## SIPR: Geophysical Survey of the Playing Pitches Case Study

### Background

In the medieval period the manorial lands were in possession of the Priory of the Holy Trinity, Dublin (now Christchurch Cathedral). The manor house is believed to have been located at or near modern Manor Street, with a portion of the manor grange (enclosed farm) lying within the campus lands.

The manor and grange are reputed to have consisted of a large hall with additional rooms, a hay barn with a malt house and a workshop. There was also a yard for cattle and haggard. As the campus grounds formed part of the manorial lands, the possibility that surviving remains associated with some of these buildings could be encountered represented a risk to the proposed development.

### Geophysical Survey

In order to identify potential archaeological sites and mitigate against any potential impact on surviving archaeology we undertook a geophysical survey across this area. The results identified a number of responses that were likely to be anthropogenic in origin and warranted further investigation to determine their nature and extent.

### Further Investigations

Following on from this, test trenches were excavated to clarify the results of the geophysical survey. The results confirmed a source for the majority of geophysical anomalies, which for the most part reflected post-1800 agricultural field boundaries, later landscaping and drainage activities. The structural remains of a mid-19th century building was identified in one area representing the remnants of a cruciform building shown on historic mapping and an extensive pre-1800 brickfield associated with brick manufacturing was identified in the area to the northwest of the cruciform building.

As the re-profiling of the playing pitches would require the removal of the identified material, it was recommended that a comprehensive programme of investigation and recording to resolve the archaeology on site be undertaken in advance of the GDA developing the new playing fields.

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*Results of Test Trenching undertaken across the Playing Pitches at Grangegorman*