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**Archaeological Impact Assessment of
a proposed development site at
Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim**

Client

Leitrim County Council

ITM: 594988, 800422

RMP/SMR Nos: N/A

Magda Lyne

28 June 2023

ACSU Ref.: 22114

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PROJECT DETAILS

Project	Proposed Housing Development: Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
Report Type	Archaeological Impact Assessment
Archaeologist	Magda Lyne
Client	Leitrim County Council
Site	Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
Townlands	Kilboderry,
ITM Refs	594988, 800422
RMP/SMR Nos	N/A
Protected Structure No.	N/A
Report Date	28 June 2023
ACSU Ref.	22114

Revision	Date	Description	Status	Author	Reviewed	Approved
0	10.11.2022	Assessment Report	Draft	M.L	D.M	D.M
1	27.02.2023	Report Edits	Draft	M.L	D.M	D.M
2	28.06.2023	Report Edits	Final	M.L	D.M	D.M

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment for a site at Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim (ITM 594988, 800422). This assessment was carried out at the request of the client to accompany a Section 179A Social Housing Development. It is based on the findings of a study of available sources and field survey results. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the study area and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such potential impacts.

The site is in a residential area northeast of Carrick-on-Shannon town centre. It is a rectangular pasture field, sloping northwest. It lies adjacent to the local road with a low stone wall along its southeast extent, mature hedges and trees along the northeast and southwest boundary, and a post and wire fence along the northwest extent.

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 monument to the site is a Ringfort - rath (LE031-010) located c. 666m to the southeast. The edge of the zone of archaeological potential associated with Carrick-on-Shannon Historic Town (LE031-005) is located c. 1km to the southwest. The site does not contain any Protected Structures as listed in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 (extended to 2023) nor structures listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The nearest such structure is Summerhill Lodge, a former workhouse master's house built in 1841 (RPS 258; NIAH Reg. No. 30813042), located c. 0.62km to the southwest of the site.

Cartographic and aerial imagery was reviewed as part of this assessment, and a site visit was carried out. The site is depicted on the 1837 map in portions of five small fields. A building is shown at the southeast part of the site. By 1911, the boundaries were removed, the site was a part of a large L-shaped field with buildings/farmyard shown in the south part and up until the Cassini map 1943-5. By 1995 aerial, the buildings were demolished and no longer apparent. The site has the appearance of reclaimed land and sometime prior to 2017 the wet ditches to the rear of the site were cleared. No crop marks suggestive of archaeological monuments were identified; however, the area where buildings were present can be distinguished. A site visit was carried out on the 26th of October 2022 by Arlene Coogan of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd. No structures or features of an archaeological nature were identified within the site. It seems that only limited excavations took place in the environs of the site. The five nearest excavations to the site did not expose any features of archaeological significance.

The site is considered to have some potential due to its size (0.57 ha) and the development type. As the field may have been reclaimed and buildings were depicted on mapping from 1836 up until 1943-45, a geophysical survey is not recommended. However, archaeological mitigation in the form of test trenching (at a pre-construction phase) is required as the proposed development might impact upon previously unknown archaeological features if they are present.

It is recommended that archaeological test trenching be conditioned within any grant of permission for the site. This should be carried out at a pre-construction phase by a licence eligible archaeologist working under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an archaeological impact assessment for a site at Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim (ITM 594988, 800422). This assessment is based on the findings of a site survey and a study of available sources. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the study area and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such potential impacts.

The site is in a residential area northeast of Carrick-on-Shannon town centre. It comprises a rectangular shaped pasture field sloping northwest, and lies adjacent to the local road. It is bounded by a low stone wall to the southeast, mature hedging and trees to the northeast and southwest, and a post and wire fence along the northwest extent.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Proposal

This archaeological impact assessment has been carried out at the request of the client to assess the archaeological potential of a greenfield site of 0.57ha on lands to the northwest of the local road at Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim. The development will consist of a residential development of 18 housing units (6 apartments and 12 houses) and associated access, driveways, parking spaces, footpaths and landscaping.

2.2 Archaeological Requirements

This archaeological impact assessment was carried out at the request of the client in relation to a Section 179A Social Housing Development, to 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

An assessment was carried out involving a literature review and consultation of 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 of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The RMP is comprised of manuals that list all known archaeological sites and monuments in a county with accompanying maps (based on Ordnance Survey 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 Leitrim is dated 1995, 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. Historical maps held by the Map Library of Trinity College Dublin and aerial photography from the Geological Survey of Ireland were both 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 *Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 (extended until March 2023)* and the *Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2028* were consulted as these contain a Record of Protected Structures. Further buildings and features of architectural interest in the area that are not included in the Record of Protected Structures are detailed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).

A site visit was also carried out; its purpose 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.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Archaeological & Historical Background

The site is situated to the northeast of Carrick-on-Shannon town centre, in the townland of Kilboderry. It lies in the Barony of Leitrim and the Civil Parish of Killuken. Kilboderry townland contains no archaeological monuments nor protected structures. The site lies adjacent to one of the routes between Carrick-on-Shannon leading to Castlecarra (formerly a castle, later a demesne house). The area was mentioned in 1611 as Dromkelbaderge, and from 1622 onwards, different spellings of Kilboderry were in use. Kilboderry (Coill Bhó Deirge) can be translated as redwood or the wood of the red cow. In 1836 Quinn translated it as the costly church, while O'Donovan (Ordnance Survey Parish Namebooks) translated it as the wood of Daire's cows. On the 1837 mapping, Summer Hill house is depicted within the townland. The buildings shown are mostly located along the road transversing the townland. The Griffiths Valuation of Leitrim, dated 1856 was reviewed. It lists that the northeast portion of the current site was leased from Reverend William S., Guinness, by Robert Burns (land and offices), while the southwest extent of the site was leased from Charles Payton by Thomas Haydon (house, offices and land).

Carrick-on-Shannon (Cora Droma Rúisc) translates as a weir of the ridge of the marsh or weir of the ridge of the bark-like surface. The town was established by James I. A castle is mentioned in 1611 and refers to a fort (LE031-005001) that survived into the 1650s. It is said that the ruins were incorporated into a barracks in the early 20th century. Castle in Ruins is shown on the 1911 mapping (Figure 6). A fragment of a wall measuring 1.4m in width and 1.4m in height still survives,

and archaeological testing in the area exposed a wall measuring 0.8m running north to south (02E0039) that may be part of the former fort.

