

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT
GOLLIERSTOWN, ADAMSTOWN, LUCAN, CO.
DUBLIN**

LICENCE NO.: 23E0981

ITM: 701795, 732985

**LICENCEE: MUIREANN NÍ CHEALLACHÁIN
AUTHORS: MUIREANN NÍ CHEALLACHÁIN & ENDA LYDON**

**REPORT STATUS: FINAL
JANUARY 2024**

IAC PROJECT REF.: J4238

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

DATE	DOCUMENT TITLE	REV.	PREPARED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY
09.01.24	Archaeological Monitoring at Gollierstown, Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin	0	M. NíCheallacháin & E. Lydon	J. Fowler	M. Tobin

ABSTRACT

IAC Archaeology has prepared this report to present the results of archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with a development at Gollierstown, Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin (ITM 701795, 732985). The report was undertaken by Muireann Ní Cheallacháin and Enda Lydon under Licence No. 23E0981 and in response to a planning condition attached to the development.

Phase 3 of the Adamstown District Centre occupies a rectangular area, formerly part of a large field of rough pasture. The site is bordered by ongoing construction to the east associated with Phase 2 and to the west associated with Phase 1 of the same development.

No previous archaeological investigations had been carried out within the permitted development area; however, several archaeological investigations had been conducted in the immediate environs. The nearest of these, bordering the site, failed to identify any evidence for archaeological remains; instead recording a high level of previous ground disturbance.

A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out for construction phase groundworks between October and December 2023. This confirmed that the site had been heavily disturbed in the past, appearing to have been used as a storage area for construction waste. Nothing of archaeological potential was identified during the course of monitoring, consequently, no further mitigation measures are deemed necessary.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	I
CONTENTS	II
List of Figures.....	iii
List of Plates	iii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 General	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	1
2.1 Background.....	1
2.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork.....	1
2.3 Cartographic Analysis	2
2.4 Aerial Photographic Analysis	3
2.5 Topographical Files	3
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING	4
3.1 General	4
3.2 Results	4
3.3 Conclusions.....	4
4 REFERENCES	5
APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA.....	7
APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE	8
FIGURES	
PLATES	

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Site location showing nearby archaeology and adjacent development phases
- Figure 2 Plan of permitted development
- Figure 3 Extracts from Ordnance Survey maps (1839 and 1910) showing the permitted development area
- Figure 4 Extracts from satellite imagery, Ordnance Survey (2005) and Google Earth (03/2022), showing the permitted development area

LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1 Southern portion of development area, facing southeast
- Plate 2 1m of modern overburden within southwest portion of development area, facing southwest
- Plate 3 Disturbed ground (with buried metal rebar), facing north
- Plate 4 Northern section of development area, facing south
- Plate 5 Exposed stratigraphy at northeast of development area, facing northeast
- Plate 6 Disturbed ground at north-central portion of development area

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring undertaken at Gollierstown, Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin, during construction of Phase 3 of a permitted development (Figure 1; ITM 701795, 732985). The monitoring of groundworks was undertaken by Muireann Ní Cheallacháin of IAC Archaeology (IAC) under Licence No. 23E00981, as issued by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH). Monitoring was carried out in response to a planning condition attached to the development.

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).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 BACKGROUND

Phase 3 of the Adamstown District Centre development occupies a rectangular area within a former large field of rough pasture. The site is bordered by ongoing construction to the east associated with Phase 2 and to the west associated with Phase 1 of the same development (as visible in the aerial imagery of Google Earth (Figure 4). To the west the development area is bounded by a long narrow rectangular plot partly used as a compound area and annexed temporary parking area for the Adamstown Phase 1 development site, located to the west. The site is bounded to the north by Adamstown Avenue, and to the south by Station Road, Adamstown Train Station and the Dublin to Kildare railway line.

There are no recorded monuments within the area of permitted development (Figure 1). The nearest recorded archaeological site comprises that of an enclosure (DU017-093) situated c. 235m to the south in the same townland.

2.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

No previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the permitted development area; however, several archaeological investigations have been carried out in the immediate environs. To the immediate east a programme of test trenching was carried out by IAC within the Phase 2 development site (Ni Cheallachain 2021, Licence No. 21E0073; Murtagh 2022, Licence No. 21E0073). This showed that the field has been heavily disturbed in the past and was considered to possess low archaeological potential.

