

**REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AT  
BROWNSBARN, CITYWEST CAMPUS,  
DUBLIN 24.**

**ON BEHALF OF: EXETER IRELAND IV B LIMITED**

**I.T.M.: 704492, 728220**

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## ABSTRACT

IAC Archaeology has prepared this report on behalf of Exeter Ireland IV B Limited, to present the results of archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the proposed warehouse development. The report was undertaken by Deanna Lee and Maria Woodlock of IAC Archaeology. It follows a previous desktop assessment carried out by Matt Brooks of IAC Archaeology in January 2022.

The site is bounded to the south by the N7 Naas Road, to the north and west by the National Distribution Centre and to the east by Brownsbarn Drive and the Royal Garter Stables, a Protected Structure (RPS Ref. 261). There are no archaeological sites located within the development area or within 250m of the site. The nearest recorded monument consists of a ringfort (DU021-020), located c. 645m to the north.

Archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance was undertaken between the 30th of May 2022 and 2nd of June 2022. Monitoring revealed that the east of site has previously been disturbed, potentially related to the construction of the Naas Road N82. Nothing of archaeological significance was found during the course of monitoring, therefore, no further mitigation is required.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 GENERAL

The following report details the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring undertaken at Brownsbarn, Citywest Campus, Dublin 24, prior to the construction of a warehouse facility. (Figure 1, ITM 704492, 728220). The monitoring of groundworks was undertaken by Deanna Lee and Maria Woodlock of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Exeter Ireland IV B Limited). This report follows on from an archaeological desktop assessment carried out by IAC Archaeology in January 2022.

Archaeological monitoring ‘involves an archaeologist being present in the course of the carrying out of developments’ and has been defined as being carried out ‘so as to identify and protect archaeological deposits, features or objects which may be uncovered or otherwise affected by the works’ (Department of Arts, Heritage, the Gaeltacht and Islands, 1999b).

## 1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed warehouse facility will comprise of the following (Figure 2).

- Construction of 2 warehouses with ancillary office and staff facilities and associated development, with a gross floor area including a warehouse area.
- Provision of a vehicular access/egress routes to the subject site via the existing roundabout and access road.
- Provision of an alteration to the existing access arrangements to the subject lands to facilitate safe traffic flow to and from the proposed facilities.
- Provision of a pedestrian access; 112 car parking spaces; bicycle parking; HGV Parking; HGV yards; level access goods doors; dock levellers; access gates; signage; hard and soft landscaping; lighting; boundary treatments; ESB substation; sprinkler tanks; pump houses.
- Provision of associated site development works above and below ground on lands bounded to the south by the N7 Naas Road, to the north and west by the National Distribution Centre and to the east by Brownsbarn Drive and the Royal Garter Stables.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 SUMMARY OF DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

A desktop assessment was carried out by Matt Brooks of IAC Archaeology in January 2022. The following is a summary of the assessment carried out. The proposed development area is located within the townland of Brownsbarn, barony of Newcastle, and parish of Saggart, County Dublin. The site is bounded to the south by the N7 Naas Road, to the north and west by the National Distribution Centre and to the east by Brownsbarn Drive and the Royal Garter Stables (a Protected Structure (RPS Ref. 261)). There are no archaeological sites located within the development area or within 250m of the site. The closest site consists of a ringfort (DU021-020), located c. 645m to the north.

### 2.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022) has revealed that no investigations have been carried out within the proposed development or its 250m study area. A number of investigations have taken place within the wider vicinity, which are summarised below.

Works for the Cork – Dublin gas pipeline in 1981 discovered what was initially considered to be the remains of a possible *fulacht fia*. On further examination it was determined as the remains of a possible settlement site. This was evident as a shallow fosse or drain and a sub-rectangular pit was present. The fill in the fosse contained charcoal enriched soil, animal bone and oxidised clay; and a bone comb was also recovered. The fill of the pit comprised a dark brown humus-enriched soil and animal bones. The finds indicate that the drain and pit may be part of a 9th or 10th century AD settlement site, located c. 710m to the southeast of the proposed development (DU021-023). It has not been possible to identify with certainty the precise location of this site and the current coordinates should only be considered as indicative (Sleeman and Hurley 1987).

