



Archaeological Impact Assessment Report

Craddockstown, Naas, Co. Kildare

Part 1 – Archaeological Information

Licence Number: 24E0804

Caroline Cosgrove
August 2024
Report Status: Final


ACSU Ref.: 2499



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 ACSU <small>ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT</small>	No:	PM-SF-117	Version:	01	Effective Date:	01.01.24
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PROJECT DETAILS

Project	Craddockstown, Naas, Co. Kildare
Report Type	Archaeological Test Excavation
Licence No.	24E0804
Townland(s)	Craddockstown Demesne
RMP/SMR No.	N/A
RPS Id./NIAH Reg. No.	N/A
ITM Ref.	690189, 718026
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Report Status	Final
Report Date	16/08/2024
ACSU Ref.	2499

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VERSION CONTROL

Revision	Date	Description	Status	Author	Reviewed	Approved
1.0	16/08/2024	Archaeological test excavation report	Final	C.C.	L.C	D.M

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY


This final report details the results of test excavations carried out at a proposed development site at Craddockstown Road, Naas, Co. Kildare (ITM 690189, 718026).

The site contains no monuments as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places or Sites and Monuments Record. The nearest monument to the site is Enclosure KD019-074, located c. 415m to the south of the site. There are no Protected Structures as listed in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 or sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) located within the site. The nearest such structure is Ballycane House, NIAH Reg. No 11901909 and RPS No. NS-19-040, located c. 1.1km to the north of the site.

Caroline Cosgrove of ACSU carried out archaeological testing under licence number 24E0804, issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The trenches were positioned to assess the archaeological potential across the footprint of the proposed development.


A total of 12 trenches were excavated, each measuring 1.8m in width. In total, 453m of linear trenches were excavated. Trenches 10 and 11 were shortened to the north due to the presence of a large quarry pit. An extra trench, Trench 12, was excavated north of the pit.

The topsoil was an orangish brown clayey silt, and the natural ranged from an orangish grey sand to a mottled grey and brown silty clay. A small number of modern field drains, which contained modern ceramics and glass, were identified in the trenches. No archaeological structures, features, or deposits were observed or exposed within the trenches; therefore, the proposed development will have no impact on archaeological features. No further work is recommended.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This final report details the results of test excavations carried out at Craddockstown, Naas, Co. Kildare (ITM 690189, 718026, Figures 1-2). The site comprises a sub-rectangular greenfield of approximately 0.83 ha.

The site contains no monuments as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places or Sites and Monuments Record. The nearest monument to the site is Enclosure KD019-074, located c. 415m to the south of the site (Figure 2). There are no Protected Structures as listed in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 or sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) located within the site. The nearest such structure is Ballycane House, NIAH Reg. No 11901909 and RPS No. NS-19-040, located c. 1.1km to the north of the site.

No previous archaeological investigations were carried out within the site.

The test trenching was carried out by Caroline Cosgrove of ACSU in August 2024 under licence number 24E0804 issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage.

2. SOILS, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The survey area consisted of a sub-rectangular greenfield located approximately 2.2km from South Main Street in Naas town.

The site has an elevation of between 117m and 120m Ordnance Datum (OD).


The underlying geology consists of calcareous greywacke siltstone and shale, which is overlaid by glaciofluvial sands and gravels (Geological Survey Ireland).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

Early Prehistory – Mesolithic and Neolithic

The earliest known settlements in Ireland can be dated to the **Mesolithic period (8000–4000 BC)**. The most common evidence for the presence of Mesolithic activity includes scatters of worked flint and middens (mounds of domestic refuse), which consisted largely of marine mollusc shells. Middens occur most frequently along the coast and near water sources, including rivers and lakes. There are no known Mesolithic sites in the immediate surrounds of the area of the proposed development. The nearest RMP/SMR that could be dated to the Mesolithic (KD023-129---- Prehistoric site - lithic scatter) is located 12.3km south-southwest of the site,

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in the townland of Morrinstownbiller. This site produced hundreds of flint and chert artefacts, recovered in the plough soil over several seasons. Peter Woodman, upon visiting the site, dated it to the earlier Mesolithic, with a scatter of later Mesolithic blades also recorded (Woodman 2015, 257). Another Mesolithic site was located some 21km northwest of the site, where the dating of timbers from a pine trackway in Lullymore Bog returned a later Mesolithic date (Brindley and Lanting 1998). No lithics were discovered from this site, however, and Driscoll (2006, 113) suggested that it is unclear if the structure at Lullymore was a trackway per se and suggests that it could have been some type of platform. Nonetheless, there are clear signs that Mesolithic people were living in the greater environs of the site and were engaging with the landscape and its natural resources.

In the **Neolithic (4000–2500 BC)**, with the introduction of farming, communities became more settled and less nomadic. Their economy was focused on cereal cultivation and rearing livestock. People changed from being food collectors, scavengers, hunters and fishers to cultivating land, growing crops and managing, breeding and controlling stock. This required forest clearance and working poorer soils. Pottery was also being produced and is found in significant quantities on archaeological sites. Megalithic tombs acted as both a territorial marker and as a ritual monument within the community. There are four types of tomb, court cairn, portal, passage and wedge. The court, portal and passage-style tombs belong solely to the Neolithic period, while the wedge tomb transitions from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age. There are no known megalithic tombs in County Kildare. One potential megalithic structure (KD027-038---), recorded as a ‘dolmen’, is c 22.7km to the southwest of the site, in the townland of Grangeberg (Kildagan ED) and was classed as a megalithic structure on the 1939 OS map. This megalithic tomb classification was not accepted by de Valera and Ó Nualláin (1972), however, although they did note that human remains were said to have been at the site.

The remains of two burnt mounds/fulachtaí fia dating to the Neolithic were excavated c.8.7km west of the site, in the townland of Littleconnell (Sites 2 and 3), one comprised several pits containing heat-affected stone with an associated disturbed burnt mound, while the other had an oval-shaped trough with an overlying burnt mound (Russell 2019; Murphy 2019). Seven early Neolithic rectangular houses were also excavated at Corbally, located c. 7km to the southwest of the site (Smyth 2014).

Later prehistory – Chalcolithic and Bronze Age

The Chalcolithic (2450–2200 BC) was marked by the use of copper – the first metal in Ireland. The period also saw the widespread use of a new type of pottery known as Beaker. At the Neolithic site in Corbally, several pits containing large amounts of charcoal and a spread of burnt mound material were also recorded, with one of the pits including several sherds of Beaker pottery, a chert barbed-and-tanged arrowhead and burnt bone

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(human and animal), which has been recorded as a Beaker burial (Mount 2013; but see Section 6). At Littleconnell (Site 1) a C-shaped ditch and associated pits were dated to the Chalcolithic period and a nearby fire pit returned an Early Bronze Age date (Russell 2019), while also at Littleconnell (Site 5), a spread of burnt mound material associated with a pit, two troughs and 26 stake-holes, also returned a Chalcolithic date (Murphy 2019).