Another programme of archaeological testing was carried out by IAC to the immediate west within the Phase 1 development site (Ní Cheallacháin 2023, Licence No. 22E0945). This investigation did not reveal any archaeological remains; however, the report concluded that due to the relatively undisturbed nature of the site the potential existed for small-scale archaeological features or deposits to survive beneath the current ground surface, outside the footprint of the test trenches. As such, archaeological monitoring is also being undertaken within this area for all construction phase ground disturbances under a reactivation of licence 22E0945 granted to the author. No archaeology has been found to date.

An archaeological excavation was undertaken in 2017 at Finnstown, Adamstown, Co. Dublin (Whitaker 2017, Licence No. 17E0477), c. 510m to the north-northeast. Monitoring of topsoil stripping revealed prehistoric activity represented by a number of hearth/fire pits. The absence of any structural features such as slot trenches, post and stakeholes within the archaeological record suggests that there may not have been a substantial occupation to this particular area. The common characteristic of relatively shallow depths throughout indicates that much of the upper portions of these features were likely removed by agricultural activity which may also have removed other shallower dug features. From the surviving evidence, these features may suggest that the occupational activity at the site was not a prolonged occurrence.

A programme of archaeological testing was carried out in 2008 (O'Carroll 2008, Licence No. 08E0197), in a field located c. 400m to the east of the development. Nothing of archaeological interest was found during testing. A very slight topsoil profile was recorded surviving *in situ*. Archaeological monitoring of ground works associated with the schools to the east also failed to reveal archaeological remains (Tierney 2006, Licence No. 06E1146).

Archaeological testing of the Adamstown Link Road, the R120 Newcastle Road/ Lock Road Realignment, and Hayden's Lane Access Roads in 2005 identified the remains of a post-medieval brick clamp c. 853m to the east of the current site (Elder 2005, Licence No. 05E0477). No archaeology was identified during testing to the north of Adamstown Castle site DU017-029 in 2001, c. 930m east of the permitted development (Scally 2001, Licence No. 01E1147).

2.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Early mapping depicts the development area within undeveloped agricultural fields, within an area labelled 'Coolsecaden' and 'Galliers Town' (Rocque 1760). The historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping shows the permitted development remaining within an open greenfield in the townland of Gollierstown in the early 19th century (Ordnance Survey 1839; Figure 3). The site is crossed in the northwestern corner by a filed boundary with annexed field road, running northeast southwest. Finnstown House and demesne is illustrated c. 530m to the northeast of the study area. The course of the Grand Canal, constructed in the 1760s, runs west-southwest to east-northeast c. 790m to the south of site. By the time of the second edition Ordnance Survey map (1871-75) the line of the Great Southern and Western railway is shown to the south; constructed in the 1840s. The later 1910 edition OS map shows no changes

of note (Figure 3). The site remains relatively unchanged, within an undeveloped agricultural field in the last edition OS map of 1942.

2.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Analysis of the available aerial and satellite imagery has shown the surrounding environs have been subject to disturbance associated with nearby residential development over the past 15 years. The 2005 OSI satellite image shows the area prior to the recent disturbances, within a field of crop, to the north of the railway line (Figure 4; Ordnance Survey 2005). Google Earth imagery from 2012 shows that the development area has been partly stripped of vegetation/crops, with construction commencing in adjacent plot by 2021 (Figure 4; Google Earth March 2022).

2.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES

Information on artefact discoveries 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 files are recorded relating to the townland of Gollierstown.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

3.1 GENERAL

Archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance, including topsoil stripping, was undertaken between 19th October and 8th December 2023. The work was undertaken by Muireann Ní Cheallacháin, supported by Enda Lydon of IAC Archaeology in the townland of Gollierstown.

3.2 RESULTS

Monitoring of ground disturbances associated with the permitted development revealed that the site has been heavily disturbed in the recent past. The development area appears to have been used as a temporary storage area for construction waste associated with the nearby developments. In the northern portion of the site c. 2m of modern overburden comprising previously disturbed material with construction debris, overlay the subsoil, while elsewhere there was c. 1.1m depth of modern disturbance evident (Plates 1, 2 and 4).

Neither the original topsoil, or plough soil, was identified during this phase of monitoring on site, as the modern disturbed deposit directly overlaying the subsoil. The subsoil was recorded as a gravelly, pale brown silty clay. The modern disturbance extended into the subsoil layer, with evidence for buried metal rebar, plastic and concrete, likely to have been bulldozed/driven into it by the passage of heavy construction machinery (Plates 3-6).