### 2.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

#### **Down Survey of the Barony of Newcastle, 1655 (Figure 3)**

On this map, the proposed development is located to the northeast of the settlement of Saggart and to the east of Rathcoole, which contained two old castles, the ruins of a chapel, and many habitable houses and cabins. Saggart is recorded as having two castles in repair, one stump of a castle, and some thatch houses and cabins. The proposed development is situated within land that is described as ‘good arable meadow and pastures’

#### **John Rocque’s Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760 (Figure 4)**

The proposed development area is depicted within an open field to the northeast of Rathcoole and northeast of Saggart. The Naas Road separates the settlements from the fields around the proposed development area. Saggart House is depicted to the southwest with the position of the Royal Garter Stables clearly marked.

### **John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin 1816 (Figure 5)**

On Taylor's map there is little change to the immediate environs of the proposed development, which lies between the Naas Road to the south and a road to the west that connects to Ballydaniel Commons to the north. The Royal Garter Stables is still clearly shown.

### **First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1837, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 6)**

This map is the first to accurately depict the proposed development area. The map shows that the proposed development area is formed by one open field. The Naas Road is bound directly to the south while a stream runs along the western boundary. The Royal Garter Stables is clearly marked to the southeast of the site

### **Ordnance Survey Map, 1909, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 7)**

By the time of this map there has been relatively little change within the proposed development area itself and its local environs. The site is still within one open field, which is likely to have been utilized for grazing by the Royal Garter Stables, which by this time has expanded in size.

## **2.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2008–2022), and Bing Maps revealed that the proposed development area remains largely unchanged since 1995. No previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential were noted within the coverage (Figure 8). Coverage from 2017 shows the western section of the site has been disturbed by possible drainage works. More recent coverage also shows that spoil heaps have been deposited in parts of the site.

## **2.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES**

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.

## **2.6 FIELD INSPECTION**

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

The proposed development area is formed by a relatively level field of scrubby pasture, which is sub-rectangular in plan. Evidence of topsoil stripping at the centre of the site is present (Plate 1) and the southern section of the site is heavily overgrown (Plate 2). The central and northern parts of the site remain less overgrown, but



evidence of disturbance and dumping of spoil was noted (Plates 3 and 4). The western boundary is very heavily overgrown and according to historic mapping contains a small stream. This was not accessible during the inspection. The northern boundary is also formed by a mature hedgerow, whilst the eastern and southern boundaries are all modern in nature.

No specific sites or areas of archaeological potential were noted during the course of the inspection.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

### **3.1 GENERAL**

Archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance was undertaken between the 30th of May 2022 and 2nd of June 2022. The work was undertaken by Maria Woodlock of IAC Archaeology in the townland of Brownsbarn, Co. Dublin.

### **3.2 RESULTS**

The mechanical topsoil stripping of an area measuring 207m north-south x 133m east-west took place over the course of these works (Plates 5 – 9). An area, 5m wide, to the east of the tree line at the western side of the field was stripped by a 21-tonne excavator north - south to allow access for the bulldozer. The rest of the area was stripped east - west by the bulldozer.

The topsoil depth varied across the site from 0.3m on the southern side to 0.8m along the northern side (Plate 7). The topsoil was a mid-brown silty clay and the subsoil was a yellowish brown stoney silty clay. The area to the east of the site has previously been disturbed as there was evidence of a possible compound that may relate to the construction of the N82 Naas Road (Plate 9). Nothing of archaeological significance was found during the course of monitoring.

### **3.3 CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping took place at Brownsbarn, Co. Dublin. Monitoring revealed that the east of site has previously been disturbed potentially related to the construction of the N82 Naas Road. Nothing of archaeological significance was found during the course of monitoring, therefore, no further mitigation is required.

