

**Assessment Report on the Results of Metro
North Advance Archaeological Test Trenching,
Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co.
Dublin,
RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin
Airport boundary (North)**

Excavation Licence Number: 09E466
Director: James Hession
Report Author: James Hession
Project Code: RPMN08
Client: Railway Procurement Agency RPA 7120_5
Townland: Fosterstown South
Ordnance Datum: 40 m
NGR: 317624/244901

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

CONTENTS	PAGE
SUMMARY	6
1.0 INTRODUCTION	8
2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	10
3.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND	11
3.1 <i>Environmental Impact Statement</i>	11
3.2 <i>Archaeological Strategy Document</i>	11
3.3 <i>Geophysical Survey</i>	11
4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	12
5.0 OBJECTIVES	16
6.0 METHODOLOGY AND CONSTRAINTS	16
6.1 <i>Methodology used for recording the townland boundary</i>	19
7.0 RESULTS	19
7.1 <i>General</i>	19
7.1.1 <i>Summary of archaeological features within Fosterstown South 1</i>	19
7.1.2 <i>Summary of archaeological features within Fosterstown South 2</i>	20
7.1.3 <i>Summary of archaeological features within Fosterstown South 3</i>	20
7.1.4 <i>Post-medieval/modern agricultural remains</i>	21
7.2 <i>Fosterstown South 1 (Test Trench 3 and XT1)</i>	21
7.3 <i>Fosterstown South 2 (Test Trenches 10-13 and 15-18)</i>	22
7.4 <i>Fosterstown South 3 (Test Trenches 1-7)</i>	28
7.6 <i>Townland boundary between Fosterstown South and</i>	32

Fosterstown North/ Nevinstown West

7.7	<i>Interpretative assessment of the geophysical survey anomalies in Testing Area 8</i>	33
7.8	Discussion	34
7.8.1	<i>Burnt Spread identified in Trench 3 (Fosterstown South 1)</i>	34
7.8.2	<i>Archaeological Complex consisting of Enclosures 1, 2 & 3 (Fosterstown South 2)</i>	34
7.8.3	<i>Archaeological Complex Consisting of Enclosures 4 and 5 (Fosterstown South 3)</i>	35
8.0	IMPACT ASSESSMENT	36
9.0	PROPOSED MITIGATION	37
	REFERENCES	42

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1:** Field Register
- Appendix 2:** Trench Register
- Appendix 3:** Context Register
- Appendix 4:** Finds Register
- Appendix 5:** Sample Register
- Appendix 6:** Drawing Register
- Appendix 7:** Photograph register
- Appendix 8:** Archive Quantities

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1:** Testing areas and their assigned excavation licence numbers
- Table 2:** Summary of areas of archaeological potential

Table 3: Summary of areas of archaeological potential and suggested resources required

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1:** Testing Area 8 location including RMP extract
- Figure 2:** Test trench layout, feature location and proposed areas of excavation.
- Figure 3:** Detail of archaeological features in Sub-area 20.
- Figure 4:** Detail of archaeological features in Sub-area 21
- Figure 5:** Northeast-facing section of boundary ditch (057).
- Figure 6** East-southeast-facing section of curvilinear enclosure ditch (101).
- Figure 7:** Southwest-facing section of Kiln (129)

LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1:** Sub-area 20. Burnt Spread (005) in Test Trench 3 and XT1. Looking northeast
- Plate 2:** Sub-area 20. General shot of Test Trench 9. Looking northeast
- Plate 3:** Mid-excavation view of enclosure ditch (044), Test Trench 16, Sub-area 20, looking east
- Plate 4:** Mid-excavation view of enclosure ditch (050), Test Trench 18, Sub-area 20, looking northwest
- Plate 5:** Mid-excavation view of enclosure ditch (101), Test Trench 3, Sub-area 21, looking south
- Plate 6:** Mid-excavation view of cereal-drying kiln (129), Test Trench 5, Sub-area 21, looking north
- Plate 7:** Southwest-facing view of the townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20
- Plate 8:** Measurement point on the townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20
- Plate 9:** Measurement point on the townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Plate 10: View northeast along townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20

Plate 11: Concrete rubble and plastic dumped in ditch of townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20

SUMMARY

Metro North is a light rail project, the route of which will run along a proposed 18 km corridor, from Belinstown in North County Dublin, through Dublin Airport, to the City Centre at St. Stephen's Green.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd. was commissioned by the Railway Procurement Agency (RPA) to carry out advance archaeological testing of the proposed Metro North scheme. For the purposes of archaeological assessment the Metro North route has been sub-divided into fourteen testing areas, TA 1-14. This report outlines the results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching undertaken in Testing Area 8 Fosterstown South townland (MN102), Co. Dublin on the footprint of the Metro North alignment and Construction Compound 5 Pinnock Hill Viaduct (09E466).

The programme of advance archaeological testing for Metro North was carried out following a series of non-invasive archaeological investigations including an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA; CRDS Ltd. 2008), the preparation of an Archaeological Strategy Document (MGL 2007) and a programme of geophysical survey (08R0117; Thebaudeau and Harrison 2009).

The EIA process originally identified the townland boundary between Nevinstown West and Fosterstown South as a site of archaeological potential within Testing Area 8 (HC#416; CRDS Ltd. 2008; Plates 7-11). A further site of archaeological significance HC#14 was identified in Sub-area 20 as a series of cropmarks (CRDS Ltd. 2008, 423).

In addition the geophysical survey carried out in 2008/2009 revealed at least two possible ditched enclosures located within Sub-area 20 and 21 respectively (Thebaudeau and Harrison 2009). Further curvilinear and linear responses as well as pit-like features were identified throughout these areas indicating internal and external features associated with the identified ditched enclosures. A resistance survey was conducted in the northern part of Testing Area 8 (Sub-area 20) to aid in the interpretation of the gradiometer survey, the results of which corresponded closely with the gradiometer responses that had previously been obtained (AS19, G52 and AS20, G53, Thebaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30). Furthermore a number of Recorded Monuments (RMPs), consisting of a Ring Ditch DU011-047 and Ringfort

DU011-046, lie 150 m to the east and 320 m to the southeast respectively of the proposed testing area, however none are impacted directly by it (Figure 1).

The advance archaeological testing for Testing Area 8 (09E466), Sub-areas 20 and 21 (Fosterstown South townland) was carried out between the 1st and 2nd October 2009. A total of thirty-eight test trenches (Figure 2) were excavated within Testing Area 8, amounting to a total of 2,245 linear metres (4,490 m²). This comprised 12% of the entire testing area (37,350 m²). The survey of the townland boundary between Nevinstown West and Fosterstown South (HC#416) was also carried out on this date.

Three archaeological sites were identified during the course of the assessment within Testing Area 8 Sub-areas 20 and 21 Fosterstown South Townland; A spread of burnt material (**Fosterstown South 1**; Figure 3; Plate 1) was identified within Test Trench 3, Sub-area 20; a possible sub-circular bivallate enclosure with an additional enclosure ditch located to the south (**Fosterstown South 2**; Figure 3; Plate 3 and 4) was identified in Sub-area 20, and an archaeological complex consisting of a possible "D" shaped enclosure and a separate circular enclosure (**Fosterstown South 3**; Figure 4; Plates 5, 6 and 7) was identified within Testing Area 8 Sub-area 21.

This report outlines the results of the archaeological testing and assesses the impact of the proposed Metro North scheme on Testing Area 8. A proposed mitigation strategy is also detailed within this report. The mitigation strategy is designed to ensure that all archaeological features are dealt with appropriately in advance of construction works associated with the proposed scheme. As Testing Area 8 incorporates the footprint of the Metro North alignment and construction compound, any sub-surface archaeology would be subject to direct negative impact from ground disturbance work associated with site preparation and other construction activities. It is therefore recommended that archaeological excavation of the three sites (**Fosterstown South 1-3**) be undertaken prior to any construction works.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is submitted as an assessment report on the Advance Archaeological Testing of Metro North, Testing Area 8 Fosterstown South townland (MN102), Co. Dublin (09E466; Figures 1 and 2)).

Metro North will be a combined underground and surface light rail service development, segregated from traffic using tunnel, road median and Greenfield construction environments. The Metro North route will run along a proposed 18km corridor, from Belinstown in North County Dublin, through Dublin Airport, to the City Centre at St. Stephen's Green.

The route of the Metro North is generally a north-south alignment. It will have stops at Belinstown (where its depot will be located), Lissenhall (provisional), Estuary, (provisional), Seatown, Swords, Fosterstown, Dublin Airport, Dardistown, Northwood, Ballymun, Dublin City University, Griffith Avenue, Drumcondra, Mater Hospital, Parnell Square, O' Connell Bridge and St. Stephen's Green. Testing Area 8 incorporates the footprint of the Metro North alignment and construction compound.

The purpose of the advance testing was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts along the route so as to inform the subsequent archaeological strategy in advance of construction. All areas of archaeological potential, sites and significant features recorded for the footprint of the proposed scheme in the Metro North EIS or subsequently identified by the Metro North geophysical survey were investigated as part of the testing programme.

For the purposes of design and construction the Metro North route has been broken into seven zones or section areas (MN101-MN107):

- Area 1 MN101 - Lissenhall to Fosterstown;
- Area 2 MN102 - South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport Boundary (North);
- Area 3 MN103 - Dublin Airport;
- Area 4 MN104 - Dublin Airport Boundary (South) to M50 motorway;
- Area 5 MN105 - M50 (South) to Dublin City University (DCU);
- Area 6 MN106 - DCU to Mater Hospital; and

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Area 7 MN107 - Mater Hospital to St Stephen's Green

For management purposes, the Metro North route has been sub-divided into fourteen archaeological testing areas (TA1-14) by the RPA Project Archaeologist and each of these areas has been assigned an individual excavation licence number (see Table 1).

Testing Area	Excavation License No.
TA1	09E450
TA2	09E448
TA3	09E449
TA4	09E462
TA5	09E463
TA6	09E464
TA7	09E465
TA8	09E466
TA9	09E467
TA10	09E478
TA11	09E479
TA12	09E480
TA13	09E481

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Excavation License No.
TA14	09E482

Table 1: Testing areas and their assigned excavation licence numbers.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Testing Area 8, incorporating the footprint of the Metro North alignment and Construction Compound 5 Pinnock Hill Viaduct (09E466), was located in the townland of Fosterstown South, Barony of Nethercross, parish of Swords, Co. Dublin (Figure 1). This is within area MN102 - South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary. Comprising part of the northern contingent of the 14 testing areas, it is situated approximately 1 km to the south of Swords on land currently used for agriculture. It extended from NGR 245113 on the north to NGR 244603 on the south, with the R127 located directly to the east.

Testing Area 8 measured 37,350 m² and encompassed two large fields (Sub-areas 20 and 21) situated on gently sloping, tilled land. The southern side of the testing area was bounded by Testing Area 9 and the northeastern side of the testing area was bounded by the townland boundary between Fosterstown South and Nevinstown West, which consisted of a modern concrete wall, a hedge and a ditch (HC#416; CRDS Ltd. 2008; Plates 7-11).

Soils specific to the region of north county Dublin are predominated by a highly consolidated, very stiff clay and silt matrix containing sand, gravel, cobbles and boulders. This clay is generally grey to black in colour. In Testing Area 8 of the proposed scheme, however, it is brown. Pockets of glacial sands and gravels occur within this boulder clay. These sands and gravels are likely to have been deposited in glacial ponds or streams and are generally water bearing. The underlying bedrock consists of a nodular and muddy argillaceous limestone with a relatively uniform bed thickness. It is interspersed with thin shale beds and contains major units of very distinctive, laminated fine limestone (ERM and Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd. 2008).

3.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Several stages of non-invasive archaeological investigation were carried out on the route of Metro North prior to the archaeological testing, and the results of these investigations have had a direct influence on the strategy adopted for the testing programme.

3.1 Environmental Impact Statement

An Environmental Impact Assessment was carried out as part of the Railway Order Application for Metro North. Cultural Resource Development Services Limited (CRDS) on behalf of Environmental Resources Management Ireland Limited (ERM) completed the assessment for archaeology, architectural heritage and cultural heritage. The assessment consisted of a review of the published and unpublished documentary, aerial and cartographic sources, supported by a field inspection of the proposed alignment.

3.2 Archaeological Strategy Document

In addition to the EIS chapter, an Archaeological Strategy document was prepared for Metro North by Margaret Gowen & co. Ltd. (MGL) in 2007. The strategy supplements the provisions outlined in the EIS for the mitigation of impacts on archaeological heritage arising from the project. The strategy is a live document and is managed by the RPA Project Archaeologist and will continue to evolve on a phased basis to ensure that it remains appropriate and effective in managing archaeological risk throughout the project up to construction commencement.

The EIS and the Metro North Archaeological Strategy recommended that a programme of geophysical survey followed by a programme of testing should be carried out in the Greenfield areas of the route in advance of construction.

3.3 Geophysical Survey

A programme of geophysical survey was carried out by MGL between May and September 2008 with further investigations in 2009 (AS19, G52 and AS20, G53-G54, Thebaudeau and Harrison 2009, page number). The methodology included a scanning gradiometry survey and a detailed magnetometry survey of approximately 28 areas along the route of Metro North.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This historical and archaeological background for Testing Area 8 has been compiled using the Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIS (CRDS Ltd. 2008), the aforementioned Archaeology Strategy (Gowen 2008) and Geophysical Survey (Thebaudeau and Harrison 2009) in addition to available literary and cartographic sources.

“Evidence for prehistoric activity in north county Dublin comes from the Record of Monuments and Places, which includes prehistoric sites, previous development-led investigations and surveys and from stray finds. In the early historical period the area through which the route is aligned formed part of the geographical region of Brega with a range of sites of this period including ringforts, dispersed settlement sites and Early Christian ecclesiastical sites. There are relatively few surviving ringforts in north county Dublin due to the intensive cultivation and agricultural activity in this part of the county, which levelled many earthwork sites. These tend to survive as cropmarks, as illustrated in the archaeological desk study undertaken for the EIS.

After the conquest by Anglo-Normans in the twelfth century, new social structures, agrarian development and settlement centres of religious and secular origin followed. Throughout the medieval period monastic foundations and individual lordships held large tracts of lands in north Dublin. A period of great flux occasioned by warfare, confiscation and transfer of ownership occurred during the Tudor era and Confederate and williamite conflicts and the development of demesne properties in subsequent years all influenced the character and layout of the rural north Dublin landscape which was also influenced by peacetime economic and agricultural development (Gowen 2008, 4-5).

Testing Area 8 directly impacts upon HC#416 (townland boundary; Sub-area 20; Plates 7-11) and HC#14 (possible enclosure; sub-areas 20 and 21; CRDS Ltd. 2008).

Recorded Archaeological Sites

Due to activities associated with modern development and progress, such as agriculture, industry and infrastructural improvements in the second half of the 20th century, many archaeological sites have been levelled. The present day archaeological landscape is not therefore fully representative of the human

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

occupation of this island which has spanned some nine thousand years. Nonetheless, archaeological sites survive today as upstanding structures, earthwork monuments or sub-surface remains.

In all, there are two recorded archaeological sites listed in the RMP for County Dublin within approximately 3.20 m of the testing area, a ring-ditch and a Ringfort (Table 2), which provide evidence for the human settlement and activity within the area. The presence of a ring-ditch (DU011-047) is indicative of prehistoric (Bronze Age/Iron Age) activity within the immediate environs of Testing Area 8. However, the most intensive period of known occupation dates to the early and late medieval period which is noted by the presence of a Ringfort (DU011-046) HC#15 which is located just 320 m to the north of Testing Area 8.

HC #	RMP #	Site Type	NGR	Distance
-	DU011-047	Ring ditch	317943/244854	150 m to the east
15	DU011-046	Ringfort	317324/244258	320 m to the southwest

Table 2 - RMP's located within the vicinity of Testing Area 8

Townlands and Townland Boundaries

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 nineteenth 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 linguistic skills of the surveyors and recorders. The social customs or history of people who lived in a particular place is occasionally reflected in the name of the townland, as is the case for the townland where Testing Area 8 is located. According to the EIS (CRDS 2008)

Fosterstown is an English place name which incorporates the family name of Foster, the landowners in the fourteenth century.

The Fosterstown South and Nevinstown West townland boundary consists of an earthen bank and ditch at the northern end of Testing Area 8, with the ditch extending southeast and flanked by modern concrete walls and hedging (HC#416; CRDS 2008; Plates 7-11). A survey of the townland boundary detailed in Section 7.0 indicated that it has been significantly modified in the recent past.

Previous Archaeological Excavations

The archaeological "Excavations Bulletin" (1970-2005) was checked for a record of any licensed archaeological investigations carried out within the townlands of Fosterstown South and Nevinstown West since 1970; however no excavations were listed (www.excavations.ie).

