



**N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny
Archaeological Consultancy Services**

15E0578, Raheenapisha 3

Stage (iv) Final Archaeological Excavation Report

for

Kilkenny County Council

**Director
Graham Hull**

**Author
Graham Hull
TVAS Ireland Ltd**

J15/17

November 2016

ITM 648585 652291

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**An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

November 2016

Summary

Scheme name: N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny

Site name: Raheenapisha 3, Co. Kilkenny

Licence number: 15E0578

Townland: Raheenapisha 3

Parish: Castleinch or Inchyolaghan

Barony: Shillelogher

County: Kilkenny

ITM: 648585 652291

OS 6" Sheet No: Co. Kilkenny Sheet 23

Chainage: 2940

Client: Kilkenny County Council

Naturally occurring geology: The topsoil is a mid brown silty clay with a depth of 0.35 m. It lies over a mottled sandy natural subsoil, predominantly light brown in colour with darker patches present.

TVAS Ireland Job No: J15/17

Licenced Director: Graham Hull

Report author: Graham Hull

Site activity: Excavation

Site area: 5 m²

Date of fieldwork: 28th October 2015

Date of report: November 2016

Summary of results: Excavation revealed a single undated pit.

Monuments identified: Pit

Location and reference of archive: The primary records (written, drawn and photographic) are currently held at TVAS Ireland Ltd, Ahish, Ballinruan, Crusheen, Co. Clare and will be registered and deposited with the National Monuments Service facility in Swords, Co. Dublin.

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Report edited/checked by: Kate Taylor✓November 2016

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**N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny
15E0578, Raheenapisha 3, Co. Kilkenny
Stage (iv) Final Archaeological Excavation Report**

Graham Hull

Abstract

Raheenapisha 3, 15E0578, was located on the proposed N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny (ITM 648585 652291). The site was revealed during test trenching in 2015 and was excavated under the direction of Graham Hull of TVAS (Ireland) Ltd as part of the testing. The site encompassed an area of 5 m² and was situated in a pasture field. The excavation revealed a single undated pit.

Introduction

This report documents the final results of the archaeological excavation of a single pit at Raheenapisha 3 (15E0578), on the route of the N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny (ITM 648585 652291) (Fig. 1). The excavation described here forms part of the N76 Callan Road Realignment Archaeological Consultancy Services Contract.

The National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended) provides the legislative framework within which archaeological excavation can take place and the following government publications set out many of the procedures relating to planning/development and archaeology:

Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (DAHGI 1999a)

Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (DAHGI 1999b)

Code of Practice between the National Roads Authority and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (NRA/MAHGI 2000)

The archaeological work was carried under archaeological licence.

Project background

The N76 is a National Secondary route linking Kilkenny to Clonmel via the town of Callan, which was bypassed in the 1990s. Kilkenny County Council proposes to realign part of this road between the urban area of Kilkenny City and the townland of Brownstown, Co. Kilkenny (Figs 1-2).

In relation to traffic calming measures, Kilkenny County Council wishes to develop proposals for providing traffic calming along the northern section of the route in order to reduce vehicle speed and improve the facilities for vulnerable road users. This can be achieved by reducing the road width, providing footpath/cycle facilities on the eastern side of the N76 and installing route lighting where required. Improvements along the southern portion of the route will entail a circa 3.5 km realignment and replacing the existing Tinnypark crossroads (junction between N76 and local road L2630) in Derdimus with a staggered crossroads. This section of the route has a poor collision history due to its substandard alignment and poor forward visibility as well as a high volume of traffic.

An attenuation pond is to be constructed within a greenfield location to the south of the Breaghagh River in Goslingstown and an underpass is to be built crossing the N76 between Brownstown and Rathaleek townlands.

Under the Planning and Development Regulations, a Part 8 procedure was required for the development. The Part 8 Planning was adopted by Kilkenny County Council Resolution in April 2007.

The archaeological component of this project was funded by Kilkenny County Council.

Location, topography and geology

Archaeological site 15E0578, Raheenapisha 3 was located at ITM 648585 652291 in Raheenapisha townland, parish of Castleinch or Inchyolaghan, barony of Shillelogher, Co. Kilkenny (Figs 1 and 2).

The section of the scheme for which traffic calming measures are proposed commences in the urban area of Kilkenny City, 300 m south-west of the Callan Road roundabout on the Kilkenny Ring Road. It continues in a south-westerly fashion for 1.2 km to the junction with the local road LS6695. The proposed realignment section commences at the latter junction with the local road and extends for a little over three kilometres to the south-west, terminating in the townland of Brownstown.

The proposed scheme will traverse the townlands of Wetland, Margaret's Fields, Archersleas, Shellumstrath, Derdimus, Goslingstown, Parkmore, Raheenapisha, Rathaleek and Brownstown (ITM 647772 651112 to 649185 653984) (Figs 1-2).

The area of the archaeological services contract lies within the Lands Made Available (LMA) of the proposed scheme as contained within the area to be acquired by Kilkenny County Council. The total area subject to Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the N76 Callan Road realignment project is approximately 11.75 hectares of which the Lands Made Available for the present archaeological works is approximately 6.38 hectares.

The land on which the proposed realignment will be constructed is currently used for agricultural purposes. Pasture is the dominant land use; however, occasional tillage fields are found in Parkmore, Goslingstown and Archersleas townlands.

Upper Carboniferous Limestone dominates the bedrock geology of the scheme location area and the subsoil forming a layer over this solid geology consists of Diamictons derived from Lower Carboniferous Limestone (Kilkenny Co. Co. 2014). Specifically in this area the bedrock comprises shaly fossiliferous and oolitic limestone of the Durrow Formation (www.gsi.ie). The scheme location area contains very fertile soils and has been named the 'golden vein' of the county. Grey Brown Podzolic soils derived from calcareous glacial drift deposits dominate the area with a great depth of coverage. They provide some of the best soils in Ireland, which are excellent for grassland and also for the production of a wide range of vegetable crops (Kilkenny Co. Co. 2014).

