



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 076

**APPROXIMATELY 50 METRES SOUTHEAST OF 106a KILKEEL ROAD
MONEYDARRAGH MORE
ANNALONG
COUNTY DOWN**

LICENCE NO.: AE/06/198; EHS Ref. B248/06

PHILIP MACDONALD

Site Specific Information

Site Name: adjacent to 106a Kilkeel Road, Annalong

Townland: Moneydarragh More

SMR No. : DOW 056:011

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 3700 1906

County: Down

Excavation Licence No. : AE/06/198

Planning Ref / No. : P/2005/1176/F

Dates of Monitoring: 16th - 18th October 2006 (geophysical survey);
23rd - 24th October 2006 (excavation of test pits)

Archaeologist(s) Present: Philip Macdonald

Type of monitoring:

Geophysical survey (resistivity and magnetometry) across both application site and adjacent fields, followed by the manual excavation of three test pits (dimensions 2.0m x 1.0m).

Size of area opened:

Three test pits, each 2.0m by 1.0m (longest axis aligned northeast - southwest). One of the test pits was extended to form an L-shaped trench, 1.0m wide and with long axes 2.0m long.

Brief Summary:

Geophysical survey revealed the presence of a circular enclosure immediately to the north of the development site. This enclosure is apparently associated with a number of burials of probable early medieval date which were uncovered at the site in the 1930s. It is probable that the enclosure and burials are associated and both form elements of a small early ecclesiastical centre. The excavation of test pits within the development site demonstrated a poor level of archaeological preservation at the site, but did reveal evidence of features which may be the truncated bases of simple dug graves. Whilst a refusal of planning permission is not justified, a significant archaeological mitigation strategy is required if development is to go ahead. It is recommended that a condition of full excavation, following monitored mechanical removal of overlying superficial and modern deposits, is an appropriate condition to be placed upon the granting/renewal of planning permission.

Current Land Use: Waste ground

Intended Land Use: Residential

Account of the evaluation

Archaeological test-pitting, supported by geophysical survey, was undertaken within the immediate environs of a proposed development site at Moneydarragh More, Annalong, Co. Down. The aim of this evaluative programme of fieldwork was to enable staff of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage to provide an informed response to the Planning Service. The proposed development site is located approximately 50 metres southeast of 106a Kilkeel Road, Annalong (Figure One; Grid Reference J37001906). At present the proposed development site is a small paddock (dimensions 26 x 27 metres) which has been used for dumping building rubble, fishing equipment and other rubbish (Plate One). It is located 50 metres to the southwest of Kilhorne Church of Ireland, which was built in 1840 (SMR No. DOW 056:011). The nineteenth century church is included in the Sites and Monuments Record because it is 'associated' with a number of probably Early Christian cist burials and a possibly historically attested early church site (see Berry and Nolan 1932; Archaeological Survey of County Down 1966, 391). It was the close proximity of the proposed development to these significant archaeological deposits which prompted the evaluation.

Place-name evidence

The place-name Kilhorne, Kilhorn or Kilhoran is of uncertain date and origin. Kilhorne is the name of the Church of Ireland parish which was constituted as an independent parish within the old *plebania* of Kilkeel in 1884 following the death of the Rev. J.F.Close, late rector of Kilkeel, Kilmegan, and Kilcoo (Ewart 1886, 109). The present church was built in 1840 (Reynolds 1975, 47). The earliest recorded reference to the name is: Kilhorn Bay on the revised edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" series (1859). No reference to Kilhorne, or the discovery of ancient burials in the area, is made in the *Ordnance Survey Memoirs* compiled in 1834-36 (Day and McWilliams 1990, 46-54).

The *cill* element in the name Kilhorne suggests the presence of an early church in the vicinity of the site (Hamlin 1997, 62). The meaning of the second element of the place-name is uncertain. Ewart translated it as the 'Church of the River' (1886, 109), although there is no basis for this (Ó Mainnín 1993, 60). O'Laverty, who spelt the name Killyhoran, explained the name as meaning 'the church of the cold spring well' (1878, 28), but it is difficult to see how *fuarán* ('a well') could be anglicised –*horne* in English (Ó Mainnín 1993, 60). The total absence of historical spellings means that any possible interpretation of the name is open to doubt (Ó Mainnín 1993, 60).

Archaeological Background

The Reverend Thomas Lyons (Rector of Annalong) reported to the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society that in March 1932, during the excavation of a water pipe along the lane which connects Kilhorne Church with the Kilkeel Road, that about ten 'stone coffins were opened and they contained human skeletal remains' (Berry and Nolan 1932, 219-220; see also Plates Two and Three). In their report on the discovery, Berry and Nolan recorded that these burials were found along the entire length of the lane, aligned east-west and 'at a depth of about 18 inches [approximately 0.45 metres] from the surface' (1932, 219-220) (Figure Two). The term 'stone coffins' suggests that the burials were probably lintel graves, that is dug graves, lined with stone slabs and following interment, but prior to being backfilled, furnished with a series of lintels resting upon the side slabs. Orientated, long cist burials, containing extended inhumations are generally assumed to be Early Christian in date. The rite was being practiced at Portmahomack, Ross-shire by the mid sixth century AD (Carver 2006, 23) and literary evidence indicates that this form of burial was being practised in Ireland by at least the seventh century AD (O'Brien 1992, 134). Berry and Nolan record that the long cist burials were not evenly distributed along the lane, but were clustered in groups and that most of the graves were hollow cavities, unfilled with earth (1932, 220-221). It is probable that the cist burials were interspersed with simple dug graves

which were not recognised by the workmen excavating the trench for the water pipe. Given the narrow width of the trench (see Plate Two) and the likelihood that the acidic soil conditions would have resulted in the poor preservation of bone where it came into direct contact with the soil, it is unlikely that the workmen would have recognised any simple dug graves which they disturbed.

The lane along which the burials were uncovered passes approximately 30 metres to the northeast of the development site (Figure Three). Berry and Nolan noted that the field in which the development site is now located (their Field A) along with an adjacent field on the far side of the lane to the church (their Field B) were known to local residents as 'an old burying ground' (1932, 221), which from their description was quite extensive. These observations are confirmed by O'Laverty's account of the site (1878, 28) and suggest that the area located between the present church and the main Kilkeel to Newcastle Road, which includes the development site, may contain the remains of an extensive cemetery and possibly other associated structures.

Berry and Nolan, plausibly suggested that the burials were associated with a medieval, or potentially earlier, church. Following Ewart (1886, 109), they identified the potential church as one which was reputedly registered in the Vatican under the name of Kilhorne (1932, 219-220). Although Ewart's historical source suggesting that the burials were associated with a medieval or earlier church is problematic¹, the suggestion that the cist burials were associated with an early ecclesiastical centre is not unreasonable. Even discounting the potentially spurious source, Hamlin has identified Kilhorne as a probable Early Christian centre on the evidential basis of the burials and place-name evidence alone. The precise location of the possible church is not known, although if it does exist it must be somewhere in the vicinity of the development site². Interestingly, no graves, or other remains, were recorded as being found during the construction of the modern church (Berry and Nolan 1932, 219) suggesting that the cemetery and any associated structures did not extend as far as the site of the modern church.

Evaluation strategy

The conventional evaluation methodology of mechanically excavating long trenches was not considered an appropriate method for assessing this site. Berry and Nolan recorded that the cist burials only lay 18 inches (approximately 0.45 metres) below the ground surface (1932, 220). Although their presence is not noted in any of the accounts of the site, it was considered probable that simple dug graves could be present alongside the cist burials. In comparison to cist burials, simple dug graves are not easy to recognise and, given the recorded shallow depth of the known burials, it was considered that there was a good chance that any human skeletal remains present could be damaged during even supervised mechanical excavation of the topsoil. Consequently, an alternative evaluative strategy was followed consisting of geophysical survey, coupled with the excavation, by hand, of three test pits within the proposed development site.

The proposed development site (Area A) forms only a small plot of ground (dimensions 26 x 27 metres). It was anticipated that the interpretation of the results of a geophysical survey undertaken in such a relatively small area will be problematic. Previous experience of undertaking evaluative geophysical surveys has demonstrated that interpretation of anomalies within a relatively small area of proposed development was greatly facilitated by the extension of the geophysical survey to adjacent areas. Consequently, the survey was extended into two of the adjacent fields between the church and the Kilkeel Road (Areas B and C; see Figures Four and Seven) in order to provide a context in which the results of the test pitting could be meaningfully interpreted.

Geophysical Survey

The underlying geology of the site and its environs is the greywacke and red shale of the Lower Palaeozoic Hawick Group interspersed with intrusive basaltic dykes. As there are no igneous dykes in the immediate environs of the site, it proved possible to successfully implement both the resistivity and magnetometry techniques of geophysical survey. A number of power lines run across, or adjacent to, the site and a raised transformer is currently located in the northern corner of the proposed development site. The presence of the power lines, however, did not materially affect the results of the magnetometer survey, possibly because the fluxgate gradiometer used for the survey was set to discriminate against 50 MHz (the frequency of the Mains).

Prior to the commencement of the survey, arrangements had been made with the landowner to clear the proposed development site, as far as possible, of the building rubble, fishing equipment and other rubbish which had been dumped upon it. In the event, it was only practical to have part of the site cleared of overlying debris with a mechanical excavator prior to commencement of the survey and excavation of the test pits (see Plates Four and Five). Consequently, the geophysical survey within the site was restricted to a relatively narrow, northeast-southwest aligned strip located towards the centre of the development site (see Figures Five and Eight).

Two local informants advised the survey team that one of the small fields in which the geophysical survey took place (Area C) had been subjected to a significant episode of earth-moving in the recent past following the abandonment of works to build a house within the field (M.Campbell and W.Gordon pers.comm.). However, this episode of abandoned construction and earth-moving does not appear to have adversely affected either the results of the resistivity or the magnetometry surveys (but see discussion of anomaly R5 in Table One).

