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Archaeological Monitoring of Luas Line A1 Belgard to Saggart, Co. Dublin

Director: Liam Hackett.

Authors: Liam Hackett.

Licence No: 08E0792

Report Status: Final

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Advance archaeological testing was undertaken at specified locations along the route of the Luas Line A1, Belgard to Saggart, Co. Dublin in accordance with conditions of Excavation Licence No. 08E0792, between 22 and 28 September 2008. A total of 3400 linear metres of test trenches were excavated along the length of the route. However, certain areas were inaccessible during this programme of testing due to the presence of electrical services and above ground obstructions. It was therefore recommended that archaeological monitoring should be undertaken at these locations.

This report details the results of archaeological monitoring of ground reduction at the locations which were inaccessible during the testing programme (Licence No. 08E0792) and at other designated locations on various dates in 2009 and 2010. The areas discussed in this report are as follows:

- Monitoring area 1: Cookstown tie-in chainage 0-200: 28th January, 2010
- Monitoring area 2: Untested areas between chainage 1650-2500: March 2, 3 ,4, 2009
- Monitoring area 4: Untested areas between chainage 2922-2875: April 3, 2009 and untested areas between chainage 2972-3250: April 24, 2009
- Monitoring area 5: Untested areas between chainage 4000-4042, 3793-3812: March 20, 2009

No archaeological features/deposits or artefacts were uncovered, however, a deposit of redeposited subsoil was identified in Monitoring Area 1. Therefore the potential that previously unknown archaeological deposits or features might be present at this location could not be fully eliminated. It is recommended that any future ground reduction at this location should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring.

No further archaeological work should be required at any of the other locations, which were included within this programme of archaeological monitoring.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological monitoring of construction programme along the route of the proposed Luas Line A1. Luas Line A1 begins at Saggart village and runs in a general east/west direction to join with the existing Luas Red Line at Cookstown (Figure 1). Stops are located at Fortunestown, Citywest Campus, Cheeverstown, Fettercairn and Belgard. The area of development extends for 4.2 kilometres and predominantly traverses waste ground and greenfield areas.

Luas Line A1 is one of a series of large scale infrastructural RPA projects which will link existing Luas lines and other public transport systems to a proposed Metro system which will run from Dublin Airport to St. Stephens Green in Dublin City Centre. For the purpose of the archaeological testing programme, Luas Line A1 has been subdivided into five Testing Areas.

Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd was contracted by the Railway Procurement Agency (RPA) to undertake an archaeological testing programme in advance of development works in these five areas. The majority of the archaeological testing programme was carried out between 22 and 26 September 2008 under Licence No. 08E0792. A total of 3400 linear metres of test trenches were excavated along the length of the route at this stage. A report on these works was prepared in October 2008 (Hackett 2008).

Within these five testing areas certain sections were inaccessible during the archaeological testing programme due to the presence of electrical services and above ground obstructions. A programme of archaeological monitoring of ground reduction works was therefore carried out at the following locations in accordance with the archaeological strategy for the construction stage of works:

- Monitoring Area 1: Cookstown tie-in chainage 0-200 (Figure 3).
- Monitoring Area 2: Located between CH 1670 and CH 2550 and represents the footprint of the Cheeverstown stop. Untested area comprising chainage 1650-2500 (Figure 4).
- Monitoring Area 4: Located between CH 2920 and CH 3100. Untested area comprising chainage 2922-2875 and 2972-3250 (Figure 5).
- Monitoring Area 5: Located between CH 3790 and CH 4050 and represents the footprint of the Saggart stop. Untested area comprising chainage 3793-3812 and 4000-4042 (Figure 6).

Archaeological monitoring of ground reduction was undertaken at these locations on various dates in 2009 and 2010, as required by the ground works programme for the Luas A1 Line.

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The programme of archaeological monitoring was completed as the initial stage of the construction phase of the development. This was undertaken in March-April 2009 and January 2010 in co-ordination with BAM Contractors, as electrical services and other obstructions were removed.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Receiving environment (after Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd (MGL) 2007, 87)

A group of archaeological features (DU021-024) comprising a tower house (DU021-024001), a possible Holy Well (DU021-024002) and a possible bawn site (DU021-024003) are located c. 500 m to the north of Monitoring Area 1 in Cheeverstown. This area is recorded as 'Cheeverstown Castle' on cartographics sources including the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). There is no visible evidence of the remains of the sites today and its location is currently occupied by Roadstone Quarries. A second 'castle site' (DU021-035) is located c. 700 m to the south of Monitoring Area 1 in Cheeverstown.

