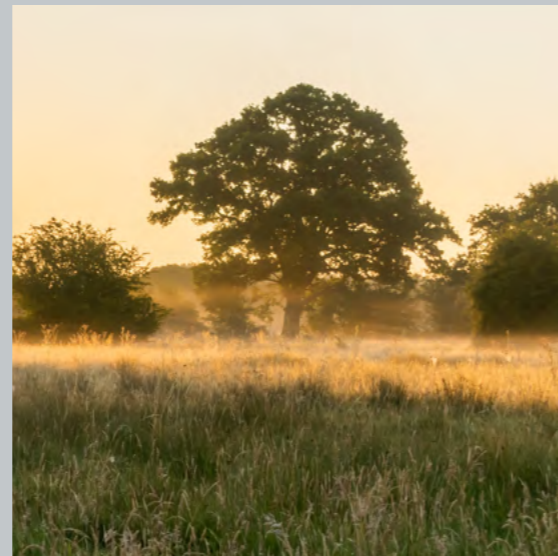


BESSBOROUGH, CORK

APPENDIX 10

Cultural Heritage



VOLUME III | APPENDICES

BESSBOROUGH, CORK

APPENDIX 10

Cultural Heritage

- Appendix 10-1 - General Photographic Record by John Cronin and Associates
- Appendix 10-2 - 2019 Archaeological Test Trenching Report by John Cronin and Associates
- Appendix 10.3 - Historic Building Record prepared by John Cronin and Associates
- Appendix 10.4 - Method Statement Forensic Control prepared by Aidan Harte of Munster Archaeology

- **Appendix 10-1 - General Photographic Record by John Cronin and Associates**

Appendix 10.2: General Photographic Record

(Note: a detailed photographic record of built environment within The Farm subject lands is provided in Appendix 10.4)



Plate 10.1: Drone view of the Bessboro property from southeast





Plate 10.5: Ground view of the Meadows subject lands, looking southeast



Plate 10.7: Area of ground disturbance in the north end of The Meadows subject lands, looking west



Plate 10.6: Ground view of the Meadows subject lands, looking northwest



Plate 10.8: Existing road on west side of The Meadows subject lands



Plate 10.9: Bessboro gateway from north



Plate 10.10: Bessboro northern boundary from north



Plate 10.11: Ground view from south of the western open area within The Farm subject lands. The trees here are generally recent plantings associated with former Cork Heritage Park



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Plate 10.15: Southern elevation of modern structure Building D



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Plate 10.20: Green field area in north end of The Farm subject lands



Plate 10.21: Open grassland in west end of the Bessboro property



Plate 10.23: View of Bessboro House from southwest



Plate 10.22 : View of railway line to east of the Bessboro property



Plate 10.24: View of Bessboro House from southeast showing later buildings



Plate 10.25: Icehouse (RMP CO074-051----) within wooded area in west end of Bessboro property (outside subject lands)



Plate 10.27: View of nun's graveyard on north side of folly (outside subject lands)



Plate 10.26: View from south of Folly in southeast end of Bessboro property following partial demolition and rebuilding (outside subject lands)

- Appendix 10-2 - 2019 Archaeological Test Trenching Report by John Cronin and Associates

**Bessborough, Ballinure Townland, Mahon, County
Cork**
Archaeological Impact Assessment



Excavation Licence no.: 19E0003
Detection Device: 19R0001

Colm Chambers
John Cronin & Associates
Unit 3A Westpoint Trade Centre
Ballincollig
County Cork

January 2019

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1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates were appointed to carry out a programme of archaeological testing ahead of an application for planning permission for development at the site following consultation with City Council Archaeologist, Ciara Brett (Thursday 15th November, 2018). The subject area is a brown field site within the townland of Ballinure, Mahon, Cork, to the northeast of Bessborough House (RMP no. C0074-077----) (**Figure 1**).

The subject site is located c.85m to the north of the nun’s cemetery at Bessborough. The programme of testing was primarily focused on identifying any possible undocumented burial places or graves within the proposed development site, however, the testing programme concurrently investigated for the presence of unrecorded archaeological features, artefacts or deposits within these areas. An osteoarchaeologist was on-site at all times to examine any revealed human or potential human remains.



Figure 1 Location of subject site (Source: Google Earth)

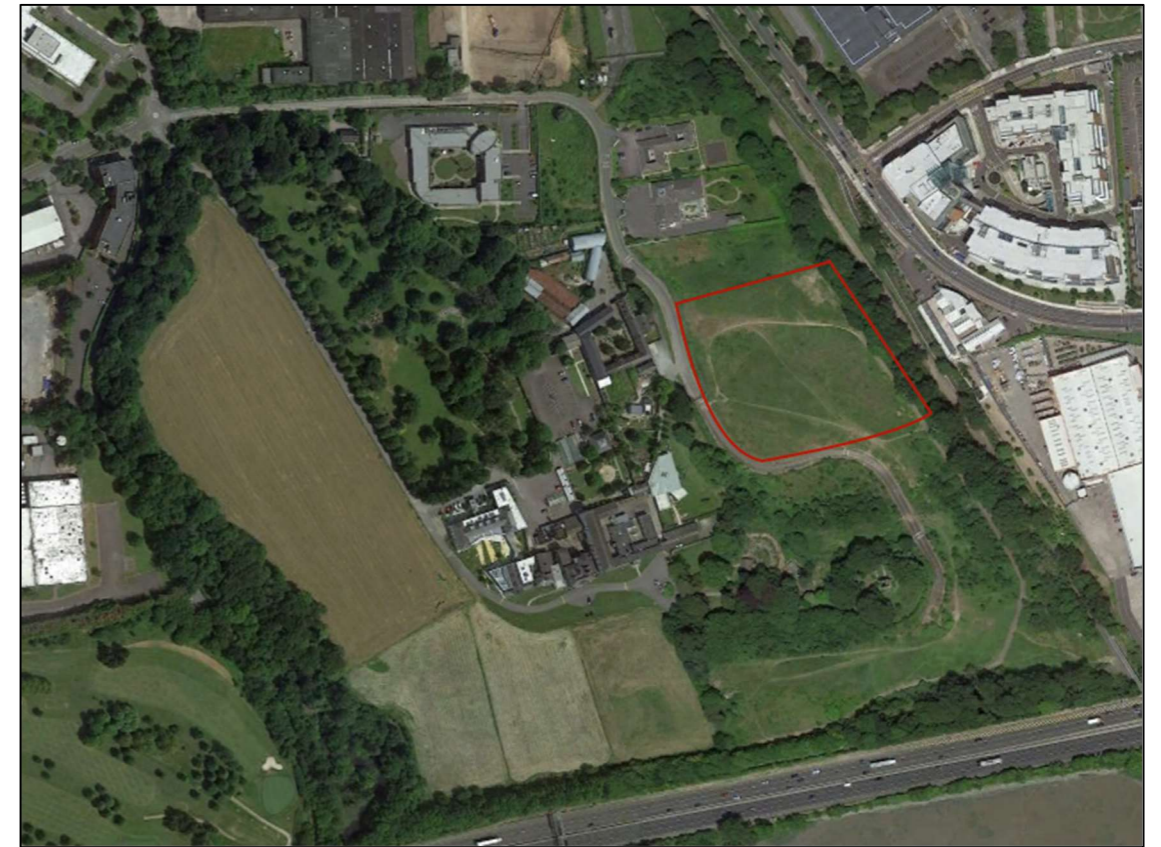


Figure 2 Outline of subject site (in red) (Source: Google Earth)

2. Context

The subject site is located within a brown field area to the northeast of Bessborough House (RMP no. CO074-077----). Planning was granted (ref. 0934237) for a nursing home at the subject site in 2010. An archaeological testing condition was attached to the granted planning, however, it appears that the development was abandoned prior to that programme of archaeological testing taking place. Aerial images (**Figure 3**) from 2006 and subsequently show extensive ground disturbance across the entire site. This disturbance appears to relate to construction works in adjoining areas.

The 1st edition 6-inch OS map shows the subject area crossed by a tree lined roadway running from the northern corner to the south (**Figure 5**). A tree lined field boundary is shown running northwest to southeast in the southwest corner of the subject site. The 25-inch OS map shows the Passage railway line defining the site to the east with a band of trees to the west of the railway (**Figure 6**). No other features are shown within the subject site on this map.

Bessborough House is believed to have been built in 1760 as a residence for the Allens, a prominent Cork Quaker family. In 1814 the house and lands were acquired by a Mr J. Spence and changed hands again shortly after to the Bousefield family. In about 1820 the property was bought by Joseph Pike. Of Cromwellian planter origin, the Pikes became a prosperous Quaker family whose business interests included the Cork Steamship Company, Pike's Bank, a drapery store and railway development. Bessborough remained with the Pike family until 1920 when the last of two spinster sisters, Ann Emily Pike, died. The property was sold to the Sacred Heart Order in 1922.



Figure 3 2006 aerial image showing extent of ground disturbance across the entire site
(Source: Google Earth)

Bessborough House functioned as a Mother and Baby Home from the time of its purchase by the Sacred Heart Order in 1922 through to the 1990s. In total nearly 6000 births are registered at the home between 1929 and 1987. Births prior to 1929 and subsequent to 1987 are believed to have taken place at St. Finbarr's Hospital (Report of the Inter-Departmental Group on Mother and Baby Homes).

The mortality rate for children born at the Bessborough is estimated to have been over 50% for extended periods, especially during the 1940s and 50s (Irish Mirror, 11th August 2013; Examiner, 25th August 2014). While complete records are not available, the mortality rate is believed to have remained high though-out the operation of the home. Estimates for the total number vary but range from several hundred up to about two thousand child deaths during the operation of the home (RTE Prime Time, 17th May 2017; Independent, 25th March 2018).

No complete records of deaths are known to exist for the Bessborough Home and burial records for both mothers and babies who died at Bessborough appear to not have been kept. The deaths of 470 children and 10 women are recorded at the home between 1934 and 1953 but no records of deaths in the subsequent years are known (Examiner, 7th March 2017; Examiner, 19th February 2018).

It is believed that a number of children who died at the home were buried at the 'Angel's Plot', at the nun's cemetery at Bessborough, and it is known that a small number of those who died there were buried in unmarked plots in various Cork city cemeteries (Examiner, 19th February 2018). In May 2018 the Mother and Baby Homes Commission appealed for anyone who has personal knowledge, documentation or other information concerning the burial arrangements and/or burial places of children who died in Bessborough between 1922 and 1998 to come forward. Toni Maguire, a consultant archaeologist who specializes in children's burial grounds (*Cillíní*) and has worked with the Adoptions Rights group in relation to the Mother and Baby Home at Tuam, County Galway, has researched and inspected the Bessborough site and believes that unrecorded burials exist beyond the 'Angel's Plot' (Examiner, July 17th 2014).

Given the large number of children who died while resident in the Bessborough Mother and Baby Home and the fact that no records of burial arrangement and/or burial places of the children survive, the potential exists for unrecorded burials to have taken place within the wider Bessborough landholding, this includes both undeveloped and previously developed areas of the Bessborough landholding.

Inspection prior to testing at the subject site found the area to be overgrown by scrubby growth. The northern portion of this area appeared to contain dumps of construction and waste material, especially at the northeast. Within the southern portion of this area topsoil was evident, indicating that ground disturbance in this part of the site may have been more limited. This area is open to the south and is bound by modern fencing to the north. A modern road cut into the natural level, constructed in the mid-2000s, forms the western limit of this area, with the former Cork, Blackrock and Passage Railway line forming the eastern boundary. Due to the extensive surface disturbance noted above, no discernible archaeological features survive above ground within this area.



Figure 4 Cork City and eastern suburbs as depicted by George Taylor and Alexander Skinner's Maps of the roads of Ireland in 1778. Bessborough is indicated as "Bisboro" and the proprietor as Allen Esq.

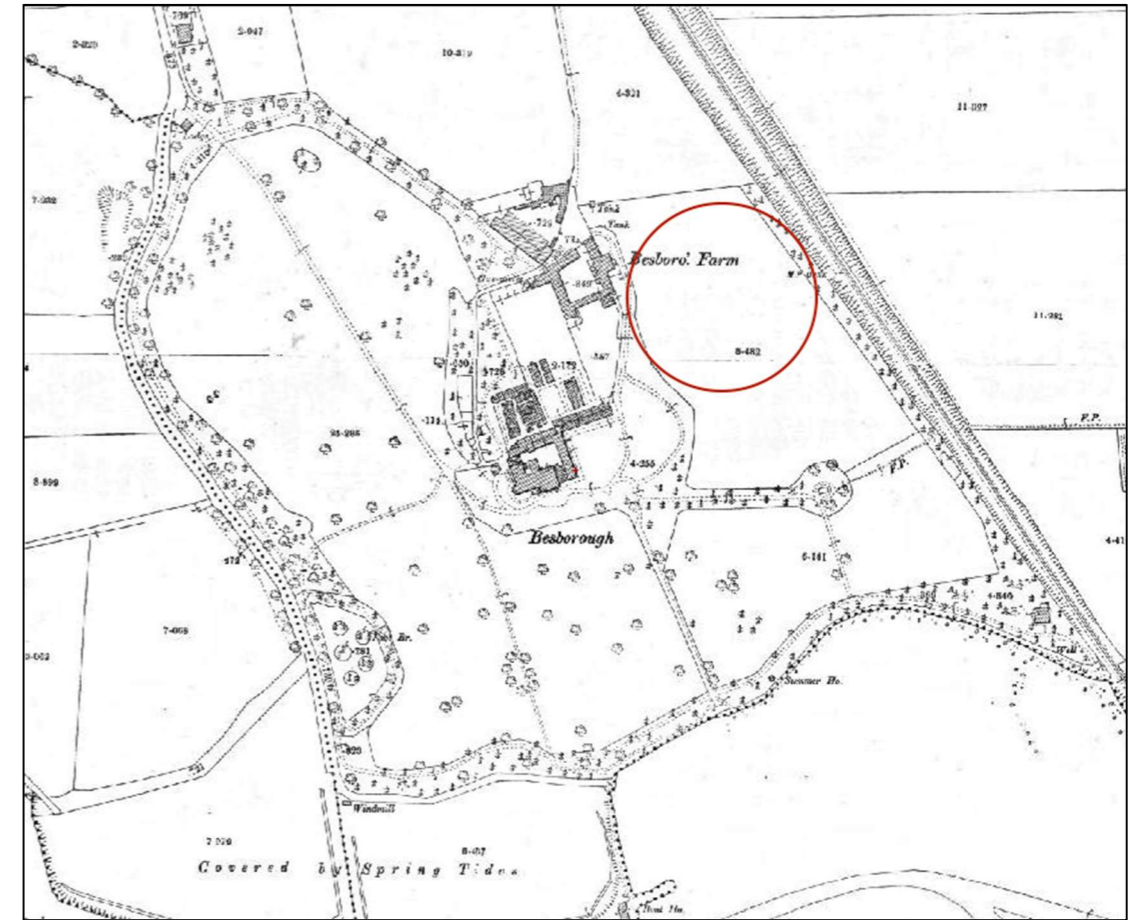


Figure 6 25" Ordnance Survey Map (Surveyed 1899/1900, published 1901)



Figure 5 First edition Ordnance Survey map (Surveyed 1841, published 1845)



Figure 7 Aerial image showing subject site in 1951

The proposed development site is located to the northeast of Bessborough House (RMP no. CO074-077----). The site is also adjacent to the former demesne associated with

Bessborough House. The Archaeological Survey of Ireland lists a further eleven recorded archaeological sites within a c.1km radius of the boundaries of the subject site.



Figure 8 Location of recorded archaeological sites (yellow points) within c.1km of the subject site. (Source: Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)

Table 1: Recorded archaeological sites located within 1km of proposed development site

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM Easting	ITM Northing
CO074-050----	Quarry	DUNDANION	571214	571131
CO074-051----	Icehouse	BALLINURE (Cork By.)	571612	570226
CO074-059----	House - fortified house	MONFIELDSTOWN	572552	569481
CO074-063----	Midden	BALLINLOUGH (Cork By.)	571218	570058
CO074-068----	Railway bridge	"BALLINURE (Cork By.),MONFIELDSTOWN"	572439	569873
CO074-077----	Country house	BALLINURE (Cork By.)	571802	570287
CO074-100----	Country house	BALLINURE (Cork By.)	571587	571529
CO074-121----	Railway bridge	BALLINURE (Cork By.)	571631	571041
CO074-130----	Excavation - miscellaneous	BALLINURE (Cork By.)	572344	570516
CO075-022----	Country house	MAHON	572818	570613
CO075-045----	Midden	MONFIELDSTOWN	572856	569585
CO075-083----	Excavation - miscellaneous	MAHON	572826	570612

20 archaeological excavations are recorded as having taken place within the townlands that fall within c.1km of the subject site. These excavations have resulting in the identification of sites, deposits and finds dating from the prehistoric through to the modern era, including an area of prehistoric activity within Ballinure townland, excavated under licence 03E0060 (Appendix II).