The area of works lies between approximately 68 m and 83 m above Ordnance Datum (OD) and at Raheenapisha 3 the archaeological deposits lay at approximately 74 m OD. The land use at Raheenapisha 3 was pasture and the observed natural geology was glacial till (light orangish brown sandy clay).

Archaeological and historical background

A search of documentary and cartographic sources was made. Information was gathered from, amongst other sources, the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) files, The National Monument Service website www.archaeology.ie, the *Excavations* database and publications (www.excavations.ie and Bennett 1987-2012) and from the Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Report for the scheme (Kelly 2015).

The townland name Raheenapisha comes from the Irish *Ráithín na Pise* from *ráithín* ‘small ring-fort’ and *pise* ‘peas’. The townland’s first mention dates from 1800-1838 as *Raheenpish*. O’Kelly translates the townland name as ‘little rath of the pease or vetches’ (www.logainm.ie; O’Kelly 1985).

Cartographic sources

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1839 (Fig. 3) shows the Kilkenny to Callan Road orientated from south-west to north-east. Relatively large fields border the road.

The 2nd edition OS map of 1900 (Fig. 4) shows only some minor changes from the earlier map with the alteration of some field boundaries.

The 3rd edition OS map of 1924 (with overlying 1996 SMR) (Fig. 5) shows very little change from the earlier maps

Record of Monuments and Places / Sites and Monuments Record

There are nineteen archaeological sites listed in the Sites and Monuments Record in the immediate vicinity of the road scheme (www.archaeology.ie; Fig. 5; Table 1).

Table 1: Record of Monuments within 2 km of road scheme

Townland	Ref. No	Site Type	Date
Castleblunden	KK019-031	Enclosure	Possible medieval
Castleblunden	KK010-032	17 th c house and enclosure	17 th c and possible medieval
Drakeland Middle	KK019-033	Enclosure	Possible medieval
Castleinch or Inchyolaghan	KK019-038	Horizontal water mill	Possible medieval
Goslingstown	KK019-039	Castle - Tower House	Medieval
Clonmoran	KK019-084	Dwelling	Possible post-medieval
Castleblunden	KK019-107	Cremated remains	Prehistoric
Castleinch or Inchyolaghan	KK019-108	Fulacht fia	Prehistoric
Reviewfields	KK019-138	Enclosure	Possible medieval
Castleinch or Inchyolaghan	KK023-002	Castle	Medieval
Castleinch or Inchyolaghan	KK023-003	Church, graveyard, wall monument, effigial tomb	Medieval and post-medieval
Parkmore	KK023-004	Enclosure	Possible medieval
Raheenapisha	KK023-005	Enclosure	Possible medieval
Rathaleek	KK023-006	Enclosure	Possible medieval
Raheenapisha	KK023-007	Moated site	Possible medieval
Knocklegan	KK023-008	Standing stone	Prehistoric
Kilmog or Racecourse	KK023-009	Church, holy well, holy tree/bush, graveyard, bullaun stone	Medieval and post-medieval
Kilmog or Racecourse	KK023-010	Ringfort	Medieval
Inchyolaghan (Shillelogher By.)	KK023-035	Enclosure	Possible medieval

While none of the recorded monuments listed above were impacted directly by the proposed scheme, two are located within the close proximity to the proposed scheme, namely enclosures in Parkmore (KK023-004---) and Raheenapisha townlands (KK023-005---). The zone of archaeological potential surrounding these monuments was impacted.

The Parkmore enclosure (KK023-004----) is depicted on both First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps as a circular enclosure measuring approximately 40-50 m in diameter. During a field survey carried out in April 2007 a low bank was noted demarcating the site of this enclosure. As this monument is located approximately 185 m from the proposed road realignment scheme, the area between chainages 2940 and 3140 was highlighted as an area of archaeological potential (Kelly 2015, 12-13).

The Raheenapisha enclosure (KK023-005---) is not depicted on either the First or Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey maps. However, it has been identified from an aerial photograph (DoEHLG, Aerial Photograph CUCAP: AV: 77, 1968) as a single cropmark. A field survey carried out in April 2007 recorded no visible remains of the enclosure site; however, a low plateau was noted at this location with good panoramic views. Additionally, a kink in the existing N76 road and a low plateau with good panoramic views was noted approximately 200 m from the monument site between chainages 3460 and 3720. These features were concluded to be indicative of potential settlement activity and the location was therefore highlighted as an area of archaeological potential. There will be a direct impact on the zone of archaeological potential surrounding enclosure KK023-005---- between chainages 3140 and 3460 and 3460 and 3620 (Kelly 2015, 12).

The Excavations database

The results of archaeological investigations in Ireland are published in summary form in *Excavations* (Bennett 1987-2012) and online at www.excavations.ie. A search of the database was made for the townlands of Wetland, Margaret's Fields, Archersleas, Shellumsrath, Derdimus, Goslingstown, Parkmore, Raheenapisha, Rathaleek and Brownstown.

The search returned two entries within a 1 km radius from the proposed road realignment scheme. The first of the entries refers to the archaeological field work carried out in the townland of Wetlands in 2004 (Rogers 2004; 04E0652). Moore Ltd conducted archaeological test trenching in advance of residential development. Two features of archaeological potential were noted within the site. Both appeared on the ground as gentle dips within an arable field and both appeared on the First Edition OS map as depressions. The investigation concluded that both features were former gravel pits, one of which was used as a rubbish tip in the mid-20th century.

The second entry refers to archaeological monitoring of a Bord Gáis Éireann gas pipeline from Baunlusk to Ballyconra townlands, Co. Kilkenny, carried out by Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd. between July and September 1999 under licence number 99E0388. In the process, one site was discovered in Parkmore townland, Parkmore 1, a *fulacht fia* consisting of a burnt mound over 12 m long and 6 m wide, possibly orientated east-west, running into the south and west baulks. The site is in the northern corner of the field. Five individual isolated pit or post-hole features were also revealed, which represent either outlying features of further archaeological sites or isolated activity. The site was backfilled, fenced off and avoided by development (ITM 648002 651728, 77.41 m OD) (Stevens 1999). According to the grid reference, this site lies in the field to the west of the road realignment scheme at a distance of approximately 200 m.

