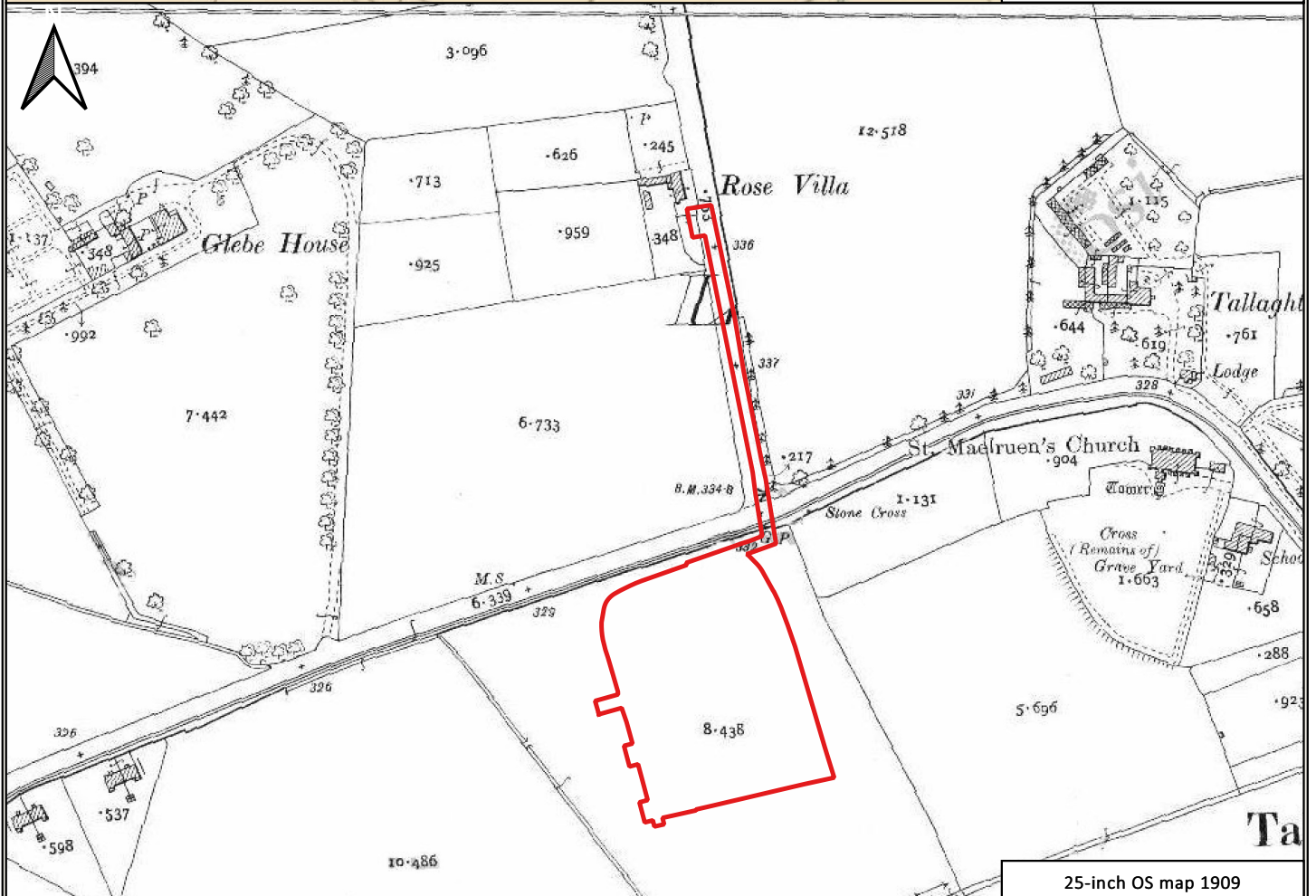
Job No.: J3784

Fig. 4

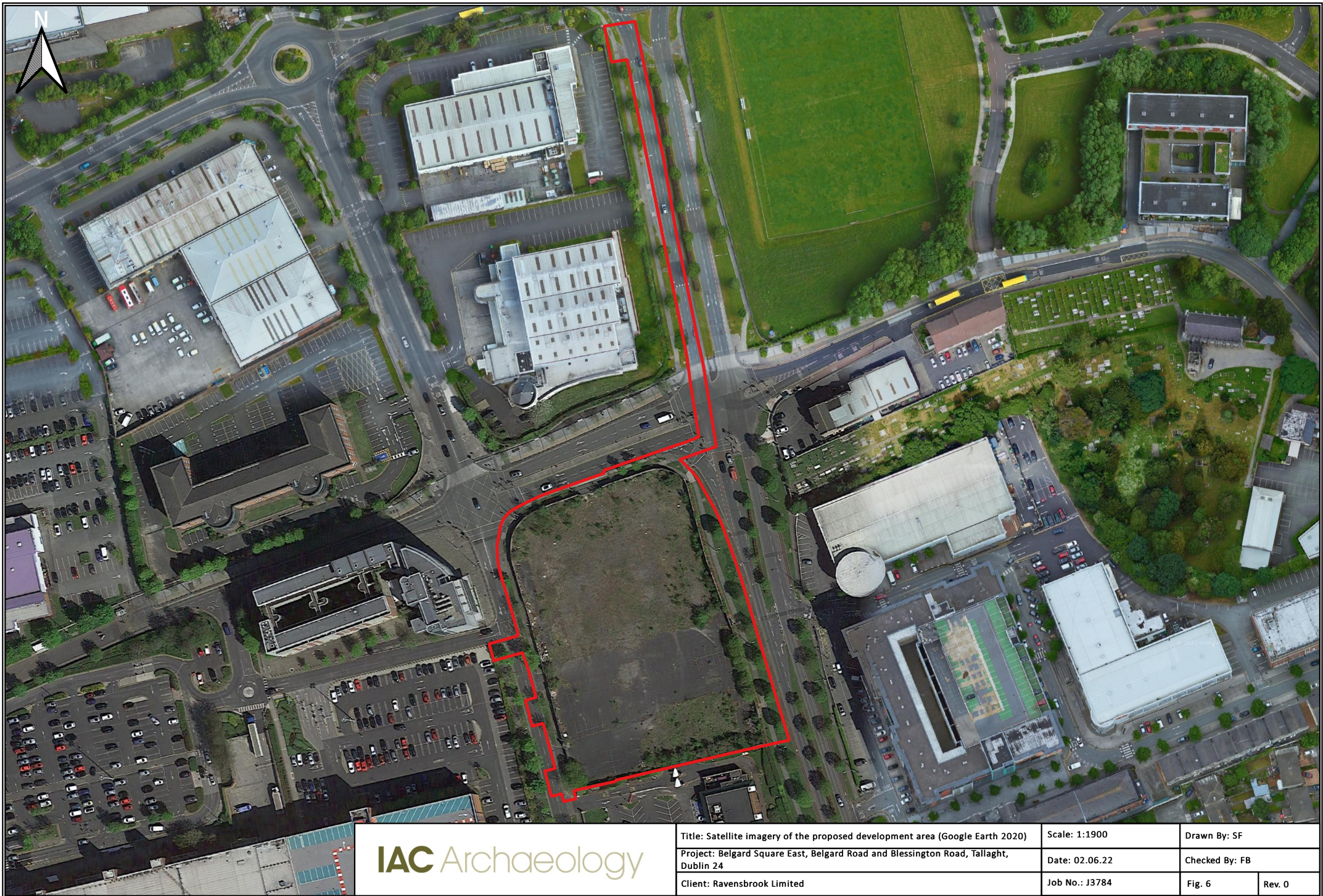
Rev. 0



First edition 6-inch OS map 1843



25-inch OS map 1909



IAC Archaeology

Title: Satellite imagery of the proposed development area (Google Earth 2020)

Scale: 1:1900

Drawn By: SF

Project: Belgard Square East, Belgard Road and Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Date: 02.06.22

Checked By: FB

Client: Ravensbrook Limited

Job No.: J3784

Fig. 6

Rev. 0