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Archaeological Impact Assessment for Hillcrest Road Improvement Scheme Sandyford, Dublin

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES UNIT

Client:

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

ITM: 718080, 725340 (W); 718750, 725690 (E)

RMP No.: N/A

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PROJECT DETAILS

Project	Archaeological Impact Assessment for Hillcrest Road Improvement Scheme Sandyford, Dublin
Report Type	Archaeological Impact Assessment
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Client	Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Site	Hillcrest Road, Sandyford, Dublin
Townlands	Nicholastown
ITM Refs	718080, 725340 (W); 718750, 725690 (E)
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment carried out in relation to Hillcrest Road Improvement Scheme for a site at Hillcrest Road, Sandyford, Dublin (ITM 718080, 725340 (W); 718750, 725690 (E)). The intention of the scheme is to widen the footprint of the existing roadway to provide upgraded facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. The assessment was carried out at the request of the client and is based on the findings of a study of available historical, cartographic and photographic sources and field survey results. It aims to identify and describe the known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and its wider environs, and where present, offer recommendations for the mitigation of such potential impacts.

The scheme extent is along Hillcrest Road, between and including the junctions with Enniskerry Road and Kilgobbin Road. It consists of the current road footprint, front gardens of the adjacent dwellings, a stream and a bridge. The site does not contain any Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The nearest such monument is House - 16th/17th century DU022-068---- located c. 245m to the south. The original house is likely to date from the 1690s, its remains survive to the rear of a late 19th-century building, labelled as Woodside House on the 1907 OS map. The site contains a Letter Box (Industrial Heritage Site No. 948) located at Lamb's Cross, listed in the *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022–2028*, but there are no Protected Structures within the site. The site is partially adjacent to a plot with a Protected Structure, representing a former Carnegie Library, now a Community Centre (RPS ID 1660), which is also listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg. No. 60220039), with Saint Mary's National School (NIAH Reg. No. 60220038) just to the south of it.

The site was not subject to archaeological investigations previously, however a large area to the south was subject to archaeological assessment (02E1285; 13E0189) in relation to residential development of an area measuring c. 11.8 hectares. During monitoring (02E1584; 08E0427) further south, features of archaeological significance were identified and excavated. Cartographic and aerial imagery was reviewed as part of this assessment, alongside a site visit. No archaeological monuments are depicted on any of the examined maps. Hillcrest Road was not depicted on the 1760 map but was shown by the time of the 1836 OS map. The 1907 OS map shows the townland boundary between Balally and Woodside as a wet ditch/stream. By the time of the 1995 aerial photograph, significant expansion of residential development in south Dublin is apparent, with residential dwellings on long rectangular plots lining Hillcrest Road. The site remains largely unchanged since, however, an area in the northwest portion of the site is in use as a yard since early 2022. During the site visit, carried out on two occasions, on the 7th November and 1st December 2022 by Billy Sines of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd (ACSU), no obvious presence of unrecorded archaeological monuments was noted.

The site is considered to have some archaeological potential due to its location within the medieval Pale. The review of cartographic sources and the results of archaeological investigations in the area further suggest the site has some potential to contain undisturbed archaeological features, that would be impacted by the proposed improvement scheme if present.

Due to the nature of the site and the development, test trenching is not feasible, and monitoring is therefore recommended. Furthermore, the presence of a stream, representing a townland boundary was identified. Consequently, in addition to

monitoring during groundworks, a wade assessment with the use of metal detector is recommended prior to works commencing. The fieldwork should be carried out by an experienced, licence-eligible archaeologist in line with method statements submitted to and approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. THE DEVELOPMENT	1
2.1 Proposal.....	1
2.2 Archaeological Requirements	1
2.3 Methodology.....	1
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	2
3.1 Archaeological & Historical Background	2
3.2 Recorded Monuments	4
3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations.....	6
3.4 Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage	7
3.5 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland	7
3.6 Cartographic Review.....	7
3.7 Aerial Imagery Review	8
3.8 Field Survey	8
4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	10
5. REFERENCES.....	11

List of Tables

Table 1	Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site
Table 2	Previous archaeological investigations in the environs of the site
Table 3	Protected Structures and structures listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

List of Figures

Figure 1	Location of site
Figure 2	Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites
Figure 3	Extract from Down Survey map of County Dublin, Barony of Rathdown (1656), showing approximate location of site
Figure 4	Extract from An actual survey of the county of Dublin by John Rocque - southeast sheet (1760) , showing approximate location of site
Figure 5	Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site
Figure 6	Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1907 - published 1910), showing location of site
Figure 7	Aerial view of site

List of Plates

Plate 1:	East extent of the scheme, Kilgobbin and Hillcrest Rd. junction.
Plate 2:	Southeast extent of the scheme, facing south.
Plate 3:	East portion of Hillcrest Rd., facing east.
Plate 4:	View along east portion of Hillcrest Rd., facing west.
Plate 5:	View along Hillcrest Road, facing northwest.
Plate 6:	View along Hillcrest Road, facing east.
Plate 7:	View along Hillcrest Road, facing southwest.
Plate 8:	View along Hillcrest Road, facing west.
Plate 9:	West portion of the scheme; bridge over the stream, facing southwest
Plate 10:	West portion of the scheme; bridge over the stream, facing northeast.

Plate 11:	Stream, facing north.
Plate 12:	Bridge, facing northeast.
Plate 9:	West portion of the scheme; bridge over the stream, facing southwest
Plate 10:	West portion of the scheme; bridge over the stream, facing northeast.
Plate 11:	Stream, facing north.
Plate 12:	Bridge, facing northeast.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment in relation to the Hillcrest Road Improvement Scheme for a site at Hillcrest Road, Sandyford, Dublin (ITM 718080, 725340 (W); 718750, 725690 (E), Figures 1–2). This assessment is based on the findings of a site visit and a study of available historical, cartographic and photographic sources and aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and its wider environs, and where present, offer recommendations for the mitigation of such potential impacts.