Nothing of archaeological potential was identified within the permitted development area during this phase of monitoring.

3.3 CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring was carried out by IAC between October and December 2023 in fulfilment of a condition of the grant of planning attached to the permitted Phase 3 of a development at Gollierstown, Adamstown, Co. Dublin. Phase 1 of the development is ongoing to the immediate west, and monitoring continues for these works under Licence 22E0945. Phase 2 of the development, situated to the immediate east, was subject to archaeological investigation. Previous Construction works associated with previous development in the wider vicinity have been undertaken for the last c. 15 years which have impacted the current site.

Monitoring of ground disturbances for the current development produced evidence that the site has been significantly disturbed by development works in the adjacent plots, with c. 1-2m of modern overburden recorded, containing construction waste. No original topsoil or ploughsoil survived on site, with significant deposits of modern material found to immediately overlay the natural subsoil.

No archaeological features or finds were identified during the current phase of monitoring, therefore, no further mitigation measures are deemed necessary for this phase of the development.

4 REFERENCES

- Bennett, I. (ed.) 1987–2010. *Excavations: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland*. Bray. Wordwell.
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. 1999a. *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*. Dublin. Government Publications Office.
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. 1999b. *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation*. Dublin. Government Publications Office.
- Elder, S. 2005. Final testing report, Adamstown Link Road, Co. Dublin (Licence No. 05E0477). Unpublished report.
- Murtagh, F. 2022. Final testing report for Adamstown Boulevard Phase 2, Gollierstown, Co. Dublin (Licence No. 21E0073). Unpublished report prepared by IAC Archaeology.
- National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. *Sites and Monuments Record, County Dublin*.
- National Museum of Ireland. *Topographical Files, County Dublin*
- Ní Cheallacháin, M. 2021. Archaeological Assessment at Adamstown Station (Licence No. 21E0073). Unpublished report prepared by IAC Archaeology.
- Ní Cheallacháin, M. 2023. Final testing report for Adamstown Boulevard Phase 1, Gollierstown, Co. Dublin (Licence No. 22E0945). Unpublished report prepared by IAC Archaeology.
- O’Carroll, E. 2008. Final testing report for Adamstown Boulevard Phase 1, Gollierstown, Co. Dublin (Licence No. 08E0197). Unpublished report prepared by O’Carroll Ltd.
- Scally, O. 2001. Final testing report to the north of Adamstown castle. Licence No.: 01E1147. Unpublished report.
- Tierney, M. 2006. Final monitoring report for Adamstown Boulevard Phase 1, Gollierstown, Co. Dublin (Licence No. 06E1146). Unpublished report.
- Whitaker, J. 2017. Excavation report, Finnstown, Adamstown, Co. Dublin (Licence No. 17E0477). Unpublished report prepared by IAC Archaeology.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

John Rocque, *An actual survey of the County of Dublin, 1760*
Ordnance Survey maps of County Dublin, 1839, 1871-75, 1910, and 1942.

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2024.
www.archaeology.ie – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.
www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.
www.geohive.ie– Ordnance Survey Ireland National Townland and Historical Map Viewer (including Aerial imagery 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2013)
www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery (2005–2023).

www.logainm.ie – Placenames Database of Ireland, developed by Fiontar (DCU) and
The Placenames Branch (DoTCAGSM).

APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

SMR NO.:	DU017-093
RMP STATUS:	Yes
TOWNLAND:	Gollierstown
PARISH:	Kilmactalway
BARONY:	Newcastle
I.T.M.:	701890 732599
CLASSIFICATION:	Enclosure
DIST. TO SITE:	c.235m south
DESCRIPTION:	A rectilinear enclosure visible as crop marks on an aerial photograph
REFERENCE:	www.archaeology.ie

SMR NO.:	DU017-099
RMP STATUS:	Yes
TOWNLAND:	Aderrig
PARISH:	Aderrig
BARONY:	Newcastle
I.T.M.:	700853, 733008
CLASSIFICATION:	Earthwork
DIST. TO SITE:	c.825m west
DESCRIPTION:	In grassland 440m SE of ecclesiastical site (DU017-028001-). Cropmark of a sub-circular shaped area (diam. c. 36m) defined by a ditch with possible entrance gap at NE with possible semi-circular-shaped annexe to SE visible on OSi Bluesky orthoimages taken 2018 (https://sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0c5595b033341dea7661e248d2e9ee9). Faint traces of cropmark visible on Digital Globe orthoimage taken between 2011-13 and on Google Earth orthoimage taken 12/07/2013.
REFERENCE:	www.archaeology.ie

