



APPENDIX 12-1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING REPORT



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Roscommon
County Council



The Hodson Bay Waterfront Park Project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund

**Final Report on the Results of
Archaeological Test Trenching of a
Proposed Development of Lands at
Hodson Bay Waterfront, Lough Ree,
County Roscommon
26E0466, 26R0306,
Part 1**

Project Code: RH1595

Date: 01/07/2026

Townland: Barry More

Licence Nos.: 26E0466, 26R0306

Coordinates: ITM: 600814, 746366

Licensee: Dermot G. Moore

Report Author: Dermot G. Moore

Report Status: Final



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological test trenching at Hodson Bay resort, County Roscommon was undertaken on the 8th – 9th June 2026. The proposed application area comprised areas of grassland adjacent to Lough Ree.

A total of 8 trenches were excavated out of the original 9 proposed trenches. This was due to health and safety and ecological issues. This trench (Trench 9) was unexcavated due to the close proximity of temporary structures associated with the activity park, reeds and scrub vegetation at the edge of the lough.

In Trenches 1 – 5, there was very limited topsoil below the sod layer which rested on deposits of natural sand which contained infrequent stones. In Trenches 6 – 8, in the southern part of the site, the topsoil and sod layer was of variable depth (up to a maximum of c. 0.10 m) which lay on a gravels and sands.

No archaeological material, deposits or structures were identified in any of the test trenches.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Information

This final report presents the results of archaeological test trenching at the proposed development of lands at Hodson Bay Waterfront on the edge of Lough Ree, County Roscommon (Figures 1–6; Plates 1–12).

The purpose of the archaeological test trenching was to determine whether archaeologically significant features or deposits survived within the area proposed for development.

The test trenching works were carried out under the direction of Dermot G. Moore of Rubicon Archaeology Limited during June 2026. It is accompanied by a Part 2 report which provides other information, such as the name of the client and the planning and development background.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Development lands and are situated along the south western shores of Lough Ree within the townland of Barry More, County Roscommon. The proposed development relates to the Hodson Bay Waterfront Park and involves the redevelopment of an existing waterfront and marina covering approximately 9 Ha at Hodson Bay, Lough Ree, Athlone, N37 XR82 (ITM: 600814, 746366) (Figures 1, 2a, 2b & 3).

The Proposed Development comprises of the redevelopment of an existing waterfront and marina covering approximately 23 Ha at Hodson Bay, Athlone, N37 XR82, County Roscommon.

The Proposed Development will principally consist of:

- Construction of a new Water Sports Pavilion;
- The demolition of the existing water sports building and adjacent public toilet block on site;
- The redevelopment of the existing marina including an extension to the existing breakwater and the jetty to increase marina capacity to approximately 59 berths;
- Construction of new landscaped public recreation areas with a playground, nature observation space, picnic areas, benches, bicycle storage and service areas, extensive planting of native trees, outdoor changing, events space and wellness meadow including the development of a continuous promenade along the lakeshore;
- Active travel and site access improvements including provision of traffic calming measures and a 3m wide shared cycle / pedestrian pathway along the L2020 Local Road, 2 no. of bus set down locations, upgraded signage, lighting, and road marking;
- Extension of the existing parking provision in the area to provide 151 no. additional car parking spaces, 30 no. Electric Vehicle (EV) spaces and 28 no. accessible parking spaces, 4 no. dedicated bus parking bays within the northern carpark and 3 no. dedicated boat trailer parking bays adjacent to the marina.

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- All ancillary works including site clearance, boundary treatments, associated public lighting, bin storage, hard and soft landscaping, site drainage upgrades, connections to existing utilities to include foul and surface water drainage, water supply, electrical & telecommunications networks. Boundary treatments involve upgrades to the existing golf course boundary safety netting (between 10m to 20m in height) and fencing.

The works were undertaken in accordance with the method statement and the terms of the Licence to Excavate. If archaeological remains were identified during the archaeological test trenching programme, the nature and extent of the archaeology would be determined, and National Monuments would be consulted on how to proceed.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General Background

This section is taken from a previous Desk Based Assessment completed by Ciarraí O'Sullivan and Zachary Hinckley (2025) by Rubicon Archaeology Limited. The CH list from this Desk Based Assessment can be found in Appendix 3 (Figure 2a).

3.1.1 Record of Monuments and Places (The RMP and SMR)

A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was issued for all counties in the State between 1984 and 1992 and is continually updated and supplemented as additional monuments are discovered. The SMR is an inventory containing a numbered list of known or suspected monuments accompanied by 6-inch Ordnance Survey maps (at a reduced scale). The SMR formed the basis for issuing the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) - the statutory list of recorded monuments established under Section 12 of the *National Monuments Act 1994 (as Amended)*. Under this Act, each site recorded in the RMP is granted statutory protection. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to a recorded archaeological monument, they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage two months before commencing that work.

There are four recorded archaeological monuments incorporated by the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area). Two of these are Redundant Records (CH001, CH002), CH003 is a causeway which connects Goose Island to the shore and CH004 is a large enclosure.

CH ID	Monument Number	RMP	Short Description	Townland
CH001	RO049-006----	No	Redundant Record	Lough Ree
CH002	RO049-005001-	No	Redundant Record	Barry More
CH003	RO049-005002-	No	Causeway	Barry More
CH004	RO049-010----	No	Enclosure – large enclosure	Barry More

Table 1. RMPs and SMRs within the study area

3.1.2 National Monuments

National monuments are broken into two categories: National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the state and National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of a local

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authority. Section 8 of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1954* provides for the publication of a list of monuments, the preservation, of which, are considered to be of national importance. Two months' notice must be given to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage where work is proposed to be carried out at or in relation to any National Monument.

There are no National Monuments incorporated by the study area.

3.1.3 Sites with Preservation Orders

The *National Monuments Act 1930–2004* provide for the making of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders in respect of National Monuments. Under Section 8 of the *National Monument Act 1930 (as Amended)*, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, can place a Preservation Order on a monument if, in the Ministers' opinion, it is a National Monument in danger of being or is actually being destroyed, injured or removed or is falling into decay through neglect. The Preservation Order ensures that the monument shall be safeguarded from destruction, alteration, injury, or removal, by any person or persons without the written consent of the Minister.

There are no sites with Preservation Orders incorporated by the study area (please refer to Section 1.3: Study Area).

3.2 Designated Architectural Heritage Sites

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000*, and the *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999*, made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage.

3.2.1 Record of Protected Structures

The *Roscommon County Development Plan (2022–2028)* was consulted for schedules of Protected Structures. These are buildings that a planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, and/or technical point of view. Protected Structures receive statutory protection from injury or demolition under Section 57 (1) of the *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000*. Protected structure status does not exclude development or alteration but requires the developer to consult with the relevant planning authority to ensure that elements which make the structure significant are not lost during development.