The scheme extent is along the Hillcrest Road, between and including the junctions with Enniskerry Road and Kilgobbin Road, in Sandyford, Co. Dublin. It consists of the current road footprint, front gardens of the adjacent dwellings, a stream and a bridge as well as areas adjacent to the junctions.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Proposal

This assessment has been carried out at the request of the client to assess the archaeological potential of the site in relation to the Hillcrest Road Improvement Scheme. The intention of the scheme is to widen the footprint of the existing roadway to provide upgraded facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

2.2 Archaeological Requirements

This archaeological impact assessment will inform the design team of any possible underlying archaeological issues. It will assess the archaeological potential of the site and determine if any archaeological constraints are apparent in relation to the proposed development works.

2.3 Methodology

This assessment comprised a literature review and consultation of various written, cartographic and photographic sources. This included the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), compiled and updated by the National Monuments Service and the National Historic Properties Service. The RMP is comprised of manuals that list all known archaeological sites and monuments in a county with accompanying maps (based on Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch maps) locating these sites. All sites included in the RMP are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930–2004). The SMR consists of all records stored in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland national database and is presented in the Historic Environment Viewer, which also includes sites listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The last published RMP for County Dublin is dated 1998, and as such, many of the sites listed in the SMR are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were also consulted to assess the area's archaeological potential. These files list, on a townland basis, all archaeological artefacts in the care of or known to the museum. Such a record can provide evidence for human settlement or activity in the absence of physical remains or documentary references. The results of previous and ongoing archaeological investigations were also taken into account in order to evaluate the level of archaeological remains coming to light in the area. This was primarily achieved by searching the Database of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland (www.excavations.ie), which contains summaries of all investigations carried out under licence from 1970 to the present. Historical maps, including those held by the Map Library of Trinity College Dublin, aerial photography from the Geological Survey of Ireland and aerial imagery from Google Earth were also consulted. These sources can indicate areas of archaeological potential through features like curving field boundaries, crop marks and soil marks, and can provide information regarding the nature and extent of recorded archaeological sites that have become denuded since the early 19th century. Historical maps are also useful in identifying other features of cultural heritage significance.

The *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022–2028* was also consulted as this contains a Record of Protected Structures and Industrial Heritage Sites. Further buildings and features of architectural interest in the area that are not included on the Record of Protected Structures are detailed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).

In addition to the desk-based assessment, a site visit was also carried out; its purpose was to assess whether or not the site contained any visible evidence for the presence of any previously unrecorded areas or features of historical or archaeological significance.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

The site is situated in Sandyford, in the townlands of Ballaly, Woodside and Murphystown, in the Barony of Rathdown. Ballaly is in the Civil Parish of Taney, Woodside in the Civil Parish of Kilgobbin and Murphystown in the Civil Parish of Tully.

The majority of the scheme is along Hillcrest Road in the townland of Woodside (*Taobh na Coille*). The area was recorded as Tynekilly in 1654, but by the early 19th century the name Woodside was in use and remains to the present day. It is unclear whether the townland name derives from Woodside House (DU022-068----) or the other way around, as perhaps the name was used due to the areas proximity to substantial parklands associated with Fern Hill parklands to the south, which date to the early 18th century. The westernmost portion of the scheme is in the townland of Balally (*Baile Amhlaoibh*). It was recorded as Ballawly in 1547 and variations of the name were used thereafter; it was depicted by Rocque (1760) as 'Ballally' and in 1821 by Duncan as 'Ballalley' and 'Ballalley Lands'. The area was translated as *Baile Amhlaoibh* 'Awley's town, Olave's town' by John O'Donovan in 1838 (Ordnance Survey Parish Namebooks). The townland boundary between Balally and Woodside is formed by a stream. This boundary is shown on the 1836 OS map and by 1907 is clearly depicted

as a stream. The easternmost extent of the scheme is in the townland of Murphystown (*Baile Uí Mhurchú*), also known as Ballymurphy. It was formerly part of lands called Ballyogan, which were in the possession of the Priory of the Holy Trinity. Following the English Conquest, the lands were transferred to the Cathedral of St. Patrick and areas of Murphystown and Ballyogan were retained by the Priory. The name Murphystown is mentioned in 1718, when the Wolverstones of Stillorgan were listed as in possession of the lands under Commonwealth, with John Davis and 17 other persons listed as resident in Murphystown. Following the Restoration, the lands were recovered for the Cathedral and were held by the lessees of Tipperstown. It was depicted on Duncan's map of 1821 as Murphystown. It appears that the original footprint of Kilgobbin Road (realigned by the time of a 2008 aerial photograph) formed the townland boundary between Woodside and Murphystown.

Prehistoric activity in the area is testified by burnt mounds, known also as *fulacht fia*. Three such monuments were recorded in the environs of the site. One in the townland of Kilgobbin (DU026-161----), with an associated hearth and post- and stake-holes representing a structure, and two others to the north of the site, which were identified during topsoil stripping of the South-Eastern motorway. These were located in Murphystown (DU022-109----) and Ballally (DU022-110----). *Fulachtaí fia* comprise the most commonly discovered evidence for prehistoric settlement across Ireland and represent the use of pyrolithic technology to boil water, with those noted in close proximity to a trough generally interpreted as cooking/industrial sites (Hawkes 2018). These sites generally consist of a low mound of charcoal-enriched soil mixed with an abundance of heat-shattered stones, commonly forming a horseshoe shape in proximity to a trough, and are found in low-lying marshy areas or close to streams. Often these sites have been ploughed out and survive as a spread of heat-shattered stones in charcoal-rich soil with no surface expression. Furthermore, a pit burial (DU025-081----) in Kilgobbin was identified under licence 02E1220, with associated Middle–Late Bronze Age date pottery also recovered, while to the north-east in the townland of Carmanhall, a flat cemetery (DU023-063----) consisting of a group of pit burials with two vase urns, dated between 2000 BC and 1850 BC (Early Bronze Age), was excavated under licence 01E1129.