Archaeological work undertaken as part of the current scheme

A geophysical survey was undertaken at two locations (Areas 1 and 2) within the scheme which had been identified as being of particular archaeological potential due to their proximity to known monuments and the banks of a river (Leigh 2007).

In summary, the survey adjacent to the Breagh River (Area 1) identified isolated responses of archaeological strength and several possible ditched boundary divisions or field drains. No clear archaeological pattern was evident but plough damaged archaeological remains were thought to be represented.

The area adjacent to enclosure KK023-005 (Area 2), covered several fields and was therefore subdivided (Fig. 6). Survey within areas 2A and 2B revealed a short ditch-type response, possibly representing a field drain or boundary, and a curvilinear response of potential interest. The curvilinear response was thought to represent a significant boundary division. The survey responses in Areas 2C and 2D clearly identified the remains of the enclosure site (KK023:005), consisting of an inner D-shaped ditched enclosure, with responses suggestive of habitation features. There is a second, outer ditch which shadows the inner enclosure, and forms an annex to the north, meeting a further ditched feature to the north-east. The responses suggest habitation activity, with areas of burning and the remains of burnt features such as hearths and possible kilns or furnaces. Weak responses in the west were thought to represent the ephemeral remains of an associated ditched feature, possibly another annex of the site, although this is speculative. South-east of the enclosure site, in Areas 2E and 2F, parallel linear trends were considered indicative of ploughing activity and ridge and furrow cultivation may be represented here. In Area 2F a curvilinear response and an area of increased magnetic response were considered to be of interest, perhaps representing a ditched archaeological feature or a spread of burnt material. Archaeological interpretation was unclear as the results were confused by magnetic disturbance from the existing N76 road.

The geophysical survey covered a wider area than is now included in the road realignment project. The main features associated with enclosure KK023-005 will be avoided by the development, however outlying features lay within the test trenching area and the potential features adjacent to the river were also targeted by the test trenches.

Archaeological test trenching was carried out in October-November 2015 under licence 15E0464 (Hull 2015). The test trenches were excavated by 8 tonne and 13 tonne tracked excavators and a JCB-type machine and trenches were typically 1.8 m wide. On completion of fieldwork the total area investigated was 8,063.05 m², a 12.6% sample of the 63,773 m² LMA.

In addition to Raheenapisha 3, four other sites were found during the testing:

Goslingtown 1, (Hull 2015; 2016a) consisted of a single pit, currently undated. Additional trenches excavated nearby elicited no other associated features. This feature was resolved in Stage (i) testing.

Parkmore 1, 15E0568, (Hull 2016b) consisted of two oval pits, currently undated.

Raheenapisha 1, 15E0567 (Hull 2016c) consisted of a kiln, a ditch and a pit, currently undated.

Raheenapisha 2, 15E0569 (Hull 2016d) consisted of three prehistoric roundhouses and a curvilinear ditch.

Earlier test excavations

Raheenapisha 3, 15E0578, was identified during centre-line and offset testing of the road route (Hull 2015) and consisted of a single shallow pit. The feature was fully excavated in the testing phase. Following discussions with the statutory authorities a separate licence number was applied to the site for reporting purposes.

Excavation aims and methodology

The aims of the excavation were to:

- 1) Preserve by record all archaeological deposits and features within the excavation area
- 2) Produce a high quality report of the findings

The fieldwork took place on 28th October 2015 and was directed by Graham Hull and aided by two assistants.

The excavation area was rectangular, and measured approximately 16 m². Topsoil was removed by a 13 tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with 6-foot (1.8 m) toothless grading bucket and operated under direct and continuous archaeological supervision. The spoil was visually scanned for artefacts.

The archaeological feature was excavated by hand.

A full written, drawn and photographic record was made according to the TVAS Ireland Field Recording Manual (First Edition 2003). The site was tied into the National Grid using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

Excavation results (Figs 7 and 8, Plates 1 and 2)

A catalogue of features and deposits is given as Appendix 1.

Archaeological deposits were found cutting the natural geology and beneath approximately 0.35 m of topsoil.

The excavation has revealed evidence of a single shallow pit (1). The pit was essentially oval in plan, measured 1.45 m by 1.05 m and was 0.20 m deep. The pit was concave in profile with an irregular base. The fill (52) was loosely compacted dark grey to black silty clay with frequent charcoal and heat-affected stones. The feature was half-sectioned and then fully excavated in the testing phase.

Finds

No artefacts were recovered.

Samples

No samples were taken as the pit fill was loose and it was not felt that any recovered material would be archaeologically secure.

Discussion

The excavation of Raheenapisha 3 (15E0578), Co. Kilkenny has revealed a single, seemingly isolated, pit which has not been dated. The feature could date from any period from prehistory to modern times.

Archaeological potential off the road CPO

The feature did not extend beyond the CPO and there is no indication of further related features outside the CPO.

Recommendations and further work

Fieldwork

This site has been fully excavated within the confines of the CPO and no further fieldwork is required.

Record of Monuments and Places / Sites and Monuments Record

It is recommended that the site is entered into the SMR for County Kilkenny.

Post-excavation

An accessible archive of primary records (Appendix 2) will be prepared for long term storage and will be kept at the offices of TVAS (Ireland) Ltd prior to deposition with the National Monuments Service (Barrett 2012).

Publication and dissemination plan

A summary of the findings of the excavation will be submitted to *Excavations 2015*.

The results of this excavation are likely to be published in a suitable local journal.

