

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AT
BELGARD ROAD,
TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24**

**ON BEHALF OF:
MIDSAL HOMES LIMITED**

ITM: 708790, 727677

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ABSTRACT

This report has been prepared on behalf of Midsal Homes Limited, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed residential development at Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (Figure 1; ITM 708790, 727677). The report was undertaken by Johnnie Gallacher of IAC Archaeology.

The northeast corner of the proposed development area is located within a recorded monument, which comprises the Zone of Archaeological Potential associated with the historic settlement of Tallaght (RMP DU021-037). There are a further nine monuments located within the study area, the majority of which are associated with Saint Maelruain's Church (DU021-037003), c. 212m east-northeast.

Analysis of the desktop resources and a field inspection has illustrated the disturbed nature of the site due to previous development on the site in the form of a warehouse and car parking. The archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low, due to the likely fact that any archaeological remains that may have survived here have since been removed by modern development.

Given this conclusion, no adverse impacts on the archaeological resource are predicted as a result of the development going ahead and no archaeological mitigation is required as part of the development.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development at Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (Figure 1; ITM 708790, 727677). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. The assessment was undertaken by Johnnie Gallacher of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Midsal Homes Limited.

The archaeological assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site and the surrounding area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Dublin, the topographical files within the National Museum and all available cartographic and documentary sources for the area. A field inspection has also been carried out with the aim to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical interest.

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development, as shown in Figure 2, principally comprises: the demolition and removal of existing boundary walls and railings on the main development site's eastern, western and northern sides; and the construction of a mixed-use development in 2 No. blocks (Block A to the south and Block B to the north) with a gross floor area of 23,540 sq m (excluding basement of 275 sq m) and ranging in height from 1 No. to 7 No. storeys (with mezzanine level) over basement.

The development includes a total of 199 No. residential dwellings (6 No. studios, 47 No. 1-bed, 98 No. 2-bed and 48 No. 3-bed) in the 2 No. blocks, with Block A comprising 49 No. 'senior living' apartment units and Block B comprising 150 No. 'standard' apartment units. The development also includes 2,123 sq m of non-residential floor space, with the following uses proposed: 4 No. retail units (totalling 331 sq m); 4 No. class 1 / class 2 commercial units (totalling 387 sq m); a bicycle sales and repair shop (81 sq m); an off-licence (64 sq m); a bar (151 sq m); a café (87 sq m); a medical centre (210 sq m); a dental practice (72 sq m); a pharmacy (195 sq m); a beauty/health salon (195 sq m); and a crèche (350 sq m) with external play area.

The development also comprises: an undercroft car park accessed via a new entrance/exit at Belgard Square East which provides 58 No. car parking spaces; a gated service lane to the south of Block A, with entrances/exits off Belgard Square East and Belgard Road; 2 No. pedestrian/cycle crossings, at Belgard Square East and Belgard Road; continuation of the northbound cycle lane from Belgard Road onto Old Blessington Road; alteration to the median and northbound right turn at Belgard Road onto Abberley Square; cycle parking; internal communal amenity spaces for the senior living units; hard and soft landscaping, including public open space, communal amenity space and incidental spaces; private amenity spaces (as balconies and terraces facing all directions); boundary treatments; 2 No. sub-stations;

plant/operational rooms; bin stores; public lighting; blue roofs; rooftop PV arrays; lift overruns and rooftop opening vents atop both blocks; 4 No. 0.3 m diameter microwave link dishes mounted on 2 No. steel support poles affixed to the Block B lift overrun, all enclosed in radio-friendly GRP shrouds; and all associated works above and below ground.

2 METHODOLOGY

Research for this report was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase comprised a field inspection of the site.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028;
- Tallaght Local Area Plan 2020 (as extended);
- Aerial photographs; and
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025).

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as ‘un-located sites’ and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The South Dublin County Development Plan (2022–2028) and Tallaght Local Area Plan (2020) were consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2025 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2025.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously

unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological field inspection entailed -

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located on Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (Figure 1). The site is situated in the townland and parish of Tallaght and Barony of Uppercross. The site is occupied by hard standing and tarmac and was formerly occupied by a large industrial unit and associated car parking. The site is bound by Old Blessington Road to the north, Belgard Road to the east, by a McDonald's fast food drive-thru and car park to the south and by Belgard Square East to the west. The surrounding area is characterised by commercial and industrial development, as well as busy roads and some blocks of flats and other housing.

There are ten archaeological sites recorded within 250m of the proposed development. The closest is the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) associated with the historic settlement of Tallaght (RMP DU021-037). The northeast corner of the proposed development area is located within this zone. The remaining monuments comprise of a mill situated c. 132m east-southeast (RMP DU021-037007), and a number of monuments associated with Saint Maelruain's Church (RMP DU021-037003), c. 212m east-northeast. It should be noted that during the 19th century, a mill race is shown running along the southern boundary of the proposed development area. The SMR file associated with DU021-037007 notes that this mill race may have originally been associated with an earlier mill.

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (6000–4000 BC)

Although very recent discoveries may push back the date of human activity by a number of millennia (Dowd and Carden, 2016), the Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence for prehistoric activity in Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had led a primarily, but not exclusively, mobile lifestyle. The presence of Mesolithic communities is most commonly evidenced by scatters of worked flint material, a by-product from the production of flint implements.

The current archaeological evidence suggests that the environs around Dublin were first inhabited towards the later part of this period. At this time people made crude flint tools known as Larnian (or Bann) Flakes. Small numbers of these flakes have been found along coastal areas of County Dublin such as Dun Laoghaire, Dalkey Island, and Loughlinstown and may indicate small-scale transient settlement along the riverbanks and seashores (Corlett, 1999). There are no known Mesolithic sites located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)

During the Neolithic period, communities generally became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. The transition to the Neolithic was marked by major social change. Communities had expanded and

moved further inland to more permanent settlements. This afforded the development of agriculture which demanded an altering of the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time.

