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**DESKTOP STUDY OF A
POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITE
AT
CALTRAGH ROAD,
SLIGO**

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Caltragh Road, Sligo Desktop Study

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1. Introduction

This desktop study was commissioned by Rhatigan Architects and undertaken on a potential development site of 3.7 hectares along the Newtownholmes Road in Caltragh townland, on the southern outskirts of Sligo town (Figure 1). The study involved the research of a number of cartographic and literary sources.



Figure 1 Aerial photo (courtesy of Rhatigan Architects). Site outlined in blue.

This report will accompany a planning application for a proposed development at the site.

2. Research Sources

- Ordnance Survey 1:10560 (6-inch) map of County Sligo, Sheet No. 14, 1st Edition of 1837.
- Ordnance Survey 1:10560 (6-inch) map of County Sligo, Sheet No. 14, Edition of 1940.
- Ordnance Survey 1:2500 (25-inch) map of County Sligo, Late 19th/early 20th century edition.
- Record of Monuments and Places, County Sligo, Dúchas, the Heritage Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 1995.
- www.archaeology.ie (web-site of the National Monuments Service).
- www.excavations.ie (summary accounts of all excavations in Ireland 1969-2019).
- www.heritage maps.ie (includes the finds database of the National Museum of Ireland).

3. Research Results

There are no recorded monuments located within or in the immediate vicinity of the subject site (Figures 2 and 3).