The western end of the route (Monitoring Area 5) impinges on the archaeological constraint area of the RMP of Saggart village (DU021-034), which includes a tower house (DU021-03411), which is within c. 20 m of the proposed route.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background (after MGL 2007, 197-8)

2.2.1 Prehistoric period

The prehistoric monuments in the wider environs of the proposed Luas Line A1 range from the late Neolithic (c. 2300–2000 BC) passage tombs on the peaks of Tallaght and Saggart Hills, groups of barrows and mounds on Athgoe Hill, Saggart Hill, Mountseskin and Lugg to the Iron Age ceremonial henges of Athgoe and Lugg. The lower-lying lands around the hills are particularly rich in Bronze Age (c. 2300–500 BC) remains, and undoubtedly housed the population that built and used the larger ceremonial and funerary sites in the wider vicinity (Johnston 2000).

Within 1 km of the route Bronze Age activity takes the forms of cist burials at Kiltalown (Lenteigne 1847–50; Waddell 1990), a pair of standing stones at Boherboy, near Saggart, known locally as 'Adam and Eve' (DU021-044) and a possible granite standing stone (DU021-090) in the demesne of Kiltalown House. Among the more common monuments utilised from the Bronze Age through to the medieval period are *fulacht fiadh*, or cooking sites. *Fulacht fiadh* sites are noted at Brownsbarn (DU021-023) and Kingswood (Doyle 2000).

2.4.2 Medieval period

A range of sites, few of which have visibly survived, represent the early medieval or early historic period (c. AD-500–1100) in the vicinity of the route. These include the historic sites of Tallaght and Saggart. The early ecclesiastical site of Tallaght was one of the most prestigious centres of religion and learning in early medieval Ireland. Tallaght was founded in

AD769 by St. Mael Ruain (DU021:037). Saggart or Tassaggard (DU021:034), takes its name from Sacer (or Mosacra), an Early Medieval saint.

In the hinterland of these centres there is evidence for other activity, such as the site of a possible Viking Age burial in Brownsbarn and a cemetery site in Corkagh Demesne.

Evidence of later settlement in the environs of the proposed route is represented by castle sites at Saggart (DU034:03410), Cheeverstown (DU021:024) and Jobstown (DU021:035), along with tower houses in Saggart (DU034:03411) and Belgard (DU021:026).

2.3 Toponymy

Research into townland names often provides information relating to the townland's archaeology, history, folklore, ownership, topography or land use. Most placenames were anglicised by the time the Ordnance Survey (OS) began in the 1830s. However, despite some inaccuracies in translation, the Gaelic, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English origins of place names are generally recognisable. Cheeverstown or *Baile an tSibhrigh* meaning the town of the Síbhear, from the surname Síbhear (Norman *le Chivere*) (Irish Placenames Commission 2010). Other townland names also indicate ownership; Saggart (*Teach Sagart*), Fortunestown (*Baile Uí Fhoircheirn*) and Brownsbarn (*Scioból an Bhrúnaigh*) (Irish Placenames Commission 2010).

Research was undertaken to establish if any of the archaeological features from which a particular townland appears to have taken its name, are identifiable on historic cartographic sources. For instance, the inclusion of the term 'Killeen' (meaning 'little church' or 'children's burial ground') in the townland name 'Killeendaniel' would imply that a graveyard site is present within the townland. Even if evidence for this graveyard is not identifiable on accessible historic mapping there is potential for sub-surface remains of this feature to be present within the area. None of the townlands through which the Luas line traverses provide any indication of archaeological features within the surrounding landscape.

2.4 Cartographic Evidence (after MGL 2007, 199)

The earliest map that shows the development area is William Petty's Down Survey map of the Barony of Newcastle and Uppercross, which dates from c. 1656. On this map the settlement at Jobstown includes a castle or tower house on a raised area northwest of the road to Tallaght, surrounded by settlement to its west and southwest. Jobstown, Cheeverstown and Kingswood border what was then the very large 'towne land of Sagard', which included the area now known as Brownsbarn and the medieval settlement at Saggart (spelt Sagard). The present Whitehall townland is indicated as Newhall, and in addition to

Jobstown, castles are shown at Whitestown (spelt Whitstowne) and at Belgard (indicated as Belgardtownte).

John Rocque's 'Map of County Dublin' dating to 1760 shows the area of the proposed route consisting of open fields with two north-south running water courses. The villages of 'Saggart' and 'Tallow' are noted and structures can be identified as buildings at 'Saggart House', 'Coldwater' and 'Fortunestown'. Whitestown, Jobstown, Cheeverstown and New Hall are all shown as single houses with associated buildings, although none are indicated as castles.

