

PROJECT

Archaeological Impact Assessment Extension to Templemartin Graveyard, Garranes, Co. Cork

Preliminary Report

LICENCE NO.

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1. Introduction

Mizen Archaeology was engaged by Cork County Council to undertake an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) including archaeological testing of a proposed graveyard extension at Templemartin Graveyard, Co. Cork. The testing was licensed by the *National Monuments Service* under license numbers 21E0305 and 21R0113.

2. Receiving environment

The site is located in Garranes townland, near Templemartin, c. 20km to the south-west of Cork City at ITM 547193, 562332 (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Site location map.

3. Scope of works

It is proposed to add an extension to the existing Templemartin Graveyard. The development will include the provision of 344 grave plots, a car park and road realignment (Figure 2). The extension will measure 97m NE-SW by 45m SE-NW.

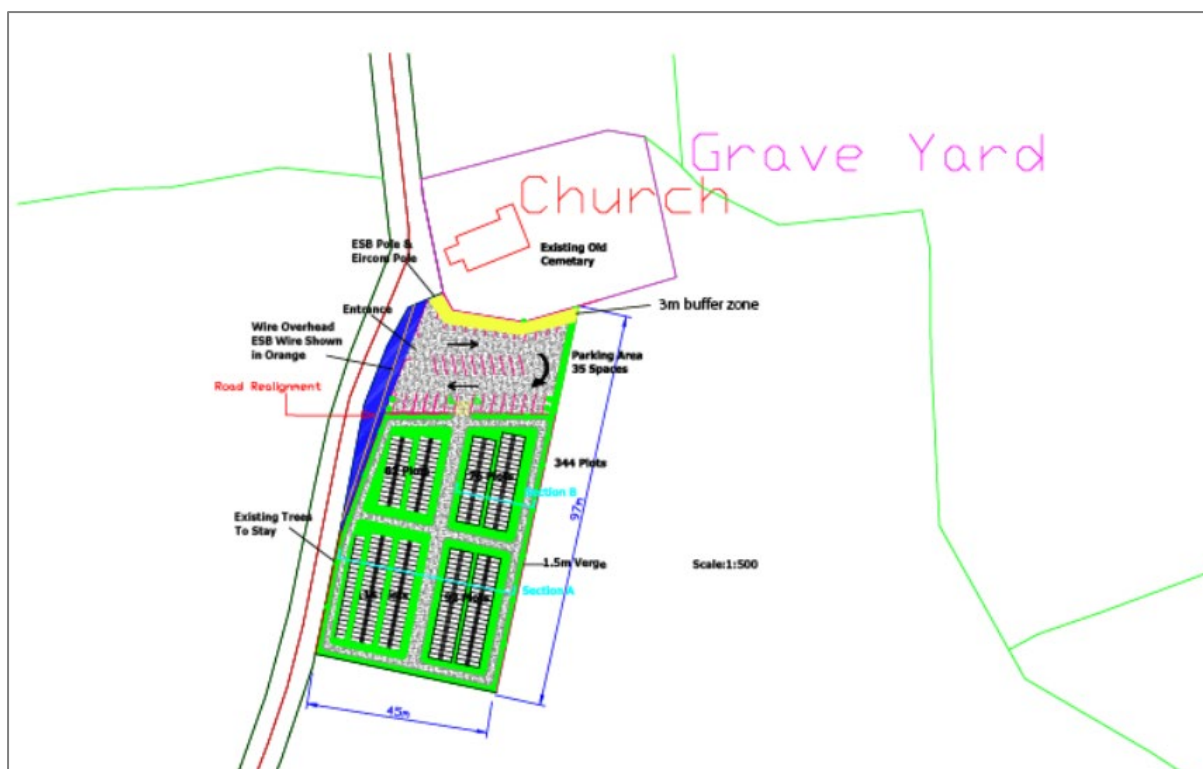


Figure 2: Site layout plan.

4. Methodology

4.1 Desktop study

- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) compiled by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland comprises lists, classifications of monuments and maps of all recorded monuments with known locations and zones of archaeological significance. The monument records are accessible online from the National Monuments Section (NMS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (DAHG) at www.archaeology.ie. These were used to establish the wider archaeological context of the site.
- OSI: Ordnance Survey Ireland historic and contemporary maps were examined to measure the changing landscape of the riverbank and the development of the village.
- The Excavations Bulletin online database (www.excavations.ie) which contains summaries of all archaeological excavations in Ireland, was consulted to review archaeological investigations done previously in the area.
- Cartography: Several historic maps and charts were examined (see references below for a full list).

- Aerial Photography: A variety of low and high-altitude aerial photography was examined (see references below for full list).
- Documentary sources: Several sources were examined. For a full list of all sources examined see Bibliography below.