## 4 REFERENCES

Brooks, M 2022. *Archaeological Assessment at Brownsbarn, Citywest Campus, Dublin 24*. Unpublished report by IAC Archaeology

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Chartered Institution of Field Archaeologists. 2020c. Standards & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Monitoring).

Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. 1999a. *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*. Government Publications Office, Dublin.

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Environmental Protection Agency. 2017. *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.

National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. *Sites and Monuments Record*, County Dublin.

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

### CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Down Survey of the Barony of Newcastle, 1655

John Rocque's Map of the City and County of Dublin, 1760

John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816

Ordnance Survey Maps, 1837 and 1909

### ELECTRONIC SOURCES

[www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2020.

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.

[www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

[www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com) – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

[www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com) – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area

[www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) – Placenames Database of Ireland launched by Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaelige and the DoHLGH.

[www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie) – History of The Royal Garter Stables

[www.southdublinhistory.ie](http://www.southdublinhistory.ie) – History of Saggart

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## APPENDIX 1 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

### PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

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

### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

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

### OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

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

### REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

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

### PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These

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

### **RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES**

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the 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 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 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 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 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 2022 - 2028

**Policy NCBH13: Archaeological Heritage** Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the Archaeological Heritage of the County and avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.

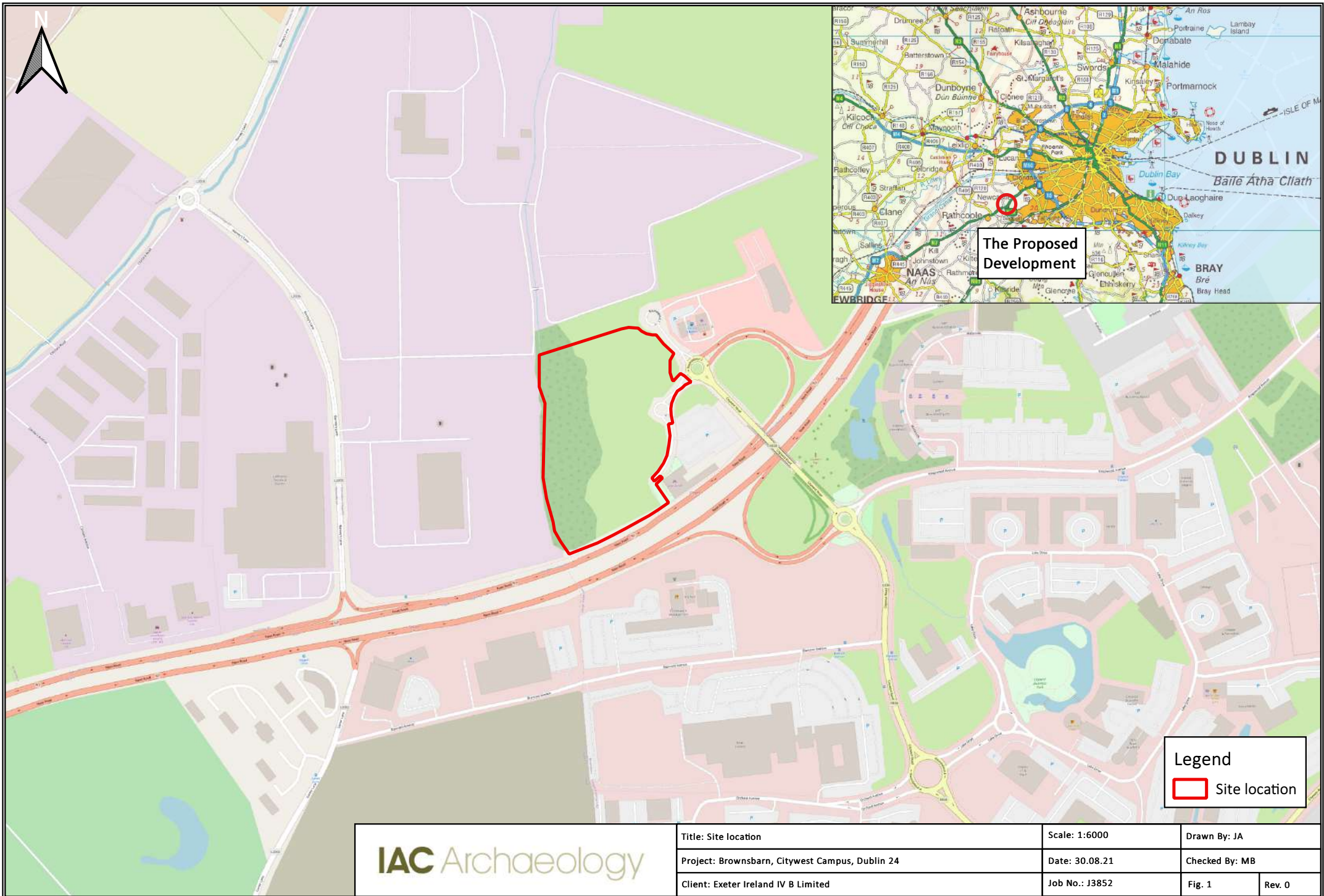
**NCBH13 Objective 1:** To favour the preservation in-situ of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHGI (1999), or any superseding national policy document.