SMR NO.:	DU017-029
RMP STATUS:	Yes
TOWNLAND:	Adamstown (Newcastle by)
PARISH:	Arderrig
BARONY:	Newcastle
I.T.M.:	702837, 732706
CLASSIFICATION:	Castle – tower house
DIST. TO SITE:	c.930m east
DESCRIPTION:	Located on flat ground between the canal and the railway. A three-storey tower house, which was oblong in plan with a projecting turret and stepped crenellations. Demolished in the 1960s. Not visible at ground level.
REFERENCE:	www.archaeology.ie

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 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 Council Development Plan 2022-2028

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 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.

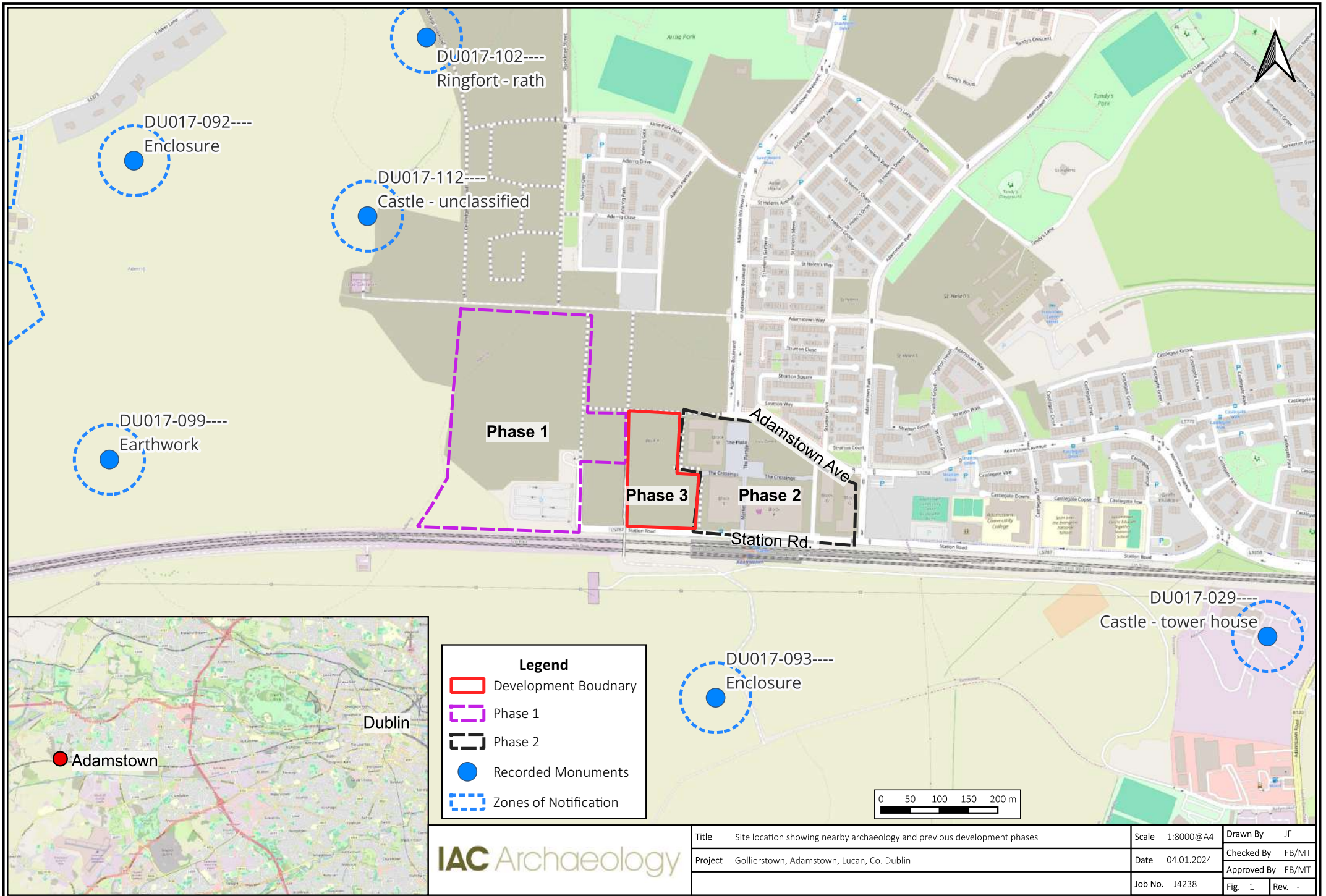
NCBH13 Objective 4: To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites including associated features and any discovered battlefield sites of significant archaeological potential within the County.