The resistivity survey (Figures Four and Five) was undertaken using a Geoscan Research RM15 earth resistance meter in a twin-probe configuration. The probe separation was 0.5 metres, the traverse interval was 0.5 metres and the sampling interval was also 0.5 metres. The data were downloaded and processed using the Geoplot 3.0 software developed by Geoscan Research. The data were clipped to \pm two standard deviations to provide contrast to the plots.

The magnetometry survey (Figures Seven and Eight) was undertaken with a Bartington Grad601-2 dual-sensor fluxgate gradiometer. The probe separation was 1.0 metres, the traverse interval was 0.5 metres and the sampling interval was 0.25 metres. The data were downloaded and processed using the Geoplot 3.0 software developed by Geoscan Research. The data were clipped to ± 20 nT and 'despiked' to lessen the effects of 'ferrous noise'. Low-pass filtering and interpolation processes were applied to smooth the plot. There were some striping in the data derived from Area C, which was apparently a result of operator walking errors. These were reduced by applying a 'destagger' filter. Any regular striping visible (see Figure Seven) should be regarded as a probable artefact of the data collection process.

Interpretations of the results of the resistivity and magnetometry surveys have been tabulated (Tables One and Two respectively) and are represented pictorially (Figures Six and Nine respectively). The most significant anomaly is the circular feature (R1, R2, M1, M2) which extends throughout Areas B and C and was imaged in both the resistivity and the magnetometry surveys. This feature apparently represents a ditched enclosure with an internal diameter of approximately 50 metres. A possible outlying concentric anomaly was imaged in the resistivity survey (R3 and R4), although this feature has no correspondence in the magnetometry survey. If it is a genuine reflection of the underlying archaeology this feature presumably represents a ditch which encloses an area with an internal diameter of approximately 80 metres. Given their concentricity these two features are presumably related. As both circular anomalies cross the field boundaries first represented on the 1859 6" Ordnance Survey map (but potentially of

significantly earlier date), and the line of the outer anomaly (R3 and R4), if projected, would cross the Kilkeel Road, it is reasonable to assume that they pre-date the laying out of the current landscape around Annalong and could be of considerable antiquity.

Anomaly	Description/Interpretation
R1	Curving low resistance anomaly approx. 5m wide. Possible ditch. Corresponds with Anomaly M1 in magnetometry survey.
R2	Curving low-resistance anomaly approx. 5m wide. Possible ditch and continuation of R1. Corresponds with Anomaly M2 in magnetometry survey.
R3	Curving low-resistance anomaly approx. 4m wide. Possible ditch, concentric to R1.
R4	Curving low-resistance anomaly, only well-defined on its inner edge. Possible ditch and continuation of R3. Has no correspondence in magnetometry survey.
R5	Linear low-resistance anomaly, approx. 3m wide. Intersection with R1 suggests a possible relationship, although its strict linearity on the same alignment as modern field boundary indicates a modern origin. Corresponds with M3 in resistance survey. Possibly the result of levelling work in preparation for discontinued building project.
R6	D-shaped low-resistance anomaly approx. 10m in diameter. Uncertain interpretation. Could be a result of the metal plate in centre of anomaly assisting conduction of electrical current.
R7, R8, R9	Low-resistance linear alignments, approx. 3m in width and of varying lengths. Possible foundation trench or footings for a structure.
R10, R11, R12	High-resistance amorphous areas. Uncertain interpretation. Possible underlying geological response since R2 appears to cut into these areas
R13	Circular low-resistance anomaly approximately 2m in diameter. Possible pit

Table One: Interpretation of Resistivity Results (see Figure Six) (table based on notes kindly prepared by S.Trick).

Another setoff anomalies of potential archaeological interest are the low-resistance features (R7, R8 and R9) which may represent the foundation of a rectangular structure, 11.5 metres by 8 metres in size, with its longest axis aligned northeast-southwest. Although the feature would be located within the northwestern edge of the circular enclosure discussed above (R1, R2, M1, M2), given its common alignment with the modern road and field boundaries it probably represents a relatively modern structure.

The only other anomaly of potential archaeological interest is the possible, interrupted curving feature (M4 and M5) picked up in the magnetometry survey. Although the ill-defined edges of this anomaly suggest that it represents a variation in the underlying geology, it is possible that it signifies part of a large ditched enclosure.

Anomaly	Description/Interpretation
M1	Curving positive anomaly 3-4m in width. Possible ditch. Corresponds with Anomaly R1 in resistivity survey.
M2	Curving positive anomaly, only well-defined at the edges suggesting differential spread of enhanced material. Approx. 5m in width. Possible ditch and continuation of M1. Corresponds with R2 in resistance survey.
M3	Linear anomaly 2-3m across. Negative magnetic signature suggests a buried wall. Corresponds with R5 in resistance survey. The shared alignment with modern field boundaries suggests a modern origin.
M4	Curving negative anomaly 5-7m in diameter. Negative response suggests buried masonry, however the indefinite limits of this anomaly may suggest it is a natural geological response.
M5	Same signal as M4, suggesting similar origin. Break between M4 and M5 may be an entrance-way should the anomaly represent an archaeological enclosure or similar.

M6	Strongly positive area of positive magnetism. Due to the spatial correspondence with resistance anomaly R11 this is forwarded as possibly representing archaeology. The uniform response however suggests a magnetic 'shadow' cast by modern electrical source, perhaps the transformer attached to a telegraph pole in this area, and overhead cables.
M7	A sub-rectangular positive anomaly, approx. 2m x 1m in size. This may represent a pit, a kiln or a hearth. The response given by this anomaly is representative of a spread of similar anomalies across Areas B and C. These may also represent archaeological deposits with a similar interpretation.
M8	Small dipolar anomaly. The signal suggests it is a ferrous object buried at some depth, and therefore possibly archaeological in nature. There are a spread of similar responses across Areas B and C which may also be archaeological
M9	Spiking in the dataset caused by modern agricultural debris piled against the shed in the corner of Area C.
M10	Spiking in the dataset caused by barbed wire fenced at the edge of the survey area.
M11	Spiking in the dataset caused by ferrous fittings in the shed to the side of the field.
M12	Spiking in the dataset caused by the field gate.
M13	Spiking in the dataset caused by a metal sign-post at the corner of the grid.
M14	Spiking in the dataset caused by barbed wire fencing at the edge of the survey area.
M15	Spiking in the dataset caused by ferrous guy-wires attached to the telegraph poles.
M16	Spiking caused by a trailer located in the field at this point.
M17	Spiking caused by a large metal plate on the ground surface.
M18	Spiking caused by ferrous guy-wires attached to telegraph poles.

Table Two: Interpretation of Magnetometry Results (see Figure Nine) (table based on notes kindly prepared by S.Trick). NB. Regular, northeast-southwest aligned striping in Area C is due to operator walking errors and are not archaeological in origin.

Excavation

Three test pits (imaginatively titled Test Pits 1, 2 and 3) were excavated within the proposed development site; each test pit was 2.0 metres by 1.0 metre in size with its longest axis aligned northeast – southwest (see Figures Five and Eight for location of test pits). Test Pit 3 was extended to produce a 1.0 metre wide, L-shaped trench whose longest axes were aligned northeast – southwest and northwest – southeast. Test Pits 1 and 3 were located over, or adjacent to, anomalies indicated by the geophysical surveys. Test Pit 2 was located midway between them, partly as a control, in an area without any significant geophysical anomalies.

The site had been partially cleared of overlying debris with a mechanical excavator prior to the excavation (see Plates Four and Five), resulting in the truncation of the sod and topsoil in all three test pits. The natural subsoil at the site (Context Nos.103, 203 and 306) was a heterogeneous orange boulder clay.

Test Pit 1 (Figures Ten and Eleven; Plates Six and Seven)

Underlying the truncated base of the sandy loam topsoil (Context No.101; depth 0.02-0.07 metres) was a cultivation soil (Context No.102) which extended throughout the test pit. It consisted of a heavily rooted, compact clay loam with a number of small stone inclusions, and was up to 0.25 metres thick. The cultivation soil contained a small amount of modern building debris (not retained), as well as two sherds of nineteenth or twentieth century pottery (Small Find Nos.2-3) and a possible worked flint flake (Small Find No.4).

Excavation of the cultivation soil (Context No.102) revealed the bases of two heavily truncated, possible features (Context Nos.105 and 106) that were cut into the natural subsoil (Context No.103). The rounded, western end of the first cut feature (Context No.105) was located in the

centre of the test pit and the feature extended beyond the southeastern edge of excavation. The feature was aligned approximately east-west and had an exposed length of 0.75 metres and a maximum exposed width of 0.55 metres. The feature had been heavily truncated, presumably by the cultivation represented by the overlying deposit (Context No.102), and only had a maximum depth of 0.10 metres. Its base was relatively uneven and its edge was better defined on its northern side. The second, possible cut (Context No.106) was only recognised as being distinct from the first feature (Context No.105) after the excavation had been completed. The context number (107) was retrospectively awarded to its fill, which was actually excavated as Context No.104. The soil sample of its fill (Context No.107; Sample No.7) was derived from the southwestern section of the test pit. Only a small part of the second feature was exposed in the southwestern end of the trench. The exposed part of the feature was curvilinear (exposed maximum width approximately 0.5 metres) and the feature extended beyond the southwestern edge of excavation in a southerly to westerly direction. Again, the feature was heavily truncated, presumably as a result of cultivation, and had a maximum depth of only 0.08 metres.