Geophysical Survey after Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009

The geophysical survey (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30) noted numerous features of archaeological potential which suggested that at least 3 possible enclosures were evident within Testing Area 8 (Figure 3); however, the survey also recorded frequent anomalies of ferrous and increased magnetic response within Testing Area 8 which slightly inhibited the results. The features noted in the geophysical survey results included:

- A broad rectilinear response (G52 Sub-area 20) that was thought to represent part of an enclosing ditch, the remainder of which was only visible as weak and ill-defined curving trends to the west. However Thébaudeau and Harrison postulated that an enclosure measuring 32 m from north to south and 36 m from east to west was present in this area. A cluster of positive responses within the interior of the possible enclosure was also interpreted as possible occupational activity such as pits and postholes. An entranceway was not established from the gradiometer data (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30).
- Within the north of Area AS20 (G53 Sub-area 21) several linear and curvilinear trends and responses were identified. These were interpreted as possible curving ditches and gullies. Although no clear archaeological form

was discernable, the close proximity of the possible enclosure within Sub-area 20 to the north, and a possible D-shaped enclosure 20 m to the southwest (see below), meant an archaeological origin for these features was thought likely (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30).

- Approximately 140 m south-southwest of the possible enclosure identified within Sub-area 20, a possible D-shaped enclosure was identified within Sub-area 21 Area AS20 (G53). The possible enclosure was formed by faint curvilinear responses and trends, and measured 30 m from northwest to southeast and 33 m from northeast to southwest. Three weak linear trends were identified within the interior of this enclosure; these were thought to perhaps represent ephemeral or plough-damaged archaeological remains (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30,).
- A strong linear response was visible within Sub-areas 20 and 21 (G52 & G53). This response was thought to represent a ditch and corresponds closely to a former field boundary as depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1843). The response runs south of the sub-square response within Sub-area 20 and north of curvilinear responses identified in Sub-area 21 and it was postulated that its location may have been influenced by earthworks which are no longer visible on the ground surface (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30).
- A clear linear response thought to indicate a ditch was identified within the south of Sub-area 21 (Area AS20 G54). The response was equal in form to the linear response identified within the north of Sub-area 21 and along the southwestern section of Sub-area 20 (G52 & G53). However this anomaly did not correspond to any field boundary depicted on first edition (1843) or second edition (1871-5) Ordnance Survey mapping and its origins could not be established (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30).
- Elsewhere throughout Test Area 8 frequent clusters of ferrous anomalies were observed, thought to have resulted from ferrous material scattered within the topsoil. These conditions provided slight complications for gradiometer scanning and it was noted that further responses of archaeological potential, if present, may have been masked or obscured within the affected area (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30).

Cartographic Sources

From the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1843), Testing Area 8 can be readily identified situated to the east of Fosterstown House. This map depicts Testing Area 8 comprising 6 separate, broadly rectilinear fields, with Sub-area 20 and Sub-area 21 separated by the avenue leading to Fosterstown House. A field boundary depicted on the 1st edition OS map (1843) correlates strongly with the results of the geophysical survey in this area, which identified a substantial ditch type feature at this location (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30). By the time of the publication of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map (1871), Testing area 8 has undergone significant landscaping and alteration, having been divided into two main fields that generally reflect the current field system as outlined in Figure 2.

5.0 OBJECTIVES

The objective of the testing was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts along the route so as to inform the subsequent archaeological strategy in advance of construction. All areas of archaeological potential, sites and significant features identified in the EIS and by the geophysical survey were investigated during the testing programme.

As part of the advance archaeological testing of Metro North all townland boundaries directly impacted by the proposed scheme were investigated and surveyed. One of these townland boundaries (Fosterstown South/Nevinstown West; HC#416; Plates 8-12) defined the northern boundary of Testing Area 8. This boundary was investigated and recorded during the test trenching and the results of this investigation are detailed in Section 7.0 below.

6.0 METHODOLOGY AND CONSTRAINTS

The archaeological excavation licence number 09E466 was granted to John Channing and transferred to James Hession of Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd. by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). This licence pertained to the excavation of test trenches as per the trench layout plan for Testing Area 8, which was submitted together with the licence application method statement (Figure 2).

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

The works were carried out by Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd. on behalf of the RPA between 1st and 2nd October 2009. The methodology of the investigation complied with the Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (Dúchas 1999) and the specification, terms and conditions of the Contract between the RPA and Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd. The work was undertaken in accordance with the Code of Practice agreed between the DoEHLG and the Railway Procurement Agency.

Testing Area 8 encompassed approximately 3.73 hectares. A total of 2,245 linear metres was excavated (4,450 m²), comprising 12% of the testing area (Appendices 1 and 2). Testing was in the form of mechanically excavated test trenches. These were excavated using a mechanical tracked excavator (generally 21-tonne) with a toothless ditching/grading bucket under the direct and continuous supervision of the director James Hession and his supervisor John Twomey. This work was overseen by the Headland Archaeology Senior Archaeologists Patricia Long. An archaeological assistant was employed to assist the licensed director and the supervisor with the recording of the trenches and the features identified within them.

The layout of the test trenches was designed to test the features of archaeological potential identified in the geophysical survey. A total of 38 test trenches, generally set at a distance of 10 m apart, were excavated throughout the Sub-areas that comprise Testing Area 8;

- *Sub-area 20:* A total of 18 test trenches were excavated to maximise the potential of identifying any archaeological sites or isolated features. The test trenching in this area followed the test trench layout plan for Testing Area 8. One additional trench (XT1) was also excavated in this area to expose the extent of a burnt spread (005).
- *Sub-area 21:* Twenty test trenches were excavated to maximise the potential of identifying any archaeological sites or isolated features. The test trenching in this area followed the trench layout plan for Testing Area 8, which was submitted together with the licence application method statement (Figure 2).

Where archaeologically significant features were identified, mechanical excavation ceased and the features were cleaned back and tested by hand and by mechanical excavator where appropriate. The purpose of the testing was to establish the nature

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

and extent of the archaeological deposits and features present. With this in mind, partial excavation and half-sectioning of features was undertaken where appropriate but every effort was made to preserve the stratigraphical integrity of archaeological sites/features. All features of archaeological potential were sectioned to ascertain their significance. If a feature was deemed to be non-archaeological due to its character or the presence of modern datable material no detailed recording was undertaken, but notes were made on the trench sheets contained within the site archive.

All sensitive archaeological remains uncovered in test trenches were covered with a geo-textile before the trenches were backfilled.

Recording

Unique numbers were given to all contexts and small finds identified during archaeological test trenching. Prefixes were not used by Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd., but context numbers are illustrated throughout the report in brackets e.g. (001). Digital photographs were taken of each field, trench and feature. All trenches were surveyed using Trimble GPS surveying equipment with accuracy levels within 3 mm for the duration of the project. All recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd. *pro forma* record cards. All archaeologically significant features have been related to Ordnance Datum and the Irish National Grid as per RPA Project Control.

Environmental Samples

Environmental samples were taken where necessary in consultation with Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd. archaeobotanist Karen Stewart and zooarchaeologist Auli Tourunen (Appendix 5). Generally samples were taken from primary contexts where the composition of the sediments is likely to provide information on the date and/or use of a particular structure/feature. A total of 2 environmental soil and bone samples were taken from Testing Area 8 Sub-area 21.

Finds Retrieval

Two finds (a late medieval pottery sherd and a corroded piece of metal) were retrieved during the course of archaeological test trenching at Testing Area 8 (Appendix 4).

Storage

Soil Samples recovered are currently stored in the Offices of Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd., Little Island, Co. Cork and will be handed over to the archaeological consultant appointed for the excavation phase of the project.

6.1 Methodology for recording Townland Boundaries

The recording of the townland boundary consisted of a photographic survey of the length of the boundary that would be impacted by the proposed Scheme (Plates 7-11). Measurements were taken at a series of locations along the boundary and a written description was compiled. In accordance with the method statement submitted for the excavation licence, a single test trench was proposed to be excavated through a section of the townland boundary. However due to the extent of the modern alteration of the townland boundary, access issues and the presence of power lines the excavation of a section through the townland boundary ditch was not possible.

7.0 RESULTS (Figures 3-7, Plates 1-7)

7.1 General

A total of 38 test trenches were mechanically excavated in 2 fields (Sub-areas 20 and 21) comprising Testing Area 8, totalling approximately 2,245 linear metres of 2 m-wide test trenches; an area of 4,450 m². This comprised 12% of the entire testing area which totalled 37,350 m².

The test trenches were excavated to an average depth of 0.35-0.50 m, exposing the underlying mid-yellowish brown to orange brown silty clay subsoil (Plate 2). This subsoil contained bands of grey yellow brown coarse grained silty clay.

Archaeological remains were identified in 15 of the excavated trenches establishing 3 Sites (**Fosterstown South 1-3**) of archaeological potential within Testing Area 8 as outlined below. Only test trenches containing archaeological material are described. A full description of all test trenches is included in Appendix 2.

7.1.1 Summary of archaeological features within Fosterstown South 1

A deposit of black silty clay (005) with inclusions of burnt and fire cracked stone, indicative of a prehistoric burnt mound site (c.2200-500BC), was located centrally within Test Trench 3 of Sub-area 20 (Figure 3; Plate 1). An additional trench (Test Trench XT1) was excavated perpendicularly to Test Trench 3 on a northeast/southwest orientation to define the extent of the spread/site. The resulting spread was found to have dimensions of 3 m by 2m by 0.20 m deep.

7.1.2 Summary of archaeological features within Fosterstown South 2

An archaeological complex - of possible early medieval date (c.AD500-1200) - was identified in the southeast corner of Sub-area 20 within Test Trenches 10-18 (Figure 3; Plates 3 and 4). Though it was difficult to establish which features were linked within the test trenches a possible interpretation has been put forward here, however it should be noted that full excavation would be required to accurately determine the nature of the enclosure.

The findings comprised a double ditched or bivallate enclosure with a possible additional ditch situated to the south. The bivallate enclosure consisted of inner ditch (044) (Plate 3), which had an external diameter of 30 m east/west, and outer ditch (041), which had an external diameter of 50 m north-northwest/south-southeast. It was difficult to determine if ditch (041) extended to the southern boundary of the testing area, but in advance of further excavation this seems to be the case. The third main ditch in the area was ditch (050) (Plate 4); it is possible that this ditch is a continuation of ditch (041) if the enclosure was an irregular shape.

7.1.3 Summary of archaeological features within Fosterstown South 3

An additional archaeological complex - also thought to be of possible early medieval date (c.AD500-1200) - was identified in the northern part of Sub-area 21, comprising two possible enclosures (Figure 4). The northernmost of the two was characterised by a curvilinear ditch (101) (Figure 6; Plate 5), located within Test Trenches 2, 3 and 4, with a second ditch (156), located in Test Trench 1, possibly representing the northeastern return.

The second possible enclosure was located approximately 20 m to the southwest of the first. It was characterised by ditch (121), which was located in Test Trench 6, and ditch (153), located in Test Trench 5. Although no further traces of these ditches were identified within the test trenches, the geophysical survey suggests the

presence of a possible "D" shaped enclosure measuring 32 m north/south by 30 m. It is possible that further ditches associated with this enclosure exist but have been masked by redeposited natural, possibly resulting from the levelling of associated external/internal banks. Such redeposit can be difficult to differentiate from natural subsoil within the confined width of investigative test trenches. Further excavation would be needed to determine the nature of this enclosure. A figure-of-eight-shaped cereal-drying kiln (029) was also identified 40 m north and 20 m east of the respective enclosures.

7.1.4 Post-medieval/modern agricultural remains

Non-archaeological features identified within Testing Area 8 generally comprised numerous linear plough furrows orientated east/west, frequent stone-lined land drains, also orientated east/west, and several agricultural land drains/gullies. These features are late post-medieval to modern in origin and relate to agricultural activity, namely land clearance, land improvement (drainage) and cultivation. The linear agricultural features identified were aligned in a manner that coincided with the surviving upstanding field and/or with the field systems represented on nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey maps. Most demonstrated physical characteristics (degree of straightness, spacing, etc.) clearly indicative of a mechanised origin and a date after the widespread adoption of agricultural improvement measures (i.e. post c.AD1750). In some instances, materials such as transfer-printed ceramic, kiln-fired brick fragments, ceramic drain pipes and iron/steel fragments were preserved in the fills of the features confirming a late post-medieval or modern origin (e.g. late post-medieval or modern farm machinery, etc.), and no finds indicated a date prior to the middle of the eighteenth century at the earliest (Frazer 2009).

A representative sample of the aforementioned features which were evident throughout Test Trenches 1-7, Sub-area 20, were excavated (primarily within Test Trench 4 Sub-area 20) in order to ensure they were of agricultural origin (see Appendix 2).

The geophysical survey identified a considerable linear trend within the southwestern part of Sub-area 20 and centrally within Sub-area 21. During testing this anomaly was identified as a substantial former field boundary (030) within Sub-areas 20 and 21 (Test Trenches 8-12 and 18, Sub-area 20 and Test Trenches 2, 5-18, Sub-area 21). It corresponds closely with a field boundary depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance

Survey Map (1843), indicating that it was of 19th century or earlier date and in this landscape history context, late post-medieval and modern agricultural features are not considered to be archaeologically significant.

7.2 Fosterstown South 1 (Test Trench 3 and XT1)

Fosterstown South 1 was situated centrally within Test Trench 3, in the northern section of Testing Area 8, Sub-area 20 (Figure 3). It was characterised by a spread of dark black brown silty clay (005), which contained inclusions of burnt and fire cracked stone (Plate 1). An additional test trench (Test Trench XT1) was excavated on a northeast/southwest orientation to establish the extent of the burnt spread. It was found to measure 3m east/west by 2m.

Burnt spreads are most commonly associated with burnt mounds and *fulachta fiadh* of prehistoric (Bronze Age) date (c.2200-500BC).

The archaeological assessment in this area also identified numerous features of agricultural origin (plough furrows, stone-lined/filled drains) within Test Trench 3 and adjacent Test Trenches (1, 2 and 4-7). The majority of these features were orientated east/west, parallel to existing field boundaries. A representative sample of these features were excavated in Test Trench 4 to confirm that they were of relatively modern date, of agricultural origin and associated with the current land use of this area.

Test Trench 3: Spread (005) was situated approximately 66 m from the northwestern end of Test Trench 3. It was sub-oval in plan and measured approximately 9.4 m in length (northwest/southeast), 2.0 m in width and 0.20 m in depth. It comprised of a deposit of dark black brown silty clay which contained moderate inclusions of charcoal, burnt stone and fire cracked material.

A moderate number of stone-filled drainage ditches and frequent plough furrows were noted within the test trench. Their locations were recorded on the Test Trench Record sheets but they were not fully recorded as they are of little archaeological significance.

Test Trench XT1: was orientated northeast/southwest and excavated perpendicularly to Test Trench 3 to determine the extent of burnt spread (005) (Plate 1). Spread (005) was situated at the southwestern extent of the trench and consisted of black silty clay containing frequent heat cracked stone and charcoal within its matrix. It

measured 3.4 m in length (north/south), 2.0 m in width and 0.20 m in depth. The overall measurements of (005) from Test Trenches 3 and XT1 equalled 9.4 m in length (north/south), 5.4 m in width, and 0.2 m in depth.

7.3 Fosterstown South 2 (Test Trenches 10-13 and 15-18)

The archaeological assessment revealed a bivallate enclosure of possible early medieval date (c.AD500-1200) comprised 2 ditches with a possible additional enclosure ditch located to the south (Figure 3).

Ditch (044) (Plate 3) had an external diameter of 30 m east/west, which was partially encompassed on the eastern, northeastern and northern sides by a second elliptical enclosing ditch (041). Enclosing ditch (041) was only identified on the eastern, northeastern and northern extent of the complex and may in fact not be present on the western section of the complex. An additional circular enclosure ditch or annexe (050) (Plate 4) was identified to the south of the bivallate enclosure. It had an external diameter of 50 m north-northwest/south-southeast. The exact stratigraphic relationship between the bivallate enclosure and the additional enclosing ditch was not established during the assessment and therefore the later could possibly predate, postdate, or be contemporaneous with the bivallate enclosure. The features identified within each trench are detailed as follows:

Test Trench 10: contained 1 pit (036), field boundary ditches (030) (032), linear ditches (possible large drains) (034) (035), stone filled land/french drains (038), (039), (040) and sub-circular feature (040).

Pit (036) was situated approximately 21 m from the northeastern end of Test Trench 10 within the centre of the test trench. It was circular in plan and measured 1.34 m north/south by 1.10 m by 0.06 m in depth. It had sharp breaks of slope at the top, gentle concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (037) composed of loose, mid black grey silty clay with inclusions of moderate amounts of charcoal, stone, heat shattered stone.

Field boundary ditch (030) was situated centrally within Test Trench 10, 38 m from the northeastern end of the trench. It was orientated northwest/southeast, linear in plan, also identified in Test Trenches 8, 9, 11, 12, and 18. It measured 100 m in length (when combined with the results of the geophysical survey) by 2.39 m in width (max) by 0.73 m in depth. The break of slope at the top was sharp; the sides were

concave with an imperceptible break of slope noted at the base. The base was concave. It was filled by a single fill (031), a friable compact dark yellow brown clayey silt with inclusions of occasional charcoal and pebbles. Field boundary ditch (030) corresponded to the strong northwest/southeast linear responses identified through the geophysical survey (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30) and correlates to the field boundary depicted in this location by the first edition ordnance survey map (1838).