From the beginning of the Bronze Age, copper and tin were mixed to form bronze. Other changes in society were also visible at this time, especially in burial practices. The megalithic tombs were largely replaced by individual or small group burials, with both cremated and inhumated bones deposited, often accompanied by pottery as grave goods. Earlier megalithic structures were also reused during the Bronze Age, and more barrow monuments were constructed alongside a variety of pottery styles. There are a number of burials from this period located within a 3km radius of the site (KD024-062--- Barrow-ditch barrow, KD024-010-Barrow-ring-barrow, KD019-038-Cist). Cist KD019-038 is located 0.9km to the east of the site, where a cremation burial accompanied by two large vase urns was found in a cist which fell out of a pit face during sand extraction in 1930 (heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com).

Fulachta fiadh are Bronze Age cooking sites characterised by a crescent-shaped mound of burnt stone. Groups of these monuments are often found in damp areas, where the trough used for cooking would naturally fill with water. Stones were heated on a fire and then thrown into the trough until the water was hot enough to cook with (although alternative uses such as bathing have also been suggested for these monuments). After use, the stones were removed from the trough and placed around its edge until the characteristic crescent-shaped mound was formed. Six fulacht fia (KD019-046, KD019-048, KD019-049, KD019-050, KD019-054, KD019-055) are located c. 1.5 km of the site, to the east, in the townland of Tipper South.

Later prehistory – Iron Age

The Iron Age (800 BC-AD 400) in Ireland has previously been referred to as the Dark Age in Irish archaeology due to this period being poorly represented in the archaeological record. This is increasingly changing with large-scale development-led excavations, community-led research projects (e.g. Drumanagh Promontory Fort, Loughshinny, Co. Dublin) and research projects such as the Discovery Programme’s Late Iron Age and ‘Roman’ Age Ireland, all adding significantly to our knowledge of the period. In Europe, it was long recognised that there were two stages to the Iron Age: a Hallstatt stage followed by the La Tène phase. In Ireland, there is little evidence for a Hallstatt phase; however, the La Tène is well represented. Trade existed between the east coast of Ireland, and by the fourth century AD, the Irish, known as Scotti, were raiding the island of Britain (Ryan 1994). There was a continuation of some of the major sites of the late Bronze Age (e.g. Emain Macha, Co.

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Armagh), and more defensive settlements were also constructed across Ireland, such as hillforts and coastal promontory forts.

There are no Iron Age monuments known in the immediate environs of the site; however, the greater area has some evidence of Iron Age activity. The Hill of Allen, a volcanic hill located c. 14.7km to the northwest, is traditionally known as the seat of the hunter-warrior Fionn mac Cumahill and the Fianna; this mythological site has connotations with the Irish pagan past. In 1966, skull fragments were recorded as recovered from the townland of Kilbelin, c. 10.1km to the southwest, and noted as being unearthed from ‘a flat cemetery’ of ‘extended, unprotected human burials in pits’ (Lucas 1971, 242). These came from a burial site (KD023-021---) and are thought to perhaps date to the first millennium AD (Cahill and Sikora 2011, 2:331–33).


Bog bodies are one of the most impressive types of Iron Age remains, reflecting cruelty in a presumed sacrificial context. In 1953, turf cutters discovered a bog body, ‘Baronstown West Man’ (KD018-035----), c. 12.8km to the northwest of the site, named after the townland in which he was found. He was a decapitated male dressed in woollen textile and an outer covering of ox skin (NMI ref. 1953:65,66). A radiocarbon date placed this burial in AD 200–400. Two bog butters (NMI refs IA/7/93 and 1986:36) were also located c. 12km north of the site. Based on previous research, out of 20 dated samples of bog butter (17 from Ireland and 3 from Scotland), 12 returned Iron Age dates, pointing to this being a common practice during the Iron Age (Earwood 1997). It is unclear if these were sacrificial deposits or reflected a means of long-term storage. Notably, one of these samples was bog butter in a wooden keg recovered from Roseberry (NMI Ref. 1970:32), and this was dated to the earlier Iron Age 400–350 BC.

In the townland of Littleconnell (Site 1), two parallel ditches that extended between two enclosures forming a causeway were also partially excavated. A charcoal sample from the fill of the northern ditch returned a radiocarbon date, suggesting the ditch was of Iron Age construction (Russell 2019).

Early Medieval period

The early medieval period (400–1100 AD) in Ireland was long believed to be a ‘townless, coinless and with the exception of the awkward ogham scriptilliterate’ society (Ryan 1994). Control of trade during this time led to the emergence of a new political leadership, with new aggressive dynasties expanding and taking over the older tribal kingdoms (ibid.). Tribal kingdoms, known as túath, of which there were c. 150, consisted of inhabitants living in defended homesteads known as ringforts or raths. The number of ditches and banks surrounding a ringfort is thought to be a testament to the status of the occupiers (Edwards 1996).

Leinster, in the early medieval period, was mainly divided into four main tribal territories. Naas was situated in the Irish kingdom of Uí Fáláin. Naas was the Royal centre of the kingdom. The first known ruler was Dal

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Messin Corb, believed to have provided two kings of Leinster and maintained a local kingdom based at Naas from the fifth to the late seventh century. They may have been replaced by Crimthann Cualann of Uí Theig, king of Leinster (MacCotter 2008). The last recorded Leinster king to die at Naas was Cerbhail (Greene 2023). A ringfort is situated c.1km to the northeast of the site, (KD019-137-); furthermore, an enclosure (KD019-074- ---) is located c.415m south of the site.


Later Medieval period

The later medieval period (AD 1100–1600) in Ireland saw the invasion of the Normans, which began in 1169 when Diarmait MacMorrugh, the deposed King of Leinster, sought help from Henry II. Henry II permitted some of his subjects to go and help and an advance party of Anglo-Normans arrived in Ireland from South Wales, with followers from France and Flanders. A year later, a stronger party arrived under Richard de Clare (Strongbow), Earl of Pembroke, and the Anglo-Norman colonisation of Ireland progressed quickly. Ireland was designated a lordship, and Henry II assigned it to his youngest son, John. From there, the outlines of a royal administration were developed (Ryan 1994).

Kildare was the principal town during the initial years of Anglo-Norman activity but was later replaced by Naas, which became the administrative centre and remains so today. Lands around Naas were granted to Maurice Fitzgerald in 1175, which was confirmed by Henry II in 1177. Two mottes, known locally as the North and South Moats, are the remains of clay and timber castles belonging to the early Anglo-Norman settlement. The North Moat, built by Maurice Fitzgerald, is thought to have been built on top of the early royal dún (Greene 2023).