There is one Protected Structure in the study area (Table 2), which is also listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The Protected Structure is located c. 859 m west of the Proposed Development site.

CH ID	RPS Number	Short Description	Townland
CH005	04900577	Presbytery/Parochial/Curate's House	Cornaseer

Table 2. Protected Structures within the study area

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▪ **Architectural Conservation Areas and Conservation Areas**

The *Roscommon County Development Plan (2022–2028)* was consulted for records relating to Architectural Conservation Areas and Conservations Areas (hereinafter ‘ACAs’ and ‘CAs’ respectively). It is a policy of Roscommon County Council to protect the special interest and character of all Roscommon’s Conservation Areas. Development within or affecting a conservation area must contribute positively to its character and distinctiveness and take opportunities to protect and enhance the character and appearance of the area and its setting, wherever possible.

There are no ACA’s within the study area.

▪ **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)**

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (hereinafter the ‘NIAH’) is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999*. Its purpose is to identify, record and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently, as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

There is a single NIAH registration located within the study area (see Section 1.2; Table 3), which is also listed as a Protected Structure. The NIAH registration is located c. 859 m west of the Proposed Development site.

CH ID	NIAH Number	Short Description	Townland
CH005	31949002	Presbytery/Parochial/Curate’s House	Cornaseer

Table 3. NIAH within the study area

3.3 Undesignated Cultural Heritage Sites Within the Proposed Development Site

This section deals with sites that are considered to be of cultural heritage value, but which do not fall within the above categories as they are not registered. Such sites may include lime-kilns, dwellings/outhouses, trackways or townland boundaries etc. identifiable on the First Edition 6-inch and Second Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey maps and/or noted during the field visit.

There are five undesignated cultural heritage sites identifiable within the study area (Table 4).

CH ID	Type	ID Number	Short Description	Townland
CH008	UCH	UCH001	Well	Barry More
CH009	UCH	UCH002	Vernacular Structure	Barry More
CH010	UCH	UCH003	Unfenced Trackway	Barry More
CH011	UCH	UCH004	Crossing Guard House	Barry More
CH012	UCH	UCH005	Vernacular Structure	Barry More

Table 4. UCHs within the study area

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▪ **Townland Boundaries**

A townland is the smallest official land unit in the country. Ireland is made up of approximately 60,000 townlands. Research into the name of these land units frequently provides information relating to its archaeology, history, folklore, ownership, topography or land use. Most place names were anglicised by the time the Ordnance Survey began in the 1830s. Despite some inaccuracies in translation, the Gaelic, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English origins of place names are generally recognisable.

Examination of the First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map shows one townland boundary within the study area (CH013)—between Barry More and Lough Ree. There is a possibility that the Proposed Development will impact the townland boundary (see Section 1.2; Table 5).

CH ID	ID Number	Short Description	Townland
CH013	TB01	Townland Boundary	Barry More/Lough Ree

Table 5. Townland boundaries within the Proposed Development area

3.4 Areas of Archaeological Potential

Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAPs) are additional areas or locations whose landscape characteristics suggest a higher potential for unknown archaeological features to be present e.g. riverine, estuarine or peatland environments. There is a single AAP within the Proposed Development area (Table 6).

CHID	ID Number	Short Description
CH014	AAP01	The shoreline of Hodson Bay/Lough Ree

Table 6. AAPs within the Proposed Development Area

3.5 Topographical Files

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) are the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the NMI. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous excavations. The NMI's files present a catalogue of objects reported to the institution from 1928–95. The find-spots of artefacts can be an important indication of the archaeological potential of the related or surrounding area.

The topographical files list no archaeological finds within the study area.

3.6 Archaeological and Historical Context

▪ **Prehistoric period**

There are no recorded prehistoric sites located within the study area. The large enclosure (CH004) could date to the prehistoric period although it could also date to the later periods (National Monuments Service 2023). However, prehistoric activity is indicated by finds from the River Shannon, which flows south from Lough Ree through Athlone. Neolithic activity is indicated by the discovery of the 17 Neolithic axe-heads in the vicinity of Athlone town. Numerous Bronze Age finds have been found within and near the River Shannon including two bronze looped spearheads (National Museum of Ireland 2026a), bronze shield (Raftery 1982) and a bronze rapier blade (National Museum of Ireland

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2026b). Iron Age activity is also indicated by finds including a *La Tène* type iron sword (Anderson 2023, 5–6).

▪ *Early medieval period*

The early medieval period (AD 400– c. 1169) was a time of rapid expansion of agriculture. Throughout this period Ireland was a predominantly rural society characterised by dispersed settlement, as in the rest of Europe, with a heavy focus on pastoral farming (O’Sullivan *et al.* 2013). Ringforts and enclosures are indicative of settlement at this time. Ringforts are undoubtedly the most widespread and characteristic archaeological field monument in the Irish countryside. While there are no known ringforts located within the study area, there are numerous examples located outside including three located c. 2.8 km NNW (RO048-055----/RO048-053----/RO048-054----). The ringfort is an earthen banked fortifications which comes in a variety of forms; and can vary in size, often between 25 to 50 metres across, and anywhere from one to four enclosures encircling them, although the univallate (single enclosure) variety is the most common (O’Sullivan *et al.* 2013). The raised external banks and ditches would have warded off predators and outsiders, protecting both the inhabitants of these ringforts and the cattle which were an important element of their livelihoods (Stout 1997). It is possible that the large enclosure (CH004) could be early medieval in date.

Other early medieval activity is indicated by an ecclesiastical site situated c. 3.7 km east of Hare Island. This site, named *Inis Aingin*, is said to have been founded in the sixth century by St Ciarán, before he proceeded to Clonmacnoise (OF005-027001). St Ciarán was succeeded by Enna Mac Hui-Laigsi as abbot enclosure (O’Hanlon 1873, 213–219). The site comprises an early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure (WM022-028----) and medieval church (WM022-028001-).

▪ *Late medieval period*

Located 5 km south-east of the Proposed Development site is the historic town of Athlone (WM029-42---), located on a strategic fording point across the River Shannon, just to the south of Lough Ree. The Irish translation of Athlone as *Áth Luain*, meaning ‘the ford of Luain’ highlights this function (Anderson 2023, 8). In the early medieval period, this ford was an important crossing point between Midhe and Connacht. The 12th century saw the development of Athlone under the Anglo-Normans, whose arrival categorised the beginning of later medieval period.