While recent years have seen a large increase in the number of identified Neolithic settlement and habitation sites, the period is most commonly characterised by its impressive megalithic tombs. There is a possible Neolithic habitation site (DU021-012) situated c. 3.8km northwest of the proposed development area. This was identified during excavations in advance of a gas pipeline.

Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)

The Bronze Age was marked by the widespread use of metal for the first time in Ireland. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. The construction of megalithic tombs went into decline and the burial of the individual became typical. Cremated or inhumed bodies were often placed in a cist, which is a stone-lined grave, usually built of slabs set upright to form a box-like construction and capped by a large slab or several smaller lintels (Buckley & Sweetman, 1991). Barrows and pit burials are also funerary monuments associated with this period.

As during the Neolithic period, the high ground of the Dublin Mountains to the south of Tallaght may have been perceived as being sacred and a large number of burial monuments dating to this period are recorded within this landscape. The closest of these monuments includes a ring barrow (DU021-052), located c. 4.1km to the southwest of the development area.

Iron Age (800 BC–AD 500)

Until recently, the dearth of evidence representing the Irish Iron Age led to it being the most enigmatic and least understood period in Irish prehistory. However, large scale commercial excavations carried out over the past two decades have produced large quantities of new data relating to Iron Age settlement and industry across the country. This raw excavation data is still being analysed and a picture of life during the Iron Age is being assembled (Becker 2012, 1).

There is no firmly dated evidence for Iron Age activity within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. However, some monuments, such as barrows or hillforts, located on higher ground, have the potential to have been constructed or in use during the Iron Age. A stepped barrow (DU021-015003) c. 2.6km to the north is an example of such a monument.

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as largely rural characterised by the basic territorial unit known as *túath*. Byrne (1973) estimates that there were at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time during this period, each ruling over their own *túath*. One of the most common indicators of settlement during this period is the ringfort. Ringforts were often constructed to protect rural

farmsteads and are usually defined as a broadly circular enclosure. There is a ringfort located c. 2.1km to the northwest (DU021-025).

This period was also characterised by the introduction of Christianity to Ireland. The new religion was a catalyst for many changes, one of the most important being literacy. Irish was written down for the first time using the ogham script. The ogham alphabet is thought to be based on the Latin alphabet of the later Roman Empire and today the majority of the inscriptions that survive are located on pillar stones or boulders. As well as this form of the written word, the church created impressive tomes in their official language, Latin. Examples of these include the Book of Kells and the Book of Durrow as well as other mundane works such as the Annals, which were an account of the history of the church. Monasticism was known in St. Patrick's time (mid-5th century) but it was not until the 6th and 7th centuries that the famous monastic houses such as Glendalough, Bangor, Clonfert, Clonard, Clonmacnoise and Durrow were founded.

St Maelruan's ecclesiastical enclosure is recorded c. 137m to the east of the proposed development area (DU021-037002). The church (DU021-037003) was built on the original location of a monastery established in 769 AD, c. 212m east-northeast of the proposed development. The inner and outer enclosure ditches of the monastery have been identified during several archaeological investigations in the area. Ireland's first martyrology book, The Martyrology of Tallaght, was produced there.

Also known as *Máel-Ruain*, *Maol Ruain* and *Mollroone*, this saint was one of Ireland's Christian leaders in his era (Ó Riain 2011, 445-6; Duffy 2005, 308-9). The monastery became known, along with the monastery at Finglas, as one of the 'two eyes of Ireland', possibly on account of the many external influences that reached Ireland through them. Maelruan was a leading figure within the *Céili Dé* movement (translation: clients of God). Although mainly associated with Tallaght, the Culdees (to give the movement's standard Anglicisation) formed many new churches throughout Ireland and Britain (Duffy 2005, 70-1). While asceticism was already present in Irish Christianity, the Culdees intensified this tradition. Vikings attacked the monastery in AD 811 but the institution quickly recovered (askaboutireland.ie; southdublinhistory.ie). St Maelruan's holy tree (DU021-037012) is situated c. 431m west-northwest of the development area, on the grounds of the 19th-century Dominican Priory. This mature walnut tree is clearly not ancient, as this species of tree was only introduced to Ireland in 1760, but it may have replaced a much earlier tree (South Dublin Libraries Local Studies 2012). The sacred status of the tree represents a continuity of worship from pre-Christian times (Duffy 2005, 389, 455).

3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The piecemeal conquest of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans, which commenced in 1169, had a fundamental impact on the Irish landscape. A large portion of the province of Leinster came under Strongbow's control after the conquest. During this time the well-established centre of Kildare town was attractive to Strongbow and in 1170 it became his base (Orpen 1892). By the end of the 12th century Norman settlement was effective over the whole county, as marked by the beginning of the

rule of the Fitzgerald family as Earls of Kildare. The political structure of the Anglo-Normans centred on the establishment of shires, manors, castles, villages, and churches. During this period, the Anglo-Normans built castles of stone construction or large flat-topped mounds or mottes with timber structures atop (Harbison 1997, 62) in order to defend their recently acquired lands.

After the Anglo-Norman invasion Tallaght was confirmed to the See of Dublin in 1179. During the 13th century the O'Byrnes, O'Tooles and many of the Archbishop's tenants took offensive action and as such many agricultural duties were not carried out. A royal grant to enclose the town was issued to the bailiffs of the town in 1310, although no evidence for the presence of walls has been found. Between 1324 and 1349 Tallaght Castle was constructed although it was reportedly in need of repair a century later. The castle was raided by the O'Toole's in 1331/2 and devastated by the family in 1540 (askaboutireland.ie; southdublinhistory.ie). A gatehouse (DU021-037010) and square tower (DU021-037020), c. 406m to the east of the proposed development, are all that survives of the castle and were incorporated into the current Dominican Priory (see below).

