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Maeve Tobin,
Senior Archaeological Consultant,
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Unit G1,
Network Enterprise Park,
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25th October 2022

Dear Maeve,

Many thanks for sending on the information relating to the proposed geophysical survey of lands at Adamstown Boulevard, Lucan, Co. Dublin (Planning Register Reference: SDZ22A/0007; Figure 1). Having reviewed the information provided by you — site description, photographs and account of recent site activity — and having consulted satellite aerial imagery, it seems clear that the site (c.9.5 ha. in total size) is not suitable for geophysical survey. Much of the area has witnessed extensive modern ground disturbance related to adjacent construction works (Figures 2 and 3; Plates 1 and 2), with other parts of the site, most notably on the south, covered by dense scrub vegetation and trees (Plate 3). A carpark is also present on the south. Such ground disturbances and physical obstructions preclude those areas from geophysical investigation. The only open tract of land is a former GAA pitch, which poses its own constraints; here, too, ground disturbance/levelling associated with nearby construction activity (see Figure 2) and with development of the pitch would compromise the ability to obtain quality survey data. Moreover, magnetic disturbance ('noise') from iron goalposts and other adjacent metal structures (lampposts, containers, wire fencing, etc.), as well as buried ferrous debris, pose further significant obstacles to successful geomagnetic data collection. Most of the above constraints also apply to other geophysical survey methods. In light of this, I would suggest test trenching to be a more suitable method of site investigation in this instance.

Kind regards,

Ger Dowling

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Figure 1. Proposed survey area outlined in red. Note disturbed ground.



Figure 2. Proposed survey area on Google Earth imagery 2009. Note disturbed ground extending into future GAA pitch.

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Figure 2. Proposed survey area on most recent Google Earth imagery 2022. Note expansion of built ground to east.

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Plate 1. Disturbed ground, looking east.



Plate 2. Disturbed ground next to former pitch.

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Plate 3. Overgrown area on south.