John Taylor's map of 1816 also shows several large houses, including the 'Castle of Chieverstown', Newhall, in ruins, and Jobstown House, which, also indicated by Rocque, is likely to have developed on the site of the earlier medieval settlement at Jobstown. The eighteenth-century settlement was accessed by a road branching from the Blessington Road, which subsequently continued by way of New Hall northwards to Belgard and southwestward, via Fortunestown, to Saggart. The road is unchanged on Taylor's early nineteenth-century map; the arrangement, or the footprint of the buildings at Jobstown House are also similarly recorded by both Rocque and Taylor. Additional information provided by Taylor is the existence of a kiln on the south side of the road from Jobstown House to Fortunestown, which on later Ordnance Survey (OS) maps was indicated as Fortunestown Lane through Fortunestown townland. The new entrance to the castle at Cheeverstown is also shown, while Brownsbarn is first indicated. Kingswood House is also likely to have been constructed by this time, although it is unnamed on Taylor's map.

The greatest cartographic detail is provided on the OS six-inch series maps, the first of which was surveyed between 1837 and 1843, and published in the latter year. Among several large houses indicated, Cheeverstown House is first marked a short distance northwest of the original settlement at Cheeverstown Castle. Newhall, in ruins in 1816, has been superseded by Fettercairn House and neighbouring Newhall Cottage, situated within what is now Whitehall townland. Structures remain on the site of the original Jobstown House, but the settlement is unnamed and is not shown with associated gardens. The large dwelling now indicated as Jobstown House is situated within landscaped parkland facing onto the Blessington Road, with formal gardens close to the house. This house appears on Taylor's earlier 1816 map as 'Springfield'.

A number of routeways are depicted in the 1837 edition with a straight road leading from Jobstown to Fortunestown. This road appears to be a realignment of an earlier irregular route similar to that noted in Taylor's 1816 map. The road through Fortunestown itself appears to correlate with that depicted in the 1816 map running from the watercourse at 'Coldwater' and

noted as 'Coldwater lane'. It joins with the northern route out of Saggart village. In the 1837 edition a number of structures are shown on the northern side of this road in Fortunestown. All the houses noted in the 1837 edition developed throughout the nineteenth-century, with the exception of the eighteenth century Jobstown, which has all but vanished on the 1907-09 OS six-inch revision map. The only traces are property boundaries, and possibly one or two small structures (the former settlement site is similarly indicated on the 1937 OS revision). The new Jobstown House, as indicated on the 1837 edition map, is named Brookfield House on the 1907-09 revision. Fettercairn House in Whitehall has been enlarged; Newhall Cottage appears to have been abandoned. Many of the buildings at the site of Cheeverstown Castle have also been rebuilt or enlarged, and extended as a convalescent home for children (this home was moved to Templeogue in c. 1934 taking the Cheeverstown name with it). An enlarged Cheeverstown House, as a result of its occupancy by the Clayton family, is now associated with developed parkland west of its entrance avenue as far as Cheeverstown's boundary with Brownsbarn and Kingswood townlands. The line of the route way noted in the 1837 edition appears to remain unchanged in the 1907-9 edition, where it is noted as 'Fortunestown Lane' on the northern side of which Fortunestown House is shown. The road terminates at a T-junction immediately east of 'Saggart'. The most obvious changes on the subsequent 1937 OS revision have occurred at the two property's in Cheeverstown. The convalescent home at Cheeverstown Castle was out of use as such, with many of the home's buildings removed. In comparison, Cheeverstown House has been substantially enlarged with the addition of two large linear ranges aligned to the west of the main house.

2.5 Previous archaeological excavations (after MGL 2007, 90)

A number of archaeological investigations have taken place within the environs of Saggart Village in the vicinity of the proposed route. These include Saggart Burial Ground (99E0229), Coldwater Commons (99E0562), Garter's Lane (01E0108), Garter's Lane (02E0114), Main Street (02E1037), Saggart (02E0179), St. Mary's G.A.A. (02E1305) and Citywest Hotel Saggart (03E0629). No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during these investigations (www.excavations.ie).

Archaeological test excavation was carried out along the western extent (c. 50m) of Monitoring Area 5 of the route. Approximately 250 linear metres of centre-line testing was undertaken by Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd, under licence (06E572) to The National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government and the National Museum of Ireland. Archaeological testing was carried out in advance of development to determine if any subsurface archaeological features or deposits were located along the line of the proposed route as it passes the RMP archaeological constraint area of

Saggart Village (DU021:034), in the vicinity of a tower house (DU021:3411). No features of an archaeological significance were identified during this archaeological assessment.

3.0 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objective of the archaeological monitoring programme was to carry a watching brief of any ground reduction works at the designated locations along the route for the purpose of identifying any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts that might be present at the site and which could be impacted on by the development.