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

Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) Planning Scheme 2014

This Planning Scheme aims to create sustainable communities rather than just housing developments. The Scheme was prepared with regard to best practice in the planning and design of new urban communities.

This is a holistic approach that integrates: Conservation: To protect and ensure the appropriate use of historic structures, built heritage and archaeological features.

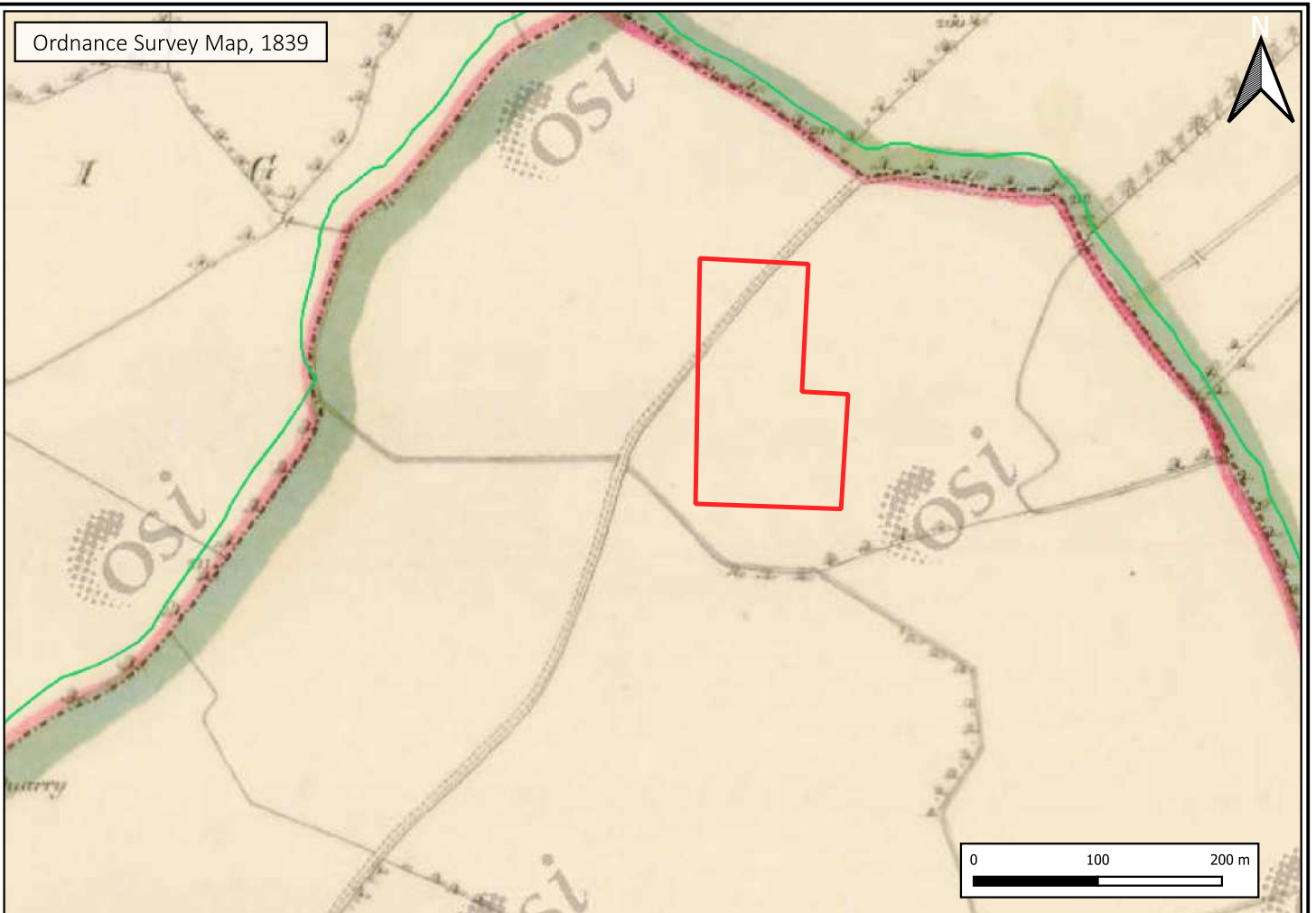




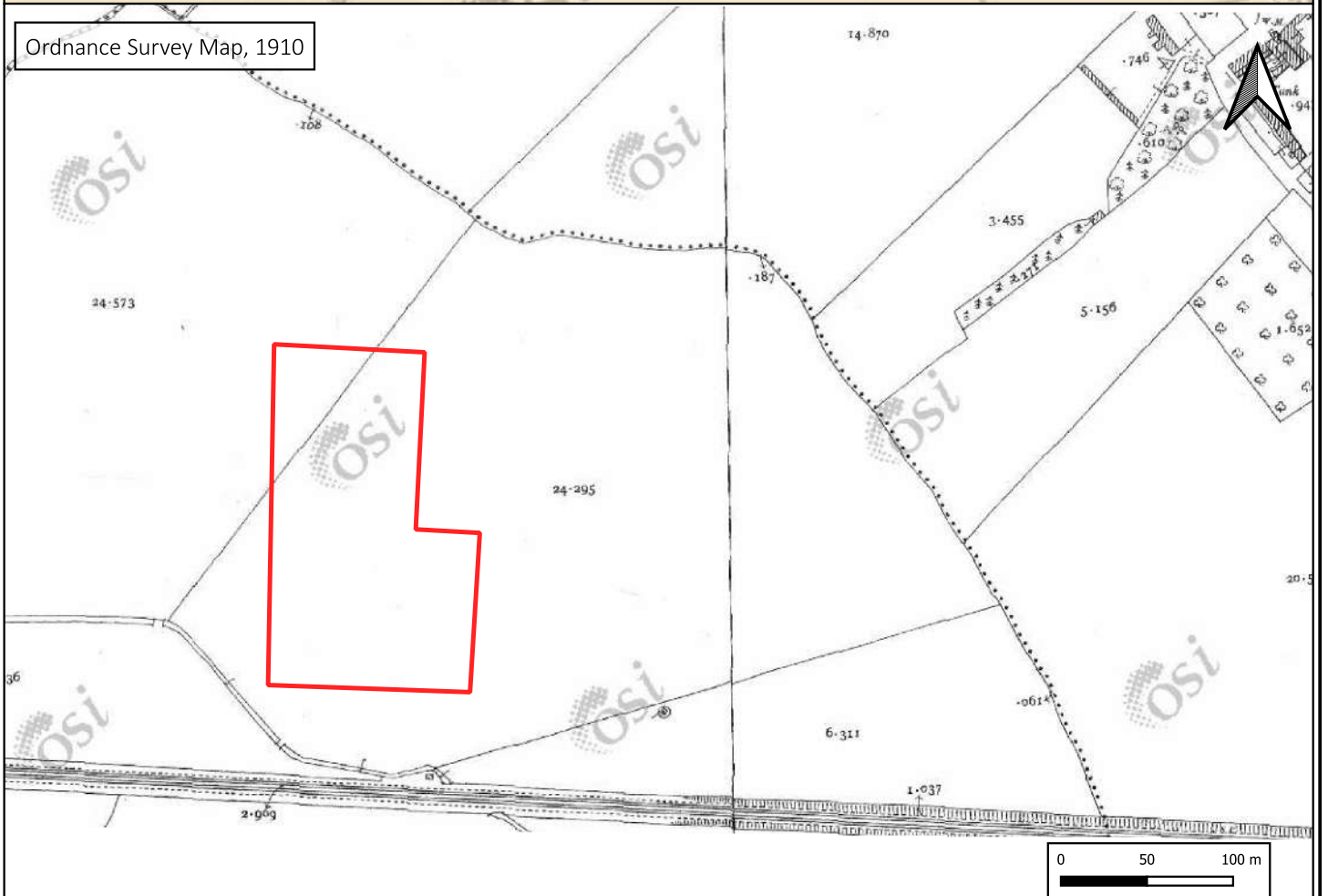
IAC Archaeology

Title	Plan of permitted development	Scale	NTS	Drawn By	JF
Project	Gollierstown, Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin	Date	04.01.2024	Checked By	FB/MT
				Approved By	FB/MT
		Job No.	J4238	Fig.	2
				Rev.	-

