

Kildalkey Road, Trim, Co. Meath Archaeological Impact Assessment

Licence: 16E0596ext

Client: Loughglynn Developments

Archaeologist: Aidan O'Connell

Report Date: 8th June 2026

Our Ref: 2016_43

Kildalkey Road, Trim, Co. Meath

Archaeological Impact Assessment

SITE NAME	Kildalkey Road, Trim, Co. Meath
CLIENT	Loughglynn Developments Ltd
INVESTIGATION TYPE	Archaeological Test Excavation
LICENCE NO	16E0596ext
PLANNING REF	Meath County Council PD/24/60400/ LRD 0042
TOWNLAND	Crowpark 1st Division Townland
IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR	679360, 757140
RMP NO	ME036-050
RPS NO	n/a
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT	Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.
ARCHAEOLOGIST	Aidan O'connell
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SUMMARY

Archaeological test trenching was undertaken on lands at Kildalkey Road, Trim, Co. Meath (Crowpark 1st Division Townland, ITM 679360, 757140). The c.7.998 Ha site is under very rough pasture and has been subject to some previous ground disturbance. The site was test trenched in 2016 under excavation licence 16E0596 in relation to a previous planning application. Seven test trenches with a combined length of 1805 lin. m. were excavated within the site. No features, structures or objects of archaeological significance were noted. Following Pre-Application consultations between the Local Authority and the developer, it was recommended that additional test trenches be excavated across the site. The current assessment was undertaken on the 1st of September 2025 under Licence No 16E0596ext to Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. This report comprises a single overall site assessment detailing a desk based assessment of the site and the results of both the 2016 and current test excavations. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts. The following factors were identified during the assessment:

- The site has been previously disturbed by topsoil removal, access road construction and imported material.
- There are no recorded archaeological sites (RMP sites) within the site (Figure 1). The site lies c. 330m outside of the Zone of archaeological potential for Trim, Co. Meath (RMP 036-048).
- The closest recorded monument to the subject site is a holy well (RMP ME036-050) located 20m west of the subject site.
- There were no stray finds attributed specifically to the site.
- There are no protected structures within the site. However, a water pump (RPS-MH036-112) is located directly north of the subject site on the Kildalkey Road.
- No archaeological excavations have occurred within the site; however there have been archaeological excavations in the area which have revealed buried archaeological features in the wider area including two burnt mounds on the Trim-Athboy road.
- There were no potential archaeological sites or features recorded on cartographic sources.
- There were no potential archaeological sites on OSI orthophotographs.
- Two phases of archaeological excavation have been carried out across the site with a combined length of 3007 linear meters. No buried archaeological sites or features have been identified.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed development will involve considerable ground disturbance works across the subject site including excavations and other groundworks (e.g. provision of access roads and service trenches), movement of machines and storage of material in sensitive areas. However, two phases of test excavation across 10% of the development area (3007 linear meters) revealed no buried archaeological sites or features. It is therefore concluded that should development proceed at this location, the potential impact on buried archaeological sites/features is neutral.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required at the residential site.

It is recommended that archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the proposed foul sewer connection be undertaken.

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

Revision	Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Issued by
1	Final	01/12/2016	AOC	ROH	CMcG
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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeological test trenching was undertaken on lands at Kildalkey Road, Trim, Co. Meath (Crowpark 1st Division Townland, ITM 679360, 757140). The c.7.7 Ha site is under very rough pasture and has been subject to some previous ground disturbance. The Zone of Archaeological Potential which surrounds Holy Well (ME036-050) crosses into the western side of the subject area by c.40m. The site was test trenched in 2016 under excavation licence 16E0596 in relation to a previous planning application (TA170726). Seven test trenches with a combined length of 1805 lin. m. were excavated within the site. No features, structures or objects of archaeological significance were noted. Following Pre-Application consultations between the Local Authority and the developer, it was recommended that additional test trenches be excavated across the site. The current assessment was undertaken on the 1st of September 2025 under Licence No 16E0596ext to Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. This report comprises a single overall site assessment detailing a desk based assessment of the site and the results of both the 2016 and current test excavations. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed works are located in Crowpark 1st Division Td (Upper Navan Barony, Trim Parish; Ordnance Survey Meath sheet 36; ITM 679360, 757140; Figure 1), west of Trim town. The proposed development area is approx. 7ha of fallow ground on the Kildalkey Road running down to the River Boyne. The field has been subject to some previous ground disturbance. Topsoil was removed from the area and large quantities of imported material is present. There were numerous mounds of sods, cleared vegetation and building rubble, with an access road at the western field boundary all noted in previous visits to the site. The majority of the redline area has been ploughed or cleared recently. The current investigation is to determine whether buried archaeological sites or features are present within the site.

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the subject site. The closest recorded monument to the site is a Holy Well (ME036-050) approximately 20m to the west of the site and associated with St. Patrick's nephew, Loman. The Zone of Archaeological Potential which surrounds the well crosses into the western side of the subject area by c.40m (Figure 5). The well is dedicated to St. Patrick (French 2012, 15-16).

The proposed development comprises a Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) on lands at Crowpark (1st Division), Kildalkey Road, Trim, Co. Meath.

The scheme provides a total of 183 residential units, comprising 127 houses and 56 apartments. The housing mix includes 19 no. detached 4-bedroom houses, 9 no. semi-detached/end-terrace 4-bedroom houses, 4 no. detached 3-bedroom houses, 43 no. semi-detached/end-terrace 3-bedroom houses, and 52 no. mid-terrace 3-bedroom houses, with building heights from 2 to 2 ½ storeys. The apartment element comprises 56 no. units in two blocks of up to four storeys, including 16 no. one-bedroom and 40 no. two-bedroom units.

