

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT ADAMSTOWN BOULEVARD PHASE 1, GOLLIERSTOWN AND ADERRIG, COUNTY DUBLIN

LICENCE NUMBER: 22E0945

ON BEHALF OF: QUINTAIN DEVELOPMENTS IRELAND LIMITED

PLANNING REFERENCE.: SDZ22A/0007

ITM: 701540, 733050

LICENCEE: MUIREANN NÍ CHEALLACHÁIN AUTHOR: MUIREANN NÍ CHEALLACHÁIN AND JOE MORAN

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	Archaeological Monitoring at Adamstown Boulevard Phase 1, Gollierstown and Aderrig, Co. Dublin	0	M. Ní Cheallacháin and J. Moran	D. Lee and J. Fowler	F. Bailey

ABSTRACT

IAC Archaeology has prepared this report on behalf of Quintain Developments Ireland Limited, to present the results of archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the permitted residential development at Gollierstown and Aderrig in Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin (ITM 701540, 733050). The report was undertaken by Muireann Ní Cheallacháin under licence 22E0945 and in response to a planning condition (No. 18c) attached to the development by South Dublin County Council (Planning Reg.: SDZ22A/0007). It follows a previous programme of testing carried out by the author in December 2022.

The area of development is largely contained within Gollierstown townland, although the boundary with Aderrig runs north-south within the western perimeter. There are no recorded monuments within the footprint of the site.

The purpose of this programme of monitoring was to identify if any features of archaeological significance have survived within the permitted development area, as well as presenting a record of a section of the Gollierstown and Aderrig townland boundary, due to be removed to facilitate the development.

Monitoring of groundworks was carried out intermittently between September to November 2023. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified during the monitoring of groundworks.

A section of the Gollierstown and Aderrig townland boundary was preserved by record within the development area. The ditch was found to be curvilinear in plan, measuring c. 120m (L) x 7m(W) x 1.8-2.25m (D). Two sections were excavated into either end of the townland boundary to record its stratigraphic details. The ditch was found to be sterile, filled by backfilled topsoil; no finds of archaeological significance were identified.

No further archaeological mitigation measures are required as part of the development.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring undertaken at Gollierstown and Aderrig in Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin prior to a permitted residential development (Figure 1; ITM 701540, 733050). The monitoring of groundworks was undertaken by Muireann Ní Cheallacháin and Joe Moran of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Quintain Developments Ireland Limited and under licence 22E0945, 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 (No.18c) attached to the development by South Dublin County Council (Planning Reg.: SDZ22A/0007). It follows a previous programme of testing carried out by the author in December 2022 (Ní Cheallacháin, 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 development comprises Phase 1 of the Adamstown Boulevard Development Area on a site of 9.22Ha and will include 166 houses, ranging from 2- to 3-storeys in height. Outline permission was also sought on a site of 0.54Ha for an apartment block, which shall range from 5- to 9-storeys in height. The development includes c. 0.95 Ha of public open space in the form of a linear open space located on the east of the site stretching between Adamstown Way and Station Road and a pocket park located in the northwest of the site. The development also includes 488 car parking spaces, 40 bicycle parking spaces, 3 ESB Substations, new bus turning circle, provision of ancillary site development works, boundary treatments and landscape works (Figure 2).

The development will be bound by Adamstown Way, Stream Road, Station Road and bisected by Adamstown Avenue. Ongoing active construction sites lie to the east (The Crossings: Reg. Ref. SDZ20A/0017, SDZ21A/0021) and to the north (Adamstown Way and the Aderrig Development Area: Reg. Ref.SDZ20A/0017, SDZ21A/0021, SDZ21A/0014) and the as yet undeveloped Adamstown Station Development Area is located to the east.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 BACKGROUND

The area of development is largely contained within Gollierstown townland, although the boundary with Aderrig runs north-south within the western perimeter. The land lies within the parish of Aderrig and barony of Newcastle. The railway line runs eastwest along the southern perimeter of site and a railway overpass, and its approach road known locally as 'the farmer's bridge', are situated to the southeast. Undeveloped agricultural lands lie to the west.