The town is described as a market and post town, and formerly a parliamentary borough by Lewis (1837). It lies on the northeast bank of the Shannon. A town depicted as Carrickdrumrush is shown on the Down Survey map (Figure 3) with a bridge over it. The first written reference to a bridge at this location is from 1684, in relation to a wooden bridge built by Maurice Griffith with tolls granted to George St. George. The bridge was replaced in 1718, and became known as Snámh dá Eán (Swim two birds). Bridges on the Shannon were altered during the 1840s to accommodate river steamer traffic. This involved adding an opening span through which steamers could navigate the river. In some cases, such as at Carrick on Shannon, a new multi-span masonry bridge was erected in 1847 (Rynne, 2015). The site is now a recorded monument (LE031-005004). The town was incorporated by charter in 1613. It is unclear if the town was fortified, as it is shown with no walls on the Down Survey map. Lewis (1837) records the town as containing 321 houses, badly paved and not lighted.

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). The nearest monument to the site is a Ringfort - rath (LE031-010) located c. 666m to the southeast (Figure 2) and the edge of the zone of archaeological potential associated with Carrick-on-Shannon Historic Town (LE031-005) is located c. 1km to the southwest.

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
LE031-010	Ringfort - rath	Situated on top of a drumlin. This is an overgrown circular area (diam. c. 30m) defined by an earthen bank (at SE: Wth of base 3m; int. H 0.2m; ext. H 1.2m), which is incorporated into a field bank SE-W-N, and a fosse (at SE: Wth of base 1.5m; ext. D 0.8m) that is visible N-SE. The original entrance is not identified.
LE031-008	Ringfort - rath	Located towards the top of the S-facing slope of a drumlin. It is represented only on the 1945 revision of the OS 6-inch map as a D-shaped hachured feature truncated by a roadway at E. This is a grass and rush-covered D-shaped platform (dims 29m NW-SE; 13m NE-SW) defined by a scarp (H 0.45m at NW to 0.8m at SE) SE-W-NW, and an outer berm (Wth 2-3m) S-SW which may be the remains of an external fosse. ANW-SE road truncates the monument at NE and there is no evidence of it NE of the road.
LE031-003	Ringfort - rath	Located on flat ground on a gentle S-facing slope. It is not depicted on any OS map but it is visible as a circular feature on aerial photographs (GSIAP: G 151-2; OS 4/1042-3) and some later series. This is a grass and rush-covered circular area (int.

RMP No./ SMR No.	Class/Site Type	Description
		diam. 41m NW-SE) defined by a grass-covered earthen bank (Wth of base 3m at W to 4.5m at NNE; int. H 0.2m) and an external fosse (Wth of base 1.5m) visible as a band of rushes or lush vegetation. It is slightly truncated by a NW-SE field bank at SW but the perimeter can be traced as a low rise in the field to the SW. An entrance (Wth of base 2.4m) at NNW could be original.
LE031-004	Megalithic structure	Located in pasture on the SE-facing slope of a drumlin and on the SW side of a NW-SE field bank. It is described as a 'Grave' in gothic lettering on the 1835 edition of the OS 6-inch map and as the site of a Grave on the 1945 revision. It was described as two large upright stones (OS Name Book, No. 84, 241), but it is not visible now at ground level in pasture.
LE031-005	Historic town	<p>Situated on the E bank of the River Shannon at a point where it narrows considerably. Originally called 'Carrick Drumrusk', the town was incorporated by charter in 1613, although a fort had already been built in 1611. Maurice Griffith became constable in 1620, but the fort's importance declined with the foundation of Jamestown (LE031-082----) further S along the river in 1622 (Kerrigan 1980, 140). A second fort was built on the Roscommon side by 1627. However, the town itself might never have been fortified and it is represented as without walls on the Down Survey (1656-8) barony map. The town was captured by Roger Maguire for Owen O'Neill in 1648, but it was surrendered to the Cromwellians in 1652. It had a population of 47 c. 1659 (Pender 1939, 559) and a wooden bridge had been built by 1683, but only fourteen families were then living in the town. Part of the fort survives (LE031-005001-), the site of the parish church (LE031-005002-) can be identified, and the Costello memorial chapel (LE031-005003-), which was built in the 19th century, is extant. Archaeological testing up to 2000 had failed to recover features associated with the early occupation of the town but deep deposits (D c. 2-3m) of mixed organic material with stone and red brick dating to the nineteenth century testify to attempts to raise the ground level.</p> <p>According to the Urban Archaeological Survey the street pattern of the initial town was linear and was based on the curving line of Bridge Street. Main Street represents an extension which was probably established towards the close of the seventeenth century, if one is to judge from the positioning of St George's Church of Ireland church. The expansion in the width of the street at the foot of Bridge Street immediately outside the castle suggests that this was the location of the original market place. The construction of the market square at the north end of Bridge Street was a later development (Bradley and Dunne 1988, 14-15).</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring (07E0747) of a water mains identified the original quay-face and encountered a re-deposited oak beam with a likely felling date in the late seventeenth century and may have come from a bridge erected in 1683 or from its replacement in 1718 (Timoney 2011).</p>

3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

It seems that only limited excavations took place in the environs of the site. The five nearest excavations (Figure 2) to the site did not expose any features of archaeological significance. Kilboderry townland is mentioned once in excavation.ie. This related to monitoring of the laying of a small multi-part sewage collection pipe and rising water main (07E0747). The works took place in the townland of Attifinlay, Ballynamony, Cloonsheebane, Drummagh, Keenaghan, Kilboderry, Lisnabrack and Townparks, Co. Leitrim, and Cloonskeveen, Cortober and Drishoge, Co. Roscommon. As no further details

are given in relation to Kilboderry, it appears nothing of archaeological significance was exposed within the townland. The monitoring of this pipeline in Carrick-on-Shannon town identified an old quay wall, an oak beam at Quay Road Carpark and a mortar layer associated with the 17th-century military castle at Bypass Road. The oak beam with axe marks recovered was dendrochronologically dated from 1501-1587, with estimated felling after 1619, most probably after 1660. It was suggested that the beam might be from the wooden bridge constructed in 1683 or a construction beam for the 1718 stone bridge that replaced it. Furthermore, the thick layer of mortar at Bypass Road was recorded at just 0.35m below the present ground level (07E0747).