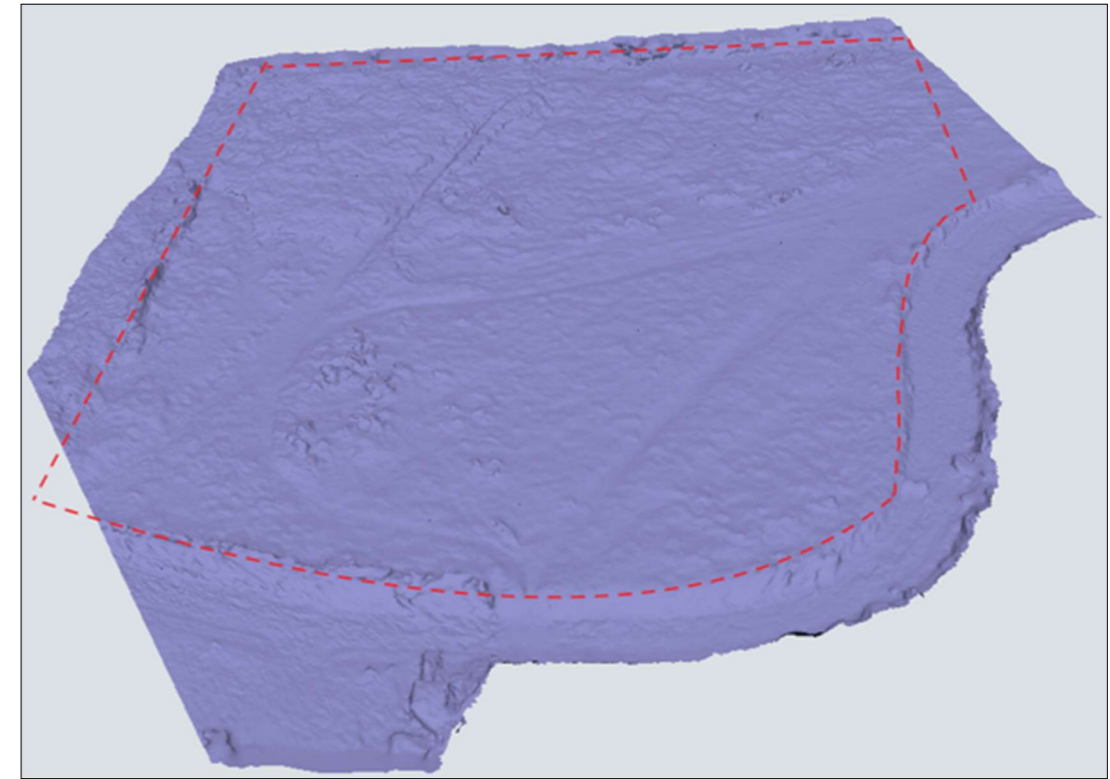


Figure 9 Digital Surface Model of subject site (approx. outline in red), showing ground disturbance and vegetation cover, looking east

3. Archaeological test trenching

No surface traces of any potential archaeological features were noted on the footprint of the proposed development during an inspection carried out prior to the test trench investigations.

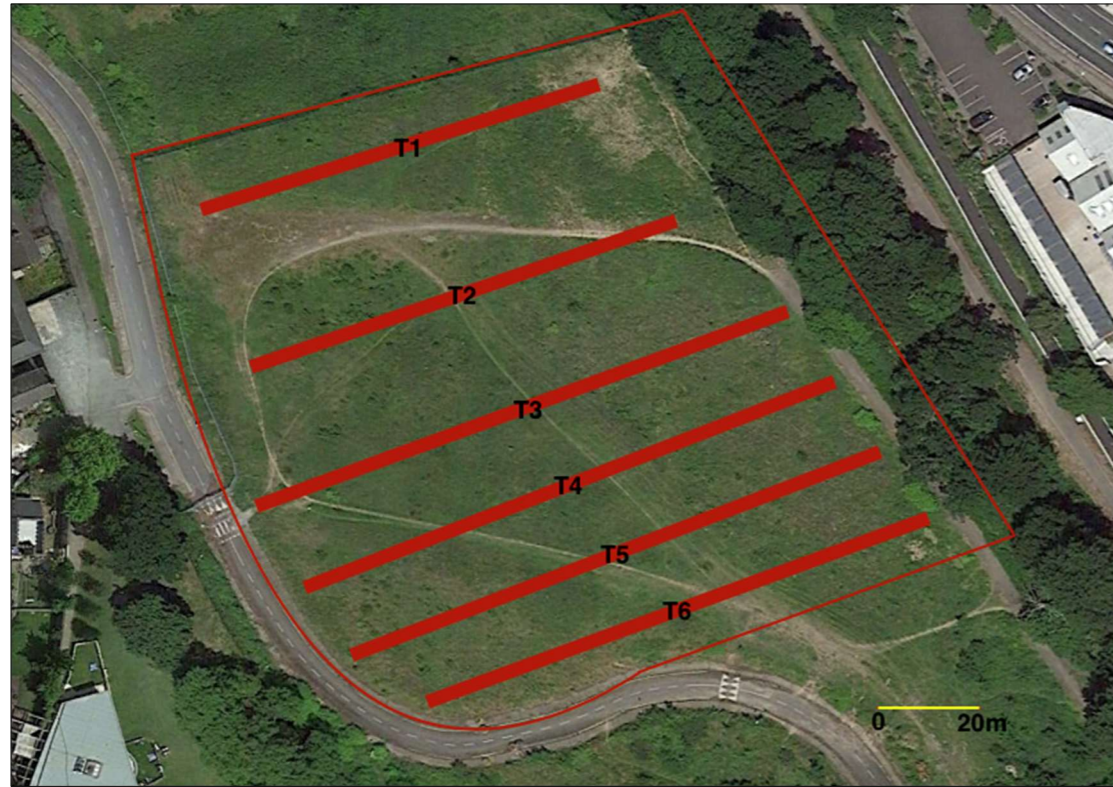


Figure 10 Trench layout

Overview of the testing programme

A total of six test trenches were mechanically excavated across the subject site. Topsoil stripping was carried out by a c.5-tonne machine operating with a c.1.5m wide, toothless grading bucket. The trenching layout was designed to result in a comprehensive examination of the development areas to be impacted by ground excavations works. A metal detector was utilised during testing under licence (19R0001) and the osteoarchaeologist carried out a targeted sieving programme.

Site investigations revealed a mid-brown, silty topsoil layer across the proposed development site. This was generally c.30-40cm deep along the eastern and central portion of the site, and up to c.1.2m deep at the west side, where it included up-cast material from the construction of the road to the west. Frequent fragments of modern pottery and occasional fragments of plastic, glass and metal objects, such as drinks cans and machine parts, were noted within the topsoil across the site.

The topsoil overlay an orange/brown silty clay subsoil layer with some areas of red gravelly silty clay at the centre at the north end. The subsoil contained frequent angular stone and occasional rounded boulders.

Descriptions of individual trenches

Trench 1

This was a linear trench measuring c.75m in length and extended in a northeast to southwest direction at the north end of the subject site. The eastern end of this trench extended into an area of heavy disturbance and the trench was therefore abandoned c.10m short of the proposed east end. A modern track or compound surface of stone and concrete occupied the westernmost c.10m of the trench. A series of northeast to southwest c.0.4m wide furrows were noted intermittently across the cutting. At the east end dumped waste material and heavy subsurface disturbance was noted. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench 2

This c.80m long trench extended in a northeast to southwest direction at the north end of the subject site. The eastern end of this trench extended into an area of heavy disturbance and the trench was therefore abandoned c.10m short of the proposed east end. The western half of the trench contained c.0.2m of topsoil overlying c.0.3m of redeposited natural, this in turn overlay c.0.4m of topsoil. This was likely the result of dumping excavated material from elsewhere within the site during works in the mid-2000s. A series of northeast to southwest c.0.4m wide furrows were noted intermittently across the cutting. At the western end of the trench a c.1.8m wide northeast to southwest ditch was noted. This was found to be filled with a grey silt containing occasional rounded stones and large boulders. This cut was c.0.7m deep and was orientated on a similar alignment to both the furrows noted in the trench and field boundaries shown on historic mapping. At the east end of the trench dumped waste material and heavy subsurface disturbance was noted. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench 3

This c.110m long trench extended in a northeast to southwest direction at the centre of the subject site. Topsoil was c.0.7m thick at the west end, where it included up-cast material from the construction of a road to the west, and c.0.5m thick elsewhere. Subsoil was cut by a series of northeast to southwest c.0.4m wide furrows to the east end. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench 4

This c.110m long trench extended in a northeast to southwest direction at the centre of the subject site. Topsoil within this cutting was between 0.3m and 0.45m thick. A band of compacted natural subsoil was noted near the centre of the trench and appeared to be the result of machines crossing the area. A series of northeast to southwest c.0.4m wide, c.0.1m deep, U-shaped furrows were noted to the east end of the cutting. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench 5

This c.110m long trench extended in a northeast to southwest direction at the southern end of the subject site. Topsoil within this cutting was c.0.5m thick at the west, where it included up-cast material from the construction of a road to the west, and was c.0.3m thick at the east. A series of northeast to southwest c.0.4m wide, c.0.1m deep, U-shaped furrows were noted to the east end of the cutting. No agricultural cut features were noted

within the western end of the trench, which may indicate that ground levels were reduced in this area. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench 6

This c.105m long trench extended in a northeast to southwest direction at the southern end of the subject site. Topsoil within this cutting was c.0.5m thick at the west, where it included up-cast material from the construction of a road to the west, and was c.0.4m thick at the east. No agricultural cut features were noted within this trench, which may indicate that ground levels were reduced in this area. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Summary results of the testing programme

In conclusion, there were no archaeological features or artefacts noted in any of the test trenches excavated on the footprint of the proposed development.

4. Conclusions

While the subject site was evidently subject to significant disturbance in recent years the test trenching undertaken for this assessment identified a number of agricultural features, including ditches and furrows, these were interpreted as modern in origin.

There were no archaeological features or artefacts noted in any of the test trenches excavated on the footprint of the proposed development.

Recommendation

While no archaeological remains or features were encountered within the subject area during testing, **it is recommended that topsoil stripping should be subject to archaeological monitoring**, given the proximity of the site to both Bessborough House and the nun's cemetery.

Appendix 1: Extracts from Photographic Record



Plate 1 General pre-ex view of subject site, looking south



Plate 2 Trench 1, post-ex, looking northeast



Plate 3 Modern disturbance within east end of Trench 1, looking southwest



Plate 4 Trench 1, post-ex, looking southwest



Plate 5 Slot through ditch at west end of Trench 2, looking south (note redeposited natural overlying topsoil)



Plate 7 Trench 2, post-ex, looking southwest



Plate 6 Trench 2, post-ex, looking northeast



Plate 8 Trench 3, post-ex, looking northeast



Plate 9 Slot through agricultural furrow within Trench 3



Plate 10 Trench 3, post-ex, looking southwest



Plate 11 Trench 4, mid-ex, looking northwest



Plate 12 Trench 4, post-ex, looking southwest



Plate 13 Trench 4, post-ex, looking northeast



Plate 15 Trench 5, post-ex, looking northeast



Plate 14 Trench 5, post-ex, looking southwest



Plate 16 Series of agricultural furrows crossing eastern portion of Trench 6, looking northeast



Plate 17 Trench 6, post-ex, looking southwest



Plate 18 Trench 6, post-ex, looking northeast

Appendix 2: Summaries of archaeological excavations

(www.excavations.ie)

Site Name	Licence	Summary
BOREENMANN A/ BLACKROCK/ BALLINLOUGH/ CENTRE PARK ROAD, CORK	99E0212	<p>Excavation of service trenches for this phase of the Cork Main Drainage Scheme began on 5 May 1999 and is ongoing. It involves the laying of sewer pipes (maximum diameter 1.05m) and storm drainpipes (diameter 1.35m) in trenches varying in depth from 2m to 5m and the construction of associated chambers of a small pumphouse at Blackrock.</p> <p>The areas affected by the scheme are in the south-east suburbs of Cork City, which were largely settled by the wealthy upper classes in the 18th and 19th centuries. Blackrock village was historically a harbour defended by the eponymous castle. There are two other castles in the vicinity, Dundanion and Mahon, indicating settlement in the medieval period. The strategic location of the settlement at the entry to the inner reaches of Cork harbour implies that Blackrock was important in historic, and perhaps in prehistoric, times. The placename Boreenmanna (Bóithrín na Manach, 'The Monks' Road') indicates a link with the graveyard at Churchyard Lane and with the reputed foundation of the Knights Hospitallers at Temple Hill.</p> <p>The route of the drainage pipes under the late 18th-century 'Citadella lunatic asylum' (to the east of Victoria Avenue, between the Blackrock and Boreenmanna Roads) was thrust bored. This Georgian building is a recorded monument and was not interfered with by the engineering works.</p> <p>Monitoring of excavation in the east section of the Boreenmanna Road recorded no features apart from a 19th-century road foundation and associated wall. Stratigraphy in the Centre Park Road area consisted of 19th- and 20th-century layers of reclaimed ground over a gravelly silt that did not yield any archaeological material. At Blackrock a wall and road associated with 19th-century improvements at the harbour were recorded. No archaeology was recorded in Ballinlough. The works in the above areas did not directly impinge on any recorded monuments.</p>
ZONE D, BALLINURE, MAHON	02E1666 ext.	Monitoring of ground reduction on the western area of Zone D of the Mahon Point development was carried out under an extension to the original licence. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed.
Ballinure, Mahon Point, Cork	10E0215	Testing, comprising a controlled topsoil-strip of the entire development site, was undertaken in advance of a commercial development. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed.
Ballinure and	02E1666	Testing was carried out on the first phase of a development at this

Site Name	Licence	Summary
Mahon		<p>site, to the north of the Mahon Link Road and the South Link Road. Eleven trenches were excavated across this part of the site. Numerous drainage features were revealed, as well as a pit filled with modern finds. One feature of archaeological potential was revealed in Trench 3, a small pit filled with charcoal-rich silty clay. The feature measured 0.76m north-south by 0.65m by 0.24m deep. No finds were identified in it, and thus its dating remains uncertain.</p> <p>The probable remains of an icehouse associated with Lakeview House were revealed within a mound of rubble. Lakeview House itself was demolished during the latter half of the 20th century. The icehouse structure was partially collapsed when it was exposed. It was of brick-and-stone construction, with a possible vaulted entrance passageway. Further work will be undertaken on the site during 2003, when construction will proceed.</p>
Ballinure, Mahon	02E1666	An assessment of two portions of the site was undertaken before development commenced. Zones B and C are located at the northern and north-western side of the Mahon Link Road and Zone D at the southern side of the Mahon Link Road. Eleven trenches were mechanically excavated in Zones B and C and eight were excavated in Zone D. No features of archaeological significance were revealed in Zone D. In Zone C one feature of archaeological significance was revealed in Trench 3. This was an area of prehistoric activity which was excavated under licence 03E0060 (see No. 299 below). The testing licence was extended to cover monitoring of Zones B and C when development commenced. An area of post-medieval activity was identified and excavated under licence number 03E0181 (see No. 300 below).
Ballinure, Mahon	03E0059	<p>An assessment, followed by excavation of the standing remains of an ice-house associated with Lakeland country house, was carried out before development.</p> <p>The ice-house comprised a brick-built circular ice-chamber or bowl with a drain below and an entrance passage with evidence of two doorways closing it. The roof of the structure had collapsed into the bowl but was originally domed over the circular chamber and of brick construction. Some evidence of the brick vault over the entrance passage survived in situ, but both the circular chamber and the entrance passage were filled with rubble and topsoil. Outside the ice-house, to the north, a partially cobbled courtyard was present surrounded by a retaining wall.</p> <p>The internal diameter of the ice-bowl was 5.5m at the level of the passageway floor and the bowl extended 3.5m below this level to the base forming the subterranean component of the ice-house. The entrance passage was 2.15m long and 0.95m wide.</p> <p>The structure was built during the first half of the 19th century as one of the many features within the demesne lands of Lakeland on</p>

Site Name	Licence	Summary
		the shores of Lough Mahon.
Ballinure, Mahon	03E0060	<p>An area of prehistoric activity was identified during testing under licence 02E1666 (No. 297 above) in an area known as Zone C in the area of development. Features revealed during the excavation included a hearth surrounded by 50 stake-holes. Almost 1.5m west of the hearth a shallow, truncated linear feature, 2.4m long, may represent a support for a light windbreak structure.</p> <p>Further west again, seven pits were found, three of which were similarly sized and clustered close together; two shallow pits were identified to the south of these and two more substantial pits to the north. The three pits ranged in size from 0.45 to 0.83m in diameter and 0.22–0.3m deep. A number of finds were recovered from them, including a possible quartz scraper, a fragment of a small flint bladelet, a flint flake, a type of flint plano-convex slug knife, two pieces of amethyst, one of which has a usable cutting edge, and a small sherd of possible Bell Beaker pottery.</p> <p>The two isolated pits to the south produced no finds. One of the northern pits produced finds of post-medieval date and the other produced two querns, one with a very pronounced saddle profile and the other with a concave profile and a struck quartz crystal. This pit was 0.88m in diameter and 0.5m deep.</p>
Ballinure, Mahon	03E0181	A number of features associated with Lakeland country house were excavated, including two access roads and a number of garden features.
Ballinure, Mahon	03E0531	Testing was carried out followed by monitoring before development. Seven test-trenches were excavated across the site. No features or finds were revealed.
Ballinure, Mahon	03E0580	Testing was carried out before development. Ten trenches were excavated across the site. The features revealed relate mostly to garden features of Lakeland country house. An oval subterranean cellar was also opened and recorded.
Mahon Industrial Estate, Blackrock	06E0686	Three test-trenches were excavated across the site following demolition of the standing building. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed in the test-trenches.
BESSBORO, MAHON	08E0920	Monitoring of service trenches took place on this site, adjacent to a country house and grounds. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted.
BLACKROCK CASTLE, MAHON	99E0297	Three test-trenches were opened here in June 1999. Nothing of an archaeological nature was noted.
Lough Mahon, Cork	01E0782	<p>As part of Phase II of the Cork Main Drainage Scheme, a submarine pipeline trench was dredged east–west across Lough Mahon. Monitoring of the dredging operation commenced on 8 August 2001, in two 12-hour shift cycles.</p> <p>The backhoe dredger loaded three hopper barges, each drawn by a</p>

Site Name	Licence	Summary
		<p>separate tug, operating in cycles of around five hours each, depending on tidal and weather conditions. The dredged material was deposited approximately 7m north of the harbour entrance. The archaeologists monitored from the wheelhouse of the dredger, as this afforded the best view of the hopper of the barge whilst loading. The wheelhouse has a direct communications link with the backhoe operator, to which the archaeologists had free access as and when required.</p> <p>Despite having spent a total of 68 days (816 hours) monitoring aboard the dredger in Lough Mahon, only four timbers were recovered, all at chainage 2400 (NGR 174393 70633 approx.). Two measured c. 2m by 0.35m by 0.3m, and were roughly squared in section. Of the two smaller timbers, the largest measured 1.05m by 0.35m by 0.2m. Preliminary inspection shows little conversion of the original wood, except for the rough shaping. There were no obvious marks to indicate what tool was used during conversion, but further cleaning and more thorough inspection are to be carried out at a later date, with a view towards eventual identification. Preliminary inspection suggests that they represent marine piles, possibly tethering posts for a navigational buoy.</p> <p>Altogether, 3289m of pipe trench were excavated across the lough, but nothing tangible was found besides the suspected piles. Of over 400 shipwrecks in Cork Harbour (Kelleher, pers. comm.), the locations of the majority of which are unrecorded, we can say that we have found nothing of note. What may be termed ‘Cork Harbour’, however, is vast, stretching from the quays in the city to the mouth of the estuary at Roches’ Point and Cobh. It is unsurprising then, in light of this fact, that in excavating perhaps less than 1% of the total area of Cork Harbour nothing of archaeological significance was noted.</p>
Lakeland Strand, Mahon	01D076	Excavation work was undertaken on the foreshore at Lakeland Strand as part of the Lough Mahon crossing for the Cork Main Drainage Scheme—Phase II (see No. 160 above for Lough Mahon). Land-based mechanical excavators continued the pipe trench from the farthest point at which the dredger could reach, up the beach to a pumping station site. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during these excavations.
River Lee and Lough Mahon	02E1346	Monitoring of maintenance dredging in the River Lee, from Cork city through Lough Mahon to Passage West, took place from 26 August to 1 September 2002 on behalf of Cork Main Drainage. Two vessels were employed on the dredging operation, a suction hopper dredger, the Volvox Anglia, and a plough dredger, the Camperduin. Monitoring involved inspection of the screen on the dredge-head of the suction dredger and the plough on the plough dredger when these were lifted from the water at the end of the dredging cycles. In Lough Mahon, at NGR 173542 071550, the lower left mandible of a cow was recovered. Otherwise, no objects

<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Licence</i>	<i>Summary</i>
		of archaeological interest were recovered, the material observed consisting largely of modern domestic debris.
Maryborough House, Douglas	14E0389	An archaeological and architectural assessment of a proposed development at Maryborough House (currently operating as the Maryborough Hotel and Spa), Douglas, Co. Cork was initially undertaken by Tobar Archaeological Services. Monitoring of ground works was subsequently carried out in compliance with the conditions of planning permission (Ref: 14/04571). The proposed development involved the construction of a single storey conservatory/pavilion structure with link corridor to the west side of Maryborough House which is both a recorded monument (CO074-89) and a protected structure (RPS 00479). Monitoring of ground works revealed a large slate dump in the area to the west of the house, indicating the removal of weather slate from the original house. A buried sill was also uncovered within this area, which further confirmed the presence originally of windows in the west elevation. No other archaeological finds, features or deposits were uncovered during monitoring. Architectural monitoring was also undertaken during the works which revealed the presence of a blocked window opening and other possible blocked windows in the west wall of the house.
Monfieldstown	05E0774	Monitoring was carried out on a site at Monfieldstown, Rochestown, Cork. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed. Further monitoring of Phase 2 of the proposed development is required. A standing stone is located within the north-western area of the development site. The site layout and design was altered to accommodate a 10m buffer zone around the standing stone. This standing stone was incorrectly located and recorded in the files of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The correct information has been passed on to the Survey.
Harty's Quay, Monfieldstown, Rochestown	00E0607	Four test-trenches were opened by mechanical digger on 13 June 2000. All four trenches were opened along an east-west axis running the whole width of the quay and were 1.5m wide and c. 1.3m deep. The stratigraphic content was similar in all the trenches: topsoil to a depth of 0.4m; subsoil at the western end to a depth of 1.3m; and at the eastern end loose rubble fill, 0.25m thick, under concrete and above subsoil. Below this at 1.3m was estuarine clay. No archaeological features, layers or artefacts were noted in the trenches.
Monfieldstown, Rochestown	02E1273	A grant of planning was issued for the construction of 52 dwelling-houses in the restored Norwood House grounds. The site is outside the zone of archaeological potential of Ronayne's Court, a fortified house. The grant of planning required that the removal of topsoil and subsurface disturbance be monitored. Topsoil was removed by machine using a toothless bucket. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted.

- **Appendix 10.3 - Historic Building Record prepared by John Cronin and Associates**

Historic Building Record
The Farm, Bessboro, Ballinure, Blackrock, Cork City



Prepared by
John Cronin BA MRUP MUBC
John Cronin & Associates
3a Westpoint Trade Centre
Ballincollig
County Cork

For
Estuary View Enterprises 2020 Ltd
c/o Shipsey Barry Ltd
4 Strandville
Rushbrooke
Cobh
County Cork

February 2022

1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by **Estuary View Enterprises 2020 Ltd** to carry out a historic building record ahead of a proposed development in lands at Ballinure, Mahon, Cork. Cork City Council and An Bord Pleanála have requested the preparation of a historic building record to accompany a Strategic Housing Development (SHD) for the subject lands.



Figure 1: Site location encircled in yellow (© Google)

2. Context

Environmental Context

The site is situated within the townland of Ballinure on lands to the north of the South Ring Road and to the west of the former Cork, Blackrock and Passage Railway line. The site consists of the northern range of a cluster of much-altered farm buildings that formed part of the former “Bessboro Farm”. In recent decades much of the former land parcel was the home to “Cork Heritage Park” which is now closed.



Figure 2: Subject site circled in red

Legal Context

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) lists three structures within 250 metres of the subject site. There is a total of three structures included on the list of protected structures for Cork City and County Cork within c.1km of the site. These include Bessborough (or “Bessboro”) House, which is both an recorded monument and a protected structure and is outside the subject area but surrounded by the subject lands. Listed below are the protected structures within 1km of the subject site (**Table 3**):

Table 3: Record of Protected Structures within c.1km of the subject site

RPS No.	Name/Type	Location
00478	Windsor House (Rochestown Park Hotel)	Monfieldstown, Rochestown, Co. Cork
00476	Bloomfield House	Monfieldstown, Rochestown, Co. Cork
PS490	Bessboro Convent (Central Block)	Bessborough, Ballinure, Mahon, Cork City

Historical context and cartographic evidence

Bessborough House is believed to have been built in 1760 as a residence for the Allens, a prominent Cork Quaker family. In 1814 the house and lands were acquired by a Mr J. Spence and changed hands again shortly after to the Bousefield family. In about 1820 the property was bought by Joseph Pike, of Cromwellian planter origin, the Pikes became a prosperous Quaker family whose business interests included the Cork Steamship Company, Pike's Bank, a drapery store and railway development. Bessborough remained in the Pike family until 1920 when the last of two spinster sisters, Ann Emily Pike, died. The property was sold to the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in 1922.



Figure 3: Cork City and eastern suburbs as depicted by George Taylor and Alexander Skinner's Maps of the roads of Ireland in 1778. Bessborough is indicated as "Bisboro" and the proprietor as Allen Esq.

The first edition indicates that at that time the house consisted of a central squarish block with a projecting wing to either side (Figure 4). The western wing terminated in what appears to be a pavilion. The eastern wing extended to the north forming a long range of buildings, possibly a service wing, which defined the east side of a yard to the rear of the house. The north side of the yard was enclosed by a further range of buildings, presumably out-offices, stables and/or coach-house (at the time, the house lacked a separate farmyard complex).



Figure 4: First edition 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map (Surveyed 1841, published 1845)

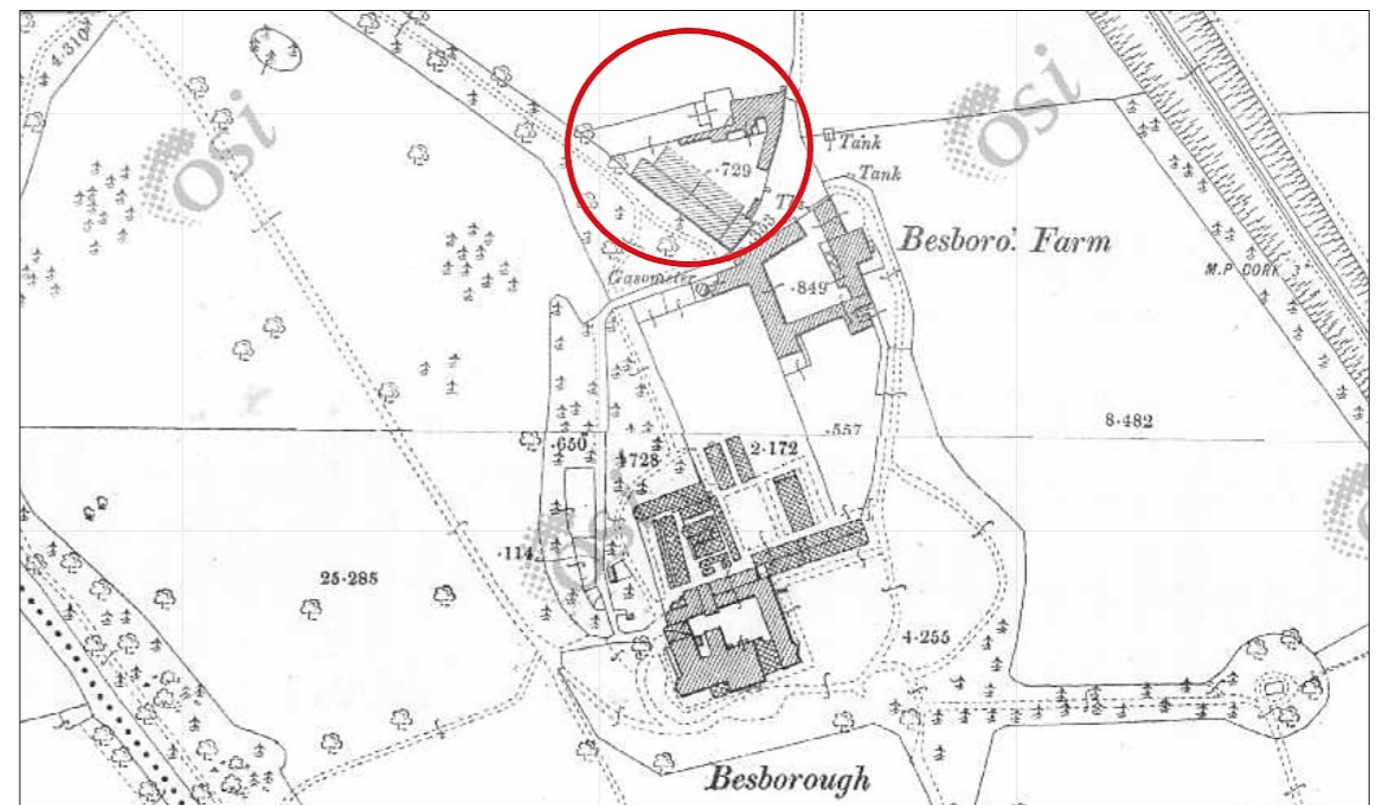


Figure 5: 1:2500 (25"-inch) Ordnance Survey Map (Surveyed 1899/1900, published 1901)

By the time of the 25" inch Ordnance Survey in 1899 (**Figure 5**) the house had been extended and a large number of additional out buildings had been constructed. The other main area of construction was the creation of a complex of farm buildings, indicated as "Besboro' Farm" to the north northeast of the house. These buildings were arranged around two courtyards, a square one to the south and a triangular one adjacent to the north. A major addition to the immediate landscape, although not within the actual historic demesne, was the construction of the Cork to Blackrock railway in 1850 the line of which is clearly indicated to the east of the historic estate.

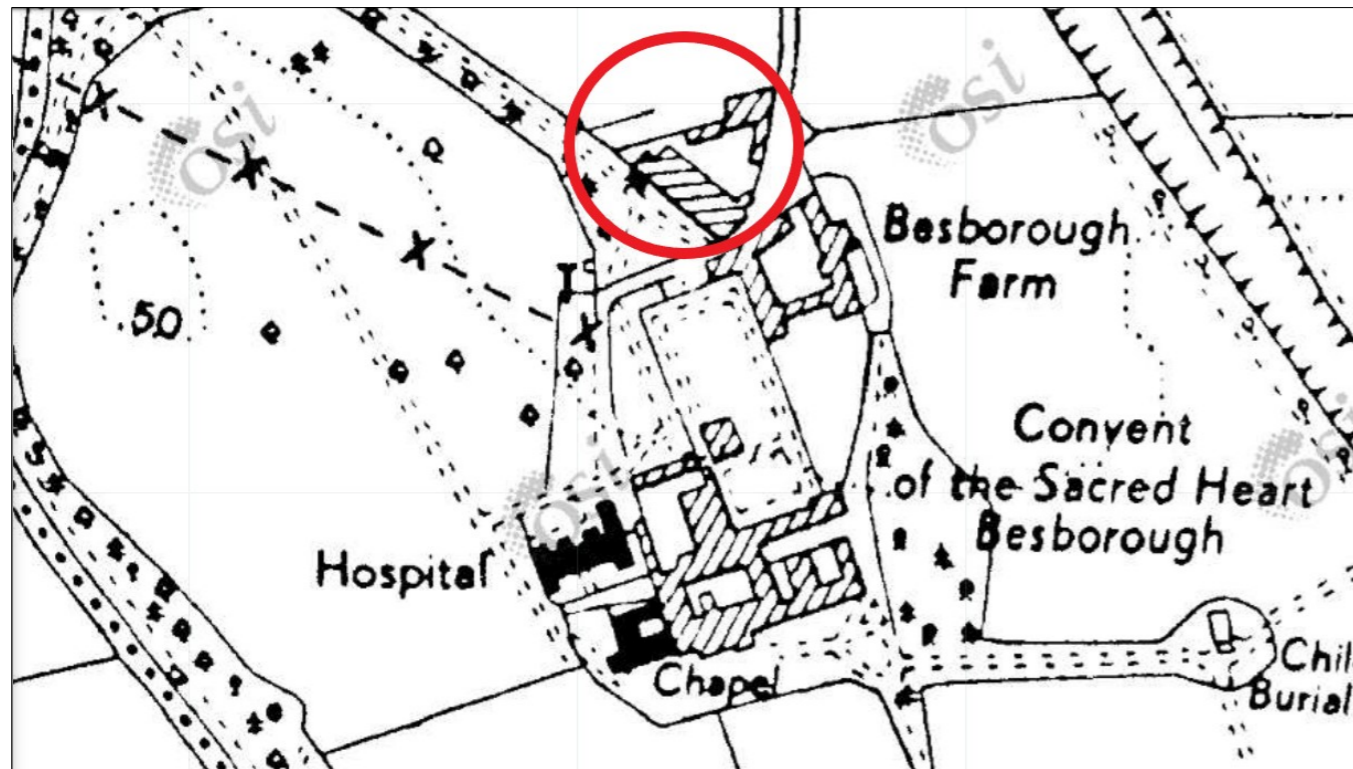


Figure 6: Extract of 1956 Six-Inch-to-One-Mile Ordnance Survey Map. The changes wrought by the establishment of the convent by the Sacred Heart Order. The original Bessborough House has been greatly extended with the addition of a hospital and chapel. A children's burial ground within the enclosure of the folly is named on this map edition

Since 1990 many of the outbuildings comprising "Bessboro' Farm" have been renovated for use as a heritage centre (now defunct) and as office/educational units. In addition, a number of new structures, including a crèche and a meditation centre, have been constructed in the area which originally comprised the walled gardens. As part of the Heritage Park development the former parkland to the north of the house (and west of the northern farmyard) was fenced off and replanted with trees that have diminished the former open parkland quality that was clearly evident on mid-twentieth-century mapping and aerial photographs (see **Figures 6 & 7**). On the aerial photograph in particular, the farm is separated from the parkland area to the west by an estate wall and a tree belt whilst the parkland area itself is remarkably open and largely devoid of trees.