There are no recorded monuments within the footprint of the development area (Figure 1). The nearest recorded archaeological site comprises that of an enclosure (DU017-093) situated c. 280m to the south in the same townland. Aderrig Church (DU017-028002), c. 989m to the northwest, is situated within a circular raised graveyard (DU017-028003), which may represent the remains of an early ecclesiastical enclosure (DU017-028001). The site of a tower house, Adamstown Castle (DU017-029), which is located c. 1.2km to the east-southeast, was demolished in the 1960s with no remaining surface features.

2.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A programme of test trenching was carried out within the permitted development area in 2022 (Ní Cheallacháin 2023, Licence No. 22E0945). The northern half of site was unsuitable for test trenching due to the level of previous ground disturbances associated with adjacent ongoing construction. As such, testing was limited to a former playing pitch and part of the northwest limit of site. This investigation did not reveal any archaeological remains; however, the report concluded with the recommendation that all groundworks be archaeologically monitored, and that the section of the townland boundary set to be removed, to be surveyed and recorded.

Several other programmes of archaeological testing and monitoring have been carried out in the immediate vicinity, although no archaeology has been identified as a result (Ni Cheallachain 2021, Licence No. 21E0073; Murtagh 2022, Licence No. 22E0173; Bennett 2008:363, Licence No. 08E0197).

2.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Rocque's map of Dublin (1760) shows the development area as open agricultural land bordered to the south by the 'New Canal'. 'Gollers town' is noted and Adams Castle (DU017-029) lies to the southeast. In the wider landscape, Grange Castle (DU017-034) and Nangor (DU017-037) are also shown. Finnstown House lies to the northeast of the site. Taylor's map of Dublin (1816) does not provide great detail; however, it illustrates that there are several quarries and kilns marked on both sides of the Grand Canal: to the north at 'Gollardstown' and to the south of the development. Adams Castle (DU017-029) and 'Fyanstown castle' are still depicted. The church of Aderrig is depicted by buildings to the west of the site (Figure 3). The historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping shows the area within open greenfield in the townlands of Aderrig and Gollierstown in the 19th century (OS 1839; Figure 4). The Gollierstown-Aderrig townland boundary runs from the north of the site down along the western boundary. Finnstown House and demesne is illustrated to the northeast of the study area, with Adamstown Castle shown to the southeast. The course of the Grand Canal, constructed in the 1760s, runs c. 760m to the south. The later OS maps (1871-75, 1910 and 1942) shows the line of the Great Southern & Western Railway which was constructed in the 1840s running along the southern boundary of the development area (Figure 4).

2.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Until 2005 the area of development comprised part of four undisturbed, large, irregularly shaped arable fields. The western periphery of site is crossed by the treelined townland boundary between Aderrig and Gollierstown. The rural landscape is crossed by the railway line to the immediate south. No evidence for previously unrecorded archaeological remains is indicated in the satellite coverage of the site. By 2009 the network of roads for the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone has been laid out and the northern half of the site has been heavily impacted, being used as a storage area for construction soils. A car park has been constructed within the southeast corner of site. Further disturbance has continued within the development area up until the present day (Figure 5).

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 files are recorded relating to the townlands of Aderrig and Gollierstown.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

3.1 GENERAL

Archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance was undertaken intermittently between September and November 2023. The work was undertaken by Muireann Ní Cheallacháin and Joe Moran of IAC Archaeology.

Works covered included the monitoring of ground disturbance (topsoil stripping) as well as a survey of the Gollierstown-Aderrig townland boundary, which will be removed as a part of the development plan.