The stratigraphic relationship, if any existed, between the two features was not recognised during excavation. Their brown, sandy loam fills (Context Nos.104 and 107 respectively) were identical and it is not certain whether they represented two separate features, two inter-cutting features or even a single feature which had been so heavily truncated by cultivation that its uneven base had formed two separate cuts. Given the poor level of preservation of the features their interpretation is difficult, however, they are consistent with the truncated bases of orientated, simple dug graves.

Test Pit 2 (Figures Twelve and Thirteen; Plates Eight and Nine)

No archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered in the Test Pit 2. Underlying the truncated base of the dark brown sandy loam topsoil (Context No.201; depth 0.05 metres) was a cultivation soil (Context No.202) which extended throughout the test pit. The cultivation soil was a friable sandy loam which contained a small number of large stone inclusions, and was between 0.30 metres and 0.35 metres thick. Both the truncated topsoil and the cultivation soil contained fragments modern building debris and rubble, which were not retained. The cultivation soil directly overlay the uneven surface of the boulder clay subsoil (Context No.203).

Test Pit 3 (Figures Fourteen and Fifteen; Plates Ten and Eleven)

The original 2.0 metre by 1.0 metre cutting of Test Pit 3 was extended to produce a 1.0 metre wide, L-shaped trench whose longest axes were aligned northeast – southwest and northwest – southeast. The following account treats both the original test pit and the subsequent extension as a single trench.

Underlying the truncated base of a rubble-rich, sandy clay loam topsoil (Context No.301; maximum depth 0.1 metres) was a deposit of hardcore and rubble set within a loose, sandy clay loam soil matrix (Context No.302). This deposit extended throughout the trench and contained a large number of fragments of brick, mortar and concrete, as well as considerable quantities of polystyrene, plastic bags, lumps of bitumen and fragments of wood (not retained) and finds of nineteenth and twentieth century pottery, bottle glass and metalwork (Small Find Nos.8-30). The deposit is interpreted as a relatively recent dump of building debris, probably used to level or raise this part of the application site. The thickness of the deposit varied between 0.08 and 0.20 metres.

Excavation of the deposit of hardcore and rubble (Context No.302) revealed that it overlay a near horizontal discontinuity (Context No.307) that was presumably caused by the stripping of topsoil and the cultivation soil from this part of the application site in the relatively recent past. It is reasonable to assume that the overlying hardcore and rubble deposit (Context No.302) was

derived from the construction of one of the adjacent houses, both of which are of relatively recent date. It is possible that the removed soil was used in the creation of one of the gardens attached to these properties. A relict trace of the removed soil survived as a thin, localised deposit of compact, dark brown sandy clay loam (Context No.305; maximum thickness 0.06 metres) which was only recognised in the southwestern half of the southeast-facing section of the original 2.0 metre by 1.0 metre test pit. Subsequent excavation demonstrated that it only extended part of the way across the extension to the test pit.

Underlying the relict trace of the removed soil horizon (Context No.305), and cut into the natural subsoil (Context No.306), was an east-west aligned negative feature (Context No.304). The steeply sloping southern edge of the feature ran from the eastern corner to the western corner of the original test pit, whilst its equally steeply-sided northern edge was only exposed in the northern corner of the extension to the test pit. As exposed the feature had a flat base, was approximately 0.25 metres deep, at least 2.2 metres in length and had a width of approximately 1.35 metres. It was filled with a light to mid-brown, sandy loam (Context No.303) which contained no artefactual evidence. Despite being less heavily truncated than the features exposed in Test Pit 1, its interpretation is difficult. Its orientation, steep sides and flat base are consistent with it representing the truncated bases of two or more inter-cutting, simple dug graves, however, this is not the only possible interpretation of its original purpose.

Discussion

Both the resistivity and magnetometry geophysical surveys produced anomalies (R1, R2, M1, M2) indicating the presence of a circular enclosure, with an internal diameter of approximately 50 metres, within the fields immediately to the north of the development site (see Figures Six and Nine). In addition, the resistivity survey produced an anomaly which indicates the possible presence of a concentric, outlying enclosing ditch (R3 and R4) whose circuit, if projected, would enclose an area with an internal diameter of approximately 80 metres and cross the northern part of the proposed development site (see Figure Six). Both of these enclosures extend across the lane that connects Kilhorne Church with the Kilkeel Road and along which the long cist burials were discovered in 1932. It was recorded that the burials extended along the entire length of the lane (Berry and Nolan 1932, 220), however, the near contemporary sketch plan of the uncovered burials' location (Figure Two) indicates a slightly more restricted distribution (approximately equivalent to the area hatched in red on Figure Three). This distribution coincides with both the inner circular enclosure (R1, R2, M1, M2) and in its southeasterly extent, the projected line of the outer enclosure (R3 and R4). It is not unreasonable to suggest that this single, and possible double, enclosure provides the context for the location of the burials uncovered in 1932.

Interpreting these anomalies, and their assumed association with the burials discovered in 1932, is not simple. As noted above, the character of the burials suggests that they date to the Early Christian period. The organisation of the Church, and by extension burial, during this period in Ireland is complex (Edwards 1990, 99-101; O'Brien 1992). It is probable that territorial episcopal dioceses existed in tandem with monastic confederations, and that there was a diverse range of ecclesiastical sites many of which would have contained areas set aside for burial. The practice of enclosing ecclesiastical sites with a *valla* dates from the seventh century onwards (Edwards 1990, 106) and it was during the seventh and eighth centuries that the increasing power and influence of the Church, coupled with the rise in popularity of the cult of relics, provided the impetus for burial in cemeteries attached to monastic and other ecclesiastical sites (Edwards 1990, 129; O'Brien 1992, 136). The enclosures defined in Areas B and C probably represent some form of small ecclesiastical enclosure – although whether this was a minor monastery, a small church with an attached priest who served a lay community, or even a hybrid of the two is impossible to distinguish on morphological grounds. Given the absence of any historical

references or local traditions, it is unlikely, although not impossible, that the features represent part of a major monastic centre.

Most early ecclesiastical enclosures are not as circular as the enclosure defined by the geophysical survey. This raises the possibility that the enclosure may have originally been a rath, whose was given over to the Church. Such practices are not unknown in Ireland (for examples see O'Brien 1992, 134). If the enclosure originally was a rath, then it would be a large example of the type.

It should not be assumed that the outer, concentric enclosure, if it is a genuine feature, is contemporary with the inner enclosure. It is possible that it represents a later boundary created during an episode of enlargement, and its creation might be contemporary with the deliberate backfilling of the inner enclosure.

If the circular anomalies do represent an early ecclesiastical enclosure then the geophysics failed to definitely identify either any internal structures, such as a church, or the attested burials. Although it is possible that one group of low-resistance anomalies (R7, R8 and R9) represent the foundations of a rectangular structure, its alignment is more consistent with it being of relatively recent date, rather than a feature contemporary with the enclosure. The failure to identify any definite internal structures is not surprising; any early Christian church would probably have been a timber or earthen walled structure which is unlikely to have produced a distinctive or marked geophysical signature. In this case, the absence of evidence cannot be considered proof of the non-survival of any internal structures contemporary with the enclosure. The failure of the geophysics to pick up the burials is disappointing, although not surprising; burials are notoriously difficult to image using standard geophysical techniques (David 1994).

Interpreting the features uncovered during the excavation of the three test pits in the proposed development site, within the context provided by the geophysical surveys, is not unproblematic. Although it is reasonable to suggest that burial activity associated with the cemetery could have extended beyond the apparently defining enclosure boundaries discussed above, and that the features (Context Nos. 105, 106 and 304) partially exposed in the test pits could all have been the truncated remains of conjoined or isolated simple dug graves, it must be emphasised that this is not the only possible interpretation. Without more extensive excavation it is not possible to interpret the features with certainty. As well as burials, it is possible that the features relate to some other form of activity on the periphery of the apparent early ecclesiastical enclosure, or whilst being archaeologically significant, that they might represent an unrelated phase of activity at the site.

Recommendations

The application site is located on the periphery of the possible early ecclesiastical enclosure identified and discussed above. Although the application site is potentially of considerable archaeological significance, the results of the excavation of the test pits indicate that the level of archaeological preservation within the application site is not high. No significant stratigraphy existed within the application site above the level of the natural subsoil. The surface of the natural subsoil has been truncated by both episodes of cultivation and mechanical excavation, the latter presumably associated with the construction of adjacent houses. Furthermore, no bone was recovered from the fills of the truncated features cut into the subsoil, suggesting that levels of organic preservation at the site are not high.

Consequently, despite the potential archaeological importance of the application site, a recommendation of a refusal of planning permission on archaeological grounds is not justified. Given, however, the importance of the site, coupled with the potential for disturbing human

remains, significant archaeological mitigation in advance of the site's development is required. An appropriate condition to be placed upon the granting of planning permission would be the full archaeological excavation of the site, following the supervised mechanical excavation of the topsoil, cultivation soil and other superficial and modern deposits.

¹ Lavens Mathewson Ewart (1845-1898) recorded that 'in pre-Reformation times, a church existed near the site of the present edifice, and was registered in the Vatican under the name of Kilhorne' (1886, 109). Ewart cites no source for this claim, which is perhaps not surprising as he made it in the *Handbook of the United Diocese of Down & Connor & Dromore, with views of some noteworthy churches and much information historical & statistical*, a popular account published in connection with the Christmas Fair of the Olden Time, held in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, in December 1886, in aid of the endowment and enlargement of St. Mark's Church, Ballysillan. Ewart's claim for a historical source for a pre-Reformation church called Kilhorne is accepted and quoted by Berry and Nolan 1932, 219-220, however, subsequent scholars have considered it problematic.

