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archaeological services

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Townland	Haggardstown
County	Louth
ITM	Centred on 706537, 803234
Client	Western Build

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

It is proposed to apply for an alteration to a permitted SHD (ABP 303253-18) for the provision of 4 no. residential units at Cois Farraige, Old Golf Links Road, Blackrock, Co. Louth (figure 1).

The development adjacent to the application area has been the subject to a geophysical survey (18R0068), archaeological assessment and excavation has been undertaken (18E0201 and 22E201). Another archaeological excavation was also carried out as part of this development close to the application site (23E0363).

This archaeological assessment consists of 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 Louth, 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. Also contained within the assessment are recommendations on how any potential impacts can be ameliorated.

2 Methodology

2.1.1 Report Methodology

This archaeological impact assessment was conducted in three stages. Firstly, a detailed desktop survey was undertaken to identify all known archaeological sites, designated architectural heritage structures and other undesignated cultural heritage assets within the study area.

The principal sources reviewed for this assessment of the known archaeological resource are the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Archaeological monuments included in the statutory RMP are legally protected and are generally referred to as 'Recorded Monuments'.

In addition, the following sources were consulted as part of the desktop study:

- *Cartographic Sources* - The cartographic sources examined for the study area included Down Survey of the Barony of Upper Dundalk, 1655-56, Matthew Wren's Topographical Survey of County Louth 1766, Taylor and Skinner's Map of County Louth, 1783, the first edition of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s), the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913) and the Cassini OS maps (surveyed and published *c.*1940).

- *Development Plans* - The local authority development plans relevant to the study area were consulted as part of this assessment. These plans outline the local authorities' policies for the conservation of the archaeological and architectural heritage resource and include the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and any designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).

The relevant development plan for the study area is the *County Louth Development Plan 2021-2027.*

- *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* - The Database of Irish Excavation Reports contains summary accounts of archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland from 1970 to present.

- *Placenames Database of Ireland* - The Placenames Branch (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media) provides a comprehensive management system for data, archival records and place name research conducted by the State.

- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage - The function of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage ('NIAH') is to record built heritage structures within the Republic of Ireland and to advise local authorities in relation to structures of interest within their areas. The NIAH commissions surveys of sites of architectural significance to assist in evaluating structures to be included in the RPS. Listing on the NIAH does not necessarily carry any statutory protection but does highlight the culturally significant aspects of the structure which ought to be conserved.

Secondly a detailed walkover survey of the proposed site was conducted by a fully qualified archaeologist. Finally, the information provided by both the site inspection and the desk top survey was assessed in relation to the potential impact of the proposed development on archaeology and the opportunities it may present. Having assessed the potential impact upon archaeology, a mitigation strategy has been established.

2.1.2 Policy and Guidance

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 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 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.

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.

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.

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for 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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage) 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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage 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 *County Louth Development Plan 2021-2027* contains policies and objectives relating to archaeological heritage. Those relevant to this assessment include:

- **BHC1**: To protect and enhance archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and/or the Register of Historic Monuments and seek their preservation (i.e. presumption in favour of preservation in situ or in exceptional cases, at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process and having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the principles as set out in the 'Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage' (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999)

- **BHC2**: To protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, monuments, structures and objects, having regard to the advice of the National Monuments Services of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

- **BHC5**: To protect all sites and features of archaeological interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional circumstances, at a minimum preservation by record) having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage..

- **BHC6**: To ensure any development, either above or below ground, adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of a recorded monument or a Zone of Archaeological Potential (including formerly walled towns) shall not be detrimental to or detract from the character of the archaeological site or its setting and be sited and designed to protect the monument and its setting. Where upstanding remains exist, a visual impact assessment may be required.

- **BHC7**: To require applicants seeking permission for development within Zones of Archaeological Potential and other sites as listed in the Record of Monuments and Places to include an assessment of the likely archaeological potential as part of the planning application and the Council may require that an on-site archaeological assessment is carried out by trial work, prior to a decision on a planning application being taken.

- **BHC10**: To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical surveys, test excavations and monitoring, as appropriate, where development proposals involve ground clearance of more than half a hectare or for linear developments over one kilometre in length or for developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery, as identified by a licensed archaeologist..

In addition, this report was produced with reference to the following policy and guidance documents:

- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 1999a, Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2004 (revised 2011), Architectural Heritage Guidelines

3 Archaeological and Historical Baseline

3.1 Historical Background

The history of Dundalk illustrates an important town in medieval times. For much of the first 300 years of its existence as a town, Dundalk marked the northernmost limit of Anglo-Norman settlement and administration in Ireland. A town that was born in conquest, Dundalk developed a colonial character and the dramatic town defences lay testimony to this. However, it was long before medieval times that the Dundalk area was first inhabited. There is much evidence for prehistoric settlement in this area. Though no evidence of Ireland's earliest inhabitants, the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers, has been discovered within the urban district, traces of their presence in north Louth about 4,200 years B.C. have been found at Rockmarshall, only 3 miles to the east. Here in the late 1940's the remains of a number of shell-middens were excavated by Frank Mitchell. The limited archaeological remains of prehistoric date which are known for Dundalk support the theory however that the area was not densely settled until the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age transition (3,200-2,200 B.C.). Rock art and pieces of worked flint were found on Ballybarrack Hill, while a standing stone is visible just off the summit of the Castletown ridge. Castletown Mount is of Anglo-Norman date and seven ringforts and associated souterrains are known within the urban district.

The townland derives its name from the place where the haggards were stacked by the colonists (Jordan 1934, 210). Local tradition records a castle (LH012-012) as being situated on Golf Links road just north of the present development. The grounds surrounding the castle were stacked with haggards for protection against the native Irish and all this land was encircled by a stream. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Shane O'Neill burned these haggards. No visible surface trace survives of this castle today. In the same townland there are ruins of a church of 15th-16th century date (LH012-014001). This church is built of limestone blocks and greywacke and is covered in ivy. The nave has two opposing doorways that are lintelled and featureless. The nave is wider than the chancel and has a double bellcote in the west gable. The church was repaired in 1622 and was in ruins in 1692.

Dating to an earlier period than both the church and the castle, there is evidence of an enclosure, an earthwork and a possible souterrain. The enclosure is visible as a complex series of cropmarks bounding a roughly circular area with a maximum diameter of circa 48 metres. These cropmarks were identified through the use of aerial photography by Cambridge University. The earthwork is a horse-shoe shaped, water filled fosse with the open ends to the south. It encloses an area 36 metres across from west to east. There are possibly six souterrains in Haggardstown and reference is made to them by James Jordan in his townland survey of County Louth in 1934 (C.L.A.J. 1934).

There is an historical reference to the presence of a souterrain in Field 3 at LH012-011. It was recorded by James Jordan in 1934 '*There was an entrance to an underground passage in F.3. This was closed about 30 years ago, as it was home for foxes*'. This souterrain was excavated under licence 23E0363.

3.2 Cultural heritage assets within the development area.

The desk top survey identified no known archaeological sites within the red line boundary (figure 3). However, the Record of Monuments and Places does show that the zone of archaeological potential for two adjacent monuments, a church and graveyard, LH 012-014001- and -014002-, does extend into the development area.

The church, LH012-014001—is described as having a "*Chancel narrower than nave (int. dims. of chancel 4m N-S by 4.4m; nave 10.5m by 5.6m), built of limestone blocks and greywacke and more or less completely covered with ivy. Opposing doorways in nave and double bellcote in W gable. The most westerly window in the S wall of the chancel has a two-centred arch constructed of two rounded punch-dressed blocks, one of sandstone, the other of limestone. Its two western jambs and sill stone are granite. The E jamb is limestone, has bar holes and was originally a sill stone. The remaining two windows in the S wall and the E window have been destroyed and there are no surviving remains of cut stone. The doorways are lintelled and featureless. The church was repaired in 1622 and was in ruins in 1692. The opposing doorways, bell-gable and two-centred window arch indicate a fifteenth- or sixteenth century building.*"

The associated graveyard LH012-014002—is described as "*Sub-rectangular shaped graveyard (map dims. c. 52m x 42m) bounded on W side by roadway with church (LH012-014001-) in N half. Earliest headstone noted dates to 1770*."