Figure 7: 1951 aerial image showing the subject site (Source: Military Archives, Vertical Aerial Photography, V190 #72; Cork-Douglas/Blackrock, 13 February 1951).

3. Description of subject site

The subject site is located in the townland of Ballinure, to the south of Mahon, a suburb of Cork City with a variety of established and emerging land uses. The site is located approximately 5km to the southeast of the city centre. The lands are located on a gently sloping low hillside that falls towards the Douglas River and Cork Harbour estuary. The subject site (see **Figure 8**) is the more northerly of two ranges/yards of farm buildings associated with Bessborough House. The southern yard is not impacted by the proposed development, and it is not documented in this report.



Figure 8: Aerial view of the former Bessborough Farm – the complex consists of two yards – the northern yard is the focus of this report (Source: Google Maps)

The subject site is the late-nineteenth-century farm complex known as “Bessboro Farm” (NIAH Reference 20872006). The NIAH describe the buildings as follows:

Farmyard complex, built c.1880, to north of Bessborough House comprising two ranges of single- and two-storey outbuildings arranged around central yards. South yard houses stables and two-storey domestic building, north yard incorporates two-storey building, L-shaped barn and open corrugated-iron barn structure. Pitched slate roofs to south yard with dormer windows and corrugated-iron roofs to north yard. Coursed rubble stone walls with remnants of early render to walls of north buildings. Walls to south yard re-rendered in 1993. Square-headed window openings with red brick surrounds c.2000 and replacement windows to north yard. Square-headed window openings with replacement windows to south yard. Square-headed door openings with red brick surrounds c.2000 and replacement doors to

north yard. Cut limestone piers to gateway to south yard. Extensive walled garden to north of house enclosed by coursed limestone walls, c.1880, and possibly incorporating earlier fabric dating to construction of Bessborough House, c.1760. Greenhouses constructed within garden c.1880 with three surviving.

The farmyard complex was built c. 1880 and contained a large variety of functions, including stables, dairy, barns, and accommodation for farm workers. The former farm complex has been recorded by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reference 20872006). The northern yard (within the development site) is triangular-in-plan and incorporates a two-storey building, a L-shaped barn, an open corrugated-iron barn structure and a series of modern structures. The southern yard, located outside of the development site, is roughly square-in-plan; this courtyard housed stables, workshops and a two-storey domestic building (possibly a farm manager’s house). Generally, the buildings within the northern yard served more utilitarian functions and are, for the most part, much-altered. There is a greater degree of formality and design intent to the configuration, layout and design of the buildings that form the southern yard. The farm complex appears to have been in active use up until the 1980s.

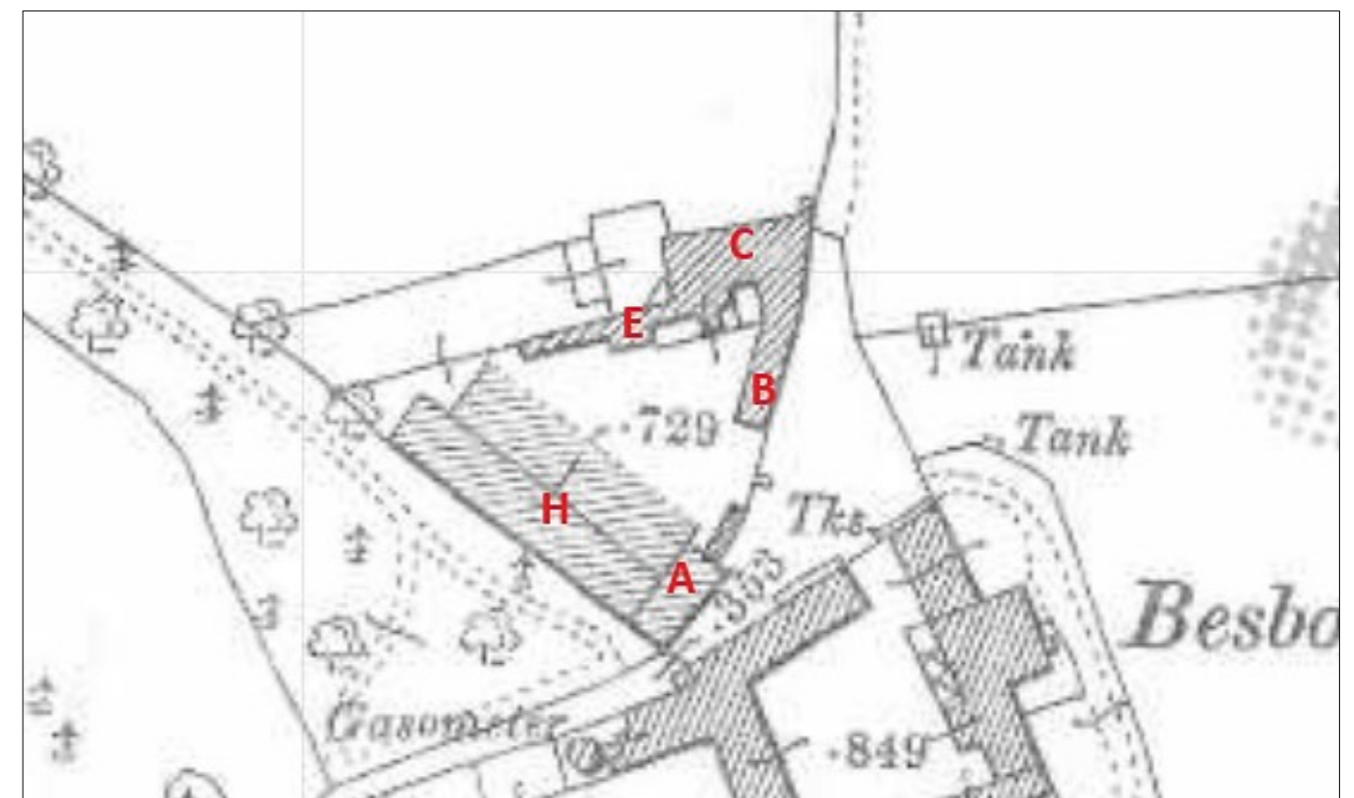


Figure 9: Depiction of the northern yard on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (Surveyed 1899/1900, published 1901)

The subject buildings in the northern portion of the farmyard complex and are laid out in a triangular shape around a central courtyard with an entrance to the southeast. The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1901 (see extract below (**Figure 9**)) shows the complex soon after its construction. The two-storey structure, (hereafter referred to as “**Building A**”), is depicted with a flight of external steps to the northeast elevation which were likely to be of stone construction. **Building B** and **C** are also depicted to the northeast corner. There are some structures adjacent to the southern elevation of **Building C** which are no longer extant. **Building E** is depicted

as a central part of a northern range and connected to Building C, only Building C remains extant. The former barn, **Building H**, forms the western boundary of the complex and is sub-divided longitudinally. The stone wall of the southwestern elevation extends to the northwest as a boundary wall.

Upstanding buildings on site

The subject buildings form the northern range of part of a complex of farm buildings located to the north of Bessborough House. They consist of a cluster of buildings laid out around a central triangular courtyard with an entrance to the southeast. The buildings are currently unoccupied. The buildings have been labelled as follows for the purpose of this description and a photographic record is included in the appendix to this document:

- A. A late nineteenth-century, two-storey stone-built building with a replacement pitched metal profile roof.
- B. A late nineteenth-century double-height stone-built former store building with a replacement corrugated metal barrel roof.
- C. A late nineteenth-century, double-height stone-built former store building with a replacement corrugated metal barrel roof.
- D. A modern detached, single-storey concrete block-built building with a modern metal roof.
- E. A late nineteenth-century, single-storey, three bay stone-built building with a pitched corrugated metal roof.
- F. A modern, three-bay, single-storey modern concrete-built structure with stone facing and a pitched corrugated metal roof.
- G. A modern, single-storey concrete-built structure previously in use as a toilet block with stone facing and a shallow pitched metal roof.
- H. A late nineteenth-century, double height stone-built former barn, open to eastern elevation. Replacement pitched metal profile roof to western section, damaged barrel corrugated roof to eastern section.



Figure 10: Upstanding buildings within the development site (labelled A through to H)

Building A (see Appendix: Photographic Record - Plates 1 – 8)

A late nineteenth-century, two-storey stone-built building with brick detailing to windows which are replacement uPVC frames. Sections of render to first floor and a replacement pitched metal profile roof. External metal staircase on the north-eastern elevation accesses the first floor. The rear elevation is much altered with a number of blocked up original openings and later insertions.

Interior much altered and modernised with modern joinery and plastered and painted walls and ceiling. Open plan rooms to ground and first floor, a modern internal stair leads to the first floor.

Interior

The ground floor is occupied by three rooms A-GF01—A-GF03

Hallway-A-GF01 is accessed via a doorway on the southern elevation with a modern roller door. The ceiling and walls are plastered and painted with plain modern skirting. The floor is concrete with a carpet covering. A modern staircase leads to the first floor.

A-GF02 is accessed via a modern painted timber door with glazed panel in the eastern elevation. The room is lit from the south by two windows with replacement uPVC window frames. The ceiling and walls are plastered and painted with plain modern skirting. The floor is concrete with a carpet covering. There are no internal features of architectural heritage interest. A-GF03 is a small WC off the hallway A-GF01. Walls and ceiling plastered and painted with modern fittings.

A modern door at the top of the stairs leads to an open plan hall A-FF01. The ceiling and walls are plastered and painted with plain modern skirting and carpet floor covering. The room can be sub-divided by a modern folding partition. The room is lit by five windows with replacement uPVC window frames. A modern painted timber door with glazed panel in the eastern elevation leads to a modern metal external staircase.

Building B (see Appendix: Photographic Record - Plates 9-12)

A late nineteenth-century, double-height stone-built former store building with a replacement sheet metal barrel roof. The building shares its northern wall with Building C forming an L-shaped structure. The western elevation has been extensively rebuilt and has a number of blocked-up openings using a mixture of stone, brick and render.

Interior

The building is accessed via a modern doorway in the eastern elevation. The ground floor is sub-divided into three rooms by stone-built walls. The floors are concrete and the ceiling is a modern replacement. The walls have been clad with insulation and rendered, the western wall has a number of openings blocked up with modern blockwork and brickwork. The rooms are interconnected by centrally located openings in the internal stone walls. A modern timber staircase in B-GF02 leads to the first floor.

The stairs leads to a small landing with a WC, a doorway leads to B-FF03. B-FF03 has exposed painted stone walls, a modern timber floor and replacement roof joists. B-FF04 is an attic space accessed via a hatch in the ceiling from B-GF03 and has exposed painted stone walls, a modern timber floor and replacement roof joists.

Building C (see Appendix: Photographic Record - Plates 13-14)

A late nineteenth-century, double-height semi-coursed, rubble stone-built former store building with a replacement sheet metal barrel roof.

Interior

The building is accessed via a modern opening in the southern wall and is occupied by a single open-plan room. The interior has a modern timber floor, painted stonewalls and a replacement metal truss roof supported on internal H steel beams. A chamber-headed brick vehicular entrance with a modern sheet metal double door is located in the western elevation with a replacement window to the upper section. The building is also accessed via a modern timber door in the eastern elevation which appears to be inserted into a blocked-up former opening.

Building D (see Appendix: Photographic Record - Plates 15-16)

A modern detached, single-storey concrete block-built building with a modern metal roof of no architectural heritage significance.

Building E (see Appendix: Photographic Record - Plates 17-18)

A late-nineteenth-century, single-storey, three bay semi-coursed ashlar stone-built building with a pitched corrugated metal roof. Brick detailing to windows, probably originally camber-headed but later altered when replacement uPVC frames were inserted. Internally, the building is modernised and has no original features.

Building F (see Appendix: Photographic Record - Plates 19-20)

A modern three-bay, single-storey modern concrete-built structure with stone facing and a pitched corrugated metal roof of no architectural heritage significance.

Building G (see Appendix: Photographic Record - See Plate 21)

A modern single-storey concrete-built structure previously in use as a toilet block. The walls have modern stone facing and cement render and a shallow pitched metal roof of no architectural heritage significance.

Building H (see Appendix: Photographic Record - Plates 22-27)

A late nineteenth-century, double height stone-built former barn, open to eastern elevation. It is sub-divided into two sections with a replacement pitched metal profile roof to western section and a badly damaged barrel corrugated roof to eastern section. The western wall is of exposed rubble stone and extends to the north forming part of the western boundary wall. Some sections have two courses of brickwork at the eaves level.

Interior

Internally the western section is subdivided by random rubble stone walls and later concrete-built divisions with concrete floors. The eastern section is open to the east and north with the southern end built up against the rear elevation of Building A. A flat-roofed concrete structure has been constructed within the eastern section of the building.

6. References

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<http://maps.osi.ie/publicviewer/#V2,591271,743300,1,10> (Maps)

http://spatial.dcenr.gov.ie/imf/imf.jsp?site=GSI_Simple (Bedrock)

<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>

<https://www.logainm.ie>

Appendix 1: Photographic Record



Plate 1: View to subject site from gateway to east



Plate 3: South-eastern and north-eastern elevation of Building A



Plate 2: General view to northern range with Building A on left and Building B on right



Plate 4: South-western elevation of Building A



Plate 5: South-eastern corner of Building A



Plate 6: Modern steps to first floor on northeast elevation of Building A



Plate 7: Blocked up brick arches in boundary wall to east of Building A



Plate 8: Modern boiler house and north-western elevation of Building A



Plate 10: Ground floor room A-GF02 Building A



Plate 9: Blocked-up openings in north-western elevation of Building A



Plate 11: First floor room A-FF01 Building A



Plate 12: Eastern elevation of Building B



Plate 14: Northern end of western elevation of Building B rebuilt with modern brick and stone finishes



Plate 13: Western elevation of Building B. Note upper section rebuilt



Plate 15: Southern elevation of Building B



Plate 16: Entrance on eastern elevation of Building B



Plate 18: Modern floor joists in Building B



Plate 17: Interior of western wall of Building B with blocked-up openings



Plate 19: Interior of western wall of Building B with blocked-up openings



Plate 20: Modern staircase in ground floor room B-GF Building B



Plate 22: First floor room B-GF Building B



Plate 21: First floor room B-BF Building B



Plate 23: Eastern elevation of Building C



Plate 24: Northern elevation of Building C



Plate 26: Interior of Building D with modern blockwork and joinery



Plate 25: Southern elevation of modern structure Building D



Plate 27: Southern elevation of Building E



Plate 28: Window detail on southern elevation of Building E with replacement uPVC frame



Plate 30: Interior view of Building E with modern floor, ceiling and wall finishes



Plate 29: Cut stone detail to wall on southern elevation of Building E



Plate 31: Southern elevation of Building F



Plate 32: Interior of Building F with modern floor, ceiling and wall finishes



Plate 33: Southern elevation of Building G



Plate 34: Detail of modern stonework and render on corner of southern elevation of Building G



Plate 35: Interior of Building G with modern finishes



Plate 37: Western elevation of Building H



Plate 36: Eastern elevation of Building H



Plate 38: Northern elevation of Building E and boundary wall



Plate 39: Interior of eastern portion of Building H looking to Building A



Plate 41: Modern concrete built addition to northern portion of Building H



Plate 40: Interior of eastern portion of Building H looking north with modern concrete addition



Plate 42: Interior of western section of Building H



Plate 43: Interior of western section of Building H



Plate 45: Interior of western section of Building H

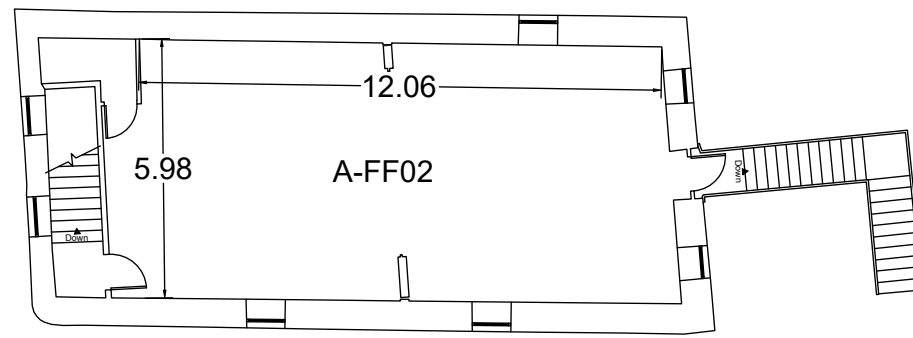
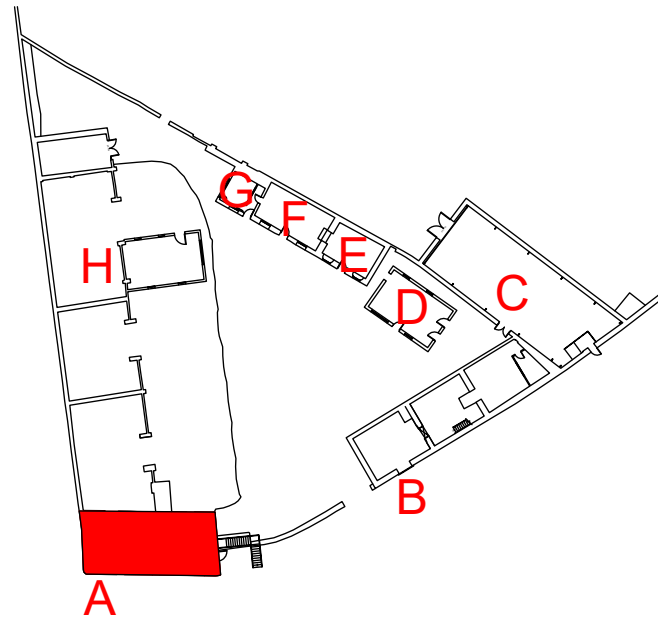


Plate 44: Steel truss roof in eastern section of Building



Plate 46: View from eastern section of Building H looking west

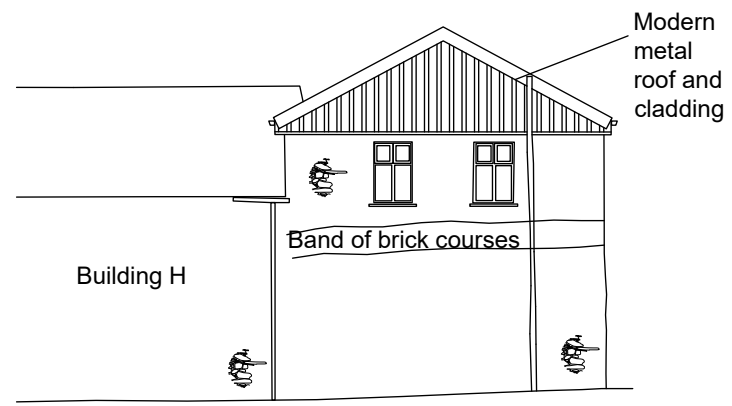
Appendix 2: Annotated record drawings



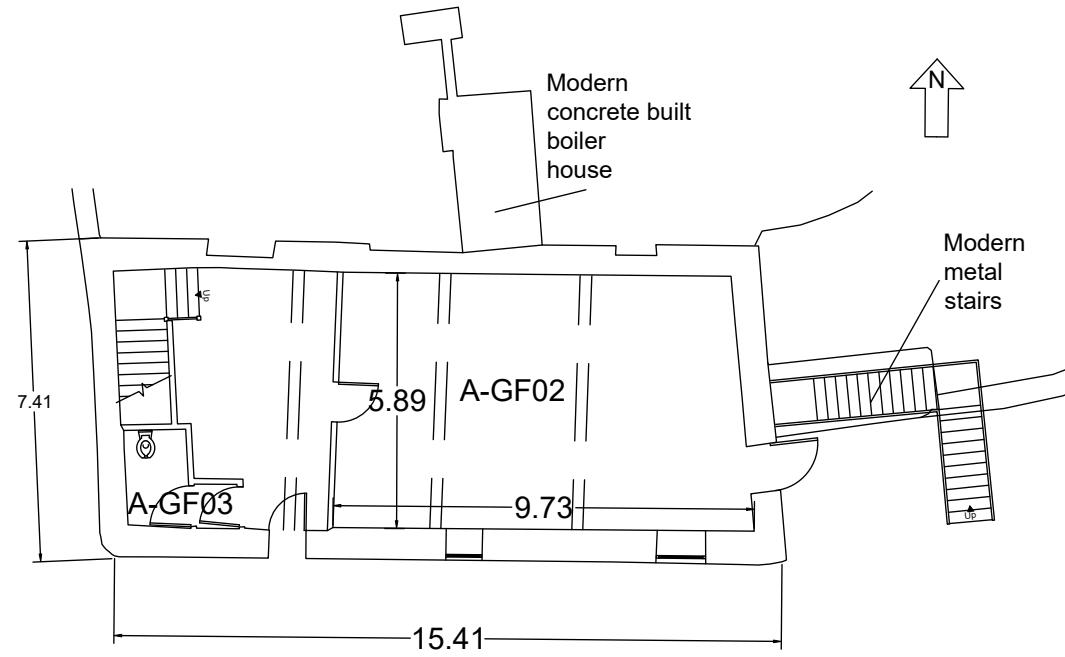
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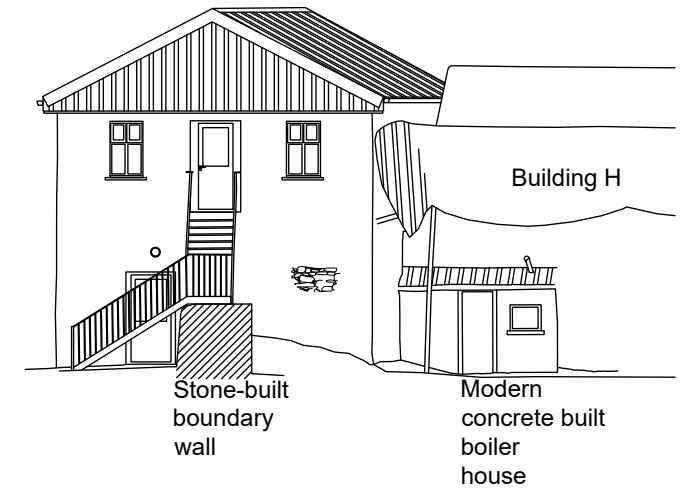
First floor room A-FF01



South-western elevation



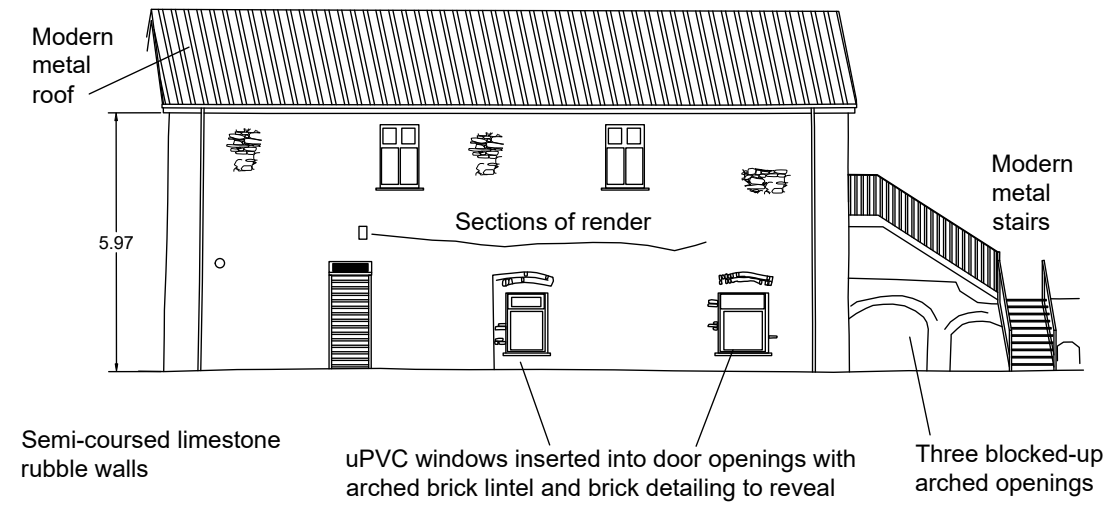
Ground floor plan



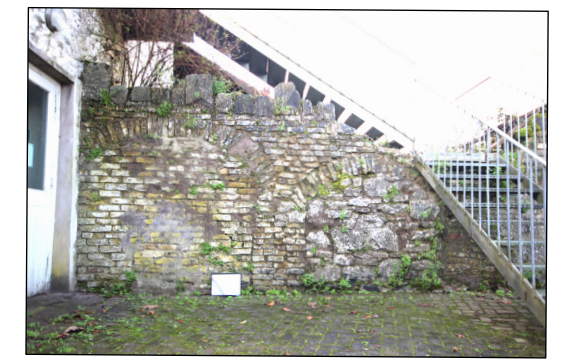
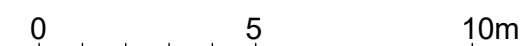
North-eastern elevation



South-eastern and south-western elevations of Building A



South-eastern elevation

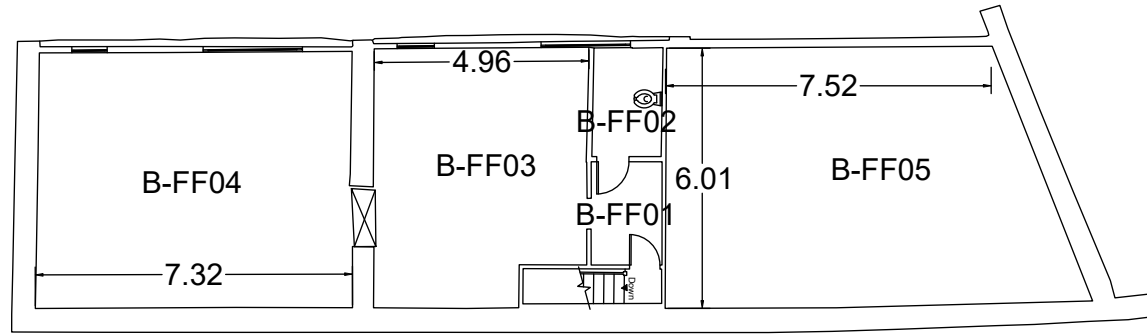
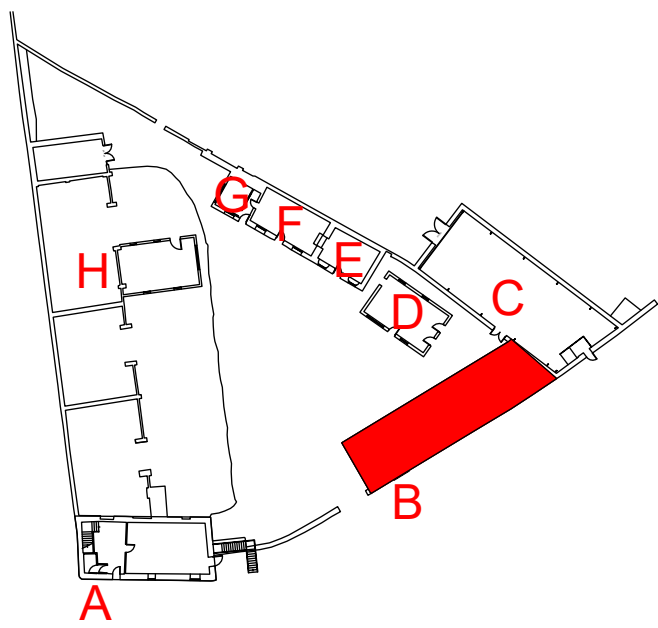


South-eastern elevation of three original blocked-up arched openings under stairs

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T	Tender
PL	Planning
A	Approval
PR	Preliminary
Stage	Description

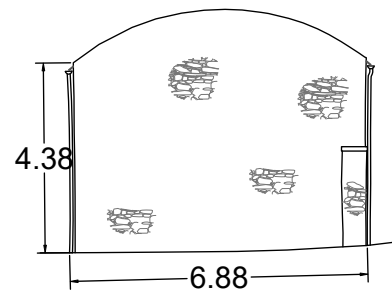
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<p>JOHN CRONIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHAEOLOGY CONSERVATION HERITAGE PLANNING</p>			Stage Drawing No. R 001

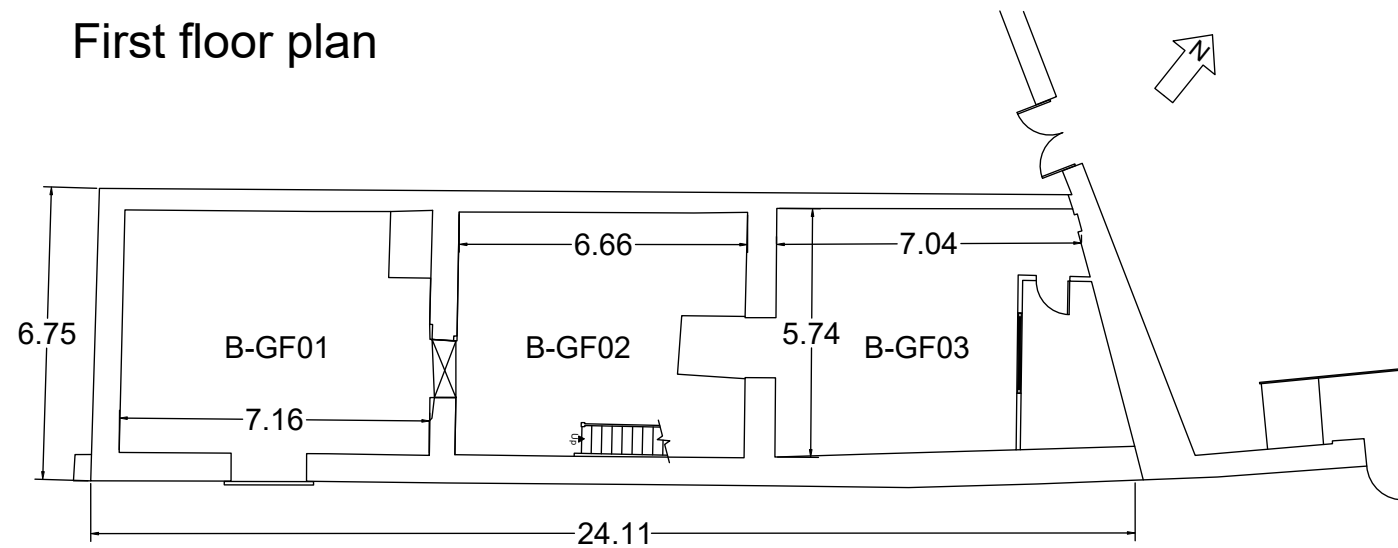


First floor attic space B-FF05

First floor plan



South-western elevation



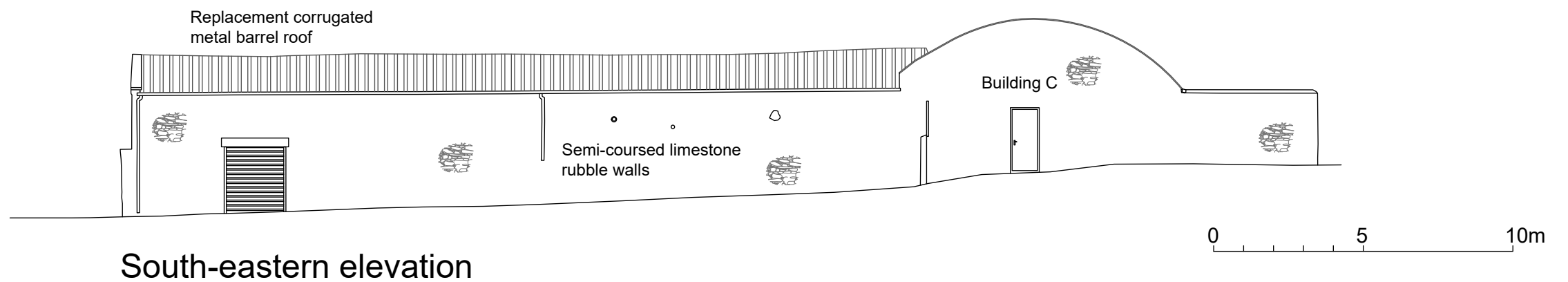
Ground floor plan



North-western elevation



Northern end of north-western elevation

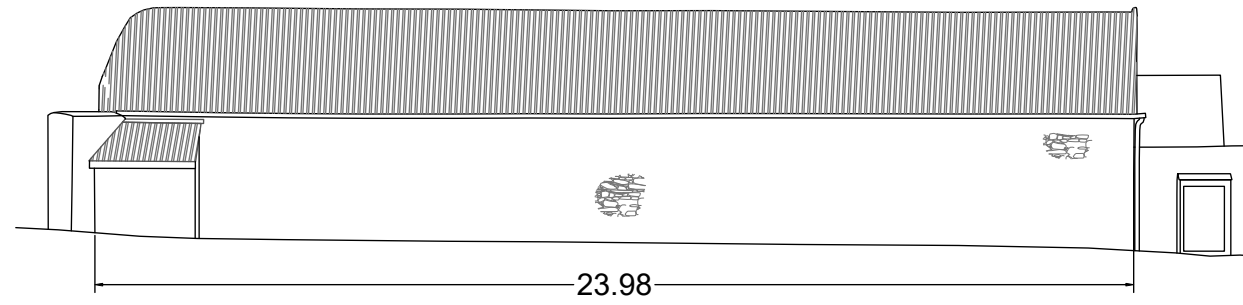
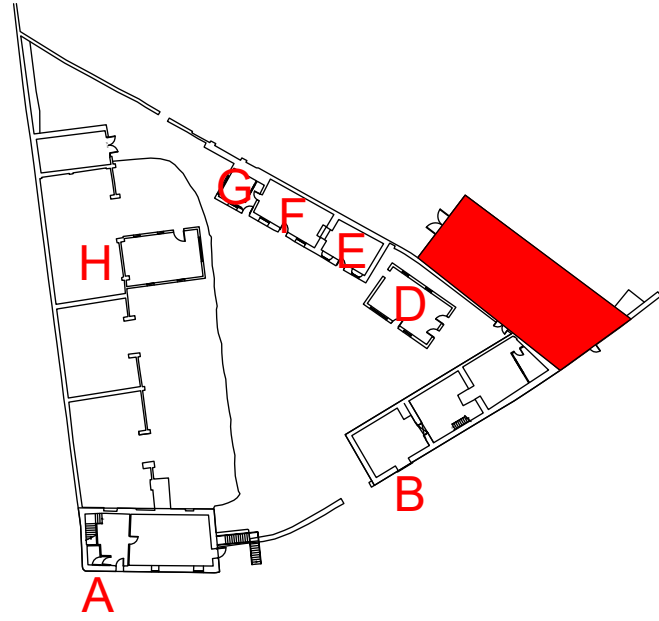