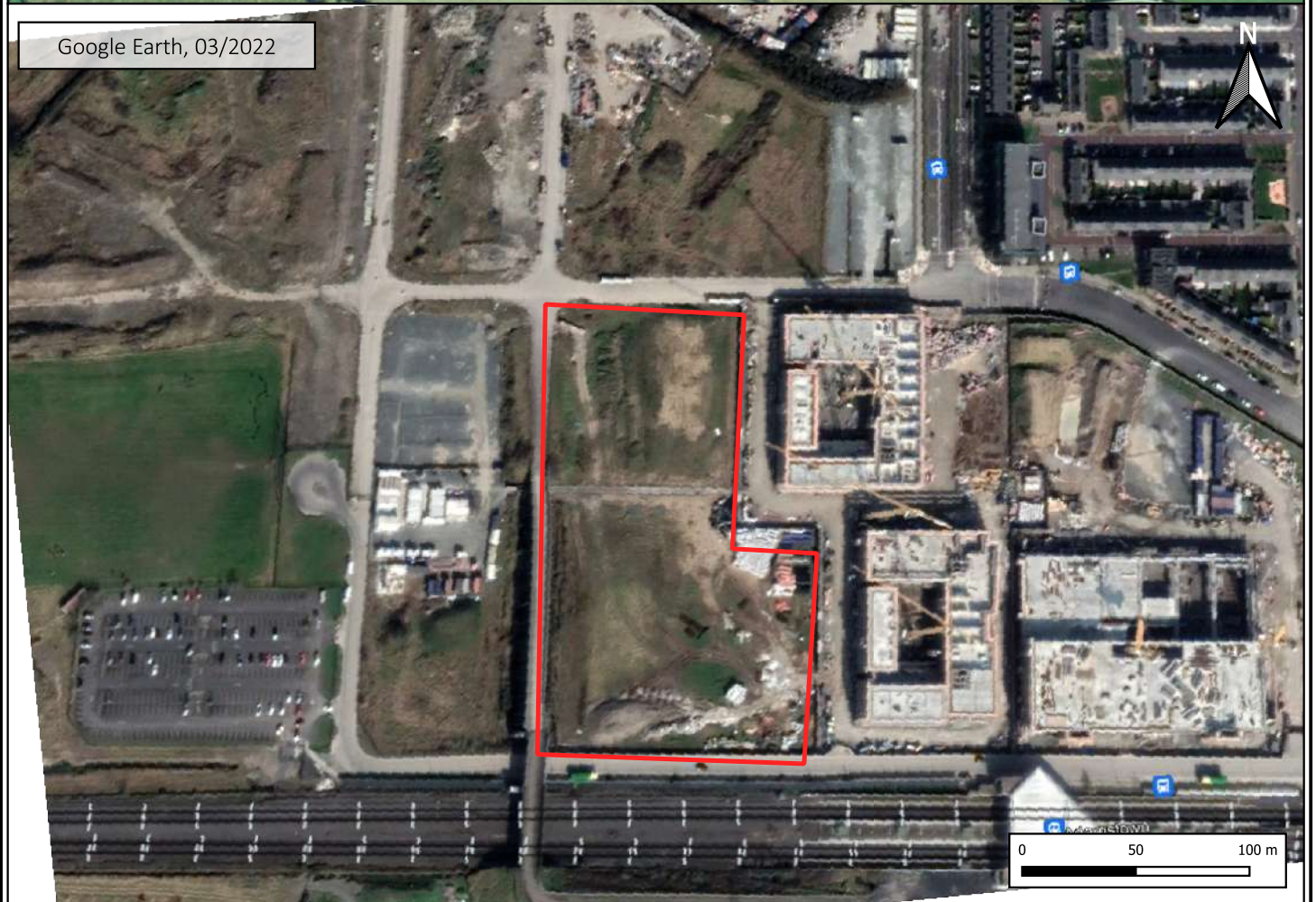
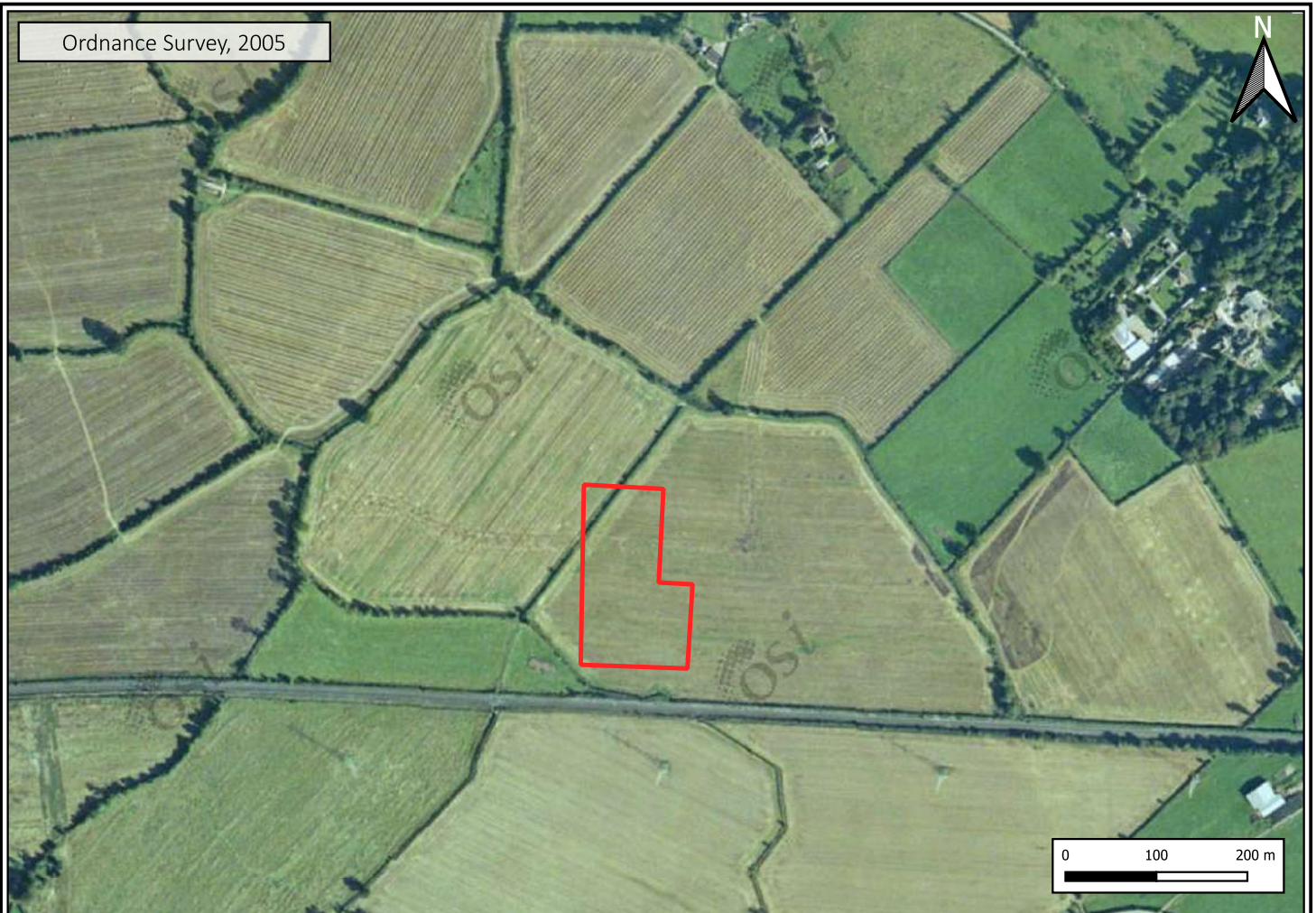
Ordnance Survey Map, 1839



Ordnance Survey Map, 1910



Title	Extracts from Ordnance Survey maps (1839 and 1910) showing the permitted development area	Scale	As shown	Drawn By	JF
Project	Gollierstown, Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin	Date	04.01.2024	Checked By	FB/MT
		Job No.	J4238	Approved	FB/MT
				By	3
				Rev.	-



Title	Extracts from satellite imagery, Ordnance Survey (2005) and Google Earth (03/2022) showing the permitted development area	Scale	As shown	Drawn By	JF
Project	Gollierstown, Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin	Date	04.01.2023	Checked By	FB/MT
		Job No.	J4238	Approved	FB/MT
				Fig.	4
				Rev.	-



Plate 1: Southern portion of development area, facing southeast



Plate 2: 1m of modern overburden at southwest of development area, facing southwest



Plate 3: Disturbed ground (with buried metal rebar), facing north



Plate 4: Northern section of development area, facing south



Plate 5: Exposed stratigraphy at northeast of development area, facing northeast



Plate 6: Disturbed ground at north-central area of development area