An inspection of the available cartographic sources was conducted for the area. The Down Survey of the Barony of Upper Dundalk (1655-56) was designed to depict land ownership within the Baronies of Ireland and as such does not depict accurate topographical detail. However, the town of Dundalk is shown along with Dundalk Harbour. The church and graveyard described above are shown in the townland of Haggardstown on this map (figure 4).

The early edition OS maps (6" historic map (1837-1847) and historic 25" map (late 19th/early 20th century), show the development site to have consisted of agricultural land which is free from development although the church and graveyard are shown (figures 5-6).

Archaeological excavations in advance of development have been carried out both adjacent to the application area and in an adjoining field. The archaeological excavation 18E201 consisted of 42 test trenches excavated across three fields. The majority of the test trenches sought to verify anomalies identified during a geophysical survey (licence no. 18R0068) of the area[1]. Further archaeological excavation under licence 22E201 resulted in a number of skeletons and associated features being preserved by record while others, within an exclusion zone were preserved in situ (figure 7). An archaeological excavation, 23E0363 was carried out in fields 2 and 3 of the development and consisted of the excavation of an enclosure of probable Early Medieval date and associated features[2]. Also excavated under this licence was the souterrain LH012-011- (plate 1).

[1] The geophysical survey did not extend into the area under discussion in this report.
[2] The enclosure is shown during excavation in figure 3

Plate 1: overview of scan of souterrain LH012-011—during excavation

3.2.1 Site inspection

An inspection of the development area was carried out by a fully qualified archaeologist. The proposed development site is not currently under meaningful use. It has had a fence constructed around its western and southern boundaries and appears to have had topsoil spread over it. It is not clear whether the area was trenched or stripped as part of the previous archaeological works carried out here, but it has certainly been landscaped. It consists of agricultural land contained within a single field and which at the time of the inspection was under pasture (plate2). Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the site inspection.

Plate 2: looking southeast across the development site.

3.3 Archaeological sites within the wider search area

A total of 7 (including LH012-14001- and -14002- described above) archaeological sites recorded in the RMP were identified within the wider search area for the application site (figure 3).

SMR No.	Townland	Type
LH012-010--	Haggardstown	Castle
LH012-012--	Haggardstown	Castle
LH012-014001-	Haggardstown	Church
LH012-014002-	Haggardstown	Graveyard
LH012-063-	Haggardstown	Souterrain
LH012-011-	Haggardstown	Souterrain
LH012-056-	Haggardstown	Midden

Full details of these monuments are contained within Appendix 1. None of these monuments will be physically impacted by the proposed development.

3.3.1 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and Records of Protected Structures within the wider search area

The desk top survey identified no NIAH or RPS properties within in the wider search area for the proposed development (figure 3).

3.3.2 Excavations Database

The excavations database identified 14 archaeological excavations within the wider search area for the application site, in addition to the testing and excavation licences discussed above.

Licence No.	Summary
25E0075	No archaeology found
21E0846	No archaeology found
18E0417	No archaeology found
16E0567	No archaeology found
15E0419	No archaeology found
12E0290	No archaeology found
10E0054	Multi-period
05E0963	Multi-period
04E0876	Undetermined
02E0549	Industrial site
00E0132	Fulachta Fia
99E0683	Multi-period
95E0126	Soutterain
94E0197	Ringfort

Full details of these archaeological investigations are contained within Appendix 2.

4 Archaeological Potential and Assessment of Impact.

The desk top survey has identified no known archaeological sites or monuments within the development area, although the zone of archaeological potential for adjacent monuments does extend into the application site (figure 3). These zones represent the area surrounding a monument where associated remains may be found. It is possible that elements associated with these monuments could be located within the red line boundary.

In addition, as noted above in section 3.2 above, a number of excavations have been carried out in the vicinity of the red line boundary. In particular, the excavation 22E201, identified a number of previously unknown skeletal remains and other associated features. Their presence suggests that the possibility of previously unknown archaeological remains, of which there are now no surface expressions could exist within the red line boundary. These remains, if present, would be negatively impacted by any construction in this area.

Looking beyond the development site, the desk top survey shows wider search area contains a number of known archaeological sites. However, construction within the red line boundary will not impact on any of these sites.

5 Mitigation

While it has been established in the desk top survey that no known archaeological remains are located within the red line boundary, it was assessed that there is a possibility that previously unknown remains could exist within the development area. Should these survive then these could be negatively impacted upon by the proposed development. As a consequence, it is recommended, subject to statutory approval, that the area contained within the red line boundary be subject to archaeological monitoring of topsoil removal prior to any development commencing.

6 Bibliography

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 1999a, Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2004 (revised 2011), Architectural Heritage Guidelines

Louth County Council, 2022, *County Louth Development Plan 2021-2027*

Electronic Sources

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970-2022.

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

www.logainm.ie - The Placenames Database of Ireland.

www.osiemaps.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs dating to 1995, 2000, and 2005 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.bingmaps.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

Figure 1: Location of the development site.

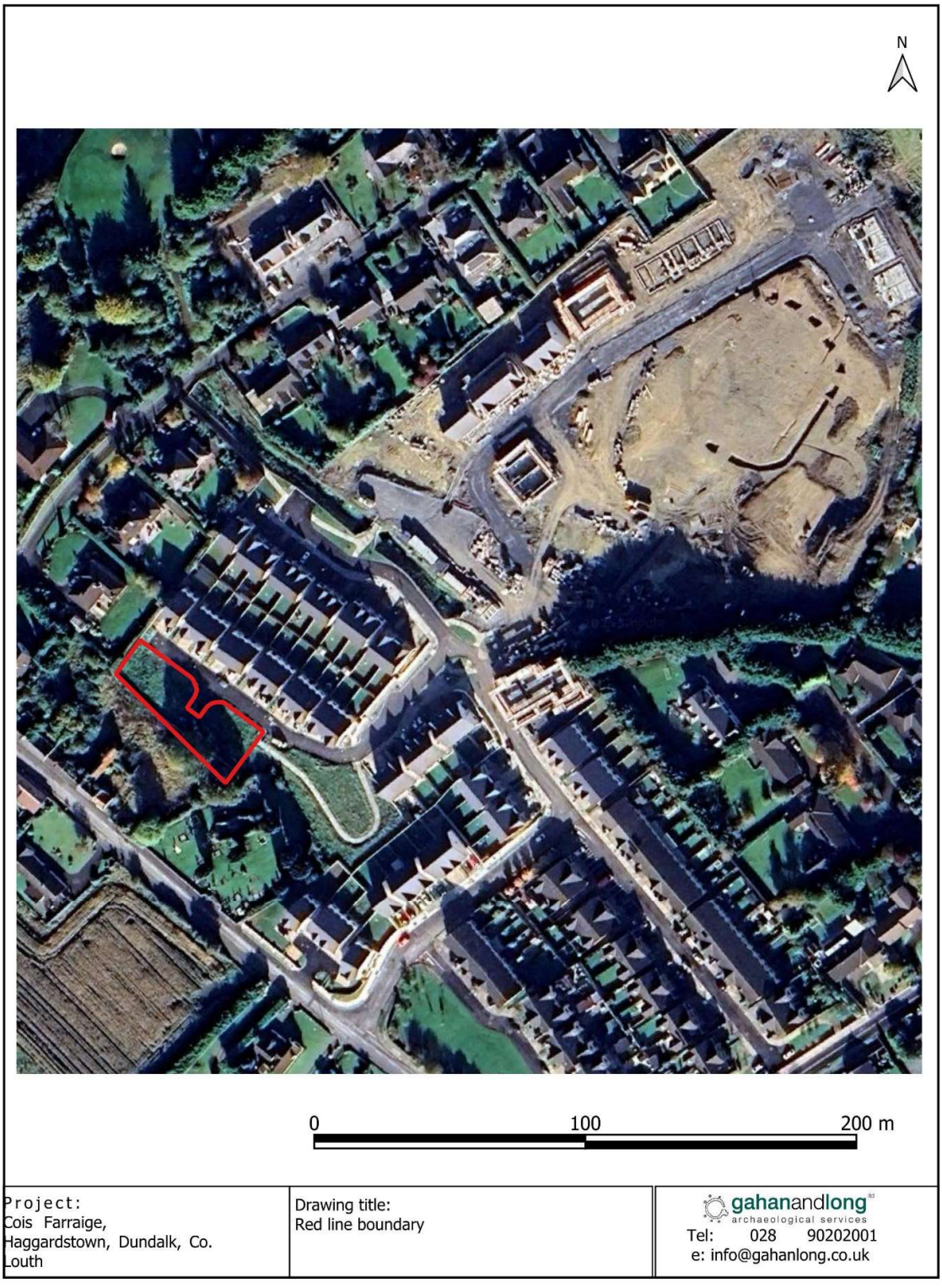


Figure 2: Layout of the development site.