3.2 **RESULTS**

3.2.1 Topsoil Strip

Ground disturbance works primarily consisted of the machine stripping of topsoil across the site. Weather conditions were wet during this period leading to saturated soils (Plates 1-4); however, the subsoil was identified across the footprint of the development site. Topsoil was found to comprise a dark greyish-brown stoney clay, reaching a maximum depth of 0.55m. The subsoil is a mixed glacial till, and thus, varies throughout the site; characterised as a light to mid-grey pea gravel rich sand with bands of light orange clay and bedrock throughout (Plate 5).

The field north of the GAA pitch was found to have been heavily disturbed; previously utilised as a stockpile for housing developments off of Adamstown Way to the north, and Adamstown Avenue to the east.

No finds or features of archaeological potential were identified during the course of monitoring of groundworks, with only modern field drains noted within the footprint of the GAA pitch (Plate 6).

3.2.2 Townland Boundary Survey

At the time of recording the Gollierstown-Aderrig townland boundary was tree lined along its northern bank and still in use as a field boundary between the Adamstown Station GAA Pitch, and the marginal lands along the railway north of Adamstown Train Station Car Park. The ditch was utilised to channel ground water from the connected field drains extending north to south through the GAA pitch (Plates 7-10).

The boundary ditch was observed to be curvilinear in plan, extending from the northwest corner of Adamstown Train Station Car Park, at the southeast limit of the development, to the western limit of the GAA pitch, where it feeds into a lager field system. It measures approximately 120m in length with a width of 7m and 1.8-2.25m deep, with stepped sides and a sharp break of slope at the top. The ditch was observed to cut through bedrock, therefore, the break of slope and base of the ditch was undulating, though mostly flat, due to the variations in bedrock.

Two sections were excavated at either end of the townland boundary ditch to ascertain its stratigraphic layers. The easternmost section (Slot 1; Plate 11) was located to the immediate west of the field access bounding Adamstown Train Station Car Park, and the westernmost section (Slot 2; Plate 12) was located c. 5m east of the development boundary (Figure 6). The ditch was found to have been previously backfilled with topsoil, with no other stratigraphic sequences noted (Figure 7). Stone-lined modern culverts were observed feeding into the ditch (Plate 5).

3.3 CONCLUSIONS

No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of monitoring or during recording of the townland boundary. The townland boundary ditch was surveyed, and found to have been previously backfilled with topsoil, and utilised as a drain for water runoff from surrounding fields.

No further archaeological mitigation is required as part of the development.

4 **REFERENCES**

Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) Planning Scheme 2014.

- 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.
- National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999. Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation. Dublin. Stationery Office.
- 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. 2023. Archaeological Assessment at Adamstown Boulevard Phase 1, Gollierstown and Aderrig, Co. Dublin (Licence No. 22E0945). Unpublished report prepared by IAC Archaeology.

South Dublin County Development plan 2022-2028

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

John Rocque's *Exact survey of the city and suburbs of Dublin*, 1760 John Taylor's *Map of the Environs of Dublin*, 1816 Ordnance Survey maps of County Dublin, 1839-1942

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)

www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery (2005–2024).

- www.booksulster.com/library/plnm/placenamesC.php Contains the text from Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870).
- www.logainm.ie Placenames Database of Ireland, developed by Fiontar (DCU) and The Placenames Branch (DoAHG).
- www.turtlebunbury.com Bunbury, T. 2022. *'Finnstown House, Lucan, County Dublin'.*

APPENDICES

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.:	701889, 732599
CLASSIFICATION:	Enclosure
DIST. TO SITE:	c. 280 south
DESCRIPTION:	A rectilinear enclosure visible as crop marks on an aerial photograph (SMR file; pers. comm. Tom Condit, 11 March 2015).
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 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 \leq 3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding \leq 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.