Graham Hull
TVAS (Ireland) Ltd
November 2016

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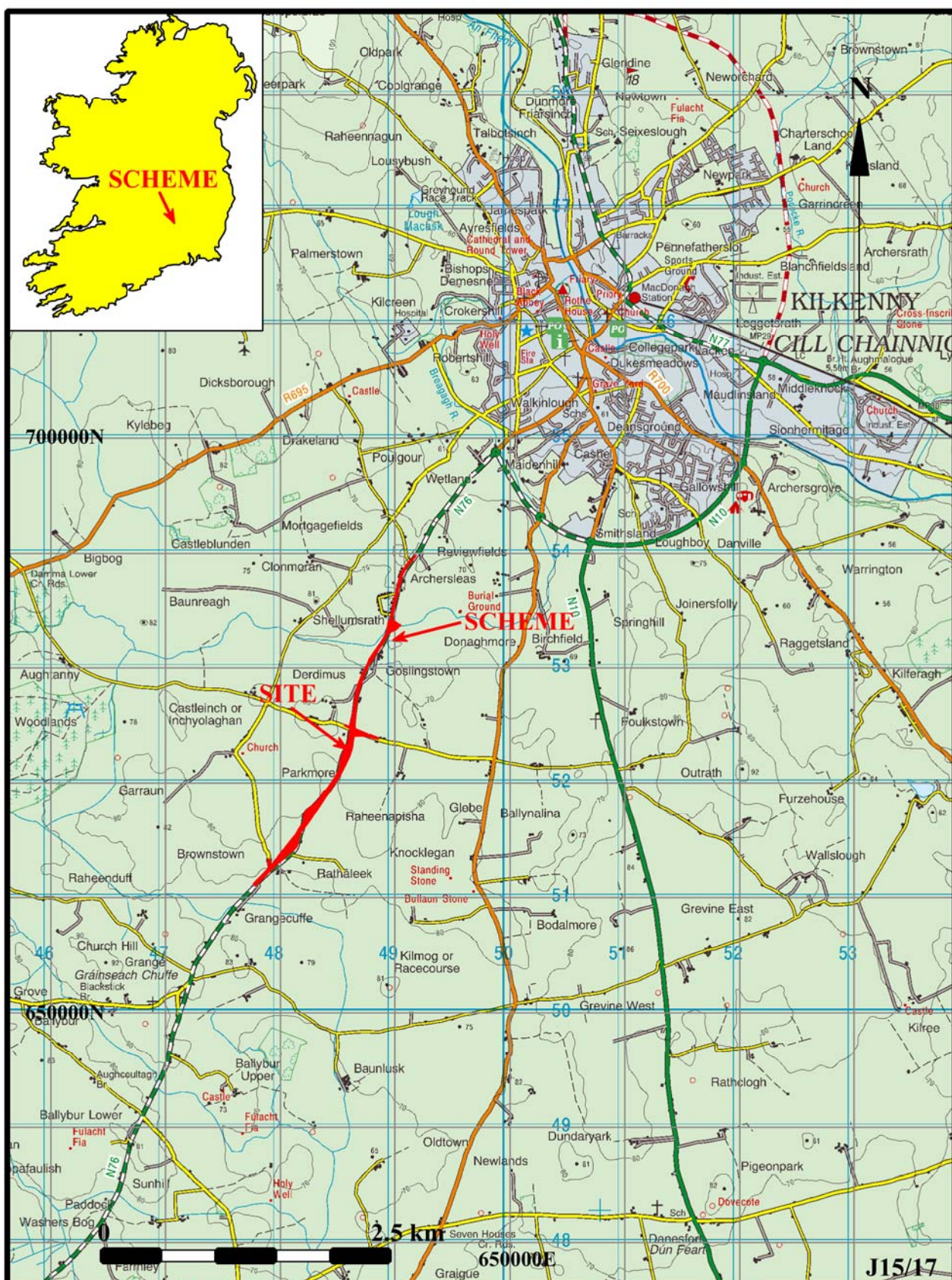
Appendix 1: Catalogue of features and deposits

Cut	Deposit	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Samples	Phase
1	52	Pit	1.45	1.05	0.20	-	-	Undated

Appendix 2: Archive contents

Category	Item	Quantity	Condition
Paper records	Context index sheets	2	Good
	Context sheets	2	Good
Plans	1:20 post-ex plans (A2)	1	Good
Sections	Section sheets (A2)	1	Good
	1:10 section drawings (on those sheets)	1	Good
Photographs	Digital photographs	3	Digitally stored & backed-up

The archive is currently stored at the TVAS (Ireland) Ltd office, Ahish, Ballinruan, Crusheen, Co. Clare.