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)

The 18th century witnessed a more pacified Ireland and during this time industry was developed in the landscape. In the area of Tallaght, the water power of the River Dodder was utilised and fed numerous millraces to operate a multitude of mills. The first edition OS map of 1843 shows several of the mills found to the south of Tallaght town during this time. One of the largest, the Haerlem mill complex, c. 1.4km to the southeast, consisted of a flour and woollen cloth mill. The Dublin to Blessington Steam Tramway opened in 1888 and passed through the town providing further economic stimulus (askaboutireland.ie, southdublinhistory.ie). An unclassified mill (DU021-037007) is recorded c. 132m east-southeast of the proposed development, although it is believed to be early medieval in date. The SMR file for DU021-037007 notes that the mill race shown c. 90m south of the proposed development on the first edition OS map, may follow the path of an earlier mill race associated with this earlier site. There is no direct archaeological evidence to support this.

With the onset of the 18th century, the political climate settled and this saw a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses around the country. This was largely due to the fact that after the turbulence of the preceding centuries, the success of the Protestant cause and effective removal of any political opposition, the country was at peace. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be dispersed nationally. During the latter part of the 18th century, the establishment of a parkland context (or demesnes) for large houses was the fashion. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable construction effort went into their creation. Major topographical features like rivers and mountains were desirable features for inclusion into, and as a setting, for the large house and parkland.

Multiple demesne landscapes and large houses were established throughout County Dublin during this period, due to the proximity of the city. The Archbishop of Dublin, Hoadley, ordered the demolition and replacement of Tallaght Castle with the Archbishop's Palace in 1729, although by 1821 an Act of Parliament was passed to demolish the palace as it was no longer considered safe. Major Palmer carried out the demolition and then built Tallaght House in 1822. The Dominican Order bought the house in 1856 and founded St Mary's Priory on the site of the old palace in 1864 reusing architectural elements, such as a tower from the castle (DU021-037020) and a gatehouse (DU021-037010) from the palace. The old palace gardens were also incorporated into the Priory's grounds. This represents one of two demesnes within the area surrounding the proposed development. It is situated c. 320m to the east. The other comprises Glebe House, which is situated c. 285m northwest of the proposed development area.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025) has revealed that while no previous archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken within the proposed development area, eight previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within 250m of the site. These investigations are summarised below.

A programme of trial-trenching (C. Newman; Bennett 1990:045) took place c. 186m east of the proposed development area, and adjacent to the monastic enclosure at St Maelruan's Church. At the east end of the site, in an area not threatened by structural development, part of the western edge of a fosse enclosing the monastery was uncovered. Waterlogging prevented more complete exposure of this feature. A pit, filled with loose stones, uncovered on the site of the proposed building, was the only other feature encountered and appeared to be without associated features of dating evidence; its function was uncertain.

A programme of archaeological testing (Licence No. 96E0054) was undertaken in 1996, c. 200m east of the proposed development area. These works occurred prior to the construction of blocks 8/9 of the Docfield development south of the St Maelruan's ecclesiastical enclosure (DU021-037002). While the areas had already been subject to an earlier programme of intensive testing and excavation, additional testing was conducted in order to define a ditch-type feature which had been exposed during testing on the site in 1991. Two trenches were excavated and the same ditch was identified, running in an east-west direction to an approximate depth of 2m and 4m wide. Top layers in both trenches were grey clays, with more organic material at the base. Excavation was subsequently carried out at the northwest corner of this development site.

Three test trenches were excavated (Licence No. 16E0288) c. 230m east of the proposed development, within the confines of the ecclesiastical enclosure of St Maelruan's. Two layers of post-medieval clays were exposed in all three trenches. This suggested that the site had been cleared in the 19th–20th centuries. No traces of an enclosure ditch were identified and no human burials, either articulated or disarticulated, were exposed.

The following licences did not produce any features of archaeological significance; 10E0389, 03E0945, 03E1868, 05E0316.

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

William Petty's Down Survey Map, Barony of Newcastle, 1655-8

The Down Survey maps were compiled at a scale of 40 perches to one inch (the modern equivalent of 1:50,000) and represent the first systematic mapping of a large area on such a scale attempted anywhere. On Petty's map, the proposed development is an undeveloped tract of land to the northwest of the town of Tallaght. Tallaght church, St Maelruan's, is marked to the immediate west of the town.

John Rocque's An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin, 1760 (Figure 3)

The road system around the small town of Tallaght and the Archbishopal Palace are depicted, as are the structures of St Maelruan's church. The proposed development site is located within open fields.

John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin 1816

The Archbishop of Dublin's Palace is depicted in greater detail than on Rocque's map. A castle is marked within Tallaght town along with several other structures. A 'Glebe House' is annotated to the northwest of the proposed development and three small buildings marked 'Post Office' to the northeast. The development area itself remains in open ground.

William Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin, 1821

By the time of this map, a school had replaced the post office, and the castle is no longer depicted. There are no other significant changes to note within the landscape.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 4)

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development. The site is located within one field situated to the south of a west-east aligned road (now the Old Blessington Road). The site is shown c. 90m to the north of a watercourse, which is marked as a 'Mill Race'. The SMR file for DU021-037007 notes that this mill race may follow the path of an earlier mill race associated with this earlier site.

The school has once more become a post office and an old castle is depicted in Tallaght, at the location of the old building and grounds of the Archbishop's Palace. Tallaght House is depicted to the immediate east of this. The church seen on Taylor's map is depicted with an associated graveyard.

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1871, scale 1:10,560

There have not been any significant changes to the proposed development or the surrounding environs except for the establishment of St. Mary's Priory at the site of the old palace.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1909, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 5)

The site remains within one open field and there are no significant changes to note. The watercourse remains present c. 90m to the south of the southern boundary of the development area although it is no longer marked as a mill race.

3.4 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The South Dublin County Development Plan (2022–2028) and Tallaght Local Area Plan (2020) recognise the statutory protection afforded to all RMP sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 2).

There is one recorded archaeological sites within the proposed development area, which comprises the ZAP associated with the historic town of Tallaght (DU021-037) (Table 1, Figure 1). There are nine further recorded monuments located within 250m, all of which are scheduled for inclusion on the RMP. Recorded archaeological sites are described in more detail in Appendix 1.