To the east of the site, in an area adjacent to ringfort (LE031-015) in Dromore townland, an isolated pit was identified (10E0243) during works on the proposed N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod road project..

Listed below (Table 2) are the investigations located in the environs of the site. 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
2008:754 - Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim	07E0747	Urban – various	Monitoring
1998:372 - CARRICK-ON-SHANNON, Leitrim	98E0248	Post-medieval urban	Test Trenching
2016:853 - Keenaghan, Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim	16E0109	None	Test Trenching
2019:149 - Townparks, Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim	18E0764	No archaeology found	Test trenching
2019:271 - Townparks, Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim	18E0764 (Renewed)	No archaeology found	Monitoring
2020:230 - Ballynamony, Leitrim	20E0688	No archaeology found	Test Trenching
2010:436 - Dromore, Leitrim	10E0243	Isolated pit	Test Trenching

3.4 Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

The site contains no Protected Structures as listed within the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 (extended to 2023) nor structures listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The nearest such structure is Summerhill Lodge, a former workhouse master's house built in 1841 (RPS 258; NIAH Reg. No. 30813042), located c. 0.62km to the southwest of the site.

3.5 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland were consulted and list one find – a bronze spearhead described as leaf-shaped side looped (NMI Reg. No. 1946:10) that was found in a bog in Kilboderry.

3.6 Cartographic Review

A review of available historic mapping for the area was carried out, it included the Down Survey map of County Leitrim 1656 (Figure 3), the 6-inch map of 1837 (Figure 5), the 25-inch map of 1911 (Figure 6), and the Cassini map of 1943-45 (Figure 7).

The 1654-56 map (Figure 3) shows the site as in the Barony of Leitrim and the Parish of Killtahirke. Both the Shannon River and a settlement labelled as Carrick Drumrusk representing the current Carrick-on-Shannon are depicted. The town does not appear to be walled, a bridge over the river is shown, and a settlement appears to extend to the other side of the river.

Ordnance Survey maps of the area were examined to identify any possible archaeological features and trace the site's development during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The site is depicted on the 1837 map (Figure 5) within parts of five small fields, with a building shown at the southeast part of the site. By 1911 (Figure 6), the boundaries were removed, the site was a part of a large L-shaped field with buildings/farmyard shown in the south portion up until the Cassini map 1943-45 (Figure 7).

3.7 Aerial Photography Review

In addition to examining the various editions of the OS maps, aerial photographs from the Geological Survey of Ireland, dating from 1995 to 2013, and the google aerial imagery dating from 2010 to 2020 were consulted.

By 1995 aerial, the buildings depicted until 1943-45 were demolished and no longer apparent. The site has the appearance of reclaimed land and sometime prior to 2017 the wet ditches to the rear of the site were cleared. No crop marks suggestive of archaeological monuments were identified; however, the area where buildings were present can be distinguished.

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 26th of October 2022 by Arlene Coogan of Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit Ltd (Plates 1-4). The site is a greenfield used as pasture and sloping to the northwest. A modern, low stone wall runs along the

road and forms the southeast boundary of the site; the northeast and southwest boundaries consist of mature trees and hedges, while the northwest boundary is formed by a post and wire fence and is the lowest point of the site.

No structures or features of an archaeological nature were identified within the site.

4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological impact assessment of the site at Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim was carried out to accompany a Section 179A Social Housing Development for Leitrim County Council.

The assessment concluded that no monuments listed in the Record of Monuments and Places or the Sites and Monuments Record, nor Protected Structures listed in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2023 or the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan 2010-2019, or structures listed within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survive within the site. It seems that only limited excavations took place in the environs of the site. The five nearest excavations to the site did not expose any features of archaeological significance.

The site is considered to have some potential due to its size (0.57 ha) and the development type. As the field may have been reclaimed and buildings were depicted on mapping from 1836 up until 1943-45, a geophysical survey is not recommended. However, archaeological mitigation in the form of test trenching (at a pre-construction phase) is required as the proposed development might impact upon previously unknown archaeological features if they are present.

It is recommended that archaeological test trenching should be conditioned within any grant of permission for the site. This should be carried out at a pre-construction phase by a licence eligible archaeologist working under licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

5. REFERENCES

Lewis, S (1837) A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland. Lewis & Co. London.

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GeoHive by Ordnance Survey Ireland

Griffiths Evaluation of County Leitrim 1856 <https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml?action=doPlaceSearch&Submit.x=30&Submit.y=12&freetext=Kilboderry&countyname=LEITRIM>

Google Earth Imagery 2010-2020

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>).

National Library of Ireland, 7–8 Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