Interestingly, Hamlin who does cite the Berry and Nolan paper, makes no reference to Ewart's historical source (1976, 639; 1997, 62) suggesting that she considered it problematic. Furthermore, no historical reference to the name Kilhoran (or any of its variants) was discovered as part of Queen's University Belfast's Northern Ireland Place-Name Project (Ó Mainnín 1993, 60). Perhaps tellingly, in quoting Ewart's comment about a pre-Reformation registration of the church in Vatican records Ó Mainnín describes Ewart's reference as a 'claim' rather than accept it as fact (Ó Mainnín 1993, 60).

Lavens M. Ewart (1845-1898) was the second son of Sir William Ewart, M.P. He was born in Belfast in 1845, became a linen merchant in the family business and was a credible scholar of Irish history. Throughout his life he collected a fine library of Irish books and books dealing with the linen industry. He helped found the second series of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, which ran from 1895 to 1911, and the first volume of which contained an article by him on the subject of Belfast maps. Ewart was a generous benefactor of the Linen Hall Library in Belfast and worked closely with its librarian, John Anderson. Ewart's interest in local bibliography and early Belfast printing is reflected in his collection at the Linen Hall Library, where he was Governor of the Library. Ten years after his death his personal library was given on loan to the Linen Hall Library and in 1954 it became the property of the Linen Hall Library. Ewart's map collection is held at Queen's University Belfast and consists of approximately 150 original maps and facsimiles of printed and manuscript maps of Ireland, provinces and counties of Ireland, and individual places in Ireland, circa 1567-1900. About 50 of the maps are of Belfast or parts of Belfast, ca. 1570-1900. The collection also consists of town plans, maritime surveys, Ordnance Survey maps (6 inch), and various railway, canal and road plans. The map collection was presented to Queen's University in 1954 by Ewart's grandchildren, Dr Vivian Lutwyche, Dr Violet Lutwyche and Miss Lenore Dawson (<http://www.ulsterbiography.co.uk/biogsE.htm>).

Ewart's Vatican reference must be considered problematic. Unless he had either direct access to unpublished Vatican archives or unpublished manuscript research, Ewart must have derived his reference from a compendium of Church/Vatican papers published prior to 1886. A comprehensive literature search of the most likely sources failed to identify the reference. Given his interests it is possible that Ewart could have been in contact with academics working on unpublished material. If he had direct access to archival material it seems unlikely, although not impossible, that he would have made a simple mistake in transcribing, or reading, a Vatican paper. On balance, Hamlin's concise assessment that the history of the site is unknown (1976, 639) must be accepted.

² The present church was built in 1840. Prior to this the local residents attended the Church at Kilkeel. In 1832 Mullertown School was licensed for divine service, apparently because old people were unable to walk to Kilkeel Church. Glasdrummond Roman Catholic Church was built in 1832; prior to its erection Mass was celebrated in temporary structures (Bohogs) in Annalong, which presumably are not a guide to the location of any early church site. It is not certain where the local burying place was prior to 1840, but it was probably Kilkeel Old Graveyard, which in the 1930s was still being used by some families in the Annalong district (Berry and Nolan 1932, 220).

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Archive:

Plans / Drawings (Appendix Two)

The field drawings prepared during the evaluation are currently archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Samples (Appendix Three)

The charcoal and soil samples taken during the evaluation are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Photographs (Appendix Four)

The digital images taken during the evaluation are currently archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Finds (see Appendix Five)

The artefacts recovered from the evaluation are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Appendix One: Context Register

Context No.	Description
101	Truncated base of topsoil
102	Cultivation soil
103	Natural subsoil
104	Fill of cut feature (Context No. 105)
105	Cut feature
106	Cut feature
107	Fill of cut feature (Context No. 106)
201	Truncated base of topsoil
202	Cultivation soil
203	Natural subsoil
301	Truncated base of topsoil
302	Deposit of hardcore and rubble
303	Fill of cut feature (Context No. 304)
304	Cut feature
305	Relict trace of truncated cultivation soil
306	Natural subsoil
307	Near-horizontal discontinuity

Appendix Two: Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Type	Scale	Description
1	Plan	1:10	Plan of Test Pit 3 prior to excavation of cut feature (Context No. 304)
2	Plan	1:10	Plan of Test Pit 1 prior to excavation of cut feature (Context No. 105)
3	Plan	1:10	Plan of Test Pit 1 following excavation of cut feature (Context No. 105)
4	Section	1:10	Northwest-facing section of Test Pit 1 showing Context Nos. 101, 102, 103, 104 and 105
5	Section	1:10	Northeast-facing section of Test Pit 1 showing Context Nos. 101, 102, 103, 106 and 107
6	Plan	1:10	Plan of Test Pit 3 following excavation of cut feature (Context No. 304)
7	Section	1:10	Southeast-facing section of Test Pit 3 showing Context Nos. 301, 302, 303, 304 and 305
8	Section	1:10	Southwest-facing section of Test Pit 3 showing Context Nos. 301, 302, 303 and 304
9	Plan	1:10	Post-excavation plan of Test Pit 2
10	Section	1:10	Southeast-facing section of Test Pit 2 showing Context Nos. 201 and 202

Appendix Three: Sample Register

Sample No.	Context No.	No. of bags	Purpose	Comments
1	303	1	Phosphate analysis	
2	104	3	Phosphate analysis	
3	303	1	Phosphate analysis	
4	303	1	Phosphate analysis	Sample from base of cut
5	303	1	Radiocarbon dating	Charcoal sample
6	102	1	Phosphate analysis	Sample from above sandy loam (Context No. 104)
7	107	1	Phosphate analysis	Sample from base of cut feature (Context No. 106)
8	305	1	Phosphate analysis	From trench extension
9	202	1	Phosphate analysis	
10	303	3	Phosphate analysis	From trench extension
11	303	1	Radiocarbon dating	Charcoal sample

Appendix Four: Photographic Record

Photo No.	Date	Title	File No.
1	17/10/06	Area A following clearance (looking northeast)	DSCN3107
2	17/10/06	Area A following clearance (looking southwest)	DSCN3108
3	17/10/06	Area B, resistivity survey in progress (looking east)	DSCN3109
4	17/10/06	Area B, resistivity survey in progress (looking east)	DSCN3110
5	17/10/06	Area B, resistivity survey in progress (looking east)	DSCN3111
6	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking northeast)	DSC_0260
7	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking northeast)	DSC_0261
8	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking northeast)	DSC_0262
9	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking northeast)	DSC_0263
10	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking southwest)	DSC_0264
11	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking southwest)	DSC_0265
12	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking northwest)	DSC_0266
13	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking northwest)	DSC_0267
14	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking northwest)	DSC_0268
15	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking northwest)	DSC_0269
16	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking southeast)	DSC_0270
17	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking southeast)	DSC_0271
18	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking southeast)	DSC_0272
19	23/10/06	Test Pit 3 following removal of rubble layer (Context No. 302) (looking southeast)	DSC_0273
20	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking northeast)	DSC_0274
21	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil	DSC_0275

Photo No.	Date	Title	File No.
		(Context No. 102) (looking northeast)	
22	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking southwest)	DSC_0276
23	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking southwest)	DSC_0277
24	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking northwest)	DSC_0278
25	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking northwest)	DSC_0279
26	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking northwest)	DSC_0280
27	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking southeast)	DSC_0281
28	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking southeast)	DSC_0282
29	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking southeast)	DSC_0283
30	23/10/06	Test Pit 1 after removal of base of topsoil (Context No. 102) (looking southeast)	DSC_0284
31	23/10/06	General shots of planning in progress	DSC_0285
32	23/10/06	General shots of planning in progress	DSC_0286
33	23/10/06	General shots of planning in progress	DSC_0287
34	24/10/06	Test Pit 1 following excavation showing cuts (Context Nos. 105 and 106) (looking northeast)	DSCN3148
35	24/10/06	Test Pit 1 following excavation showing cuts (Context Nos. 105 and 106) (looking northeast)	DSCN3149
36	24/10/06	Test Pit 1 following excavation showing cuts (Context Nos. 105 and 106) (looking southeast)	DSCN3150
37	24/10/06	Test Pit 1 following excavation showing cuts (Context Nos. 105 and 106) (looking southeast)	DSCN3151
38	24/10/06	Test Pit 1 following excavation showing cuts (Context Nos. 105 and 106) (looking northwest)	DSCN3152
39	24/10/06	Test Pit 1 following excavation showing cuts (Context Nos. 105 and 106) (looking northwest)	DSCN3153
40	24/10/06	Test Pit 1 following excavation showing cuts (Context Nos. 105 and 106) (looking southwest)	DSCN3154

Photo No.	Date	Title	File No.
41	24/10/06	Test Pit 1 following excavation showing cuts (Context Nos. 105 and 106) (looking southwest)	DSCN3155
42	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 following excavation showing cut (Context No. 304) (looking northeast)	DSCN3156
43	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 following excavation showing cut (Context No. 304) (looking northeast)	DSCN3157
44	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 following excavation showing cut (Context No. 304) (looking northwest)	DSCN3158
45	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 following excavation showing cut (Context No. 304) (looking northwest)	DSCN3159
46	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 following excavation showing cut (Context No. 304) (looking southwest)	DSCN3160
47	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 following excavation showing cut (Context No. 304) (looking southwest)	DSCN3161
48	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 following excavation showing cut (Context No. 304) (looking southeast)	DSCN3162
49	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 following excavation showing cut (Context No. 304) (looking southeast)	DSCN3163
50	24/10/06	Kilhorne Bay (looking northeast)	DSCN3164
51	24/10/06	Kilhorne Bay (looking northeast)	DSCN3165
52	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 following excavation (looking northeast)	DSCN3166
53	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 following excavation (looking northeast)	DSCN3167
54	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 following excavation (looking northwest)	DSCN3168
55	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 following excavation (looking northwest)	DSCN3169
56	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 following excavation (looking southeast)	DSCN3170
57	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 following excavation (looking southeast)	DSCN3171
58	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 following excavation (looking southwest)	DSCN3172
59	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 following excavation (looking southwest)	DSCN3173
60	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 possible feature (looking northwest)	DSCN3174
61	24/10/06	Test Pit 2 possible feature (looking northwest)	DSCN3175
62	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 (ext) following excavation (looking northwest)	DSCN3176