4.2 Archaeological testing

Four test trenches were excavated in a NE-SW direction across the proposed development site. They measured 1.2m in width, c. 97m in length and were spaced 8-10m apart (Figure 3). Topsoil was incrementally reduced using a mechanical excavator equipped with a flat toothless bucket under archaeological supervision.

Any potential archaeological features exposed in the trenches were recorded, photographed, drawn at a 1:20 scale and tagged to GPS co-ordinates. The up-cast from the trenches were spread and metal detected in order to maximise artefact retrieval.

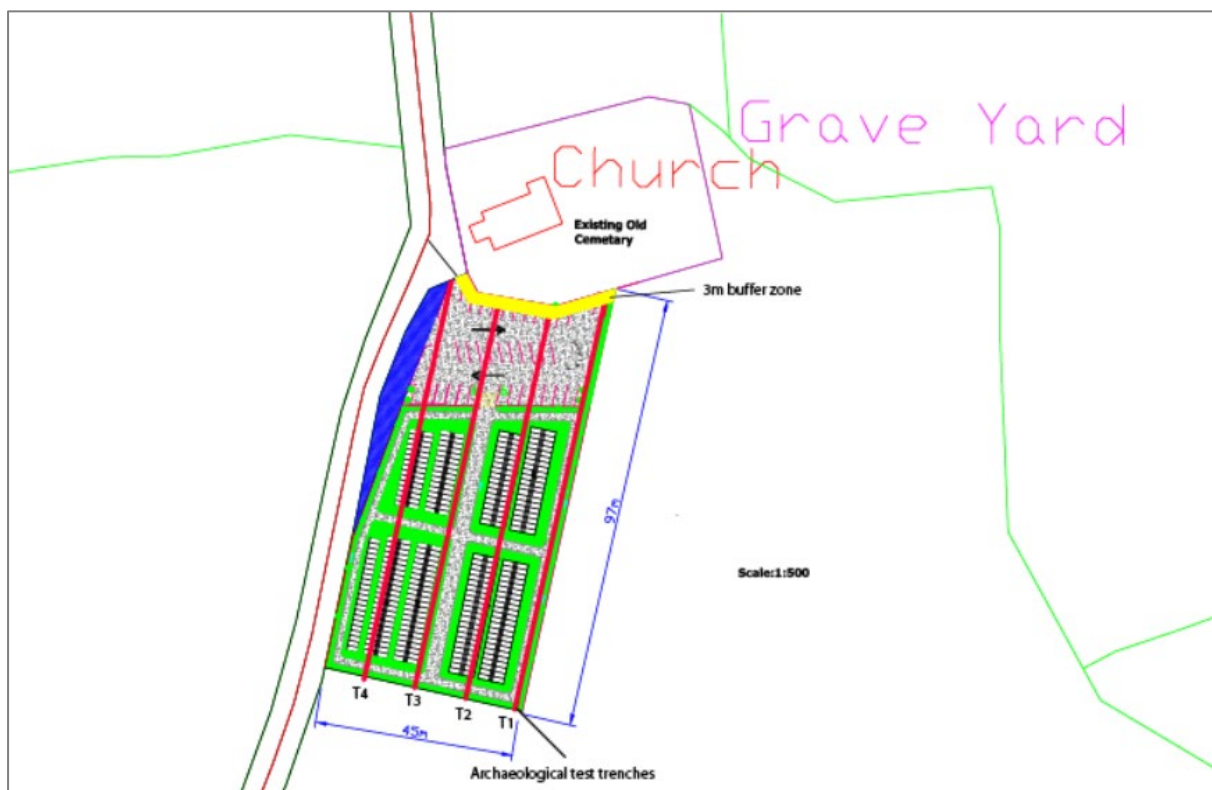


Figure 3: Archaeological test trench locations in red with 3m buffer zone in yellow.

5. Results

5.1 Historical and archaeological background

5.1.1 Prehistoric period

The earliest evidence of occupation of the Garranes area dates to date to the Bronze Age. There are two clusters of *fulacht fiadh* c. 400m to the north of the Templemartin Graveyard. One cluster comprises six *fulacht fiadh* (CO084-091001–5) and another cluster, a short distance to the east contains three (CO084-092001-3). Another *fulacht* is located just over 1km to the north-west (CO084-080). Such monuments generally date to the Bronze Age monuments (2,500–500BC) and are composed of horse-shoe shaped mounds of fire-cracked stones built up around a sunken trough used for heating water for cooking. Although they may have served a variety of other purposes such as saunas, bathing or dying.

Further evidence of Bronze Age occupation of the area is indicated by the presence of a standing stone (CO084-079) located over 1km to the north-west. Standing stones appear to have been largely of ritual significance; however, though they may also have served as territorial markers to denote the extent of tribal or familial boundaries.