The development also includes a crèche facility, new vehicular and pedestrian accesses from Kildalkey Road.

The proposal provides for associated infrastructure and site works, including landscaping, public and communal open space, internal streets and footpaths, car and bicycle parking, bin stores, private open space, boundary treatments, plant and waste management areas, utility infrastructure and a foul sewer connection to the existing network adjoining the OPW offices on Jonathan Swift Street, to be delivered beneath the River Boyne and Trim Pitch & Putt.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Records
- Aerial photography
- Historical maps
- Documentary research
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database)
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 *Brief archaeological & historical background*

The placename Trim is derived from the Irish “*Ath Truim*” meaning “*the ford of the elder tree*” (Herity, 2001, 67), suggesting the location had strategic importance as a crossing point of the Boyne from an early period. An early Christian monastery dedicated to St. Loman was founded here possibly as early as the 5th century AD. The curving street pattern formed by High Street and Navan Gate Street may represent the line of an early monastic boundary. Hennessy suggests two possible locations for the original ford; where Watergate St. meets the Boyne and the later medieval bridge linking High St. to Market St. and Castle St (Hennessy, 2004, 1-3). Annalistic sources suggest the monastery was burned several times between the 8th–12th centuries (Bradley, 1989, 41). Sweetman uncovered possible remains of a small stone building within the site of Trim Castle, which might represent the remains of an oratory or church of the early monastic settlement (Sweetman 1978, 131-3). The Augustinian Canons established a priory here in the twelfth century before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1169. Their priory, known as St. Mary’s Abbey, was situated on the north bank of the river, the remains of which are known now as The Yellow Steeple (Bradley 1988–89).

Trim became the centre of the Liberty of Meath after 1172 and Hugh de Lacy constructed fortifications here. Excavations carried out on the site of Trim Castle revealed evidence for this ringwork in the form of an earthen bank, timber palisade and external ditch (Hayden 1996). This original wooden structure was replaced by the stone keep and castle, which survives today in a much modified form, reflecting its construction in 3 broad phases in the period AD 1175–1205. The castle remained a formidable fortification throughout the Middle Ages (Bradley 1988–89). The town of Trim was established as a borough by Walter de Lacy in the period AD 1194–1199 and incorporated during the reign of Richard for which the town’s population was granted certain rights and privileges and a plot of land or *burgage plot* in return for a fixed rent. (ibid).

The town defences enclosed an area of c.49 acres (19.83 hectares). The walls ran from the castle across to Emmet Street where a section survives. The wall turned northwards at the rear of the properties along the west side of Emmet Street and continued towards the River Boyne where more sections survive. On the northside of the river it ran from a point opposite Water Gate up to Athboy Gate, from where it ran eastwards for approximately 200m to just south of the Dominican Friary. Then it turned south crossing Navan Street at the Navan Gate and continued southwards towards Sheep Gate and the River Boyne (Moore 1987).

The Dominicans and Franciscans founded monasteries here in thirteenth and early fourteenth century AD respectively. The Dominican friary was established by Geoffrey de Geneville and the ruins were mostly destroyed in the eighteenth century (Casey and Rowan 1993). However a series of earthworks (ME036-048024) located in the field of the Black Friary, may indicate the layout of the monastery below the ground surface. The Franciscan monastery was dedicated to St. Bonaventure, which was destroyed following the dissolution of the monasteries in the mid-sixteenth century. The church was taken over by the town corporation to be used as a courthouse (or tholsel) (Bradley 1988–89).

During the Confederate Wars of the mid-seventeenth century, the Catholic Confederation held the town and was the site of a number of skirmishes, one of which led to the death of the commander of the Parliamentary forces in Leinster, Sir Charles Coote.

The town was the site of a number of skirmishes during the Confederate Wars of the mid-seventeenth century when the town was occupied by the Catholic Confederation and the commander of the Parliamentary forces in Leinster, Sir Charles Coote was killed in one such skirmish. The garrison later surrendered on hearing of the massacre at Drogheda by Parliamentarian forces (Lewis 1837). In the eighteenth century, as county town for Meath, Trim had a thriving market and was the seat of the local courts, but was replaced as the principal administrative town of the county in the nineteenth century by Navan. In this period, Trim contained 570 houses as well as a small flour mill, brewery and tannery (Lewis 1837). In 1868 Trim was connected to the Dublin and Meath railway by a short stretch of line.

4.1.1 St. Patricks Well

The site is immediately adjacent to St Patrick's Well which is a recorded monument (RMP ME036-050). The Zone of Archaeological Potential which surrounds this monument overlaps with the subject area. The earliest historical reference to a holy well in Meath is that of St. Partick's nephew, Loman, baptising a chieftain's son (Foirtchern) at Trim (French 2012, iv).

'he arrived in his boat against the flow of the river as far as the ford at trim at the door of the house of Feidhlimidh, the son of Laoire the high king. And when it was morning Foirtchern, son of Feidhlimidh found him reciting the gospel and wondering at the gospel and its doctrine, immediately believed. And there being an open fountain at that place he was baptised in Christ by Loman. (ibid 15-6).

This well was named after Loman's uncle, St. Patrick and its location is depicted on the first edition OS 6" sheet, outside the subject site. The well had the cure of the headache and pilgrims left behind a piece of cloth on the thornbush over the well. The annual pilgrimage to the well was revived in 1995 and takes place on St. Patrick's Day (ibid). However, the well depicted on the first edition OS map has been backfilled with builders rubble (Plate 2). A second (dry) well of more modern construction is located within the subject site (Plate 3; Figure 6). This comprises a circular structure, 2m in external diameter and standing 0.9m high. It is faced with undressed stones, 0.2m thick and bonded with cement. A rectangular portico (0.7-0.85m wide by 0.35m deep) protrudes from the north-eastern side. This held a statue of the patron saint in 2017. The statue was removed by the Phase II (2025) works. The interior of the well is concrete lined and has a steel manhole cover 0.745m in diameter. The well appears to be dry, although there is a metal pipe protruding from the internal ground surface.