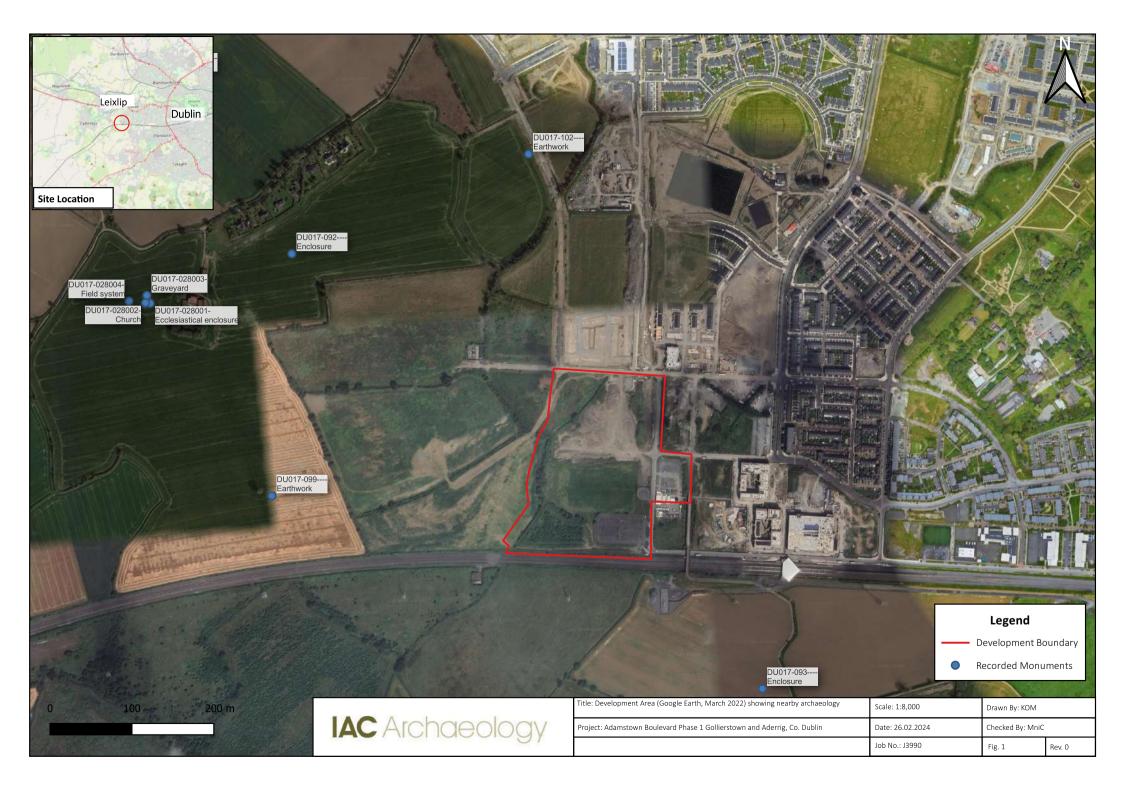
NCBH13 Objective 3: To protect and enhance sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Area of Archaeological Potential does not detract from the setting of the site, monument, feature or object and is sited and designed appropriately.