5.1.2 Historic period

Settlement in Garranes in the Early Medieval period well represented by ringforts. Ringforts consist of circular or roughly circular enclosures with earthen banks and external ditches or fosses.

They were most likely occupied by extended and dispersed family units and were probably largely self-sufficient. The interior (*lios*) would have contained features such as domestic dwellings, outhouses, animal pens, food processing structures, craft areas, hearths and souterrains (for storage and refuge). A mixed economy would have been practised which would have involved cereal growing and animal husbandry, in particular, dairying.

Situated c. 2km to the north-east of the Templemartin Graveyard is Garranes ringfort (CO084-084), also known as *Lisnacaheragh*. It is a trivallate ringfort and has been identified as a minor Royal site and the residence of *Uí Eachach*, a branch of the *Eoganacht*, the Kings of Munster (O'Brien and Hogan 2020). St. Finbarr is also believed to have been born within the vicinity of the ringfort (*ibid*).

Lisnacaheragh ringfort was first excavated in 1937, uncovering evidence of a high-status settlement with specialised craft working dating to the 5th and 6th centuries AD (Ó'Riordáin 1942). A subsequent excavation in 1990–2 produced the first series of radiocarbon dates for the early ringfort occupation (Cleary 2009). The site was last excavated in 2017 and revealed a large number of finds connected to

bronze casting, glass production and other specialised crafts, along with a number of sherds of imported pottery from the late Roman world.

A souterrain was uncovered c. 140m to the north-west of Templemartin Church at ITM 547058, 562390 in 2017 when the weight of a tractor collapsed into its possible entrance (Herriott 2020 and O'Brien and Hogan 2021, Plate 1 and Figure 4). The souterrain had two chambers with a narrow creep hole for access between the chambers (O'Brien and Hogan 2020). There was a second opening to the inner chamber, which was blocked with stone walling (*ibid*). The full extent of the Garranes souterrain may not be exposed (*ibid*, 208). A charcoal sample from the floor of the inner chamber was sent for radiocarbon dating and returned a calibrated date of AD 680–780 or AD 790–870 (*ibid*, 208). This marks the sixth possible souterrain recorded in Garranes townland, with the possibility of additional examples (*ibid*). There is no indication of a ringfort at this location, either from surface evidence or historical mapping.

In addition to the confirmed discovery of a souterrain, the same landowner, claimed that some years ago he entered an underground chamber approximately 60m south of the new discovery (approximate ITM: 547040, 562330; O'Brien and Hogan 2021; Fig. 6). There are no surface indications today of this feature. Another local landowner reported the discovery of underground chambers in a field to the east of Templemartin Church (approximate ITM: 547250, 562350, *ibid*; Fig. 6). There are no details of a possible souterrain at that location.



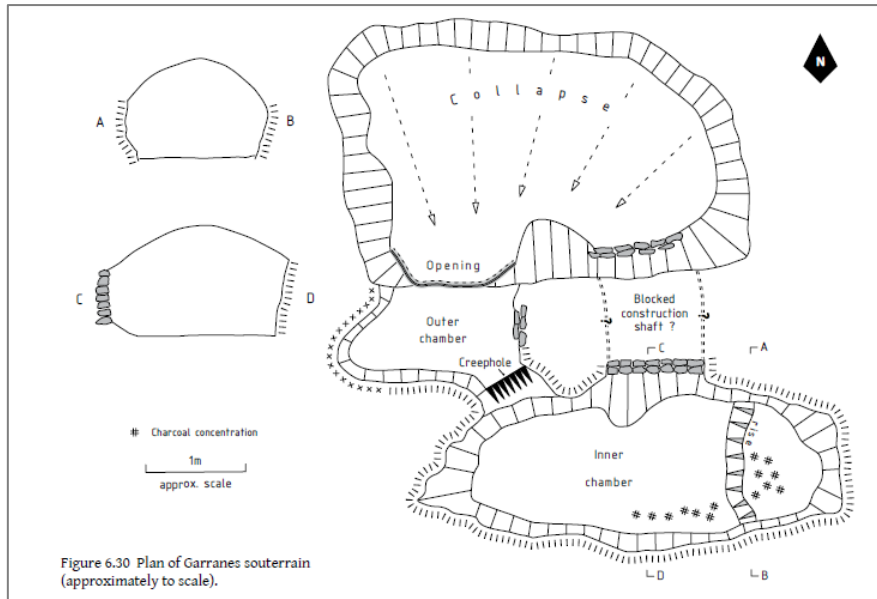


Figure 5: Map depicting the aforementioned three souterrains plotted in relation to the church.

The name Templemartin derives from the Irish *‘Teampuill Mártaín’*, which translates as ‘the Church of Martin’. The current church (CO096-008001) sits within an enclosed rectangular graveyard (CO096-008002, Pl. 2). It is a protestant church dating from 1797 built by means of a gift of £461 10s from the late Board of First Fruits and could accommodate 100 people (Brady 1863, 342). The church underwent repairs and was reopened for service in 1863 (*ibid*).