South-eastern elevation

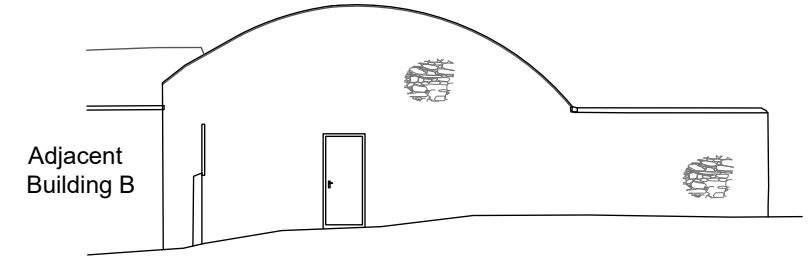
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PR	Preliminary
Stage	Description

Rev Mark	Revision	Date	By

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JOHN CRONIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHAEOLOGY CONSERVATION HERITAGE PLANNING			



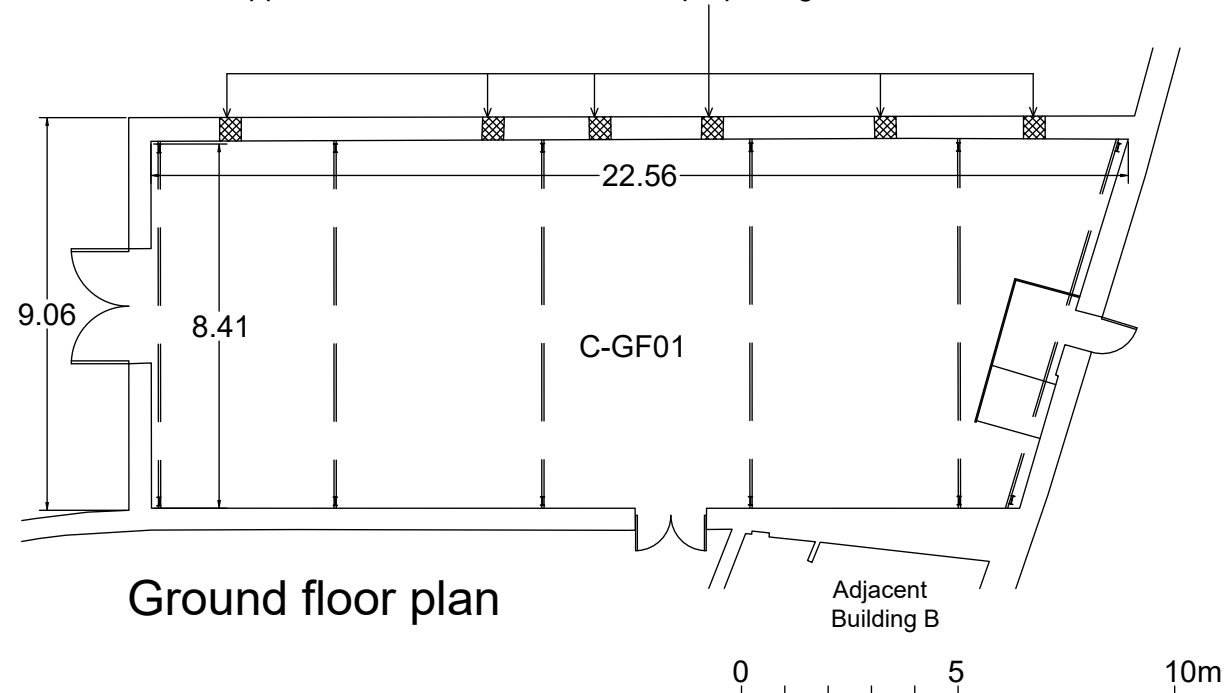
North-eastern elevation



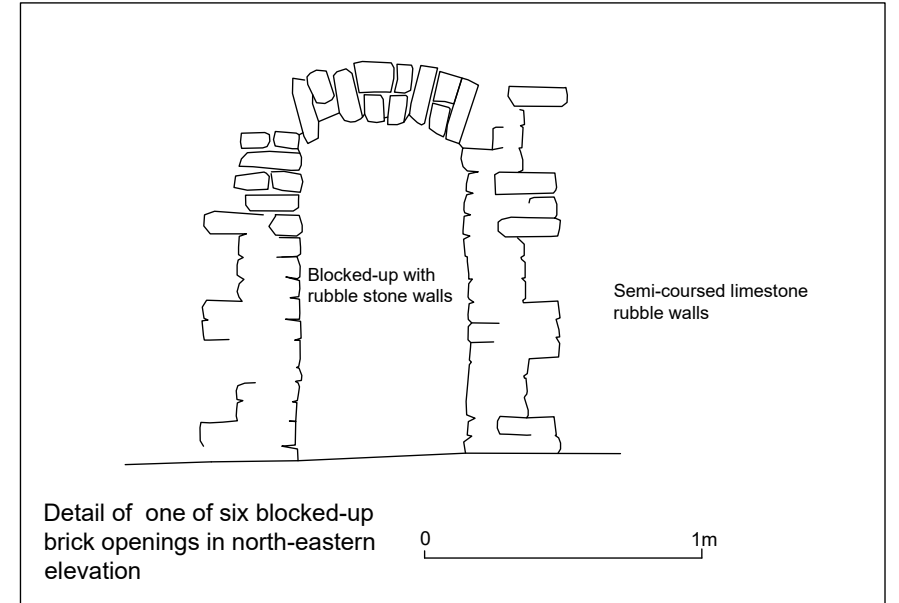
South-eastern elevation



Approximate location of blocked up openings



Ground floor plan



Detail of one of six blocked-up brick openings in north-eastern elevation



Interior looking south-west



Interior looking north-east

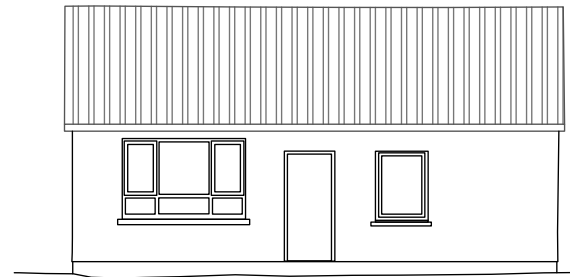
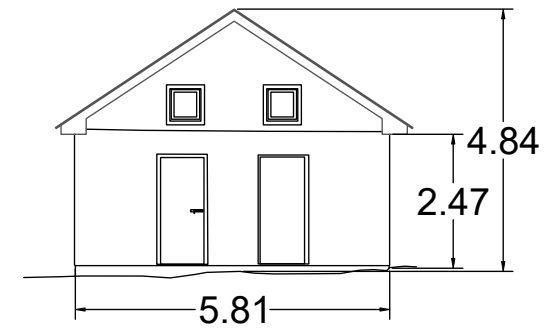
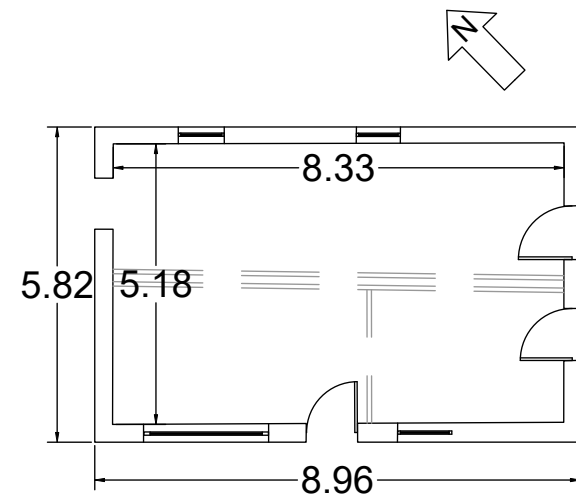
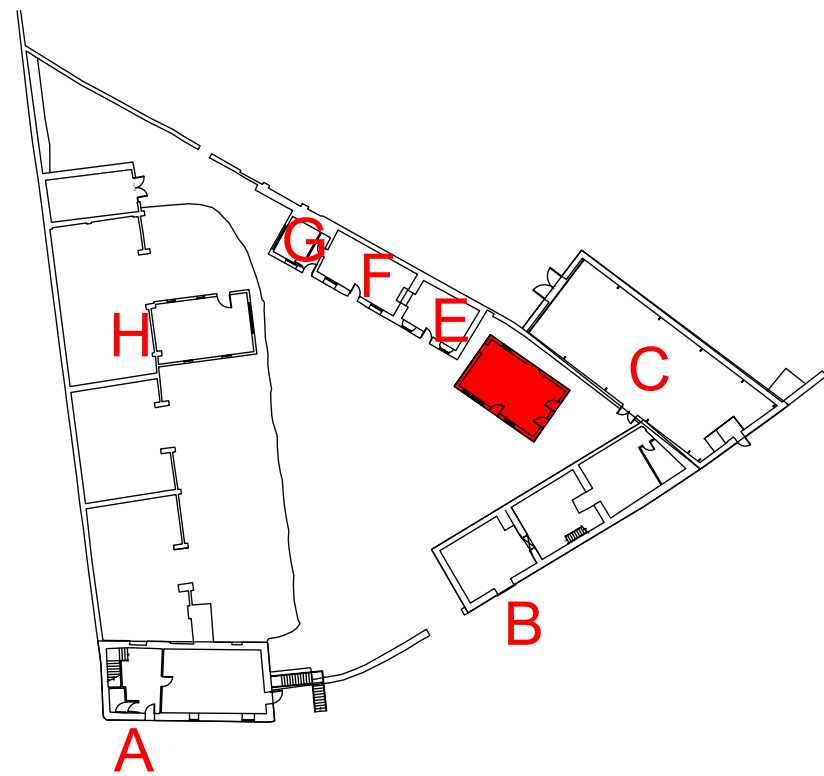


North-eastern elevation

R	Record
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T	Tender
PL	Planning
A	Approval
PR	Preliminary
Stage	Description

Rev Mark	Revision	Date	By

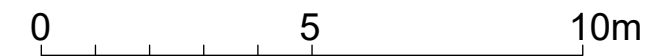
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JOHN CRONIN & ASSOCIATES <small>ARCHAEOLOGY CONSERVATION HERITAGE PLANNING</small>					



Corrugated pitched metal roof

uPVC windows and door

Concrete blockwork walls with cement render



South-western elevation

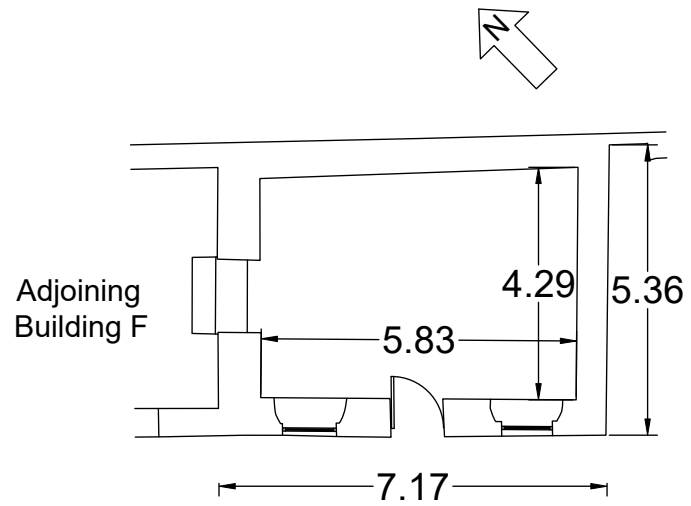
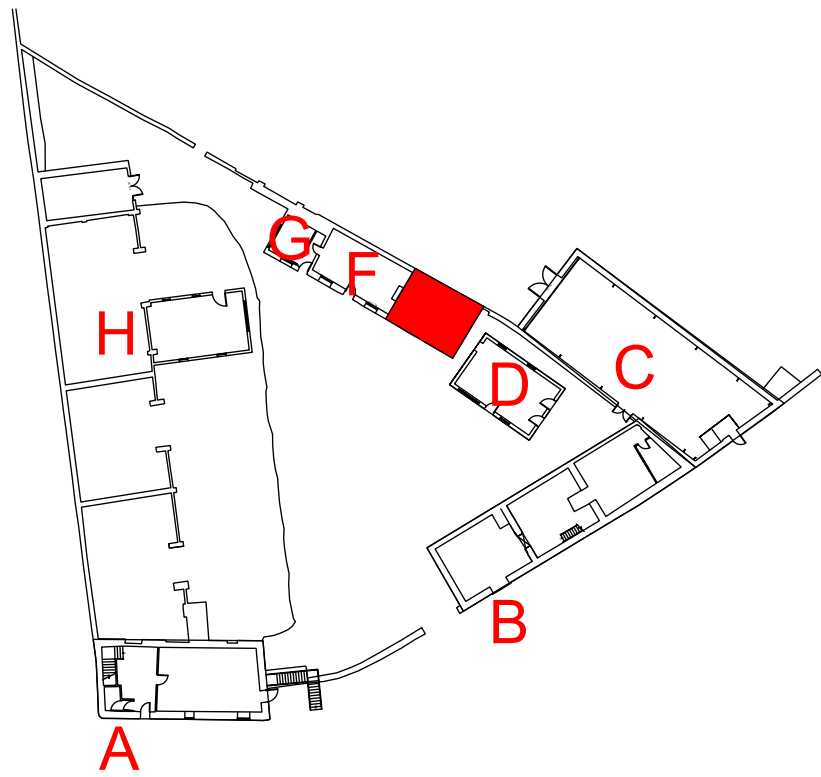


Interior

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T	Tender
PL	Planning
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PR	Preliminary
Stage	Description

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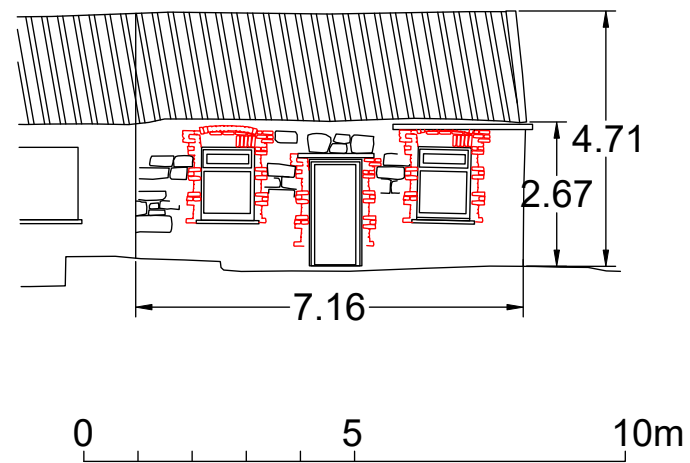
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Detail of window and ashlar wall



South-western elevation

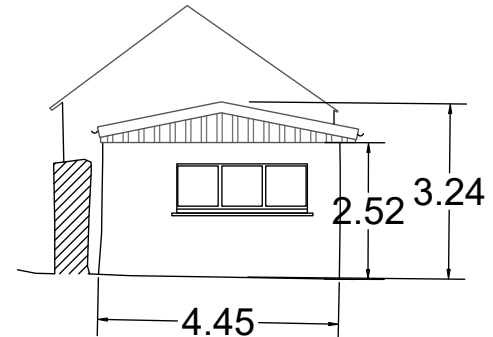
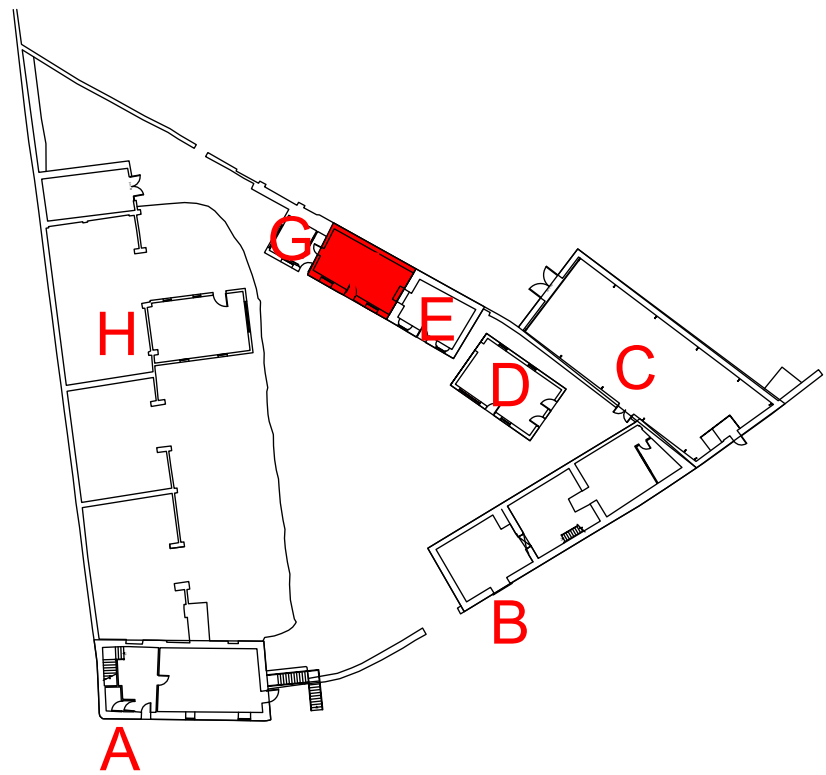