Photo No.	Date	Title	File No.
63	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 (ext) following excavation (looking northwest)	DSCN3177
64	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 (ext) following excavation (looking northwest)	DSCN3178
65	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 (ext) following excavation (looking northeast)	DSCN3179
66	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 (ext) following excavation (looking northwest)	DSCN3180
67	24/10/06	Test Pit 3 (ext) following excavation (looking northwest)	DSCN3181

Appendix Five: Small Finds Register

<i>Small Find No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>
1	Pot sherd	1	101
2	Pot sherd	1	102
3	Pot sherd	1	102
4	Flint	1	102
5	Glass	3	301
6	Pot sherd	3	301
7	Pot sherd	3	301
8	Glass	3	302
9	Glass	3	302
10	Glass	3	302
11	Glass	3	302
12	Glass	3	302
13	Glass	3	302
14	Pot sherd	3	302
15	Pot sherd	3	302
16	Pot sherd	3	302
17	Pot sherd	3	302
18	Pot sherd	3	302
19	Pot sherd	3	302
20	Pot sherd	3	302
21	Pot sherd	3	302
22	Pot sherd	3	302
23	Copper alloy artefact	3	302
24	Iron artefact	3	302
25	Iron artefact	3	302
26	Iron artefact	3	302
27	Iron artefact	3	302
28	Iron artefact	3	302
29	Iron artefact	3	302
30	Plastic insulating ring	3	302

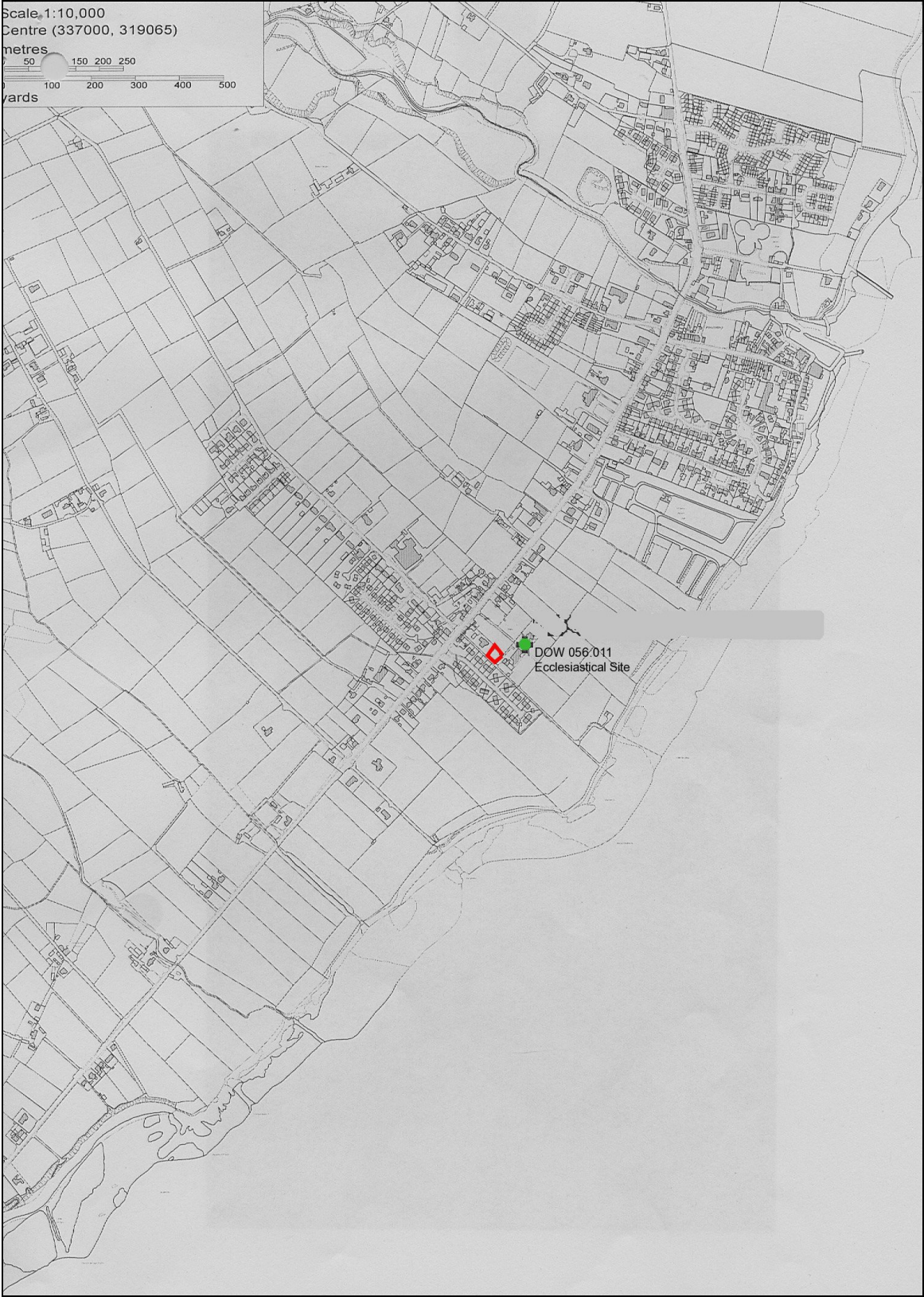


Figure One: Location map of proposed development site (P/2005/1176/F) showing its close proximity to Kilhorne Church of Ireland (image kindly supplied by staff from the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage).

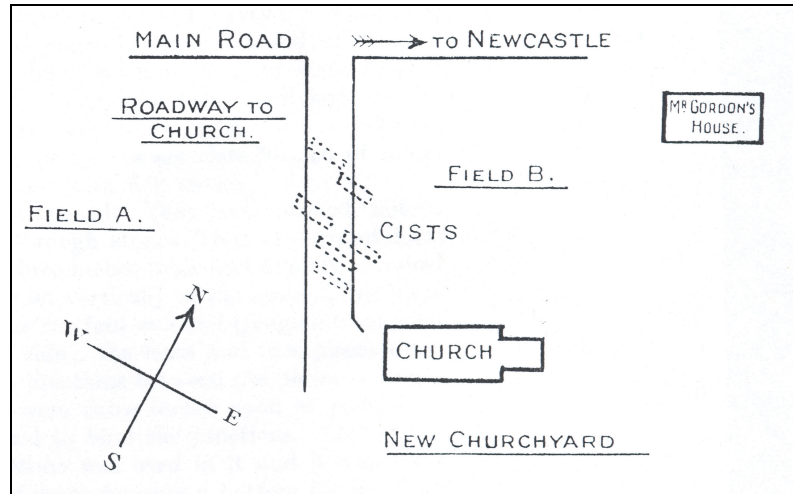


Figure Two: Berry and Nolan's plan of the location of cist burials discovered during the cutting of a trench along the roadway at Moneydarragh more, Annalong (from Berry and Nolan 1932, 220).



Figure Three: Details of Berry and Nolan's plan (1932, 220) superimposed upon a plan of the proposed development (kindly supplied by staff from the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage). Berry and Nolan's plan was not drawn to scale and so it is not possible to directly superimpose the two images. The area of the lane between the church and the main road which is hatched in red demarcates the extent of the burials marked on Berry and Nolan's plan, although they did report that the burials extended along the entire length of the lane (1932, 220). The proposed development site is also delineated.

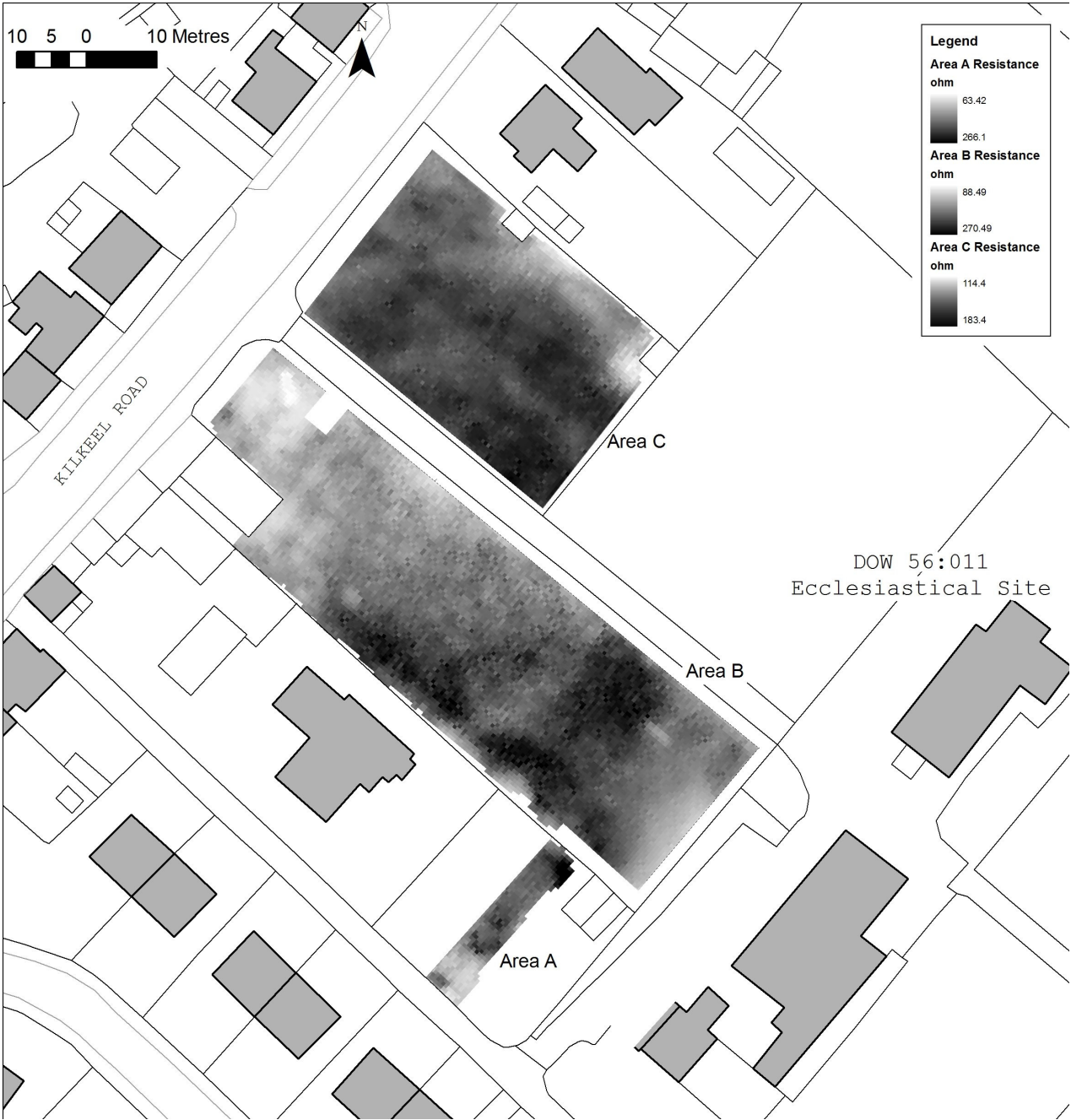


Figure Four: Results of resistivity survey (image kindly prepared by S.Trick).



Figure Five: Results of resistivity survey within the proposed development area showing position of test pits (image kindly prepared by S.Trick).



Figure Six: Interpretation of resistivity survey (image kindly prepared by S.Trick).



Figure Seven: Results of magnetometry survey (image kindly prepared by S.Trick).

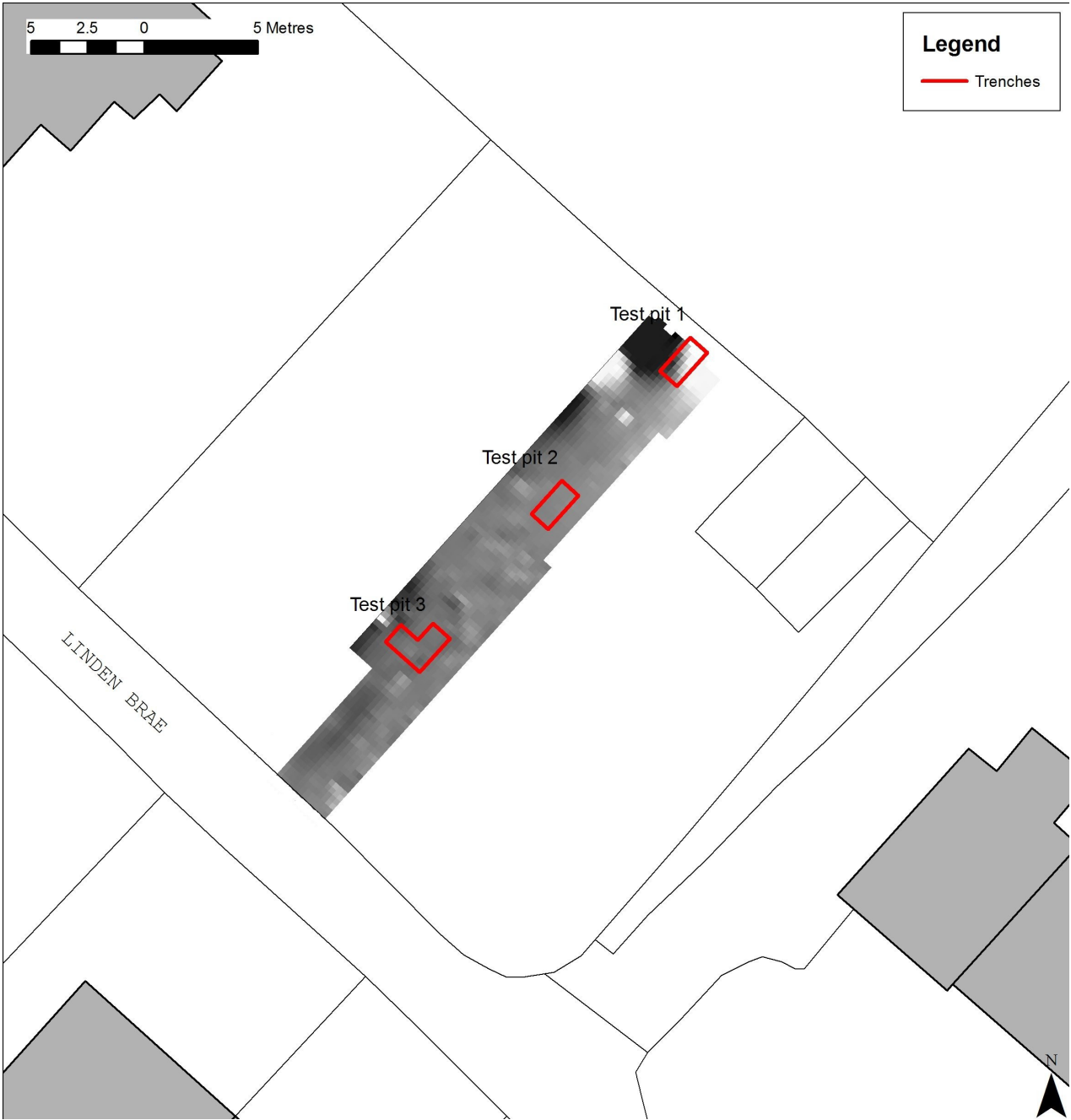


Figure Eight: Results of magnetometry survey within the proposed development area showing position of test pits (image kindly prepared by S.Trick).



Figure Nine: Interpretation of magnetometry survey (image kindly prepared by S. Trick).

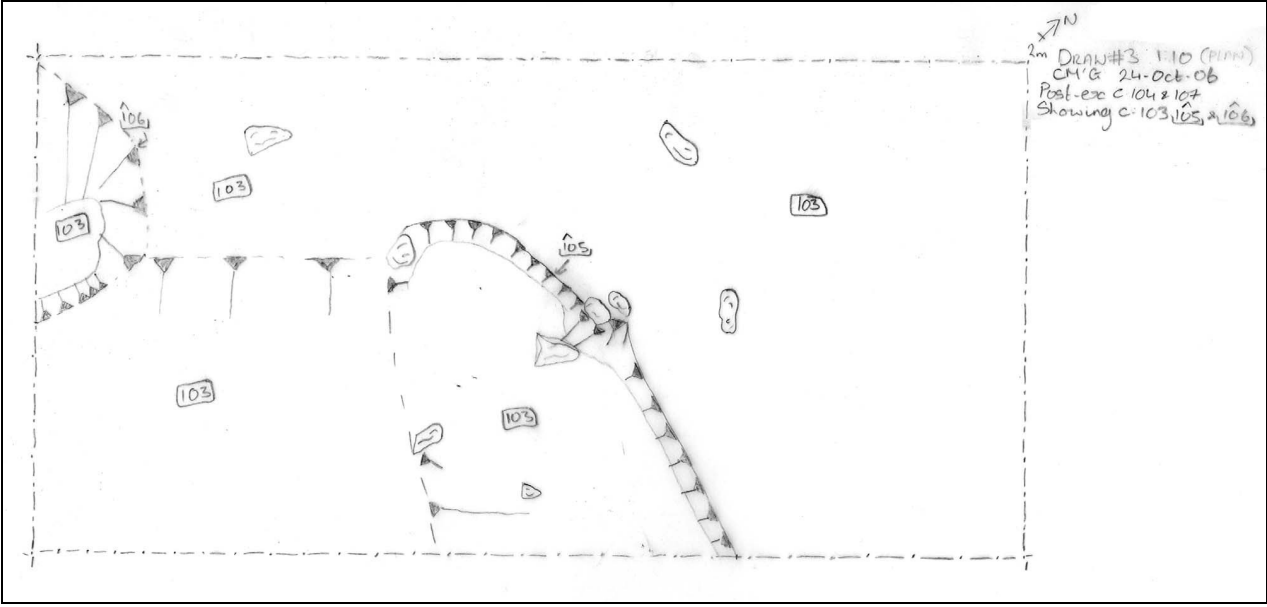


Figure Ten: Plan of Test Pit 1 following excavation. NB. Not reproduced to scale.

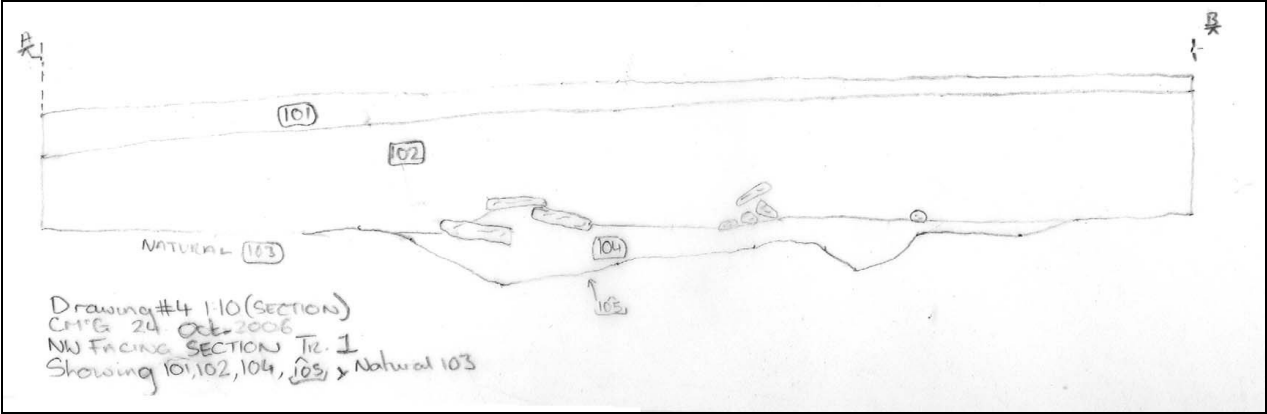


Figure Eleven: Northwest-facing section of Test Pit 1. NB. Not reproduced to scale.

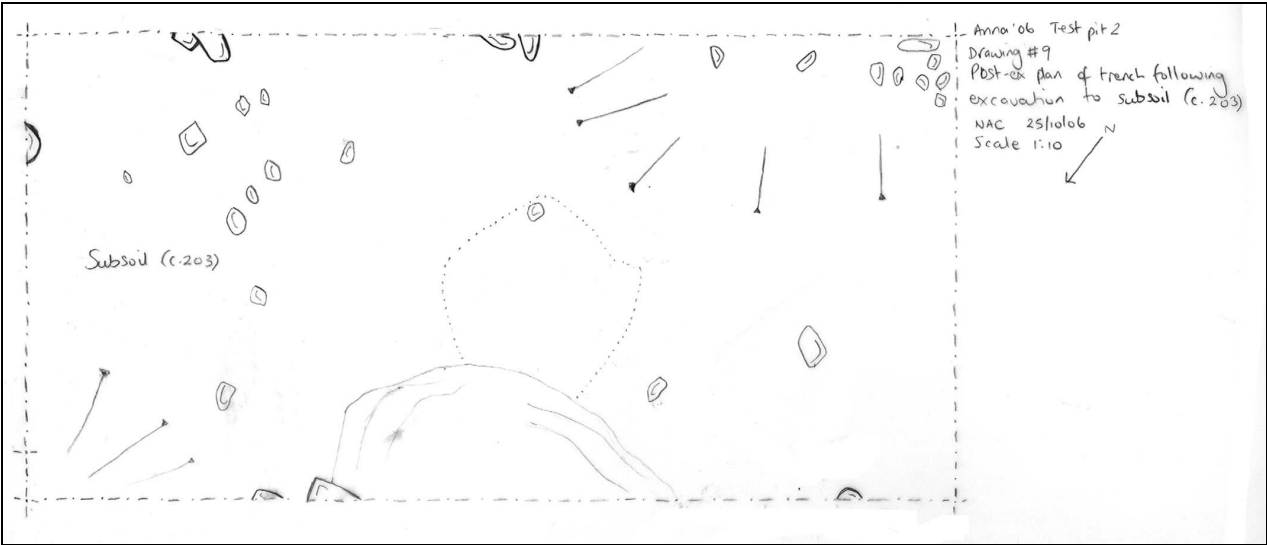


Figure Twelve: Plan of Test Pit 2 following excavation. NB. Not reproduced to scale.

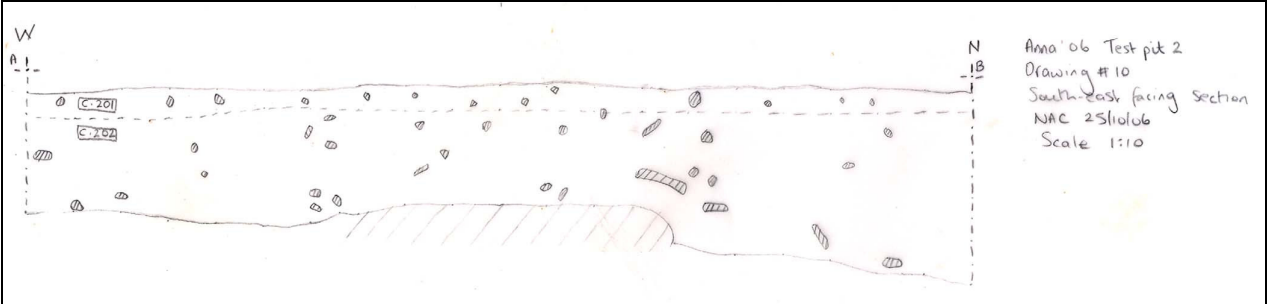


Figure Thirteen: Southeast-facing section of Test Pit 2. NB. Not reproduced to scale.

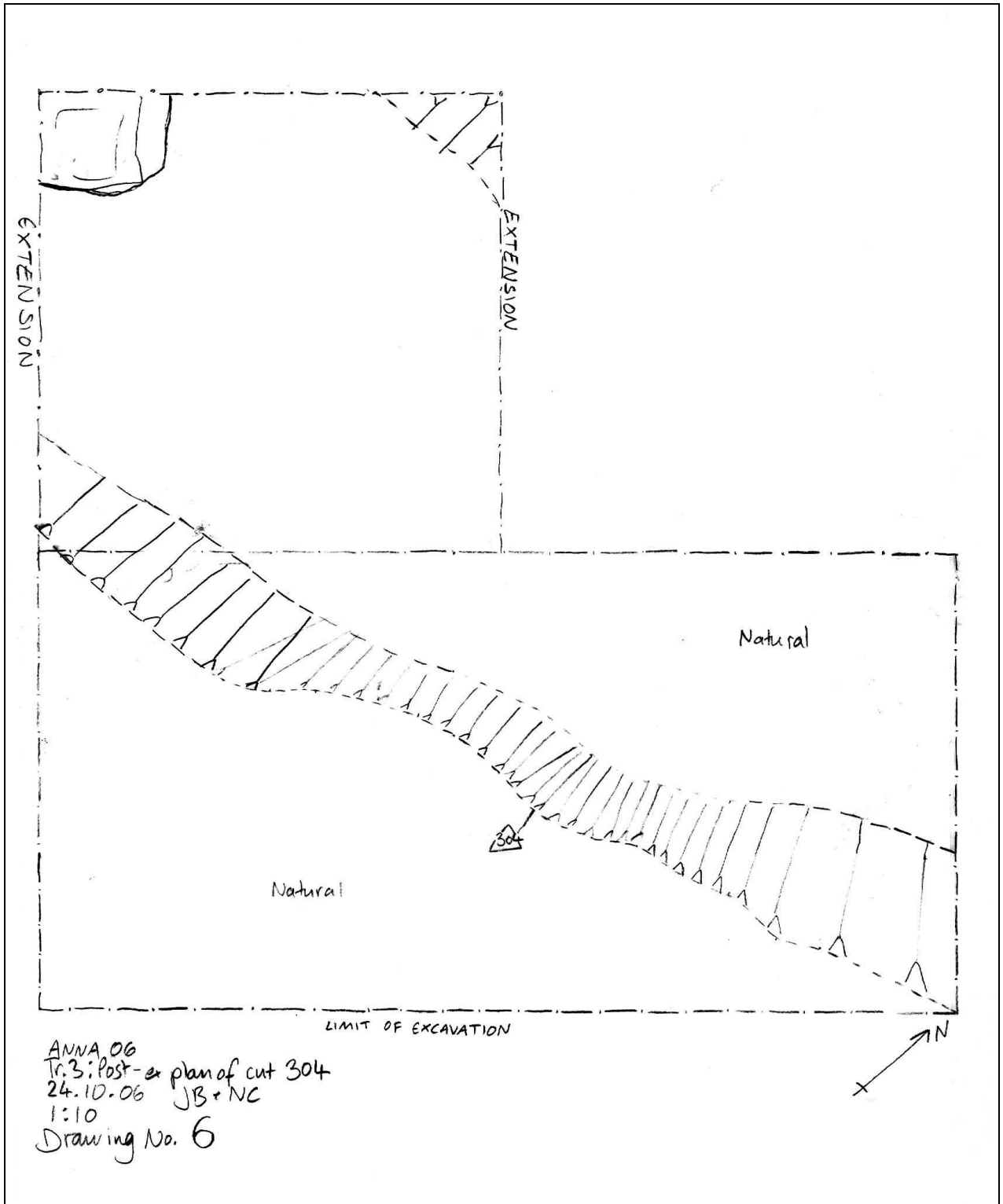


Figure Fourteen: Plan of Test Pit 3 following excavation of extension. NB. Not reproduced to scale.

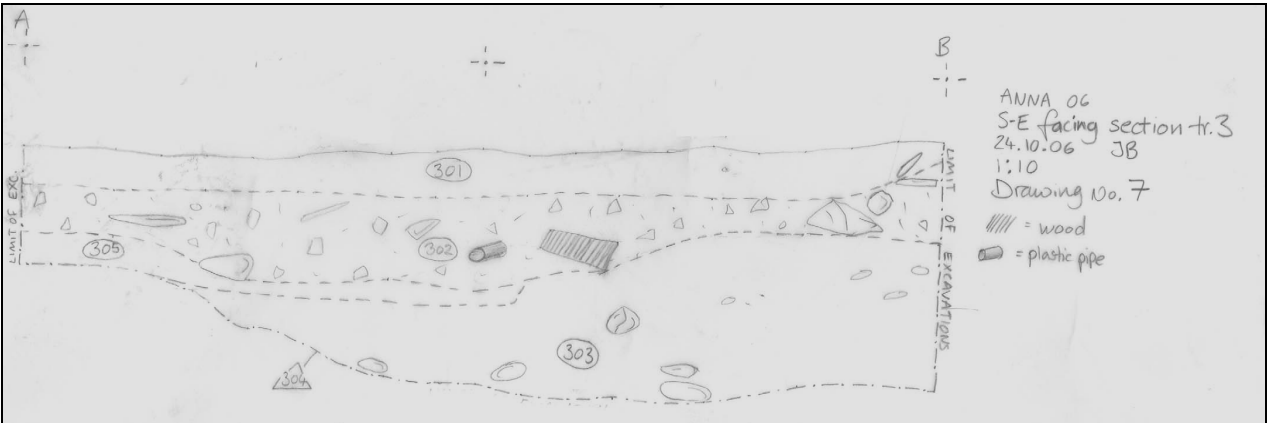


Figure Fifteen: Southeast-facing section of Test Pit 3 drawn prior to excavation of extension. NB. Not reproduced to scale.