**NCB13 Objective 2:** To ensure that development is designed to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage including previously unknown sites, features and objects.

**NCBH13 Objective 3:** To protect and enhance sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Area of Archaeological Potential does not detract from the setting of the site, monument, feature or object and is sited and designed appropriately.

**NCBH13 Objective 4:** To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites including associated features and any discovered battlefield sites of significant archaeological potential within the County.

**NCBH13 Objective 5:** To protect historical burial grounds within South Dublin County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.



**IAC** Archaeology

Title: Site location		Scale: 1:6000	Drawn By: JA	
Project: Brownsbarn, Citywest Campus, Dublin 24		Date: 30.08.21	Checked By: MB	
Client: Exeter Ireland IV B Limited		Job No.: J3852	Fig. 1	Rev. 0

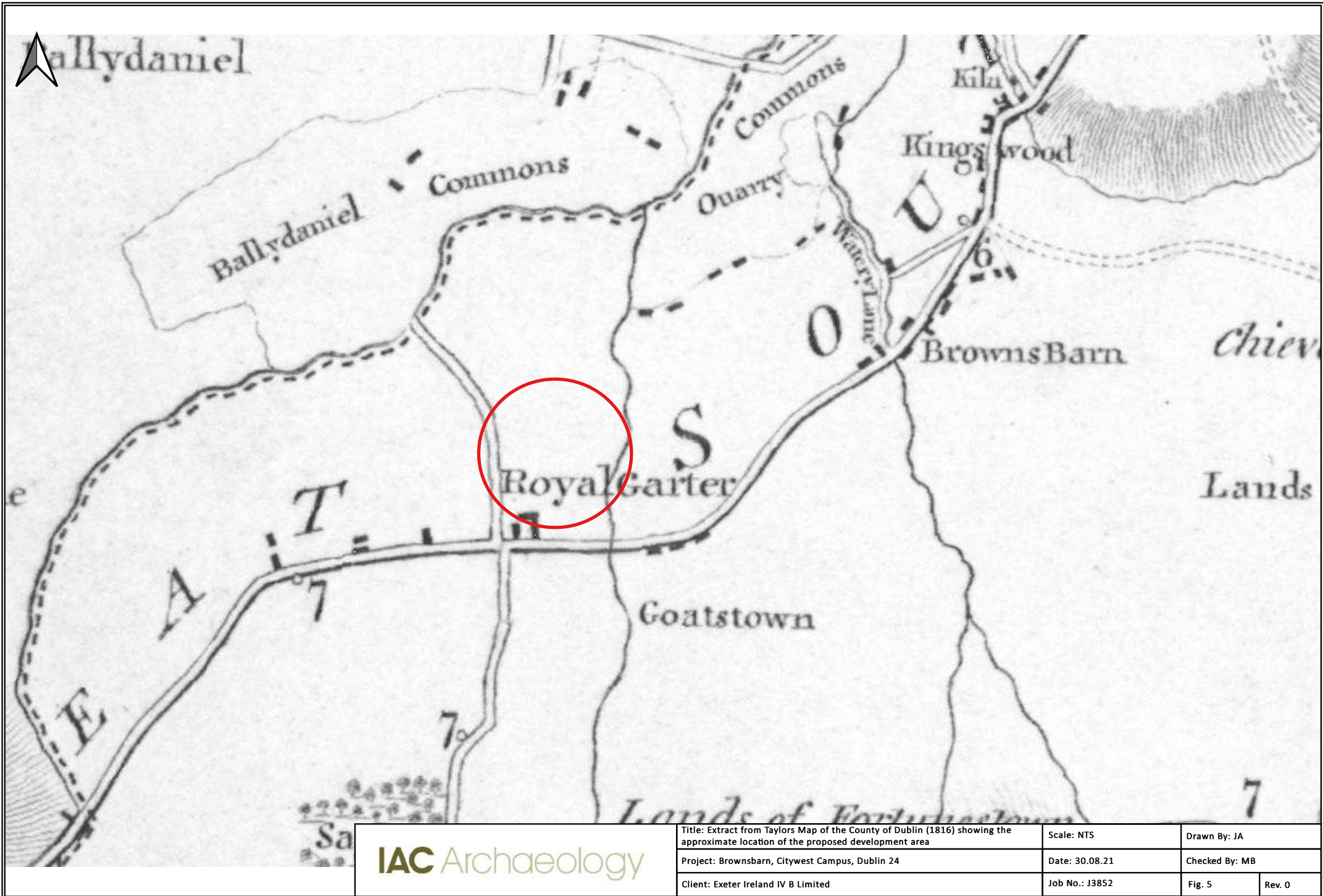








<b>IAC</b> Archaeology	Title: Extract from Rocques Map of the County of Dublin (1760) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area		Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA
	Project: Brownsbarn, Citywest Campus, Dublin 24		Date: 30.08.21	Checked By: MB
	Client: Exeter Ireland IV B Limited		Job No.: J3852	Fig. 4



**IAC** Archaeology

Title: Extract from Taylors Map of the County of Dublin (1816) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area