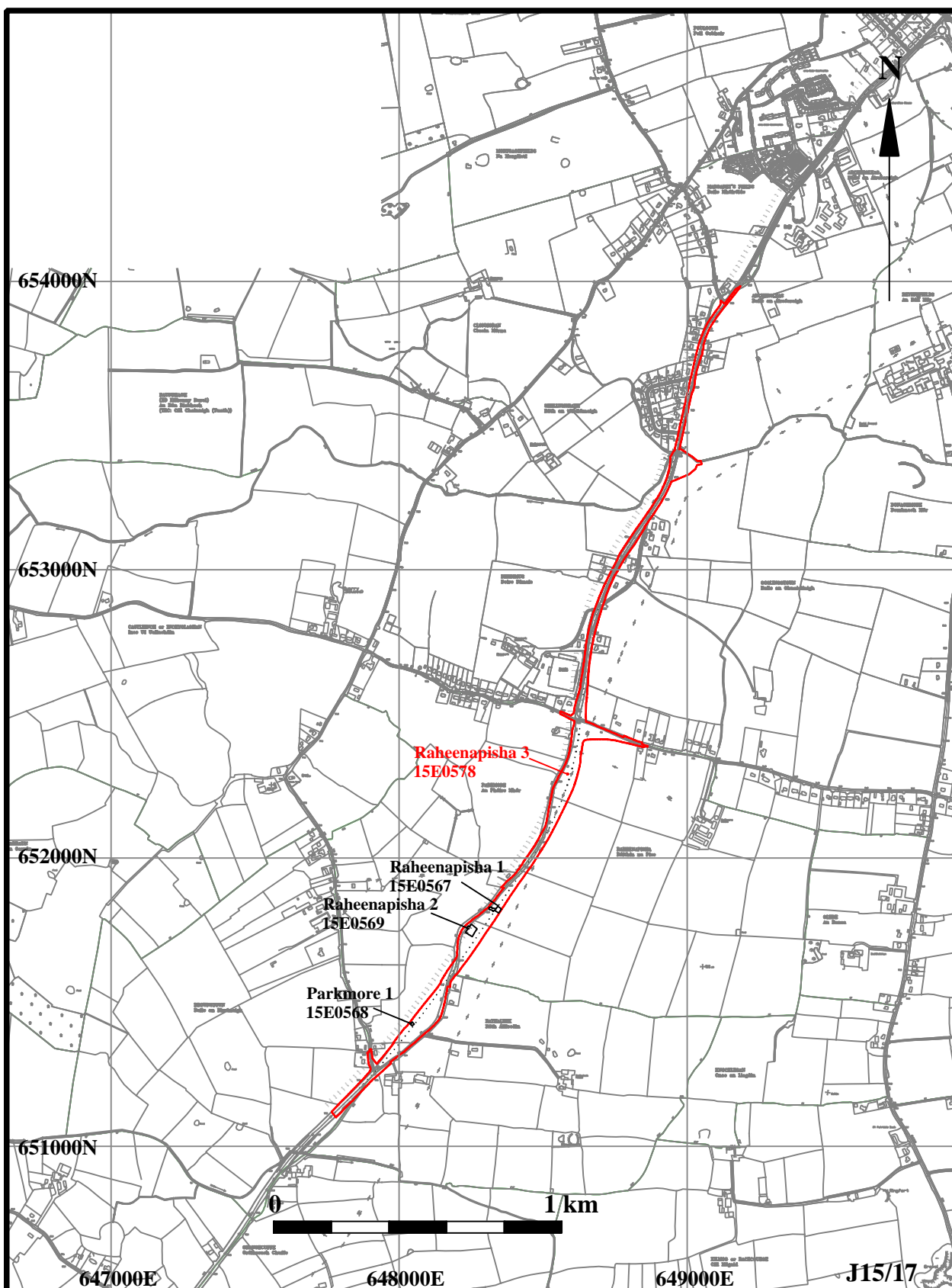


**N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny
15E0578, Raheenapisha 3**

Figure 1: Scheme and site location

Based on Ordnance Survey Discovery Series 1:50,000
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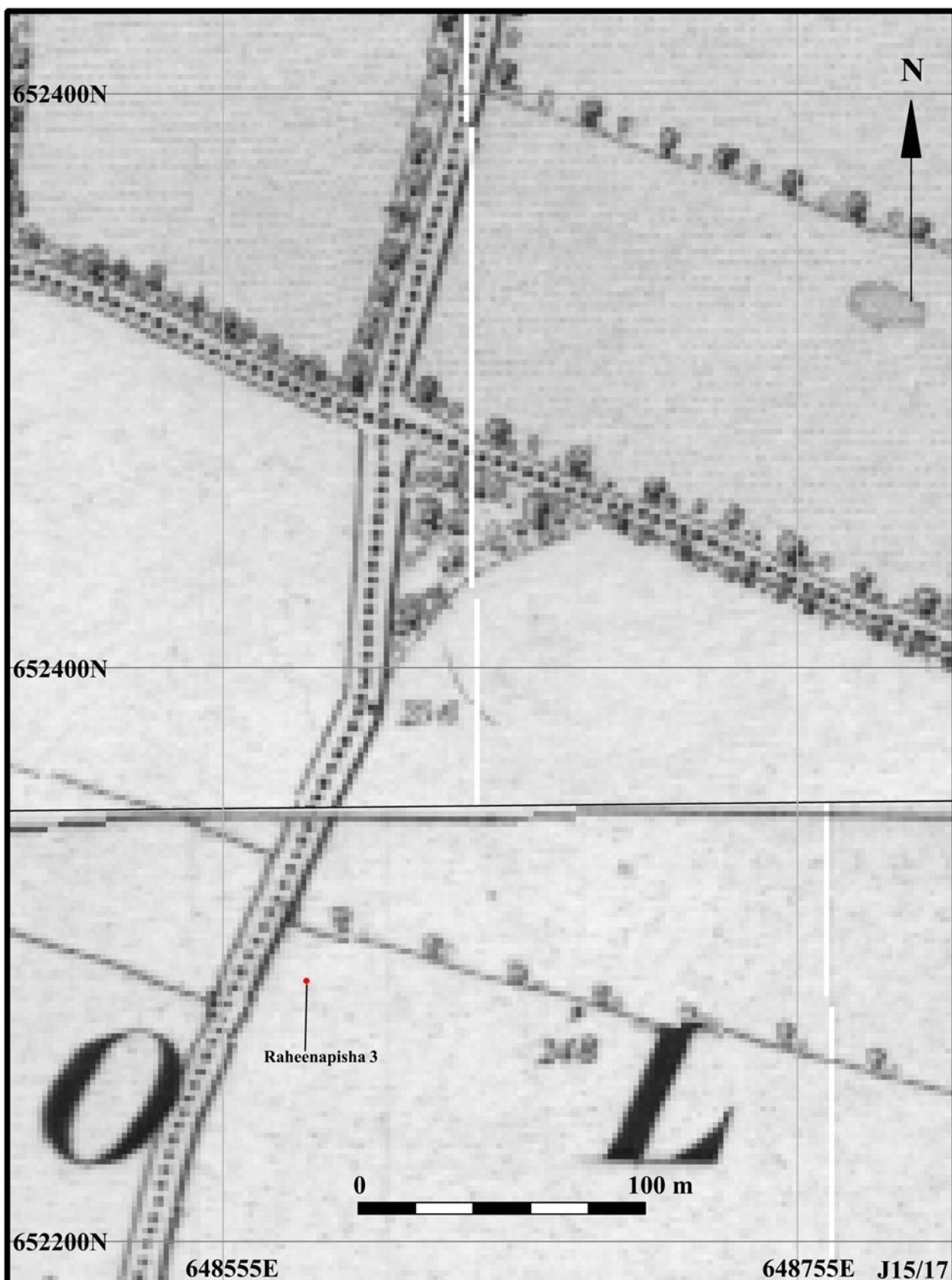
Figure 2: Scheme layout and site location