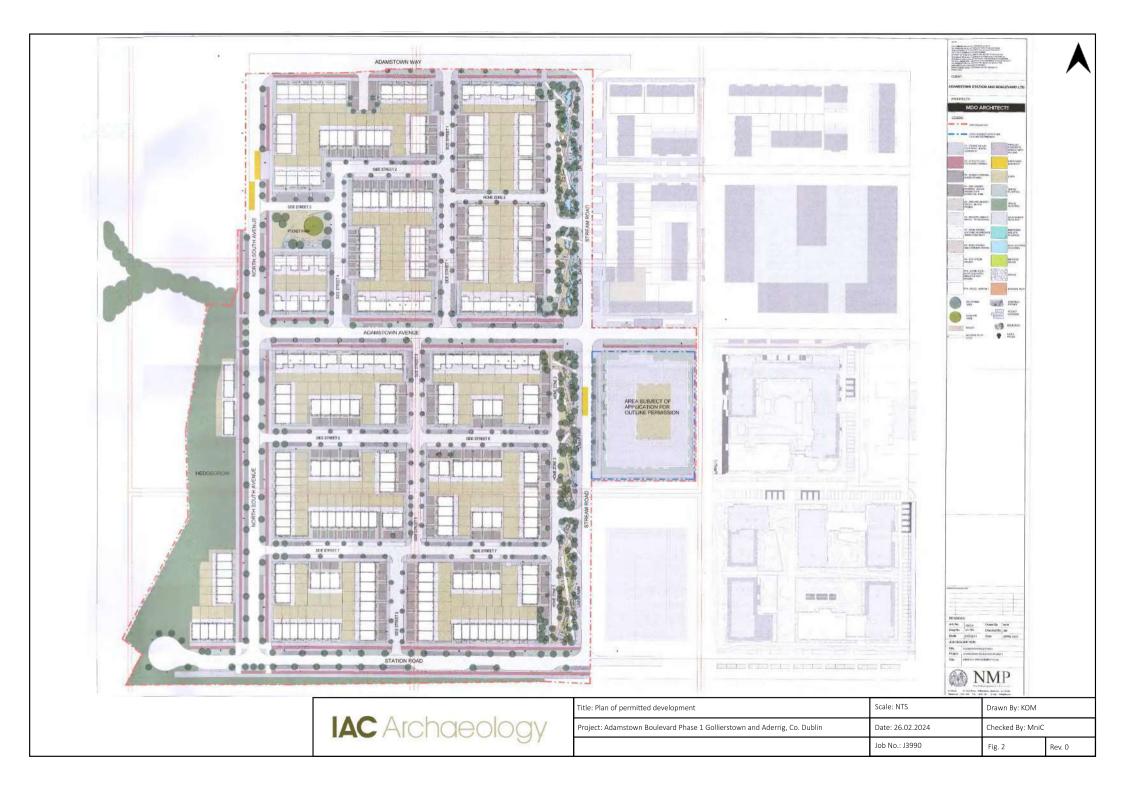
NCBH13 Objective 4: To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites including associated features and any discovered battlefield sites of significant archaeological potential within the County.

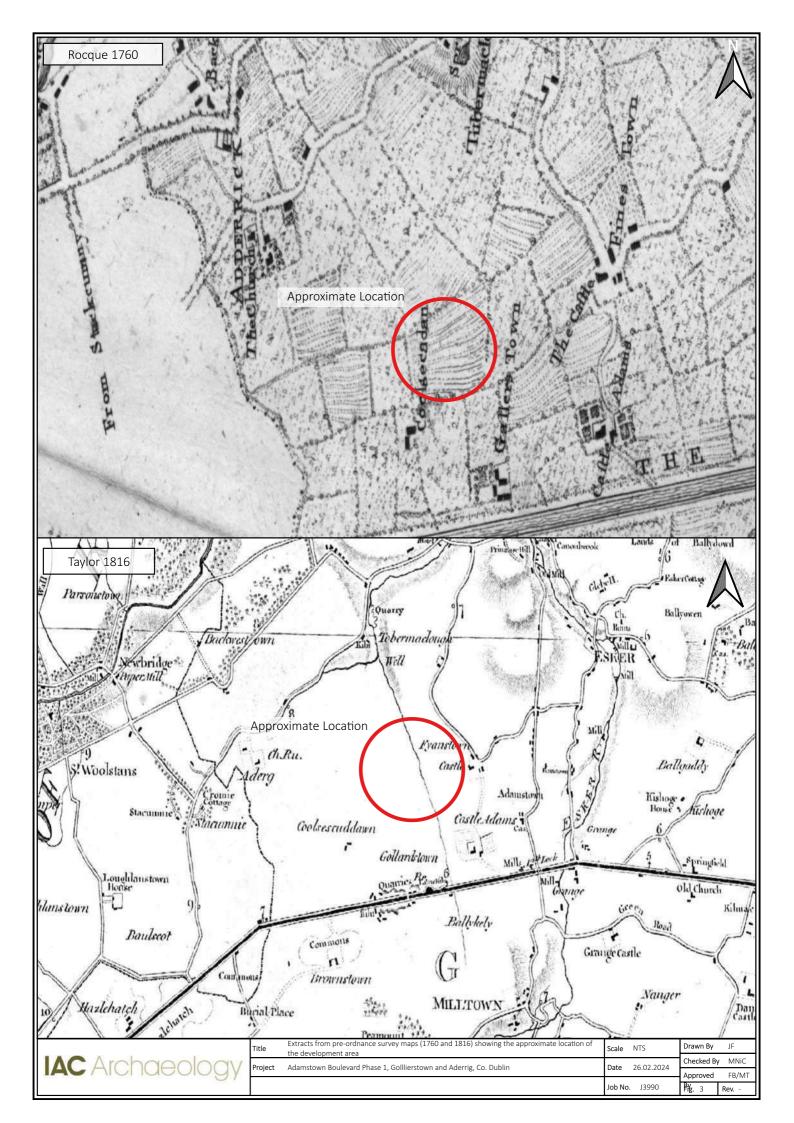
NCBH13 Objective 5: To protect historical burial grounds within South Dublin County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.

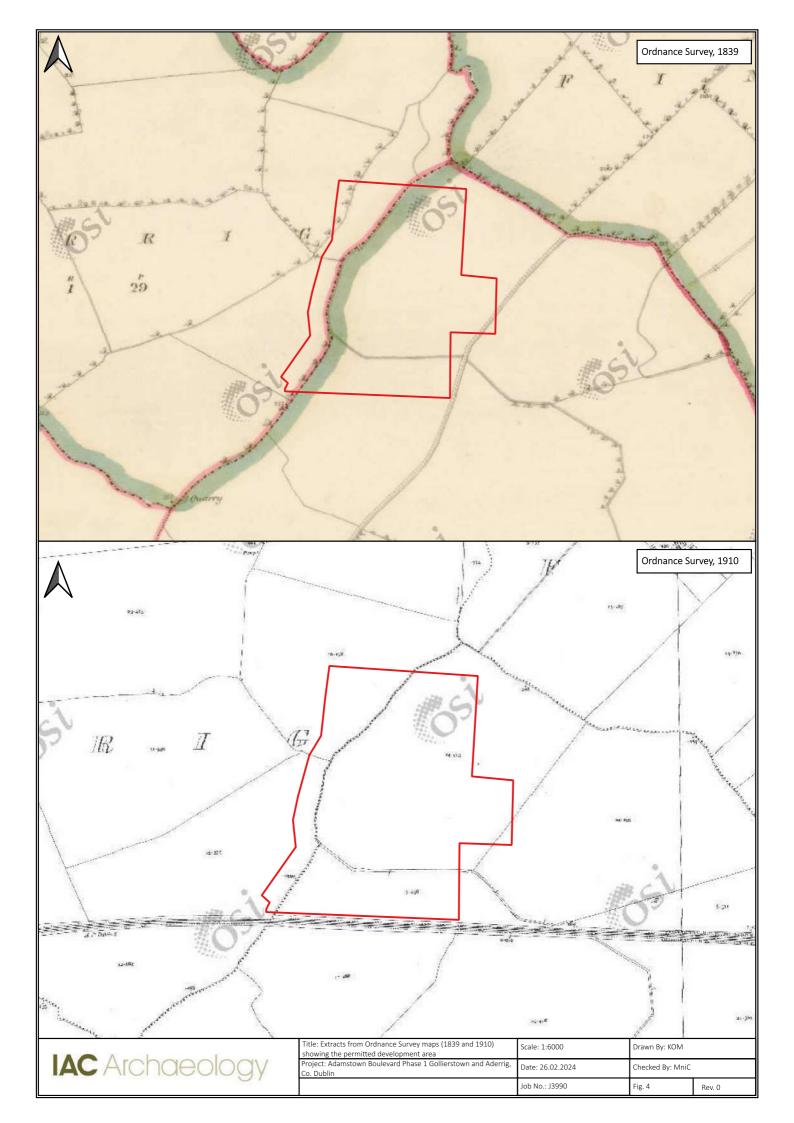
Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) Planning Scheme 2014

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.