4.2 Record of Monuments & Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (see www.archaeology.ie).

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development; however there are archaeological monuments within 1km of the site which are listed in Table 1 below. The closest recorded monuments to the site are a Holy Well site (St. Patrick's Well, ME036-050) approximately 20m to the west (see Figure 2). The Zone of Archaeological Potential from this RMP overlaps with the western part of the subject area. A number of Fulacht Fia were excavated in a housing estate development to the north.

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM Reference
ME036-050----	Ritual site- Holy well	Crowpark, 1 st Division	679241, 757073
<p>Located at the bottom of a S-facing slope and on the floodplain of a SW-NE section of the River Boyne c. 120m to the SE, and c. 700m W of the town. This is thought to be the location where St Lommán baptised Foirchern, the son of Feidhlimidh and grandson of Laoghaire, the king of Tara (Athey 1955). It is described as St Patrick's Well in gothic lettering on the 1836 and 1912 editions of the OS 6-inch map but it does not survive at this location. It had a cure for headaches and a rag tree (French 2012, 15, 16). Compiled by: Michael Moore Date of upload: 5 July, 2019</p>			
ME036-059-	Burnt mound	Corporationland (3rd Division)	679359, 757754
<p>Situated on a slight rise in a fairly level landscape. Archaeological testing (02E1812) identified two spreads of burnt mound material (Hayden 2006), which were subsequently fully resolved (Hayden 2006a) under a different licence (03E0169). This mound was a thin spread of broken and burnt stone (diam. 5.5m; T < 0.1m) with pits extending over a wider area (dims c. 10m x. c. 8m). A pit (dims 2.75m x 1.7m; max. D 0.7m) at the SE corner of the excavated area had a fill of redeposited subsoil over burnt mound material and silt, and it was cut by two smaller pits, but c. 4m W was a rectangular pit (dims 1.4m x 1.1m; D 0.6m) which cut a second pit (dims 1.6m x 0.8m; max. D 0.7m) that had burnt mound material at the base. Just to the N two pits (dims 1.8m x 1.4m; max. D 0.3m: 1m x 0.65m D 0.5m) were filled with broken and burnt stone, and there were four post-holes in two pairs 1.75m apart at the N edge of the excavated area. One perfect leaf-shaped arrowhead was recovered from the plough-soil. (Hayden 2003, 2003aa, 2-4) Compiled by: Michael Moore Date of upload: 8 July, 2019</p>			
ME036-060-	Burnt mound	Corporationland (3rd Division)	679328, 757670
<p>Situated on a slight rise in a fairly level landscape. Archaeological testing (02E1812) identified two spreads of burnt mound material (Hayden 2006), which were subsequently fully resolved (Hayden 2006a) under a different licence (03E0169). This was a thin spread of broken and burnt stone (diam. c. 6m) over four shallow pits filled with a thin layer of grey, charcoal-stained silt. A larger curving pit (L 3m; Wth 1m; D 0.3m) was filled with peat mixed with burnt stone. Three pits (dims 1.7m x 0.6m; D 0.4m to 2.2m x 1.2m; D 0.4m) were filled with peat with no burnt stone. (Hayden 2003, 4-5) Compiled by: Michael Moore Date of upload: 8 July, 2019</p>			
ME036-048034	Excavations	Townparks South	679860, 756911
<p>Situated on a N-facing slope down to a NW-SE section of the River Boyne just above where it runs through the walled part of Trim town. Archaeological testing (99E0041) on the line of an electricity duct trench that runs parallel with and c. 34m from the line of the town wall as it approaches the site of the Watergate identified archaeological deposits dating from the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries sealed beneath 0.5m of fairly modern dumped material, prompting a small excavation. Layers (max. T 0.5m) with medieval material, dumped from the W, overlay a N-S gully (Wth 1.6m; D 0.6m) cut into the subsoil and extended E from it. A second gully (Wth 1.3m; D 0.5m) 16m to the W was covered (D 0.7m) in layers with exclusively eighteenth and nineteenth century material prompting the excavator to suggest that the gully might have been a medieval boundary. (Lynch 1999, 2000). Compiled by: Michael Moore Date of upload: 8 July 2019</p>			

Table 1: Archaeological sites within the immediate area of the proposed development

4.3 Topographical Files

The Topographical Files is the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the National Museum listed by county and townland/ street. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous archaeological excavations. Finds from the wider Trim area include;

NMI Reg	Type
NMI 1929: 1593	Stone axe
NMI 1881: 431	Stone hammer axe
NMI E92: 337	Bronze flanged axehead
MOL 1969: 58 No 1735	Bronze flanged axehead
Private possession	Bronze basal-looped spearhead
NMI 1859:123	Bronze socketed axehead
NMI W.58 R4005	Glass bead
NMI 1883:1	Bronze ring pin
NMI 1876:86 No 63	Bronze square spatulate-headed stick pin
NMI 1802:3	Bronze crucifix
NMI WK. 48: W 31	Iron key
NMI W85	Brass thimble
NMI R1565	Standard weight
NMI 1809:77	Iron spearhead
NMI WK 170	Portion of an early match lock
NMI 1842: 99-101	Coin hoard of Charles II

Table 2: Archaeological objects recorded from the Trim area

4.4 Cartographic Sources

The historical maps consulted are listed in Table 3. No archaeological sites or potential archaeological sites were identified on these maps (Figure 3).