1:20,000 @ A4

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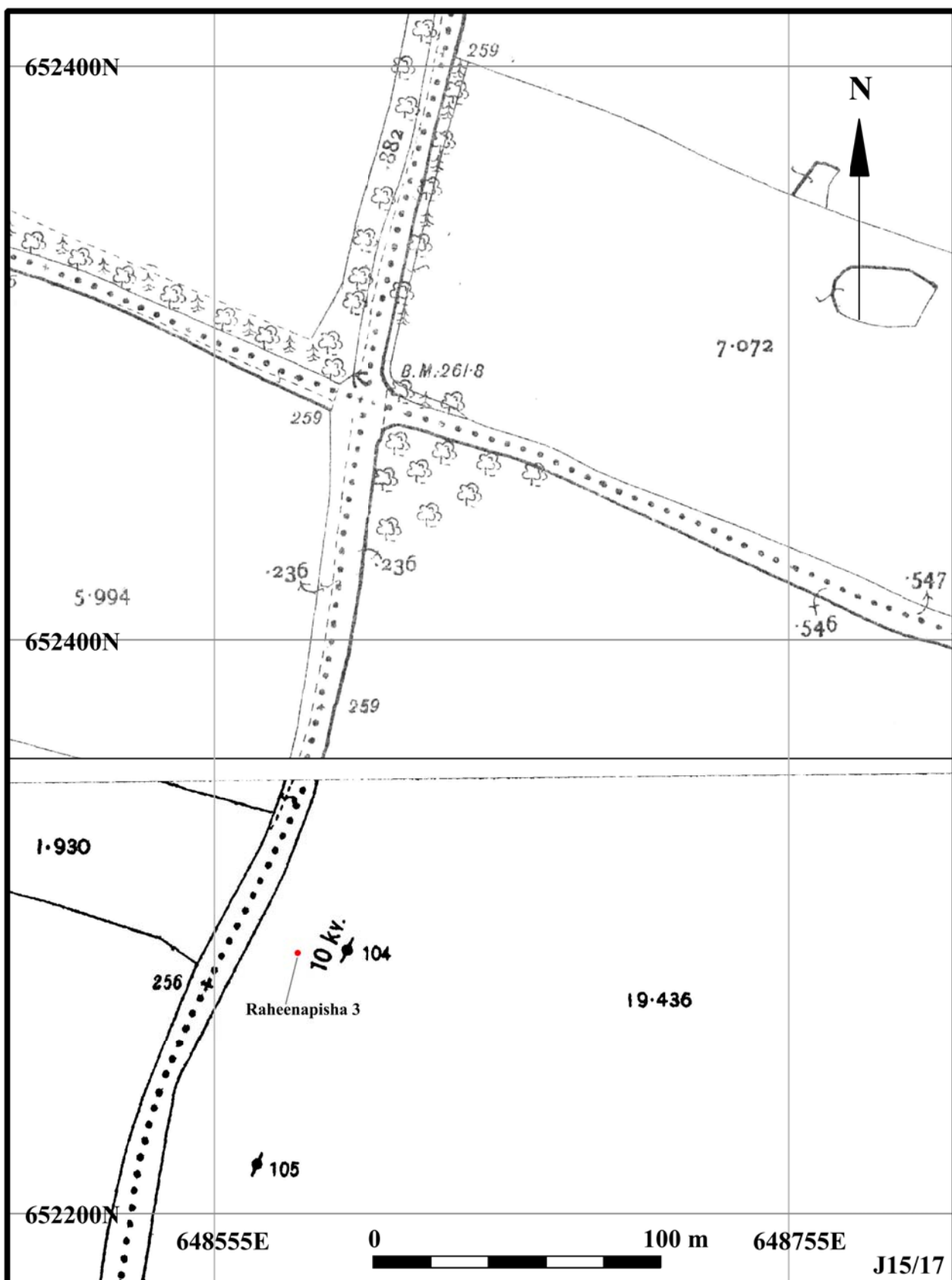


N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny
15E0578, Raheenapisha 3, Co. Kilkenny

Figure 3: Site on Ordnance Survey map 1839

1:2000 @ A4
 Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile. Surveyed 1839. Sheets KK019 and KK023
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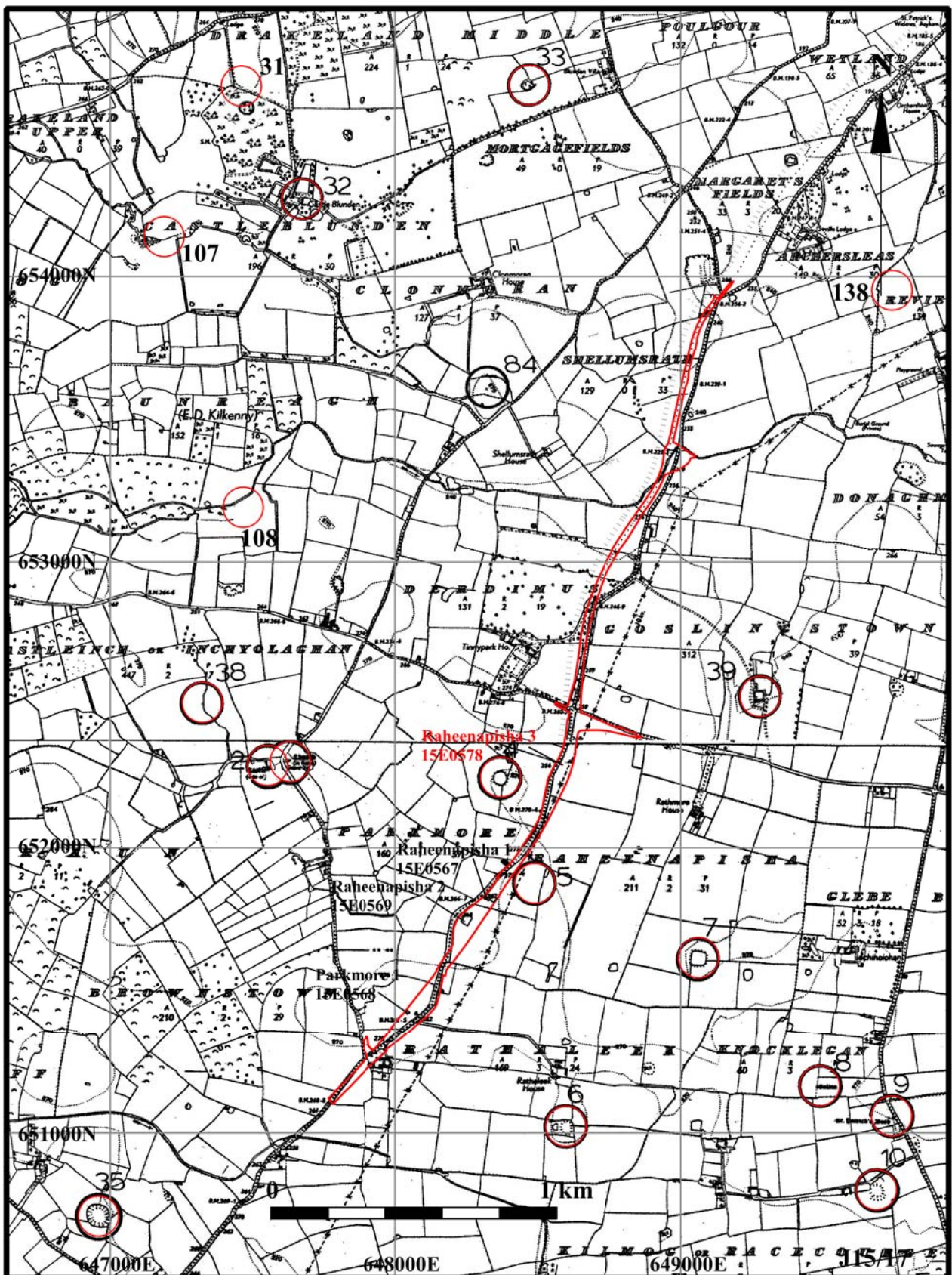
N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny
15E0578, Raheenapisha 3