Lewis (1837) describes the church as being a 'plain building, with a square tower 50ft high'. *The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage* describes St. Martin's Church as a freestanding double-height structure. It comprises of a four-bay nave with a three-stage entrance tower to the south-east and a lean-to vestry tower to the north-west. It also notes a famine graveyard to the north-west. The building retains a plaque noting a date of 1718 and architect J. Johnson. Despite this earlier date, the church was substantially altered toward the end of the century.

The graveyard is a mixed graveyard with the majority of burials Catholic (Crowley 1997). It was also noted as the resting place of victims of the War of Independence (*ibid.*). The graveyard has undergone restoration by Cannon Kevin O'Callaghan P. P. Bandon, who organised the erection of headstones for his relatives in the early 1990s which recorded the families in much detail (*ibid.*). The graveyard was cleaned up on the bicentenary of the church in 1997 by a FAS scheme (*ibid.*). The oldest recorded grave is William Spleain dating to 1731 and the second oldest is Dermot Crowley dating to 1738 (*ibid.*).

Owing to the important Early Medieval settlement in the immediate area, it has long been speculated that there may have been an Early Medieval church present on the site before the current Templemartin Church. This is supported by the discovery of an Early Medieval stone cross (CO096-008004) and a possible bullaun stone (plate 3) within the church grounds.

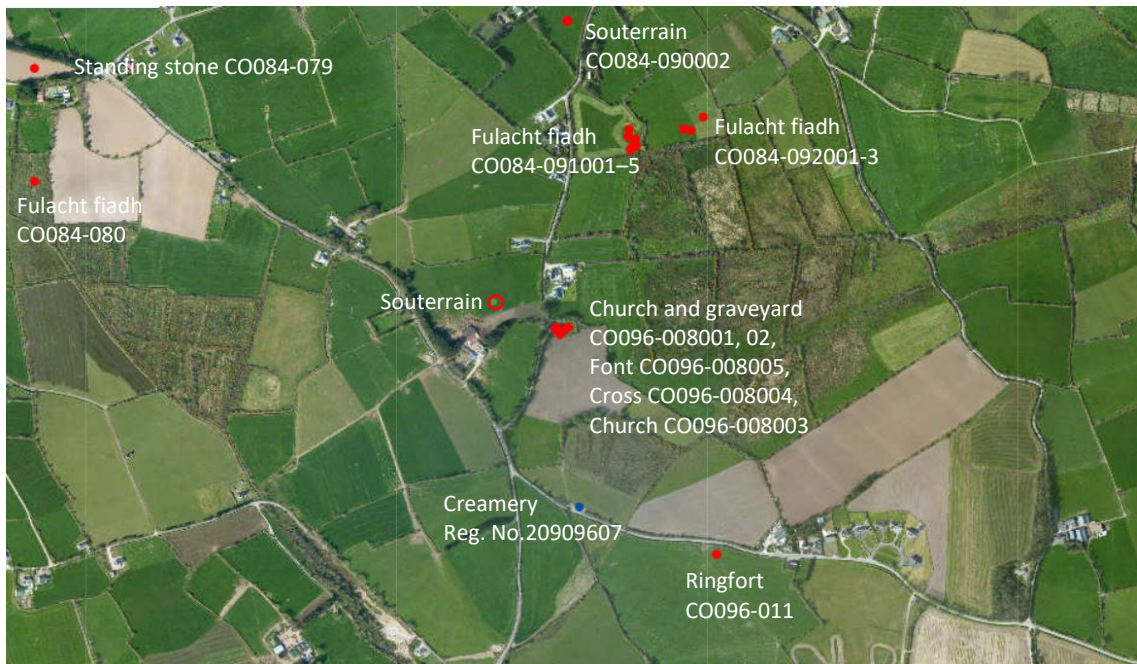
During a survey in 2018 of Templemartin graveyard, Herriott (2020, 38) uncovered a previously unrecorded Early Medieval cross (CO096-008004; Pl. 4) in use as a grave marker. The cross is generally of Latin form and on the eastern facing side, a concentric circle motif was carved in raised relief in the centre of the cross head, while the west face was plain (*ibid.*). The cross may have been moved from its original location during the construction of the current church. It may have originally stood on an outdoor stone altar or served in another way as a focal point of devotion on the church site (*ibid.*, 38).

A font or possible bullaun stone was identified by Seán P. Ó'Ríordáin in the early 1930's as he carried out his survey of Kinalmeaky barony (Ó'Ríordáin 1931, Pl. 3). Ó'Ríordáin records that the font showed signs that suggested it may recently have been dug up, probably 'during the opening of a new grave'.