Field boundary ditch (032) was situated centrally within Test Trench 10, 31 m from the northeastern end of the trench. It was orientated northwest/southeast, had a linear shape in plan and was also identified in Test Trenches 8, 9, 11, 12, and 18. It measured 100 m in length (when combined with the results of the geophysical survey) by 2.56 m in width (max) by 1.09 m in depth. The break of slope at the top was sharp, with gradual sides and a gradual break of slope recorded at the base. The base was concave. It was filled by a single fill (033), a loosely compacted light grey brown clayey silt with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks, mollusc shell and stone. Ditch (032) cut boundary ditch (030) and therefore represents a later realignment of the same boundary. Field boundary ditch (032) corresponded to the strong northwest/southeast linear responses identified through the geophysical survey (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30) and correlates to the field boundary depicted in this location by the first edition ordnance survey map (1838).

Linear gully/Ditch (034) was identified 10 m from the northeastern end of Test Trench 10 (also identified in Test Trenches 8, 9, 11, 12 and 17). Orientated northwest/southeast, it was linear in plan measuring 55 m in length by 0.80 m-3 m in width (becoming wider as it progressed southwest) and 0.40 m in depth (not fully bottomed). The break of slope at the top was sharp with steeply sloping sides for a depth of 0.20 m; from this point on the sides were vertical. It contained two fills; the basal fill (056) was composed of loosely packed angular and sub-angular stones measuring on average 0.10 m by 0.12 m by 0.05 m. The upper fill (055) was composed from orange grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional stone. Ditch (034) was interpreted as a stone-lined drainage ditch.

Linear gully/Ditch (035) was identified 3 m from the northeastern end of Test Trench 10. It was also identified in Test Trenches 9 and 11 establishing a minimum length of

30 m northwest/southeast. It was linear in plan and measured 0.90 m in width and was filled by light-mid brown silty clay. This feature was not sectioned.

Land drains (038), (039) and (040) were identified 35 m, 40 m and 51 m respectively from the northeastern end of Test Trench 10. Orientated northwest/southeast they were linear in plan and measured between 0.50 m and 0.70 m in width. They were filled by angular and sub-rounded stones measuring on average 0.08 m by 0.06 m by 0.04 m. These features are agricultural land drains and were not sectioned.

Test Trench 11: contained the remains of several linear features including 2 field boundary ditches (described above), (030) and (032), which corresponded to the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30), linear gullies/ditches (034), (035) and land/French drains (038), (039) and (040) (All of the abovementioned features have been described in Test Trench 10 above they have not been described here).

Test Trench 12: contained the remains of several linear features which included; field boundary ditches (030), (032) and linear gully/ditch (034) (described above), and a curvilinear ditch (044), which formed the inner ditch of the bivallate enclosure.

Ditch (044) (Plate 3) was identified 9.70 m from the northeastern end of Test Trench 12 and corresponded to the curvilinear response identified by the geophysical survey in this location. It comprised part of the same feature or geophysical anomaly identified within Test Trenches 13, 15 and 16 and formed a circular or sub-square enclosure. Ditch (044) was curvilinear in plan and measured 4.90 m in width by 1.30 m in depth (not fully bottomed - the base was not reached due to the rapid rise of water / high water-table). Ditch (044) had a u-shaped profile with gradual breaks of slope at the top and middle, and convex sides. It contained at least three fills; the basal fill (045) consisted of moist dark grey silty clay of moderate compaction containing inclusions of occasional small stones, animal bone and shell. The secondary fill (046) consisted of mid brown silty clay with inclusions of shell, animal bone, decayed stone and small pebbles and gravel less than 0.03 m in diameter. The upper fill (047) comprised very dark grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional small stones, charcoal flecks, and animal bone. A corroded piece of metal (09E446:047:001) and a piece of late medieval pottery (09E446:047:002) was recovered from this fill (Appendix 4); however, given the extensive agricultural nature

of the surrounding landscape it is possible that they are intrusive finds, the result of intensive ploughing.

Test Trench 13: contained the remains of several linear features, which corresponded to the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30). The linear features identified include Enclosure ditch (044) (which has been described above) and enclosure ditch (041). Additional archaeological features identified include: Pit (062) and linear pit/gully (063) which were identified within the western section of the trench. A number of stone-lined land drains and ploughs furrows orientated north/south were also identified at the northeastern part of the trench.

Ditch (044) was situated approximately 15 m from the northeastern end of Test Trench 13. An additional large ditch - the return of Ditch (044) - was identified approximately 3 m from the southwestern end of the trench. This finding confirmed the presence of a large enclosure in this location as highlighted by the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch (041) was located 8 m from the northeastern end of Test Trench 13 and corresponded to the results of the geophysical survey which indicated a pit or ditch in this location. Ditch (041) was also identified in Test Trench 15 indicating that it possibly encompassed or partially encompassed ditch (044); it had an external diameter of 50 m northwest/southeast, was linear in plan within the test trench and measured 2.70 m in width by approximately 0.90 m in depth and contained two fills. The basal fill (042) comprised brownish grey wet silty clay of hard compaction with inclusions of shell, charcoal and occasional small stones and pebbles. The upper fill (043) consisted of mid-orange brown silty clay of moderate compaction with inclusions of angular and sub rounded stone, charcoal flecks and occasional mollusc shell and measured 0.70 m in depth.

Linear Gully/Pit (063) was situated directly to the south of ditch (044) and also extended beneath the northeastern baulk of the test trench. It measured 2 m in length by 0.40 m in exposed width. It was filled by a mid brown clay deposit with a substantial quantity of shell (up to 50%) within the fill.

Pit (062) was located centrally within Test Trench 13, 28 m from the northeastern end of the trench. It was semi-circular in plan and was filled by very dark brown grey silty clay with inclusions of shell, charcoal flecks and occasional stone.

Test Trench 15: contained the remains of several linear features, which corresponded to the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30). The linear features identified include ditch (044) and ditch (041) (which have been described above), and linear gully/pit (048).

Possible gully or linear pit (048) was situated towards the western extent of Test Trench 15 and appears to correspond to a pit-type anomaly identified by the geophysical survey in this location. It was linear in plan and measured approximately 2 m in exposed length by 2.50 m in width and excavated to a depth of 0.55 m. The southern and northern extent of (048) extended beyond the limits of the trench and therefore the true dimensions were not ascertained. Gully/pit (048) was excavated to a depth of 0.55 m. It had sharp breaks of slope at the top and moderately sloping sides. The base was not reached. One main fill was encountered that consisted of moderately compacted, mid grey silty clay with inclusions of moderate shell, animal bone, charcoal and small to large pebble inclusions.

Test Trench 16: contained the remains of 2 linear features which corresponded to the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30). The linear features identified include; ditches (044) and (041) (which are described above) and possible pit (053).

Possible pit (053) was situated approximately 27 m from the eastern limit of Trench 16. It extended beyond the limits of excavation, but was not identified in the adjacent trenches, and therefore may represent an internal feature or occupational surface within the bivallate enclosure. It was slightly curvilinear in plan and measured approximately 4 m in exposed length by 2 m in width, and was excavated to a depth of 0.25 m. It had gradual to moderate breaks of slope at the top, slightly concave sides, and a concave base. It contained one fill that consisted of compact brownish yellow silty clay with inclusions of occasional small and medium sized stone, snail shell and mussel shell.

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Test Trench 17: contained the remains of 5 linear features consisting of 2 french drains, enclosing ditch (050) and large drainage/soakaway ditch (034) (which is described above).

Ditch (050) (Plate 4) was situated approximately 9 m from the eastern end of Test Trench 17. This ditch was also identified in Test Trench 18 and is possibly associated with the bivallate enclosure. It was curvilinear in plan, measuring 30 m in diameter, 1.65 m in width by approximately 1 m in depth. The break of slope at the top was sharp with steeply sloping sides (not fully bottomed). It contained two fills; the lower fill (051) consisted of moderately compact grey coarse grained silty clay with occasional inclusions of mussel shell, and charcoal flecks. The upper fill (052) consisted of compact brown yellow silty clay with inclusions of occasional small and medium sized stone, snail shell, mussel shell and very occasional flecks of charcoal.

Test Trench 18: contained the remains of 8 linear features comprising field boundary ditches (030) and (032), 3 french drains (which due to their non-archaeological nature were not given context numbers or recorded in depth), stone-lined ditch/soakaway ditch (034) and ditches (041) and (050), all of which are described above.

7.4 Fosterstown South 3 (Test Trenches 1-7)

Archaeological test trenches were excavated across this area to test the veracity of the geophysical results and to determine the nature and extent of the underlying archaeology. Archaeological material was recorded in Trenches 1-6 (Figure 4).

Summary of the archaeological assessment: The archaeological assessment confirmed the existence of a possible “D” shaped enclosure identified by the geophysical survey (ditch (121)) within Trench 6. It was situated 20 m southwest of the activity in Fosterstown South 2, enclosing an area measuring at least 30 m in diameter. It was not fully exposed by the test trenching programme as it lay partially outside the landtake. A second possible enclosure (ditch (101)/(156); Figure 6; Plate 5), which had an external diameter of 50 m, was identified 20 m to the northeast of the “D” shaped enclosure in Trenches 1-4. Similarly the full extent of this enclosure could not be traced as it lay outside of the landtake. In addition to these findings, a figure-of-eight-shaped cereal-drying kiln (Figure 7; Plate 6) was identified in the northern end of Test Trench 5 north of ditch (153), which may have had a

relationship with either of the two possible enclosures. A substantial field boundary (116) which correlates closely to the field boundary shown by the first Ordnance Survey map (1843) was also identified in this location and also closely corresponds to the results of the geophysics. The archaeological features identified within each test trench are detailed as follows:

Test Trench 1: Test Trench 1 contained; ditch (156) and French drain (106). Ditch (156) was situated 11 m from the western end of Test Trench 1. It was linear in plan and measured 3.60 m in width by 1.20 m in depth. It had gradual to sharp breaks of slope to top, convex sides, a u-shaped base and contained 4 fills. The basal fill (157) was composed of mid-brown moist sticky clay which contained very occasional shell, small to medium stones and animal bone (a boar tusk was identified at the base). This was situated beneath very stony compact mid-dark grey sandy silt (158) with inclusions of angular and sub-rounded stone measuring from 0.02 m to 0.07 m in diameter. The next fill (159) comprised of dark grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks. The upper fill comprised of friable mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of angular and sub rounded stones measuring up to 0.06 m in length. This ditch possibly represents the northeastern return of ditch (101).

French drain (106) was situated immediately to the west of (101). It was linear in plan orientated west-northwest/east-southeast and measured 10 m in exposed length by 0.40 m in width. It was filled by angular and sub angular stone measuring on average 0.04 m by 0.08 m by 0.05 m.

Test Trench 2: contained the remains of three linear features; ditch (101), French drain (107) and possible field boundary (108) which corresponded to the anomalies identified through the geophysical survey (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30).

Curvilinear Ditch (101) (Figure 6; Plate 5) was also identified in Test Trenches 3-4 establishing its curvilinear nature. The combined length of (101) when viewed with the results of the geophysical survey measured 45 m in length by 1.70 m to 3.60 m in width by 1.20 m in depth. It had gradual to sharp breaks of slope to top, convex sides, a u-shaped base and contained 4 fills. The basal fill (102) was composed of mid-brown moist sticky clay which contained very occasional shell, small to medium stones and animal bone (a boar tusk was identified at the base). This was situated beneath very stony compact mid-dark grey sandy silt (104) with inclusions of angular and sub-rounded stone measuring from 0.02 m to 0.07 m in diameter. The next fill

(103) comprised of dark grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks. The upper fill comprised of friable mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of angular and sub rounded stones measuring up to 0.06 m in length.

French drain (107) was situated 35 m from the western end of Trench 2. It was linear in plan orientated northwest/southeast measuring 3 m in length by 0.40 m in width. It was filled by red brown silty clay.

Enclosing ditch/field boundary ((108), same as (116)) was situated 8 m from the eastern extent of Test Trench 2. It was orientated north-northwest/south-southeast and corresponded closely to the ditch type anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. It measured 6 m in width and may possibly represent the amalgamation of the northeastern return of the enclosure ditch (101) or field boundary ditch (108/116), unfortunately however no stratigraphic relationship could be identified from the surface.

Test Trench 3: contained the remains of enclosing ditch (101) which has been described above. Ditch (101) corresponded to the anomaly identified in the geophysical survey (Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30).

Test Trench 4: contained the remains of 4 linear features; French drains (110) and (114), enclosure ditch (101) (described above) and gully (112).

French drain (110) was situated approximately 6.5 m from the south southwestern limit of Test Trench 4. It was linear in plan, orientated northeast/southwest and measured 0.30 m in width (it extended beyond the northeastern and southwestern limits of the trench but was not identified in the adjacent trenches). It was filled by (111), a mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional charcoal, angular stone and modern pottery.

Enclosing ditch (101) was located 2.7 m from the northern end of the test trench and has been previously described above.

Gully (112) was identified 1.5 m from the southern end of the test trench. It was linear in plan orientated northwest/southeast and measured approximately 3 m in exposed length by 0.92 m in width by 0.32 m in depth. It was filled by (113) a pale grey brown silty clay with inclusions of moderate sub rounded small stones.

French drain (114) was situated 13 m from the southern end of Test Trench 4. It was linear in plan orientated northeast/southwest and measured approximately 4 m in exposed length by 0.40 m in width. It was filled by (115) a deposit of angular and sub rounded stones measuring on average 0.04 m by 0.05 m by 0.08 m.

Test Trench 5: contained the remains of 5 features as follows; cereal-drying kiln (129), ditch (128), ditch (153), plough furrow (120) and field boundary ditch (116) which corresponded to the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (Thebaudeau and Harrison 2009, page).

Cereal-drying kiln (129) (Figure 7; Plate 6) was situated 3 m from the northern end of Test Trench 5. It was figure-of-eight-shaped in plan and measured 2.06 m in length, 0.70 m to 0.82 m in width and 0.25 m in depth. The southwestern corner of Kiln (129) was sectioned revealing 4 distinct fills. The basal fill (130) consisted of friable dark grey black silty clay with inclusions of frequent charcoal. The lower fill (131) consisted of friable mid-grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional charcoal. Above this (132) consisted of friable charcoal rich silty clay with inclusions of animal bone and small stones. The upper fill (133) consisted of friable mottled black and red fine grained silty clay with inclusions of frequent charcoal.

Possible enclosing ditch (124) was situated 6 m from the northern end of Test Trench 5. It was linear in plan orientated northeast/southwest and corresponded to a ditch-type anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. From examining the results of the geophysical survey it would appear that Ditch (124) may have a relationship with the possible enclosures in the area. It measured up to 20 m in length (when combined with the geophysics) by 1.25 m in width by 0.90 m in depth. It was filled by 4 fills. The basal fill (125) consisted of a dark grey clay with inclusions of moderate amounts of medium to large sub rounded stones, occasional animal bone and frequent charcoal flecks. The lower fill (126) consisted of mid-pale brown with orange yellow mottled gritty clay with inclusions of moderate small stones and occasional larger sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Over this lay (127) which consisted of mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of moderate amounts of small sub-rounded stones, occasional charcoal and animal bone fragments. The upper fill (128) consisted of mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent small sub rounded and medium angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks.

Ditch (153) was located 53 m from the southern end of Test Trench 5. It measured 1.40 m in width by 0.54 m in depth. It was filled by two fills; the basal fill (154) consisted of mid-brown grey silty clay with inclusions of sub angular stones. The upper fill (155) consisted of moderate to compact mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of angular stone and animal bone. This ditch is possibly associated with (121), forming part of a 'D'-shaped enclosure.

Plough furrow (120) was situated 46 m from the southern end of Test Trench 5. It was linear in plan orientated north-northwest/south-southeast and measured approximately 10 m in length by 0.78 m in width by 0.04 m in depth. It was filled by mid-brown silty clay with yellow mottling.

Field boundary (116) was situated at the southern end of Test Trench 5 and corresponds to the results of the geophysical survey which depicts a large curvilinear ditch in this area. Ditch (116) corresponds closely to a field boundary ditch shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map 1843. Ditch (116) was also identified in Trenches 6-10. It was curvilinear in plan and orientated approximately northeast/southwest. Field boundary (116) measured approximately 200 m in length by 4.80 m in width by 0.80 m in depth. It was filled by two fills. The basal fill (117) consisted of sticky fine grained mid-grey silty clay with inclusions of occasional small to medium sized sub-angular stone. The upper fill (118) consisted of compact mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of moderate sub-angular stone, occasional charcoal and fragments of post-medieval pottery.

Test Trench 6: contained the remains of 3 linear features; hearth (134), enclosing ditch (121) and field boundary ditch (116).

Hearth (134) was situated 13 m from the northern end of Test Trench 6. It was circular in plan measuring 0.30 m by 0.40 m. It was heavily truncated with just a trace of the basal fill (135) surviving which consisted of a red brown discoloured re-deposited silty clay.

Enclosing Ditch (121) was situated 2 m from the northwestern end of Test Trench 6. It corresponds to the geophysical anomaly thought to constitute a "D" shaped enclosure. Ditch (121) measured 0.98 m in width. It was filled by two fills; the basal fill (122) consisted of mid-brown grey silty clay with inclusions of sub angular stones.

The upper fill (123) consisted of moderate to compact mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of angular stone and animal bone.

Field boundary ditch (116) was situated 18 m from the southeastern end of Trench 4. It measured 3 m in width and has been described fully above.