A stone-covered well (DU025-013----) is located to the southeast of the site and is known as O'Grady's Well. It is thought to be of medieval date but is not marked on any of the OS mapping. The worship of holy wells is hard to date, but the tradition likely originates around the seventh century AD. Some wells, however, retain their pre-Christian character, like the ones near Tara in County Meath. Many water springs that were a focus of activity in prehistory were likely transformed to Holy Wells with the introduction of Christianity. The wells often took their name from a saint, with St Patrick or St Brigid being the most common. Holy wells are found in isolation but often in proximity to early church sites (O'Sullivan & Downey 2006). To the north of the well, in its immediate environs, an enclosure (DU025-014----) is registered. This monument is located on the northeast slope of Three Rock Mountain and was identified on aerial photograph taken in 1978; it is not visible at ground level. Less well-defined 'enclosures' such as this are also generally accepted as being from the early medieval period as the remnants of destroyed ringforts or similar associated sites, although the possibility of prehistoric origins cannot be ruled out. The majority of early medieval ditched enclosures date to the sixth to ninth centuries AD, and we see a significant decline in their use in the tenth century (O'Sullivan & Nicholls 2010). Ditched enclosures are generally regarded

as enclosed farmsteads, and the defences are thought to have been built in order to protect against cattle raids (Stout 1997). Some have provided little evidence for structures, suggesting the enclosure was used for storing cattle, known as a 'bodun', though the majority provide evidence to suggest they were inhabited settlements, with houses, farmyards, outbuildings and animals (O'Sullivan & Nicholls 2010).

In the late medieval period, the area controlled by the English was known as the Pale. The Pale extended to Louth, Meath, Dublin and Kildare and consisted of a fortified ditch and rampart. The southerly extent of the Pale is marked by Carrickmines Castle. The line of the Pale through south-east county Dublin is likely to have varied. The route of the Pale ditch was recorded to the southeast, south and northwest of the site. Portions of the ditch are recorded as linear earthworks in the area, such as a section to the northwest of the site in the townland of Balally (DU022-064----) and to the southeast in the townland of Kilgobbin (DU026-087---- and DU026-121002-), while to the south of the site, a possible route of the Pale ditch was hinted at by McCabe (2004b); marked as to the south, curving northwards on the west side of designated landscape – tree ring DU022-069----. The route was described by Ball and Hamilton as *The Pale began at Dalkey and followed a south-westerly direction towards Kilternan; then turning northwards passed Kilgobbin... and crosses the Parish of Taney to the south of that part of the lands of Balally now called Moreen and thence in a westerly direction towards Tallaght*. It is unclear what evidence this was based on, however, examination in 1978 at Balally found a 220m-long ditch. In the townland of Jamestown, parallel to Ballyogan Road and a small river, an earthwork measuring 500m was also uncovered; the ditch varied from two to three meters wide (see Goodbody 1993).

To the south of the site stands a monument classed as House - 16th/17th century DU022-068----. The original house is likely to date from the 1690s (SMR file). On the 1836 OS map it appears to represent no more than a farmyard, however, by the 1907 map, more detail is given and the large house is labelled as 'Woodside House', with a well, what appears to be stables to the south and ancillary structures. The remains of the late 17th-century building are recorded as surviving to the rear of a late 19th-century building. The Griffith's Valuation carried out in 1848 and 1864 lists John Hastings as the owner of Woodside. The house change hands thereafter; it was sold to John Charlton Spinks in the early 20th century, with Robert Edward Lazenby, John Montgomery Esq., Daniel Joseph Delaney and the Lenehans occupying the house. The house still stands.

3.2 Recorded Monuments

The site does not contain any Recorded Monuments listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (Figure 2). There are a total of 15 monuments recorded within 1km radius of the scheme, these date from prehistoric period to post-medieval times. The nearest such monument is House - 16th/17th century DU022-068---- located c. 245m to the south. As detailed above, the original house is likely to date from the 1690s and its remains survive to the rear of a late 19th-century building, labelled as Woodside House on the 1907 OS map.

The following is a list of the recorded monuments located in the environs of the site. The entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research and are available in the National Monuments Service Archaeological Survey Database (<http://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>).

Table 1: Recorded Monuments in the environs of the site

RMP No./ SMR No.	Class/Site Type	Description
DU022-068--	House - 16th/17th century	The original house at Woodside is likely to date from the 1690's (Rob Goodbody Pers coms). It had the front façade replaced in the 1890's but the original house survives to the rear.
DU022-069--	Designed landscape - tree-ring	Described by Paddy Healy in a report by An Foras Forbartha for Dublin County Council in 1983 as a possible ringfort. This was since assessed and considered to be a tree ring.
DU025-014--	Enclosure	Located in upland pasture on the lower NE slopes of Three Rock Mountain. An aerial photograph taken in 1978 (BKS 2776139/40) shows a semicircular platform defined to the E by a field boundary running NE-SW (dims. N-S 28m; E-W 18m). Not visible at ground level.
DU025-013--	Well	A lintelled passage in the middle of a field forms the approach to a stone covered well known as O'Grady's Well (NMI:1962). Thought to be medieval in date.
DU022-110--	Fulacht fia	During monitoring of topsoil on the South-Eastern Motorway a fulacht fiadh was identified. Located on a gentle slope at the foot of the Dublin Mountains near a stream. Comprised aspread of dark soil which covered a hearth and a large circular pit. Beside the hearth was a large circular pit surrounded by a ring of stake holes and a rectilinear pit which was lined with wooden planks. Finds from the site include a small quantity of lithic debitage (O' Drisceoil, 2004, 121).
DU022-064--	Linear earthwork	Now incorporated into a green area within Moreen Housing Estate. This feature extends roughly N-S direction and survives in two sections. It comprises a flat-topped bank with a fosse on either side (L 220m). The bank is better preserved in the S (Wth Top 3-4m, Wth Base 6m, H 1.2m). The fosses are mostly silted up (Wth 2m, D 0.3m). There are old whitethorn bushes along both faces of the bank and along the top a number of mature trees. This earthwork compares in appearance and size with sections of Pale Ditch in Dublin and Kildare. It is on a route of the Pale Ditch confirmed by Ball & Hamilton (1895) in their history of the Parish of Taney (Healy 1978). Investigative excavations in 1996 indicated the Pale Ditch continued northwards (L 63m) from the Kilcross estate through part of the Central Bank's grounds.
DU022-036002-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	An aerial photograph (BKS 2177 6139) taken in 1971 shows a substantial oval earthen bank (diam. 148m) which enclosed the church (DU022-036001-). This has been levelled during later development leaving no visible trace above ground.

RMP No./ SMR No.	Class/Site Type	Description
DU022- 036001-	Church	Known as the 'cross church of Moreen' it is said to have been built on a battleground (Ball & Hamilton, 1895, 134). Some sources identify Balally with the BALLYVROOLEF listed in the papal bull of 1179 (Cotter 1991). In 1297 a Plea Roll recorded a legal action between John le Botiller and the Abbot of Wetheney, Abbington, Co. Limerick 'as to the right of presentation to the church of Balihawly' (Mount 1990, 120). Remains comprise the foundation of a rectangular structure, built of undressed granite masonry (int. dims. L 10.40m, Wth 5.2m, Wall Wth 0.95m). A series of pits revealed during the excavation of the site produced a strap-tag with interlaced decoration of 7th-10th century date (Mount 1991, 23-24). Further excavations in 2003 revealed a double-ditched enclosure. Finds included a medieval rotary quern and coarse local ware. No structures were identified (O'Donnchadha, 2006, 106).
DU022-109-- --	Fulacht fia	Topsoil stripping on the South-Eastern Motorway uncovered a fulacht fiadh. This appeared as a discontinuous spread of dark soil (L 18m, Wth 15m). It covered an oval pit (L2m, D 0.7m) filled with burnt material. Four pieces of flint were found in the pit (Breen 2004, 177).

3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

There were no records of any previous archaeological investigations at the proposed site. However, a large area to the south was subject to archaeological assessment previously. This was in relation to residential development of an area measuring c. 11.8 hectares. Investigations including testing (02E1285; McCabe 2004a) and monitoring (13E0189) in an area immediately to the south of the current site identified no features. However, during monitoring (02E1584; McCabe 2004b; 08E0427) further south, features of archaeological significance were identified and excavated. These included an isolated pit, a Bronze Age hut structure, a domestic settlement of post-medieval date and miscellaneous features (02E1584), while during groundworks associated with two reservoirs and a temporary compound, two small burnt pits or hearths were recorded (08E0427).

Listed below (Table 2) are the excavations and assessments located in the wider environs (Figure 2). The details are derived from the *Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland* (www.excavations.ie).

Table 2: Previous archaeological investigations in the environs of the site

Site	Licence No.	Site Type	Investigation Type
2002:0697 - Woodside, Dublin	02E1285	Prehistoric activity	Monitoring
2002:0698 - Woodside, Dublin	02E1584	Metal waste pit, Bronze Age hut and 18th-century stone structure	Monitoring
2008:499 - Sandyford High-Level Water Scheme, Woodside/ Kilgobbin/ Ballyedmonduff, Dublin	08E0427	Hearths	Monitoring
2013:530 - Woodside, Aikens Village, Stepside, Co. Dublin, Dublin	13E0189	Modern made ground - no archaeology found	Monitoring

3.4 Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The site contains no Protected Structures, as listed within the *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022–2028*, nor any structures listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for County Dublin. However, the west portion of the site does contain a Letter Box (Industrial Heritage Site No. 948) located at Lamb's Cross, as listed in the *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022–2028*. The site is partially adjacent to a plot with a Protected Structure, representing a former Carnegie Library, now a Community Centre (RPS ID 1660), which is also listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg. No. 60220039), with Saint Mary's National School (NIAH Reg. No. 60220038) just to the south of it (Figure 2). It appears that these two structures are incorrectly marked on the NIAH database at present; as neither is located at the Lamb's Cross.

3.5 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were consulted and list no finds for Balally nor Woodside. One find is listed for Murphystown; a stone axehead (NMI Reg. No. 1979:73) found under a granite boulder and likely representative of prehistoric activity in the area

3.6 Cartographic Review

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out to include the Down Survey map of County Dublin (1656), Barony of Rathdown (Figure 3), John Rocque's map of 1760 (Figure 4), and various editions compiled by the Ordnance

Survey (OS) of Ireland, including the 1st edition 6-inch map that was surveyed in 1836 (Figure 5) and the 25-inch map that was surveyed in 1907 (Figure 6). Potential archaeological or cultural heritage features are marked on such maps, and they provide a useful resource in identifying sites, particularly if they no longer have any above-ground remains.

The Down Survey map of County Dublin, dated 1656, depicts the site as largely within the north portion of the Whitechurch Parish with annotation *The Grange Protestant Land*, with the west and east extent of the scheme within the Parish of Tanee. On the 1760 map, the site is shown within agricultural fields. The former footprint of Kilgobbin Road is apparent. A junction with Kilgobbin Road is shown and a road meandering to the west of it, but not within the footprint of the current Hillcrest Road. The road appears to continue further west, roughly within the current Blackglen Road.

The 1836 OS map shows the footprint of the current Hillcrest Road. A junction to the east with former Kilgobbin Road is also shown as the townland boundary between Woodside and Murphystown, while the junction to the west is with Sandyford and Enniskerry Roads. The site traverses a number of fields, with only one building shown near the junction with Kilgobbin Road on both OS maps. By the time of the 1907 OS map, the townland boundary depicted on the 1836 map between Woodside and Balally is shown as a wet ditch. More detail is given in relation to field types; the west portion of the scheme is shown as rough grassland with stone outcrops.

The examined maps do not depict any archaeological monuments within the site.

3.7 Aerial Imagery Review

A review of the available aerial photography for the area was also undertaken as part of this assessment. Aerial imagery dating between 1995 and 2013 from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and dating between 2005 and 2022 from Google Earth were examined. Unrecorded archaeological sites can often be identified in aerial photographs as cropmarks or differential growth in a field. No such cropmarks were noted within the site.

By the time of the 1995 aerial photograph, significant expansion of residential development in South Dublin is apparent. Residential dwellings on long rectangular plots line Hillcrest Road, while the area to the south of the road consists of agricultural fields. By the 2008 aerial photograph, Kilgobbin Rd and Hillcrest Road junction was constructed and operational. The previously green area at the junction of Sandyford and Enniskerry and Hillcrest Roads is in use as a yard since early 2022.

No cropmarks suggestive of archaeological monuments were identified.

3.8 Field Survey

The purpose of this survey was to assess whether or not the site contained any evidence for the presence of any previously unrecorded areas or features of historical or archaeological significance.

The site was inspected on the 7th November and 1st December 2022 by Billy Sines of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd (Plates 1–16). The site consists of the footprint of Hillcrest Road, with adjacent rectangular front gardens of dwellings lining it. The junction with Kilgobbin Road is upgraded; a minor, eastern section of Hillcrest Road is also upgraded with bicycle and footpaths slightly beyond the Sandyford Village junction (Plates 1-4). The road is mostly lined with stone walls, hedges and trees. A footpath and a section of uniform wall of a recent date are along the north side of the road, within the east portion of the scheme, after a short distance, the footpath narrows and the wall is less uniform and varies from plot to plot. The street is lined with front gardens, with driveways to the dwellings along it on both sides (Plates 5-8). The plots to the south are on higher ground than the road, while the ones to the north appear to be level or slightly lower. In the western portion of the scheme, a north–south aligned stream with a bridge was recorded. It is built of stone and covered in ivy, particularly on its south side. On the north side of the road, on the west shore of the stream, drainage works took place.

A letter box was noted within the site. It stands on the Lambs Cross, up against a wall and to the south of Blackglen Road. It is an Industrial Heritage asset, Site Number 948 (Plates 14, 15) listed in the *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022–2028*.

Provisions will be required to ensure no damage to the letter box (Site No. 948) occurs during works. No features or structures of an archaeological nature were identified within the site.

4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This archaeological impact assessment of the site at Hillcrest Road, Sandyford, Dublin, carried out in relation to Hillcrest Road Improvement Scheme, concludes that the site has archaeological potential. This is due to its location within the medieval Pale. The review of cartographic sources and the results of archaeological investigations in the area further suggest the site has some potential to contain undisturbed archaeological features, that would be impacted by the proposed improvement scheme if present.

Due to the nature of the site and the development, test trenching is not feasible, and monitoring is therefore recommended. Furthermore, the presence of a stream, representing a townland boundary, was identified. Consequently, in addition to monitoring during groundworks, a wade assessment with the use of a metal detector is recommended prior to works commencing. The fieldwork should be carried out by an experienced, licence-eligible archaeologist in line with method statements submitted to and approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

5. REFERENCES

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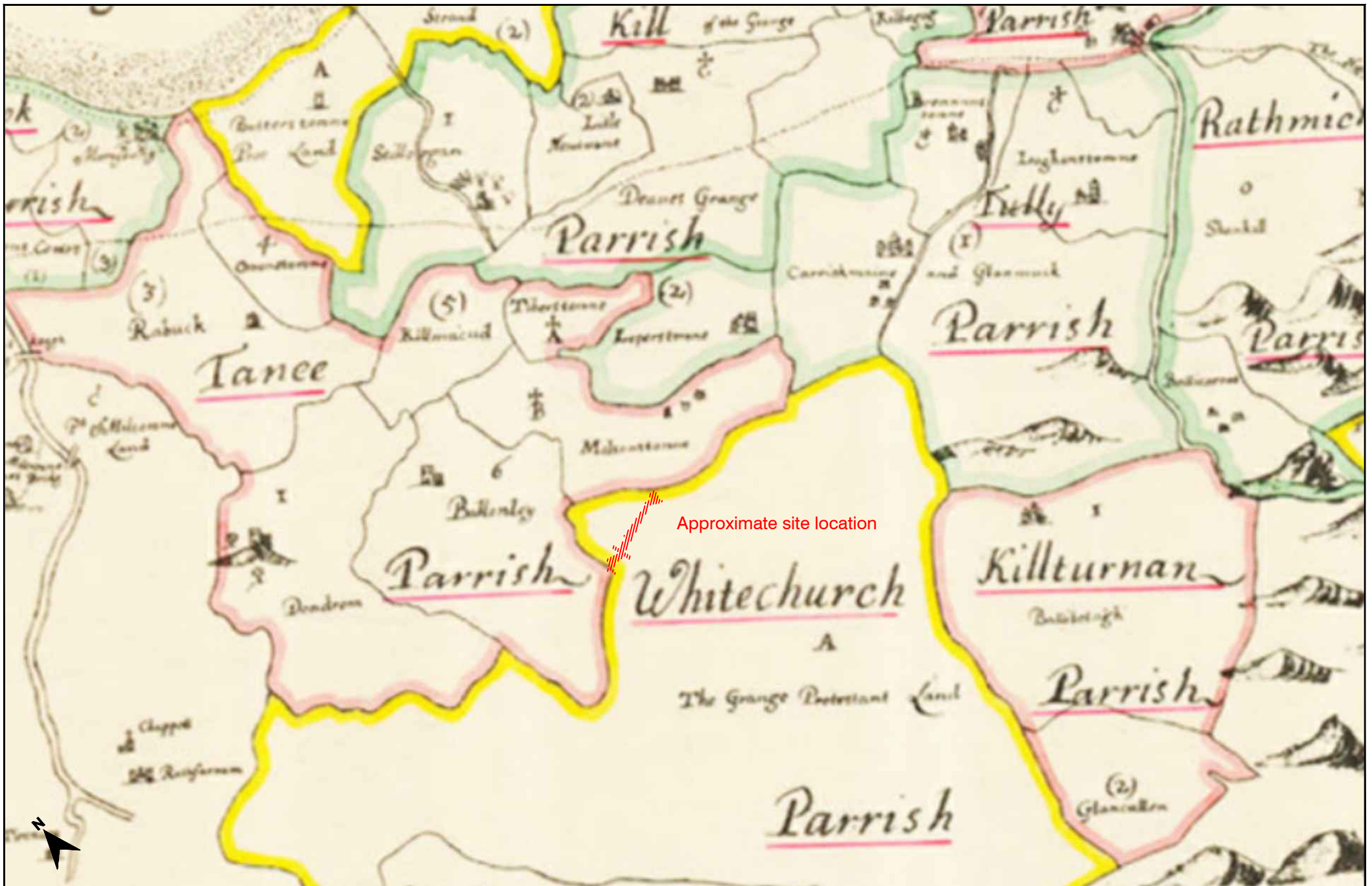
Project Hilcrest Road, Sandyford, Dublin

December 2022

Drawing No. 22118_C0001

Figure 1 Location of site

Scale 1:50,000@A4



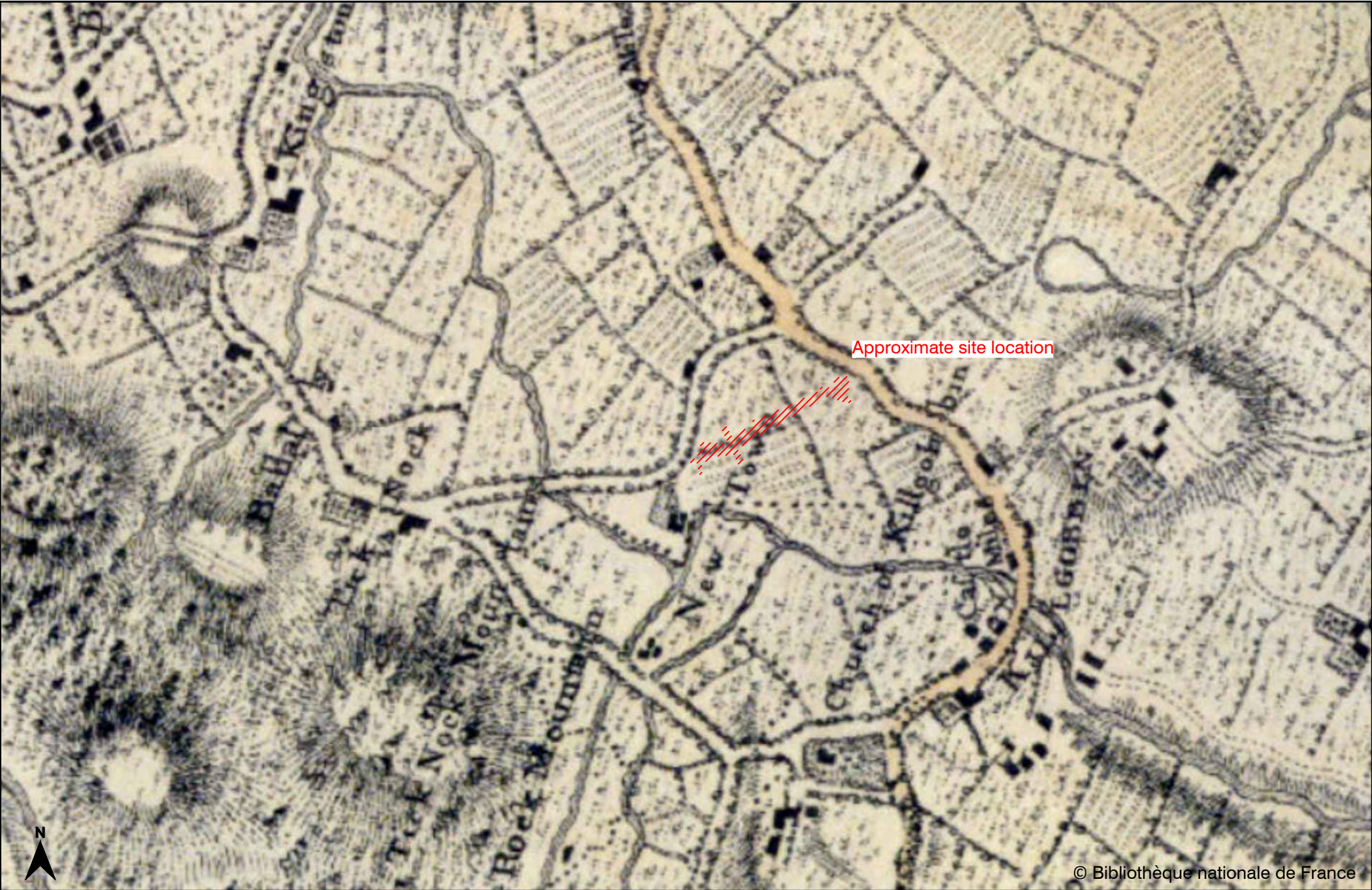
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Date December 2022


Drawing No. 22118_C0003

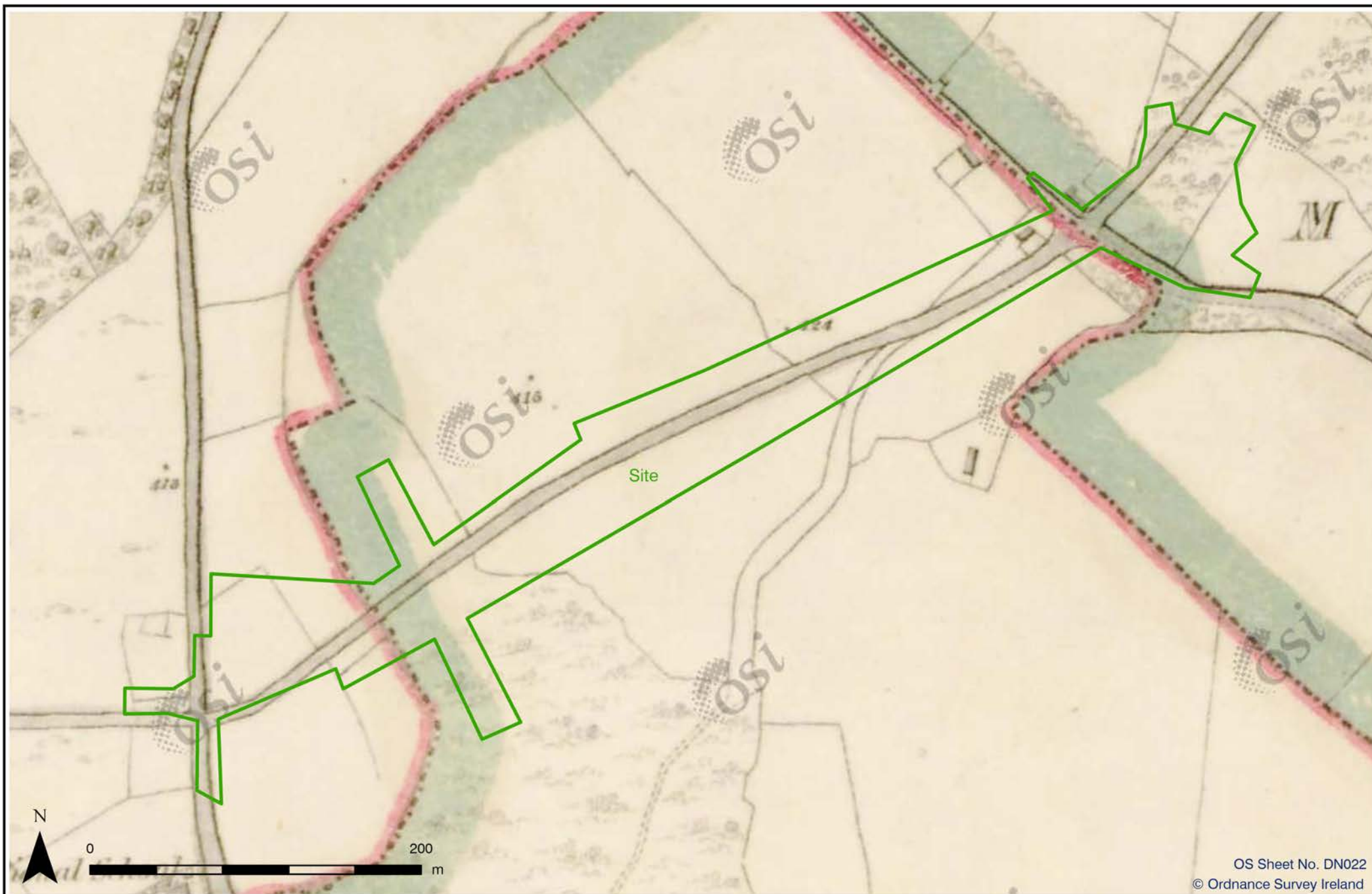
Figure 3 Extract from Down Survey map of County Dublin, Barony of Rathdown (1656), showing approximate location of site

Scale Not to scale



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Project Hillcrest Road, Sandyford, Dublin	Date December 2022	Drawing No. 22118_C0004	 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT
Figure 4 Extract from An actual survey of the county of Dublin by John Rocque - southeast sheet (1760) , showing approximate location of site		Scale Not to scale	



OS Sheet No. DN022
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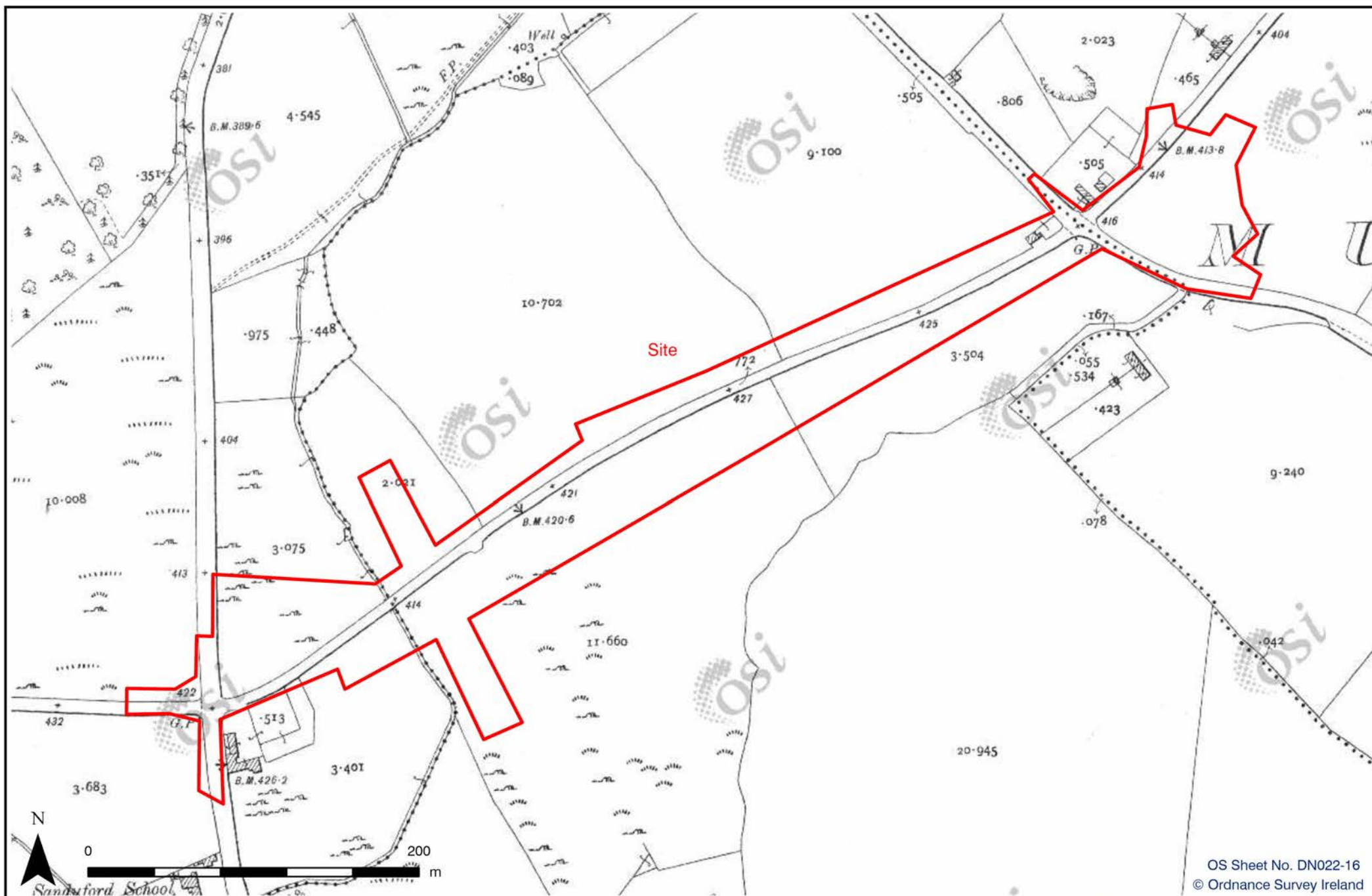
Project Hilcrest Road, Sandyford, Dublin

December 2022

Drawing No. 22118_C0005

Figure 5 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1836 - published 1843), showing location of site

Scale 1:3,000@A4



Project Hilcrest Road, Sandyford, Dublin

December 2022

Drawing No. 22118_C0006

Figure 6 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1907 - published 1910), showing location of site

Scale 1:3,000@A4



Project Hillcrest Road, Sandyford, Dublin

Date December 2022

Drawing No. 22118_C0007

Figure 7 Aerial view of site

Scale 1:3,000 @ A4



Plate 1: East extent of the scheme, Kilgobbin and Hillcrest Rd. junction.



Plate 2: Southeast extent of the scheme, facing south.



Plate 3: East portion of Hillcrest Rd., facing east.



Plate 4: View along east portion of Hillcrest Rd., facing west.



Plate 5: View along Hillcrest Road, facing northwest.



Plate 6: View along Hillcrest Road, facing east.



Plate 7: View along Hillcrest Road, facing southwest.



Plate 8: View along Hillcrest Road, facing west.



Plate 9: West portion of the scheme; bridge over the stream, facing southwest



Plate 10: West portion of the scheme; bridge over the stream, facing northeast.



Plate 11: Stream, facing north.

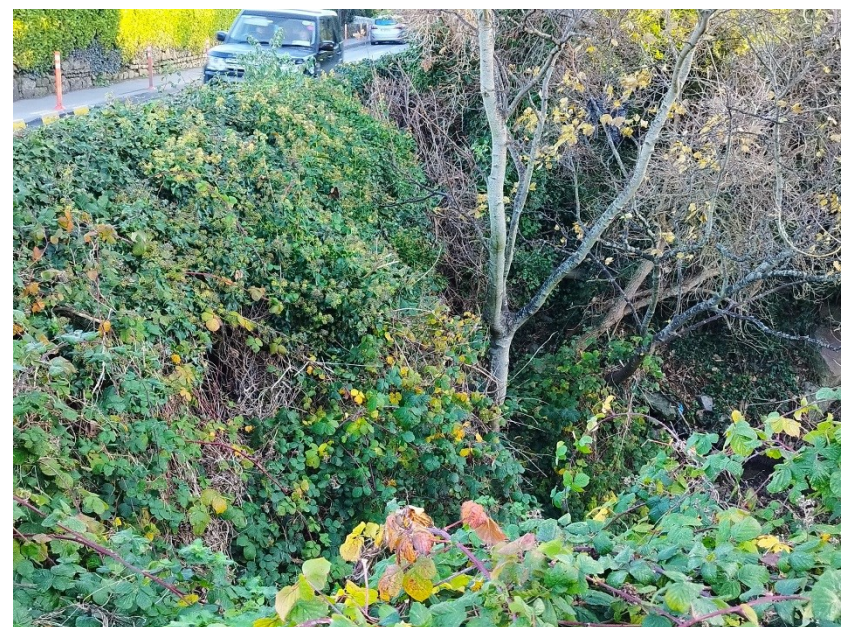


Plate 12: Bridge, facing northeast.



Plate 13: Hillcrest and Enniskerry junction/Lamb's Cross, facing south-west.



Plate 14: Lamb's Cross, showing location of letter box, facing southwest.



Plate 15: Letter box (Industrial Heritage Site No. 948) at Lamb's Cross.



Plate 16: Northwest portion of the site, facing southeast.