TABLE 1: Recorded Monuments in the Study area

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT
DU021-037	Tallaght	Historic town	0m
DU021-037004	Tallaght	Graveyard	c. 186m east
DU021-037007	Tallaght	Mill - unclassified	c. 133m east-southeast
DU021-037002	Tallaght	Ecclesiastical enclosure	c. 137m east
DU021-037005	Tallaght	Tomb – unclassified (present location)	c. 186m east
DU021-037006	Tallaght	Cross	c. 200m east
DU021-037003	Tallaght	Church	c. 203m east-northeast
DU021-037009	Tallaght	Font	c. 217m east-northeast
DU021-037018	Tallaght	Tomb - chest tomb	c. 217m east-northeast
DU021-037019	Tallaght	Tomb - unclassified	c. 217m east-northeast

3.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Dublin has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area. No stray finds are recorded from within the proposed development area or its immediate environs.

3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2008–2025) and Bing Maps was conducted. This showed that two buildings and a car park were present within the proposed development area from before 1995, but these buildings were demolished c. 2008 (Plate 1). The car park appears to have been disused ever since then, and the site has fallen into disrepair and become overgrown with vegetation.

No previously unrecorded sites or areas of archaeological potential were noted due to the urban nature of the landscape and the previous development within the site.

3.7 FIELD INSPECTION

The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation the proposed development site and its immediate surrounding environs were inspected (Plates 2-5).

The site comprises a sub-rectangular area of hard standing and tarmac surrounded by modern fencing or walls on all four sides. The site is overgrown with vegetation. The surface treatments relate to the previous development that formerly occupied the site. No sites or areas of historic or archaeological interest were noted and it is clear that the site has been subject to extensive disturbance.

4 CONCLUSIONS

This assessment has been carried out in order to assess the potential for impacts on the archaeological resource as part of a proposed residential development at Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

The northeast corner of the proposed development area is located within a recorded monument, which comprises the ZAP associated with the historic settlement of Tallaght (RMP DU021-037). There are a further nine monuments located within the study area, the majority of which are associated with Saint Maelruain's Church (DU021-037003), c. 212m east-northeast.

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025) has revealed that while no previous archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken within the proposed development area, eight previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within 250m of site. The nearest of these to uncover any archaeological remains was situated c. 186m east of the proposed development area.

A review of the historic OS maps has shown that the site remained in a rural context until suburban development that commenced during the 20th century. An inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development revealed that from 1995 onwards, the site was fully developed with a warehouse and parking, until the building was demolished during c. 2008.

A field inspection has been carried out as part of this assessment. This confirmed the analysis of the desktop resources and illustrated the disturbed nature of the site. The archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low, due to the likely fact that any archaeological remains that may have survived here have since been removed by modern development.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological resources potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; and burial of sites, limiting access for future archaeological investigation. Upstanding archaeology can be affected adversely by direct damage or destruction arising from development, from inadvertent damage arising from vibration, undermining etc. and also by indirect impacts to a building's visual setting, view or curtilage.

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Given the level of previous development and ground disturbances that have taken place within the proposed development area, it is probable that any archaeological remains that may have been present within the site have since been removed. As such, no adverse impacts on the archaeological resource are predicted as a result of the development going ahead.

5.2 MITIGATION

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

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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Ordnance Survey maps of County Dublin, 1843, 1871 and 1909

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2025.

www.archaeology.ie – DoH/LGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.

www.osiemaps.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs dating to 1995-2013 and 6-inch/25-inch OS maps.

www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

www.askaboutireland.ie – The History of Tallaght.

www.southdublinhistory.ie – Tallaght – History and Chronology.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

SMR NO.	DU021-037
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006, 727757
CLASSIFICATION	Historic town
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	0m
DESCRIPTION	In the twelfth century Tallaght formed part of the See lands of the Archbishop of Dublin and is listed among the lands confirmed to Archbishop Laurence O'Toole by Pope Alexander III in 1179 (Sheehy 1962, I, 27). The archbishops founded a borough here and an extent of 1326 mentions that there were then 15 burgesses rendering 15 shillings per annum (Mc Neill 1950, 181). Apart from the burgesses there were also free tenants, eighteen cottiers and four betaghs residing at Tallaght. It was one of the most important ecclesiastical manors in County Dublin throughout the Middle Ages. By the Sixteenth century it was the Archbishop's principal residence outside the city (Handcock 1899, 11). The street pattern of the medieval borough was linear and appears to have consisted simply of main street which expanded at its west end to form the market place, where the road forked N past St Mael Ruains church and south towards Oldbawn. The archbishop's palace lay on the N side of the road and the long plots on the S side are probably the remains of the medieval burgage plot pattern.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037004
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006, 727756
CLASSIFICATION	Graveyard
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 186m east
DESCRIPTION	The probable position of the ecclesiastical enclosure which surrounded the monastery is indicated by the curvature of the present graveyard boundary on the SW side of the medieval parish church and the apparent continuation of that curvature across the road on the W side where it is thought to have continued around into the present priory lands. Test trenching in 1991 prior to construction of the new regional technical college failed to identify a corresponding section but two ditches were revealed which may be part of an inner enclosure. These had been in-filled in the 13th-14th-century (Wth 5-8m, D 1.4m). They were similar to concentric ditches identified to the SW of the present church boundary (Hayden 1991, 29; 1991, 17). In 1995 test trenching west of St. Maelruan's revealed a single ditch (Wth 4.7m, D1.2m). A sherd of medieval pottery was found in the basal layer. (Mc Conway 1996,) See DU021-037001-for report.

REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file
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SMR NO.	DU021-037007
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	708990, 727600
CLASSIFICATION	Mill - unclassified
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	133m east-southeast
DESCRIPTION	According to sources (Scantlebury, 1960), Saint Óengus the Culldee who was a bishop and writer living in the early 9th century, held to be the author of Féilire Óengussa and possibly of the Martyrology of Tallaght entered Tallaght monastery in disguise as a lay brother. He was given charge of the kiln and mill as one of his early duties. A mill race marked on the first ed. OS 6-inch maps may follow the course of an early mill race associated with this mill (pers comm Clare Crowley).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037002
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006, 727757
CLASSIFICATION	Ecclesiastical enclosure
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 137m east
DESCRIPTION	The probable position of the ecclesiastical enclosure which surrounded the monastery is indicated by the curvature of the present graveyard boundary on the SW side of the medieval parish church and the apparent continuation of that curvature across the road on the W side where it is thought to have continued around into the present priory lands. Test trenching in 1991 prior to construction of the new regional technical college failed to identify a corresponding section but two ditches were revealed which may be part of an inner enclosure. These had been in-filled in the 13th-14th-century (Wth 5-8m, D 1.4m). They were similar to concentric ditches identified to the SW of the present church boundary (Hayden 1991, 29; 1991, 17). In 1995 test trenching west of St. Maelruan's revealed a single ditch (Wth 4.7m, D1.2m). A sherd of medieval pottery was found in the basal layer. (Mc Conway 1996,) See DU021-037001-for report.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037005
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006/727757

CLASSIFICATION	Tomb - unclassified (present location)
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 186m east
DESCRIPTION	One of a number of 17th century tombs in the churchyard (DU021-037004-). FitzGerald states that the central passage up the old church was flagged with large tombstones, some of which, at the time of his writing, lay not far from the gateway of the churchyard (Fitzgerald 1906-08, 31). He states that 'the tomb of Colonel John Talbot, of Belgard is said to have been placed at the foot of the communion table' (ibid, 31-2). O'Curry states that it was moved from its position at the foot of the high altar in the church when the church was transferred from the Catholics to the Protestants (O'Curry 1837, 28). This was to be found on a flat fractured slab, sunk into the ground near the entrance gate, accompanied by the armorial bearings of the Talbots and their motto (FitzGerald 1906-08, 32).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037006
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709006, 727757
CLASSIFICATION	Cross
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 200m east
DESCRIPTION	A small, Latin cross stands on a pyramidal base which in turn stands on a circular granite stone, possibly a millstone in the graveyard S of the medieval parish church. There is a deeply incised line on one of the faces of cross close to the base of the shaft (Handcock, 1899). Scantlebury states that St Maelruan's 'grave in the churchyard is pointed out where stands the base and part of the head of a small plain cross of granite' (1953, 67). He also points out the former veneration of the locals for this, stating that they 'would not suffer any corpse to be interred too near it' and that 'they were accustomed, too, to measure their family graves as being so many feet or yards from St Maelruan's grave' (Scantlebury 1953, 67).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037003
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709025, 727798
CLASSIFICATION	Church
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 203m east-northeast
DESCRIPTION	The site of the Celi De monastery founded by Maelruan in 774 AD was probably occupied by the medieval parish church. The West tower of the medieval parish church survives to the SW of the present Church of Ireland church. It is square in plan (int. dims. L 3.30m, Wth 3.24m) with a stair turret carried on corbels in the SE angle that rises from first floor level and projects above the battlements. The W tower rises to four storeys and is built of coursed limestone blocks with roughly dressed limestone and granite quoins. There is a vault over ground floor, which is

	accessible from the present church. A gable scar on the E wall indicates the original position of the loft and nave of the medieval church. This was formerly entered through a pointed arched doorway with tufa jambs. . First floor of tower is entered through a later inserted doorway. There is a late chimney flue on the W wall and a blocked up window ope. Joist holes for the second floor are visible. The second floor is entered through lintelled doorway; interior is lit by windows on the N and W sides. There is a belfry stage off the second floor, through a lintelled doorway and lit by single lights in N, W and S sides and a two-light pointed window in the E. The roof is corbelled at this level(Hancock 1991, 37, 3rd, O'Flanagan 1927, 57-59, Gwynn, 1911-12, 115-123; Ball 1905, 2-13).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037009
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709025, 727798
CLASSIFICATION	Font
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 217m east-northeast
DESCRIPTION	This is a large granite basin formerly known as St. Mollrooneys Lossit (DU 21:37(09). It is a long, horse-shoe shaped basin with uneven sides and a concave base (Ball 1899, 99-103, Price 1942, 39-40, Hancock 1899, 29-36). (DU21:37(01). It is known as St. Maelruan's Griddle and Loaf (dims. H 0.85m, Wth 0.52m, T 0.13m).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037018
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross
I.T.M.	709025, 727798
CLASSIFICATION	Tomb - chest tomb
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 217m east-northeast
DESCRIPTION	One of a number of seventeenth century tombs in the churchyard (DU021-037004-). This altar tomb was located near "the lossit" (font, DU021-037009-) (Fitzgerald 1906-8, 3). It commemorates members of the Reilly family who died in the late 17th century (Fitzgerald 1906-8, 33).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU021-037019
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Tallaght
PARISH	Tallaght
BARONY	Uppercross

I.T.M.	709025, 727798
CLASSIFICATION	Tomb - unclassified
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 217m east-northeast
DESCRIPTION	One of three 17th century tombs in the churchyard (DU021-037004-). Inscribed 'Murce. Walsh died 6th April 1685' (Price, L. (ed) 1942, 39-41). Compiled by Geraldine Stout
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014 and relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as '*a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto*' (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2).

A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

The National Monuments Act 1930, as amended by various acts including but not limited to, the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1954, the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987, the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004 (together the National Monuments Acts) make provision for the protection and preservation of national monuments, archaeological monuments and archaeological objects in Ireland. The description of the existing environment in this chapter takes account of those statutory designations and the chapter takes account of the legislative monitoring and licencing requirements as mitigation.

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 (the 2023 Act) was enacted by the Oireachtas in late 2023 and aims to address a range of structural issues, simplify terminology, as well as provide a single accessible piece of legislation. At the date of writing many sections of the 2023 Act have yet to commence. It is not anticipated that this will result in statutory protection being extended to any potential receptors apart from those already considered in the Cultural Heritage chapter and the chapter already identifies as mitigation the various archaeological investigations and licencing requirements that will come into force when the 2023 Act is commenced. Accordingly, the EIAR conclusions are likely to be

unchanged should the 2023 Act commence fully while the application is moving through the planning process.

OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that *'where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the*

Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after giving of notice’.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition, they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989*, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document’s recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2024

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2024 recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028

It is the Policy of South Dublin County Council:

Policy NCBH1: Overarching Protect, conserve and enhance the County’s natural, cultural and built heritage, supporting its sensitive integration into the development of the County for the benefit of present and future generations.

NCBH1 Objective 1: To protect, conserve and enhance natural, cultural and built heritage features, seeking opportunities to identify, retain, protect, and incorporate heritage assets into plans and development.

NCBH1 Objective 2: To support the objectives and actions of the County Heritage Plan and the County Biodiversity Action Plan in the promotion and protection of natural, built and cultural heritage, and to take full cognisance of the County’s Landscape Character Assessment and the County Geological Audit in the sustainable management of development.

NCBH1 Objective 3: Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage (NCBH) To pilot an assessment of the County’s natural and built heritage assets including Council owned protected structures and archaeological features; to identify and safeguard these

assets from the potential impacts of climate change; and to explore possible uses as part of climate change mitigation.

Policy NCBH13: Archaeological Heritage Manage development in a manner that protects and conserves the Archaeological Heritage of the County and avoids adverse impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.

NCBH13 Objective 1: To favour the preservation in-situ of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest in accordance with the recommendations of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHGI (1999), or any superseding national policy document.

NCB13 Objective 2: To ensure that development is designed to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage including previously unknown sites, features and objects.

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

Tallaght Local Area Plan 2020 (as extended)

As outlined in the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016–2022, archaeological heritage, whether known, newly discovered, or yet to be discovered, is protected by the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004. The Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (DAHGI, 1999) sets out national policy on the protection of archaeological heritage. The National Monument Services are the government department with responsibility for the protection of Recorded Monuments.

The Council is committed to ensuring that the rich Archaeological Heritage of Tallaght is protected in accordance with national policy. An Archaeological Assessment Report shall be submitted with planning applications within the zone of archaeological potential and the village centre in particular. All such reports shall fully assess the archaeological implications of the proposed development. Where archaeological features are discovered, it shall be demonstrated how the design and layout of the development protects, incorporate and enhances these features.

Within the zone of archaeological potential, all developments shall be subject to archaeological monitoring for potential subsurface archaeological features. Where significant archaeological features/deposits are discovered during archaeological investigations, it shall be a priority to allow for preservation in-situ, especially features/ deposits discovered during construction or investigation on lands to be occupied by planned open space(s). Features/deposits preserved in-situ should be accompanied by appropriate and sensitive explanatory signage. Where it is demonstrated that it is not possible to preserve features/deposits in-situ, full excavation and recording shall be required.

Development within the vicinity of an upstanding monument(s) shall enhance the setting of the feature(s) and shall be sited and designed appropriately. In order to protect potential archaeological remains, basement developments, including basement parking will generally be avoided within the village and its environs, especially within the zone of archaeological potential.

APPENDIX 3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

Impacts are defined as ‘the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development’ (Environmental Protection Agency 2017). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways.

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.
- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.
- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.
- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.
- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.
- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.

PREDICTED IMPACTS

The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site-specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

APPENDIX 4 MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation *in situ*. This is not always a practical solution, however. Therefore, a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation *in situ* are not possible.

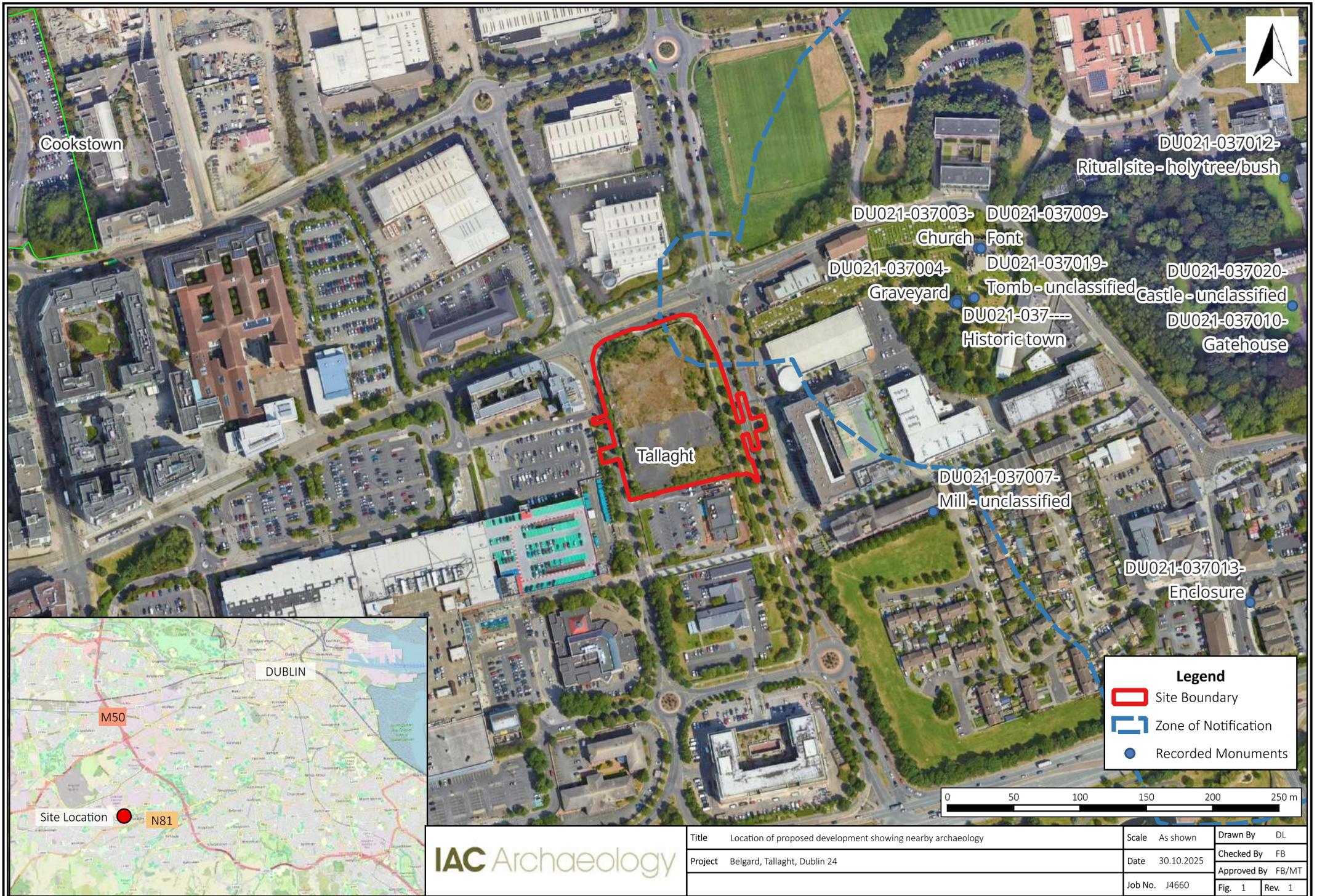
Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as ‘a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (ClfA 2020a).