7.6 Townland boundary between Fosterstown South and Fosterstown North/Nevinstown West

A survey of the townland boundary between Fosterstown South and Nevinstown West (HC#416) was carried out along its southwestern and northeastern sides in Testing Area 8 (Plates 7-11). The boundary between Fosterstown South and Nevinstown West consisted of a concrete block wall and a wooden fence which marked the extent of a new housing development to the west. A partial bank and ditch was present to the east of this wall and a wire fence ran along the length of the southwestern side of the ditch; this bordered an area of light industry. The ditch measured 1.10 m in width. Its depth could not be ascertained due to recent dumping activity in the form of concrete blocks and industrial plastic. The southwestern side of the ditch, apart from at its southeastern end, had been overgrown by nettles (*Urtica dioica*), brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*), and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). No existing breaks were present in the boundary.

7.7 Interpretative assessment of the geophysical survey anomalies in Testing Area 8

Overall the results of the testing programme displayed a high level of correlation with the results of the geophysical survey (AS19 G52 As20 G53/4; Thébaudeau and Harrison 2009, 26-30).

A broad rectilinear response within (AS19 G52 Sub-area 20) thought to represent part of an enclosing ditch, measuring 32 m from north to south and 36 m from east to west, was confirmed in this area. A cluster of positive responses within the interior of the possible enclosure was also interpreted as possible occupational activity such as pits and postholes. The archaeological assessment confirmed the presence of a bivallate enclosure in this area with an additional possible enclosure located to the south of the abovementioned bivallate enclosure (Fosterstown South 2).

Approximately 90 m south southwest of the bivallate enclosure identified within Sub-area 20, a possible D-shaped enclosure was identified within Sub-area 21, Area AS20 (G53). The possible enclosure was formed by faint curvilinear responses and trends and measures 30 m from northwest to southeast and 33 m from northeast to southwest. Three weak linear trends can be identified within the interior of this enclosure, which were thought to perhaps represent ephemeral or plough-damaged archaeological remains. The archaeological assessment confirmed the presence of a number of ditches within Test Trenches 5 and 6, which may correlate to this enclosure (Fosterstown South 3).

Twenty metres to the northwest of the bivallate enclosure the geophysical survey identified several linear and curvilinear trends and responses. These were interpreted as possible curving ditches and gullies and given the close proximity of the enclosures within Sub-area 20 and 21 an archaeological origin for these features was thought likely. This interpretation was confirmed by the identification of a possible enclosure within this location (Fosterstown South 3).

A strong linear response was visible within Sub-areas 20 and 21 (G52 & G53). This response was thought to represent a ditch and corresponded closely to a former field boundary as depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1843). The response runs south of the sub-square response within Sub-area 20, and north of curvilinear responses identified in Sub-area 21, and it was postulated that its location may have been influenced by earthworks which are no longer visible on the ground surface. The presence of this former boundary ditch (030), (032) and (108/116) was confirmed by the testing programme.

An additional clear linear response thought to indicate a ditch was identified within the south of Sub-area 21 (Area AS20 G54). The response was equal in form to the linear response identified within the north of Sub-area 21 and along the southwestern section of Sub-area 20 (G52 & G53). This anomaly did not correspond to any field boundary depicted on first edition (1843) or second edition (1871-5) Ordnance Survey mapping and its origins could not be determined. The archaeological testing programme confirmed the presence of a modern field boundary (147) in this location. As it was not of archaeological origin it was not investigated further.

7.8 Discussion

7.8.1 *Burnt Spread identified in Trench 3 (Fosterstown South 1)*

The burnt spread (005) was uncovered in an area outside of the zone of geophysical survey and would appear to indicate the remains of a burnt mound or *fulacht fiadh* (c. 2200-500BC). It consisted of heat-shattered stone within a charcoal-rich silty matrix and is typical of the composition of a burnt mound or *fulacht fiadh* of prehistoric date. Burnt mound sites are one of the most common site types in Ireland and are usually associated with prehistoric *fulachta fiadh* sites (O'Sullivan and Downey 2004). Analysis of *fulachta fiadh* and burnt mound sites have yielded dates ranging from the Neolithic up to the Iron Age and later, however, the majority of *fulachta fiadh* date mainly to the Bronze Age (Ballie 1990). Burnt mound/*fulachta fiadh* sites usually consist of a mound of burnt and fire-cracked stone (frequently u-shaped or horse-shoe shaped) associated with one or more troughs. The main activity carried out at these sites was the heating of water; hot stones were placed into a water-filled trough and after use, were removed from the trough and discarded (usually deposited close by) over time forming a mound of burnt material.

7.8.2 *Archaeological Complex (Fosterstown South 2)*

Morphologically the form of this enclosure corresponds with the secular habitation of the early medieval period, the bivallate ringfort (c.AD500-1200). There was no surviving evidence for banks but given the extensive agricultural activity in the vicinity this is unsurprising as on many occasions the above ground features get ploughed out. This factor (ploughed out banks) may also have contributed to the findings of the geophysical survey in this area which only partially identified the ditched enclosures of the ringfort. It is possible that the ploughed out bank material has been deposited over the ditched enclosures masking their existence from the geophysical survey results.

While most ringforts are single ditched with internal diameters of between 20 m and 44 m, this archaeological complex appears (from the preliminary findings) to constitute a bivallate ringfort. Bivallate enclosures (usually having diameters greater than 44 m) form approximately 18% of recorded ringforts and have been suggested as a physical representation of the hierarchy within early medieval society (Stout 1997).

The assessment confirmed the veracity of the geophysical survey results and whilst not absolute, combined with the morphology of the site indicates a bivallate ringfort, the primary function of which would have been habitation. Analyses of ringfort distribution have suggested indicators for high status occupation which include proximity to ecclesiastical sites (see geophysics report Thebaudeau and Harrison 2009 26-30).

Sites of this period are generally aceramic in nature, which is reflected in the paucity of the finds from the testing programme. While animal bone and a variety of shell was in evidence within the fill no bone artefacts were retrieved. Metal artefacts are often retrieved from early medieval sites but there were no finds retrieved from the testing programme in this area.

Without radiocarbon dating or the retrieval of diagnostic artefacts the fixing of this site within a chronological timeline must be based on the morphology of the site and its tentative interpretation as a bivallate ringfort. Based on dating evidence from comparable sites the optimum period of usage for these sites was between the 7th and 9th centuries AD.

7.2.3 Archaeological Complex (Fosterstown South 3)

This site was not entirely cohesive in form but close examination of the results of the geophysical survey, combined with the results of the archaeological assessment identified an archaeological complex consisting of a circular ditch with an associated possible D-shaped enclosing ditch. There were also a number of smaller ditched anomalies in this area which may reflect associated field systems or patterns. It is probable that this complex is also of early medieval date (c.AD500-1200) given that it is located in close proximity to the bivallate ringfort and associated circular enclosure. Its primary function is likely to have been habitation with the smaller ditched anomalies and cereal-drying kiln indicative of agricultural practices. Interestingly it points to the otherwise unknown existence of large early medieval landscape within Fosterstown South.

Unfortunately no diagnostic artefacts were recovered during the testing programme and as mentioned above sites dating to the early Christian period are generally aceramic in nature. Therefore without radiocarbon dating or the retrieval of diagnostic artefacts the fixing of this site within a chronological timeline must be based on the

morphology of this site and of the adjacent site, the bivallate ringfort. Based on dating evidence from comparable sites the optimum period of usage for these sites was between the 7th and 9th centuries AD.

Elsewhere within Testing Area 8 Sub-area 20, the majority of anomalies noted in the geophysical survey were identified as the remains of agricultural activity, namely land clearance, land improvement (drainage) and cultivation. Specifically, the pit-like responses and linear trends were the result of numerous plough furrows and land drains, occasional field boundaries and an occasional stone socket resulting from field clearance. Such linear agricultural features were aligned in a manner that coincided with the surviving upstanding fields and/or with the field systems represented on nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey maps. Most demonstrated physical characteristics (degree of straightness, spacing, etc.) clearly indicative of a mechanised origin and post-agricultural improvement (i.e. post c.AD1750) process.

8.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The sites of archaeological potential that were identified in Testing Area 8 Sub-areas 20 and 21 (Fosterstown South 1-3) are typically located between 400-600 mm below present ground level and as this area incorporates the location of the Metro North alignment and construction compound any sub-surface archaeology would be subject to direct negative impact from ground disturbance works associated with site preparation (including removal of topsoil) and other construction activities. According to EIA guidelines (2003, 139), this impact is likely to be significant to profound in each case. As such a suitable mitigation strategy will be required to be drafted in consultation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and other relevant authorities.

The townland boundary between Nevinstown West and Fosterstown South (HC#416; CRDS 2008), outlined in the results section above, will be directly impacted upon by the proposed scheme. This section of the townland boundary will be completely removed.

9.0 PROPOSED MITIGATION

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

In order to mitigate the predicted impact of the proposed scheme on the archaeological remains identified during the archaeological assessment of Testing Area 8, a detailed mitigation strategy is presented here.

Where an impact on areas of archaeological significance/potential is deemed unavoidable for Fosterstown South 1-3, it is likely that heritage authorities will recommend a programme of 'preservation by record' of the archaeological remains. This would be done in order to preserve the cultural heritage of the 'non-renewable archaeological resource' concerned. In accordance with the RPA Code of Practice (2007), this would entail resolution (archaeological excavation) of the three demarcated archaeological sites carried out under the terms of an archaeological excavation licence granted by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Museum of Ireland.

The proposed excavation area of Fosterstown South 1 has been suggested with the intention of enforcing a minimum 10 m buffer zone around the recorded limits of this site which must be archaeologically resolved in advance of construction. It should be noted that during excavation previously unknown archaeological features may be identified which will require expansion of the excavation area to ensure this 10 m buffer zone is maintained. It is recommended that a buffer zone of a minimum of 20 m should be employed for Fosterstown South 2 and 3. Similarly it should be noted that during the excavation of Fosterstown 2 and 3 previously unknown archaeological features may be identified which will require expansion of the excavation areas to ensure this 20 m buffer zone is maintained.

Figure 2 has been compiled outlining the areas of archaeological potential around the three archaeological sites (Fosterstown South 1-3) identified during the testing process. Where more than one feature is included in a site the extent of the area of archaeological potential is based on (a) the likelihood of features being associated and (b) the likelihood of additional sub-surface remains being present (in the opinion of the licensed director of the testing). It is recommended that the areas of archaeological potential for Fosterstown South 1-3 as specified should be considered for resolution if they will be impacted upon by ground disturbance in any form during construction of the proposed scheme.

The townland boundary at the northeastern edge of Testing Area 8 Fosterstown South (HC#416), will be directly impacted upon. A full photographic survey was

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

carried out on the portion of the boundary impacted upon by the proposed scheme. In addition to this archaeological monitoring of the removal of the boundary should be carried out under the direct and continuous supervision of an experienced archaeologist at director or supervisor grade. These mitigation measures will ensure that the townland boundary is dealt with appropriately in advance of and during the course of the construction works.

As it is not possible to determine the exact extent of sub-surface archaeology remains through archaeological testing the proposed excavation areas for Fosterstown 1-3 are recommendations only. The excavation areas may be subject to alteration following consultation between the RPA Project Archaeologist and the National Monuments Section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

A proposal for the archaeological excavation of Fosterstown 1-3, with regard to the area of excavation, and proposed staff, timescale and resources is outlined in Table 3.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Sites of archaeological potential	Trench number	Summary of Archaeological features identified	Proposed area of excavation	Resources required	Timescale for completion
Fosterstown South 1	Test Trench 3 Test Trench XT1	A deposit of black silty clay (004) with inclusions of burnt and fire cracked stone indicative of a prehistoric burnt mound site was located centrally within Test Trench 3 Sub-area 20. An additional trench (Test Trench XT1) was excavated perpendicularly to Test Trench 3 on a northeast/southwest orientation to define the extent of the spread/site.	22 m north/south by 22 m area centred on the identified burnt spread	1 tracked excavator, 1 dumper 1 Director 1 Supervisors 3 Assistant	.5 week
Fosterstown South 2	T10-T18	An archaeological complex was identified in the southeast corner of Sub-area 20 within Test Trenches 10-18. The findings comprised of; a double ditched or bivallate enclosure with an additional enclosing ditch situated to the south. The bivallate enclosure consisted of; an inner enclosure (044) with an external diameter of 30 m east/west. The second enclosure was characterised by ditch (041) an external diameter of 50 m north-northwest/south-southeast. The additional enclosing ditch (050)	100 m north/south by 100 m centred on the identified archaeological complex	2 tracked excavators and 1 dumper 1 Director 2 Supervisors 25 assistants	8 weeks

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Sites of archaeological potential	Trench number	Summary of Archaeological features identified	Proposed area of excavation	Resources required	Timescale for completion
		measured 30 m in diameter			
Fosterstown South 3	T1-T7	The archaeological assessment confirmed the existence of the possible "D" shaped enclosure identified by the geophysical survey (121), enclosing an area measuring at least 30 m in diameter. An additional enclosure (101) was identified 20 m to the northeast, possibly enclosing an area measuring 50 m in diameter. Furthermore a figure of 8 shaped corn drying kiln was identified in the northern end of Trench 5 directly north of a ditch feature which may have had a relationship with either enclosure.	The entire surface area G53	2 tracked excavators and 1 dumpers 1 Director 2 Supervisors 25 assistants	8 weeks

Table 3: Summary of areas of archaeological potential and estimate of resources required.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Any artefacts and samples retrieved during the investigation should be catalogued, retained and stored appropriately. The treatment of any artefacts retrieved during the investigation should comply with the requirements of the National Museum of Ireland regarding care, numbering and storage. Any organic artefacts that are retrieved during the excavation should be stored in appropriate conditions and assessed by a qualified archaeological conservator as part of this contract.

These recommendations are provisional and subject to review/approval by the RPA Archaeologists and the National Monuments Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

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Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

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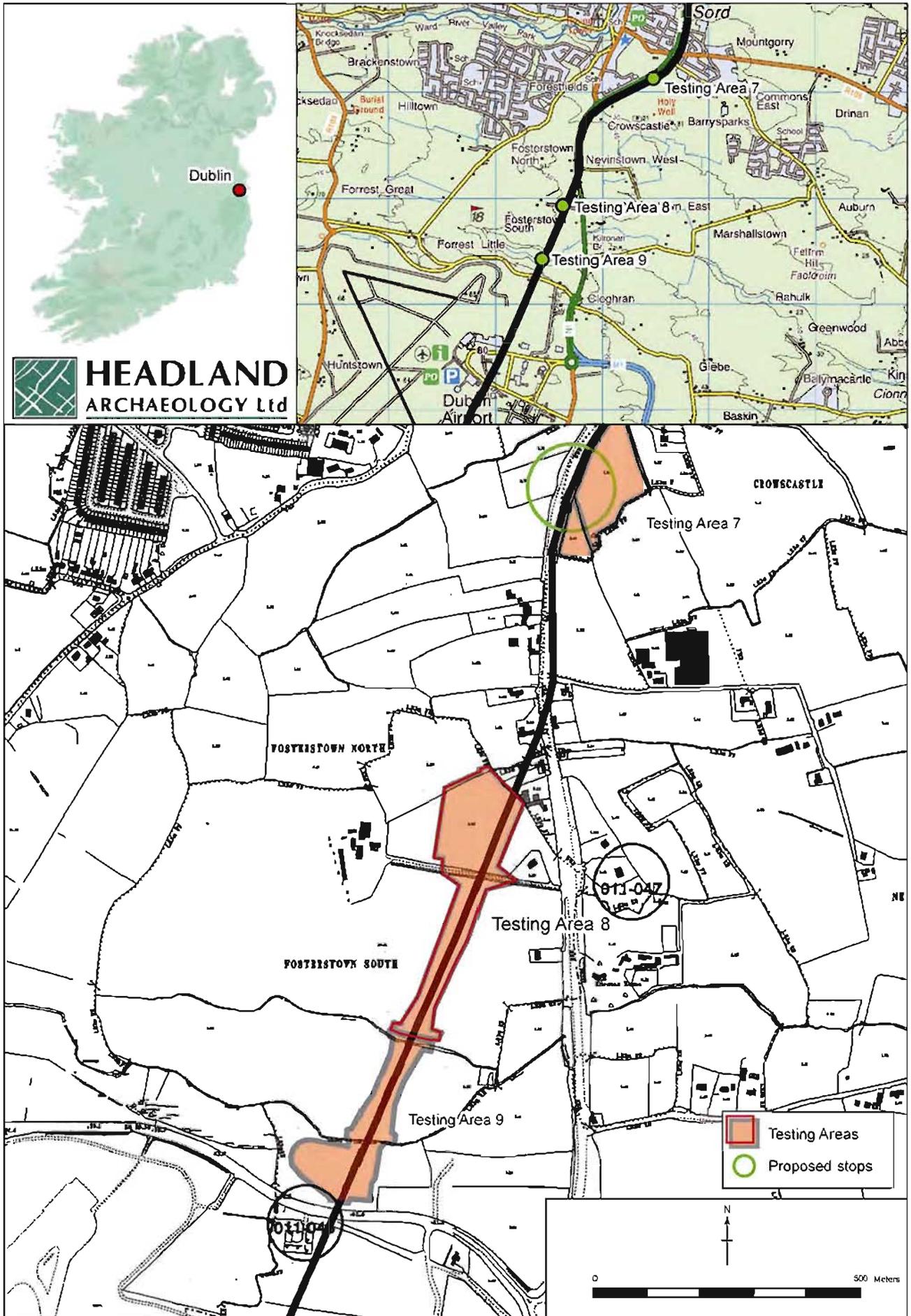


Figure 1 - Advance Archaeological Test Trenching of Metro North: Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (North): location including RMP extract.