Interior

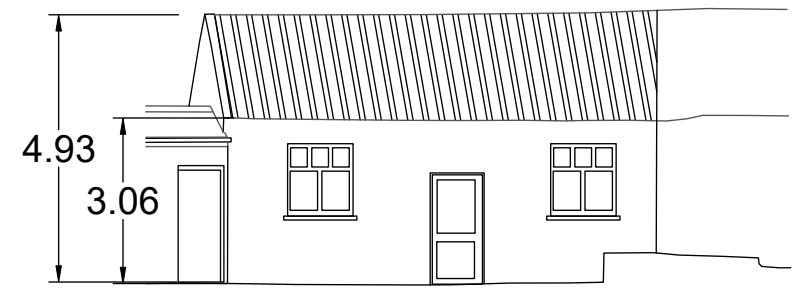
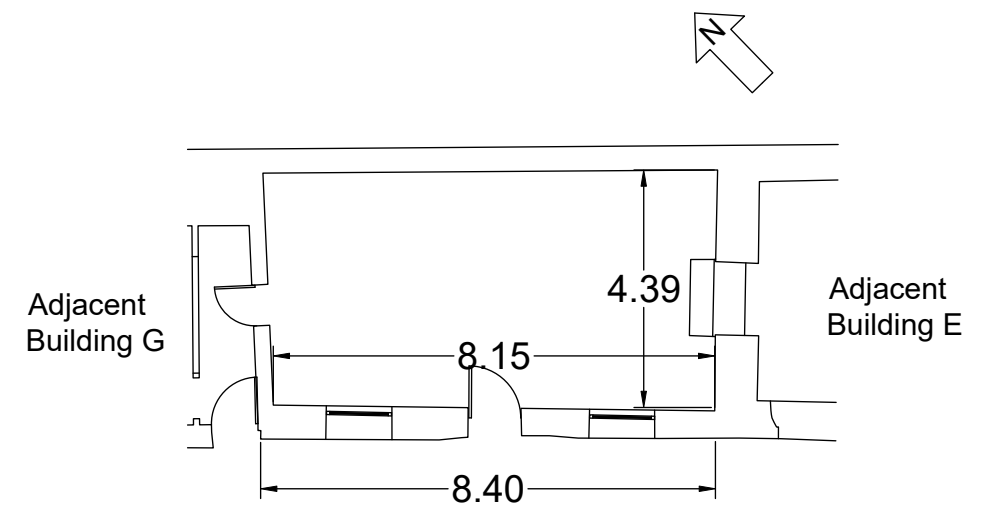
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PR	Preliminary
Stage	Description

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JOHN CRONIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHAEOLOGY CONSERVATION HERITAGE PLANNING			



Cement render to walls with modern stone facing to front elevation



Corrugated pitched metal roof
Modern painted timber windows and door
Concrete blockwork walls with modern stone facing



South-western elevation

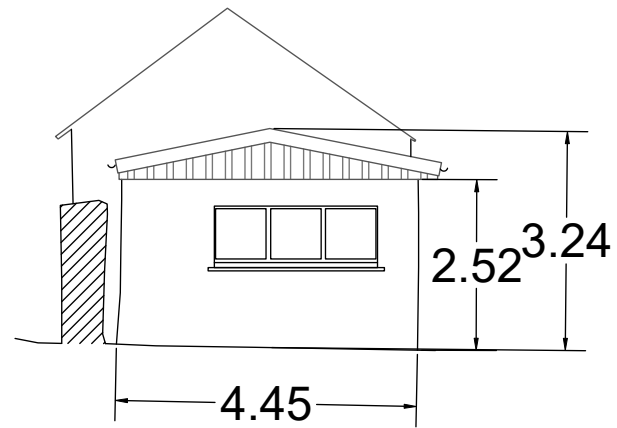
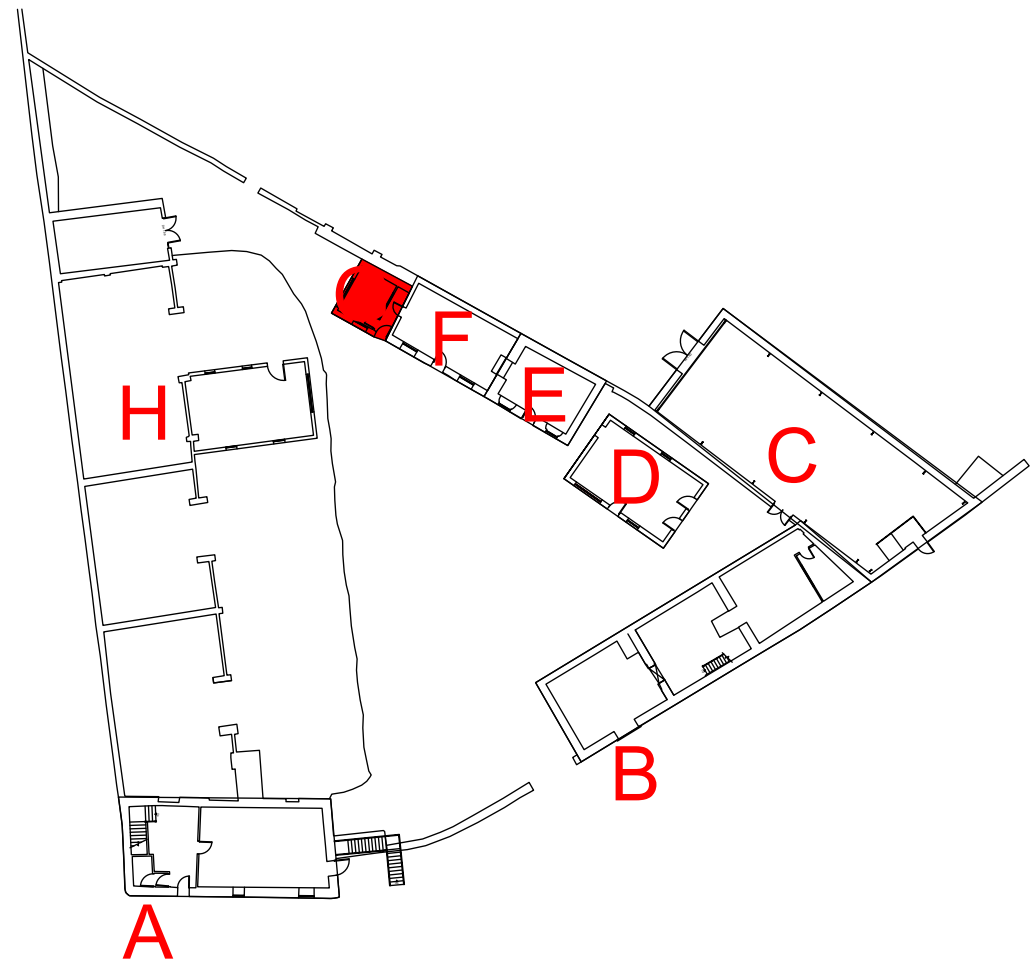


Interior

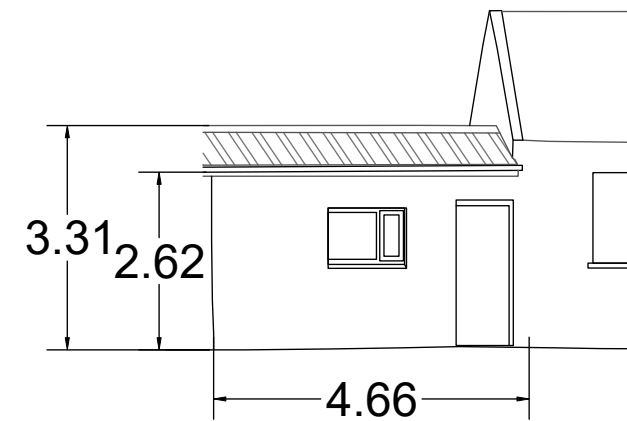
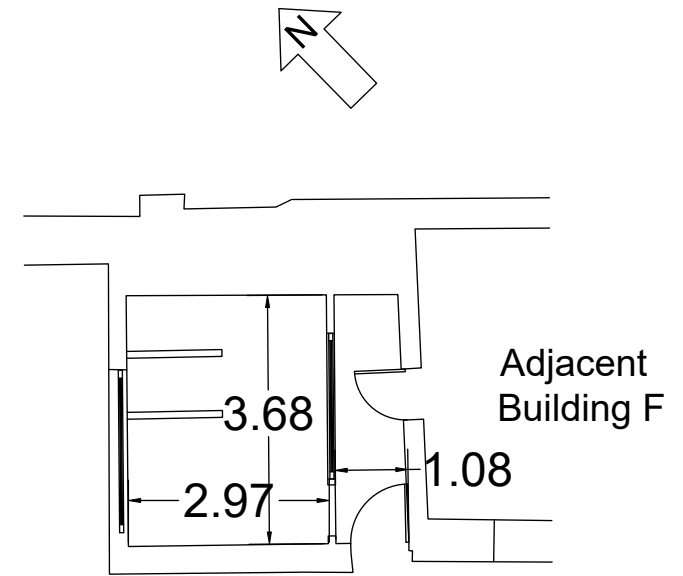
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A	Approval
PR	Preliminary
Stage	Description

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JOHN CRONIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHAEOLOGY CONSERVATION HERITAGE PLANNING						



Cement render to walls
with modern stone facing to
front elevation

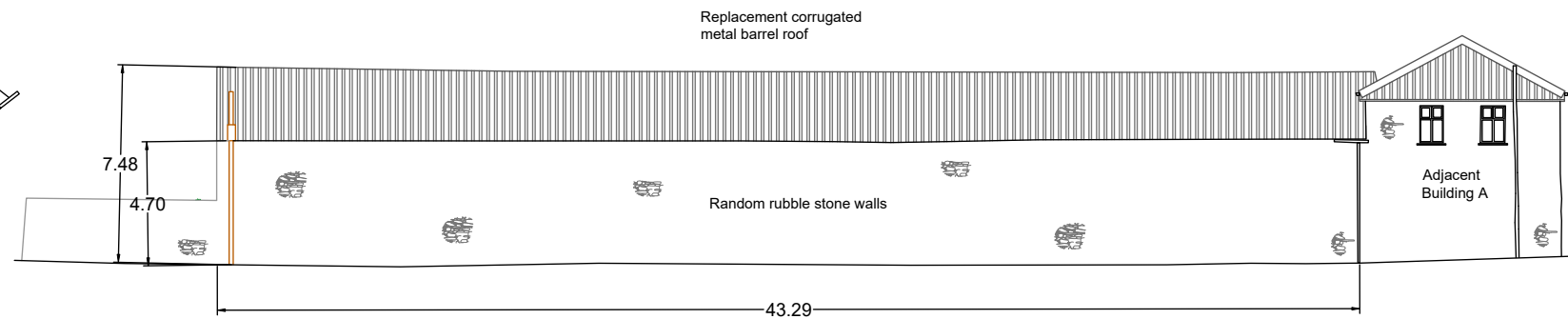
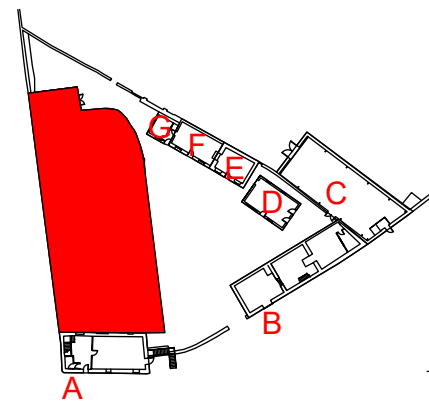


South-western elevation

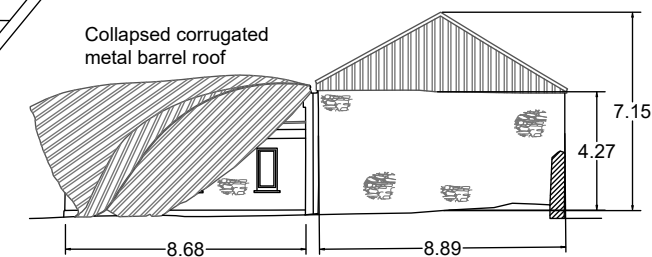
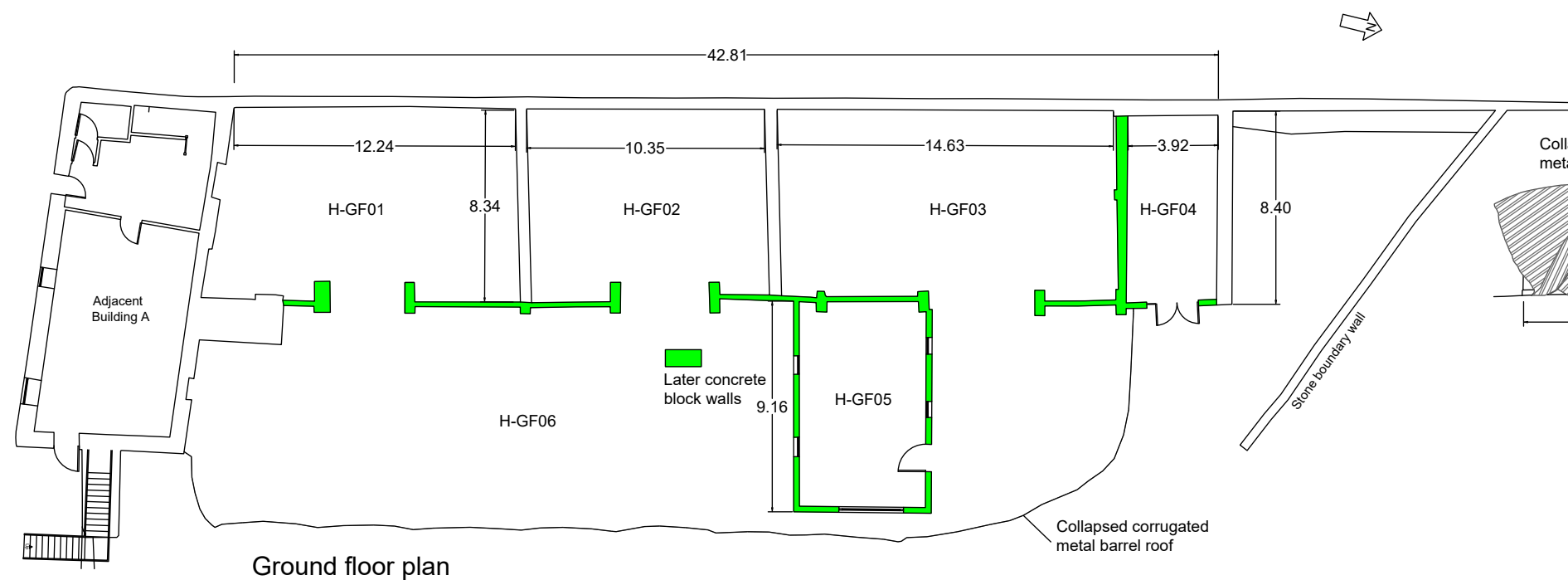
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C	Construction
T	Tender
PL	Planning
A	Approval
PR	Preliminary
Stage	Description

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					R 007
JOHN CRONIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHAEOLOGY CONSERVATION HERITAGE PLANNING					



Western elevation



Northern elevation

0 5 10m

All measurements in metres



Eastern elevation



Interior H-GF01



Interior H-GF02

R	Record
C	Construction
T	Tender
PL	Planning
A	Approval
PR	Preliminary
Stage	Description

Rev Mark	Revision	Date	By

Scale :	Bessboro Farm Building H	Rev			
Date : 08/02/2022	Ballinure Blackrock County Cork	Project No.	JCA IE21 272	Stage	
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JOHN CRONIN & ASSOCIATES ARCHAEOLOGY CONSERVATION HERITAGE PLANNING					

- **Appendix 10.4 - Method Statement Forensic Control prepared by Aidan Harte of Munster Archaeology**

Method Statement: Recommended to locate and preserve unrecorded burials, under forensic archaeological control, at the proposed development (Estuary View Enterprises) Bessborough, Cork