The FitzGeralds brought over settlers from the St. David’s area in Pembrokeshire in Wales, who quickly set about setting up the layout of Naas town. This included constructing a new parish church dedicated to St. David. Many of the lanes that run off the main street preserve the names of important medieval buildings that no longer survive, such as John’s Lane, Abbey Street and Corban’s Lane (Greene 2023). Naas quickly became an important Anglo-Norman town. It was granted a weekly market in 1186, and in 1226, Henry III granted the right to an annual fair. King John visited twice when travelling from Waterford to Dublin, first in 1185 and again in 1210. Five parliaments were held in Naas between 1419 and 1477 (Ibid).

Naas was also attacked by the native Irish, among others. In 1316, Edward de Bruce and his forces burned Naas and pillaged its religious houses. As part of the Earl of Kildare’s estate, it was confiscated after the rebellion of Silken Thomas and given to Lord Deputy Skeffington in 1534 (ibid). In 1539, Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to the town of Naas (Lewis 1837). In 1577, the O’Moore and O’Connors attacked the town and burned between 700 and 800 thatched houses (Ibid).

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Post-Medieval (1600 -1850)

The charter of Elizabeth was confirmed and extended by James I in 1609 and incorporated by the designation of the Sovereign Provost Burgesses and Commonalty of Naas. During the rebellion of 1798, Naas was attacked by a party of insurgents on May 24th but held back by the garrison commanded by Lord Gosford (Lewis 1837).

Lewis (1837) described the town as a pleasant, open, fertile tract of country that was enriched with wood and the outline of the Wicklow mountains. It consisted mainly of one street, extending about half a mile along the great southern road, which at one extremity of the town divides into two branches. The total number of houses is about 600, of which only a few are handsomely built. The streets are neither paved nor lighted (ibid).


The markets, which supply corn and poultry, are held on Mondays and Thursdays. Cattle, sheep, and pig fairs are held five times a year (ibid).

3.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

No previous archaeological investigations have been conducted on the site.

Listed below are the nearest previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the environs of the site (see Figure 2), which further demonstrate the overall archaeological potential of the site and its surrounding townlands (Table 1). The following information was taken from the Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland (www.excavations.ie).

Excavation.ie reference	Licence No.	Site-Type	Investigation Type
2018:194- Craddockstown North/Naas East	18E0148 18R0034	Prehistoric and early medieval features and settlement	Test trenching
2018:482 - Craddockstown North 1–5	18E0148 18R0034	Prehistoric and early medieval features and settlement	Excavation
2006: 968 - Naas Southern Ring Road	05E1334 ext.	No archaeological significance	Test trenching
2021:553 – Tipper West, Naas	21E0640	Bronze Age - burnt stone spread	Test trenching

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Excavation.ie reference	Licence No.	Site-Type	Investigation Type
2009:473 – Craddockstown North	unlicensed	No archaeological significance	Monitoring

Table 1: Previous archaeological investigations within the environs of the site

The nearest archaeological investigation, where archaeological features were identified, was to the west of the site in Craddockstown North/Naas East. Five areas of archaeological activity were identified.

Test trenching and excavation carried out under licence 21E0640 revealed a burnt stone spread that was dated to the early Bronze Age. An earlier phase of testing at this site was carried out in 2015 under licence 15E0309. This revealed a number of field drains and agricultural features. Test trenching was carried out under licence 05E1334 prior to the construction of the Naas Southern Ring Road. This testing revealed no features of archaeological significance. Area 1 consisted of two possible prehistoric ring ditches with associated internal features. Area 2 consisted of two kilns, a curvilinear slot trench and an agricultural ditch. Area 3 comprised two iron-smelting furnaces and two pits. A single metalworking pit with in-situ burning was recorded in area 4, and a possible kiln in area 5 (Ní Cheallacháin 2018).

3.3 Recorded Monuments

There are no recorded archaeological monuments, as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or the Site and Monument Record (SMR) located within the proposed development site boundary. The nearest such site is an enclosure (KD019-074) located 400m to the southeast of the site. Several other enclosures are located in the larger area around the site, particularly in the townland of Broadfield, over 1km to the south. A large amount of Bronze Age burnt mounds are located in the townland of Tipper South, 1.3km to the east.

Below (Table 2) is a list of recorded monuments located within the vicinity of the proposed development site (Figure 2). These descriptions are derived from the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database.

(<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>)



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Table 2: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site

KD019-074	Enclosure	Craddockstown West
<p>Cropmark of circular-shaped bi-vallate enclosure (approx. diam. 40m) with annexe at W visible on Google earth aerial imagery. Visible as a circular-shaped depression on Digital Globe aerial coverage. Traces of a possible field system radiating out from the annexe are also visible on Google Earth aerial imagery.</p>		
KD019-038-	Cist	TIPPER SOUTH
<p>Cist.</p>		
KD019-050	Fulacht fia	TIPPER SOUTH
<p>One of a group of six (KD019-046----, KD019-048----, KD019-049----, KD019-050----, KD019-054---- and KD019-055----) in a wet, low-lying area. Now a low irregular mound which was described in 1955 (SMR file) as being horseshoe shaped in plan (diam. 10.5m; H. 0.4m).</p>		
KD019-049	Fulacht fia	TIPPER SOUTH
<p>One of a group of six (KD019-046----, KD019-048----, KD019-049----, KD019-050----, KD019-054---- and KD019-055----) in a wet, low-lying area. Now levelled, but cracked stone and dark soil are visible in a drainage trench. This is probably the site described in 1955 (SMR file) as horseshoe shaped in plan (diam. 11m; H. 0.5m) and situated near the bank of a stream.</p>		
KD019-055	Fulacht fia	TIPPER SOUTH
<p>One of a group of six (KD019-046----, KD019-048----, KD019-049----, KD019-050----, KD019-054---- and KD019-055----) in a wet, low-lying area. A low, approximately circular mound (diam. c. 10m) in which some cracked stone is visible.</p>		
KD019-046--	Fulacht fia	TIPPER SOUTH
<p>One of a group of six (KD019-046----, KD019-048----, KD019-049----, KD019-050----, KD019-054---- and KD019-055----) in a wet, low-lying area. Described in 1955 as semi-circular in plan (L. 9m; H. 0.25m)</p>		
KD019-048	Fulacht fia	TIPPER SOUTH
<p>One of a group of six (KD019-046----, KD019-048----, KD019-049----, KD019-050----, KD019-054---- and KD019-055----) in a wet, low-lying area. A low, horseshoe-shaped mound (diam. c. 6m; H. 0.3m). It has been eroded since being described in 1955 (L. 14m; H. 0.6m)</p>		
KD019-054--	Fulacht fia	TIPPER SOUTH

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One of a group of six (KD019-046----, KD019-048----, KD019-049----, KD019-050----, KD019-054---- and KD019-055----) in a wet, low-lying area. A low circular mound (diam. c. 9m; H. 0.4m) is composed of cracked stone and dark soil.

3.4 Protected Structures and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The NIAH identifies, records, and evaluates Ireland's post-1700 architecture to protect and conserve our built heritage. It is administered by the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage. The NIAH also forms the basis of a list of structures that should be included in the Record of Protected Structures compiled by local authorities.