Full Archaeological Excavation can be defined as ‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’ (ClfA 2020b).

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be

disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (ClfA 2020c).

Underwater Archaeological Assessment consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.



Cookstown

DU021-037012-
Ritual site - holy tree/bush

DU021-037003- Church
DU021-037009- Font

DU021-037004- Graveyard
DU021-037019- Tomb - unclassified

DU021-037020- castle - unclassified

DU021-037---
Historic town

DU021-037010- Gatehouse

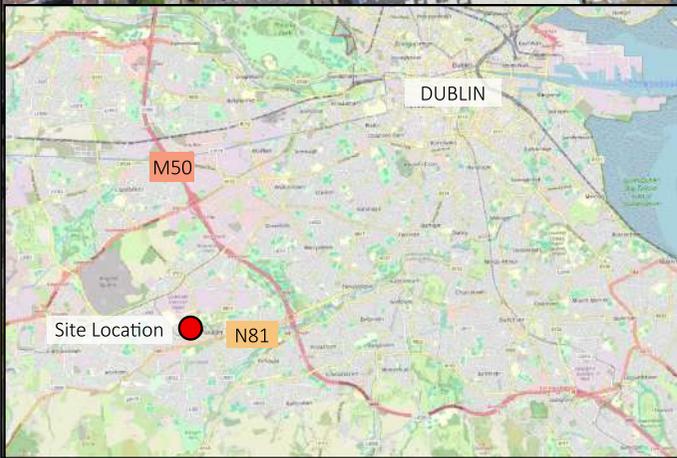
Tallaght

DU021-037007- Mill - unclassified

DU021-037013- Enclosure

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Zone of Notification
- Recorded Monuments



IAC Archaeology

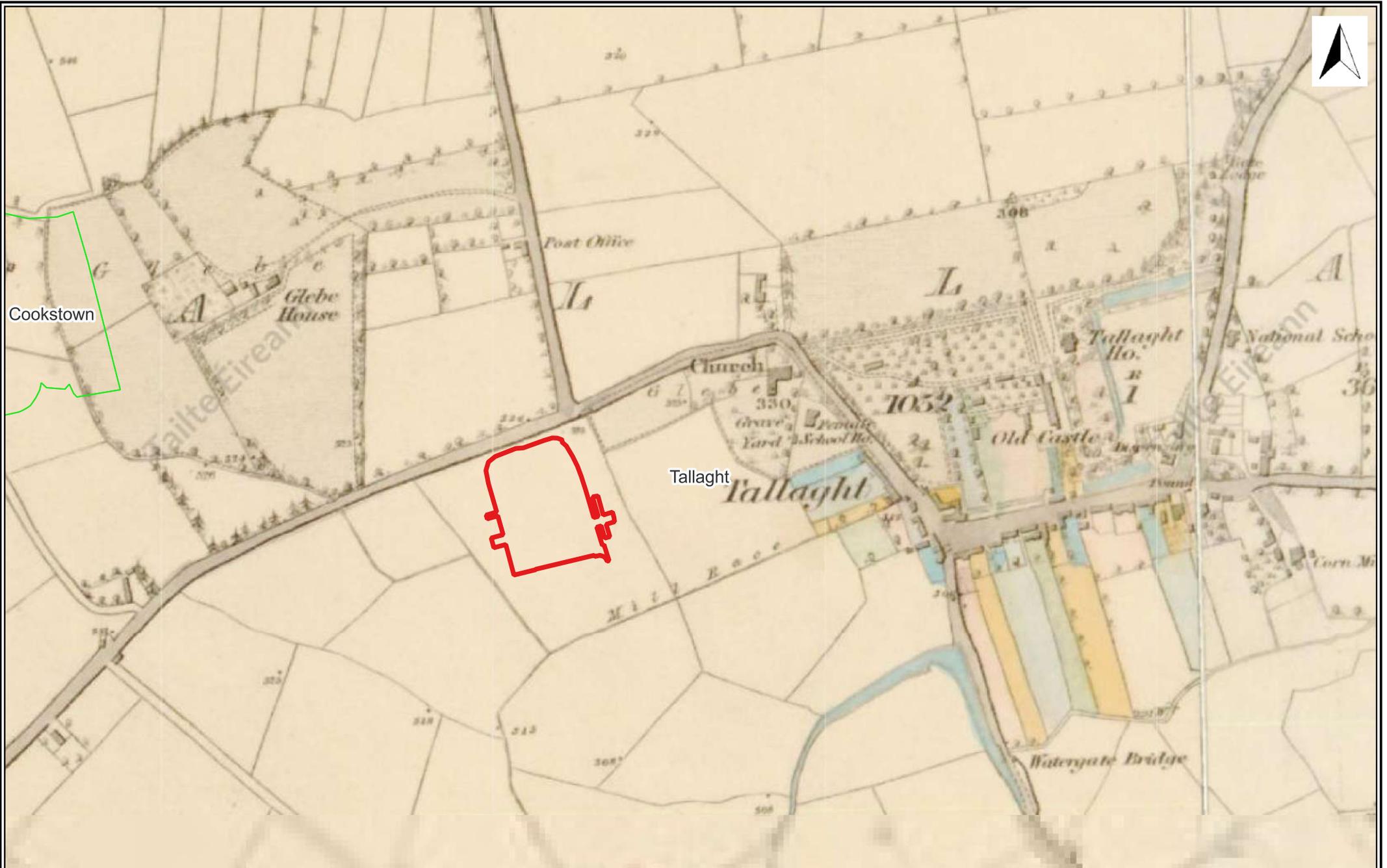
Title	Location of proposed development showing nearby archaeology	Scale	As shown	Drawn By	DL
Project	Belgard, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Date	30.10.2025	Checked By	FB
				Approved By	FB/MT
		Job No.	J4660	Fig.	1
				Rev.	1