Plate One: Proposed development site, prior to partial clearance, survey and excavation, looking northeast. (19/7/06)



Plate Two: Photograph in possession of Kilhorne Church showing excavation of trench to accommodate water pipe (1932). The photograph depicts Sammy Heaney, Willie Cousins, Rev. T.H.Lyons, Archie Gordon (rear) and John Reidy, Alex Orr, James Gibson, Jim Annett, Ernie Mooney, Hugh Bell (front row). Photograph kindly supplied by the Reverend William Press.

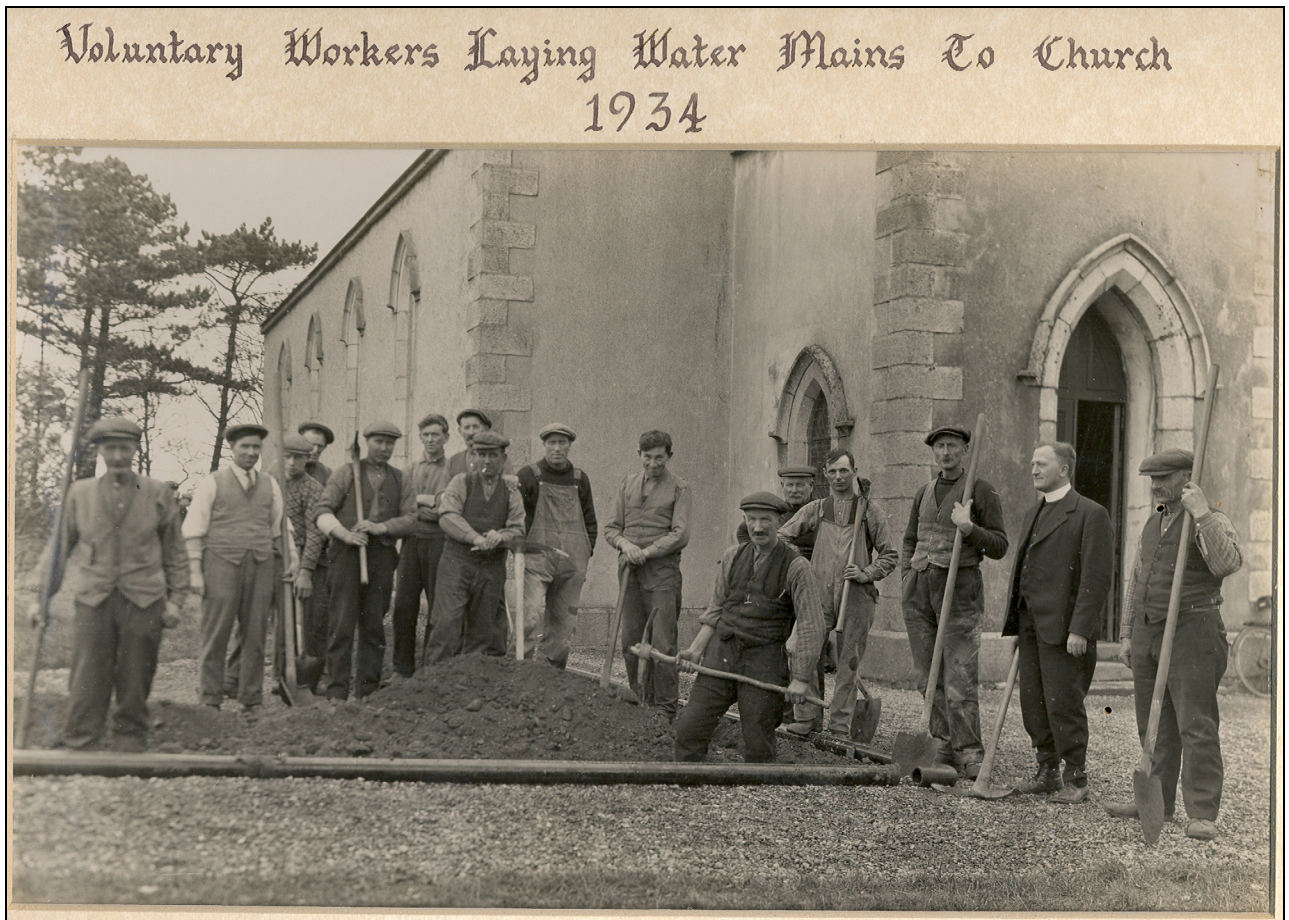


Plate Three: Photograph in possession of Kilhorne Church showing excavation of trench to accommodate water pipe (1932). The photograph depicts (from left to right) John Moore, John Cowden, Jim Arnett, William Wiggins, Frank Moore, Thos Mayhew, James White, Jack Gibson, Robert Little, Cecil Gordon, Jimmy Young, Wm. McConnell, Johnny McKibben, Wm. McMath, Rev. T.B. Lyons and Tom Cooper. The 1934 date on the photograph is difficult to reconcile with the pre-March 1932 date recorded in the contemporary published accounts of the excavation of the trench for the water pipe and the concomitant discovery of burials (i.e. Berry and Nolan 1932). It is reasonable to assume that the caption was added later and is incorrect. Photograph kindly supplied by the Reverend William Press.



Plate Four: Proposed development site, following partial clearance undertaken by landowner, but prior to survey and excavation, looking northeast. (17/10/06)



Plate Five: Proposed development site, following partial clearance undertaken by landowner, but prior to survey and excavation, looking southwest. (17/10/06)



Plate Six: Test Pit 1 following excavation, showing heavily truncated cut features (Context Nos.105 and 106), looking northeast. (24/10/06)

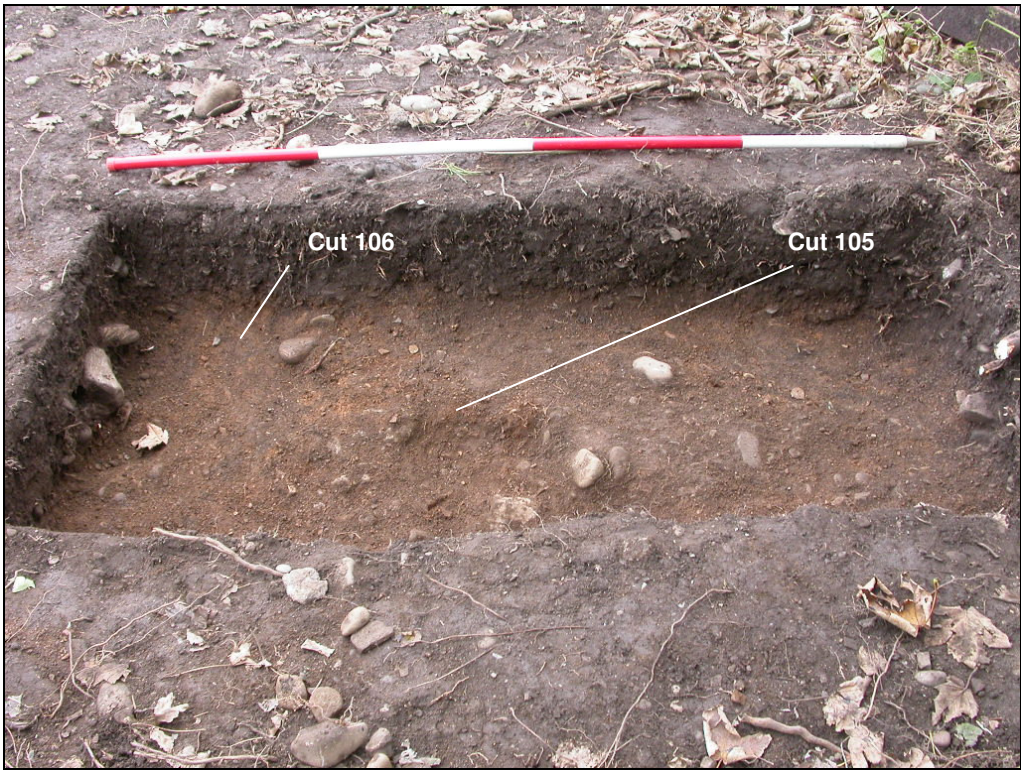


Plate Seven: Test Pit 1 following excavation, showing heavily truncated cut features (Context Nos.105 and 106), looking northwest. (24/10/06)



Plate Eight: Test Pit 2 following excavation, looking northeast. NB. Investigation demonstrated that the area of lighter subsoil in the centre of the trench was a natural variation within the boulder clay (Context No.203). (24/10/06)



Plate Nine: Test Pit 2 following excavation, looking northwest. (24/10/06)



Plate Ten: Test Pit 3, following excavation but prior to excavation of extension, showing cut feature (Context No.304), looking southwest. (24/10/06)



*Plate Eleven: Test Pit 3, following excavation of extension, showing southern and northern edges of cut feature (Context No.304), deposit of hardcore and rubble (Context No.302), fill (Context No.303) and relict deposit of truncated soil horizon (Context No.305), looking northwest.
(24/10/06)*