Map	Date	Description
Down Survey	1655	The site is depicted as agricultural to the west of the walled town of Trim No archaeological detail within subject site.
Taylor and Skinner	1777	No detail shown of subject area
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map	1836	The site is shown as three large fields running down to the river. A single dwelling is shown on the western boundary.
3 rd edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map	1907-1911	The site is now divided into two fields. St Patricks well shown to the west, 2 separate unnamed wells are shown within the site boundaries. No archaeological detail within subject site.

Table 3: Cartographic sources relating to the site

4.5 Record of Protected Structures

The Meath County Record of Protected Structures 2015–2021 was consulted to see if any Protected Structures would be impacted by development at this location. There are no protected structures *within* the subject site. The closest site Protected Structure is a water pump located directly north of the subject site on the Kildalkey Road (RPS ID MH036-112; NIAH ID 14328078). This is described as a ‘cast-iron water pump, c. 1870 with slender pumping arm and fluted cap’.

4.6 Aerial Photographs

Recent aerial photographs of the site (1995, 2000, 2005 & 2011-13 Digital Globe, 2007-2025 Google Earth Pro) were consulted (Figure 4). The site was noted to be rough grazing land, with spoil and overgrown areas across it in most of the early photographs. By the most recent (May 2025) Aerial photograph, the redline area has been cleared, with all surface vegetation and gorse removed. The former E-W field boundary splitting the field in two can be seen in aerial photos.

4.7 Previous Archaeological Excavations

Test-trenching (99E0142) associated with the Trim Sewerage Scheme was carried out in the vicinity of the site of the Athboy Gate in May 1999. Test-trenches were opened along the Kildalkey Road and the Athboy Road/Haggard Street over a combined length of 50m. Intermittently, some remnants of cobbled road surfaces were encountered, but there was no associated dating evidence, and these may have been quite modern. No evidence of either Athboy Gate or the town wall was found. Monitoring of topsoil-stripping (06E0236) was carried out on a piece of land which was proposed for development as an access road to a site to the north of the subject site. The monitoring disclosed no material of an archaeological nature. Two burnt mounds/*fulachtaí fia* were excavated (03E0169) to the north of the subject site in advance of a housing development off the Athboy Road.

4.8 Toponyms

The derivation of the name Crowpark is first mentioned in the Grand Warrants of 1829. While the exact derivation is unclear, O'Donovan in the OS Field Name Books for County Meath speculated that it was derived from a rookery or colony of breeding birds¹.

4.9 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was initially proposed as part of the overall assessment of the site. However, following a site condition assessment by J.M. Leigh Surveys, it was concluded that ground conditions were unsuitable for geophysical survey.

¹ [http://www.logainm.ie/en/39244?s=Crowpark+\(1st+Division\)](http://www.logainm.ie/en/39244?s=Crowpark+(1st+Division)) [accessed 30.11.2016].

5. PHASE I TEST EXCAVATION

Test trenching was carried out under licence 16E0596 by Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning in December 2016. A total of seven (1805 lin. m.) trenches were mechanically excavated across the site under archaeological supervision. No archaeological material was recorded in any of the trenches. There will be no impact on known archaeological sites from development at this location.

Trench	L x B x D	Orientation	Description
1	280 x 2.0 x 0.8m	N-S	No archaeology found
2	290 x 2.0 x 0.7m	N-S	No archaeology found
3	300 x 2.0 x 0.75m	N-S	No archaeology found
4	265 x 2.0 x 0.45m	N-S	No archaeology found
5	310 x 2.0 x 0.6m	N-S	No archaeology found
6	200 x 2.0 x 0.5m	N-S	No archaeology found
7	160 x 2.0 x 0.45m	N-S	No archaeology found
Total: 1805 linear meters			

Table 4: Phase I Testing results

6. PHASE II TEST EXCAVATION

6.1 Introduction

A second phase of test excavation was undertaken from the 1st – 2nd of September 2025 in dry sunny conditions. The additional test excavation was undertaken on foot of Pre-Application consultations between the Local Authority and the developer. Following review of the 2016 testing programme, it was recommended that additional test trenches be excavated across the site in order to achieve excavation of test trenches across c. 10% of the proposed development area. The original excavation licence was thus reactivated and extended to allow for excavation of 1200 linear meters of trenches. This second phase of work was undertaken by Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. Trenches were set out with the aid of a Geomax Zenith 15 GPS receiver accurate to <2cm. They were positioned across the site with the aim of assessing the archaeological potential of areas of proposed ground disturbance and the general site. Trench locations were agreed in advance with the NMS. Topsoil was removed with the aid of a mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision. Each trench was inspected visually for archaeological remains and all trenches were reinstated following completion of the archaeological works.

6.2 Constraints

A small area (5m x 5m) was also proposed for excavation at the northeast corner of the site at the location of a possible OS survey tile as deduced from analysis of previous OS mapping. Overhead wires were noted at this location (Plate 9) and the trench was not excavated on safety grounds.

6.3 Results

A total of 1202 linear meters of test trenches were mechanically excavated across the site under constant archaeological supervision (Figure 5; Plates 10–16). The exposed subsoil varied across the site. At the northern elevated plateau, a compact orangish brown clay was exposed and gave way to a compact stony grey brown clay consisted of a loosely compacted orangish brown clay notable across the south facing slope facing the River Boyne. To the south of this, a bright orange tufa-rich clay was noted in the area containing natural springs and wells as noted on cartographic sources. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench	L x B x D	Orientation	Description
8	188 x 2.0 x 0.8m	N-S	No archaeology found (Plate 10).
9	188 x 2.0 x 0.7m	N-S	No archaeology found (Plate 11).
10	188 x 2.0 x 0.75m	N-S	No archaeology found (Plate 12).
11	188 x 2.0 x 0.45m	N-S	No archaeology found (Plate 13).
12	150 x 2.0 x 0.6m	N-S	No archaeology found (Plate 14).
13	150 x 2.0 x 0.5m	N-S	No archaeology found (Plate 15).
14	150 x 2.0 x 0.45m	N-S	No archaeology found (Plate 16).
Total: 1202 linear meters			

Table 5: Phase II Testing results

6.4 Conclusions

A total of 1202 linear meters of test trenches were mechanically excavated across the site under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated at locations previously agreed with the DHLGH and positioned regularly across the site through the proposed development footprint. Consequently, between two separate phases of test trenching a combined length of 3007 linear meters of test trenching has been carried out. No buried archaeological sites or features were identified.

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Summary of Archaeological Potential

Archaeological test trenching was undertaken on lands at Kildalkey Road, Trim, Co. Meath (Crowpark 1st Division Townland, ITM 679360, 757140). The c.7.998 Ha site is under very rough pasture and has been subject to some previous ground disturbance. The site was test trenched in 2016 under excavation licence 16E0596 in relation to a previous planning application. Seven test trenches with a combined length of 1805 lin. m. were excavated within the site. No features, structures or objects of archaeological significance were noted. Following Pre-Application consultations between the Local Authority and the developer, it was recommended that additional test trenches be excavated across the site. The current assessment was undertaken on the 1st of September 2025 under Licence No 16E0596ext to Aidan O'Connell of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. This report comprises a single overall site assessment detailing a desk based assessment of the site and the results of both the 2016 and current test excavations. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts. The following factors were identified during the assessment:

- The site has been previously disturbed by topsoil removal, access road construction and imported material.
- There are no recorded archaeological sites (RMP sites) within the site (Figure 1). The site lies c. 330m outside of the Zone of archaeological potential for Trim, Co. Meath (RMP 036-048).
- The closest recorded monument to the subject site is a holy well (RMP ME036-050) located 20m west of the subject site.
- There were no stray finds attributed specifically to the site.
- There are no protected structures within the site. However, a water pump (RPS-MH036-112) is located directly north of the subject site on the Kildalkey Road.
- No archaeological excavations have occurred within the site; however there have been archaeological excavations in the area which have revealed buried archaeological features in the wider area including two burnt mounds on the Trim-Athboy road.
- There were no potential archaeological sites or features recorded on cartographic sources.
- There were no potential archaeological sites on OSI orthophotographs.
- Two phases of archaeological excavation have been carried out across the site with a combined length of 3007 linear meters. No buried archaeological sites or features have been identified.

7.2 Proposed Development (Planning Reg No. PD/24/60400)

The development will consist of the construction of a Large-scale Residential Development of 184 residential units at Crowpark (1st Division), Kildalkey, Trim. The proposed residential units will comprise 128 x houses and 56 x apartments spread across 2 x Apartment Blocks. The development will include the provision of a creche facility, public open spaces and services connections. The overall size of the site is 7.998ha. with a net development area of 5.525ha. The remaining land is located within the SAC at the River Boyne.

7.3 Impact Assessment

The proposed development will involve considerable ground disturbance works across the subject site including excavations and other groundworks (e.g. provision of access roads and service trenches), movement of machines and storage of material in sensitive areas. However, two phases of test excavation across 10% of the development area (3007 linear meters) revealed no buried archaeological sites or features. It is therefore concluded that should development proceed at this location, the potential impact on buried archaeological sites/features is neutral.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required at the residential site.

It is recommended that archaeological monitoring of any proposed surface groundworks associated with the foul sewer connection be undertaken.

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

9. REFERENCES

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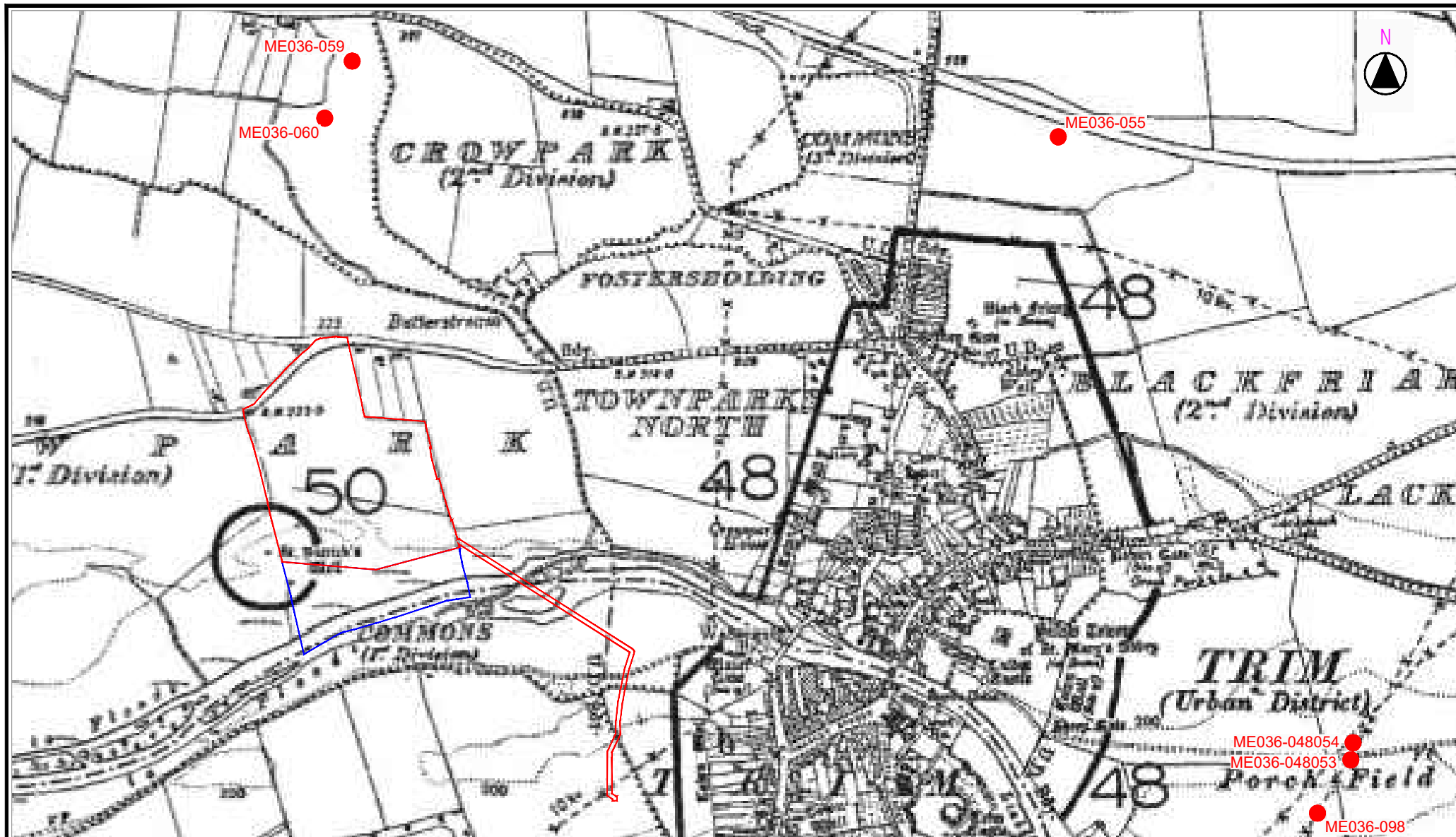
9.2 Web references

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- Cartographic sources www.geohive.ie [accessed September 2025]
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<https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building/development-plans/meath-county-development-plan>



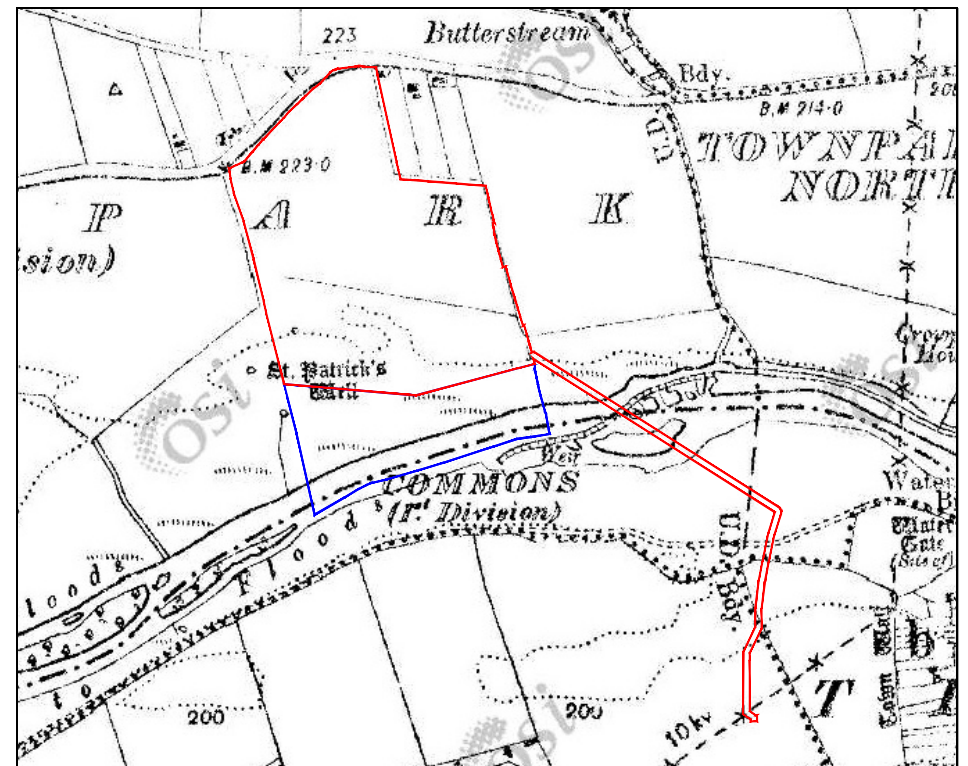
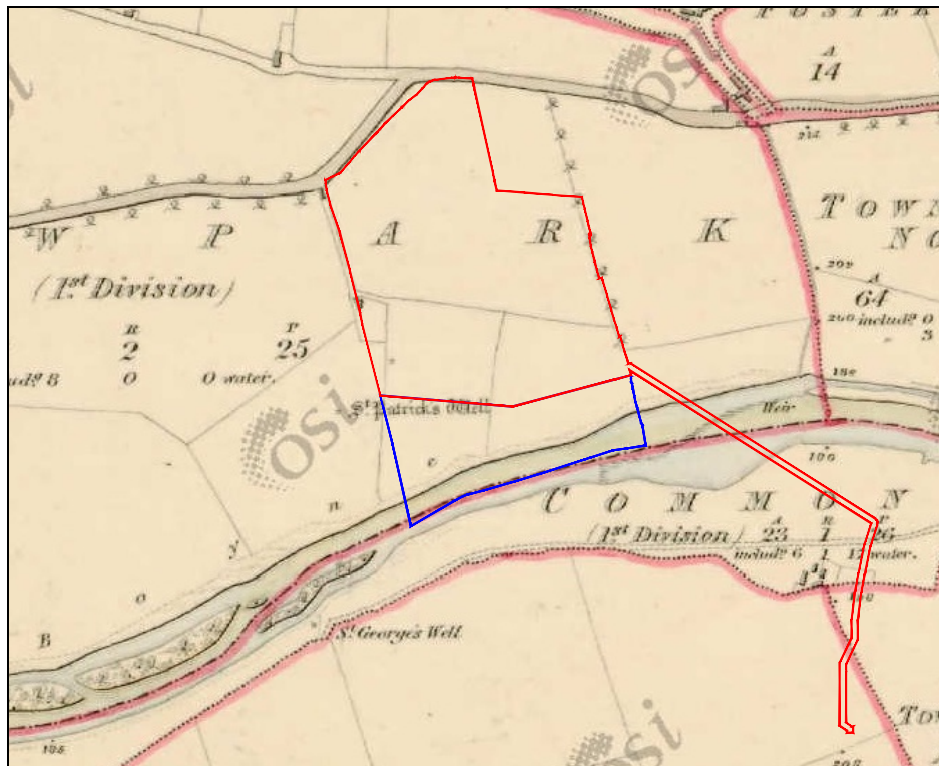
Aidan O'Connell

8th June 2026



	1 Tenure Business Park, Tenure, Co. Louth A92 K2VF	Kildalkey Road, Trim	Scale: 1:7500 A4
		Test Excavation Report	Date: June 2026
			Origin: RMP/NMS
			Ref: 2016_43_TER_02

Figure 2: Site location with surrounding RMPs



(l) 1st Edition OS Map (1837)

(r) Cassini Map (1915-1940)



1 Tenure Business
Park,
Tenure, Co. Louth
A92 K2VF

Kildalkey Road, Trim
Test Excavation Report

Scale: Not to scale

Date: June 2026

Origin: As stated

Ref: 2016_43_TER_03

Figure 3: Extracts from Cartographic Sources

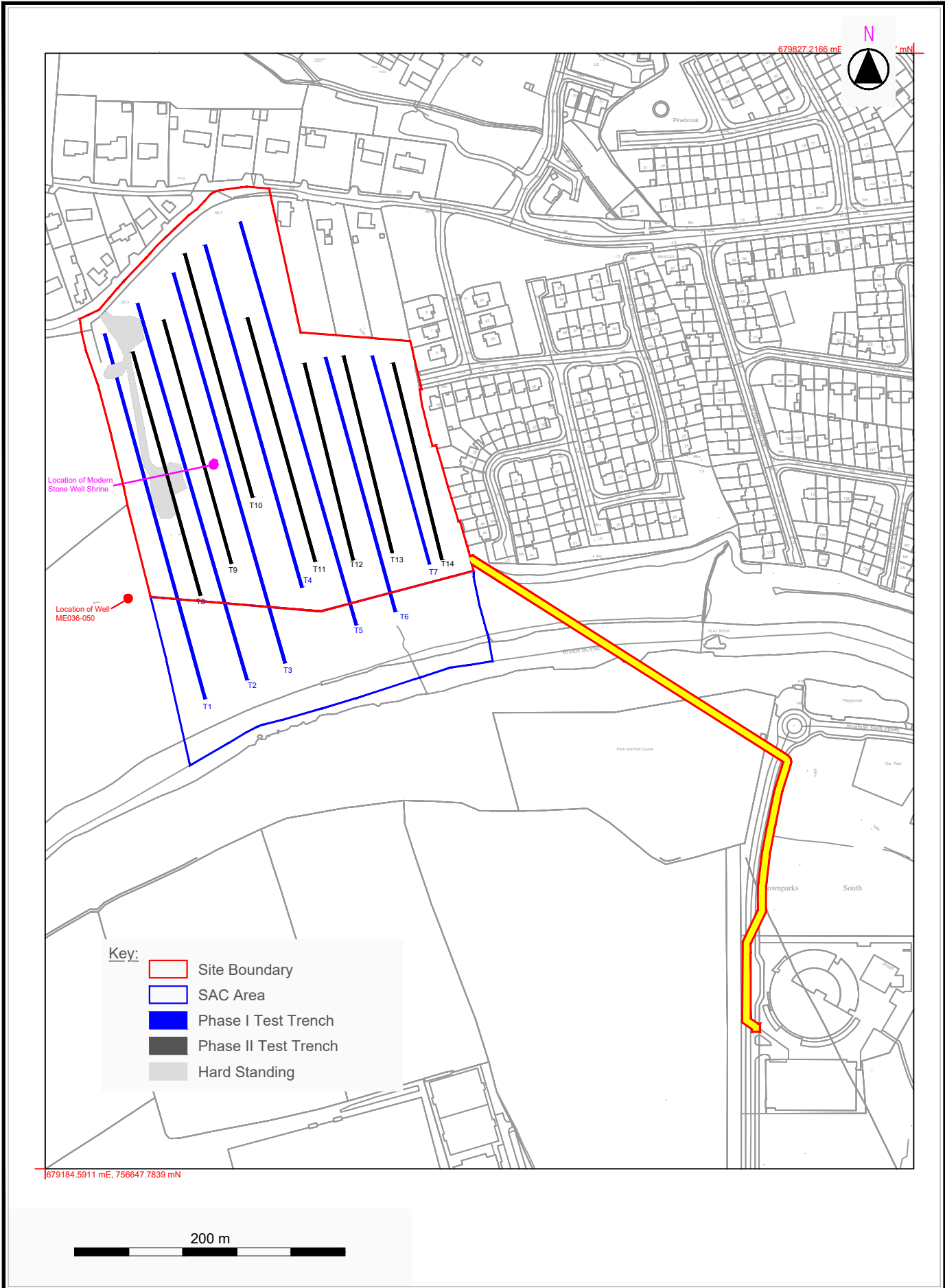


(l) OSi (2005)

(r) Google Earth Pro (2025)

	1 Tenure Business Park, Tenure, Co. Louth A92 K2VF	Kildalkey Road, Trim	Scale: Not to scale
		Test Excavation Report	Date: June 2026
			Origin: As stated
			Ref: 2016_43_TER_04

Figure 4: Extracts from Aerial Photography



Key:

- Site Boundary
- SAC Area
- Phase I Test Trench
- Phase II Test Trench
- Hard Standing



1 Tenure Business Park,
Tenure, Co. Louth
A92 K2VF

Kildalkey Road, Trim
Test Excavation Report

Scale: 1:4000 A4
Date: June 2026
Origin: As stated
Ref: 2016_43_TER_05

Figure 5: Location of test trenches

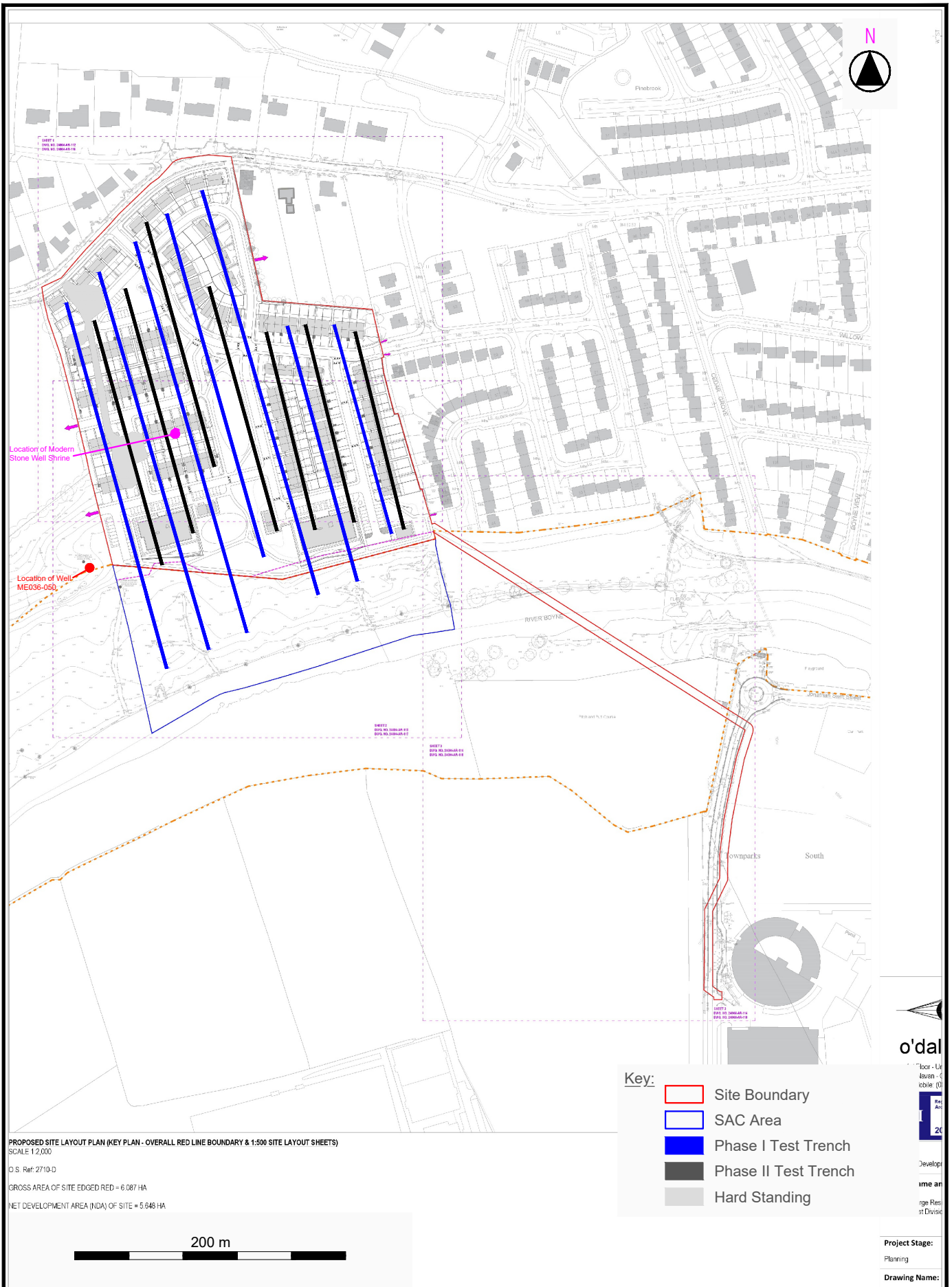


Figure 6: Proposed development layout with test trench locations



Plate 1: Site from north before trenching.



Plate 2: Site of 'St. Patrick's Well'; RMP ME036-050; from east.



Plate 3: Modern well from northeast



Plate 4: Trench 1 from southeast.



Plate 5: Trench 2 from northwest



Plate 6: Trench 5 from northwest



Plate 7: Trench 6 from northwest



Plate 8: Trench 7 from northwest



Plate 9: Location of OS tile from SW



Plate 10: Trench 8 from south.



Plate 11: Trench 9 from north



Plate 12: Trench 10 from south.



Plate 13: Trench 11 from north



Plate 14: Trench 12 from south.



Plate 15: Trench 13 from north.



Plate 16: Trench 14 from south.