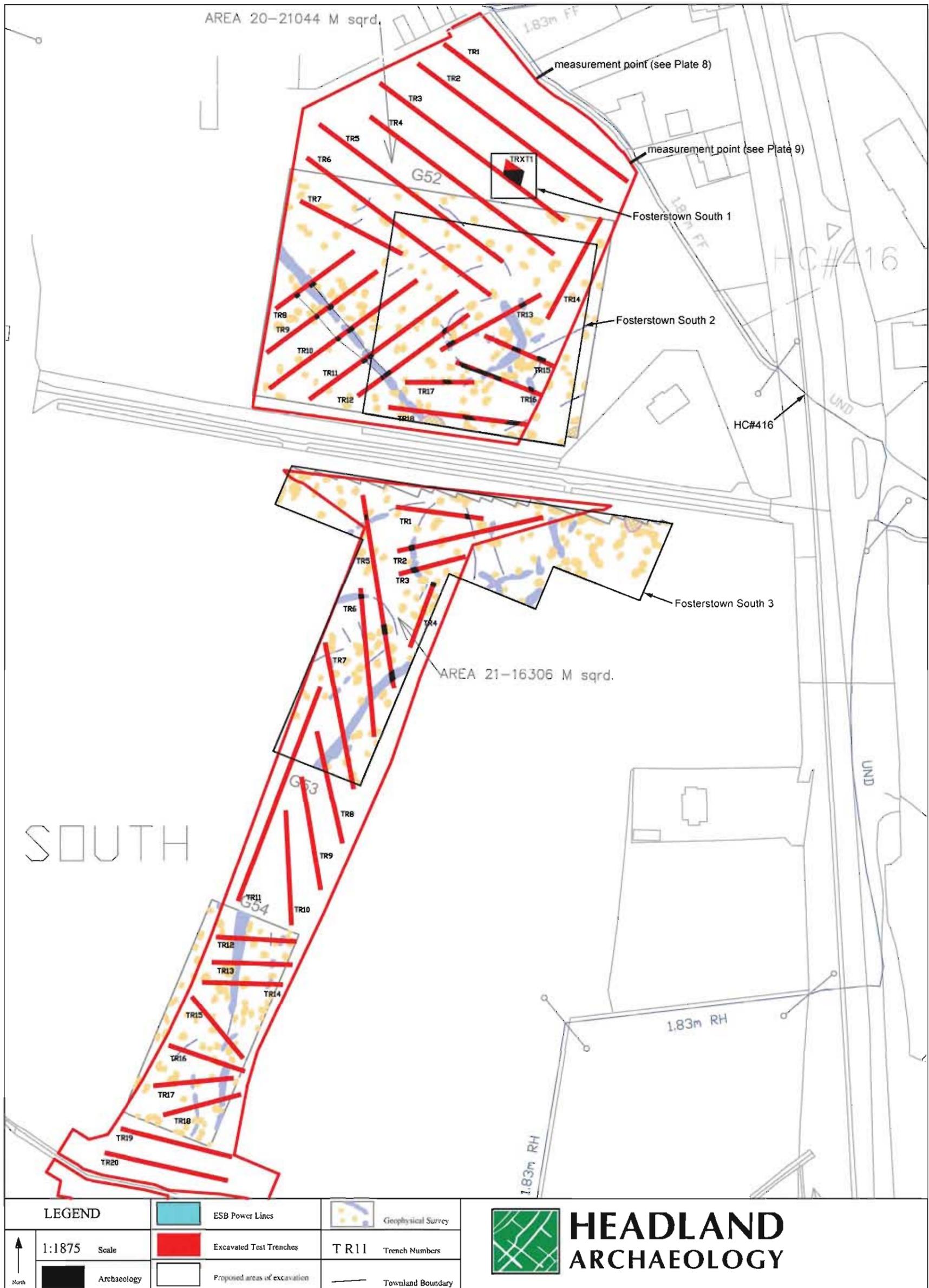
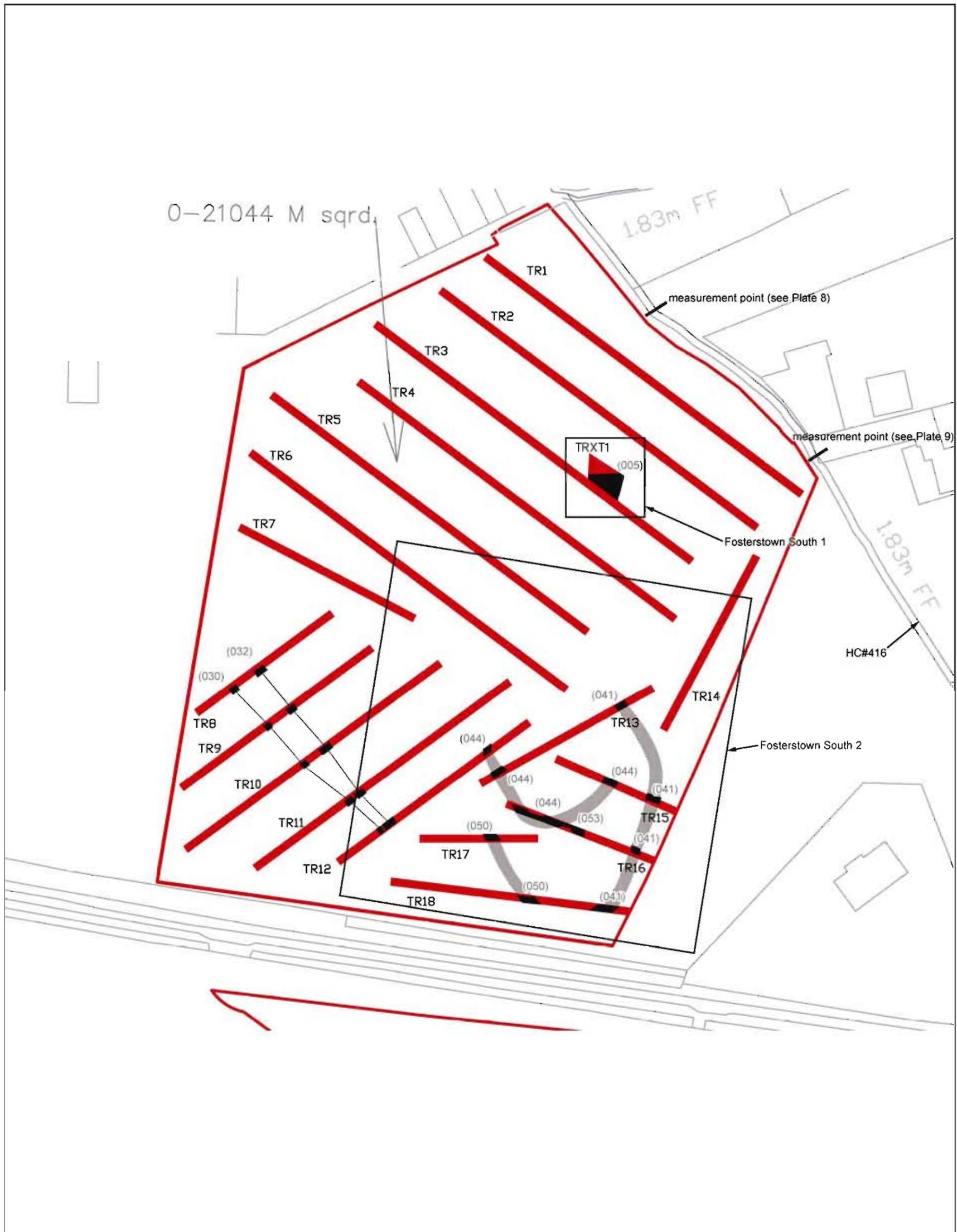


Figure 2 - Advance Archaeological Test Trenching of Metro North: Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (North). Test trench layout, feature location and proposed areas of excavation.



LEGEND		ESB Power Lines	(041) Context Numbers	HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY
	1:1000 Scale	Excavated Test Trenches	TR11 Trench Numbers	
	Archaeology	Proposed areas of excavation	Townland Boundary	

Figure 3 - Advance Archaeological Test Trenching of Metro North: Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (North). Detail of archaeological features in Sub-area 20.

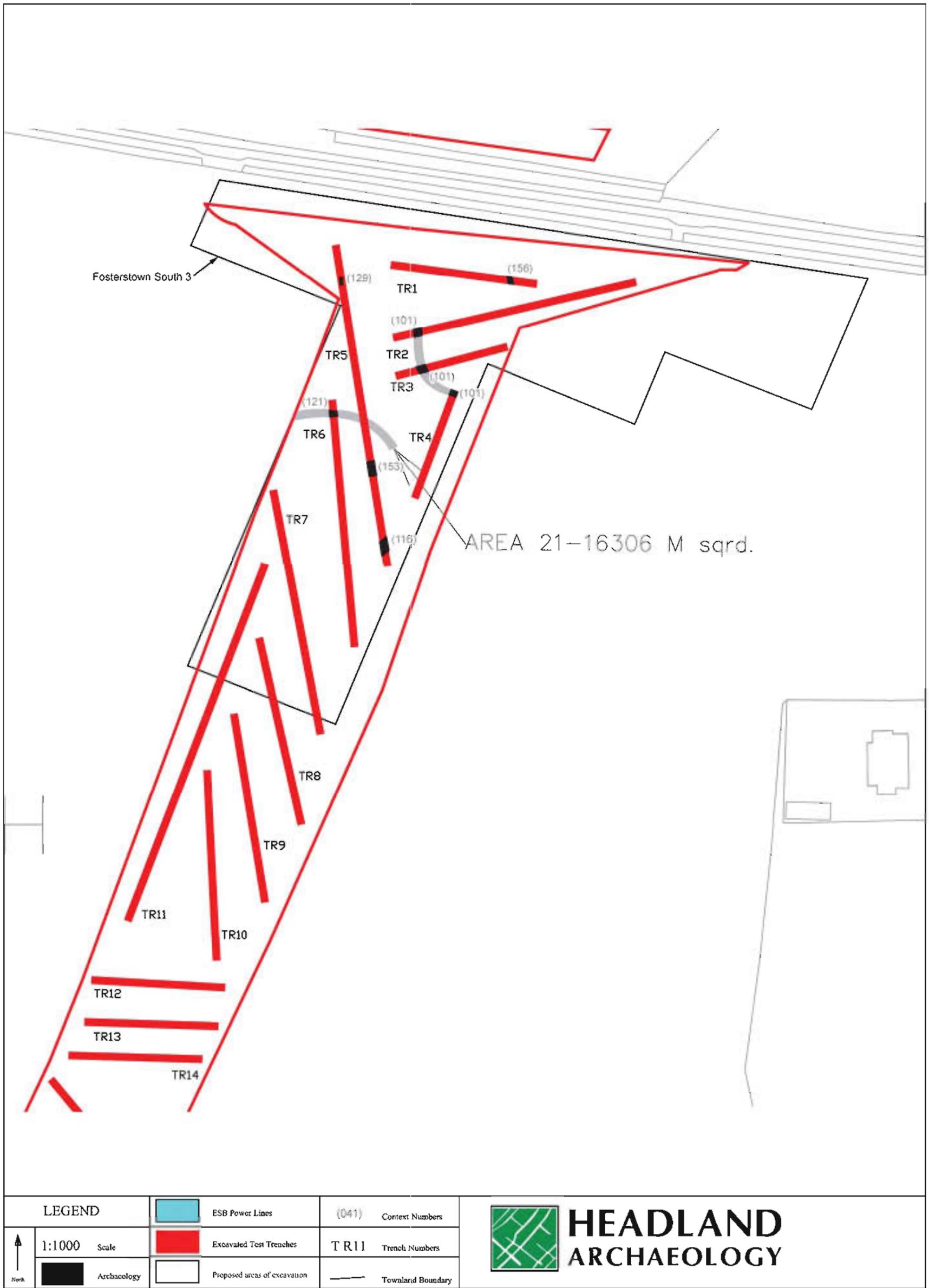


Figure 4 - Advance Archaeological Test Trenching of Metro North: Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (North). Detail of archaeological features in Sub-area 21.

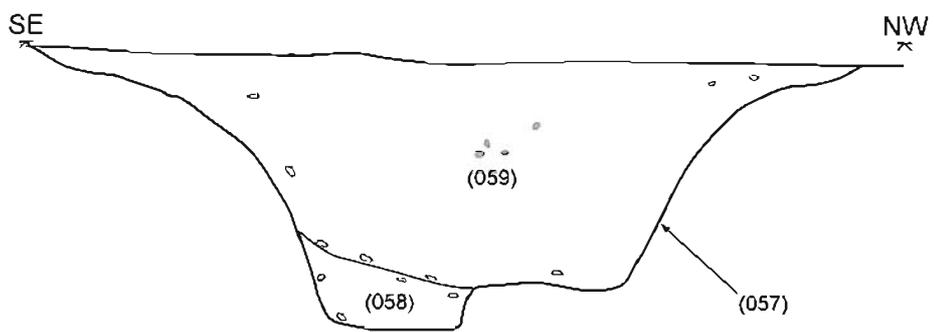


Figure 5 - Advance Archaeological Test Trenching of Metro North: Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (North). Northeast-facing section of boundary ditch (057).

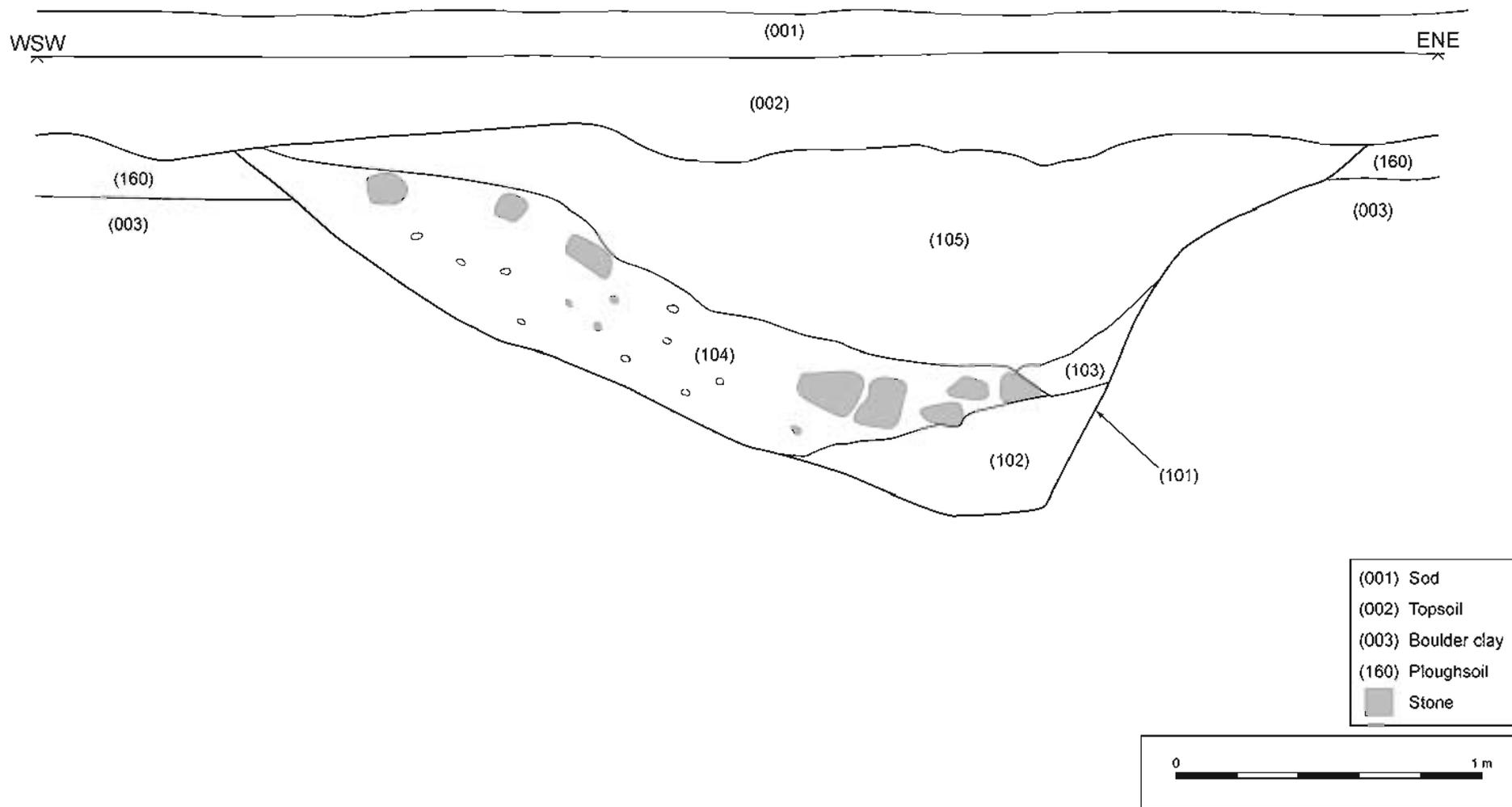


Figure 6 - Advance Archaeological Test Trenching of Metro North: Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (North). East southeast-facing section of curvilinear enclosing ditch (101).