A suitably qualified archaeologist was present during the construction phase of the development in order to monitor groundworks occurring at locations that were inaccessible during the previous programme of archaeological test excavation. The archaeologist observed the removal of topsoil and overburden and checked for archaeological features and deposits. The excavated material was also visually checked for its artefact bearing potential immediately following excavation. A photographic record was maintained throughout the works programme.

4.0 RESULTS

The results of the monitoring programme are as follows:

4.1 Monitoring area 1: Cookstown tie-in chainage 0-200: 28 January, 2010

An area measuring 187.5 m long and 10-15 m wide was archaeologically monitored at the Cookstown tie-in (Plate 1). Topsoil in this area was 0.2-0.3 m in depth and comprised mid to dark brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of modern refuse and construction rubble (001). After topsoil removal, an underlying layer of re-deposited subsoil – compact yellow brown gravel rich sandy clay (002) was revealed in the centre portion of the area. This measured approximately 30 m east/west by 8 m north/south. Undisturbed natural may lie underneath this material at a depth of 0.1-0.6 m. The undisturbed natural geological stratum was revealed to the east and west of this and was composed of yellow brown clayey sandy silt (003).

4.2 Monitoring area 2: Untested areas, chainage 1650-2500: 2-4 March, 2009

An area measuring 15360 m² was archaeologically monitored between chainage 1650-2500. The overlying topsoil in this area was brown sandy clay with moderate inclusions of modern debris and construction waste (004), 0.25 m deep. Undisturbed natural was composed of yellow brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sized stones throughout (005).

4.3 Monitoring area 4: Untested areas, chainage 2922-2875: 3 April, 2009

An area measuring 861 m² was archaeologically monitored between chainage 2922-2875. The overlying topsoil was mid brown sandy silt with small to medium sized stones and roots (009), 0.35 m deep. Undisturbed natural was composed of yellow brown silty clay with frequent small stones (010).

4.4 Monitoring area 4: Untested areas, chainage 2972-3250: 24 April, 2009

An area measuring 251 m² was archaeologically monitored between chainage 2972-3250. A large glasshouse was demolished and removed and monitoring of the topsoil removal was undertaken. The overlying topsoil was mid brown sandy clay with frequent small stones and roots (011), 0.50m deep (max.). Undisturbed natural was composed of yellow brown silty clay with frequent small stones throughout (012).

4.5 Monitoring area 5: Untested areas, chainage 4000-4042, 3793-3812: 20 March, 2009

An area measuring 1963 m² was archaeologically monitored between chainage 4000-4042 and 3793-3812. The ground surface in this area has been built up with in-fill material to an average depth of 0.50 m, made up of mottled mid brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of

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modern construction material and debris (006). The topsoil layer was mid brown silty clay with frequent small and medium sized stones and roots (007), 0.30 m deep (max.). Undisturbed natural was composed of yellow brown silty clay with frequent small stones throughout (008).

5.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No new archaeological features or deposits were uncovered as a result of this programme of archaeological monitoring. There were no indications that the development would impact on previously unknown sub-surface archaeological features at any of the areas designated for archaeological monitoring, with the exception of the Monitoring Area 1. The archaeological monitoring programme has indicated that a deposit of redeposited subsoil is present at this location. Therefore a small potential remains that archaeological material could be present sealed beneath the deposit of redeposited subsoil.

Summary of Recommendations:

Monitoring Area 1- Further archaeological monitoring of the removal of the redeposited subsoil (002) is recommended for the construction-phase of the works.

Monitoring Area 2- No features of archaeological significance were found and no further archaeological works should be required at this location (Plates 2 and 3).

Monitoring Area 4- No features of archaeological significance were found and no further archaeological works should be required at this location (Plate 4).

Monitoring Area 5- No features of archaeological significance were found and no further archaeological works should be required at this location (Plate 5).

The following recommendations are to be adopted in order to ameliorate the impacts that the development may have on any potential archaeological features located beneath the redeposited subsoil (002) located within Monitoring Area 1 at the Cookstown tie-in between chainage 0 and 200.

In order to ameliorate any impact that construction of the development may have on unrecorded, archaeological stratigraphy at the Cookstown tie-in (Monitoring Area 1), it is recommended that construction-phase ground disturbance works are archaeologically monitored under the terms of the pre-existing license 08E0792 for these works, by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

The nature of any archaeology found to be present will determine if any of the following actions, should be taken;

- Redesign of the proposed scheme to allow for preservation *in situ*;
- Full archaeological excavation/preservation by record;

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The results of archaeological monitoring should be submitted in a report to the Heritage & Planning Division, Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and the National Museum of Ireland.

No further archaeological works should be required at any of the other designated areas, which were subject to this programme of archaeological monitoring.

REFERENCES

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Waddell, J. (1990) *The Bronze Age Burials of Ireland*. Galway: Galway University Press.