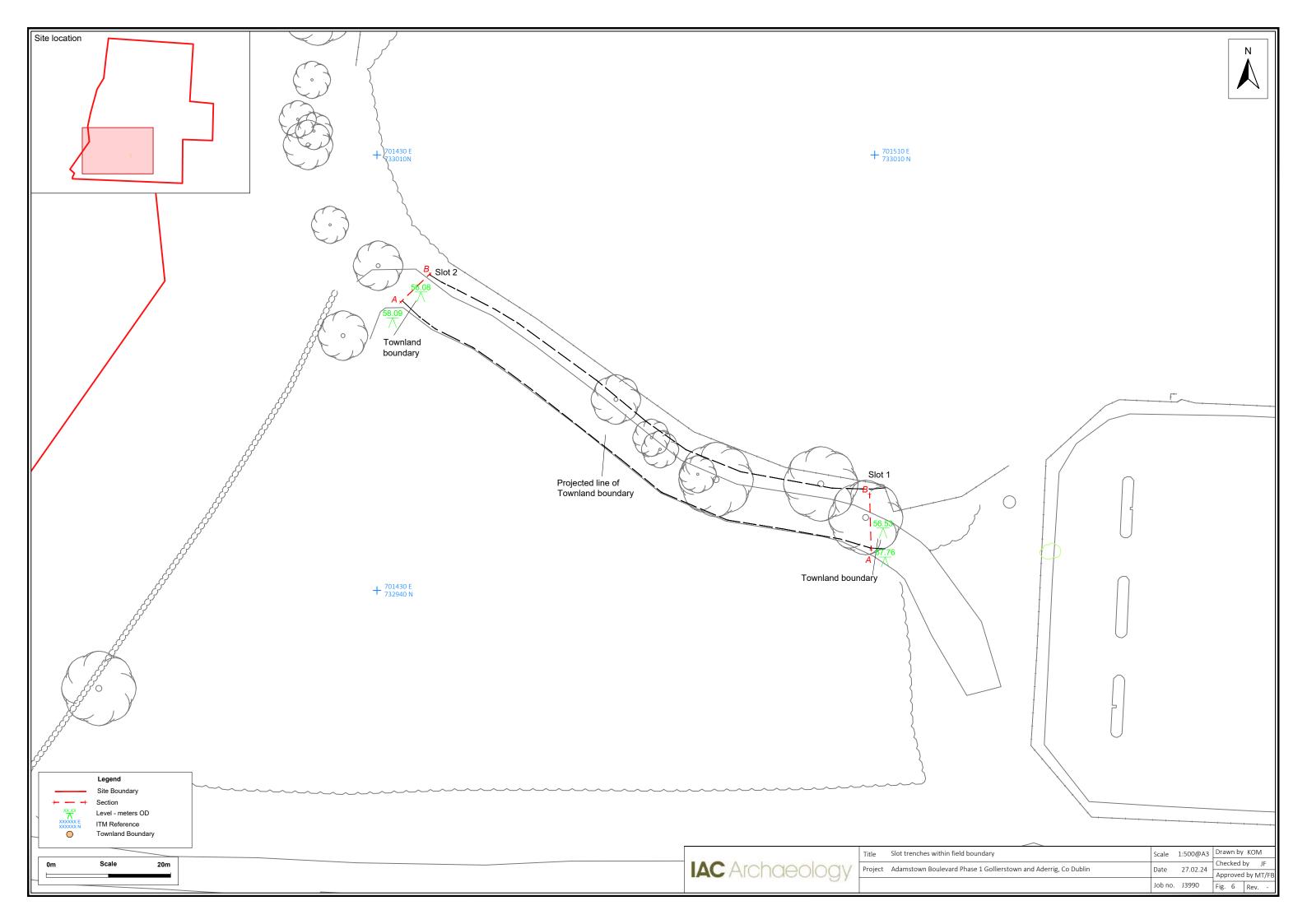












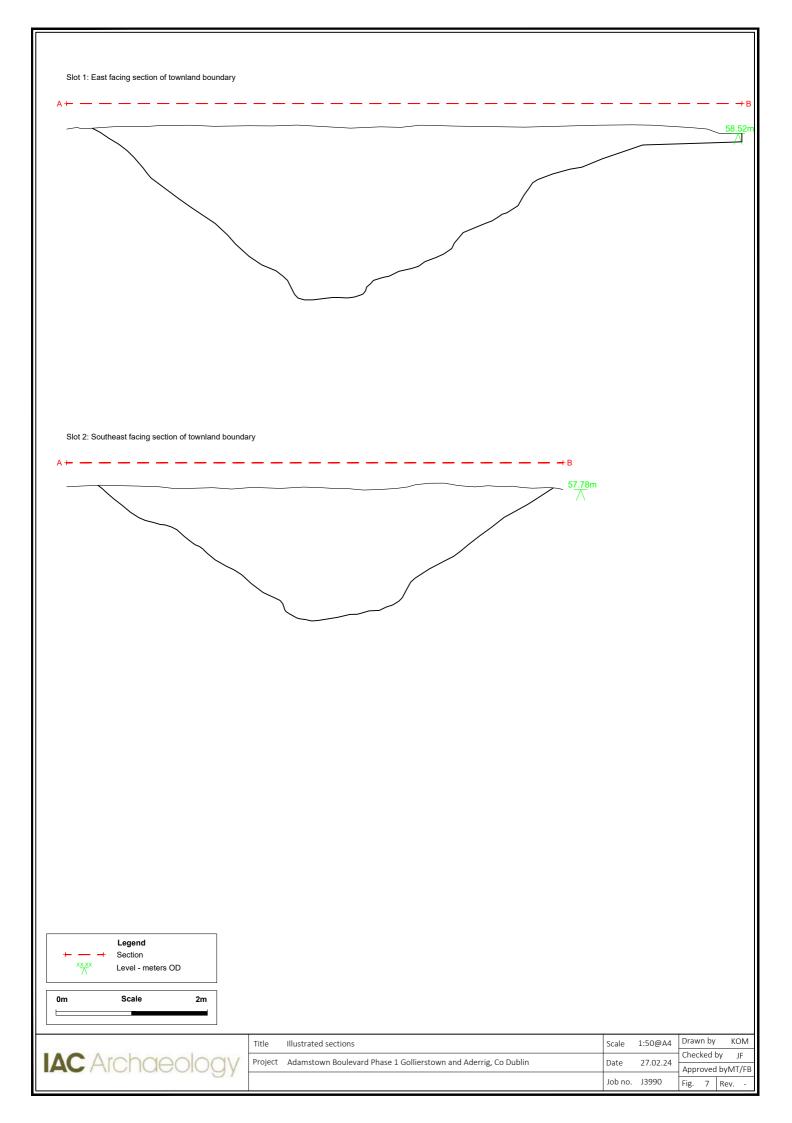






Plate 2: Northeast of development area, facing southwest



Plate 3: North of development area, facing north



Plate 4: Southern boundary of development, facing east



Plate 5: Subsoil of development area, facing southwest



Plate 6: Field drain running into townland boundary ditch, facing south



Plate 7: Field boundary ditch, facing west



Plate 8: Field boundary ditch with 1m scale, facing west



Plate 9: Field boundary at western limit, facing west



Plate 10: Field boundary ditch, facing east



Plate 11: Slot 1 in field boundary ditch, facing east

Plate 12: Slot 2 in field boundary ditch, facing east