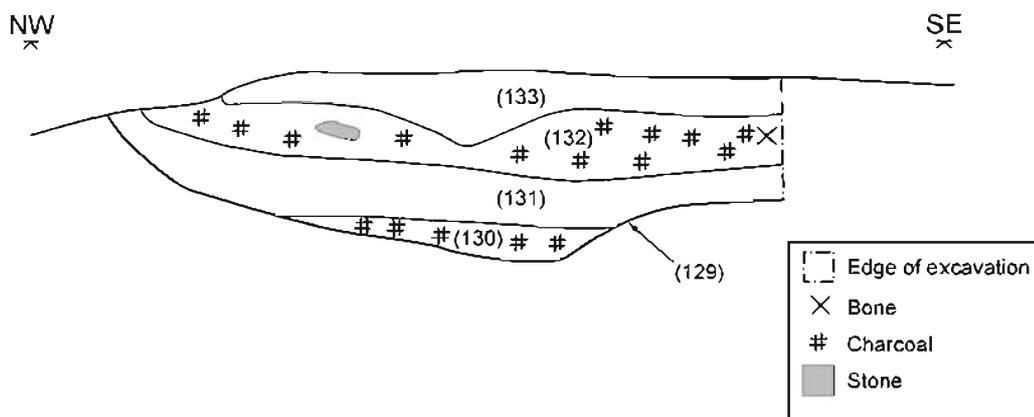


Figure 7 - Advance Archaeological Test Trenching of Metro North: Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (North). Southwest-facing section of kiln (129).



Plate 1 - Sub-area 20. Burnt Spread (005) in Test Trench 3 and XT1. Looking northeast.



Plate 2 - Sub-area 20. General shot of Test Trench 9. Looking northeast.



Plate 3 - Mid-excavation view of enclosure ditch (044), Test Trench 16, Sub-area 20, looking east.



Plate 4 - Mid-excavation view of enclosure ditch (050), Test Trench 18, Sub-area 20, looking east.



Plate 5 - Mid-excavation view of enclosure ditch (101), Test Trench 3, Sub-area 21, looking south.



Plate 6 - Mid-excavation view of cereal-drying kiln (129), Test Trench 5, Sub-area 21, looking north.



Plate 7 - Southwest-facing view of the townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20.



Plate 8 - Measurement point on the townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20 (see Figure 2).



Plate 9 - Measurement point on the townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20 (see Figure 2).



Plate 10 - View northeast along townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20.



Plate 11 - Concrete rubble and plastic dumped in ditch of townland boundary (HC#416), Sub-area 20.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Appendix 1: Field Register

Testing Area	Sub-area	Townland(s)	Description	Total Linear Metres	Services Present
8	20	Fosterstown South	In stubble at time of testing, roughly large triangular area used for wheat (2.1044ha).	1265	N/A
8	21	Fosterstown South	In stubble at time of testing, rectangular east/west orientated area used for wheat (1.6306ha).	980	N/A
Total				2245	

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Appendix 2: Trench Register

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
8	20	1	100.00 m	2.00 m	0.50 m	NW-SE	<p>Topsoil: Moderately compact brown silty clay with moderate occurrence of medium and small sub-angular stone.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mid-yellowish brown silty clay with bands of grey yellow coarse grained silt clay and blackish grey silt clay.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/S Boundary ditch (057) located at northern extent of trench. Filled by 058 & 059. 2.30 m width & 0.70 m depth. Half sectioned. Also identified in Test Trenches 4 & 2. NNW/SSE Land drain located approx. 70.00 m from NW extent of trench.
8	20	2	100.00 m	2.00 m	0.55 m	NW-SE	<p>Topsoil: Moderately compact brown silty clay with moderate occurrence of medium and small sub-angular stone (plough soil).</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mid-yellowish brown silty clay with bands of grey yellow coarse grained silt clay and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/S Boundary ditch (057). Filled by 058 & 059. 2.30 m width & 0.70 m depth. Identified in Test Trench 1, 2, & 5

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							blackish grey silt clay. No features of archaeological significance identified.	
8	20	3	100.00 m	2.00 m	0.55 m	NW-SE	<p>Topsoil: Moderately compact brown silty clay with moderate occurrence of medium and small sub-angular stone (plough soil).</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mid-yellowish brown silty clay with bands of grey yellow coarse grained silt clay and blackish grey silt clay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnt spread (005) composed of dark grey silty clay with moderate inclusions of burnt stones. Length 3.00 m, width 2.00 m, depth 0.20 m. • Series of EW furrows and land drains (006),(007),(008),(011),(012),(014),(015),(020),(022),(023),(026) average 0.30 m in width. Identified in adjacent Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
8	20	XT1	-	6.00 m	-	NE-SW	<p>Topsoil: Moderately compact brown silty clay with moderate occurrence of medium and small sub-angular stone (plough soil).</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mid-yellowish brown silty clay with bands of grey yellow coarse grained silt clay and blackish grey silt clay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burnt spread (005) composed of dark grey silty clay with moderate inclusions of burnt stones. Length 3.4 m, width 2.00 m, depth 0.20 m.
8	20	4	100.00 m	2.00 m	0.55 m	NW-SE	<p>Topsoil: Moderately compact brown silty clay with moderate occurrence of medium and small sub-angular stone (plough soil).</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mid-yellowish brown silty clay with bands of grey yellow coarse grained silt clay and blackish grey silt clay.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of EW furrows and land drains (006),(007),(008),(011),(012),(014),(015),(020),(022),(023),(026) average 0.30 m in width. Identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. EW linear (018), 1.10 m width, 0.23 m depth. NE/SW linear (020), 0.85

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								<p>m width, 0.23 m depth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/S Boundary ditch (057) located at northern extent of trench. Filled by 058 & 059. 2.30 m width & 0.70 m depth. Half sectioned. Also identified in Test Trenches 1, 2, 4, & 5.
8	20	5	100.00 m	2.00 m	0.55 m	NE-SW	<p>Topsoil: Moderately compact brown silty clay with moderate occurrence of medium and small sub-angular stone (plough soil).</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mid-yellowish brown silty clay with bands of grey yellow coarse grained silt clay and blackish grey silt clay.</p> <p>No features of archaeological</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of EW furrows and land drains (006),(007),(008),(011),(012),(014),(015),(020),(022),(023),(026) average 0.30 m in width. Identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. N/S Boundary ditch (057) located at northern extent

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							significance identified.	of trench. Filled by 058 & 059. 2.30 m width & 0.70 m depth. Half sectioned. Also identified in Test Trenches 1 ,2, 4, & 5. •
8	20	6	100.00 m	2.00 m	0.50 m	NE-SW	Topsoil: Grey brown sticky silty clay. Natural subsoil: Varies greatly from grey gravelly patches of well sorted and rounded pebbles on average 0.15 m in diameter, to yellow grey silty marly clay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of EW furrows and land drains (006),(007),(008),(011),(012),(014),(015),(020),(022),(023),(026) average 0.30 m in width. Identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Curvilinear feature (028) Length, 5.09 m, with 0.65 m, 0.32 m depth. Half sectioned.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
8	20	7	50.00 m	2.00 m	0.55 m	WNW-ESE	<p>Topsoil: Grey brown sticky silty clay.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Varies greatly from grey gravelly patches of well sorted and rounded pebbles on average 0.15 m in diameters, to yellow grey silty marly clay.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of EW furrows and land drains (006),(007),(008),(011),(012),(014),(015),(020),(022),(023),(026) average 0.30 m in width. Identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
8	20	8	39.00 m	2.00 m	0.54 m	NE-SW	<p>Topsoil: Grey brown sticky silty clay.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Varies greatly from yellowy grey brown marly boulder clay to naturally occurring patches of gravel.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE Boundary ditch (030) filled by 031. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, & 12. NW/SE (032) orientated boundary ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, & 12. Half sectioned.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE Linear ditch (034) also evident in evident in Test Trenches 8.9.10.11, & 12. Half sectioned. Located 27.00 m from SW end of trench.
8	20	9	55.00 m	2.00 m	0.54 m	NE-SW	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown loam</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Greyish orange silty clay, frequent grey gravel towards southern end of trench.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE (032) orientated linear boundary ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, & 12. Half sectioned. NW/SE Boundary ditch (030) filled by 031. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, & 12 NE/SW linear ditch (035) 0.70 m width,
8	20	10	70.00 m	2.00 m	0.47	NE-SW	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown loam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE (032) orientated

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							<p>Natural subsoil: Greyish orange silty clay, frequent grey gravel towards southern end of trench.</p>	<p>boundary ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, & 12. Half sectioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NW/SE Boundary ditch (030) filled by 031. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, & 12. • NE/SW linear ditch (035) 0.70 m width. • NW/SE Linear ditch (034) also evident in evident in Test Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12. Half sectioned. • NE/SW Linear drain (038) located 35.00 m from NE end of trench. • NE/SW linear drain (039) located 40.00 m from NE

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								<p>end of trench.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/S sub oval shaped pit (036), width 1.34 m, depth 0.06 m, fill contained charcoal and heat shattered stones. Located 21.00 m from NE end of trench .Half sectioned. NS linear drain (040), width 0.50 m, located 51.00 m from NE end of trench.
8	20	11	70.00 m	2.00 m	0.48 m	NE-SW	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown loam.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Greyish orange silty clay, frequent grey gravel.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE Boundary ditch (030) filled by 031. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, & 12. NW/SE (032) orientated boundary ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								<p>9, 10, 11, & 12. Half sectioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE Linear ditch (034) also evident in evident in Test Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12. Half sectioned. NE/SW linear ditch (035) 0.70 m width. Located 50.00 m from SW end of trench.
8	20	12	60.00 m	2.00 m	0.50 m	NE-SW	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown loam, with occasional tiny stones.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Greyish orange silty clay, frequent grey.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE enclosure ditch (044), width 3.50 m, depth 1.80 m. Located 9.70 m from NE end of trench. Evident in Test Trenches 12, 15, & 16. Half sectioned. NW/SE Linear ditch (034) also evident in evident in

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								<p>Test Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12. Half sectioned. Located 19.00 m from NE end of trench.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE (032) orientated boundary ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches 17, 9, 10, 11, & 12. Half sectioned. Located 43.00 m from NE end of trench. NW/SE Boundary ditch (030) filled by 031. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, 17 & 12. Located 47.00 m from NE end of trench.
8	20	13	50.00 m	2.00 m	0.55 m	NE--SW	<p>Topsoil: Light creamy brown silty sand.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled, dark</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE Outer enclosing ditch (041), width 2.70 m, depth 1.30 m. Evident in

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							brownish grey gravelly sand.	<p>trenches 15 & 13. Located 8.00 m from NE end of trench. Quarter sectioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE enclosure ditch (044), width 3.50 m, depth 1.80 m. Located 9.70 m from NE end of trench. Evident in Test Trenches 12, 15, & 16. Half sectioned. NNE/SSW Linear (063) Located 13.00 m from NE end of trench. Sub circular pit (062), length 3.60 m, width 1.20 m. Located 28.00 m from NE end of trench.
8	20	14	50.00 m	2.00 m	0.50 m	E-W	Topsoil: Light creamy brown silty sand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE Land drain, 0.50 m width, 0.25 m depth.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							<p>Natural subsoil: Mottled, dark brownish grey gravelly sand.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<p>Located 3.00 m from E end of trench.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of NE/SW plough furrows, filled by mid brown silty clay.
8	20	15	40.00 m	2.00 m	0.42 m	NW-SE	<p>Topsoil: Light creamy brown silty sand.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled, dark brownish grey gravelly sand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE Outer enclosing ditch (041), width 2.70 m, depth 1.30 m. Evident in Test Trenches 15 & 13. Quarter sectioned. Located 26.00 m from NW end of trench. NW/SE enclosure ditch (044), width 3.50 m, depth 1.80 m. Evident in Test Trenches 12, 15, & 16. Half sectioned. Located 12.00 m from NW end of trench.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS ditch (048), 2.50 width, 0.55 m depth. Broad u-shaped profile.
8	20	16	48.00 m	2.00 m	0.40 m	WNW-ESE	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ditch (041), 3.00 m width, 1.00 m depth. Located south of ditch (044). Circular of inner enclosing ditch (044), width 3.50 m, depth 1.60 m. Evident in Test Trenches 15, 16, and possibly Test Trench 12. Large pit/ditch (053), 5.00 m width. Located 30.00 m from SE end of trench.
8	20	17	30.00 m	2.00 m	0.48 m	E-W	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE enclosure ditch (050), 3.00 m width, 1.00 m depth. Located 12.10 m from E end of trench.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE Linear land drain (034), 0.38 m width, 0.20 m depth. Located 18.20 m from E end of trench
8	20	18	72.00 m	2.00 m	0.44 m	E-W	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE enclosure ditch (050), 3.00 m width, 1.00 m depth. Located 38 m from E end of trench. Ditch (041), 3.00 m width, 1.00 m depth. 0.50 m from E end of trench. NW/SE (032) orientated boundary ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches 17, 9, 10, 11, & 12. Half sectioned. Located 54.00 m from NE end of trench. NW/SE Boundary ditch (030) filled by 031. Also

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, 17 & 12. Located 54.00 m from NE end of trench.
8	21	1	43.00 m	2.00	0.55 m	E-W	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditch (156), width 4.20 m, depth, 1.20 m, possible associated with circular enclosure ditch 101. • WNW/ESE linear land drain, width 0.40 m.
8	21	2	65.00 m	2.00 m	0.55 m	SW-NE	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible circular enclosure ditch (101), width 4.20 m, depth, 1.20 m, evident in Test Trenches 1, 3, 4 & 5. • NW/SE drain (107) located 35.80 m from W

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								<p>extent of trench. Width 0.40 m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW/SE linear agricultural drainage ditch (108). Width (diagonally) 6.00 m.
8	21	3	30.00 m	2.00 m	0.50 m	SW-NE	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible circular enclosure ditch (101), width 4.20 m, depth, 1.20 m, evident in Test Trenches 1, 3, 4 & 5. Located 22.80 m from E extent of trench. Quarter sectioned.
8	21	4	30.00 m	2.00 m	0.80 m	NNE-SSW	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NE/SW linear french drain (110), width 0.30 m, depth 0.52 m. Located 6.50 m from SSW end of trench. Possible circular

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							contained small stones.	<p>enclosure ditch (101), width 4.20 m, depth, 1.20 m, evident in Test Trenches 1, 3, 4,& 5. Located 2.70 m from NNE extent of trench. Quarter sectioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NW/SE linear feature (112), width 0.92 m, depth 0.32 m. Located 1.5 m from SSW end of trench. • NE/SW land drain (114), located 1.5 m from SSW end of trench.
8	21	5	85.00 m	2.00 m	0.40 m	NE-SW	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NNW/SSE furrow (120). Width 0.75 m, depth 0.04 m, located 49.00 m from SE end of trench. • NWW/SSE linear ditch

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							contained small stones.	<p>(116), post medieval boundary, 4.55 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. Located at SW extent of trench. Quarter sectioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EW linear ditch (124) Located 0.70 m S of kiln (129), width 1.10 m, depth 0.90 m. • NW/SE Figure of "8" shaped corn drying kiln(129), length 2.06 m, width 0.70 m, depth 0.23 m. Located at NW extent of trench.
8	21	6	85.00 m	2.00 m	0.55 m	NW-SE	Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E/W Linear ditch (121), width 1.40 m. Depth 0.54

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							slightly plastic composition. Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.	m, located 53.00 m from SE end of trench. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWW/SSE linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. Sub circular base of hearth, length 0.40 m, width 0.30 m, located 13.00 m from NW extent.
8	21	7	68.00 m	2.00 m	0.35 m	N-S	Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition. Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones. No features of archaeological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWW/SSE linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. Located 40.40 m from N end of

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							significance identified.	trench. •
8	21	8	30.00 m	2.00 m	0.45 m	NW-SE	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones. Blackish grey clayey silt.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/S land drain (135) Located 29.00 m from northern extent of trench, width 0.60 m. • NS land drain (136) Located 33 m from northern extent of trench. Width 0.30 m. • NS land drain (137), width 0.23 m, located 41.00 m from N extent of trench. • EW land drain (138) .0.30 m width, located 41.00 m

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								from N end of trench.
8	21	9	52.00 m	2.00 m	0.39 m	N-S	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones. Blackish grey clayey silt.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWW/SSE linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. Located 1.50 m from N end of trench. • ENE/WSW land drain (139), 0.28 m wide, located 14.70 m from N end of trench. • NNW/SSE linear (140), 0.30 m wide, 17.40 m from N end of trench. • NNW/SSE linear (141) 0.33 m width, 0.07 m depth. Located 12.20 m

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								from N end of trench.
8	21	10	50.00 m	1.80 m	0.45 m	NNW-SSE	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones. Blackish grey clayey silt.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWW/SEE stone lined drain (143), 0.30 m width, 0.30 m depth Located 31.00 m from SSE end of trench. • NWW/SEE stone lined drain (144), width 0.30 m, depth 0.25 m, located 5.00 m from SEE end of trench.
8	21	11	105.00 m	2.00 m	0.45 m	N-S	<p>Topsoil: Mid-brown coloured sticky clay containing few stones and slightly plastic composition.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
8	21	12	35.00 m	2.00 m	0.45	E-W	<p>Topsoil: Mottled, Mid-brown coloured silty sand, dark brownish grey gravelly sand.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15.
8	21	13	34.00 m	2.00 m	0.40 m	E-W	<p>Topsoil: Mottled, Mid-brown coloured silty sand, dark brownish grey gravelly sand.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15.
8	21	14	35.00 m	2.00 m	0.45 m	E-W	<p>Topsoil: Mottled, Mid-brown coloured silty sand, dark brownish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							<p>grey gravely sand.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Mottled yellow orange and brown boulder clay which contained small stones.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<p>m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. Located 12.00 m from W end of trench.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible EW linear ditch (145). Possible physical relationship with ditch (116).
8	21	15	30.00 m	2.00 m	0.50 m	NW-SE	<p>Topsoil: Mid-greyish brown loam</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Yellow silty boulder clay, medium limestone sub angular inclusions. Occasional iron pan staining.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. Located 25.00 m from N end of trench. •
8	21	16	35.00 m	2.00 m	0.40 m	NWW-SEE	<p>Topsoil: Mid-greyish brown loam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS linear ditch (116), post

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
							<p>Natural subsoil: Yellow silty boulder clay, medium limestone sub angular inclusions. Occasional iron pan staining.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<p>medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. Located 21.00 m from N end of trench.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EW linear ditch (146).
8	21	17	35.00 m	2.00 m	0.40 m	NWW-SEE	<p>Topsoil: Mid-greyish brown loam</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Yellow silty boulder clay, medium limestone sub angular inclusions. Occasional iron pan staining.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 0.72 m width. Evident in Test Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. Located 4.00 m from E end of trench. Corresponds to anomaly on geophysical survey. • NS linear ditch (147), width 2.10 m width, located 19.5 m from W

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
								end of trench.
8	21	18	33.40 m	2.00 m	0.60 m	NE-SW	<p>Topsoil: Described as plough soil described as brown silty clay.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Boulder clay, mid-grey clayey sand with frequent small sub rounded stones included.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS linear ditch (116), post medieval boundary, 2.75 m width, 1.07 m width. Evident in Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 & 15. Located 14.00 m from W end of trench. Corresponds to anomaly on geophysical survey
8	21	19	50.00 m	1.80 m	0.40 m	NNW-SSE	<p>Topsoil: Described as plough soil described as brown silty clay.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Boulder clay, mid-grey clayey sand with frequent small sub rounded stones included.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . None

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Testing Area	Sub-area	Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Summary of Features
8	21	20	55.00 m	1.80 m	0.65 m	WNW-ESE	<p>Topsoil: Described as plough soil described as brown silty clay.</p> <p>Natural subsoil: Boulder clay, mid-grey clayey sand with frequent small sub rounded stones included.</p> <p>No features of archaeological significance identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amalgamation of two post medieval ditches (116) & (147).

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Appendix 3: Context Register

Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
001	8	-	-	Deposit	-	-	0.10	Dark brown with humus and mineral elements.	Sod
002	8	-	-	Deposit	-	-	0.35	Varies between moderately compact brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of small to medium sub-angular stones to mid-greyish brown loam.	Topsoil
003	8	-	-	Deposit	-	-	-	Mid-yellowish brown silty clay mottled with greyish yellow and blackish grey silty clay with occasional stone inclusions	Natural subsoil
004	8	20	All	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Subsoil, yellow brown/grey brown boulder clay	

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
005	8	20	3	Spread	3.00	2.00	0.20	Spread of dark grey, loose, silty clay, mod. Inclusions of heat shattered stones.	Spread
006	8	20	3	Cut and fill	-	-	0.30	Mid brown, loose, sandy silt.	Plough furrow. One of a series of east/west orientated furrows identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 6.
007	8	20	4	Cut and fill	-	-	-	Mid brown, loose, sandy silt.	Plough furrow. One of a series of east/west orientated furrows identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
008	8	20	4	Cut	-	0.50	0.30	U-shaped profile.	Land drain also apparent in Test Trenches 3 & 5. E/W orientation. Located 10.60 m from NW end of Test Trench. Filled by 009 and 010.
009	8	20	4	Fill	-	-	-	Rounded and angular stones. Average length 0.10 m width x 0.3 m's	Basal stone fill of land drain 008.
010	8	20	4	Fill	-	-	-	Light yellowish brown clayey silt.	Upper fill of land drain 008
011	8	20	4	Cut and Fill	-	-	-	Mid brown, loose, sandy silt.	Plough furrow. One of a series of east/west orientated furrows identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
012	8	20	4	Cut	-	0.48	0.15	-	Plough furrow. One of a series of east/west orientated furrows identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 6. Located 28.10 m from NW end of trench.
013	8	20	4	Fill	-	0.48	0.15	Light brownish yellow sandy silt. Occasional small stones.	Plough furrow. One of a series of east/west orientated furrows identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 6. Fill of furrow 012.
014	8	20	4	Cut and fill.	-	-	-	East/west orientation, linear stone filled drain.	Land drain.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
015	8	20	4	Cut	-	0.47	0.20	-	Plough furrow. One of a series of east/west orientated furrows identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 6. Located 50.30 m from NW end of trench.
016	8	20	4	Fill	-	0.47	0.20	Light brownish yellow, sandy silt .Occasional small stones.	Plough furrow. One of a series of east/west orientated furrows identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 6.
017	8	20	4	Cut and fill.	-	-	-	Light brownish yellow, sandy silt. Occasional small stones.	Plough furrow. One of a series of east/west orientated furrows identified in Test Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 6.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
018	8	20	4	Cut	-	1.1	0.23	Concave base and sides.	61.10 m from NW end of trench. Linear feature/plough furrow, filled by 019.
019	8	20	4	Fill	-	1.1	0.23	Light brownish yellow sandy silt. Occasional small stones.	Fill of furrow 018.
020	8	20	4	Cut	-	0.85	0.23	-	Cut of NW/SE orientated plough furrow.
021	8	20	4	Fill	-	0.85	0.23	Light brownish yellow sandy silt. Occasional small stones.	Fill of plough furrow 020.
022	8	20	4	Cut and fill	-	-	-	Linear feature, EW orientation.	Stone filled land drain.
023	8	20	4	Cut	-	0.50	0.40	Linear feature, EW orientation. Sharp/vertical sides, flat base.	Land drain filled by 024 & 025.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
024	8	20	4	Fill	-	0.50	0.15	Basal stone fill of land drain 023	Basal fill of land drain 023
025	8	20	4	Fill	-	0.50	0.35	-	Upper fill of land drain 023
026	8	20	4	Cut	-	0.40	0.12	EW orientation, concave profile.	Cut of EW orientated land drain, located 92.3 m from NW end of trench. Filled by 027.
027	8	20	4	Fill	-	0.40	0.12	Medium sized sub rounded and sub angular stones.	Fill of land drain 026.
028	8	20	6	Cut	5.09	0.65	0.32	Curvilinear ditch/gully	Cut of curvilinear ditch/gully.
029	8	20	6	Fill	5.09	0.65	0.32	Light yellowish brown silty clay.	Fill of curvilinear feature 028.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
030	8	20	8	Cut	-	2.39	0.73	NW/SE orientated linear ditch. Break of slope top-sharp. Sides-gradual. Break of slope base-imperceptible, Base-concave.	Cut of boundary ditch, filled by 031. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, & 12.
031	8	20	8	Fill	-	2.39	0.73	Dark yellowish brown clayey silt, occasional charcoal and pebble inclusions.	Singular fill of boundary ditch 030.
032	8	20	8	Cut	-	2.56	1.09	NW/SE orientated linear ditch, break of slope top -gradual, steep sides, break of slope base-gradual, concave base.	Cut of NW/SE orientated boundary ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches 9, 10, 11, & 12.
033	8	20	8	Fill	-	2.56	1.09	Loosely compacted, light greyish brown clayey silt, occasional inclusions of charcoal, mollusc shell, and stones.	Singular fill of boundary ditch 032.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
034	8	20	8	Cut	-	0.80	-	NW/SE linear ditch.	Linear ditch located 27.00 m from SW end of trench. Also evident in Test Trenches 11 & 12.
035	8	20	9	Cut and fill	-	0.80	-	NW/SE linear ditch.	Linear ditch located 20.00 m from SW end of trench .Also evident in Test Trenches 11 & 12.
036	8	20	10	Cut	-	1.34	0.06	NS sub oval shaped pit, break of slope top-sharp, gradual sloping sides, break of slope base-imperceptible, flat base.	NS orientated sub oval shaped pit.
037	8	20	10	Fill	-	1.34	0.06	Loose, mid blackish grey silty clay with moderate inclusions of charcoal ,stone, and heat shattered stones,	Fill of sub oval shaped pit 036.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
038	8	20	10	Cut and fill	-	0.70	-	NE/SW orientated linear drain.	Linear drain. Located 35.00 m from NE end of trench.
039	8	20	10	Cut and fill	-	0.70	-	NE/SW orientated linear drain.	Linear drain. Located 40.00 m from NE end of trench.
040	8	20	10	Cut and fill	-	0.50	-	NE/SW orientated linear drain.	Linear drain. Located 51.00 m from NE end of trench.
041	8	20	13	Cut		2.70	1.30	NW/SE orientated ditch, broad U-shaped profile.	Possible outer enclosure ditch. Also evident in Test Trench 15.
042	8	20	13	Fill	-	3.00	0.85	Orange brown silty clay, moderate shell and stone inclusions, occasional charcoal inclusions.	Upper fill of outer enclosure ditch 041.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
043	8	20	13	Fill	-	0.85	0.45	Mid grey silty clay, occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions.	Lower fill of outer enclosure ditch 041.
044	8	20	13	Cut	-	3.50	1.60	Break of slope top-gradual, gradual/sharp sloping sides, break of slope base-sharp.	Cut of inner enclosing ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches 15, 16, and possibly Test Trench 12.
045	8	20	13	Fill	-	-	-	Dark grey, moist, silty clay, occasional small stone inclusions.	Basal fill of ditch 044.
046	8	20	13	Fill	-	-	-	Mid/dark brown clay.	Middle fill of ditch 044.
047	8	20	13	Fill	-	-	-	Dark grey silty clay, occasional small stone inclusions.	Upper fill of ditch 044
048	8	20	15	Cut	-	2.50	0.55	Broad U-shaped profile.	N/S orientated ditch/pit.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
049	8	20	15	Fill	-	2.50	0.55	Mid grey, silty clay, medium compaction, occasional animal bone, shell, and charcoal inclusions	Fill of ditch/pit 048
050	8	20	16	Cut	-	3.00	1.00	Break of slope top-sharp, steep sides, break of slope base, sharp, concave base.	Cut of circular enclosure located south of ditch 044.
051	8	20	16	Fill	-	0.98	0.20	Moderately compact, grey coarse grained silty clay with occasional inclusions of mussel shell and charcoal.	Lower fill of ditch 050.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
052	8	20	16	Fill	-		0.50	Compact brownish yellow silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions. Also inclusions of snail/mussel shells, and very occasional charcoal and animal bone inclusions.	Upper fill of ditch 050.
053	8	20	16	Cut	-	5.00	-	-	Cut of ditch/pit.
054	8	20	16	Fill	-	5.00	-	-	Fill of ditch/pit 053.
055	8	20	17		-	0.96	0.20	Orangey grey clay, moderate small rounded stone inclusions.	Upper fill of ditch 034.
056	8	20	17	Fill	-	-	0.20	Sub angular medium sized stones. Heavily compacted.	Lower fill of ditch 034
057	8	20	1	Cut	-	2.30	0.70	Break of slope top -gradual, gradual sloping sides, break of slope base-sharp, flat/concave base.	Cut of NS boundary ditch. Also evident in Test Trench 2.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
058	8	20	1	Fill	-	0.40	0.20	Mid greyish brown, silty clay, moderately compact, frequent small sub angular stone inclusions.	Lower fill of ditch 057.
059	8	20	1	Fill	-	2.20	0.60	Light brown, silty clay, moderately compact, occasional small sub angular stones.	Upper fill of ditch 057.
060	8	20	16	Fill	-	1.20	0.20	Compact brownish yellow silty clay, occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions. Also occasional snail/mussel shells, and very occasional charcoal inclusions. Occasional fragmentary chert inclusions.	Upper fill of ditch 044 Same as 046

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
061	8	20	16	Fill	-	0.98	0.20	Moderately compact, grey coarse grained silty clay with occasional of mussel shell and charcoal.	Lower fill of ditch 044 Same as 047
062	8	20	13	Cut and fill	-	3.60	1.20	Dark brown silty clay.	Sub circular pit.
063								NE/SW linear, possible physical relationship with 044	Linear feature.

Context Register for Testing Area 8 Sub-area 21

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
101	8	21	2	Cut	-	4.20	1.20	Break of slope top-gradual/sharp, gradual sloping sides, break of slope base- sharp. Flay/concave base.	Cut of possible circular enclosure ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches 3 and 4. Possible associated with ditch 156.
102	8	21	2	Fill	-	2.8	0.20	Mid brown moist sticky clay, occasional animal bone.	Basal fill of ditch 101
103	8	21	2	Fill	-	0.20	0.12	Dark grey silty clay, occasional charcoal inclusions	Lower fill of ditch 101
104	8	21	2	Fill	-	2.60	0.62	Very compact, mid dark grey sandy silt very frequent sub rounded stone inclusions. Also occasional larger stone inclusions of 0.07 m length.	Middle fill of ditch 101.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
105	8	21	2	Fill	-	3.40	0.70	Mid brown silty clay, friable and dry consistency, frequent sub angular stones.	Upper fill of ditch 101
106	8	21	1	Cut and fill.	-	0.40	-	Linear shape in plan, filled with homogenous mid brown silty clay.	WNW/ESE orientated drain.
107	8	21	2	Cut and fill	-	0.40	-	Linear shape in plan, filled with mid brown silty clay.	NW/SE orientated drain located 35.80 m from western extent of trench.
108	8	21	2	Cut	-	6.00	-	Linear shape in plan, NW/SE orientation.	Cut of agricultural drainage ditch.
109	8	21	2	Fill	-	6.00	-	-	Fill of agricultural drainage ditch 108.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
110	8	21	4	Cut	-	0.30	0.52	Linear shape in plan, NE/SW orientation.	Cut of French/land drain. Located 6.50 m from SSW end of trench.
111	8	21	4	Fill	-	0.30	0.52	Mid brown silty clay, occasional charcoal inclusions and small sub angular stone packing at base.	Fill of French/land drain 110.
112	8	21	4	Cut	-	0.92	0.32	Linear shape in plan, NW/SE orientation.	Cut of linear feature. Located 1.5 m from SSW end of trench.
113	8	21	4	Fill	-	0.92	0.32	Sterile apart from occasional animal bone.	Fill of linear feature 112.
114	8	21	4	Cut	-	-	-	Linear shape in plan, orientated NE/SW.	Cut of land drain.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
115	8	21	4	Fill	-	-	-	Compact sub angular medium sized stones.	Fill of land drain 114.
116	8	21	5	Cut	-	4.55	0.72	Break of slope top-gradual, gradual sloping sides, flat uneven base.	Cut of NWW/SSE orientated post medieval boundary ditch. Also evident in Test Trenches 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15.
117	8	21	5	Fill	-	2.42	0.18	Mid grey, fine grained silty clay, occasional small sub angular stone inclusions.	Basal fill of post medieval boundary ditch 116.
118	8	21	5	Fill	-	4.55	0.58	Compact, mid brown silty clay, moderate sub angular stone inclusions. Occasional charcoal inclusions.	Upper fill of post medieval boundary ditch.
119	void	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
120	8	21	5	Cut and fill		0.75	0.04	Furrow filled with mid brown silty clay and yellow re-deposited subsoil.	Agricultural furrow orientated NNW/SSE.
121	8	21	5	Cut	-	1.40	0.54	Break of slope top-gradual, gradual sloping sides, break of slope base-gradual, concave base.	Cut of E/W orientated ditch. Possibly associated with 153.
122	8	21	5	Fill	-	0.77	0.18	Mid brownish grey silt clay with occasional small sub angular stone inclusions.	Basal fill of ditch 121.
123	8	21	5	Fill	-	1.40	0.36	Moderately compact, mid brown silty clay with occasional sub angular stone inclusions. Occasional animal bone inclusions.	Upper fill of ditch 121
124	8	21	5	Cut	-	1.10	0.90	Break of slope top-gradual/sharp, gradual/sharp sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of EW orientated ditch. Located 0.70 m of south kiln 129.