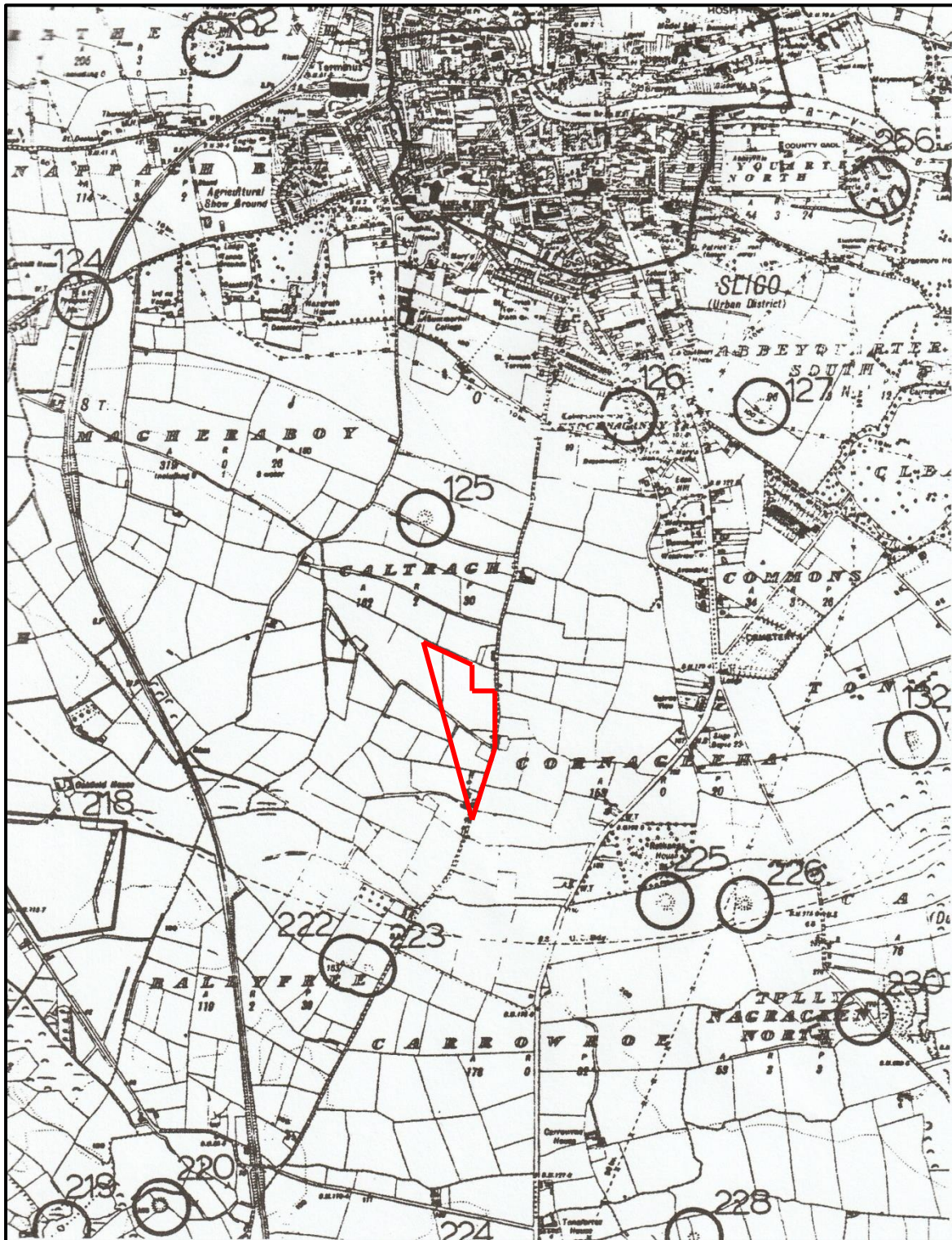


Figure 2 Site Location Map (Extract from Sligo RMP, Sheet No. 14). Site outlined in red.

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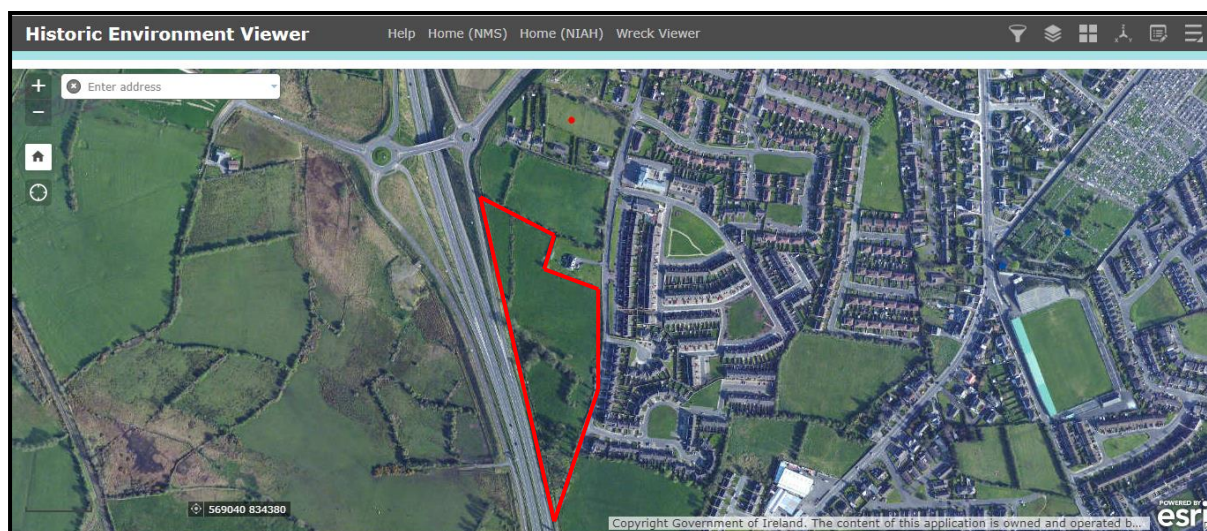


Figure 3 Site Location Map. Site outlined in red with RMP No. SL014-303 marked with a red dot to the N of the site (courtesy of www.archaeology.ie).