Aidan Harte BA MA MSc MIAI MCIfA ACSFS
Forensic Archaeologist

3rd March 2022

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1. Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1 Aidan Harte has been requested by Estuary View Enterprises Ltd. (*i.e.* the Applicant) to prepare a forensic archaeological methodology.
- 1.2 The Applicant has expressed an awareness of the sensitivity of the area in which the development is proposed and therefore has requested a method statement to outline an appropriate forensic approach to locating any evidence of the existence of 20th century unmarked burials within the potential development area.
- 1.3 This proposed method statement adheres strictly to the standards and guidelines for Forensic Archaeologists and aims to provide clear information before and during the investigative process and presenting findings in a balanced and impartial manner (ClfA 2014, 2). It is fully compliant with Principle 1 of the Codes of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2019, 3).
- 1.4 With respect to the findings of the Mother and Baby Home Commission of Investigation (MBHCOI 2020, 34, 4), all parts of the former Bessborough estate, including this proposed development, must be considered to possibly contain unrecorded modern burials.
- 1.5 The methodology given here may be summarised as comprising four main stages:
 1. Research and Survey
 2. Forensic Archaeological Monitoring
 3. Forensic Search Strategy
 4. Oversight, Outcomes & Archiving
- 1.6 Comprehensive research and survey form an essential prerequisite to this process whereby areas of the proposed development can be considered to have a higher or lower potential for 20th century interments.
- 1.7 All groundworks undertaken at the proposed development must have a minimum forensic control in place (*i.e.* suitably qualified personnel engaged in a dedicated monitoring role).
- 1.8 Areas or zones of high potential shall have additional forensic search methods applied, prior to construction.
- 1.9 Should human remains be discovered, whether considered of archaeological relevance or not, the Coroner must be informed immediately.
- 1.10 It is recommended that a forensic approach be applied. In its simplest terms, this means that any evidence relating to burials or human remains must be identified and recorded in such a way as to maintain forensic control and thus the admissibility of that evidence in any future legal proceedings.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This methodology is designed to locate any possible burials within the bounds of the proposed development, while maintaining forensic control. In essence, this means that best practice can be applied to ensure that every effort is made to identify potential burials prior to development, and should such human remains be discovered, that they are adequately protected, and a robust forensic record is available to demonstrate this.
- 2.2 In the absence of a predefined oversight structure (*i.e.* Coroner/An Garda Síochána/Commission *etc.*) it is necessary that the Local Authority be regularly updated as to the progress of the forensic monitoring and search. Additionally, the role of survivors, family members and other stakeholders in the overall process must also be acknowledged. Previous investigations of such sensitive sites of unmarked children's burials have shown that transparency and effective communication with survivors, and other concerned parties, is an essential feature, for trust and respect and ultimately the completion of the project (McCullagh *et al.* 2017; Gallen 2017; Hopwood 2011). It is recommended that a dedicated survivor liaison be appointed to act as a point of contact for such stakeholders and help address any concerns arising at any stage of the forensic search.
- 2.3 The first step in this methodology is that of research and geophysical survey (Stage 1). This is fundamentally a desktop review, allied with different types of ground survey, used to evaluate the development site. All parts of the development require forensic archaeological monitoring (Stage 2). However, parts of the development that have a higher likelihood of burials must be subject to targeted forensic search (Stage 3). The details of these subsequent phases (2 and 3) cannot yet be determined until all pre-works surveying and assessment have been carried out. Only then can prioritised search zones be identified.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the demolition of existing structures be carried out with attention to the ground surface below. Every effort should be made to limit the disturbance and compaction at ground level by heavy machinery and rubble prior to forensic examination.
- 2.5 As a rule, the most basic way to protect any burials is by avoiding ground disturbance in the first instance. It may be possible to restrict work activities to those parts of the site deemed essential to the development of the project – for example, green spaces not essential to the operation of the construction phase should not be used for temporary storage of materials, or access *etc.* and instead be considered as exclusion zones.
- 2.6 The role of the Cork City Coroner is of primary importance in the event of burials being located.
- 2.7 The forthcoming Certain Institutional Burials Bill is also noteworthy. Where evidence is discovered, it must be admissible under this legislation and to a standard that is aligned with this Bill.
- 2.8 The transparent reporting of all findings of this forensic search is essential. Furthermore, reports must be adequately archived with relevant authorities for permanent record at the completion of works.

3. Request

- 3.1 Estuary View Enterprises 2020 Ltd., through its Architects, requested that the author prepare this method statement for Forensic Search/Oversight at the proposed developments, 'The Meadows' and 'The Farm', Bessborough, Cork on 28th June 2021. Advice on forensic archaeological methodologies that might be applied during the phased development, with a focus on the potential for unrecorded burials, was specified.
- 3.2 The details of the development, for which the methodology is designed, is based on proposed development layout drawings supplied by ShipseyBarry Architects on the 17th February 2022. A composite of these drawings is shown in Figure 1.
- 3.3 The overall development area extends to over 6Ha., while the footprint of proposed buildings is more limited. It is assumed that ground clearance will be required at and around each proposed building and at all routes for roads and services, as a minimum.

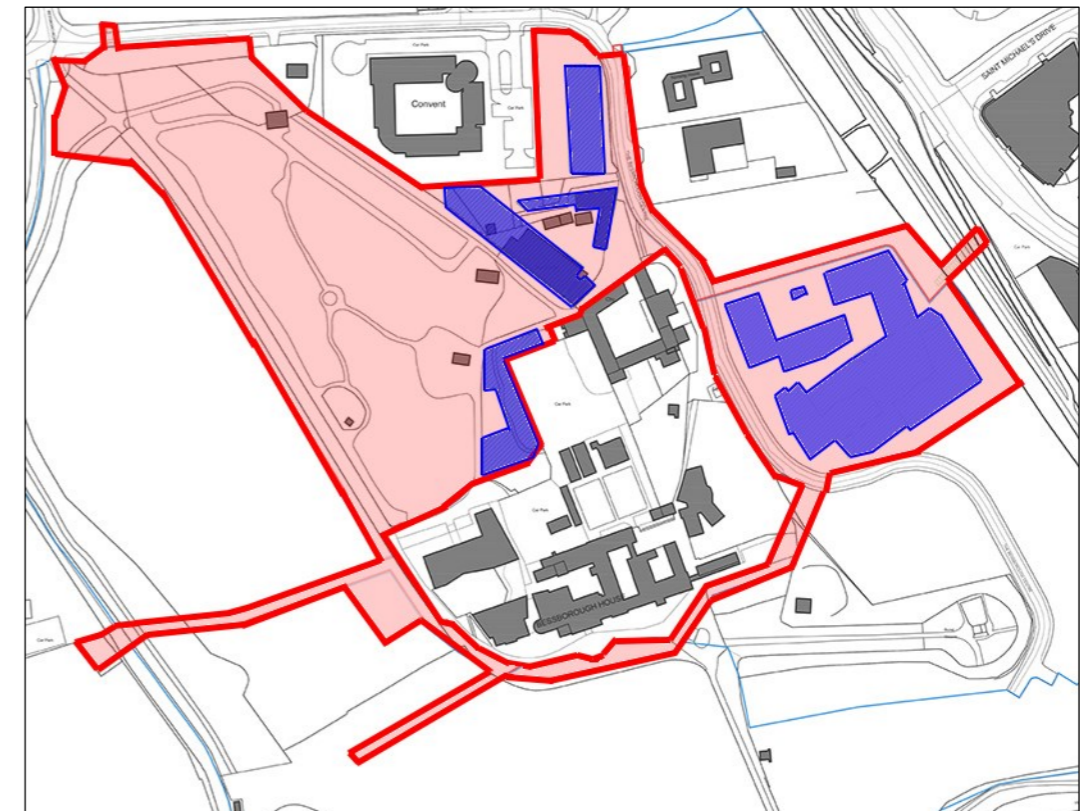


Figure 1: Outline of development area (in red) with proposed structures shown in blue (map data from ShipseyBarry Architects)

4. Previous Investigations/Background

4.1 The Convent of the Sacred Heart Mother and Baby Home at Bessborough was in operation from 1922 to 1998. During this time, 923 children who were associated with Bessborough died (MBHCOI 2020, Exec. Sum, 27), most of whom (761) died at Bessborough (*ibid*, Chapter 18A, 38).

4.2 cursory examination of the available aerial imagery shows substantial ground disturbance in the eastern portion of this site – here referred to as ‘the Meadows’ – prior to June 2006 (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Aerial image of Bessborough in June 2006 showing disturbed ground at east (source: Google Earth Pro)

4.3 The Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation (MBHCOI) stated that it ‘is possible that children who died in Bessborough were buried within the grounds’ (MBHCOI 2019, 31) and that ‘The Commission... recognises that it is highly likely that burials did take place in the grounds of Bessborough. The only way that this can be established is by an excavation of the entire property including those areas that are now built on.’ (MBHCOI 2020, 34, 4). It is worth reiterating that the Commission found there to be ‘no significant surface evidence of systematic burial anywhere except for the congregation burial ground’ (MBHCOI 2019, 31). This surface survey was complimented by extensive documentary research, following which the Commission noted ‘The third edition Ordnance Survey Map for the Bessborough area... identifies a southeast portion of the site as a “Children’s Burial Ground”’ (*ibid.*).

4.4 Archaeological Test Trenching was conducted in January 2019, at the location of ‘The Meadows’ at the eastern side of this proposed development. This was carried out under licence (19E0003) from the National Monuments Service (Chambers 2019). This comprised six test trenches and employed the use of a metal detector (under licence 19R0001), sieving of

soil and the presence of an osteoarchaeologist. The findings of this assessment clearly indicated extensive ground disturbance across a substantial part of this portion of the site. It also found that agricultural features, such as ditches and plough furrows, could be discerned. It was concluded by the archaeologist that no evidence of burials could be identified at this location.

4.5 Pre-planning Site Investigation works undertaken in January 2022 and, while limited in scale, were monitored with a forensic control in place. The extent of disturbance was minimised, and the controlled excavations at six locations indicated no evidence of burials. These locations are the same as those at which the geotechnical information was examined and account for less than 0.07% of the total development area. However, the effectiveness of the method and techniques applied were demonstrated by the recovery of two small lithic artefacts of prehistoric date and these have now been reported to the National Museum of Ireland.

5. Stage 1: Initial Research & Survey

5.1 A desktop review must be completed in advance of other stages. While comprehensive documentary research has already been conducted by various parties, there is an obligation on the Forensic Archaeologist to have independently researched all available relevant background information on the area under investigation prior to conducting a search (CfA 2014, 5.1(a)). This includes all documentary and cartographic material, and review of any relevant witness statements.

5.2 A detailed and accurate topographical survey must be made prior to development to permit the efficient recording of all anomalies identified in any subsequent phases of work. The position of features or specific areas of interest, derived from geophysical survey or cartographic analysis, must also be accurately positioned by GPS/GNSS survey, and marked on the ground. This action also includes the evaluation by suitably qualified practitioners prior to groundworks the surface of the proposed development, including access/egress routes, compounds and services, and all ancillary construction work (*i.e.* soakaways, drainage, temporary storage *etc.*).

5.3 Geophysical Survey – and other remote sensing techniques - should be considered for areas identified through desktop review as having potential for burials. This must happen prior to any further ground disturbance. Different techniques may be suitable at parts of the site with different ground conditions. Such techniques, such as Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), LiDAR *etc.* may also be applied to specific liminal areas that may not have been impacted by previous ground works, such as adjacent to boundaries. All surveys must be conducted at an appropriately high resolution to produce meaningful results.

6. Stage 2: Forensic Archaeological Monitoring

- 6.1 All areas of the proposed development, where ground disturbance is unavoidable, must be subjected to forensic archaeological monitoring. Should a given part of the proposed development site be considered as having a higher potential for burials through initial surveys, then these must be subjected to a specific forensic search (See Section 7).
- 6.2 Forensic Archaeological Monitoring can be practically applied to large areas of relevant interest. The removal of topsoil and substrata by mechanical excavator across these areas should be monitored at all times by at least one Forensic Archaeologist and/or one Osteo-archaeologist/Forensic Anthropologist with previous experience of forensic controls.
- 6.3 This monitoring of soils must be systematically applied. The progression of the soil removal must be planned in advance to ensure complete coverage and should be regularly and accurately mapped.
- 6.4 Items of evidential value must be recorded *in situ* where possible, and a complete record made prior to being logged and removed. Such evidence should include modern debris that demonstrates previous land use, taphonomy, bioturbation and other site formation processes, in addition to artefactual indicators for burial (e.g., coffin nails, pins, timber fragments *etc.*). All works must stop should human remains be discovered, full forensic controls applied and the Coroner informed immediately.
- 6.5 This method of systematic forensic monitoring may be compared to that successfully implemented by the Commission for the Location of Victims Remains (ICLVR). While these searches were targeted at finding adult remains, the method used by ICLVR searches uses a systematic monitoring plan to ensure that all parts of a site are searched thoroughly (Knupfer, Godfrey & Hill 2017). The successful evaluation and preservation of human remains *in situ* has also been successfully implemented elsewhere (MBHCOI 2019, chapter 38b).

7. Stage 3: Forensic Search Strategy

- 7.1 Specified areas where there is a high potential for unrecorded burials shall be selected based on the results of desktop review and GPR or other remotely sensed data (outlined at Stage 4 in Section 5). These areas shall be the subject of Forensic Search, prior to any other development activity.
- 7.2 All forensic searches should be controlled by a qualified and experienced Forensic Archaeologist.
- 7.3 The areas identified for high potential of burials should be divided into operational zones and investigated using a priority-based approach. This strengthens the ability to preserve any such remains *in situ*.

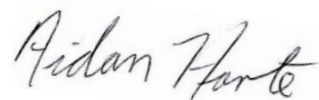
- 7.4 Soil shall be removed systematically using an appropriate mechanical excavator while monitored by at least one Forensic Archaeologist and one Osteo-archaeologist/Forensic Anthropologist. This combination of specialisms is an appropriate method of evaluating disturbed (and possibly very small fragments) skeletal remains. Where items of evidential value are noted, a completed record must be made prior to it being logged and removed. In the case of human remains, no such action would take place, instead the 'scene' must be secured, and the appropriate authorities informed.
- 7.5 The soil removed by excavation (termed 'spoil') should be placed on a designated surface and spread out for further examination. Using detection devices, this spoil must again be searched, and a representative sample sieved for bone fragments and other evidence indicative of burial activity. This stage acts to verify the absence of evidence, as controlled sieving measures have shown to improve the recovery of human bone by as much as 53% (Mays, Vincent & Campbell 2012). Where fragmented or small material is recovered by these techniques the excavation must cease, and only once a limited area can be confidently deemed void of human remains, should the forensic excavation continue.
- 7.6 Personnel conducting this on-site work will at all times conduct themselves with an awareness of contamination issues (*e.g.* agreed routes of access and protective clothing) (CifA 2014, 5.1(e)). All tools and equipment will have been decontaminated prior to arrival on site, and subsequently at regularly intervals to avoid cross-contamination throughout a given search programme. Any evidential items must be recorded and collected in adherence with forensic protocol.
- 7.7 Contemporaneous logs of personnel, decisions and actions, and evidence collected must be maintained. Similarly, the record of stratigraphy and features of interest are made on a contemporaneous and continuous basis.
- 7.8 Should human remains be identified *in situ*, the search must stop and the Coroner must be notified. A protective buffer should be implemented surrounding the potential burial. This is done to preserve the identified remains and any other possible remains in the immediate area. Machinery or vehicles must not traverse the area, until such time as the extent can be evaluated. Forensic search personnel may be deployed elsewhere on the site, albeit within a different zone.
- 7.9 Should fragmentary or disarticulated human remains be identified *ex situ*, then that area of excavation will cease, the area secured, and the Coroner informed immediately.
- 7.10 Where site facilities are required (*e.g.* welfare units, running water *etc.*), secure fencing should be necessary to prevent access by unauthorised personnel. Under warrant these sites would necessarily have 24-hour security provided. While a warrant is not in place, security is still of concern should the site be left open to contamination and interference. Additionally, the security of potential evidence and the longer-term secure storage of this material must also be considered.

8. Stage 4: Oversight & Outcomes

- 8.1 It is not within the remit of this methodology to countenance the removal/excavation/exhumation of any human remains discovered as a result of development. Preservation *in situ* must always be the primary consideration, however, this decision, should it arise, lies with the Cork City Coroner.
- 8.2 There is currently no established reporting mechanism for forensic search enacted outside of the state authorises (*i.e.* An Garda Síochána/Commissions of Investigation *etc.*), particularly where a negative result – the absence of burial – is the outcome. Therefore, the methodology employed and the reporting of such must be to the highest standard, regarded as independent and beyond reproach.
- 8.3 In acknowledgement of survivors, it is recommended that a dedicated liaison be appointed to help address any concerns they may have about the forensic search and subsequent reporting (Knupfer, Godfrey & Hill 2017).
- 8.4 It is necessary that on completion of each phase of forensic monitoring or specific forensic search, particularly where a negative result has been established, the lead Forensic Archaeologist communicates this finding in writing to specified authorities.
- 8.5 A full report and archive of all searches carried out and the results of same should be lodged with the Local Authority for future consultation.

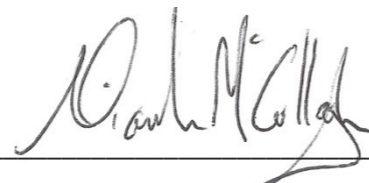
9. Declaration

The information provided in this document is provided as both truthful and correct and is the express opinion of the undersigned.



Aidan Harte BA MA MSc MIAI Cifa (FAER) ACSFS
Forensic Archaeologist 3rd March 2022

Peer Reviewed



Dr N. McCullagh BA MA MSc PhD MIAI ACSFS
Forensic Archaeologist 3rd March 2022

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