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
125	8	21	5	Fill	-	0.22	0.09	Dark grey clay moderate medium and large sub rounded stones. Frequent charcoal inclusions. Occasional animal bone inclusions.	Basal fill of ditch 124.
126	8	21	5	Fill	-	0.48	0.25	Mid/pale brown/orangey yellow mottled gritty clay with moderate small stone inclusions. Occasional large sub rounded stone and charcoal inclusions.	Lower fill of ditch 124.
127	8	21	5	Fill	-	0.90	0.22	Mid brown silty clay with occasional/moderate small sub rounded stone inclusions. Occasional charcoal and fragmented animal bone inclusions.	Middle fill of ditch 124.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
128	8	21	5	Fill	-	1.10	0.20	Mid brown silty clay with frequent small sub rounded and medium angular stone inclusions. Occasional charcoal inclusions.	Upper fill of ditch 124.
129	8	21	5	Cut	2.06	0.82	0.23	Figure of "8" shaped, NNW/SSE orientation. Sharp break of slope with steep concave sides. Base and sides partially lined with naturally present stones.	Cut of corn drying kiln.
130	8	21	5	Fill	2.06	0.62	0.08	Loose and friable, dark greyish black silty clay, frequent charcoal inclusions.	Basal fill of kiln 129.
131	8	21	5	Fill	-	0.58 *	0.12	Loose and friable mid grey silty clay, occasional charcoal inclusions.	Lower fill of kiln 129

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
132	8	21	5	Fill	-	0.55 *	0.22	Loose and friable, charcoal rich dark grey silty clay, moderate animal bone and charcoal inclusions.	Middle fill of kiln 129
133	8	21	5	Fill	-	0.48 *	0.25	Loose and friable, mottled black and red, fine grained silty clay, frequent charcoal inclusions.	Upper fill of kiln 129.
134	8	21	7	Cut and fill.	0.40	0.30	-	Sub circular shape in plan, discoloured red subsoil at base.	Base of sub circular hearth.
135	8	21	8	Cut and fill.	-	0.60	-	Linear shape in plan, N/S orientation. Filled by fine grey silt.	Land drain. Located 29.00 m from northern extent of trench.
136	8	21	8	Cut and fill.	-	0.30	-	Linear shape in plan, N/S orientation. Filled by dark grey silt, occasional oyster shell and charcoal inclusions.	Land drain. Located 33 m from northern extent of trench.

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
137	8	21	8	Cut and fill.	-	0.23	-	Linear shape in plan, N/S orientation. Filled dark brown silty clay, occasional charcoal and shell inclusions. Contained modern pottery.	Land drain. Located 41.00 m from northern extent of trench.
138	8	21	8	Cut and fill.	-	0.30	-	Linear shape in plan. E/W orientation. Filled by dark brown silty clay, occasional charcoal and shell inclusions. Contained modern pottery.	Land drain, located 41.00 m from northern extent of trench.
139	8	21	9	Cut and fill.	-	0.28	-	Linear shape in plan, ENE/WSW orientation, filled by greyish brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal inclusions above sub rounded stones.	Land drain, located 14.70 m from northern extent of trench.
140	8	21	9	Cut and fill.	-	0.30	-	Linear shape in plan, NNW/SSE orientation, filled with pale brown grey silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.	Plough furrow, located 17.40 m from northern extent of trench.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/ deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
141	8	21	9	Cut and fill.	-	0.33	-	Linear shape in plan, NNW/SSE orientation, filled with pale brown grey silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions.	Plough furrow, located 12.20 m from northern extent of trench.
142	8	21	9	Cut and fill.	-	0.32		Linear shape in plan, ENE/WSW orientation, filled by mixed yellowish brown/ mid brown silty clay, frequent charcoal inclusions, moderate sub rounded stone inclusions.	Land drain, located 9.20 m from northern extent of trench.
143	8	21	10	Cut and fill.	-	0.30	0.30	Linear shape in plan, NW/SE orientation. Filled by sub rounded and angular stones(average 0.05 m x 0.10 m)	Land drain, located 31.00 m from SSE extent of trench.
144	8	21	10	Cut and fill.	--	0.30	0.25	Linear shape in plan, filled by large angular stones(0.10 m x 0.15 m average)	Land drain, located 5.00 m from SSE extent of trench.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
145	8	21	14	Cut and fill.	-	-	-	Linear shape in plan, EW orientation, possible physical relationship with relationship with ditch 116.	Possible ditch.
146	8	21	16	Cut and fill.	-	-	-	Linear shape in plan, EW orientation. Filled by mid brown silty clay.	Possible ditch.
147	8	21	17	Cut and fill.	-	2.10	-	Linear shape in plan, NS orientation. Filled by mid brown silty clay fill.	Possible ditch
148	8	21	12	Cut	-	3.00	0.90	Linear shape in plan, break of slope top-gradual sloping sides, break of slope base-gradual, concave base.	NS orientated ditch.
149	8	21	12	Fill	-	2.85	0.27	Mid brown silty clay with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions.	Upper fill of ditch 148
150	8	21	12	Fill	-	2.80	0.30	Mid/light brown silty clay with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions.	Middle fill of ditch 148.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
151	8	21	12	Fill	-	2.60	0.30	Mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions. Fragmentary post medieval pottery noted within the fill.	Lower fill of ditch 148.
152	8	21	12	Fill	-	1.52	0.10	Greyish brown clay with frequent stone inclusions.	Basal fill of ditch 148
153	8	21	5	Cut	-	4.00	-	Break of slope top-gradual, gradual sloping sides, break of slope base-gradual, concave base.	Cut of E/W orientated ditch. Possibly associated with 121.
154	8	21	5	Fill	-	4.00	-	Mid brownish grey silt clay with occasional small sub angular stone inclusions.	Basal fill of ditch 153.
155	8	21	5	Fill	-	4.00	-	Moderately compact, mid brown silty clay with occasional sub angular stone inclusions. Occasional animal bone inclusions.	Upper fill of ditch 153.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Context No.	Testing Area	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Type (cut/fill/deposit)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
156	8	21	1	Cut	-	4.20	1.20	Break of slope top-gradual/sharp, gradual sloping sides, break of slope base- sharp. Flay/concave base.	Cut of a ditch. Possible associated with circular enclosure ditch 101.
157	8	21	1	Fill	-	2.8	0.20	Mid brown moist sticky clay, occasional animal bone.	Basal fill of ditch 101
158	8	21	1	Fill	-	0.20	0.12	Dark grey silty clay, occasional charcoal inclusions	Lower fill of ditch 101
159	8	21	1	Fill	-	2.60	0.62	Very compact, mid dark grey sandy silt very frequent sub rounded stone inclusions. Also occasional larger stone inclusions of 0.07 m length.	Middle fill of ditch 101.

* = measurements taken quarter section.

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Appendix 4: Finds Register

Find No.	Material	Type	Identification	Townland	Description
09E446:047:001	Metal	Fragment	-	Fosterstown South	Metal fragments from upper fill of Ditch (044)
09E446:047:002	Ceramic	Body sherd	Late medieval	Fosterstown South	Pottery fragment from Ditch (044)

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Appendix 5: Sample register

Sample no.	Context no.	Number of tubs/bags	Description	Initials & date
1	132	2 Bags	Test Trench 5, soil sample of charcoal from middle fill of corn drying kiln 129.	O.L. 02/10/09
2	132	2 Bags	Test Trench 5, animal bone sample from middle fill of corn drying kiln 129.	O.L. 02/10/09

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Appendix 5: Photographic register

Photo No.	Camera No.	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Townland	Direction Facing	Description
1210	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	W	Land drain, NE/SW orientated
1211	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	W	Enclosure ditch 050
1212	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	W	Linear ditch 034
1213	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	E	Enclosure ditch 050
1214	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	W	Post medieval French drain, orientated NE/SW
1215	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	Post medieval drain, NW/SE orientation.
1216	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	W	Linear boundary ditch 032
1217	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	W	Enclosure ditch 050
1218	Casio 15	20	3	Fosterstown South	SE	Overall shot
1219	Casio 15	20	3	Fosterstown South	NW	Overall shot
1220	Casio 15	20	4	Fosterstown South	E	Overall shot
1221	Casio 15	20	4	Fosterstown South	NW	Overall shot
1222	Casio 15	20	4	Fosterstown South	E	Plough furrow 018
1223	Casio 15	20	4	Fosterstown South	E	Plough furrow 17
1224	Casio 15	20	4	Fosterstown South	ESE	Plough furrow 015
1225	Casio 15	20	4	Fosterstown South	E	Plough furrow 018

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Photo No.	Camera No.	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Townland	Direction Facing	Description
1226	Casio 15	20	4	Fosterstown South	E	Land drain 011
1227	Casio 15	20	4	Fosterstown South	E	Land drain 008
1228	Casio 15	20	4	Fosterstown South	ESE	Plough furrow 006
1229	Casio 15	20	5	Fosterstown South	SE	Overall shot
1230	Casio 15	20	5	Fosterstown South	NW	Overall shot
1231	Casio 15	20	6	Fosterstown South	NW	Overall shot
1232	Casio 15	20	13	Fosterstown South	SW	Overall shot
1233	Casio 15	20	15	Fosterstown South	SE	Overall shot
1234	Casio 15	20	16	Fosterstown South	SE	Shot of ditch 050 in southern end of trench.
1235	Casio 15	20	16	Fosterstown South	NNW	Overall shot
1236	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South	WNW	Overall shot
1237	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South	NNE	Overall shot
1238	Casio 15	20	12	Fosterstown South	ENE	Overall shot
1239	Casio 15	20	11	Fosterstown South	ENE	Overall shot
1240	Casio 15	20	10	Fosterstown South	ENE	Overall shot
1241	Casio 15	20	9	Fosterstown South	ENE	Overall shot
1242	Casio	20	8	Fosterstown	ENE	Overall shot

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Photo No.	Camera No.	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Townland	Direction Facing	Description
	15			South		
1243	Casio 15	20	7	Fosterstown South	ESE	Overall shot
1244	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	SW	Quarter section of ditch 050
1245	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	SW	French drain, NE/SW orientation.
1246	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	Linear ditch 034
1247	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	Linear ditch 034
1248	Casio 15	20	10	Fosterstown South	SW	Pit 036
1249	Casio 15	20	8	Fosterstown South	NW	Boundary ditch 030
1250	Casio 15	20	8	Fosterstown South	NW	Boundary ditch 032
1251	Casio 15	20	8	Fosterstown South	N	Boundary ditches 030 and 032
1252	Casio 15	20	16	Fosterstown South	S	Inner enclosing ditch 044, overview of section
1253	Casio 15	20	16	Fosterstown South	ESE	Inner enclosing ditch 044 WNW Facing section
1254	Casio 15	20	16	Fosterstown South	E	Inner enclosing ditch 044 W Facing section
1255	Casio 15	20	16	Fosterstown South	NWN	Inner enclosing ditch 044 WNW Facing section
1256	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	Circular enclosing ditch 050
1257	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	Circular enclosing ditch 050
1258	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	Circular enclosing ditch 050

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Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Photo No.	Camera No.	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Townland	Direction Facing	Description
1259	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	Circular enclosing ditch 050
1260	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	Circular enclosing ditch 050
1261	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	Circular enclosing ditch 050
1262	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	W	Ditches 050 & 034
1263	Casio 15	20	18	Fosterstown South	NW	NW/SE orientated French drain
1264	Casio 15	20	16	Fosterstown South	WNW	Section of ditch 053
1265	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South	SW	Section of drain (056)
1266	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South	NW	Section of large ditch 050 western edge
1267	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South	SE	Section of ditch 034
1268	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South	NW	Section of wide stone filled drain 034
1269	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South	E	Overall trench shot
1270	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South	W	Overall trench shot
1271	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South		Deleted
1272	Casio 15	20	17	Fosterstown South	SE	Section of eastern edge of large ditch 050
1273	Casio 15	20	16	Fosterstown South		Ditch 050
157	Casio 8	20	6	Fosterstown South	SE	General shot of trench
158	Casio 8	20	6	Fosterstown South	SE	Curvilinear feature 028

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

Title: Metro North, Assessment Report on the Results of Advance Archaeological Test Trenching, Testing Area 8, Fosterstown South townland, Co. Dublin, RPA ref: (MN102) South of Fosterstown to Dublin Airport boundary (north)

Photo No.	Camera No.	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Townland	Direction Facing	Description
159	Casio 8	20	6	Fosterstown South	WNW	Section of curvilinear feature 028
160	Casio 8	20	3	Fosterstown South	N	Burnt spread 005
161	Casio 8	20	3	Fosterstown South	S	Burnt spread 005
162	Casio 8	20	15	Fosterstown South	SE	Overall shot of trench
1150	Casio 15 c	21	1	Fosterstown south	E	Drain 106
1151	Casio 15 c	21	2	Fosterstown south	N	Circular enclosure 101
1152	Casio 15 c	21	2	Fosterstown south	E	General shot
1153	Casio 15 c	21	2	Fosterstown south	S	Land drain 107
1154	Casio 15 c	21	2	Fosterstown south	W	General shot
1155	Casio 15 c	21	3	Fosterstown south	E	General shot
1156	Casio 15 c	21	3	Fosterstown south	S	Circular enclosure 101
1157	Casio 15 c	21	6	Fosterstown south	W	Hearth 134
1158	Casio 15 c	21	4	Fosterstown south	S	Overall trench shot
1159	Casio 15 c	21	4	Fosterstown south	N	Overall trench shot
1160	Casio 15 c	21	4	Fosterstown south	NE	Land drain 114
1161	Casio 15 c	21	6	Fosterstown south	N	Overall trench shot
1162	Casio 15 c	21	7	Fosterstown south	S	Overall trench shot

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Photo No.	Camera No.	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Townland	Direction Facing	Description
1163	Casio 15 c	21	7	Fosterstown south	N	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1164	Casio 15 c	21	7	Fosterstown south	S	Overall shot
1165	Casio 15 c	21	7	Fosterstown south	NE	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1166	Casio 15 c	21	7	Fosterstown south	N	Overall trench shot
1167	Casio 15 c	21	8	Fosterstown south	N	Post medieval boundary ditch 116 and land drain 135.
1168	Casio 15 c	21	8	Fosterstown south	N	Land drains 137 and 138
1169	Casio 15 c	21	11	Fosterstown south	SSE	Overall shot
1170	Casio 15 c	21	-	Fosterstown south	-	VOID
1171	Casio 15 c	21	11	Fosterstown south	S	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1172	Casio 15 c	21	11	Fosterstown south	N	General shot
1173	Casio 15 c	21	13	Fosterstown south	E	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1174	Casio 15 c	21	13	Fosterstown south	W	General shot
1175	Casio 15 c	21	14	Fosterstown south	W	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1176	Casio 15 c	21	14	Fosterstown south	W	General shot
1177	Casio 15 c	21	15	Fosterstown south	E	General shot
1178	Casio 15 c	21	15	Fosterstown south	NW	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1179	Casio 15 c	21	16	Fosterstown south	E	Post medieval boundary ditch 116

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Photo No.	Camera No.	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Townland	Direction Facing	Description
1180	Casio 15 c	21	16	Fosterstown south	W	General shot
1181	Casio 15 c	21	9	Fosterstown south	-	General shot
1182	Casio 15 c	21	-	Fosterstown south	-	VOID
1183	Casio 15 c	21	-	Fosterstown south	-	VOID
1184	Casio 15 c	21	18	Fosterstown south	E	General shot
1185	Casio 15 c	21	18	Fosterstown south	E	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1186	Casio 15 c	21	18	Fosterstown south	W	General shot
1187	Casio 15 c	21	17	Fosterstown south	E	Ditch 147
1188	Casio 15 c	21	17	Fosterstown south	E	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1189	Casio 15 c	21	17	Fosterstown south	E	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1190	Casio 15 c	21	3	Fosterstown south	N	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1191	Casio 15 c	21	3	Fosterstown south	N	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1192	Casio 15 c	21	3	Fosterstown south	N	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1193	Casio 15 c	21	3	Fosterstown south	N	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1194	Casio 15 c	21	12	Fosterstown south	E	General shot
1195	Casio 15 c	21	11	Fosterstown south	N	General shot, also note diagonal ditch in foreground
1196	Casio 15 c	21	10	Fosterstown south	N	General shot

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Photo No.	Camera No.	Sub-area	Test Trench No.	Townland	Direction Facing	Description
1197	Casio 15 c	21	10	Fosterstown south	E	French drain circa 12.00 m from northern extent EW
1198	Casio 15 c	21	10	Fosterstown south	N	General shot
1199	Casio 15 c	21	9	Fosterstown south	NE	Land drain 139
1200	Casio 15 c	21	9	Fosterstown south	NE	Land drain 142
1201	Casio 15 c	21	9	Fosterstown south	N	Plough furrow 141
1202	Casio 15 c	21	8	Fosterstown south	S	General shot
1203	Casio 15 c	21	5	Fosterstown south	E	Post medieval boundary ditch 116
1204	Casio 15 c	21	4	Fosterstown south	W	Circular enclosure 101
1205	Casio 15 c	21	5	Fosterstown south	N	Kiln 129
1206	Casio 15 c	21	-	Fosterstown south	-	VOID
1207	Casio 15 c	21	5	Fosterstown south	N	Furrow 120
1208	Casio 15 c	21	5	Fosterstown south	W	Ditch 124
1209	Casio 15 c	21	5	Fosterstown south	N	Kiln 129 and ditch 124

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Appendix 6: Drawing register

Drawing No.	Type	Scale	Test Trench No.	Townland	Description
001	Section	1:20	1, sub-area 20	Fosterstown South	Northeast-facing section of boundary ditch (057)
002	Section	1:20	2, sub-area 21	Fosterstown South	East-southeast-facing section of curvilinear enclosure ditch (101)
003	Section	1:20	5, sub-area 21	Fosterstown South	Southwest-facing section of Kiln (129)

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd

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Appendix 7 - Archive Quantities

Item	Quantity
Context Sheets	159
Test Trench Record Sheets	39
Field record sheets	2
Drawings	3
Photographs	131
Registers	11
Notebooks	-