Figure 4: Site on Ordnance Survey map 1900

1:2000 @ A4

Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile. Surveyed 1900. Sheets KK019-14 and KK023-02
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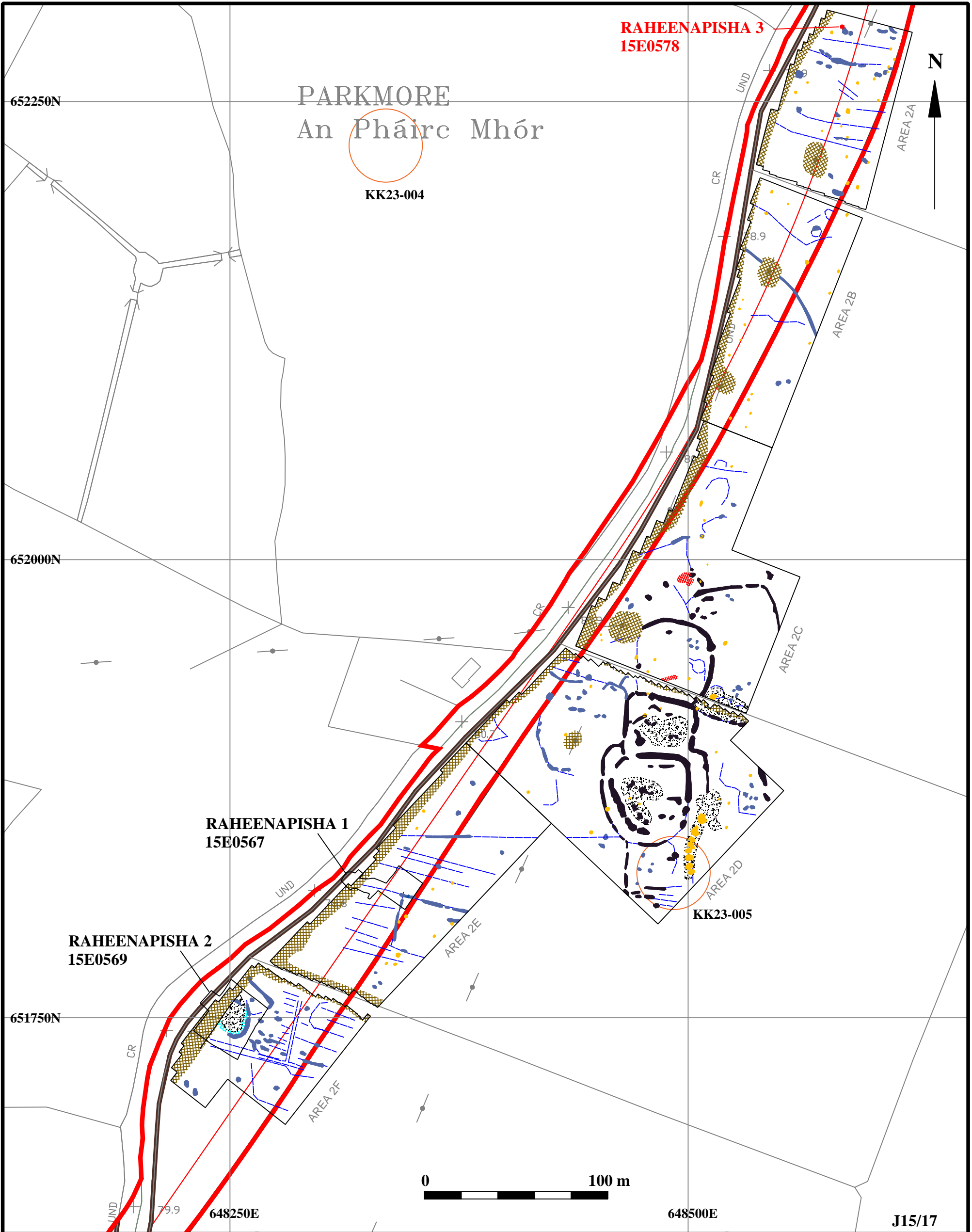
N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny
15E0578, Raheenapisha 3, Co. Kilkenny