ARCHIVE QUANTITIES

The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item	Quantity
Context Sheets	12
Plans	0
Sections	0
Photographs	15
Samples	0
Finds	0
Registers	5

The archive material is contained within one box.

Storage of the archive in a suitable format and location is required in order to provide for any future archaeological research. It is proposed that in addition to the paper archive a digital copy is prepared. The archive is currently stored in the offices of Headland Archaeology (Ireland) Ltd, Unit 1, Wallingstown Business Park, Little Island, Co. Cork. Now that post-excavation work is complete it is proposed that the archive be deposited in a suitable repository in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Appendix 1 – Context register

Context	Area	Type	Fill Of	Filled By	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description	Interpretation
(001)	1	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2 – 0.3	Mid to dark brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of modern refuse and construction rubble	Topsoil
(002)	1	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unknown	Redeposited yellow brown gravel rich sandy clay	Subsoil
(003)	1	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yellow brown clayey sandy silt	Undisturbed natural
(004)	2	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.25	Brown sandy clay with moderate inclusions of modern debris and construction waste	Topsoil
(005)	2	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yellow brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sized stones throughout	Undisturbed natural
(006)	5	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	Mottled mid brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of modern construction material and debris	Recently introduced overburden
(007)	5	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	Mid-brown silty clay with frequent small and medium sized stones and roots	Topsoil
(008)	5	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yellow brown silty clay with frequent small stones throughout	Undisturbed natural
(009)	4	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.35	Mid-brown sandy silt with small to medium sized stones and roots	Topsoil
(010)	4	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yellow brown silty clay with frequent small stones	Undisturbed natural
(011)	4	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	Mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small stones and roots	Topsoil
(012)	4	Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yellow brown silty clay with frequent small stones throughout	Undisturbed natural

Appendix 2 – Photo register

Photo no.	Testing Area	Description
1	1	Pre-excavation shot of site, facing northeast
2	1	Shot of site, facing southwest
3	1	View of site, facing southwest
4	1	View of site following topsoil removal, facing northeast
5	2	Area 2 monitoring, northwest facing
6	2	Area 2 monitoring, southeast facing
7	2	Area 2 monitoring
8	2	Area 2 monitoring
9	2	Area 2 monitoring
10	2	Area 2 monitoring
11	4	Area 4 monitoring, northwest facing
12	4	Area 4 monitoring, west facing
13	4	Area 4 monitoring
14	5	Area 5 monitoring
15	5	Area 5 monitoring, southeast facing

Appendix 3 – Drawing register

Drawing No.	Drawing Type.	Description.
No drawings were deemed warranted		

Appendix 4 – Finds register

Find No.	Context	Material	Type	Description
No artefacts were recovered				

Appendix 5 – Sample register

Sample No:	Context:	Description:

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Sample No:	Context:	Description:
No samples were deemed warranted		