A Protected Structure is one that a planning authority thinks is of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical point of view. It is recognised as important and protected from harm under legislation. Every local authority in Ireland must keep a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in its development plans.

There are no Protected Structures as listed in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 or sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) located within the site. The nearest Protected Structure to the site is Ballycane House (NS19-040), which is 600m to the northwest. The house also appears on the NIAH (Reg. No. 11901909).

3.5 Finds listed within the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) were requested to assess the area's archaeological potential. These files list all archaeological artefacts in the care of or known to the NMI. Such a record can provide evidence for human settlement or activity in the absence of physical remains or documentary references.

A bullaun stone (IA/159/1987) is reported as having been found in the area of the nearby Craddockstown Golf Club. A bronze pin (1969:75) was found in the townland of Naas East. A couple of iron bells (1985:114, 1985:114) were found in the townland of Tipper, along with two Bronze Age cremation food vessels (1930:12-3).

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3.6 Cartographic Evidence

A review of available historical mapping for the area was carried out, including the 6-inch 1839 and the 25-inch 1910 editions of the Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 3-4). Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are marked on such maps, which provide a helpful resource in identifying sites, particularly if they no longer have any above-ground remains. No archaeological or cultural heritage features are shown within the proposed development site on the examined mapping.


One of the earliest maps of the area is the Down Survey maps of the 1650s. In the map for Co. Kildare, Craddockstown is marked as “Cradocktorane”. However, it does not appear to be marked on the map for the barony and parish of Naas. The first detailed map depicting the site comes from the 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1836 (Figure 3). In this map, the site is pastureland within two separate fields, with the western quarter belonging to a narrow strip field. By the 25-Inch Map of 1908, the site remains pastureland but within the southwest half of a single field (Figure 4).

No monuments or features of archaeological significance were noted on the examined mapping.

3.7 Aerial Photography

Aerial photographs from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland dating between 1995 and 2013 were reviewed, and Google Earth imagery dating between 2003 and 2022 was also examined. Unrecorded archaeological sites can often be identified in aerial photographs as cropmarks or differential growth in a field.

The earliest aerial image of the site is from 1995. The site is the southwestern half of a large sub-rectangular green field. The house outside the northwest boundary of the site has been built, but the one located at the southwest boundary has not been; this appears to have been built between 2000 and 2003. A rectangular fenced-off area appeared within the field around 2018. There were no major changes to the site until 2019 when a housing development commenced construction on the northeastern and eastern sides of the field. This divided the original sub-rectangular shape of the field and gave the site its current shape and appearance. Nothing of cultural heritage significance was identified within the site on the examined aerial imagery.

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4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Test Excavation

Test excavation was carried out in accordance with the *IAI Code of Conduct for Archaeological Assessment Excavation* (Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland 2006a). All trenches were excavated to natural by a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist (Caroline Cosgrove).

All spoil from the trenches was also examined for artefacts.

4.2 Conditions

The weather throughout the test excavations was dry and sunny. No livestock were present in the field during the test trenching.

4.3 Constraints on Methods


There were no constraints on the methodology used.

5. TEST EXCAVATION RESULTS

Twelve trenches, each measuring 1.8m in width, were excavated for a total of 453m of linear trenches. No archaeological structures, features, or deposits were observed or exposed within the trenches (Figures 5-6).

Table 3: Trench descriptions

Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
1	68m	0.48 – 0.7m	<p>East to west aligned trench (Plates 4, 5 & 6). Orangish brown clayey silt topsoil (C1). The natural (C2) was an orangish brown and grey sandy clay with patches of sand. A field drain was identified aligned southeast to northwest, which contained unglazed earthenware and a corroded iron nail. An area c. 4m in length was skipped over due to water services being marked along the route of the trench (Plate 4).</p> <p>No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.</p>

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Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
2	20m	0.6m	<p>Northwest to southeast aligned trench (Plate 7). The topsoil (C1) was a dark brown silty clay with frequent roots. The natural (C2) was an orange silty clay.</p> <p>No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.</p>
3	24m	0.74m	<p>Northwest to southeast aligned trench (Plates 8 & 9). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The natural (C2) was an orangish brown and grey sandy clay with patches of sand. A field drain with modern ceramic inclusions ran northwest to southeast across the trench (Plate 9).</p> <p>No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.</p>
4	24m	0.5m	<p>Northwest to southeast aligned trench (Plate 10). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The natural (C2) was an orangish brown and grey sandy clay with patches of sand.</p> <p>No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.</p>
5	39m	0.42- 0.54m	<p>Northwest to southeast aligned trench (Plates 11 & 12). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The natural (C2) was an orangish brown and grey sandy clay with patches of sand. Modern disturbance in the form of backfilled clay was noted in the trench (Plate 12).</p> <p>No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.</p>
6	39m	0.48m	<p>Northwest to southeast aligned trench (Plate 13). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The natural (C2) was an orangish brown and grey sandy clay with patches of sand.</p> <p>No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.</p>
7	51m	0.65m	<p>East-northeast to west-southwest aligned trench (Plate 14). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The natural (C2) was an orangish brown and grey sandy clay with patches of sand.</p> <p>No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.</p>
8	45m	0.7-0.83m	<p>East-northeast to west-southwest aligned trench (Plate 15). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The natural (C2) was a greyish-brown silty clay that changed to orangish grey sand with moderate stone with patches of sand.</p> <p>No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.</p>


Trench Number	Length (m)	Trench depth (m)	Description
9	52m	0.43-0.62m	North-northwest to south-southwest aligned trench (Plate 16). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The natural (C2) was an orangish brown and grey sandy clay with patches of sand. No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.
10	41m	0.63m	North-northwest to south-southwest aligned trench (Plates 17 & 18). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The natural (C2) was an orangish brown and grey sandy clay with patches of sand. A field drain ran northeast to southwest across the trench (Plate 18). No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.
11	34m	0.6m	North-northwest to south-southwest aligned trench (Plate 19). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The natural (C2) was an orangish brown and grey sandy clay with patches of sand. No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.
12	16m	0.58-1.25m	East to west aligned trench (Plate 20). The topsoil (C1) was an orangish brown clayey silt. The Natural (C2) was a coarse grey sand with stones. No archaeological structures, features or deposits were identified in the trench.

Table 4: Context descriptions

Context	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description
C1				Topsoil
C2				Natural

6. MATERIAL CULTURE

No archaeological objects or finds were recovered, and no palaeo-environmental samples were taken.

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7. CHRONOLOGY/DATING

No archaeology was found on the site.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No archaeological structures, features or deposits were recorded in any of the trenches excavated. Therefore, the proposed development will not impact any archaeology within the development site.

9. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A total of 12 trenches were excavated within this site. Each trench measured 1.8m in width, and, in total, 453m of linear trenches were excavated. No archaeological structures, features or deposits were observed or exposed within the trenches. The proposed development will have no impact on any archaeology. No further work is recommended.

10. POST-EXCAVATION PROGRAMME

No post-excavation work is required.