Ó'Ríordáin (1931, 68) also recorded the 'east window of the existing church is in the late 15th century style and may have been removed from the pre-reformation church'. He also notes the adjoining field there was the local tradition of a Penal Days Chapel which may be the one referred to in *Archivium Hibernicum* (1913) which states that in Templemartin in 1713 there is '*one popish school, one masshouse (and that built since the first year of the reign of King George the first) and one popish priest's residence*'.

A second church (CO096-008003) is recorded to the east of the current structure, although no upstanding trace survives. It is denoted on the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1841 as 'site of chapel'. It was no longer present by the time of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map was published in 1901.





5.2 Cartographic study

The Ordnance Survey 6-inch map of 1841 depicts Templemartin Church as a square structure orientated north-east south-west with a tower on its south-western side and is labelled 'Church'

(Figure 8). A smaller building is shown to the east. It is enclosed by an irregular shaped boundary which is lined with trees. 'Site of chapel' is annotated to the east and 'Burial Ground' to the west.

The existing L-6244-0 road present on this map, and to the west of the road a Glebe House and gardens are illustrated. The church and three fields to the south of it (including the proposed development site) also form part of the Glebe estate lands.

By the time of the Ordnance Survey 25-inch map was published in 1901, the smaller building is no longer present in the church grounds (Figure 9). The field boundaries to the south have been realigned, largely reflecting the landscape we see today.

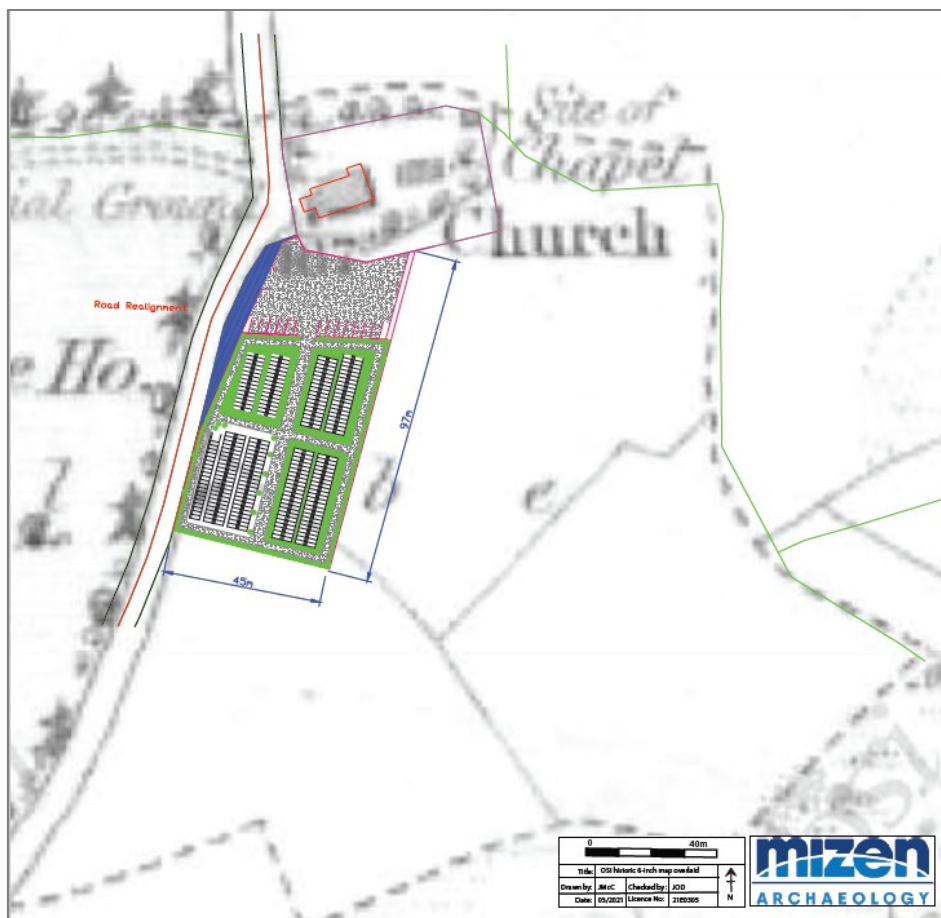


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map 1841 overlaid on site development map.

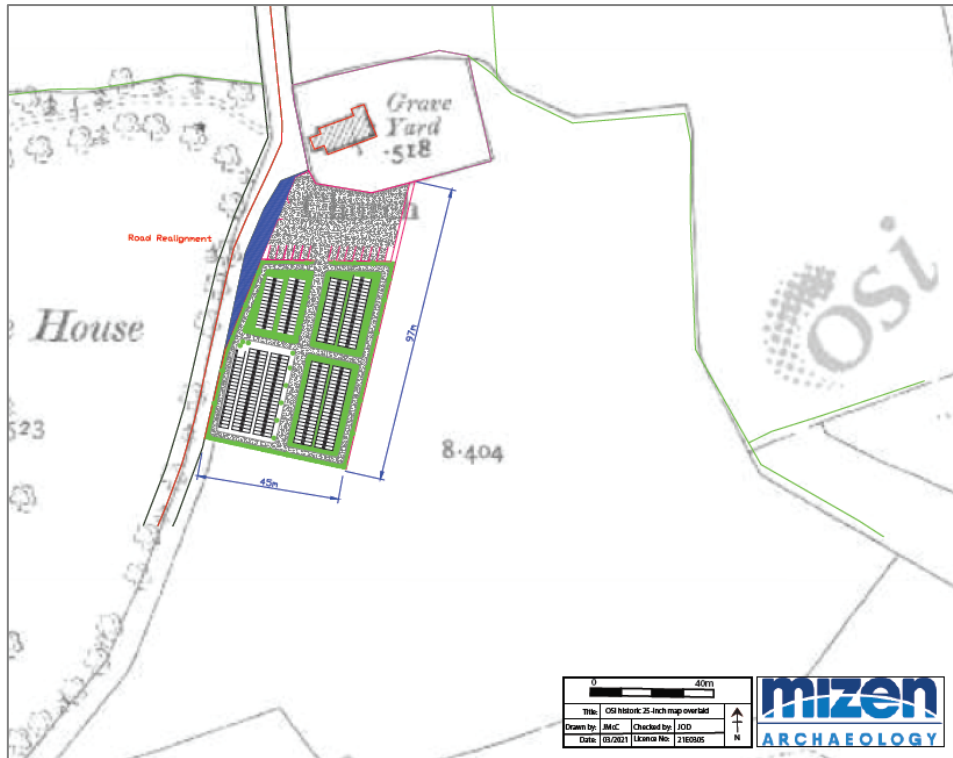


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1901 overlaid with site development plan.

5.3 Archaeological testing

Archaeological testing was undertaken over a two-day period in August 2021. A tracked machine equipped with a grading bucket was utilised for excavating the test trenches. The upcast was spread and metal detected for maximum artefact retrieval.

The graveyard is separated from the proposed extension by a dry-stone wall 1.20m in height, shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Plate 5). It was heavily overgrown with vegetation and was only visible in places. The wall is composed of vertically set sub-angular stones (0.10 x 0.07 x 0.03 by 0.20 x 0.15 x 0.05m). The earthen bank and hedgerow bound the field to the east, west and south.



Plate 6: Dry-stone boundary wall taken from the SE.

Trench 1	
Date: 11/08/2021	Stratigraphy: 0.00–0.30m Mid brown silt 0.30 Orange silty sand
Dimensions: 94 x 1.50 x 0.30–1.40m	
Orientation: NE-SW	
Photo: Plate 6	
Archaeology: Linear ditch (Feature 1) identified c. 10m SW of the church boundary wall. Furrows were noted throughout the trench running in a SE-NW direction. They measured 0.60m in width, were spaced 1.95–2.10m apart and were filled by dark brownish grey silt.	
<i>Plate 7: T1 taken from the SW.</i>	


Trench 2	
Date: 10/08/2021	Stratigraphy: 0.00–0.30m mid brown silt 0.30 Orange silty sand 
Dimensions: 92 x 1.50 x 0.30m	
Orientation: NE-SW	
Photo: Plate 7	
Archaeology: The ditch (F1) continued in a SE-NW direction in the northern limit of the trench, 4m south of graveyard boundary wall. Furrows were noted throughout the trench running in a SE-NW direction. They measured 0.60m in width, were spaced 1.95–2.10m apart and were filled by dark brownish grey silt.	

Plate 8: T2 taken from the SW.


Trench 3	
Date: 10/08/2021	Stratigraphy: 0.00–0.30m mid brown silt 0.30 Orange silty sand 
Dimensions: 92 x 1.50 x 0.30m	
Orientation: NE-SW	
Photo: Plate 8	
Archaeology: Charcoal staining (Feature 3) noted at E547183.351, N562271.916. Furrows were noted throughout the trench running in a SE-NW direction. They measured 0.60m in width, were spaced 1.95–2.10m apart and were filled by dark brownish grey silt.	

Plate 9: T3 taken from the SW.

Trench 4	
Date: 10/08/2021	Stratigraphy: 0.00–0.30m mid brown silt 0.30– bright orange silty sand
Dimensions: 92 x 1.50 x 0.30m	
Orientation: NE-SW	

Photo: Plate 9

Archaeology: Possible posthole (F2) located at E547136.909, N562239.190.

Furrows were noted throughout the trench running in a SE-NW direction. They measured 0.60m in width, were spaced 1.95–2.10m apart and were filled by dark brownish grey silt.



Plate 10: T4 taken from SW.