The Anglo-Normans were present in Connacht immediately after the invasion although this was in the form of sporadic raiding until the end of the 12th century. By AD 1194, the Anglo-Normans were active in Lough Ree, and by AD 1199, there is the first evidence for permanent settlement at Athlone, when the bawn of Athlone was burnt by Cathal Crobderg Ua Conchobhair, King of Connacht (Graham 1988, 22).

▪ *Post-medieval period and early modern period*

Early modern activity is indicated by the First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (1838) which shows the Proposed Development site as part of the demesne landscape of Hodson’s Bay House. Other activity includes the construction of the causeway (CH004) to Goose Island, which is depicted on the Second Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (1891) and Last Edition Cassini 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (1915). Within the wider landscape evidence of human activity is reflected in Athlone town, located c. 5 km south-east. In the 16th century, Athlone came under Tudor control when the castle was captured in 1537 (Murtagh 1994, 2). A new stone bridge was built, which revived Athlone’s role as the focus of

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east–west traffic across the River Shannon. The town was hive of activity with marketplaces developing, and a renewed focus on the eel fishery (*ibid.*). Milling took place within the town from the 16th century until the 19th century. This is indicated by three mills built on the stone bridge crossing the River Shannon, which were use until the 1840s. During the 18th century, the town was industrialised with tan yards and malthouse located near the castle (Anderson 2023, 10). The 19th century saw improvements to land infrastructure make Athlone a key staging point on the inland car network (Murtagh 1994, 3). Similar improvements occurred on the River Shannon during the 19th century which ameliorated navigation along the river (*ibid.*).

3.7 Cartographic Analysis

▪ *First Edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch Series Map (1838)*

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1838) (Figure 4) illustrates bounded fields as part of the demesne landscape of Hodson’s Bay House with Goose Island separated from the shoreline. Furthermore, although marked as a trigonometry point on the Ordnance Survey map, it is not until the Second Edition that Hodson’s Tower is marked on the map.

▪ *Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch Series Map (1891)*

The Proposed Development site has undergone very little change at this point. Goose Island is now connected to the mainland via the construction of a causeway (CH004) and Hodson’s Tower is now marked on the map (Figure 5).

▪ *Ordnance Survey Cassini 6-inch Series Map (1915)*

No significant changes from the earlier 25-inch series map can be discerned (Figure 6).

3.8 Toponymy of Townland/s

The Irish landscape is divided into approximately 60,000 townlands and the system of landholding is unique in Western Europe for its scale and antiquity. Many townlands predate the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. The townland names and boundaries were standardised in the 19th century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. The original Irish names were eventually anglicised to varying degrees, depending in part upon the linguistic skills of the surveyors and recorders. A study of the townland names can provide information on aspects of cultural heritage including descriptions of the use of the landscape by humans and the potential presence of archaeological or cultural heritage sites or features.

There are two townlands within the study area.

English Name	Irish Name	Irish Meaning
Barry More	<i>Bearaidh Mhór</i>	Mór – great, big
Cornaseer	N/A	N/A

Table 7. List of townlands within the study area (after Irish Placenames Committee 2013)

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3.9 Intangible Heritage/Irish Folklore Commission

3.10 Recent Excavations

The Excavations Bulletin is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license. The database is available online at www.excavations.ie and includes excavations from 1970 onwards. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this report to establish if any archaeological investigations had been carried out within the study area. The database produced two results for archaeological excavations undertaken within the study area. There was no archaeological material or features found in the previous excavations.

Licence Number	Site Name	Short Description	ITM
04D0005	Hodson Bay, Lough Ree	No Archaeology Found	601176,746480
09E0115	Barry More	No Archaeology Found	600800,745524

Table 8. Previous excavations in the study area

3.11 Topography and Soils

The site is located on the shore of Lough Ree. According to the Teasagc Soil Information System (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/>), the main soil associations on the site are Visean Limestones underlain by a bedrock of limestone and calcareous shale.

4. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological test trenching were to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological features or deposits within the development areas, and to identify their location, date, nature, extent and significance. The results of the archaeological test trenching have been compiled into this report and suitable mitigation measures suggested where appropriate.

4.2 Methodology

The work scope entailed a programme of archaeological testing. The investigation complied in full with the *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation* (DoAHGI 1999).

The excavation crew consisted of one director and one supervisor.

A total of 8 trenches were excavated out of the original 9 proposed trenches. This was due to health and safety and ecological issues. This trench (Trench 9) was unexcavated due to the close proximity of temporary structures associated with the activity park, reeds and scrub vegetation at the edge of the lough.

A tracked excavator equipped with a toothless flat grading bucket, 1.8 m in width, was utilised to excavate the trial trenches.

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The metal detection survey was carried out concurrently with the archaeological test trenching conducted using a Minelab Vanquish 540 metal detector. The methodology was as follows: All staff operating the metal detector will be trained in how to do so. The archaeologist will use a metal detector to scan the surface of test trench spoil heaps and the surface of any possible features uncovered. The discrimination settings on the metal detector shall be set to 'All Metal' or equivalent setting. Any positive signals will be investigated by careful hand excavation or probing to confirm the nature and depth of the target. The location of all ferrous and non-ferrous material contained within the survey area (that is, the Proposed Development area) will be recorded using Global Positioning System (GPS). The location of all archaeological remains or objects identified will be recorded using Electronic Distance Measurement and/or Digital GPS, as appropriate. All archaeological remains or objects identified will be photographed if possible and left in situ until an agreement has been reached, in consultation with the NMS, the NMI, to remove them. Furthermore, excavated spoil will also be subject to metal detection survey to ensure potential ferrous and non-ferrous material are not missed.

All recording was conducted by Rubicon Archaeology Limited using standard methods and undertaken on standardised recording sheets. Any contexts were given unique numbers. Survey recording of all excavation locations was related to the Ordnance Survey grid and completed using a GEOMAX RTK GNSS Rover kits (Zenith60 and X-PAD Ultimate survey software). Photographs were taken using a 12 MP digital camera. (Appendix 1 Photograph Register).

5. THE RESULTS

A total of 8 archaeological test trenches, out of an original total of 9 trenches were excavated within the zone of the proposed development at Hodson Bay Waterfront on the shores of Lough Ree, in County Roscommon (Figures 1-6, Plates 1-12). These are outlined below. No deposits, objects or material of archaeological significance was identified from any of the test trenches excavated.

Trench 1 (Figures 3-6; Plate 1).

Orientation	N-S	Length	15 m	Max Depth	0.55 m
Description	Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.02–0.05 m and comprised a dark blackish brown sand. The subsoil comprised a light greyish brown sand with occasional gravel 0.45–0.50 m in depth. The natural comprised a light greyish white gravelly sand.				
Comment	No archaeological significance.				

Trench 2 (Figures 3-6; Plate 2).