There are eight recorded monuments within 1km of the subject site (Table 1).

| RMP NUMBER | CLASSIFICATION | TOWNLAND | DISTANCE |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| SL014-125 | Ringfort | Caltragh | c. 300m |
| SL014-126 | Holy Well Site | Knocknaganny | c. 820m |
| SL014-218 | Earthwork | Derrydarragh or Oakfield | c. 900m |
| SL014-222 | Barrow Site | Ballyfree | c. 480m |
| SL014-223 | Barrow Possible Site | Ballyfree | c. 480m |
| SL014-225 | Ringfort | Carrowmore | c. 540m |
| SL014-226 | Enclosure | Tullnagracken North | c. 720m |
| SL014-303 | Enclosure | Caltragh | c. 170m |

Table 1 List of recorded monuments within 1km of the subject site.

Cartographic History

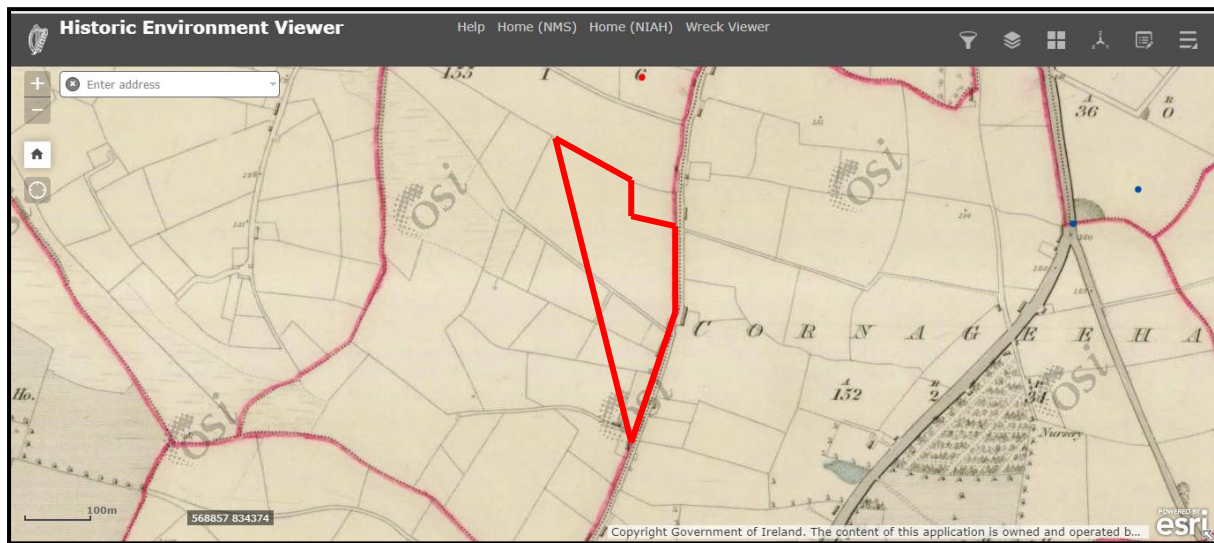


Figure 4 Site Location Map – extract from 1st edition of OS six-inch sheet of 1837 with site outlined in red (courtesy of www.archaeology.ie).

The subject site is shown as a number of featureless fields on the first edition of the OS six-inch sheet surveyed in 1837 (Figure 4). The site is bisected by a lane or boreen, which runs NW off the Newtownholmes Road which borders to the subject site to the E. A small building is marked at the S end of the site along the W side of the Newtownholmes Road (Figure 4).

On the OS 25-inch sheet of the late 19th/early 20th century (Figures 5 and 6) and the 1940 edition of the OS six-inch sheet (Figure 2), a number of buildings, possibly dwellings and outhouses (not shown on the 1837 edition of the OS six-inch sheet – Figure 4), are marked along the S half of the W side of the Newtownholmes Road which runs along the E side of the site. Otherwise the subject site is shown as a number of featureless fields, bisected by the lane or boreen.