Scale: NTS

Drawn By: JA

Project: Brownsbarn, Citywest Campus, Dublin 24

Date: 30.08.21

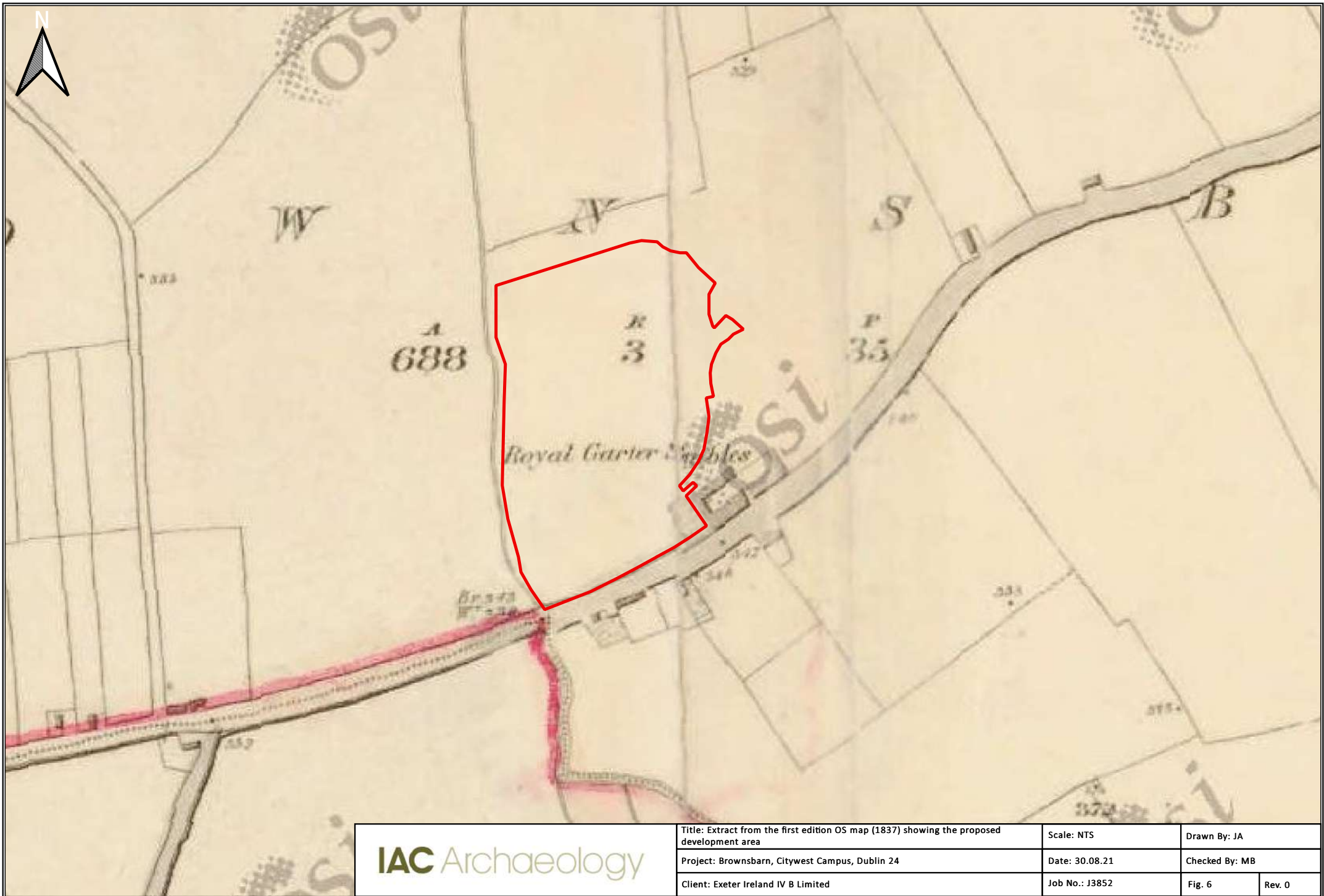
Checked By: MB

Client: Exeter Ireland IV B Limited

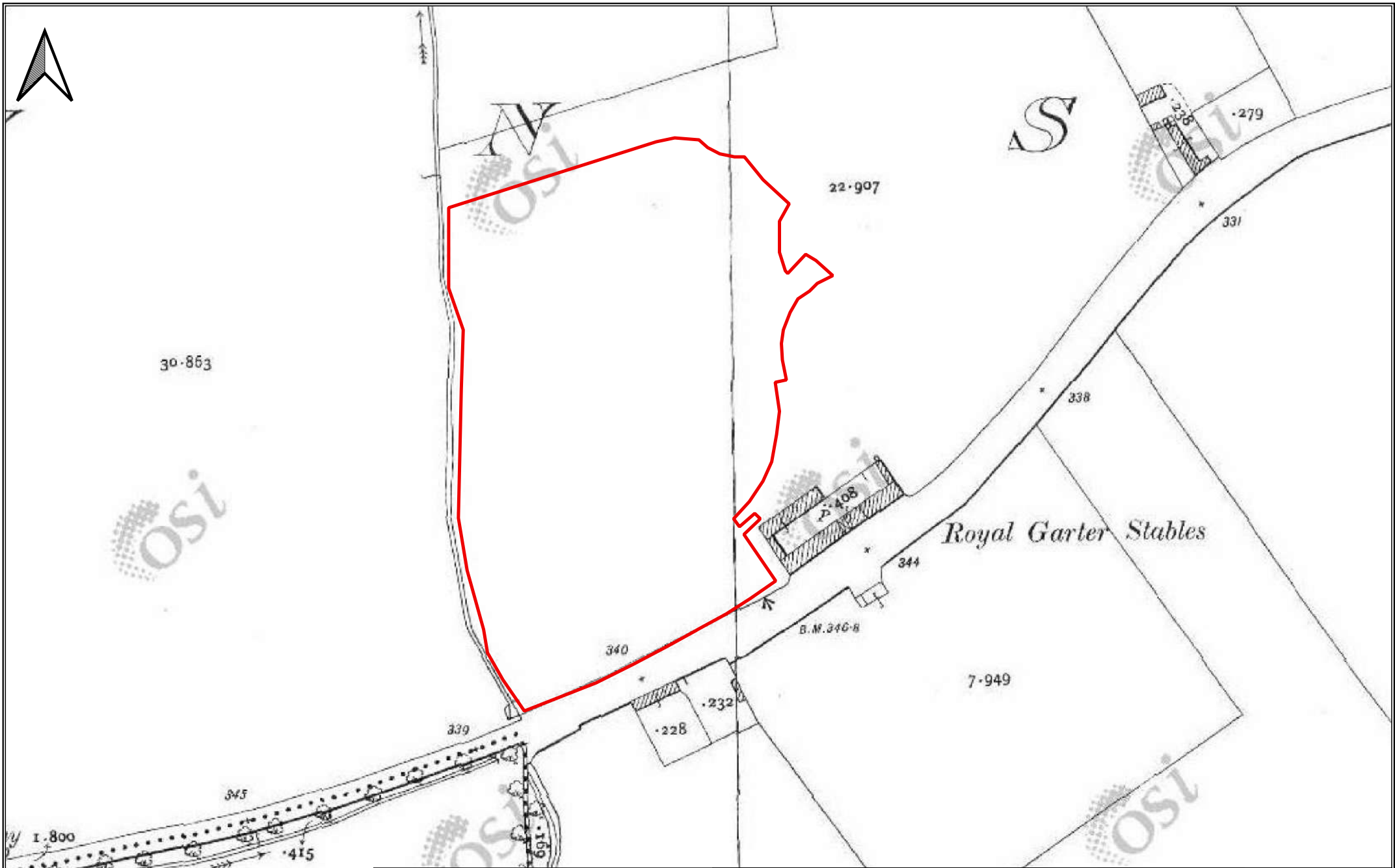
Job No.: J3852

Fig. 5

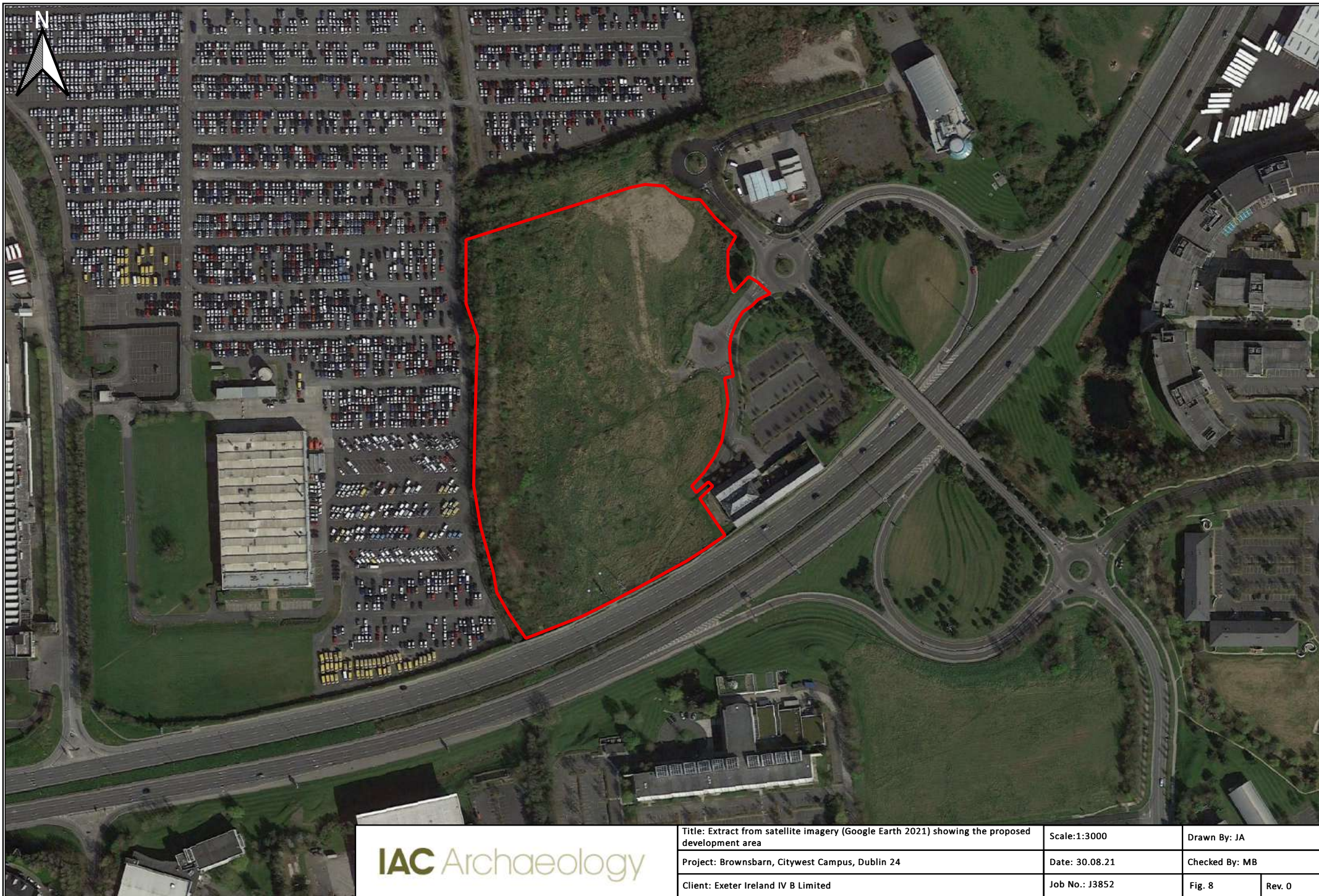
Rev. 0



	Title: Extract from the first edition OS map (1837) showing the proposed development area		Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA
	Project: Brownsbarn, Citywest Campus, Dublin 24		Date: 30.08.21	Checked By: MB
	Client: Exeter Ireland IV B Limited		Job No.: J3852	Fig. 6



	Title: Extract from historic OS map (1909) showing the proposed development area		Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA	
	Project: Brownsbarn, Citywest Campus, Dublin 24		Date: 30.08.21	Checked By: MB	
	Client: Exeter Ireland IV B Limited		Job No.: J3852	Fig. 7	Rev. 0



<b>IAC</b> Archaeology	Title: Extract from satellite imagery (Google Earth 2021) showing the proposed development area		Scale:1:3000	Drawn By: JA	
	Project: Brownsbarn, Citywest Campus, Dublin 24		Date: 30.08.21	Checked By: MB	
	Client: Exeter Ireland IV B Limited		Job No.: J3852	Fig. 8	Rev. 0



Plate 1 Proposed development area, facing west-southwest



Plate 2 Southern section of the site, facing south



Plate 3 Central section of the site, facing west



Plate 4 Northern section of the site, facing north





Plate 5 The start of the topsoil strip, facing north.



Plate 6 Topsoil stripping, facing southeast



Plate 7 West side of the field showing the topsoil depth



Plate 8 Topsoil stripping, facing north.



Plate 9 East side of the site showing the hardcore that may relate to the N82