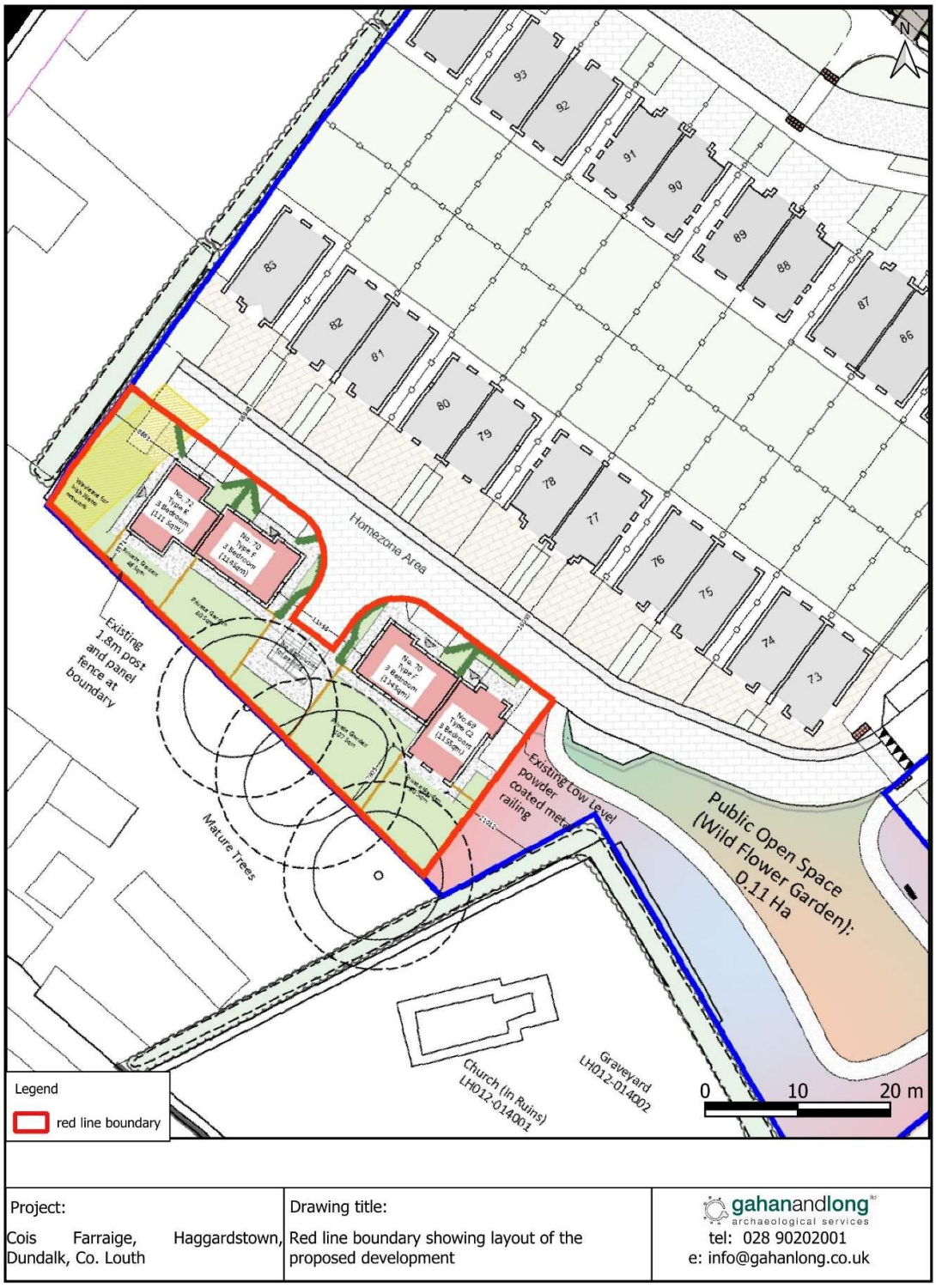
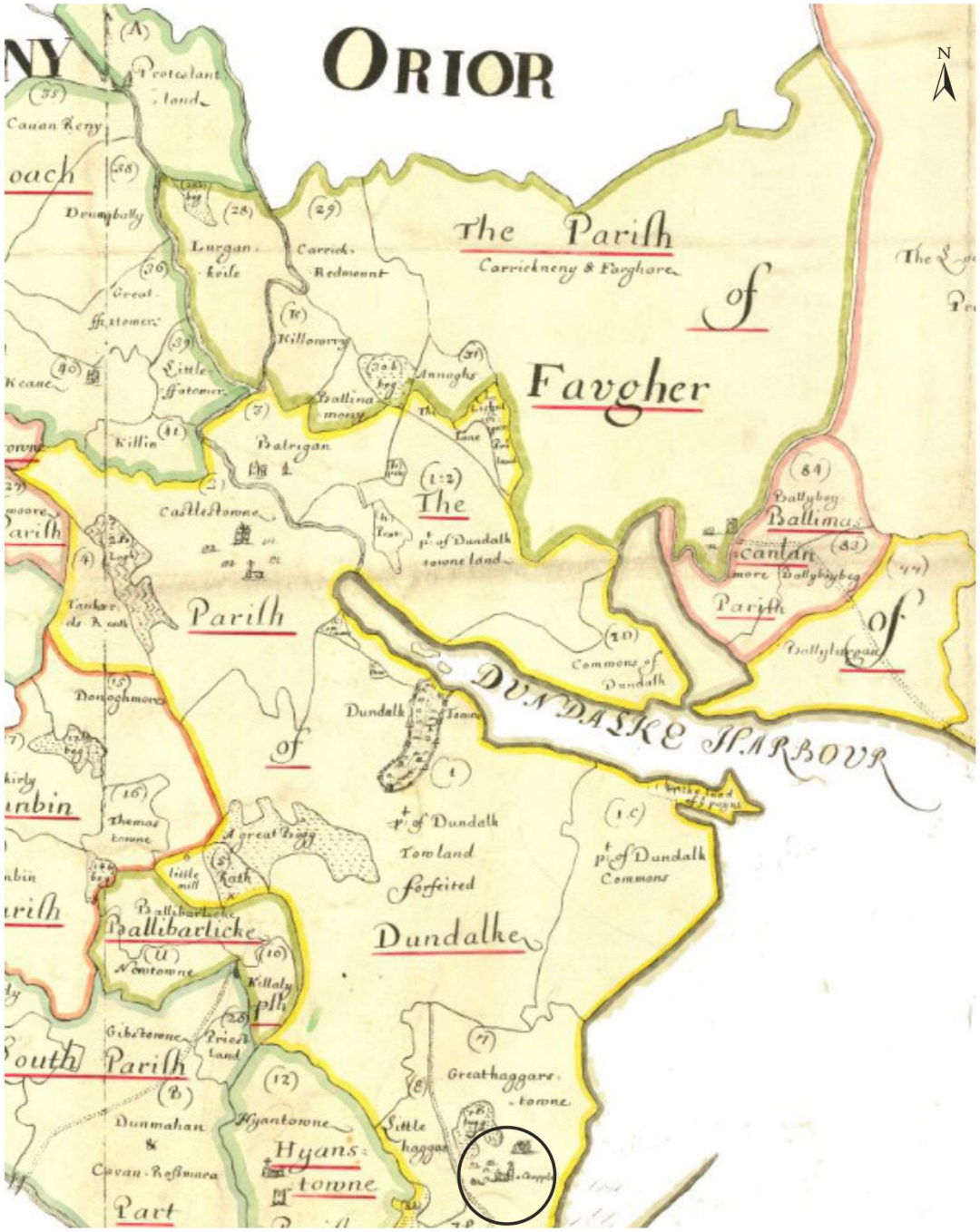


Figure 3: Known SMR sites within 500m of the development site.

Project:	Drawing title:	gahanandlong archaeological services
Cois Farraige, Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Red line boundary showing location of known archaeological sites and monuments within a 500m radius	tel: 028 90202001 e: info@gahanlong.co.uk

Figure 4: Down Survey map (1655-1656) showing approximate location of proposed development.

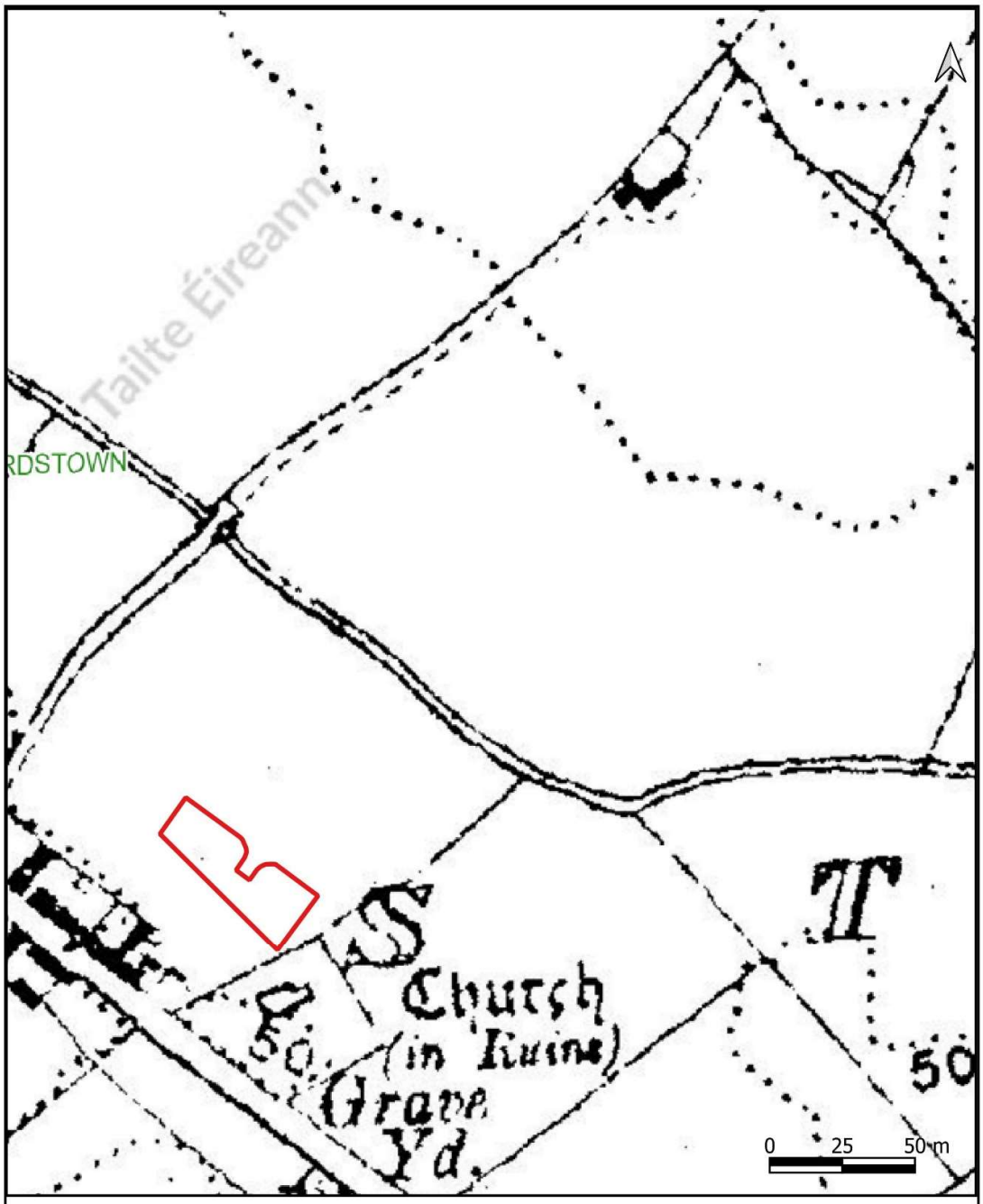


Project:	**Drawing title:**	gahanandlong archaeological services
Cois Farraige, Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Down Survey map (1655-1656) showing approximate location of proposed development site	tel: 028 90202001 e: info@gahanlong.co.uk

Figure 5: Historic 6" map showing the approximate location of the development site.

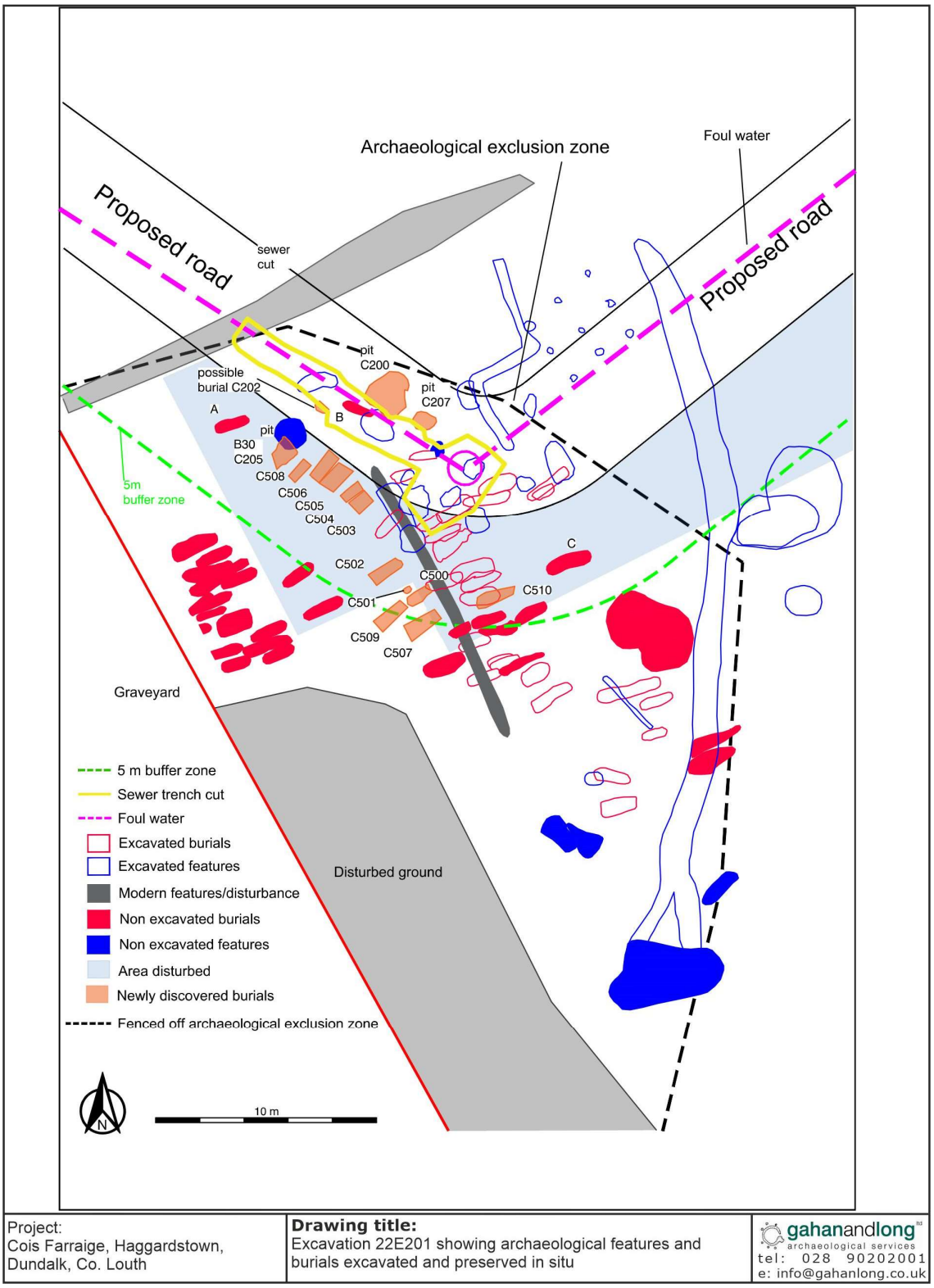
Project:	Drawing title:	gahanandlong archaeological services
Cois Farraige, Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth	1st edition OS map showing approximate location of the proposed development	tel: 028 90202001 e: info@gahanlong.co.uk

Figure 6: Historic 25" map showing the approximate location of the application site.



Project:	Drawing title:	gahanandlong archaeological services
Cois Farraige, Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth	3rd edition OS map showing approximate location of the proposed development	tel: 028 90202001 e: info@gahanlong.co.uk

Figure 7: Excavation 22E201 showing excavated and preserved archaeological features and burials



Project:	Drawing title:	
Cois Farraige, Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Excavation 22E201 showing archaeological features and burials excavated and preserved in situ	gahanandlong ltd archaeological services tel: 028 90202001 e: info@gahanlong.co.uk

Appendix 1: known archaeological sites within 500m of the application site.

Number	Site Type	Townland	Description
LH012-010-	Castle	Haggardstown	Site of castle known as 'Caisleán Uachtrach Baile Sagairt' (Jordan 1934, 210-2). There is no visible surface remains, but excavation in the vicinity recorded four shallow features that might have been associated with it (Murphy 1995, 64). The above description is derived from both the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1986) and the 'Archaeological Survey of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1991). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.
LH012-012-	Castle	Haggardstown	Site of castle now occupied by farm buildings which may incorporate fabric from the monument (Jordan 1934, 210-12). No visible trace. The following description is derived from both the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1986) and the 'Archaeological Survey of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1991). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.
LH012-14001-	Church	Haggardstown	Described above
LH012-14002-	Graveyard	Haggardstown	Described above
LH012-063-	Souterrain	Haggardstown	he following description is derived from both the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1986) and the 'Archaeological Survey of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1991). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Date of upload/revision: 17 July 2007 Local tradition of a souterrain in St. Fursey's graveyard (LH012-014----).
LH012-011-	Souterrain	Haggardstown	The following description is derived from both the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1986) and the 'Archaeological Survey of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1991). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Local tradition of a souterrain.
LH012-056-	Midden	Haggardstown	The following description is derived from both the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1986) and the 'Archaeological Survey of County Louth' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1991). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light

			of recent research. Discovered in 1978 during excavation of a house foundation. Deposit of shells, oval in plan (L c. 5m, Wth c. 3m, T c. 0.5m), consisting mainly of cockles (Cordium edule) together with a few mussels (Mytilus edulis). No datable artefacts were recovered.

Appendix 2: excavations identified within 500m of the application site.

Excavation Number	Location	Description
25E0075	Tuite's Lane, Haggardstown	The site lies at the north-east end of Tuite's Lane, a residential lane in the townland of Haggardstown, with Dundalk golf course bordering the north-west side of the lane. A total of five test trenches were excavated in the footprint of a proposed development, totalling 54 linear metres of trench. The sod and plough soil extended on average to depth of 0.45-0.6m and directly overlay natural subsoil. A layer of peat 0.2m in thickness was evident beneath the plough soil in the east of the site. Natural comprised a yellow/grey boulder clay that was stony in the west of the site. The easternmost corner of the site appeared marshy, and the subsoil was a wet grey marl in this area. No archaeological features were exposed or identified, and no finds were recovered. The testing is now complete, and no further archaeological work is required.
21E0846	Seafield Road, Haggardstown	Test trenching was carried out at Seafield Road, Haggardstown, Blackrock, Co. Louth. The assessment was carried out at the request of the client to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The site lies partially within the zone of archaeological potential associated with Souterrain LH012-054002- and ringfort rath LH012-054001-. Both monuments were discovered by Kieran Campbell during test trenching carried out under licence 94E0197. Subsequent monitoring was undertaken under licence 99E0683 which identified a number of archaeological features in the area immediately to the east of the ringfort (Area 8). These features were preserved in situ beneath greenspace as part of the adjacent Rathmount residential development. Though aerial photography showed the site had been partially stripped of topsoil and used as a temporary site compound, it was decided to conduct archaeological testing in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits. The testing was carried out using a 14-tonne tracked excavator and a total of 7 test trenches were excavated with each trench measuring 1.8m in width. In total, 269m of linear trenches were excavated, and in general, the trenches revealed dark brown clay topsoil (C1) measuring c. 0.3–0.6m in depth, overlying a natural (C2) orange gravelly clay and bedrock. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed or identified.
18E0417	Haggardstown	An archaeological assessment was carried out at Haggardstown, Blackrock, Co. Louth in advance of a residential development. Test trenching was targeted on various geophysical trends and anomalies. No archaeological features were recorded in the course of testing.

Excavation Number	Location	Description
18E0201	Old Golf Links road, Haggardstown	Test trenching was carried out between 2–8 May 2018. The site of the proposed development is located adjacent to LH012-014001 (Church) and LH012-014002 (Graveyard). A total of 42 test trenches were excavated. Field 1 had been partially developed and it is evident that topsoil stripping has been conducted on the site during previous phases of works pre-recession, but the area is now covered by a thin layer of sod that developed over the past several years. It was also not possible to test the south-west portion of Field 2 due to the presence of high tension overhead cables, a sewerage duct and the waterlogged nature of the ground which prevents machine excavations. The results of the geophysical survey were confirmed, and the presence of a large enclosure measuring 65m x 55m was established. The ditch (F004) was identified within Trenches 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 16, 17, 21, 23, 26, 29, 32 and 38, filled with a mid-brown silty clay containing moderate inclusions of angular gravels and occasional inclusions of animal bone (F003), measuring a maximum of 4.2m in width and 2m in depth. Two trenches were excavated within the enclosure, but only one (Trench 1) revealed any internal features. These were identified as three possible pits (F005, F006 and F007) and four possible post-holes (F008–F011). Additional potential archaeological features were identified within Trench 9 where two possible spreads (F017 and F018) were identified, and within Trench 17, where a possible linear ditch (F029) was exposed containing occasional inclusions of charcoal.The feature identified as (2) on the geophysical survey had been interpreted as a possible souterrain, and Trenches 4-6 and 8-12 were excavated in order to determine its archaeological potential, however only a modern linear ditch (F012) and a probably post-medieval/modern boundary or agricultural furrow (F015, F016, F021, F024 and F027) was exposed. There is an historical record of a souterrain in Field 3 (Jordan, J., 1934), described as an underground passage that was closed up in c.1904 as it was a home for foxes. The recorded site of this souterrain (LH012-011) was tested by Trenches 18-20, 23 and 38. A band of natural gravel (F028) was exposed within Trenches 18-20 that resembled a souterrain cut but when excavated, to a maximum depth of 1.2m, it proved to be natural in origin and no features or deposits associated with a souterrain, ie. entrance, stone walls or chamber, were exposed. A similar band of gravel was also identified within Trench 30. The site of a second souterrain (LH012-063) in Field 1 was tested by Trenches 39-41. Once again, no trace of a souterrain or any associated features were identified, but a linear ditch (F034) was exposed within Trench 41 that contained burnt stone and animal bone, which was of archaeological potential. Testing in the remaining, south-eastern, portion of Field 3 was conducted in order to test the potential of the geophysical anomalies (3), but no archaeological features or deposits were exposed or identified. A number of

		post-medieval field drains were identified within Trenches 9-11 and 39-40. It is recommended that all archaeological features and deposits identified during the assessment –large enclosure (F004), possible spreads F017 and F018, possible linear ditch (F029) and linear ditch (F034), are fully excavated and recorded prior to commencement of development. In addition, it is also recommended that all topsoil stripping associated with the proposed development is monitored.
16E0567	Haggardstown	An archaeological assessment was carried out at the site of a proposed development at lands in Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth. The site covers an approximate area of 5.06ha and is surrounded by agricultural and commercial areas south of Dundalk town. A geophysical survey of the site was carried out followed by targeted test trenching. A magnetic gradiometer scan and detailed survey was initially undertaken (16R184; J. Leigh) which revealed several responses, including possible ploughing trends and field boundaries, with no clear archaeological pattern or form. A total of 11 trenches were mechanically excavated across the site under archaeological supervision. No archaeological material was recorded in any of the trenches.
15E0419	Haggardstown	An archaeological assessment was undertaken in advance of a housing development at Haggardstown, Blackrock, Co. Louth. Three trenches totalling 310 linear meters were excavated across the site as far as the natural subsoil. No archaeological features were recorded.
12E0290	Haggardstown	Monitoring of ground investigation trenches was undertaken in advance of proposed watermain rehabilitation works at Blackrock, Co. Louth in Haggardstown td. The work was carried out between July and November 2012. No archaeological material was recorded.
10E0054	Haggardstown	An assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development at Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth. This assessment was requested as further information by Louth County Council. A geophysical survey was carried out by J.M Leigh Surveys under licence 10R23. Testing took place over five days from 22 February 2010. A total of 40 test-trenches (totalling 2029 linear metres) were excavated across the proposed development area, which comprised a large field that was formerly under arable crop. Five archaeological areas were identified as a result of this testing programme, two of which (Archaeological Areas 2 and 3) are situated on low-lying damp ground and are consistent with burnt-mound activity. The other three areas each consist of single pits which could potentially be associated with further features outside of the tested areas. No datable finds were recovered from any of the archaeological areas. In addition to the archaeological areas, numerous linear ditches interpreted as boundary or drainage ditches were identified across the test area which corresponded with some of the linear responses identified in the geophysical survey.

05E0963	Haggardstown	Testing was undertaken on a 57ha greenfield site at Haggardstown and Haynestown, Dundalk, Co. Louth, prior to the construction of a retail and residential complex. The proposed development is divided into nine areas. Test-trenching commenced in Area 2 on 22 August 2005 and lasted for four days. Testing of the remaining areas commenced on 3 October 2005 and lasted for seven weeks. A detailed magnetic gradiometer survey and earth resistance survey was carried out by Earthsound Archaeological Geophysics under detection licence 05R087 over a 3ha area immediately south-west of Haggardstown Cross in Area 2. This survey identified a large number of potential archaeological features, along with a significant number of geological trends. A total of sixteen geophysical trenches were excavated to investigate these anomalies. Only one area of archaeological interest was uncovered in these trenches, the remainder of the anomalies proving to be field drains or geological responses. Magnetic inclusions in the underlying geology caused problems for the magnetic survey and, based on the results of the initial testing in Area 2, it was decided that geophysical survey in the remainder of the development area would be of limited use. Archaeological sites identified as a result of the testing exercise include a large circular enclosure, possibly Neolithic in date, eight spreads of burnt-mound material and a souterrain. A section of a pit in the interior of the large enclosure produced two stone axes and some prehistoric pottery. A section of the enclosing ditch produced two hammerstones. Also identified was a small ring-ditch that may date to the Bronze Age/Iron Age, a possible enclosure (date unknown), two possible prehistoric houses and various pits.
04E0876	Haggardstown	Geophysical survey over a 14.5ha site at Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth, suggested the possibility of subsurface archaeological deposits in the form of ditches, enclosures and a fulachta fiadh. Test-trenching was carried out across these geophysical anomalies to determine whether or not they were archaeological in nature and if so to ascertain their extent and date. A total of 21 trenches were mechanically opened across these anomalies. All but three indicated that the anomalies were the results of the underlying geology and were not archaeological in nature. One trench had a series of narrow gullies running diagonally across the trench, filled with a charcoal-flecked peat-like loam and sealed with material from which clay pipe and late post-medieval pottery were recovered. A second trench was opened up close to an area where there is a tradition of the presence of a souterrain. A linear charcoal-flecked spread was uncovered in this trench, although its date and its association with a stone setting, recorded locally as a souterrain, are unknown. Although the testing indicates that, in general, the results of the geophysical testing are not archaeological in nature, they do not exclude the possibility of subsurface archaeological deposits surviving in situ between the trenches.

02E0549	Haggardstown	Testing was undertaken to investigate further the archaeological potential of lands at Haggardstown, Co. Louth, and to identify any areas in which development may be prohibited owing to the presence of archaeological monuments. The landowner wished to ascertain the potential archaeological resource in this area before any future development. The lands have been zoned as 'secondary residential' under the new Area Development Plan. The record of a possible souterrain on the site, combined with the identification of significant Bronze Age and early medieval archaeological remains at the adjacent Xerox site to the north-west, excavated by Catherine McLoughlin (*Excavations 1999*, No. 610, 98E0440), indicated that the area had the potential to contain other, related archaeological remains. A total of 49 trenches were opened across the site. No evidence of the possible souterrain was uncovered. The area in which it was thought to have been situated was extensively tested. It is possible that this monument lies outside the limits of the areas tested. However, archaeological remains were uncovered in five areas across the proposed development site. Area 1 comprised a series of spreads, layers and linear features of probable early medieval date. A number of sherds of coarse, early medieval pottery were recovered, and other features yielded numerous pieces of metal slag. This suggests that the features recorded in this area relate to fairly substantial metalworking site. Area 2 was toward the east of the development site. One pit was recorded, measuring c. 2.5m by 1.5m by 0.4m deep. Area 3 contained a thin spread of charcoal-rich clay and heat-fractured stone associated with a layer of grey charcoal-flecked clay. This occupied an area of c. 4.5m by 3m. Area 4 consisted of an area of heat-fractured stone, c. 0.2m deep, and associated oxidised and charcoal-rich clay, which may be the remains of a burnt mound. This occupied an area of c. 4.5m by 3m. Area 5 consisted of a number of features comprising small areas of charcoal-rich clay (possible pits and gullies). These features occupied an area of c. 20m by 30m.
01E0015	Haggardstown	Test-trenching was carried out in two fields in the townland of Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth, between 9 and 17 January 2001. Test-trenching was recommended following the results of ploughzone analysis. The total area of the site measures 122,569m2. It is bounded by the rear of houses to the west and green fields to the north, south and east. A north–south-aligned field boundary divides the site in two. The land in the west field rises gently from the south to a height roughly at the centre of the field and gradually slopes downwards to the north, west and east. The east field is low-lying and relatively flat. A possible souterrain is located to the south of the site. The area of ploughsoil analysis carried out in both fields (hereafter referred to as the west field and the east field) by Tim Coughlan of IAC Ltd revealed no archaeological artefacts within the ploughsoil. Thirty-nine test-trenches in the form of three main east–west-aligned trenches and 36 smaller 'branches' were excavated. In all, 2.6% of the surface area of the site was trenched. The fieldwork was carried out by the author and up to six assistants. Topsoil and sod

		consistently overlay a compact reddish to yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of small to medium-sized stones and moderate inclusions of pebbles exposed at the base of excavations. *West field* Substantial archaeological deposits in the form of north–south- and east–west-aligned ditches, walls and areas of occupational debris were observed in a large proportion of the test-trenches excavated in the west field. A possible multi-period enclosed settlement site is located at the top of the low hill in the field. Test-trench 1 revealed four north–south-aligned ditch features and a substantial north-east/south-west-aligned ditch. Two substantial north–south-aligned possible wall foundations were also uncovered. A fragment of souterrain ware was recovered from one of these ditches along with fragments of human bone. In Test-trench 2 an east–west-aligned ditch was observed and appeared to curve to the north. To the west of this feature a second ditch was revealed, running north–south. Further west, evidence of burning in the form of a hearth and a pit feature were observed. At the top of the hill, lying between Test-trenches 1 and 2, a layer of dark brown silty clay containing one north–south-aligned cut with inclusions of human bone in the fill, spreads of burning, charcoal deposits, shell remains and human and animal bone fragments was observed, suggesting significant human activity in this area. Further ditch features were observed at the north and south ends of the west field. A north–south-aligned ditch was observed to the north in Test-trench 3. To the south, in Test-trench 29, at a depth of 1m below modern ground level, another east–west-aligned shallow ditch was observed. This appeared to curve to the south, although its precise line was difficult to discern, given the restraints of the test-trench. A low bank was observed in section immediately to the south of, and associated with, this ditch, suggesting the presence of a second possible enclosure at the southern end of the west field. This cannot be concluded for certain without further investigation. A significant number of ditches and related features were observed in Test-trenches 1 and 2, aligned primarily north–south in Test-trench 1 and east–west in Test-trench 2, and an east–west-aligned ditch was observed in Test-trench 29. These remains cover an area of approximately 19,600m2. The ditch features in Test-trench 1 continue to the north. It is not possible to determine with any certainty the nature or extent of these features. At the top of the hill substantial areas of burning with frequent fragments of animal bone and other occupational debris were observed, indicating a possible occupation layer. *East field* The east field revealed little of archaeological significance in the northern, western or eastern parts. However, a possible souterrain was uncovered in the south-western part of the field in Test-trench 33. It was not possible to determine for certain the length or orientation of this feature, although it is possible that it continues to the east and west and may be part of SMR 12:6

00E0132	Haggardstown	Excavation took place at Haggardstown, Co. Louth, from 22 May to 9 June 2000. The site was discovered in January 1999, along with ten others that were excavated under licence number 98E0440 ext. (*Excavations 1999*, 213–15). The site consisted of a shallow, subrectangular spread of charcoal-rich, silty clay, which measured 12m north–south by 12m. It contained a high percentage of heat-shattered sandstone. A similar large spread of stone and soil was situated immediately to the north-west. This measured 10m north–south by 4m and upon excavation was found to consist of the remains of a large cut, which contained three troughs and three post-holes. One single sherd of E ware was found in the upper fill of the large cut, and all the features were filled by similar deposits of heat-shattered sandstone and charcoal-rich, silty clay. Several other features were excavated to the north and east of the large feature, including two more troughs.
99E0683	Haggardstown	Planning permission for a housing development was granted subject to licensed monitoring of soil-stripping. The site consisted of two fields, the long axis of which is north-south. This is a low-lying area, mostly below 15m OD. The ground was highest in the north-west, and there is an area of waterlogged ground along its eastern boundary. A possible souterrain is listed on the site of the development. Jordan (1934) made reference to the removal of stones from an underground passage. Previous testing by Kieran Campbell (Excavations 1994, 64–5, 94E0197; and Campbell 1995) concentrated on the north-west corner and revealed the presence of a roughly circular, ditched enclosure, most likely a ringfort, of c. 40m in outer diameter. No evidence of a souterrain was uncovered at this time. This area, with an additional buffer zone of 15m radius, was excluded from the development. Monitoring of the soil-stripping of this c. 16-hectare site revealed a number of features of note. Feature 1 was a substantial shell midden, spoon-shaped in cross-section and irregular, elongated oval in plan, covering a horizontal area of at least 4m east-west by c. 1.5m north-south and with a maximum depth of 0.2m. There was no burnt material associated with the shells, and underlying the shell-rich lens was a thin layer of fine, water-rolled gravel, suggesting that this feature was a natural marine deposit. Features 2 and 3 were in the southern part of the site. They were noted first as a spread of burnt soil, with a second, distinct spread 8m to the east of the first. Initial cleaning of the two spreads showed that the burnt soil was contained within two apparently discrete features cut into subsoil. Feature 2, on the west side, was contained in a roughly circular pit c. 2.5m in diameter and 0.6m deep, and Feature 3 was narrower and shallower, c. 1.4m wide, 4.5m long and 0.4m deep. Feature 2 was the ash-pit for a corn-drying kiln that lay immediately to the west of it and ran on the same east-west axis as Features 2 and 3. This was mostly covered by a layer of mid-brown, gravelly clay, which resembled natural boulder clay but was redeposited.

		The kiln was of the keyhole type, built of drystone walling, consisting in the main of local sandstone and limestone, with the occasional use of flat slabs of local sandstone as vertical walls and also as lintels, although only two collapsed examples of the latter were present. Its overall length was 4.6m: the circular bowl was 1.1m x 1m and the flue was 3.5m by 0.6m. It survived to a maximum height of 0.65m, with up to seven drystone courses surviving in the bowl. The flue consisted of courses of drystone walling at the western end; at the eastern end the initial 1.45m was occupied by vertical stone slabs resembling small orthostats. These were between 0.5m and 0.58m high. The entire floor of the flue was paved with similar, thin stone slabs. In the eastern end of the flue the floor and wall slabs were heavily fire-damaged, scorched to a dull red colour and shattered through intense heat. The ash-pit lay immediately to the east. The bowl was floored with marl that was probably derived from the marshy ground to the east. This floor was compacted, was laid directly on the natural gravels and was a maximum of 60mm thick. A similar layer of marl, which also contained stones, overlay it; this appeared to represent collapsed roofing material. There were no deposits of charcoal or charred grain on the floor, and, although some inclusions occurred within the floor material, these are probably not derived from the use of the kiln. No associated paving was noted such as has occurred in other similar kilns (see Hurley 1997, 22–4; Hurley and Scully 1997, 276–7). This absence of paving may have been due in part to the intensity of the agricultural activities in the area. The ash-pit immediately to the east of the kiln contained layers of ash and charcoal, although again no deposits of grain were noted. It survived to a maximum diameter of 2.65m on the north-south axis and was 0.56m at its deepest. It included fragments of shells and an upper layer, thickest in the centre, consisting of a mixture of clay with marl in it, beige but with ash and charcoal inclusions. Feature 3 had the appearance of a shallower and narrower version of the ash-pit with a similar fill. It was 8m to the east of Feature 2 and was noted as a spread of burnt earth 4.5m east-west by 1.3m. It too contained a layer of heavily charcoal-flecked soil, and lenses of orange (burnt) soil containing a high percentage of ash. The lenses containing shells were thicker, and the quantity of shells, principally limpets, was greater in this area. The upper layer in both Features 2 and 3 was a mixture of clay with marl in it, beige but with ash and charcoal inclusions, and this also extended over the corn-drying kiln. This was found to extend to the east and west of these features and had the appearance of a field boundary or drain. To the east it merged into the sandy subsoil, although it was visible in it. It appears most likely that the kiln and associated pit were inserted into an existing feature, possibly a field boundary, and that debris from the kiln was spread into the ditch. After the kiln ceased to be used, the ditch may have continued in use and then either silted up or was filled in. The finds recovered came from the upper levels of the features and were possibly associated with the field boundary. A fragment of a post-medieval skillet handle, one rimsherd and one body sherd of post-medieval date, one fragment of Staffordshire slipware and one (broken)

		rimsherd of earthenware crock with a dull red glaze were recovered. One flint core was also recovered from the ploughsoil overlying the feature. Two unrecognisable iron pieces were noted but not retained. Feature 7 survived as a lens of charcoal-stained soil up to 50mm thick but on average 20mm thick, overlying the gravel and clay subsoil. It had an irregular shape and was 0.79m in maximum length and 0.52m in maximum width. A number of flint pieces, including a scraper, were recovered from the charcoal-stained soil, as well as a tiny fragment of heavily abraded pottery. In cleaning the adjacent area, a thin skin of unburnt soil overlying gravel, a further three pieces of struck flint were recovered. Again, one of these, a small side scraper, was worked. Unfortunately, no other features survived in the vicinity of Feature 7. Although it was directly overlying subsoil, and the topsoil in the immediate area was a minimum of 0.5m thick and a possible maximum of 1m thick, it is impossible to say whether it was the base of a cut feature. Alternatively, it may indicate human activity in the area before the development of the considerable depth of topsoil. The field had been extensively and deeply ploughed, and the subsequent activity involving heavy machinery had entirely obliterated any other detail. Feature 8 comprises a number of features identified over an area of c. 50m north-south by 30m east-west, on the east-facing slope of the slight hill immediately below the ringfort investigated by Campbell. Approximately 0.5m of topsoil was removed. The area was assessed by systematically walking through it both north-south and east-west. Thirteen individual features were identified, and many incidences of bone, shells, charcoal and other material were recorded. Planning permission has not been obtained for building within this area, so the features were not disturbed. The soil in this area is varied but in general is dark brown, water-saturated and dense; it is visibly distinct from the soil in the remainder of the development, which is lighter in colour and less water-saturated. The area has been truncated to the east and north by the construction of the roads for the development. Soil has been removed from the northern end and added to the east in the construction of these roads. There has been extensive ploughing in the area, the most recent phase relating to potato crops, and the furrows ran approximately north-south. There is a central zone that is in line with the possible entrance to the ringfort as described by Campbell (1995). The concentration of archaeological material within it is significantly denser than that in the remainder of the area. This is c. 30m wide (north-south) and runs down the slope of the hill to the east for c. 30m. Soil-stripping in the area to the south-east of the ringfort and immediately south of Feature 8 uncovered a zone of soil (Feature 9) that in general is dark brown and visibly distinct from the soil in the remainder of the development. The brown soil was charcoal-flecked and had a high clay content, containing grit and some gravel, and it proved to be confined to a band running east-west down the slope, roughly 18m long and 2.5m wide, though irregular in shape. Four sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from this feature, as well as one piece of slag. The feature appears to have been an early field boundary, consisting of a bank

		containing stones or a stone facing, and possibly an associated shallow ditch. The latter feature, represented by a shallow scoop into the natural, may simply have been the surviving portion of the area dug out to create the bank, which may then have been capped with stones. The intermittent nature of the stones, and the occasionally inverted soil profile where the brown, charcoal-flecked soil was covered by redeposited natural, appears to have been caused by deep ploughing. On the western end of the field boundary a narrow gully running roughly north-south was noted. This was 1.75m long, between 0.15m and 0.2m wide and 50mm deep. It was filled with a brown, wet, sterile soil, which did not contain any charcoal. No finds were recovered from it. It had the appearance of a possible furrow that may have related to the field boundary described above. Feature 10, in the north-west area of the northern field, was a spread of burnt soil contained in a pit 1.3m long, running roughly east-west, and 1m in maximum width. The pit was 0.2m deep and was filled with a dark, loamy soil containing burnt stones. There was an extension to the west end of the pit that was 0.4m wide and 0.8m long. The sides of the cut for this feature were steeper than for the pit, and the western end was very straight. It had a layer, 50mm thick, of the dark, loamy soil overlying a fill 0.12m deep of burnt soil that was reddish-brown. It had the general appearance of a flue. No finds were recovered from this feature, and no other features were noted during the soil-stripping in its vicinity. However, the topsoil in this area was c. 0.2m deep, and again plough damage may have removed any associated features not cut into subsoil. Feature 11 was also a pit cut into subsoil containing burnt stones in a matrix of reddish, burnt soil. The pit was 1.1m east-west by 0.64m. It had a maximum depth of 0.24m. The sides were quite steep, although it was quite irregular in shape. No finds were recovered, and there was no layer of dark soil as occurred in Feature 10. No other features were noted in its vicinity. In summary, monitoring resulted in the identification of eight archaeological features or spreads of features. Seven of these were in areas directly affected by the proposed development, and these were examined and recorded. Feature 8, a complex of features to the east of the ringfort, was in an area omitted from the developer's planning permission. Apart from Features 2 and 3 (the corn-drying kiln) and Features 8 and 9 (the complexes of features to the east of the ringfort), the remaining features are quite enigmatic. The time span over which there was human activity on the site is possibly of the order of 4500 years, or longer.
95E0126	Haggardstown	Blackrock is a small seaside town some 5km south of Dundalk, Co. Louth. During the course of land reduction at an ongoing housing development in Haggardstown, Blackrock, the passageway of a souterrain was encroached upon. Under supervision and using a small toothless bucket, a machine was employed to reveal the extent of the souterrain by uncovering the capstones and to investigate the possibility of an enclosing ditch.

		The area to the east of the breached passageway had already been levelled down to bedrock, while the area containing the souterrain had been scarped considerably, leaving only a very thin covering of scrub and grass on the natural shaly subsoil. By following at first the upper capstones it could be determined that the passageway survived for 10m east-west before turning sharply south, running for a further 11m leading to a single, badly collapsed, chamber. The north-south passageway was traced by following not the capstones but the overlying counter-balancing boulders which lay on the outer edges of the capstones. It was infilled with a charcoal-rich and shell-flecked brown dirty soil. Defining the limit of the chamber was made possible only by following a dirty infilled yellow/brown soil flecked with shell, bone and charcoal, which contrasted sharply with the surrounding yellow subsoil. The chamber was apparently subrectangular in shape and measured 3.5m x 5m. The outer width of the passage measured up to 1.5m and the internal width, as measured near the breached entrance, 0.85m. The walls of the souterrain consisted of a finely built drystone walling of shale and slate, the local stone. It was not possible to crawl into the souterrain as rubble had been recently dumped within the entrance to block access. For this reason it was not possible to determine whether a rock-cut or stone-lined floor underlay the compacted clay just visible beneath the rubble. A single pit was seen in section south of the breached passageway and to the east of the chamber. It was 1m wide and 1m deep and filled with a black/grey clayey soil with stones, charcoal, shell and animal bone. It had been truncated by the recent ground reduction and cut through into the natural boulder clay. A series of strips was opened up surrounding the souterrain to reveal the location of a single enclosing ditch some 29–30m in diameter. The ditch could not be traced along the south of the site, which presumably indicates that the entrance to the enclosure was located just south of the souterrain chamber. A section was cut through the ditch to reveal dimensions of 3.4m wide and 1.8m deep. The ditch was filled with organic-rich deposits of shell and bone within a yellow/brown clay. There was no trace of an associated bank. The souterrain was located within a simple univallate ringfort or rath, a characteristic settlement of the Early Christian period, AD 400–1200.
94E0197	Haggardstown	Trial trenches totalling 342m in length were excavated on December 10 on a site at Seafield, Haggardstown, where a 40-acre housing development covering two large fields is proposed. A 1934 reference to an 'underground passage' in one of the fields does not unfortunately give the precise location. High ground in the south-west corner of the 23-acre field, commanding good views towards the sea, was chosen as a likely location for the site. The investigation, confined largely to the removal of topsoil in 0.6m wide trenches spaced 5m–10m apart, revealed the presence of a previously unrecorded ringfort with overall diameters of 45m east-west and 40m north-south. The ditch, sectioned in one location, had a width of 5.5m and was 2.2m deep. There is a possible entrance on the east side. Trenches

		crossing the interior of the enclosure uncovered 11 features, several of which may be wide enough to accommodate the passage of a small souterrain. One of three ditch-like features located immediately north of the ringfort is also possibly a souterrain passage or entrance ramp.