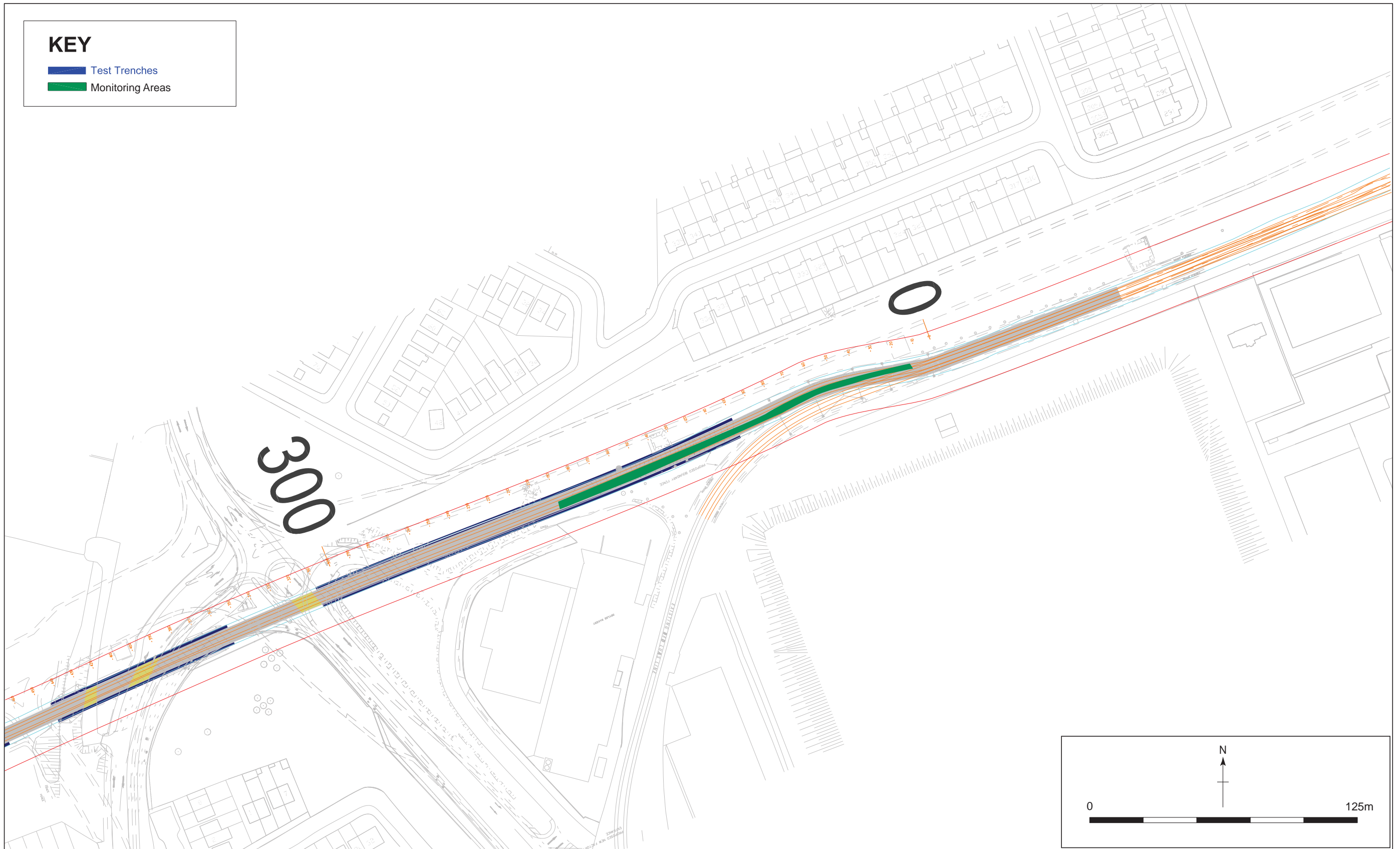


Figure 3 - Location of Monitoring Area 1.