Orientation	SE-NW	Length	15 m	Max Depth	0.55 m
Description	Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.02–0.05 m and comprised a dark blackish brown sand. The subsoil comprised a light greyish brown sand with occasional gravel 0.45–0.50 m in depth. The natural comprised a light greyish white gravelly sand.				
Comment	No archaeological significance. Modern concrete blocks and pieces of pipe noted in northern end of trench				



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Trench 3 (Figures 3-6; Plates 3-4).

Orientation	SW-NE	Length	15 m	Max Depth	0.42 m
Description	Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.01–0.02 m and comprised a dark blackish brown sand. The subsoil comprised a light greyish brown sand with occasional gravel 0.32–0.40 m in depth. The natural comprised a light greyish yellow-white sand.				
Comment	No archaeological significance.				

Trench 4 (Figures 3-6; Plate 5).

Orientation	SW-NE	Length	15 m	Max Depth	0.37 m
Description	Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.01–0.02 m and comprised a dark blackish brown sand. The subsoil comprised a light greyish brown sand with occasional gravel 0.30–0.35 m in depth. The natural comprised a light greyish white gravelly sand.				
Comment	No archaeological significance.				

Trench 5 (Figures 3-6; Plate 6).

Orientation	E–W	Length	15 m	Max Depth	0.55 m
Description	Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.02–0.03 m and comprised a dark blackish brown sand. The subsoil comprised a light greyish brown sand with occasional gravel 0.45–0.52 m in depth. The natural comprised a light greyish white gravelly sand.				
Comment	No archaeological significance.				

Trench 6 (Figures 3-6; Plate 7).

Orientation	E–W	Length	15 m	Max Depth	0.42 m
Description	Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.12–0.20 m and comprised a dark blackish clayey sand. The subsoil comprised a mid-greyish brown sand 0.17–0.22 m in depth. The natural comprised a light yellowish sand with natural gravels appearing in eastern end of trench.				
Comment	No archaeological significance. Evidence of tree/shrub root disturbance				

Trench 7 (Figures 3-6; Plate 8-9).

Orientation	N-S	Length	15 m	Max Depth	0.47 m
Description	Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.10–0.15 m and comprised a dark blackish clayey sand. The subsoil comprised a dark blackish brown sand with occasional gravel 0.22–0.32 m in depth. The natural comprised a light greyish gravel.				
Comment	No archaeological significance. Modern drains identified.				

Trench 8 (Figures 3-6; Plate 10).

Orientation	NE-SW	Length	15 m	Max Depth	0.35 m
Description					

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Topsoil ranged in depth from 0.02–0.05 m and comprised a dark blackish brown, sand. The subsoil comprised a light white, grey sand 0.20–0.30 m in depth. The natural comprised a light greyish gravel.

Comment	No archaeological significance.
----------------	---------------------------------

All trenches and spoil were subjected to a metal detection survey (Plate 10) at the 'All Metal' setting. No metal material was encountered in any of the areas tested.

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6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological testing programme produced no evidence of in-situ archaeological activity.

Trenches 1 – 8 identified that the area under investigation comprised sand and gravel deposits associated with the western shoreline of Lough Ree. The area had also been extensively landscaped in the past from the time of the Hodson Bay House to the use of the area as a hotel resort and activity areas.

No evidence of archaeological activity in any form was identified in the area under investigation.

All archaeological test trenches were backfilled, levelled and made good with topsoiling and reseeding (Plates 11-12).

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

As no archaeological remains, either in the form of deposits, objects, structures or sub-surface features were uncovered in any of the archaeological test trenches and the nature and extent of the previous changes to the landscape, it is recommended that no further archaeological works or mitigations are necessary in relation to archaeological testing.

Please note all the recommendations in this report are subject to approval of the County Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

8. ARCHIVE QUANTITIES

The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item	Quantity
Photographs	46
Trench Record Sheets	2
Photograph Register Sheets	1

Table 9. Site Archive

The archive will be stored in a suitable format and location will be to provide for any future archaeological research. It is proposed that in addition to the paper archive a digital copy is prepared. The archive is currently stored in the offices of Rubicon Archaeology Ltd, The Glen Distillery Business Park, Old Whitechurch Road, Kilnap, Cork T23 HY01. It is proposed that following completion of the final report the archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.

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<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ca514d04c83c453e9469d0263d30a72c/page/Viewer?views=Archaeology>).

Logainm.ie: Placename Database of Ireland 2025 *Logainm.ie: Placename Database of Ireland*
<http://www.logainm.ie/en>).

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<https://www.museum.ie/collections/collection/antiquity-71224/?return=%2Fcollections%2Fcollection%2F%3Fterm%3Dbronze%2520spearhead>).

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OS 1891 Ordnance Survey of County Roscommon, Second Edition 25-inch map (surveyed 1889), Sheet RN049-05; RN049-06, scale 1:5,000 (<https://experience.arcgis.com/>).

OS 1915 Ordnance Survey Cassini Edition of County Roscommon, Last Edition 6-inch map (surveyed 1837), Sheet RN049, scale 1:10,000 (<https://experience.arcgis.com/>).



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APPENDIX 1 PHOTO REGISTER

Photo No.	Camera No.	Direction Facing	Description
93838	Galaxy S24	NE	Post-excavation view of Trench 1
93846	Galaxy S24	NE	Post-excavation view of Trench 1
93914	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 1
101039	Galaxy S24	SE	Post-excavation view of Trench 2
101040	Galaxy S24	SE	Post-excavation view of Trench 2
120410	Galaxy S24	NE	Pre-excavation general view north of Trenches 3 and 4
120412	Galaxy S24	NE	Pre-excavation general view north of Trenches 3 and 5
123141	Galaxy S24	NE	Post-excavation view of Trench 3
123202	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 3
123204	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 3
140948	Galaxy S24	NE	Post-excavation view of Trench 4
141009	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 4
141011	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 4
152553	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 5
152556	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 5
152613	Galaxy S24	NE	Post-excavation view of Trench 5
152614	Galaxy S24	NE	Post-excavation view of Trench 5
83239	Galaxy S24	N	Pre-excavation general view north of Trenches 6 and 7
83249	Galaxy S24	N	Pre-excavation general view north of Trenches 6 and 7
91451	Galaxy S24	NE	Post-excavation view of Trench 8 and metal detection
91453	Galaxy S24	NE	Post-excavation view of Trench 8 and metal detection
91500	Galaxy S24	N	Post-excavation view of Trench 8 and metal detection
91530	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 8 and metal detection
91546	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 8 and metal detection
91548	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 8 and metal detection
91549	Galaxy S24	SW	Post-excavation view of Trench 8 and metal detection
104456	Galaxy S24	N	Post-excavation view of Trench 7
110831	Galaxy S24	N	Post-excavation view of Trench 7
110834	Galaxy S24	N	Post-excavation view of Trench 7
110852	Galaxy S24	S	Post-excavation view of Trench 7