5.3.1 Description of possible archaeological features

Feature 1 Linear ditch

A linear ditch was identified in trenches 1 and 2 (Plate 10 and 11 and figure 9). It was orientated in an SE-NW direction and was recorded at 10m and 4m from the graveyard boundary wall in Trench 1 and Trench 2 respectively

A section was excavation through the ditch in Trench 1. It was linear in plan and had a sharp break of slope at the top. The sides were steep, particularly on the southern side. It measured 3.60m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.2m. For health and safety reasons it was not excavated to its full depth.

The primary fill was C6, a softly compacted light grey clay with frequent charcoal flecks and a depth of over 1m. On top of this was C4 and C5, firmly compacted layers of brownish yellow silty clay with moderate inclusion of pebbles and a depth of 12cm. The upper fill C3 was composed of a softly compacted dark brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of pebbles and occasional inclusions of small stones; it had a depth of 30cm.

The feature was recorded, backfilled and covered with geotextile membrane.



Plate 11: F1 taken from the NE.



Plate 12: SW section face.

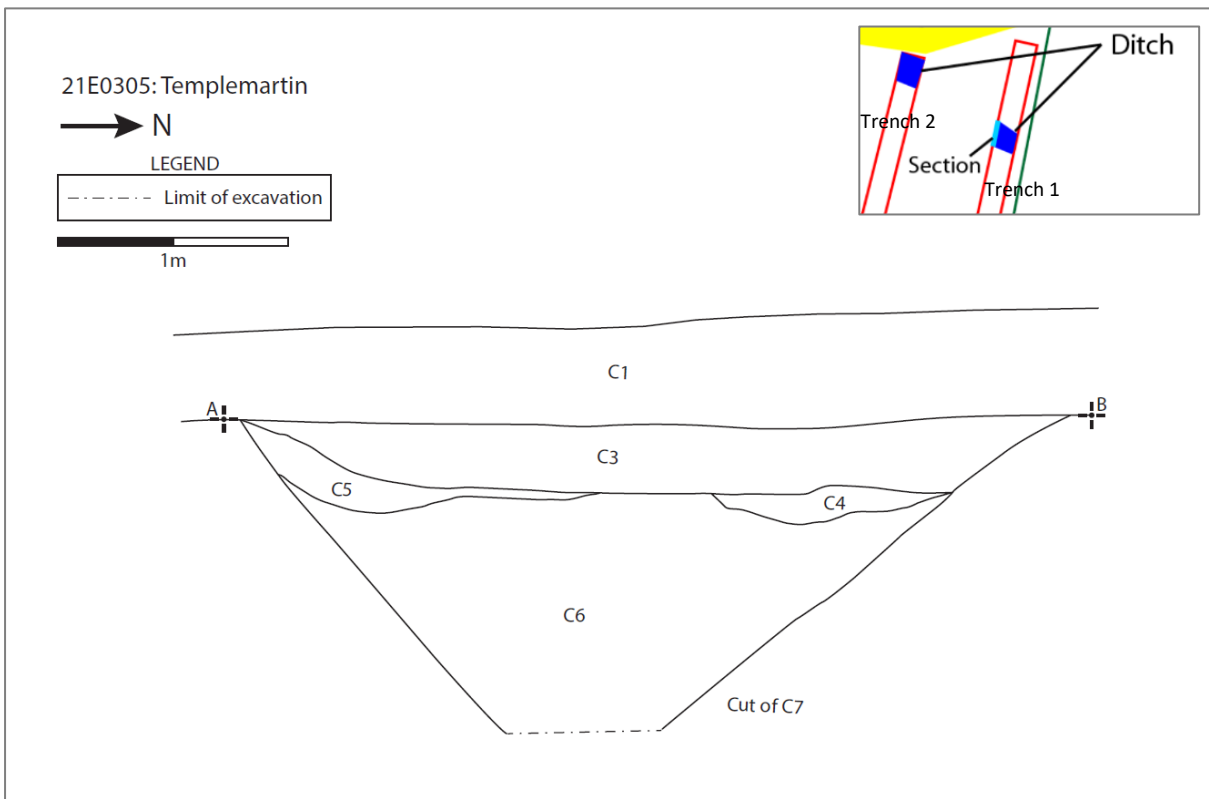


Figure 8: Section plan of F1 NE section face.

Feature 2 Possible posthole

A possible posthole was identified in Trench 4 at ITM E547136.909, N562239.190 (Plate 12). It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.19m (N-S) x 0.16m x 0.17m. The break of slope at the top was sharp except for the west side where it was gradual. The sides were smooth and vertical except for the west which was steeply sloping. The break of slope at the base was gradual. It was filled by dark greyish brown silt with frequent flecks and small pieces of charcoal.



Plate 13: Possible posthole taken from the SW.

Feature 3 Charcoal Staining

Charcoal staining was noted on the subsoil in trench 3 at ITM E547183.351, N562271.916. It measured 0.30m NE-SE x 0.20m.



Plate 14: Charcoal staining taken from the SW.

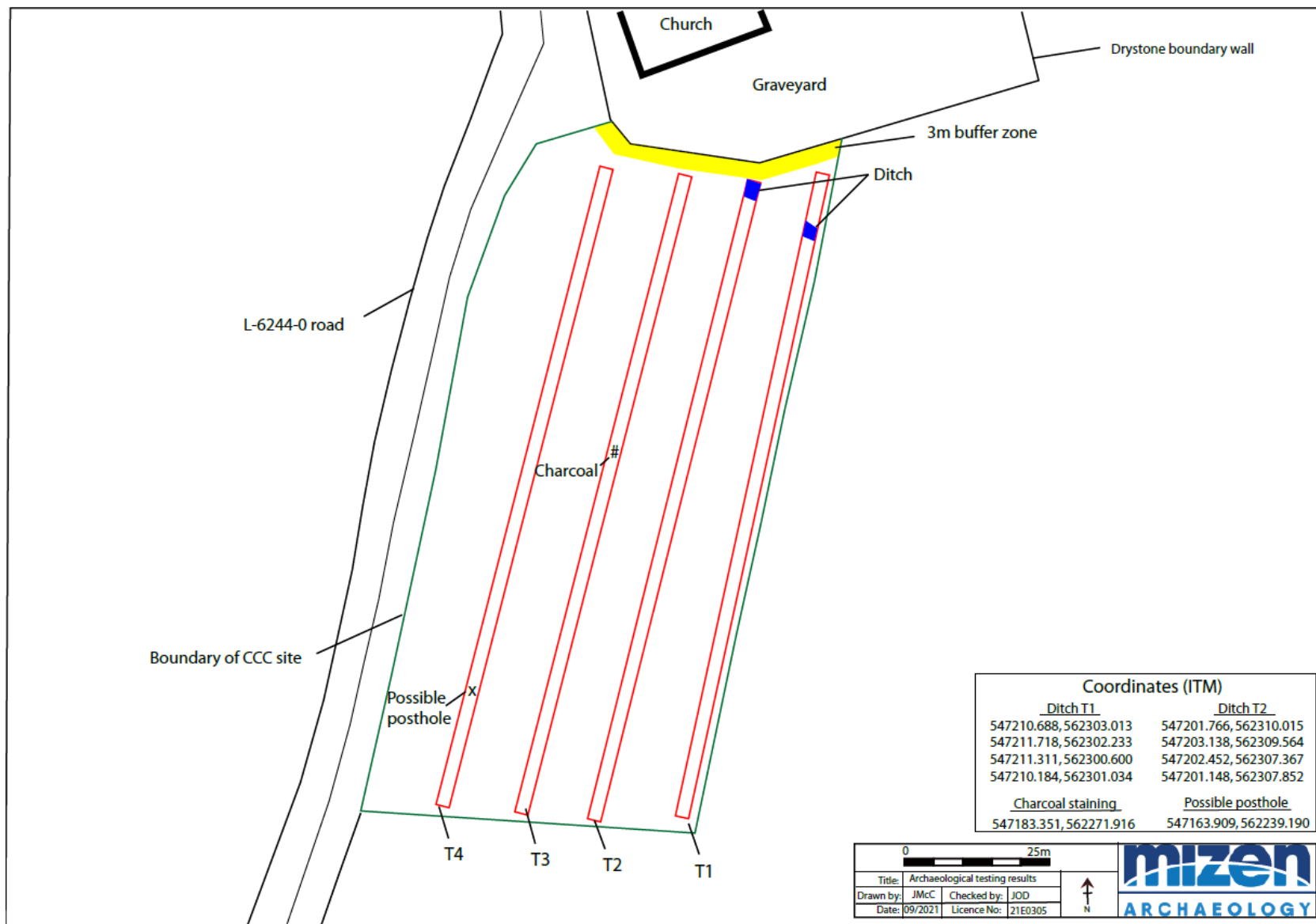


Figure 9: Survey of archaeological test trenches and features.

6. Discussion

Three features of possible archaeological significance were identified during archaeological testing at the site of a proposed extension to Templemartin Graveyard.

A ditch was recorded in Trenches 1 and 2. Charcoal Staining was noted in Trench 3 and a possible posthole was excavated in Trench 4. All three features contained charcoal.

7. Recommendations

Radiocarbon analysis of samples taken from the possible archaeological features should be undertaken. The results of the radiocarbon analysis will inform further mitigation measures.

All mitigation measures are recommendations only. The ultimate decision rests with the National Monument Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht in collaboration with the National Museum of Ireland and the county Archaeologist.

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8.2 Other sources

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