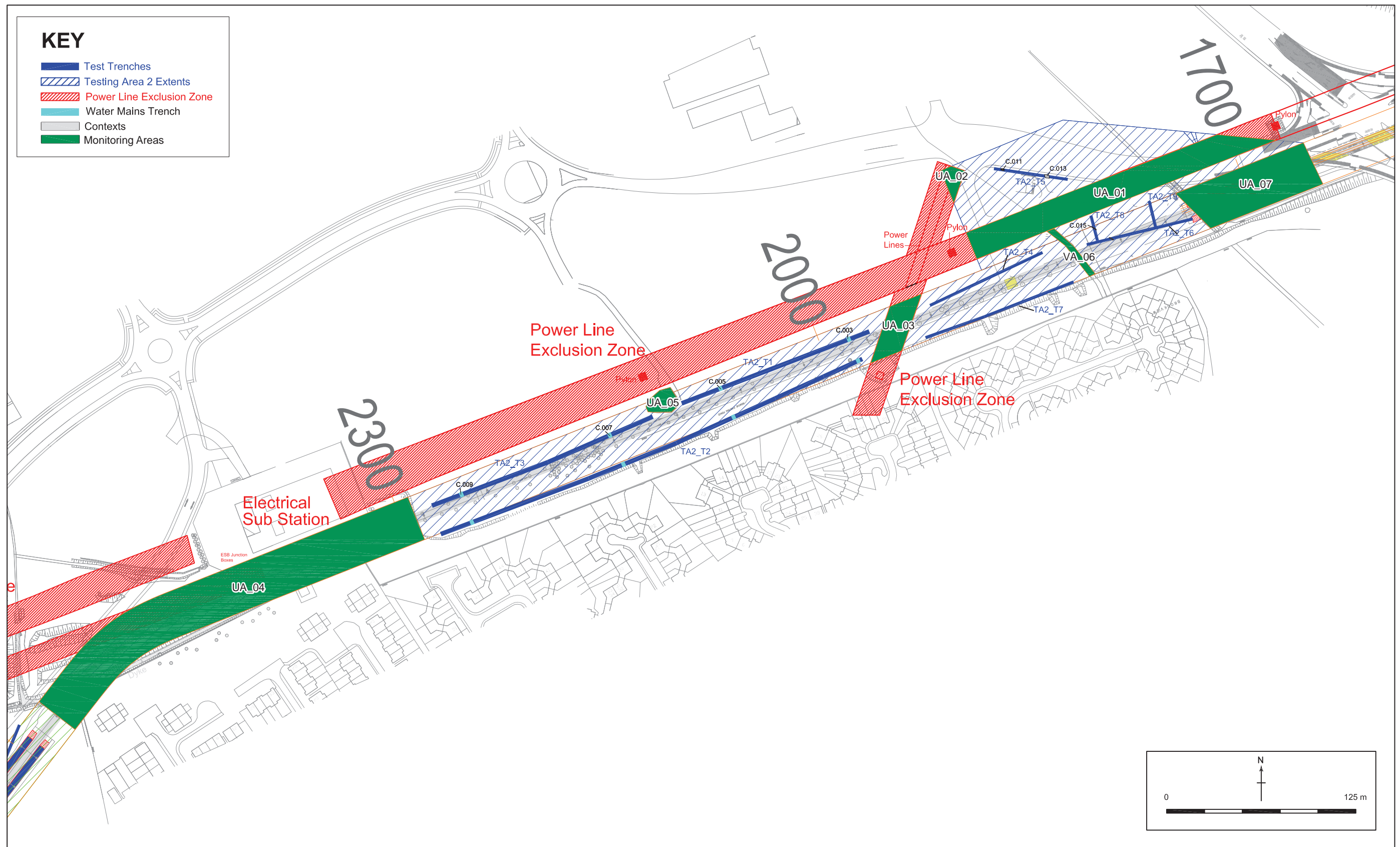


Figure 4 - Location of Monitoring Area 2.

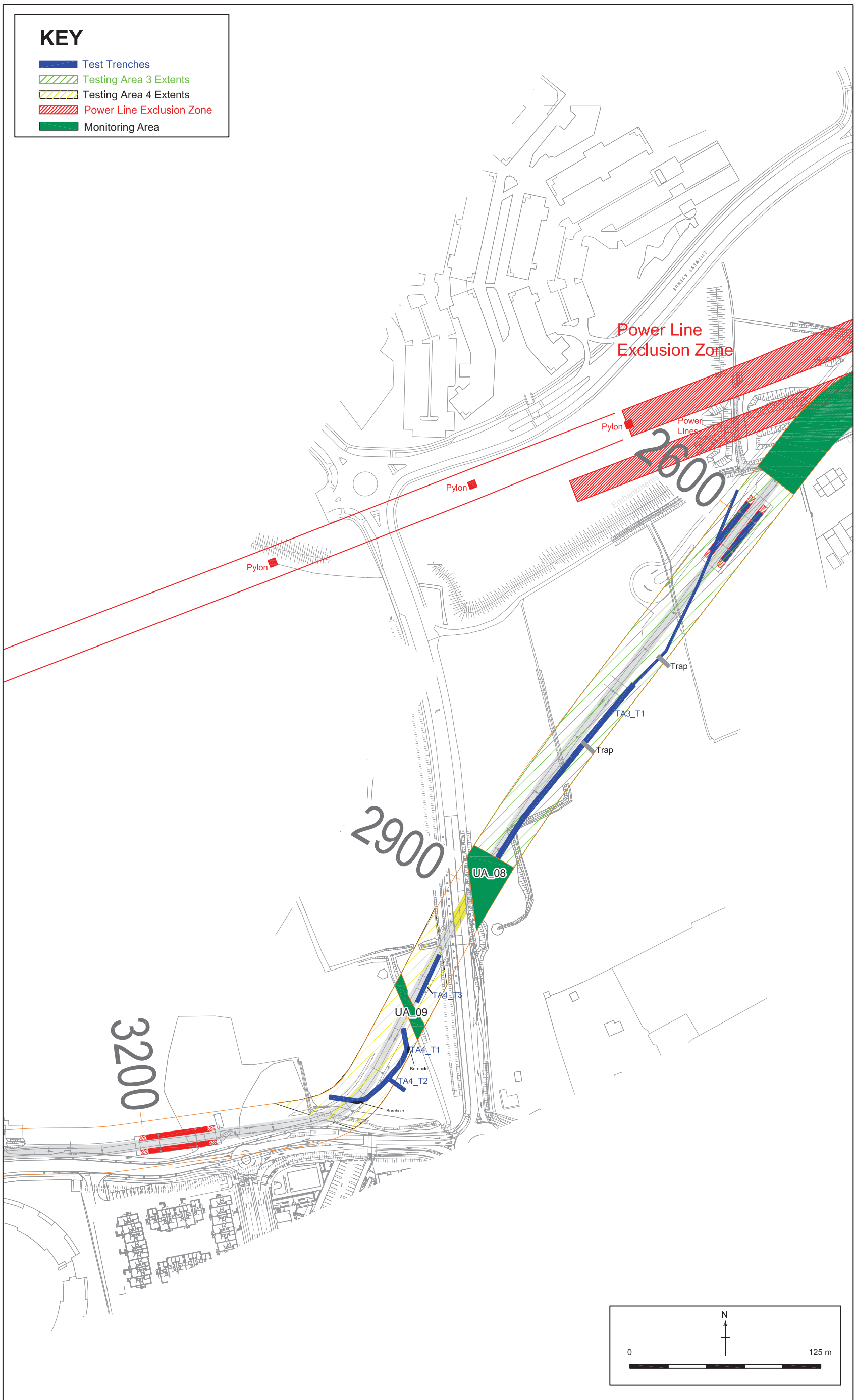


Figure 5 - Location of Monitoring Area 4.

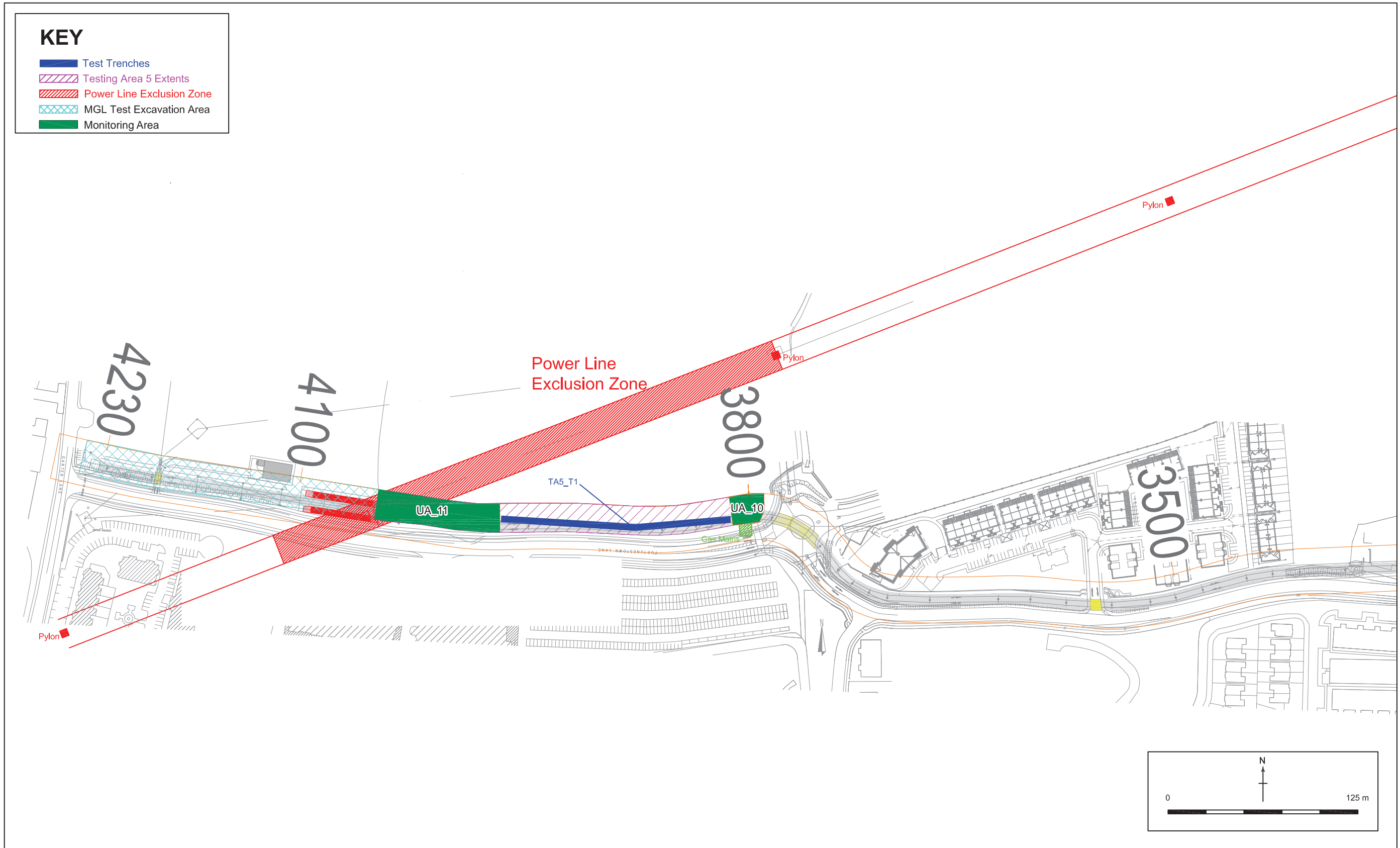


Figure 6 - Location of Monitoring Area 5.



Plate 1. Testing Area 1. Cookstown tie in.



Plate 2. Testing Area 2. CityWest Campus.



Plate 3. Testing area 2. CityWest Campus



Plate 4. Testing Area 4. Fortunestown stop.



Plate 5. Testing Area 5. Saggart Stop.