11. EXCAVATION BULLETIN

County: Kildare

Site name: Craddockstown Road, Naas, Co. Kildare

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 24E0515


Author: Caroline Cosgrove

Site type: No Archaeological significance

Period/Dating: Not applicable

ITM: 690189, 718026

Date of completion: August 2024

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Summary:

A total of 12 trenches were excavated. Each trench measured 1.8m in width, and, in total, 453m of linear trenches were excavated. The topsoil (C1) was mainly an orangish brown clayey silt and the natural was a mottled orange and grey sandy clay with patches of sand in areas. No archaeological structures, features or deposits were observed or exposed within the trenches. The proposed development will have no impact on any archaeology. No further work is recommended.

Caroline Cosgrove, Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd, Unit 21 Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co Louth


12. PUBLICATION PLAN

An account of this archaeological assessment and its results will be published online as an excavation bulletin for the *Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland* (see Section 11).

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Extract from the Third edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map, (surveyed 1908 – published 1910).

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**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

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Site Owner	Kildare County Council
Address	Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, John Devoy Road, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare
Planning Authority	Kildare County Council
Planning Reg. No.	Part 8 Ref: P82020.06
Excavation Type	Test Trenching
Site	Craddockstown, Naas, Co. Kildare
Contractor/Developer	Kildare County Council

Description of Proposed Development

The proposed development is to consist of *28 no. residential units comprising of:*


- *7 x 1B2P (3 Type A and 4 Type C)*
- *14 x 2B4P (Type B)*
- *6 x 3B6P (2 Type B1 and 4 Type D)*
- *1 x 4B7P (Type E)*
- *New access road from the Craddockstown Road, including the removal of trees and hedge row.*
- *33 car parking spaces*
- *Development of a landscaped public open space including Nature-based SUDS,*
- *Retain and strengthen existing site boundary hedgerows where appropriate,*
- *Construction of new boundary walls where applicable, associated site works, Pedestrian and cycle lane connection to the adjacent Eustace Demesne housing estate.*

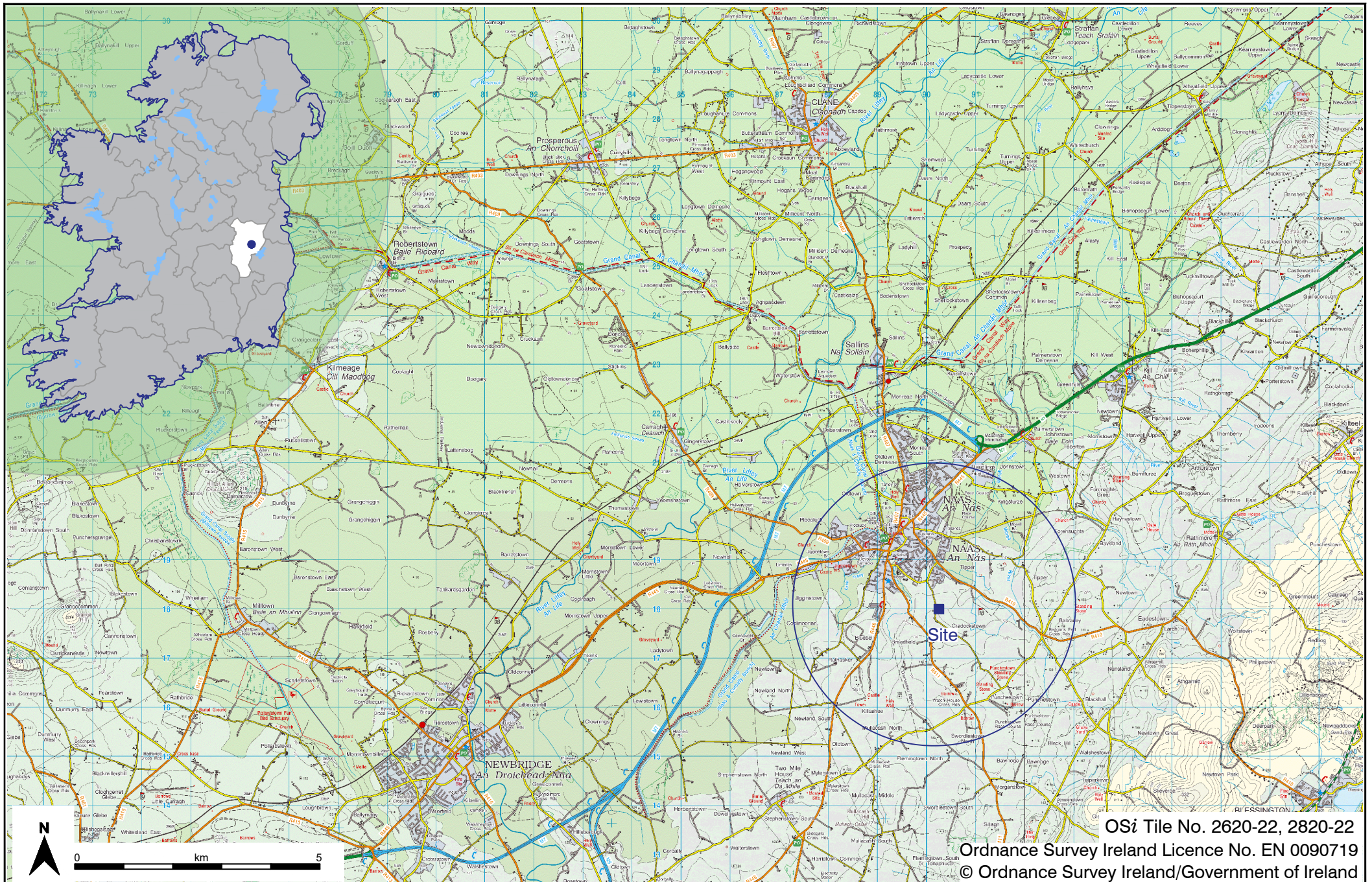
Archaeological Condition

The proposed test trenching is to be carried out as in relation to Part 8 Reference P.82020.06 by Kildare County Council.

Impact Statement and recommendations

A total of 12 trenches were excavated within this site. Each trench measured 1.8m in width, and, in total, 453m of linear trenches were excavated. No archaeological structures, features or deposits were observed or exposed within the trenches. The proposed development will have no impact on any archaeology. No further work is recommended.

Signed:		Date:	16/08/24
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Project Craddockstown, Naas, Co. Kildare

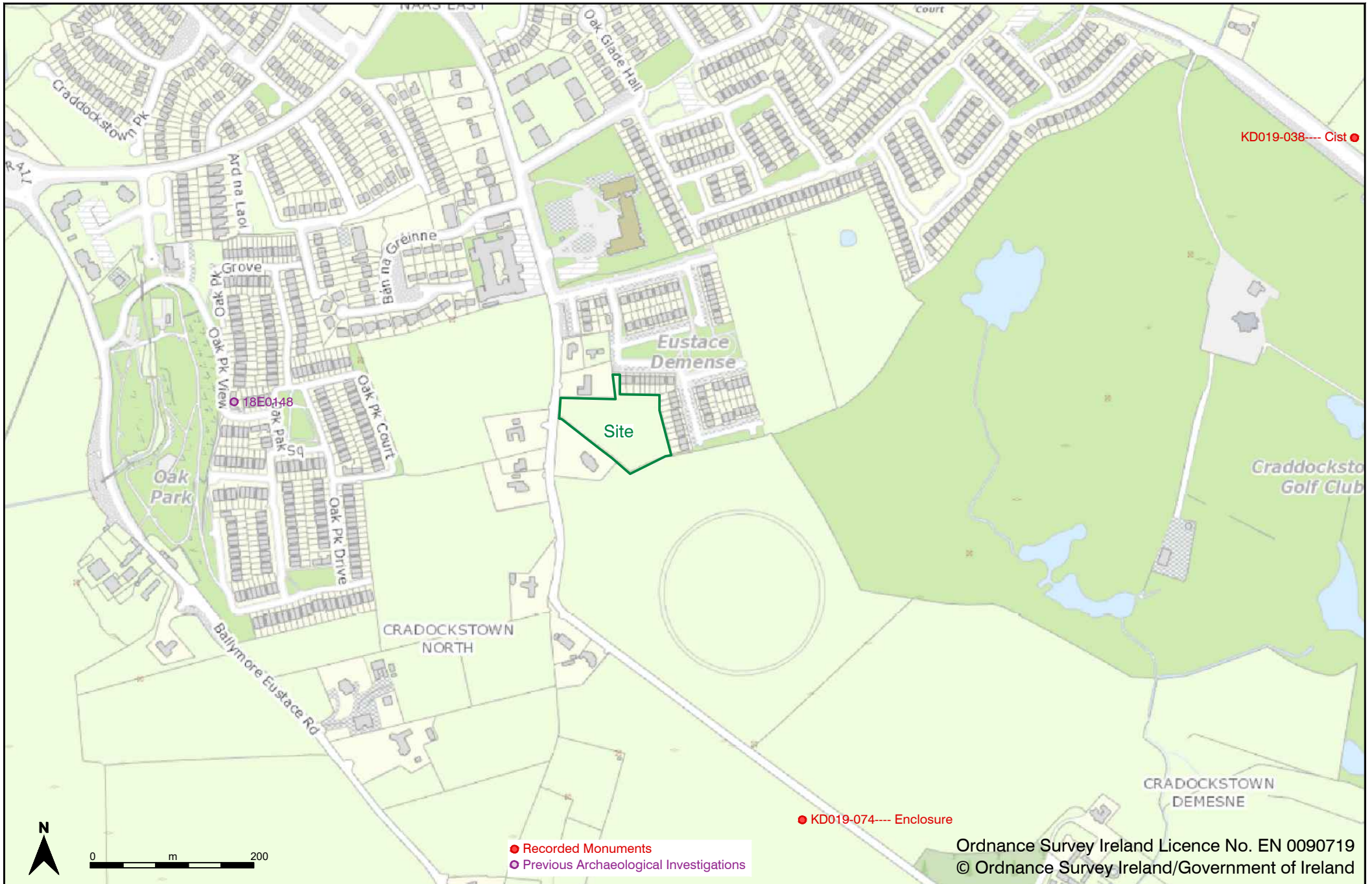
Date August 2024

Drawing No. 2499_C1001

Figure 1 Location of site

Scale 1:100,000 @ A4





Project Craddockstown, Naas, Co. Kildare

Date August 2024

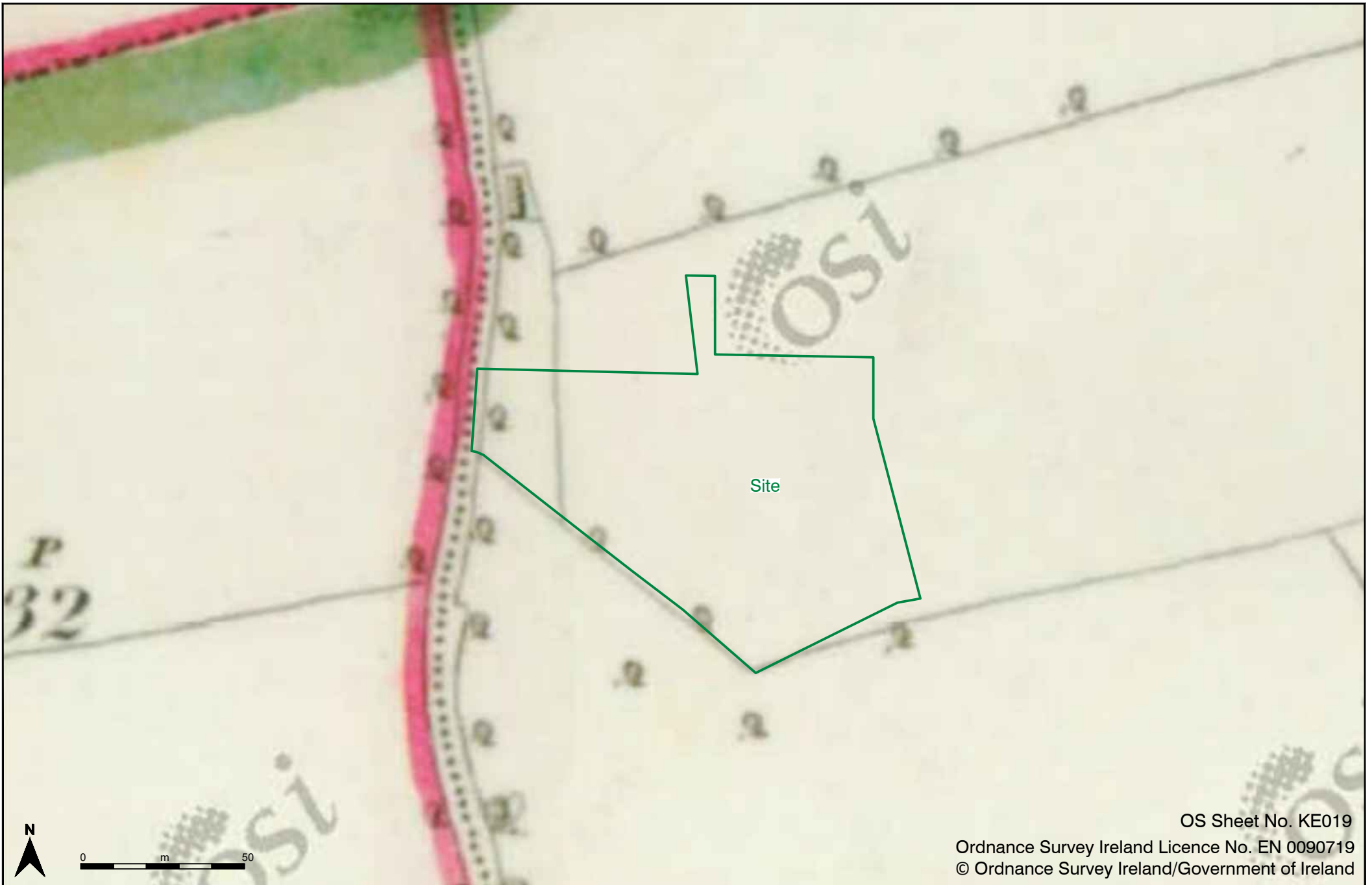
Drawing No. 2499_C1002

Figure 2 Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites

Scale 1:6,000 @ A4

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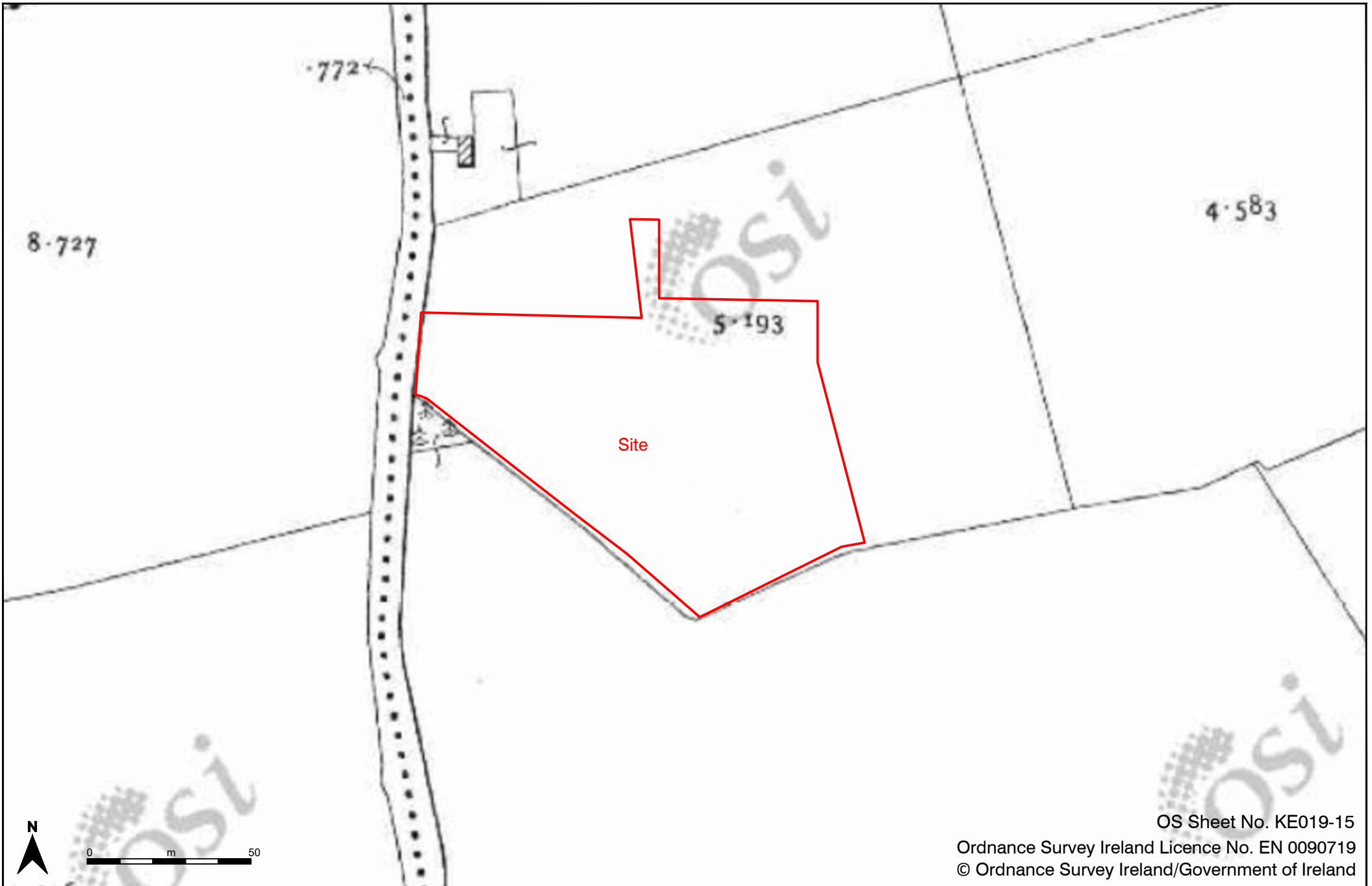
Date August 2024

Drawing No. 2499_C1003

Figure 3 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1839), showing location of site

Scale 1:1,500 @ A4





OS Sheet No. KE019-15

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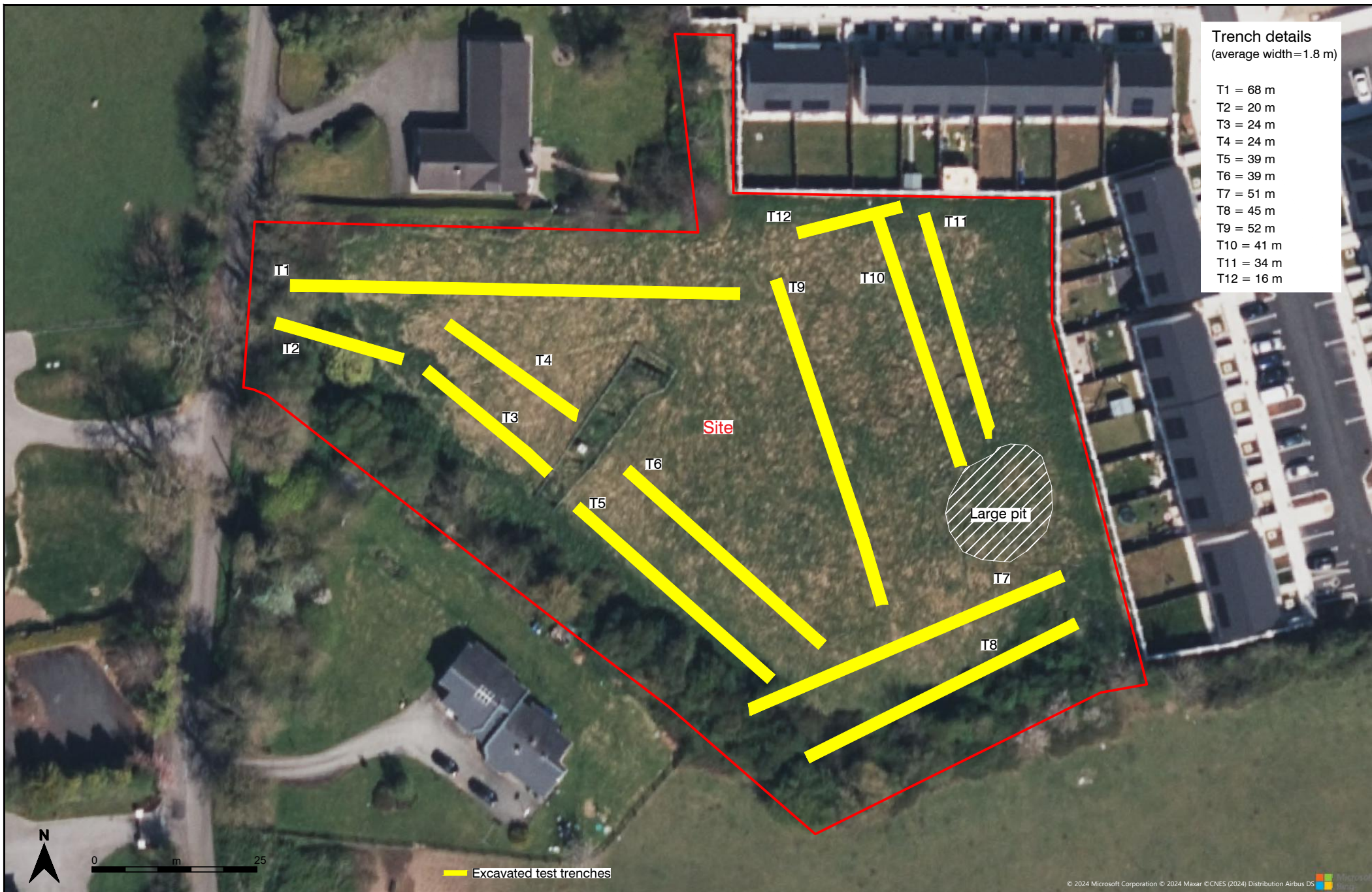
Date August 2024

Drawing No. 2499_C1004

Figure 4 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1908 - published 1910), showing location of site

Scale 1:1,500 @ A4





Project Craddockstown, Naas, Co. Kildare

Date August 2024

Drawing No. 2499_C1005

Figure 5 Aerial view of site, showing location of excavated test trenches

Scale 1:750 @ A4



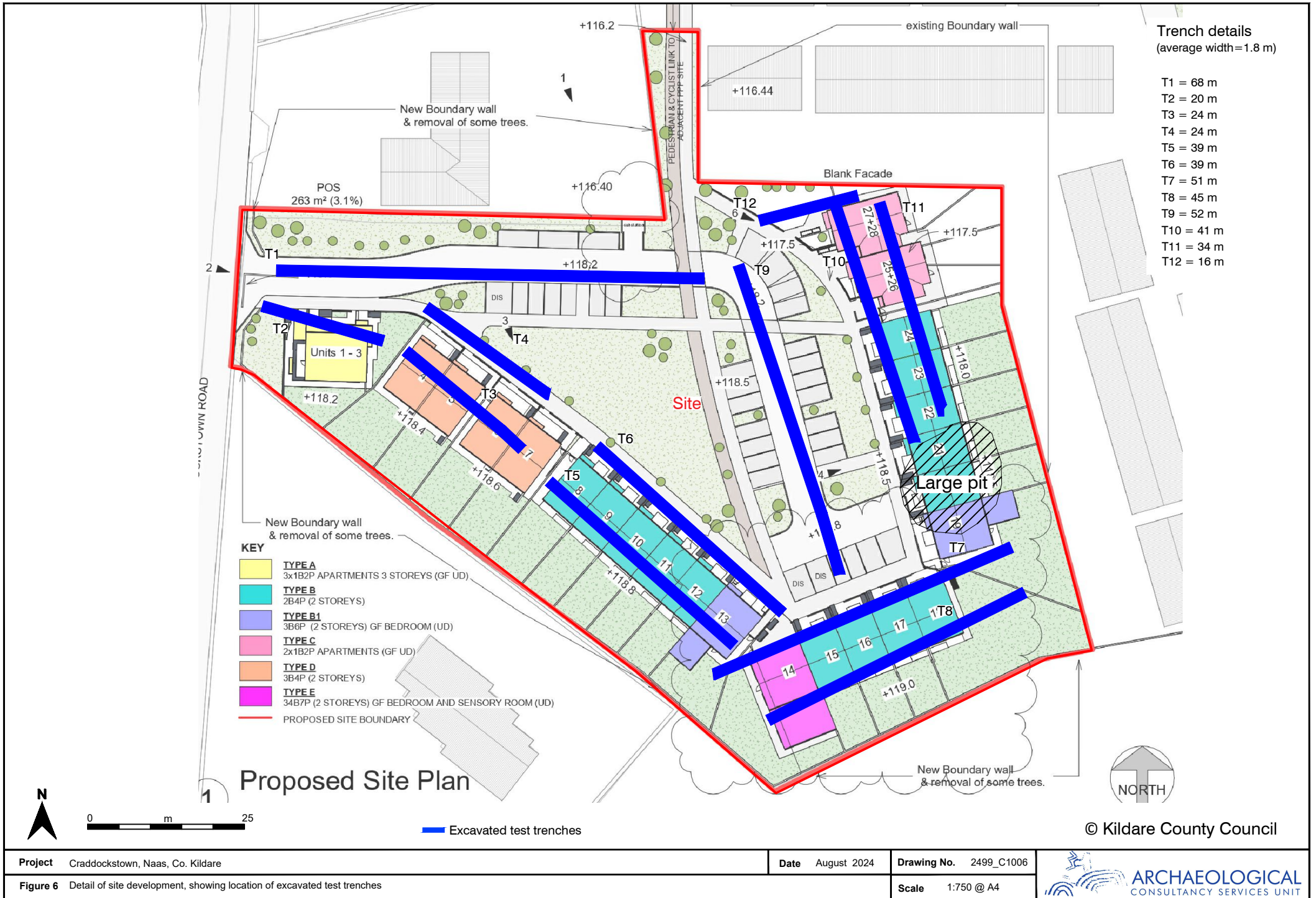




Plate 1: General view of site, looking north



Plate 2: General view of site, looking northeast



Plate 3: Large overgrown pit, looking north



Plate 4: Area skipped over in Trench 1, due to water services, looking east.



Plate 5: Trench 1, looking east



Plate 6: Field ditch in trench 1, looking northeast



Plate 7: Trench 2, looking west-northwest



Plate 8: Trench 3, looking southeast



Plate 9: Field drain with modern ceramics in Trench 3, looking southwest



Plate 10: Trench 4, looking southeast



Plate 11: Trench 5, looking southeast



Plate 12: Modern disturbance in trench 5, looking northwest



Plate 13: Trench 6, looking southeast



Plate 14: Trench 7, looking west-southwest



Plate 15: Trench 8, looking west-southwest



Plate 16: Trench 9, looking south-southeast



Plate 17: Trench 10, looking south



Plate 18: Field drain in trench 10, looking northeast



Plate 19: Trench 11, looking south



Plate 20: Trench 12, looking east