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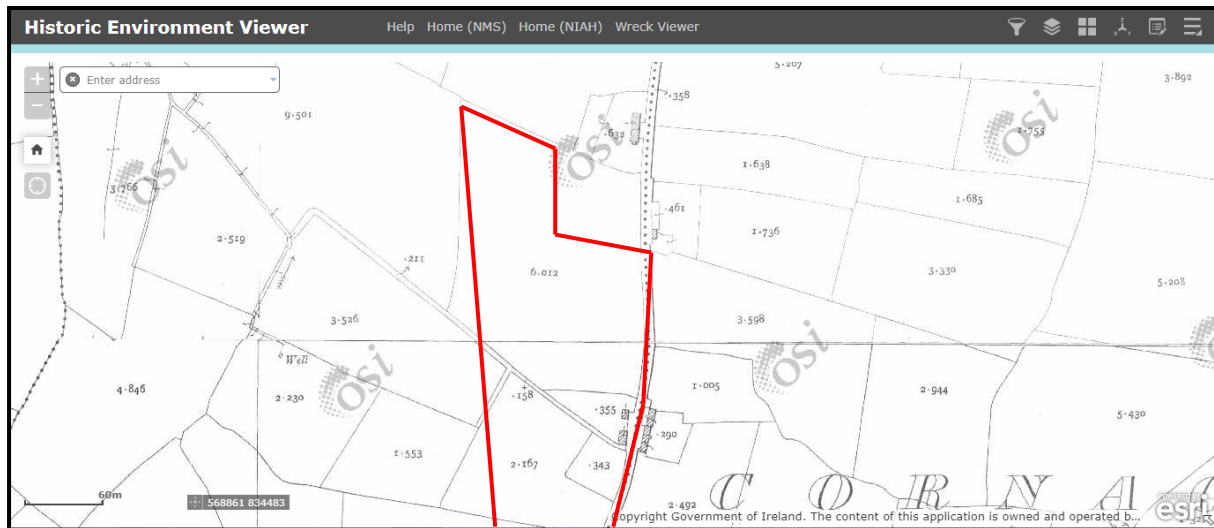


Figure 5 Site Location Map – extract from OS 25-inch sheet of late 19th/early 20th century with northern half of site outlined in red (courtesy of www.archaeology.ie).