Figure 5: Record of Monuments and Places map

1:2000 @ A4

Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile. Sheet KK019 surveyed 1839-40, revised 1945-46, SMR 1996, Sheet KK023 surveyed 1839, revised 1947, SMR 1996
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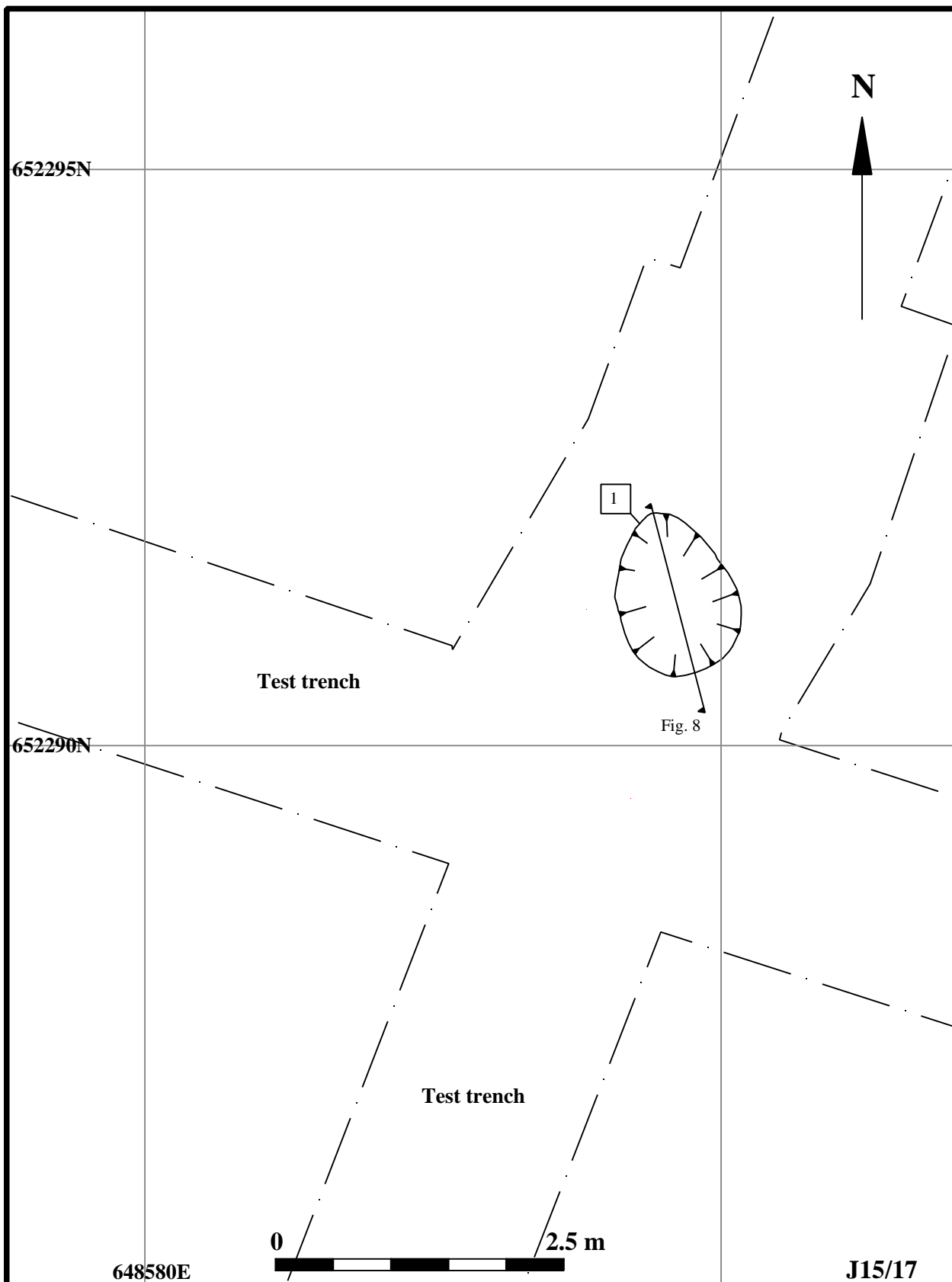


N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny
15E0578, Raheenapisha 3

Figure 6: Site location and geophysical survey

1:2,000 @ A3
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Ireland. OSI Licence: AR0049416. Geophysical survey Leigh 2007





**N76 Callan Road Realignment, Co. Kilkenny
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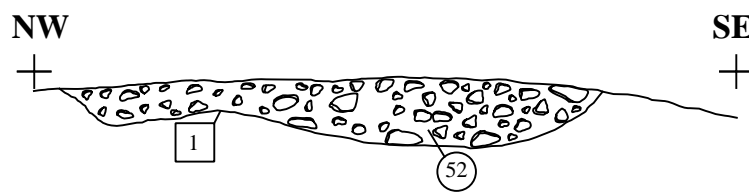
Figure 7: Site plan

1:50 @ A4

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Figure 8: Section Pit 1

1:20 @ A4

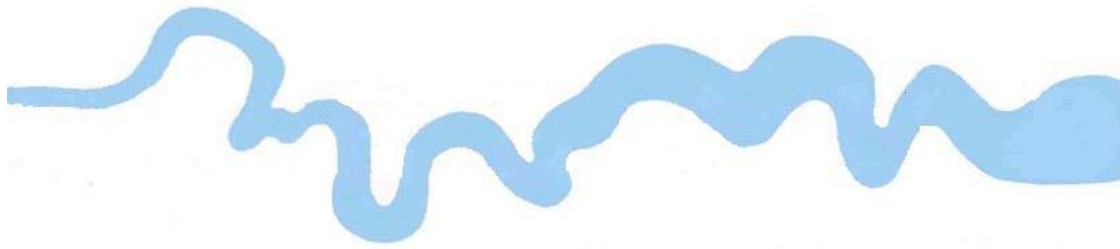
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Plate 1: Pit 1. Pre-excavation. Looking west. Scale 1m



Plate 2: Pit 1. Half-sectioned. Looking east. Scale 1m



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