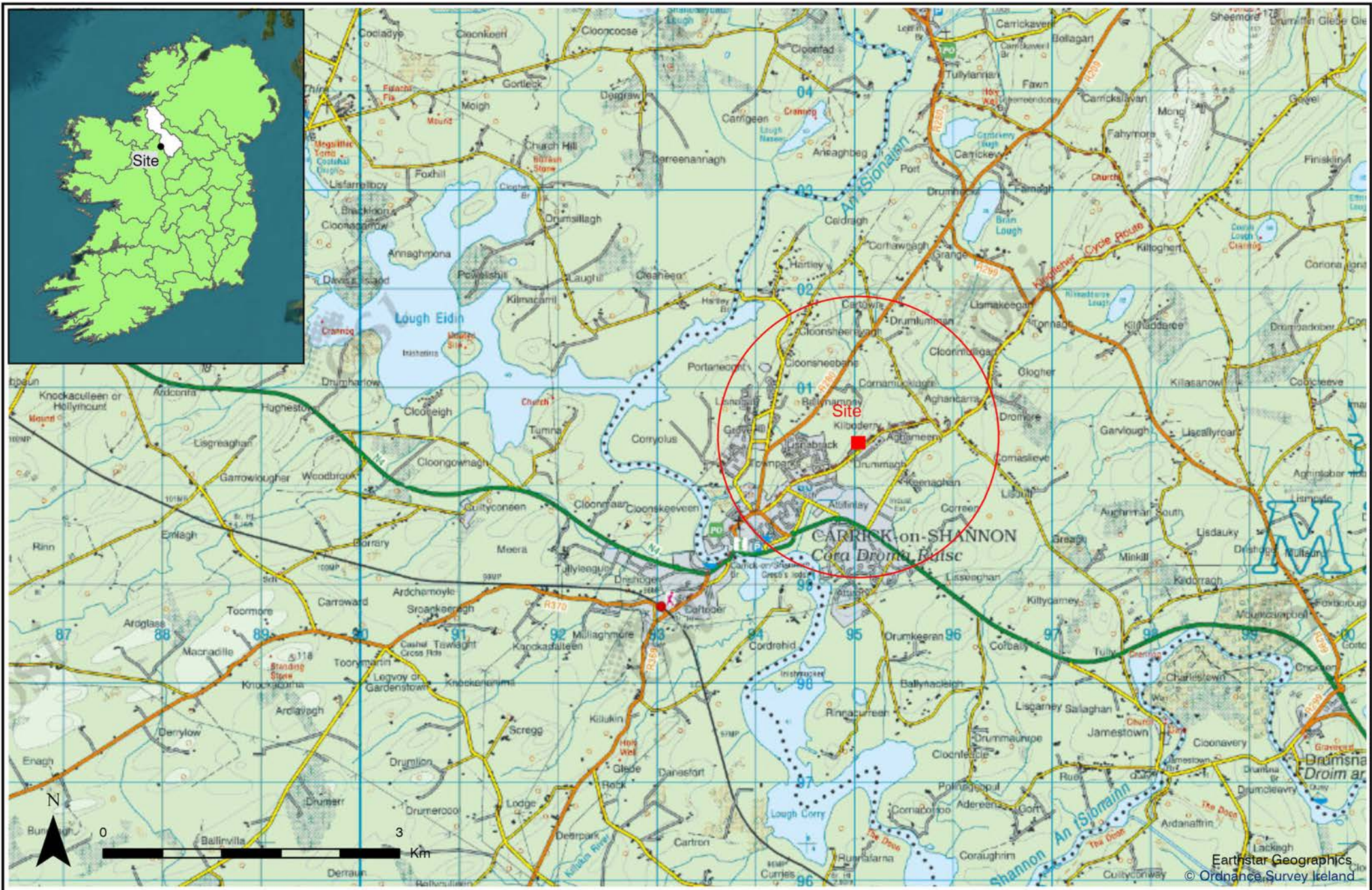
Placenames Database of Ireland, developed by Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge (DCU) and The Placenames Branch (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage). (www.logainm.ie).

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Heritage Service, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.) (www.maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/)

Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland (www.excavations.ie).

The Schools Collection, national Folklore Collection, UCD (<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes>).

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland



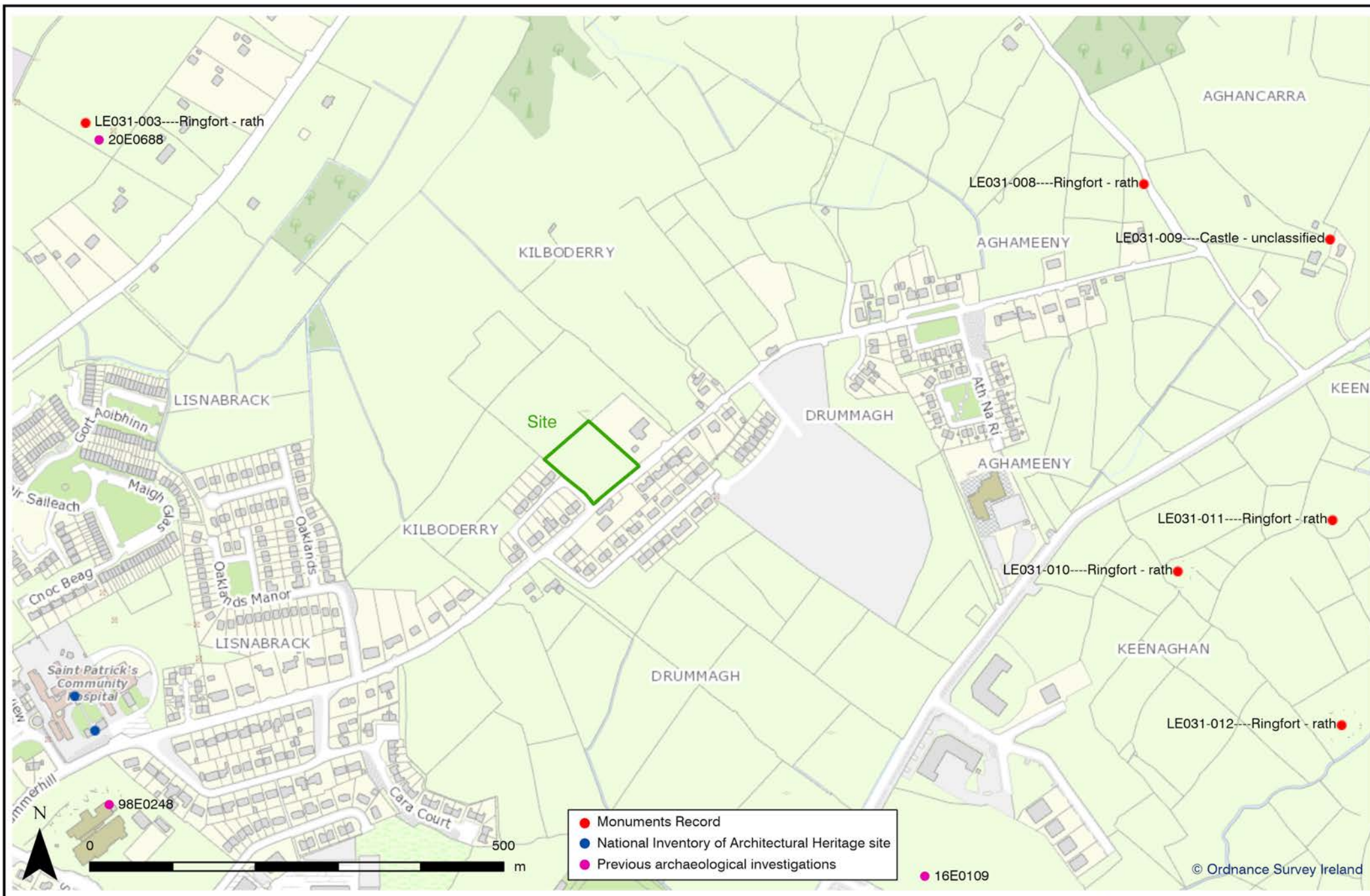
Project Kilboderry, Co. Leitrim

November 2022

Drawing No. 22114_C0001

Figure 1 Location of site

Scale 1:50,000@A4



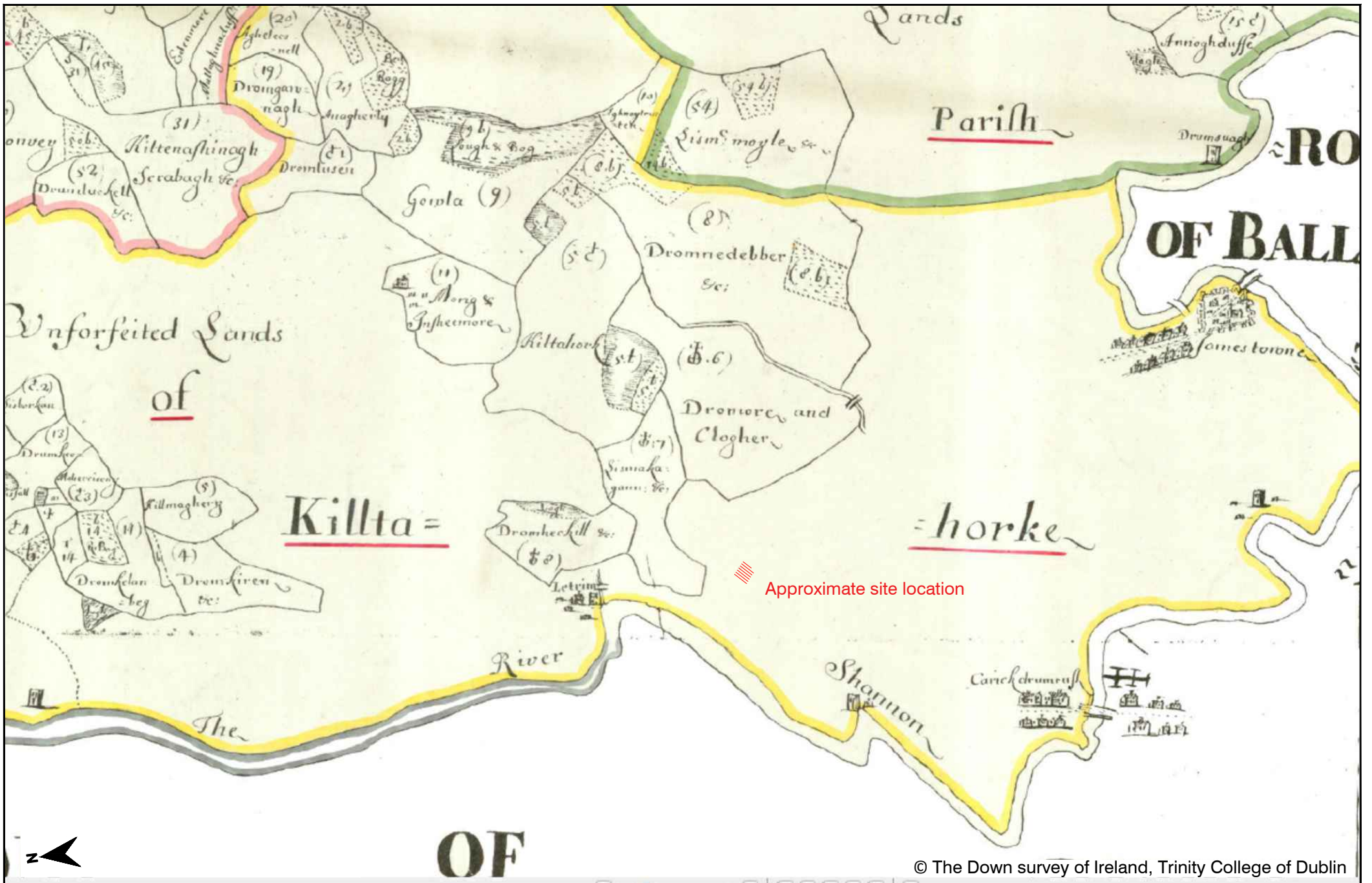
Project Kilboderry, Co. Leitrim

November 2022


Drawing No. 22114_C0002

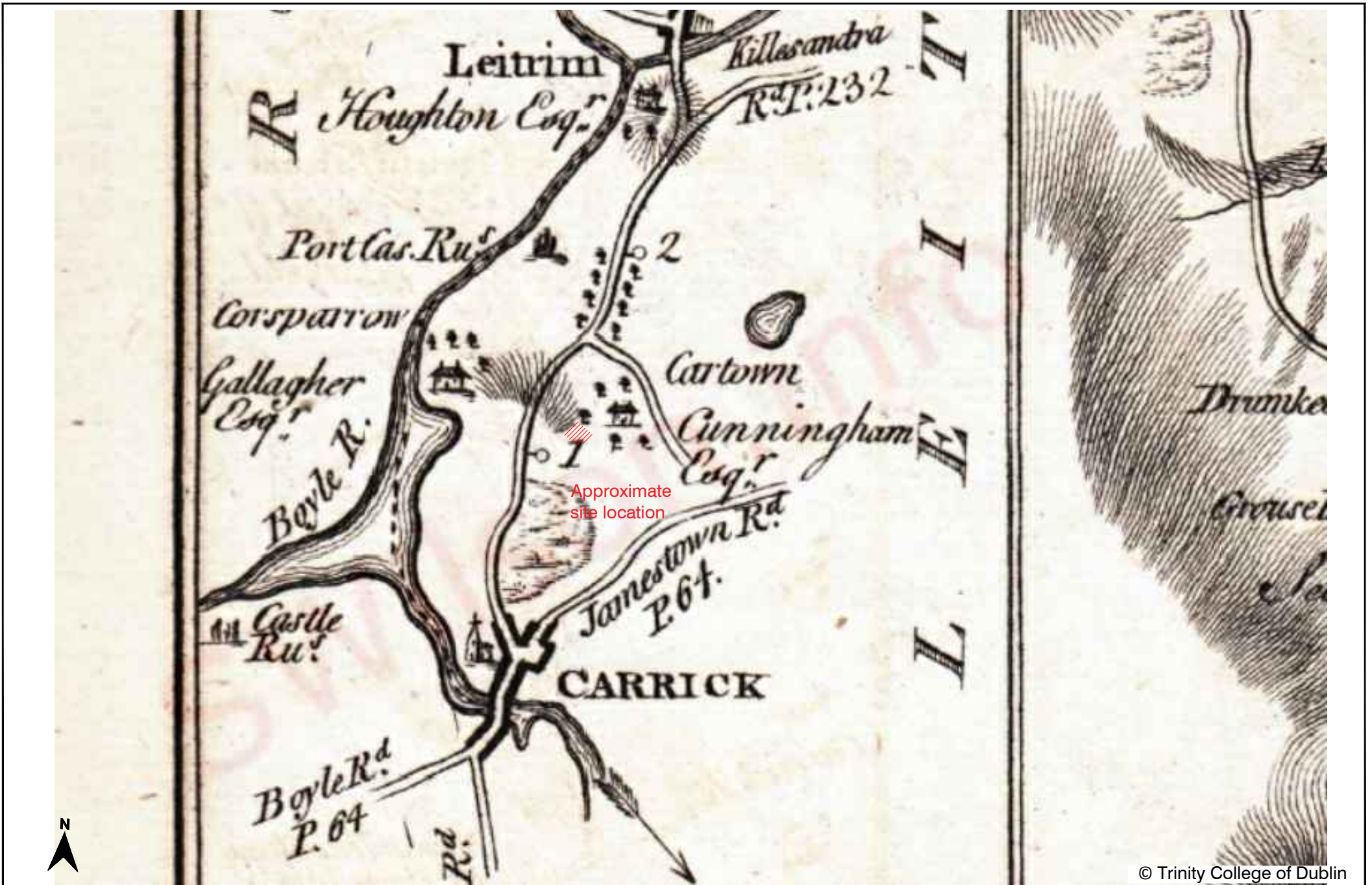
Figure 2 Location of site, previous archaeological investigations and nearby Sites and Monuments Record sites

Scale 1:6,000@A4



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Project Kildoberry, Co. Leitrim	Date November 2022	Drawing No. 22114_C0003	 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT
Figure 3 Extract from Down Survey map of County Leitrim, Barony of Leitrim (1656), showing approximate location of site		Scale not to scale	



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Project Kilboderry, Co. Leitrim

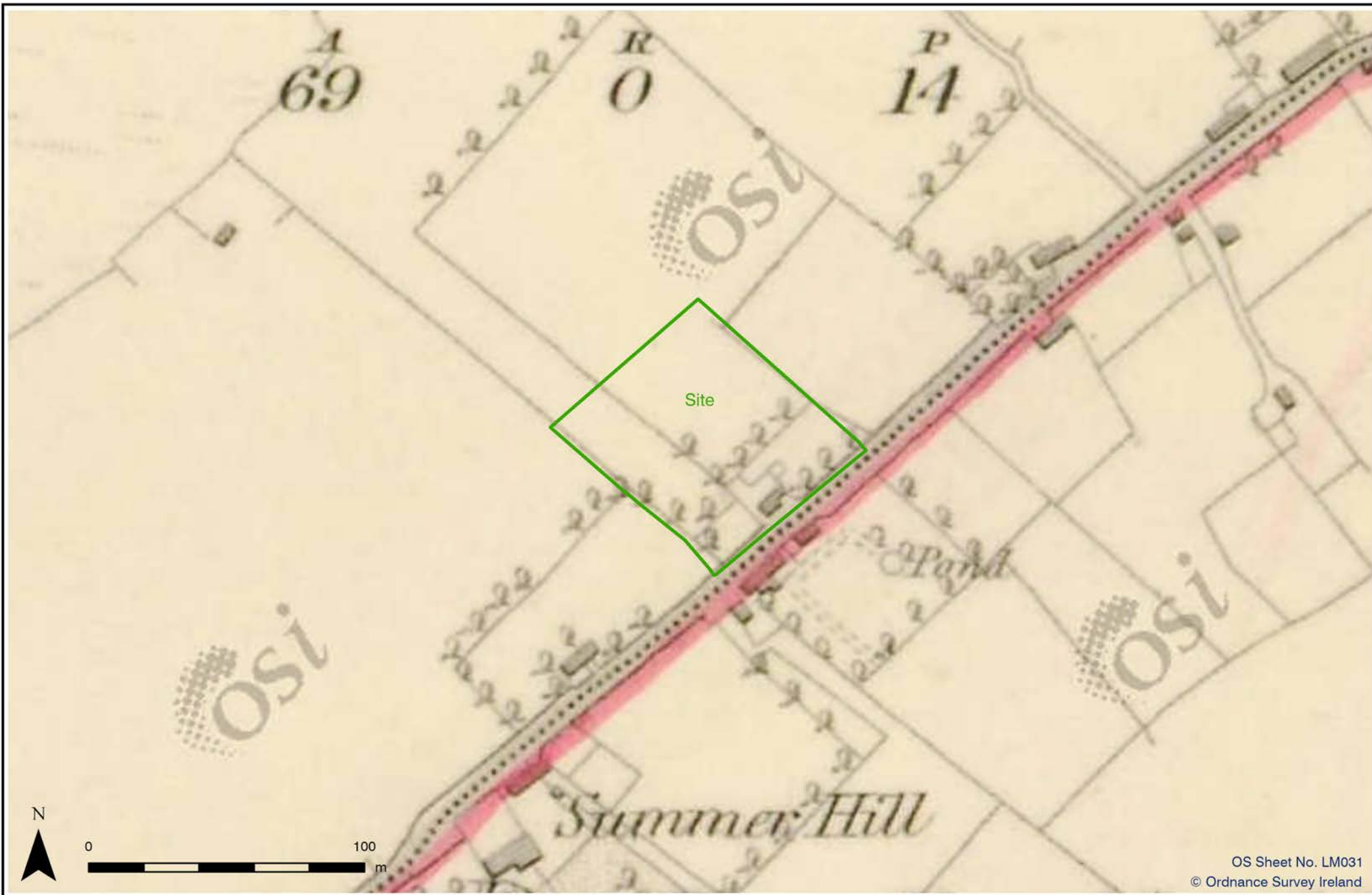
Date November 2022


Drawing No. 22114_C0004

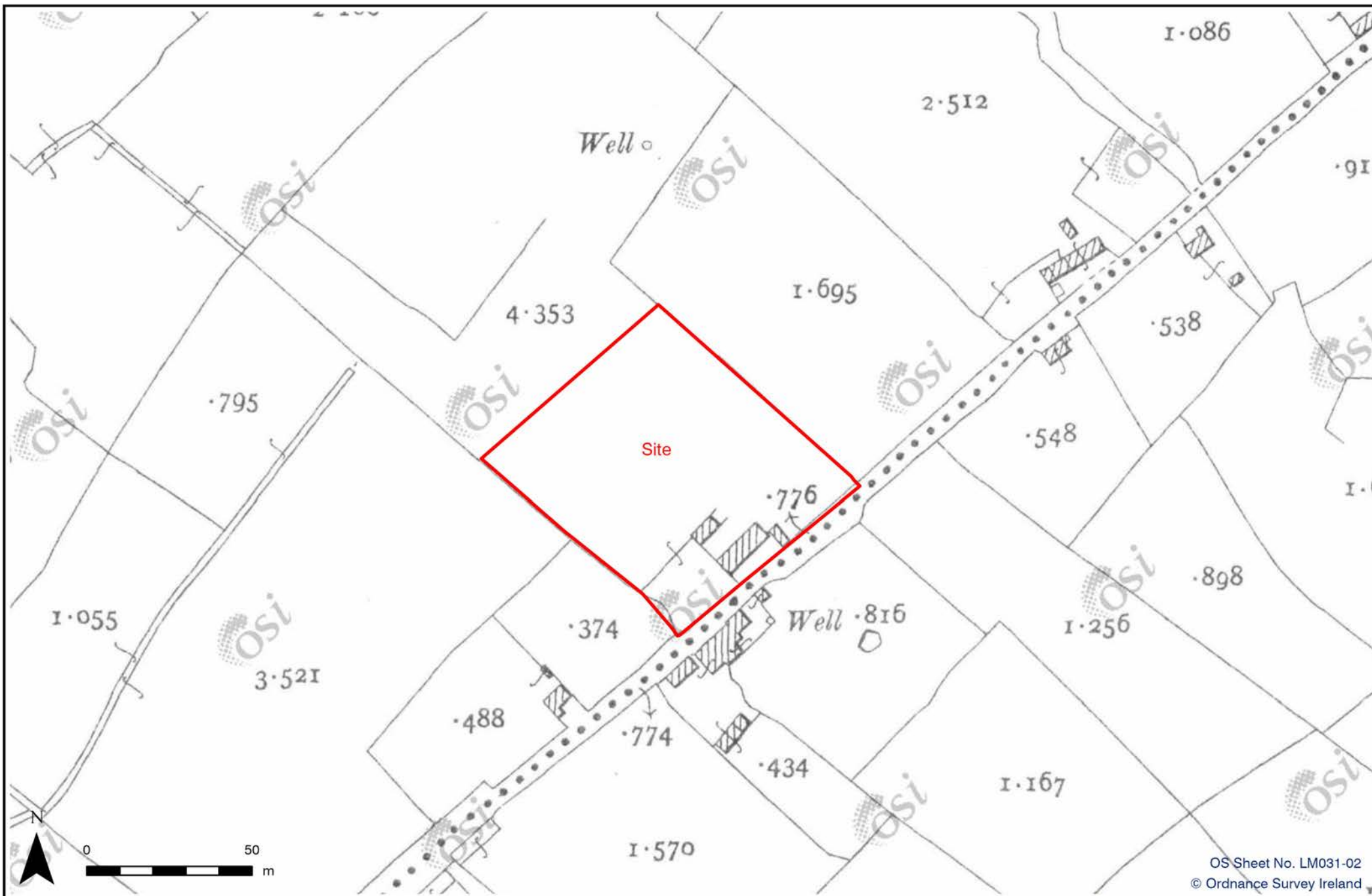
Figure 4 Extract from Taylor and Skinner's 'Maps of the roads of Ireland' - Map 234 From Carrick to Ballyshannon (1777), showing approximate location of site


Scale not to scale

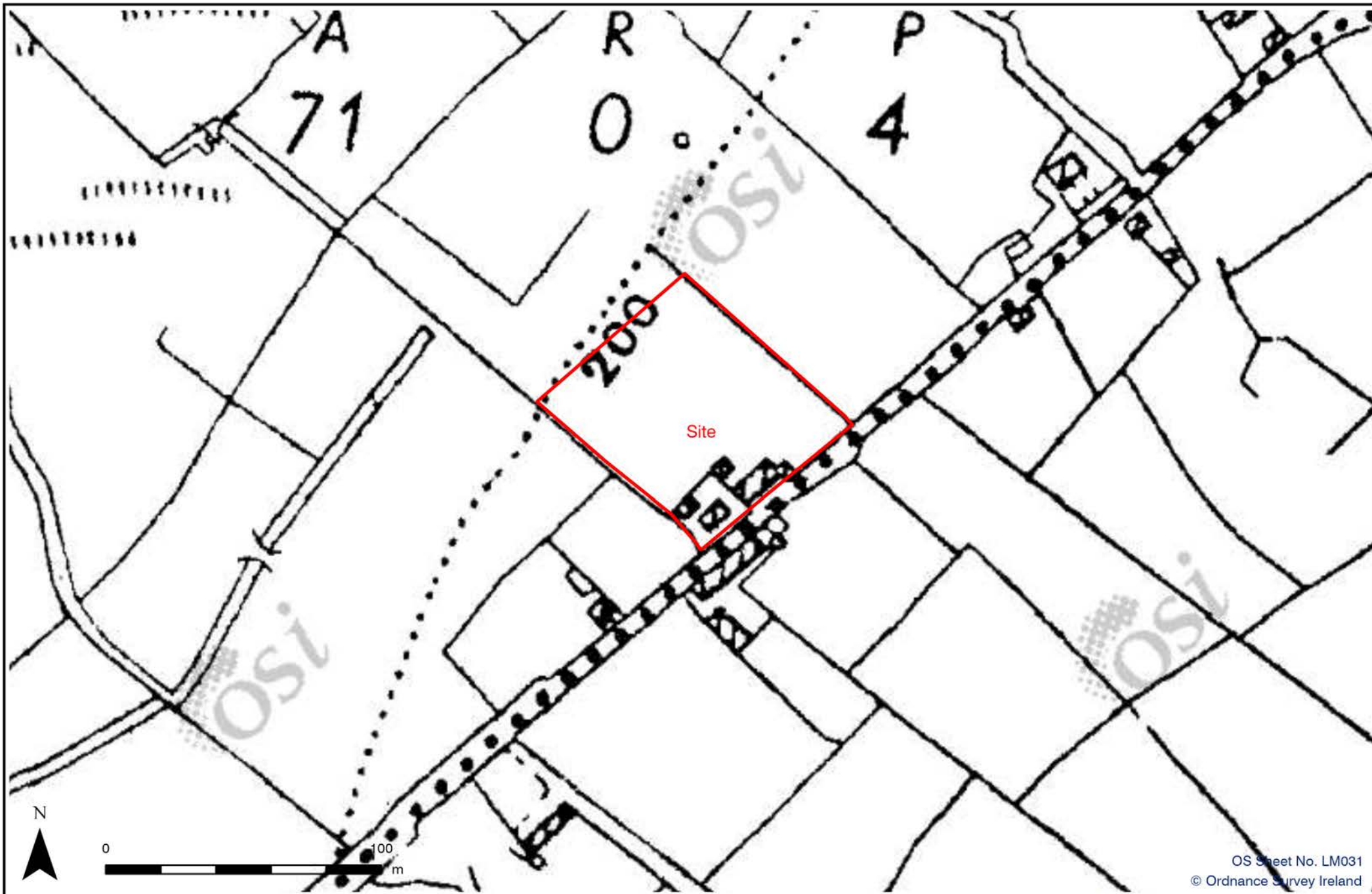





Project Kilboderry, Co. Leitrim	November 2022	Drawing No. 22114_C0005	 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT
Figure 5 Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (surveyed 1834 - published 1837), showing location of site		Scale 1:1,800@A4	



Project Kilboderry, Co. Leitrim	November 2022	Drawing No. 22114_C0006	 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES UNIT
Figure 6 Extract from 3rd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25-inch map (surveyed 1909 - published 1911), showing location of site	Scale 1:1,500@A4		



OS Sheet No. LM031
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Figure 7 Extract from Cassini edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch map (1943-45), showing location of site	Scale 1:1,800@A4		



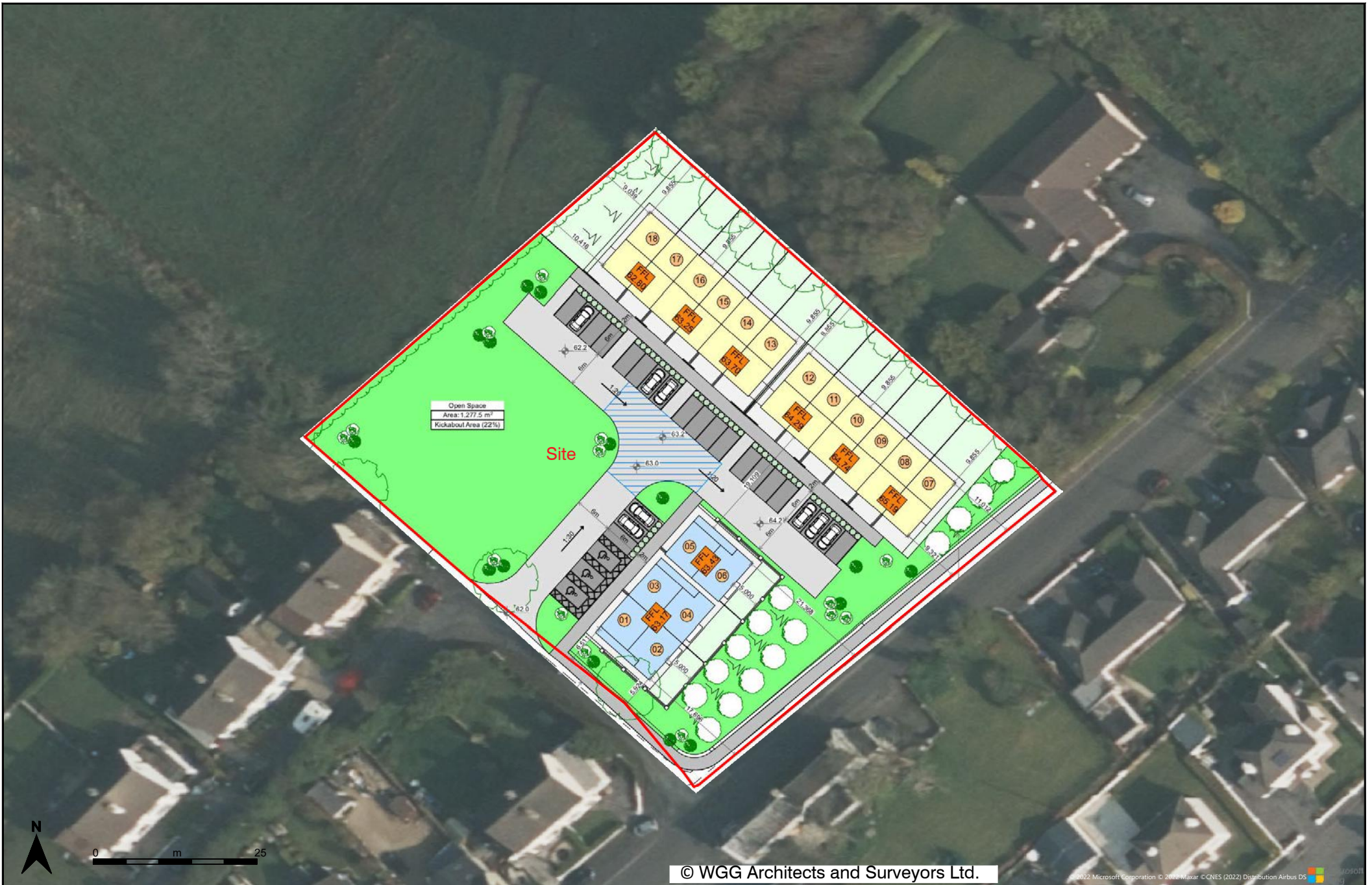
Project Kilboderry, Co. Leitrim

November 2022

Drawing No. 22114_C0008

Figure 8 Aerial view of site

Scale 1:1,500@A4




Project Kilboderry, Co. Leitrim	Date November 2022	Drawing No. 22114_C0009	
Figure 9 Aerial view of site, showing detail of proposed development		Scale 1:750 @ A4	



Plate 1: Site overview, facing north.



Plate 2: Site overview, facing southeast.



Plate 3: Northwest portion of the site.



Plate 4: View along the northeast boundary.