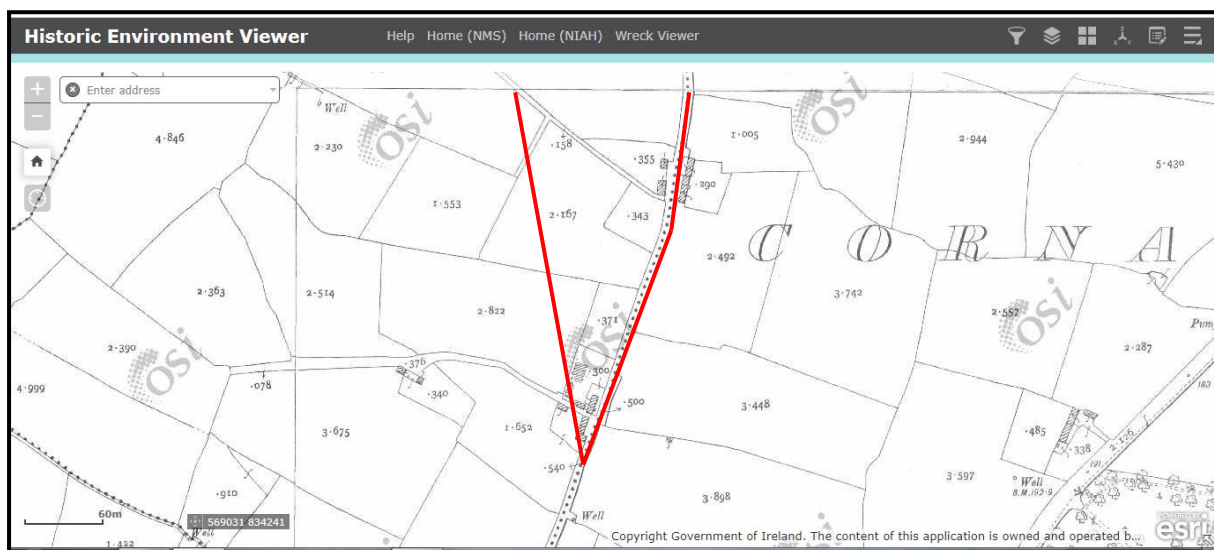


Figure 6 Site Location Map – extract from OS 25-inch sheet of late 19th/early 20th century with southern half of site outlined in red (courtesy of www.archaeology.ie).

National Museum of Ireland Finds Database

There are no entries in the finds database of the National Museum of Ireland for Caltragh townland in County Sligo.

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Excavations

There are twenty-three entries for Caltragh townland, County Sligo, on www.excavations.ie, which records summaries of all excavations undertaken on the island of Ireland between 1969 and 2022. Seventeen of these entries concern the development of the N4 Sligo Inner Relief road, a section of which runs through the townland. Four excavation licences are related to the Caltragh Sewerage Scheme.

- Excavation Licence No. 98E0533 Ext. Monitoring of excavations for the Caltragh Sewerage Scheme pipeline by Mary Henry uncovered four fulachta fiadh and a Neolithic site.
- Excavation Licence No. 00E0395. Pre-development testing of a number of features along the route of the Sligo Inner Relief Road by Sebastien Joubert, revealed several prehistoric structures and a large number of artefacts.
- Excavation Licence No. 00E0815. Part of a Neolithic site, uncovered during monitoring of the Caltragh Sewerage Scheme under Excavation Licence No. 98E0533 Ext., was excavated by Sebastien Joubert.
- Excavation Licence No. 00E0815 Ext. A separate part of the same Neolithic site, uncovered during monitoring of the Caltragh Sewerage Scheme under Excavation Licence No. 98E0533 Ext., was excavated by Sebastien Joubert as part of the Sligo Inner Relief Road.
- Excavation Licence No. 00E0816. Pre-development testing by Sebastien Joubert of a number of sites along the Sligo Inner Relief Road revealed a field system.
- Excavation Licence No. 00E0817. Pre-development testing by Sebastien Joubert of a large amount of boulders along the Sligo Inner Relief Road revealed it to be part of a field system of possible Neolithic date.
- Excavation Licence No. 00E0818. Pre-development testing by Sebastien Joubert of two raised linear features along the Sligo Inner Relief Road revealed it to be part of the same field system of possible Neolithic date.
- Excavation Licence No. 00E0819. Pre-development testing by Sebastien Joubert of a fulacht fiadh along the Sligo Inner Relief Road.
- Excavation Licence No. 00E0819 Ext. Excavation of the same fulacht fiadh by Sebastien Joubert, as part of the Sligo Inner Relief Road development.