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Photo No.	Camera No.	Direction Facing	Description
110853	Galaxy S24	S	Post-excavation view of Trench 7
113505	Galaxy S24	W	Post-excavation view of Trench 6
113612	Galaxy S24	E	Post-excavation view of Trench 6
113613	Galaxy S24	E	Post-excavation view of Trench 6
124600	Galaxy S24	W	Topsoiling and reseeding of Trench 2
124603	Galaxy S24	N	Topsoiling and reseeding of Trench 1
124604	Galaxy S24	N	Topsoiling and reseeding of Trench 1
DJI 0377	DJI Drone Image	OH	Overhead image of Trenches 1 and 2 backfilled
DJI 0379	DJI Drone Image	OH	Overhead image of Trench 3
DJI 0381	DJI Drone Image	OH	Overhead image of Trench 4 mid excavation
DJI 0382	DJI Drone Image	OH	Overhead image of Trench 4 backfilled
DJI 0388	DJI Drone Image	OH	Overhead image of Trench 7 showing gravel deposits
DJI 0391	DJI Drone Image	OH	Overhead image of Trenches 1 and 2 topsoiling
DJI 0392	DJI Drone Image	OH	Overhead image of Trenches 1 and 2 topsoiling
DJI 0395	DJI Drone Image	OH	Overhead image of Trenches 1 and 2 topsoiling
DJI 0386	DJI Drone Image	OH	Overhead image of Trenches 1 and 2 topsoiling



Figure 1 - Location of Proposed Development.



Figure 2a - Cultural Heritage sites within the vicinity of the Proposed Development from previous DBA (O'Sullivan and Hinckley 2025).



Figure 2b - Cultural Heritage sites within the Proposed Development.

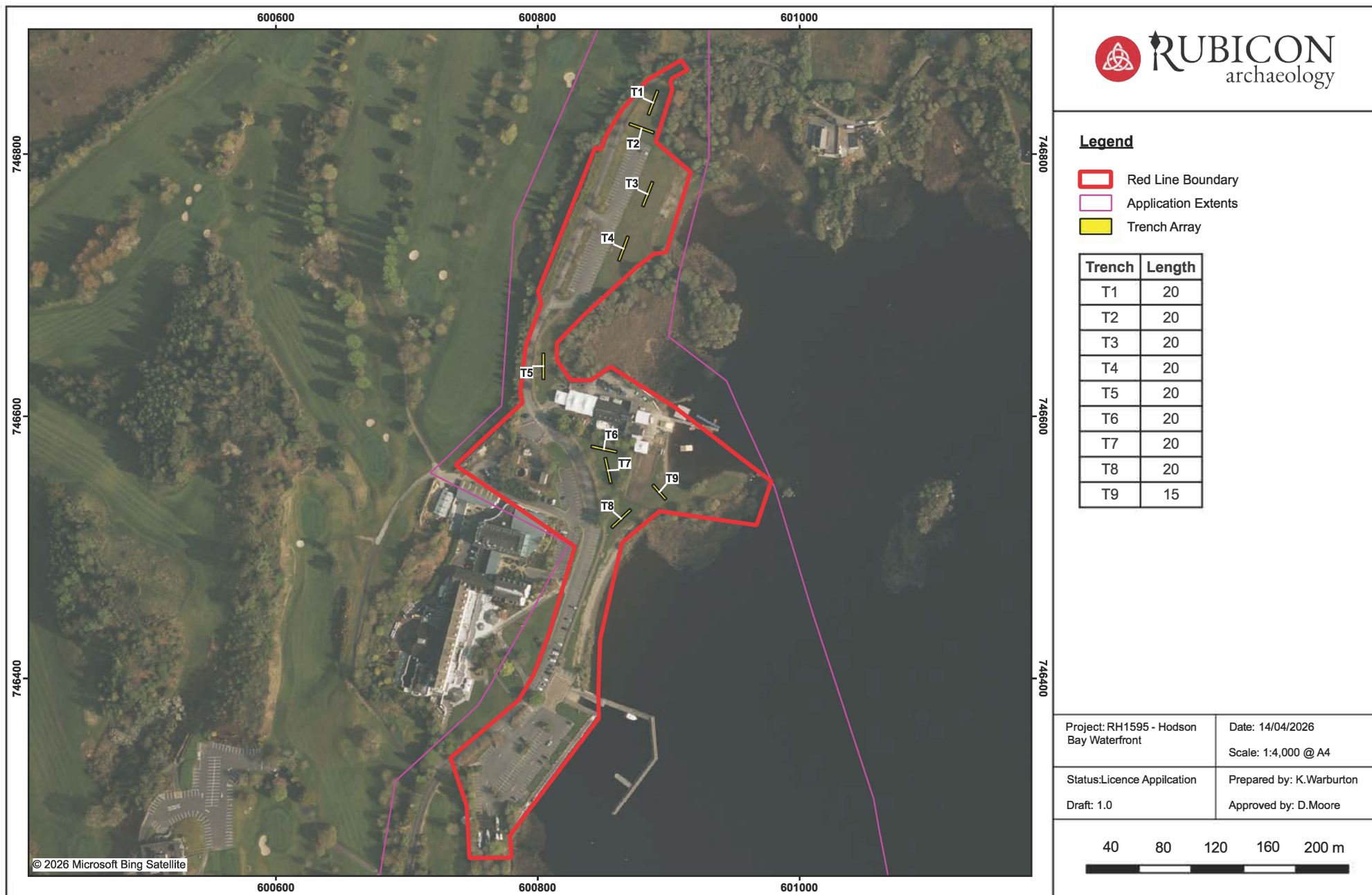


Figure 3 - Proposed test trench array over the Proposed Development.

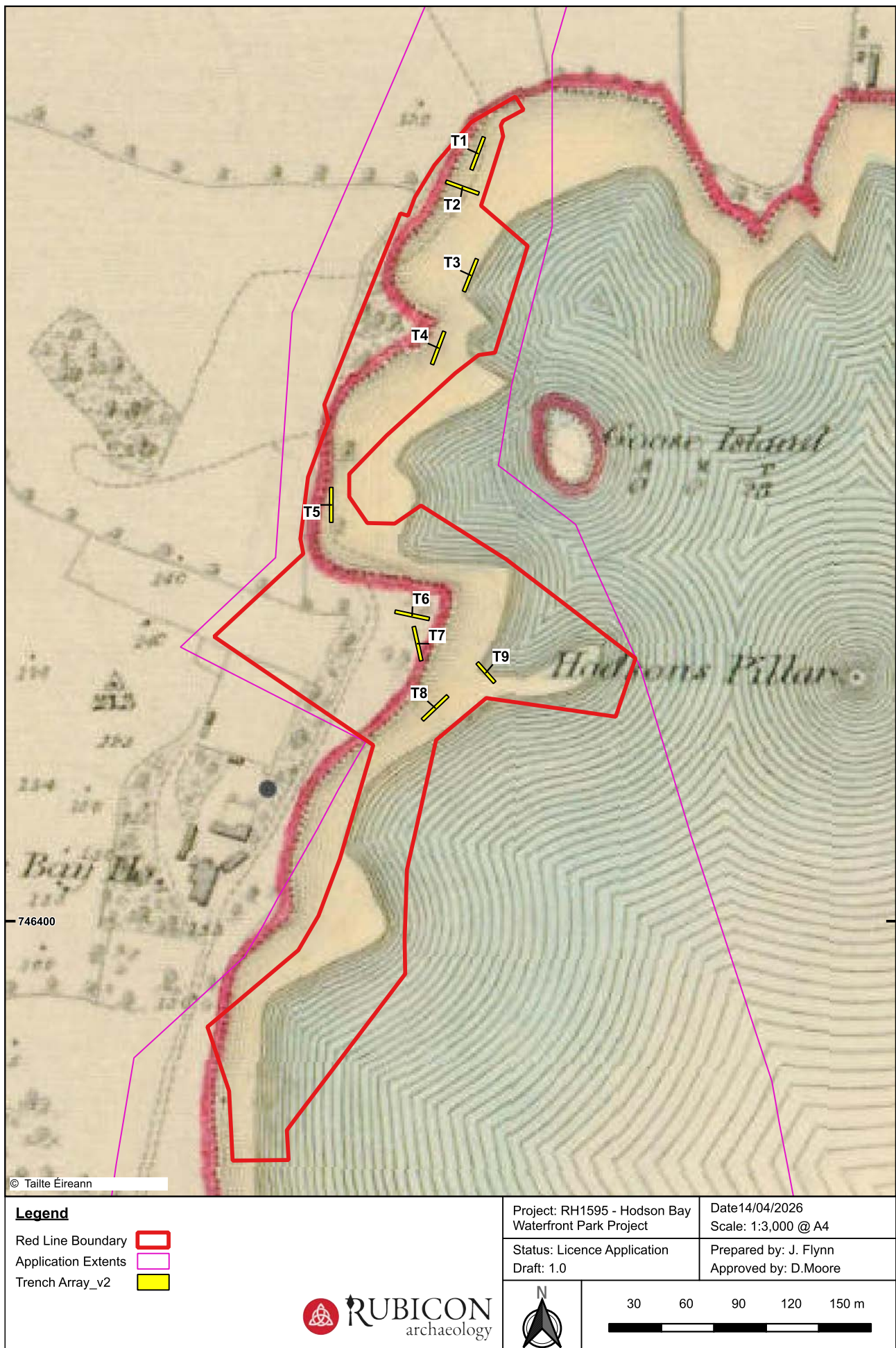


Figure 4 - Proposed test trench array over First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map.

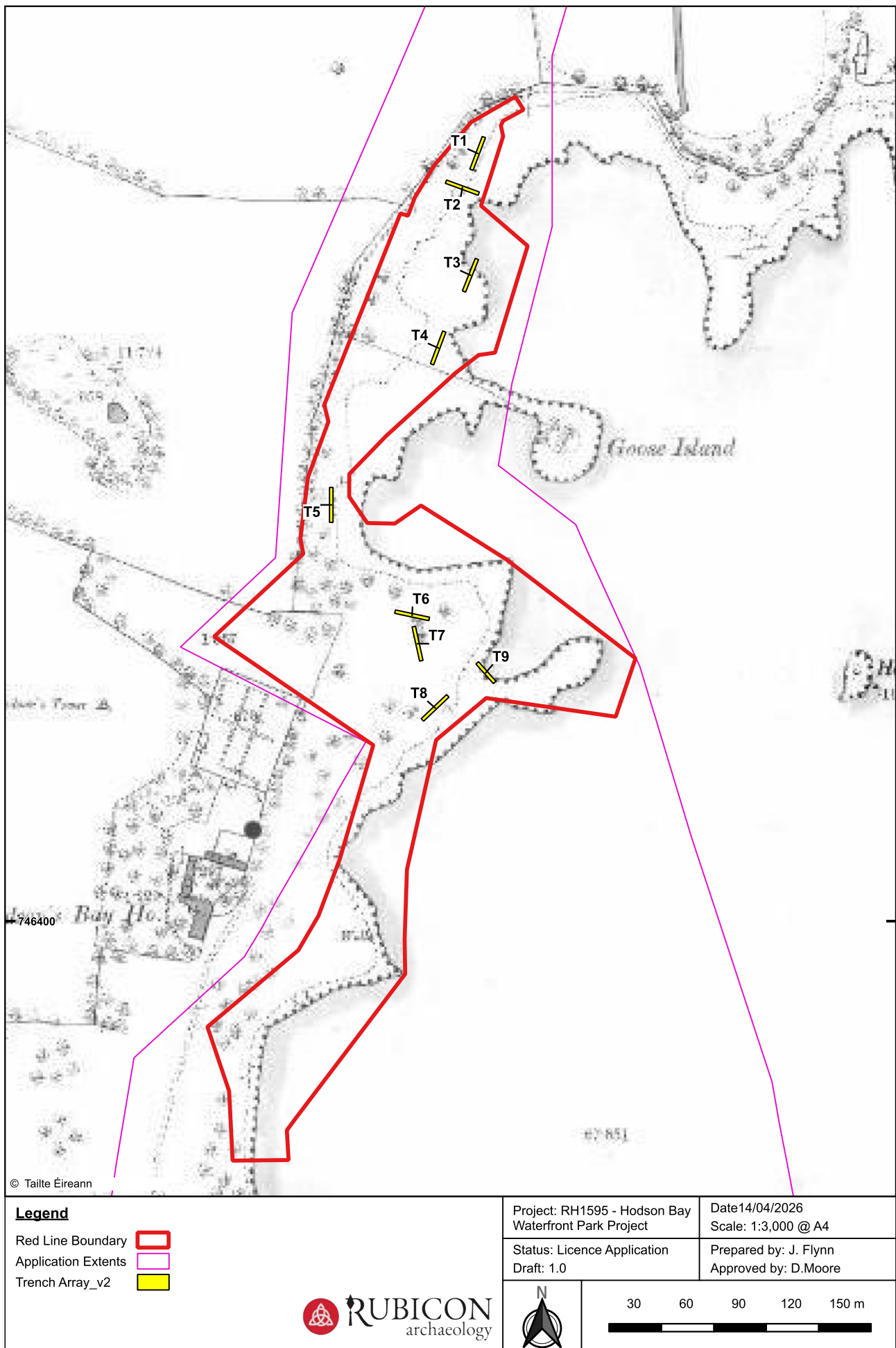


Figure 5 - Proposed test trench array over Second Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map.

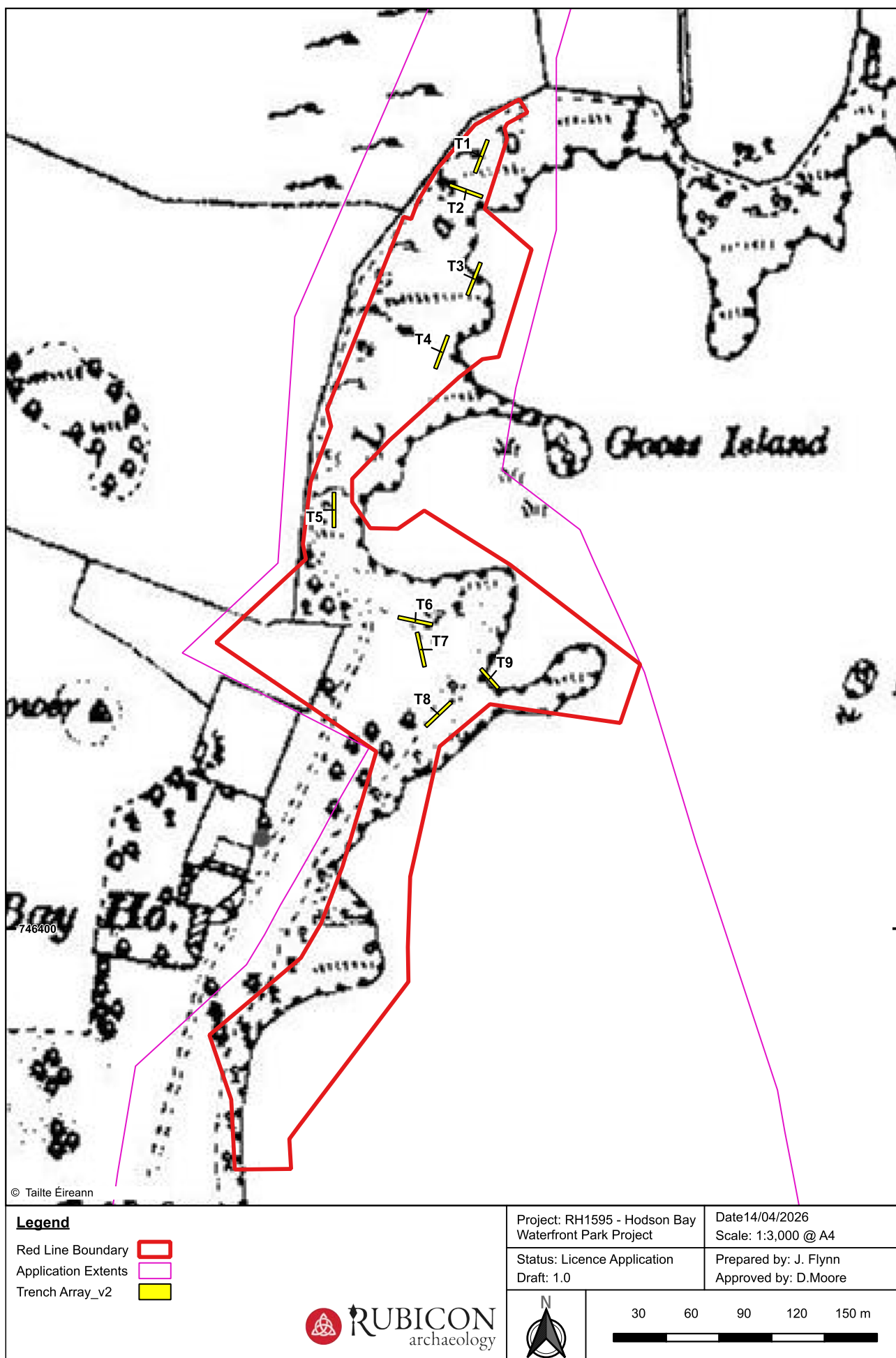


Figure 6 - Proposed test trench array over Last Edition Cassini 6-inch Ordnance Survey map.

Plates

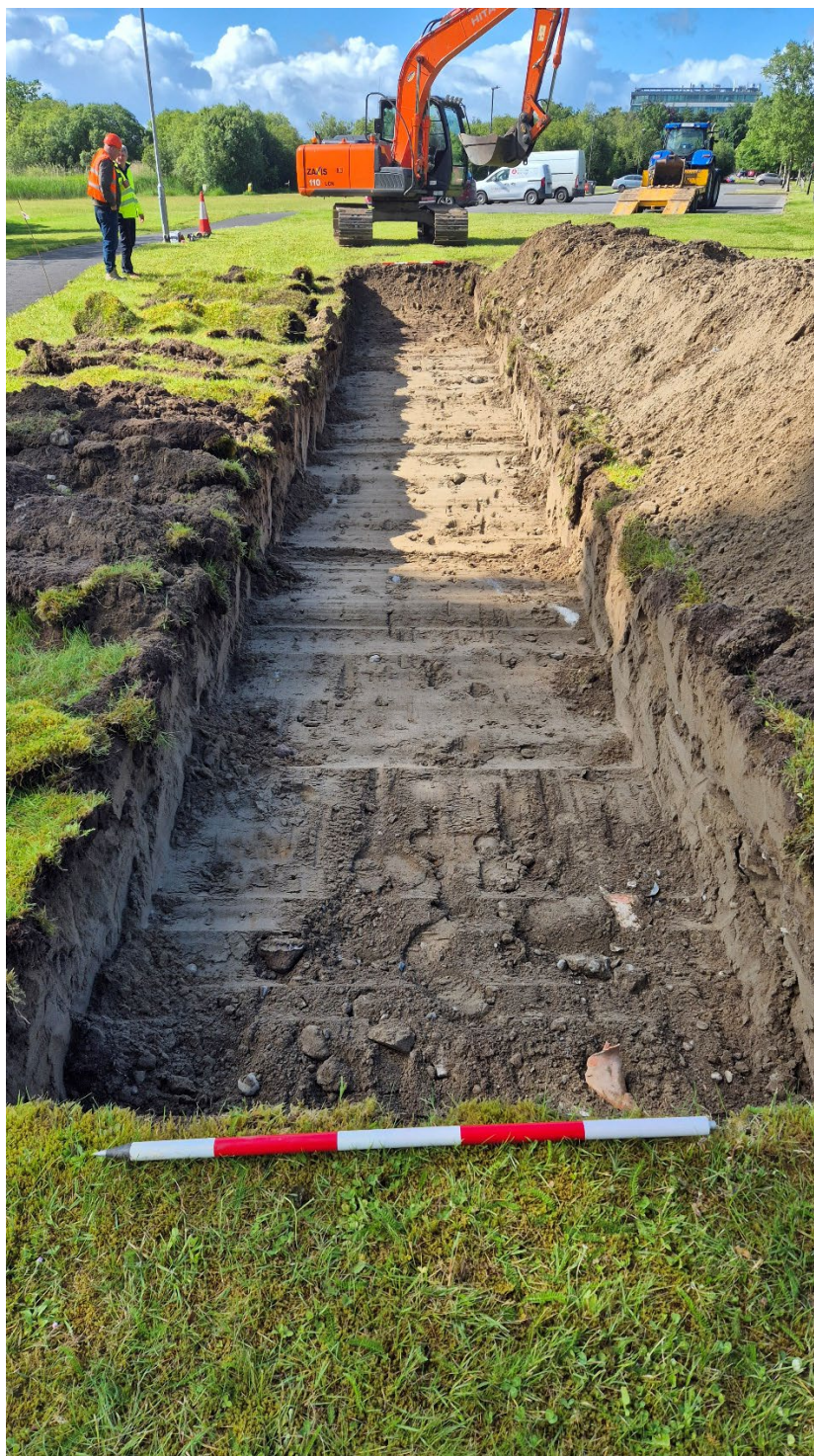


Plate 1. Post excavation image of Trench 1. View southwest



Plate 2. Post excavation image of Trench 2. View southeast



Plate 3. Post excavation image of Trench 3. View southwest



Plate 4. Mid excavation overhead drone image of Trench 3. View southwest



Plate 5. Post excavation image of Trench 4. View southwest



Plate 6. Post excavation image of Trench 5. View southwest



Plate 7. Post excavation image of Trench 6. View west



Plate 8. Post excavation image of Trench 7. View south



Plate 9. Post excavation overhead drone image of Trench 7 showing gravel deposits



Plate 10. Post excavation image of Trench 8 and metal detection. View southwest



Plate 11. Overhead drone image of Trenches 1 and 2 being topsoiled prior to reseeding



Plate 12. Overhead drone image of Trench 1 being reseeded after topsoiling

**Final Report on the Results of
Archaeological Test Trenching of a
Proposed Development of Lands at
Hodson Bay Waterfront, Lough Ree,
County Roscommon
26E0466, 26R0306,
Part 2**

Project Code: RH1595

Client: Roscommon County Council

Date: 13 July 2026

Townland: Barry More

Excavation Licence: 26E0466, 26R0306

Licensee: Dermot G. Moore

Report Author: Dermot G. Moore

Report Status: Final



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Tionól Reigiúnach
Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland
Regional Assembly



Fáilte
Ireland



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



The Hodson Bay Waterfront Park Project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund



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An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

2	6	E	0	4	6	6
2	6	R	0	3	0	6

Site Owner: Roscommon County Council

Address: Planning Department
Aras an Chontae
Roscommon
County Roscommon
F42 VR98

Planning Authority: N/A

Planning Reg. No.: Pre-Planning

Excavation Type: Test Trenching

Contractor/Developer: Roscommon County Council

Address: Planning Department
Aras an Chontae
Roscommon
County Roscommon
F42 VR98

Background to excavation:

The Proposed Development lands and are situated along the south western shores of Lough Ree within the townland of Barry More, County Roscommon. The proposed development relates to the Hodson Bay Waterfront Park and involves the redevelopment of an existing waterfront and marina covering approximately 23 Ha at Hodson Bay, Lough Ree, Athlone, N37 XR82 (ITM: 600814, 746366).

As part of the pre-planning stages, a Cultural Heritage Assessment scope and recommendations for the proposed development was issued by the Development Applications Unit in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Proposed Development comprises the redevelopment of an existing waterfront and marina covering approximately 9 Ha at Hodson Bay, Athlone, N37 XR82, County Roscommon.

The Proposed Development will principally consist of:

- Construction of a new Water Sports Pavilion;
- The demolition of the existing water sports building and adjacent public toilet block on site;

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- The redevelopment of the existing marina including an extension to the existing breakwater and the jetty to increase marina capacity to approximately 59 berths;
- Construction of new landscaped public recreation areas with a playground, nature observation space, picnic areas, benches, bicycle storage and service areas, extensive planting of native trees, outdoor changing, events space and wellness meadow including the development of a continuous promenade along the lakeshore;
- Active travel and site access improvements including provision of traffic calming measures and a 3m wide shared cycle / pedestrian pathway along the L2020 Local Road, 2 no. of bus set down locations, upgraded signage, lighting, and road marking;
- Extension of the existing parking provision in the area to provide 151 no. additional car parking spaces, 30 no. Electric Vehicle (EV) spaces and 28 no. accessible parking spaces, 4 no. dedicated bus parking bays within the northern carpark and 3 no. dedicated boat trailer parking bays adjacent to the marina.
- All ancillary works including site clearance, boundary treatments, associated public lighting, bin storage, hard and soft landscaping, site drainage upgrades, connections to existing utilities to include foul and surface water drainage, water supply, electrical & telecommunications networks. Boundary treatments involve upgrades to the existing golf course boundary safety netting (between 10m to 20m in height) and fencing

Archaeological test trenching was carried June 2026 out at Hodson Bay Waterfront. The proposed application area comprised areas of grassed lawns along the western shoreline of Lough Ree.

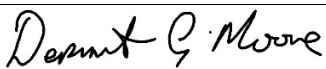
A total of 8 trenches were excavated out of the original 9 proposed trenches. This was due to health and safety and ecological issues. Trench 9 was unexcavated due to the close proximity of temporary structures associated with the activity park, reeds and scrub vegetation at the edge of the lough.

In Trenches 1 – 5, there was very limited topsoil below the sod layer which rested on deposits of natural sand which contained infrequent stones. In Trenches 6 – 8, in the southern part of the site, the topsoil and sod layer was of variable depth (up to a maximum of c.0.10 m) which lay on a gravels and sands.

No archaeological material, deposits or structures were identified in any of the test trenches.

As no archaeological remains, either in the form of deposits, objects, structures or sub-surface features were uncovered in any of the archaeological test trenches and the nature and extent of the previous changes to the landscape, it is recommended that no further archaeological works or mitigations are necessary in relation to archaeological testing.

Please note all the recommendations in this report are subject to approval of the County Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Signed:		Date:	13 July 2026
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