Title	Plan of proposed development	Scale	NTS	Drawn By	DL
Project	Belgard, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Date	30.10.2025	Checked By	FB
				Approved By	FB/MT
		Job No.	J4660	Fig.	2
				Rev.	-

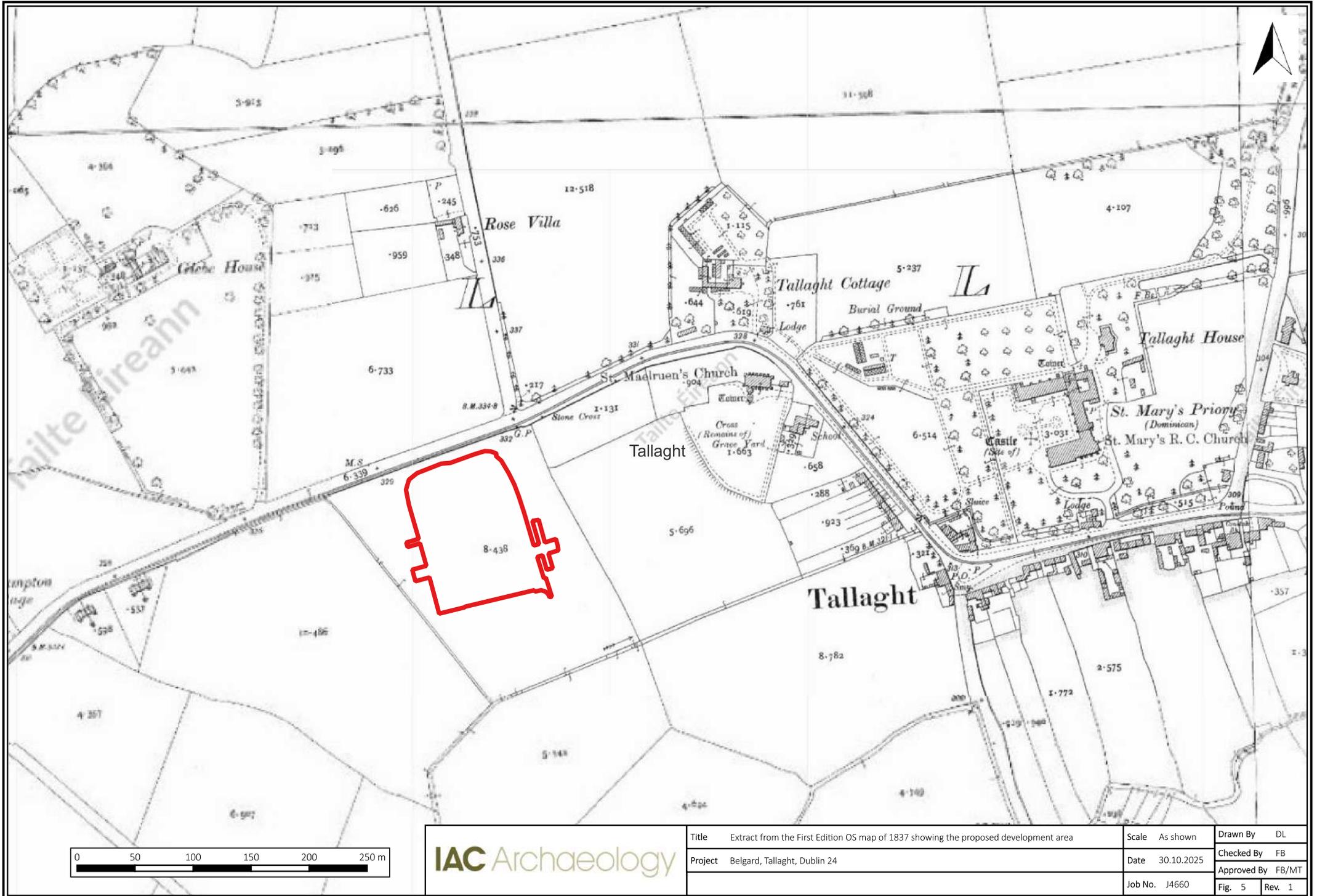


	Title	Extract from Rocque's map of 1760 showing the approximate location of the proposed development area	Scale	NTS	Drawn By	JG
	Project	Belgard, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Date	04.09.2025	Checked By	FB
			Approved By	FB/MT		
			Job No.	J4660	Fig. 3	Rev. -



IAC Archaeology

Title	Extract from the First Edition OS map of 1837 showing the proposed development area	Scale	As shown	Drawn By	DL
Project	Belgard, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Date	30.10.2025	Checked By	FB
				Approved By	FB/MT
		Job No.	J4660	Fig.	4
				Rev.	1



IAC Archaeology

Title	Extract from the First Edition OS map of 1837 showing the proposed development area	Scale	As shown	Drawn By	DL
Project	Belgard, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Date	30.10.2025	Checked By	FB
				Approved By	FB/MT
		Job No.	J4660	Fig.	5
				Rev.	1



Plate 1: Aerial coverage of the proposed development area (2006)



Plate 2: General view of the site, facing south



Plate 3: View of the northern part of the site, facing west



Plate 4: View of the southern part of the site, facing east



Plate 5: Fencing, walls and gates along the western site boundary, facing north