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- Excavation Licence No. 00E0859. A fulacht fiadh, uncovered during monitoring of the Caltragh Sewerage Scheme under Excavation Licence No. 98E0533 Ext., was excavated by Sebastien Joubert.
- Excavation Licence No. 00E0859. A fulacht fiadh, uncovered during monitoring of the Caltragh Sewerage Scheme under Excavation Licence No. 98E0533 Ext., was excavated by Sebastien Joubert and Brian Halpin.
- Excavation Licence No. 01E0395 Ext. A rescue excavation of features along the route of the Sligo Inner Relief Road by Sebastien Joubert.
- Excavation Licence No. 01E0500. Monitoring of topsoil stripping for a compound associated with the Sligo Inner Relief Road by Sebastien Joubert, revealed no archaeology.
- Excavation Licence No. 01E0544. Testing of a number of potential archaeological features along the Sligo Inner Relief Road by Sebastien Joubert.
- Excavation Licence No. 01E0945. Testing of a marshy area along the Sligo Inner Relief Road by Sebastien Joubert revealed noting of archaeological significance.
- Excavation Licence No. 01E0962. Testing of an area along the Sligo Inner Relief Road by Sebastien Joubert revealed prehistoric structures, features and deposits.
- Excavation Licence No. 03E0542. Following testing of the route of the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road, a number of features of potential archaeological significance were excavated by Stephen J. Linnane. Site 1D was a fulacht fiadh, while Site 1E was a circular pit.
- Excavation Licence No. 03E0543. Following testing of the route of the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road, a number of features of potential archaeological significance were excavated by Stephen J. Linnane. Site 1F was a fulacht fiadh.
- Excavation Licence No. 03E0544. Several features, including post-medieval and modern features and two small pits of possible Bronze Age date were excavated as part of the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road development, by Susan McCabe.
- Excavation Licence No. 03E0546. Following testing of the route of the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road, a number of features of potential archaeological significance were excavated by Susan McCabe. Site 2A contained twelve pits and two small deposits of prehistoric date.

- Excavation Licence No. 03E1044. Testing, by Eoin Halpin, on Newtownholmes Road, 200m E of RMP No. SL014-125, for a proposed temporary car park, revealed nothing of archaeological significance.
- Excavation Licence No. 03E1797. A D-shaped enclosure wall and associated features were recorded and excavated by Susan McCabe as part of the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road development.
- Excavation Licence No. 11E0174. Monitoring of groundworks and pre-development testing in advance of the development of a new Summerhill College, by Martin Timoney, revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

4. Description of the Proposed Development

The proposed development will consist of 131 housing units and a creche (Figure 7). The housing will be a mixture of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom in semi-detached and terraced layouts, as well as three-storey buildings with apartments at ground floor level and two-storey duplex above. Public open space will account for 20% of the site area (Figure 7).



Figure 7 Proposed Site Layout.

5. Site Description

The subject site is located between the N4 to the W and Newtownholmes Road to the E, on the southern outskirts of Sligo town. To the NE of the subject site is a modern dwelling. To the E are modern housing developments. To the N and SE are fields of pasture (Figure 1).

The subject site consists of a 3-4 fields of pasture with a small area of rough grazing at the S end of the site (Figure 1).

6. Potential Impacts

- The cartographic evidence shows the subject site to be made up of a number of featureless fields bisected by a lane or boreen with one small building marked at the S end of the 1837 edition of the OS six-inch sheet and a number of buildings marked along the S half of the E side of the site along the public road on the later editions of the OS six-inch and 25-inch maps.
- Research has shown that there are no entries for Caltragh townland in the database of files in the National Museum of Ireland.
- Research has also shown that there are twenty-three excavation licences related to Caltragh townland, seventeen of which relate to the development of the N4 in the late 90s/early 2000s. These testing, monitoring and rescue excavations uncovered several archaeological features, structures, deposits and artefacts.
- There are no recorded monuments within or in the immediate vicinity of the subject site. Of the eight recorded monuments located within 1km of the subject site, the closest (RMP No. SL014-303, Enclosure) is c. 170m away.

7. Mitigation

Due to the size of the subject site (3.7 hectares) and the amount of archaeology which has been uncovered in the surrounding area over the past 25 years, it is recommended that a programme of pre-development testing be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist in advance of any proposed development.

8. List of Abbreviations

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Av. Th. | Average Thickness | c. | circa |
| C | Context | E | East |
| Illus. | Illustration | m | metre |
| max. | maximum | mm | millimetre |
| N | North | NGC | National Grid Co-ordinates |
| OD | Ordnance Datum | OS | Ordnance Survey |
| RMP | Record of Monuments and Places | S | South |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation | SMR | Sites and Monuments Record |
| Th. | Thickness | W | West |

**ALL RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE FINAL
APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE**