



Monitoring Report No. 95

**Rakeeran Road
Rahony
Dromore
Co. Tyrone**

AE/06/222

T. R. Kerr

Site Specific Information

Site Address: 140m south of 15 Rakeeran Road, Rahony, Dromore, Co. Tyrone (Fig. 1)

Townland: Rahony

SMR No: TYR 050:028

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: H80529854

County: Tyrone

Excavation License No: AE/06/222

Planning Ref / No.: K/2005/1997/F

Date of site visit: 20th September 2006

Archaeologists Present: Thom Kerr

Brief Summary:

Three test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development of a dwelling, garage and associated services on any hidden archaeological remains. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in any of the trenches.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of three test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision

Size of area opened: Three trenches - two measuring approximately 15m x 2m each; and one measuring approximately 10m x 2m.

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Assessment of site:

Plans have been drawn up to construct a private dwelling and detached garage on top of a drumlin to the rear of 15 Rakeeran Road, Rahony, Dromore, Co. Tyrone (Fig. 2). An archaeological evaluation was required to assess if archaeological remains will be disturbed during development of the proposed site and to assist EHS make an informed response to the Planning Service.

Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 20th September 2006. Five test trenches – measuring approximately 15m x 2m - were requested by the PHM Caseworker, Edith Gowdy (Fig. 3). Discussion with the landowner, and father of the applicant, upon arrival at site indicated that access to the proposed development would be along the existing concrete field lane. As such, the two proposed trenches located along the proposed route of an access lane were not excavated. Consequently only three test trenches were excavated. Two of these were placed in the footprint of the development and measured approximately 15m x 2m. The third was placed in the northwest of the development area as located in Figure 3. The nature of the ground conditions and especially the presence of lying water and sheughs internal to the field boundary meant that this trench measured approximately 10m x 2m (Fig. 4).

The soil stratigraphy was uniform across the three evaluation trenches. This consisted solely of a layer of dark brown loamy clay topsoil (C101) ranging between 0.20m and 0.25m in depth, immediately overlying the subsoil, which consisted of red boulder clay (Plates 1-3). A number of 3" plastic drainage pipes had been laid across the field and are visible in Plate 3. These had been covered with a shallow layer of gravel (Plate 4).

Conclusion:

The archaeological site present at this location (TYR 050:028) is currently described in the NISMR as a 'non-antiquity'. The potential vallation hinted at by the 2nd Edition OS Map (Fig. 5) would appear to have been a sub-circular field boundary enclosing the top of the drumlin as is common throughout the Fermanagh/South Tyrone drumlin belt. There was also no visible trace of the external vallation hinted at by this earlier map. The farm soil on the top of the

drumlin is shallow, and appears to have been augmented and deepened by manuring due to the occasional presence of fibrous mats of vegetation material indicative either of animal bedding or of green manuring (i.e. ploughing the sward back into the topsoil).

During the course of the evaluation, nothing of archaeological significance was discovered – neither archaeological features, nor archaeological artefactual material. This lack of results would support the interpretation that TYR 050:028 has been wrongly labelled as an archaeological monument and that, instead, it represents field boundaries of no great antiquity judging by the depth of topsoil and the level of preservation of the manuring and plagen soils.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 6 digital images, held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____ Date: _____

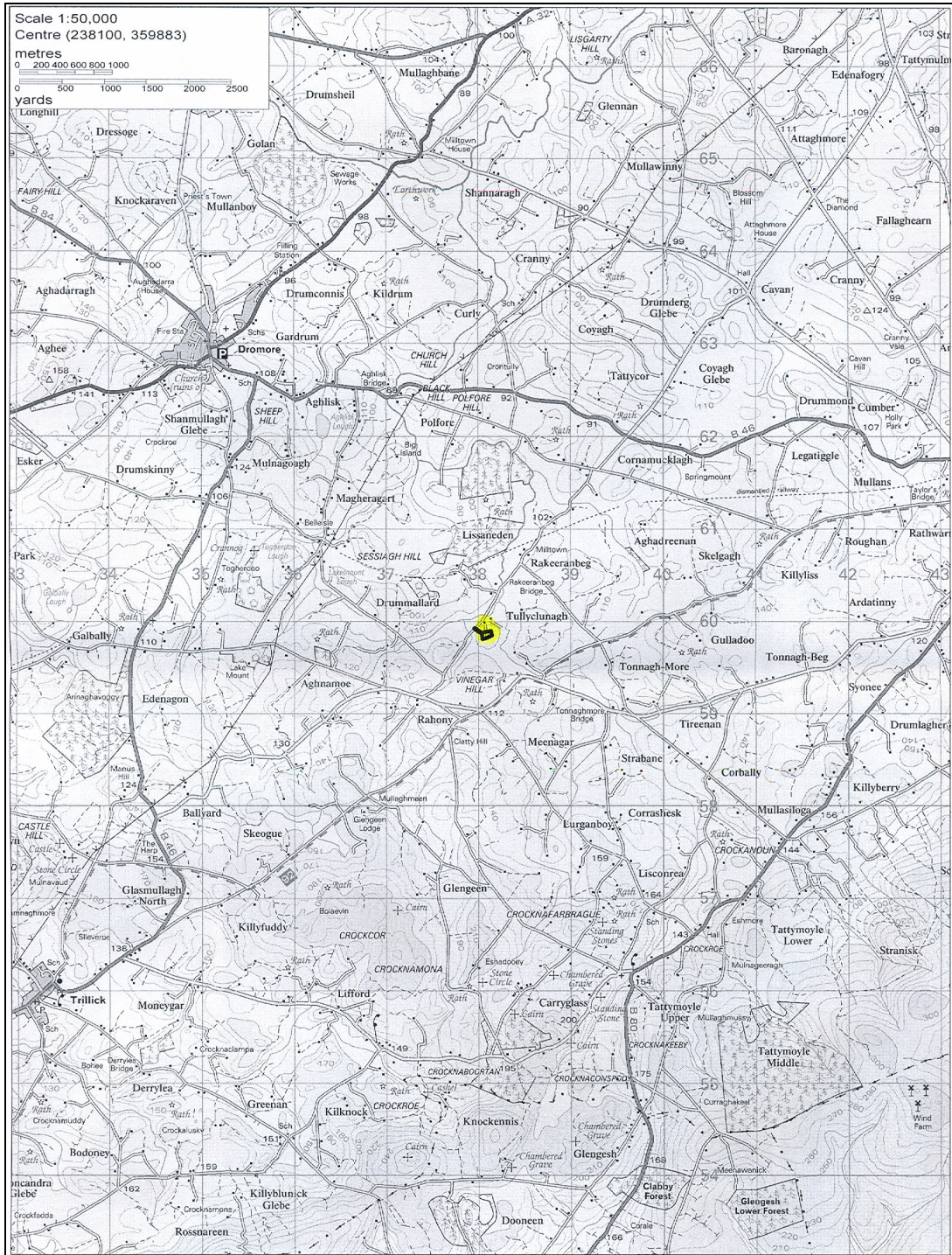


Fig. 1: 1:50,000 Map showing location of site (yellow dot).

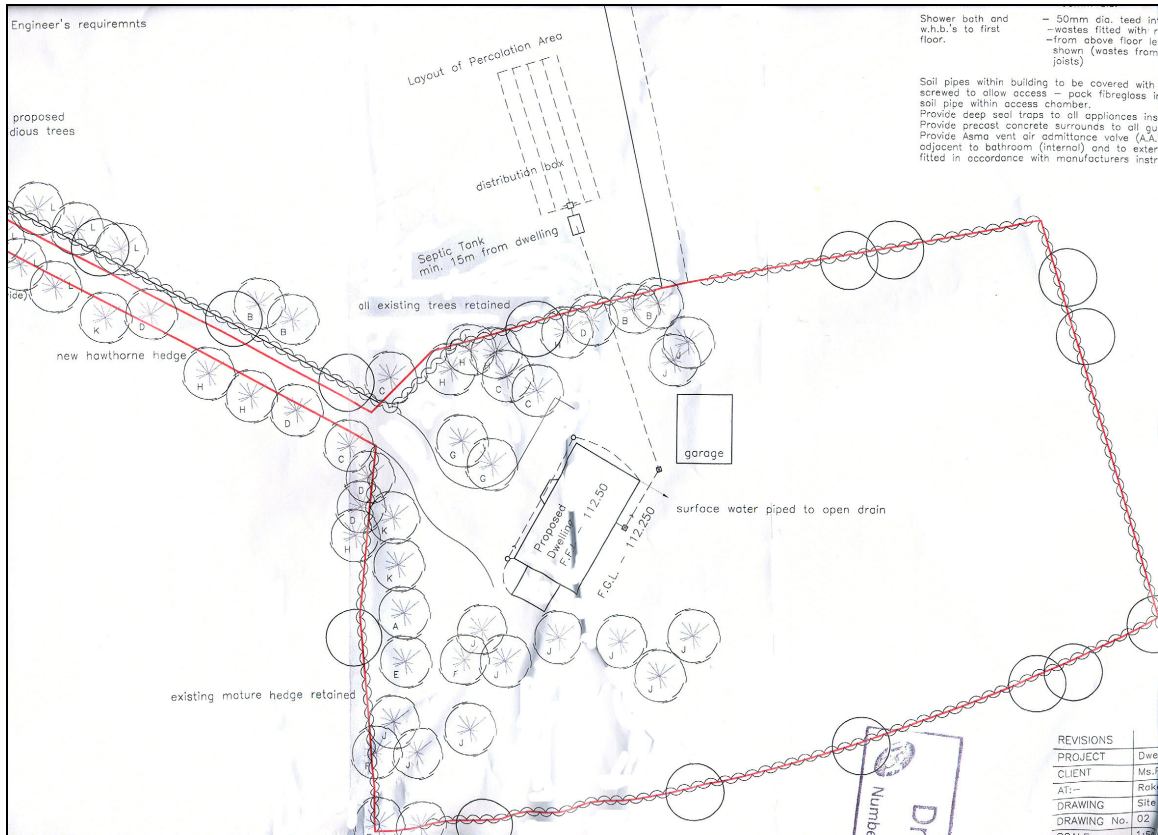


Fig. 2: Architect's plan showing proposed location of development (15 Rakeeran Road not in plan but to north of development along concrete road)

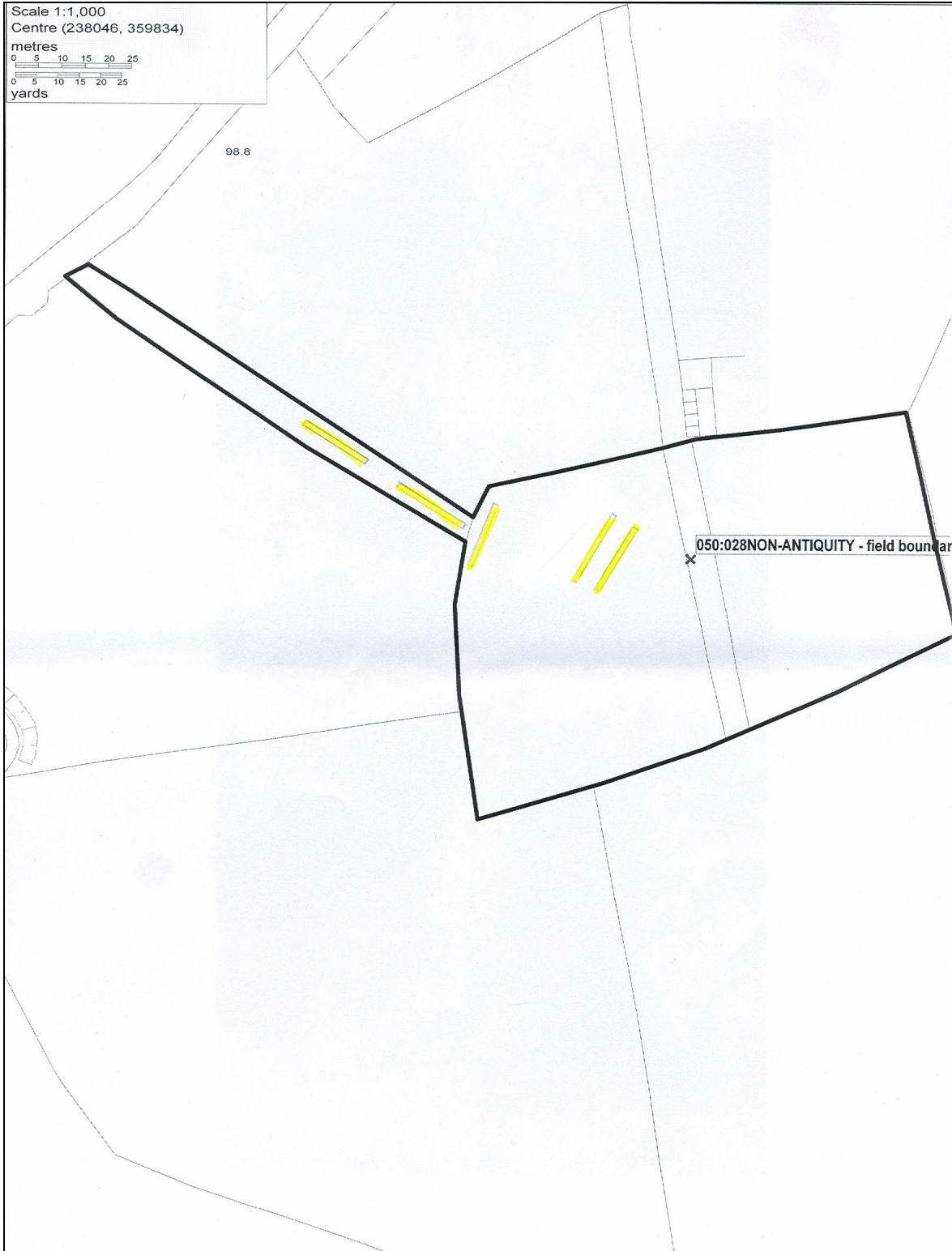


Fig. 3: Proposed location of test trenches (marked in yellow), as requested by Edith Gowdy, PHM Caseworker.

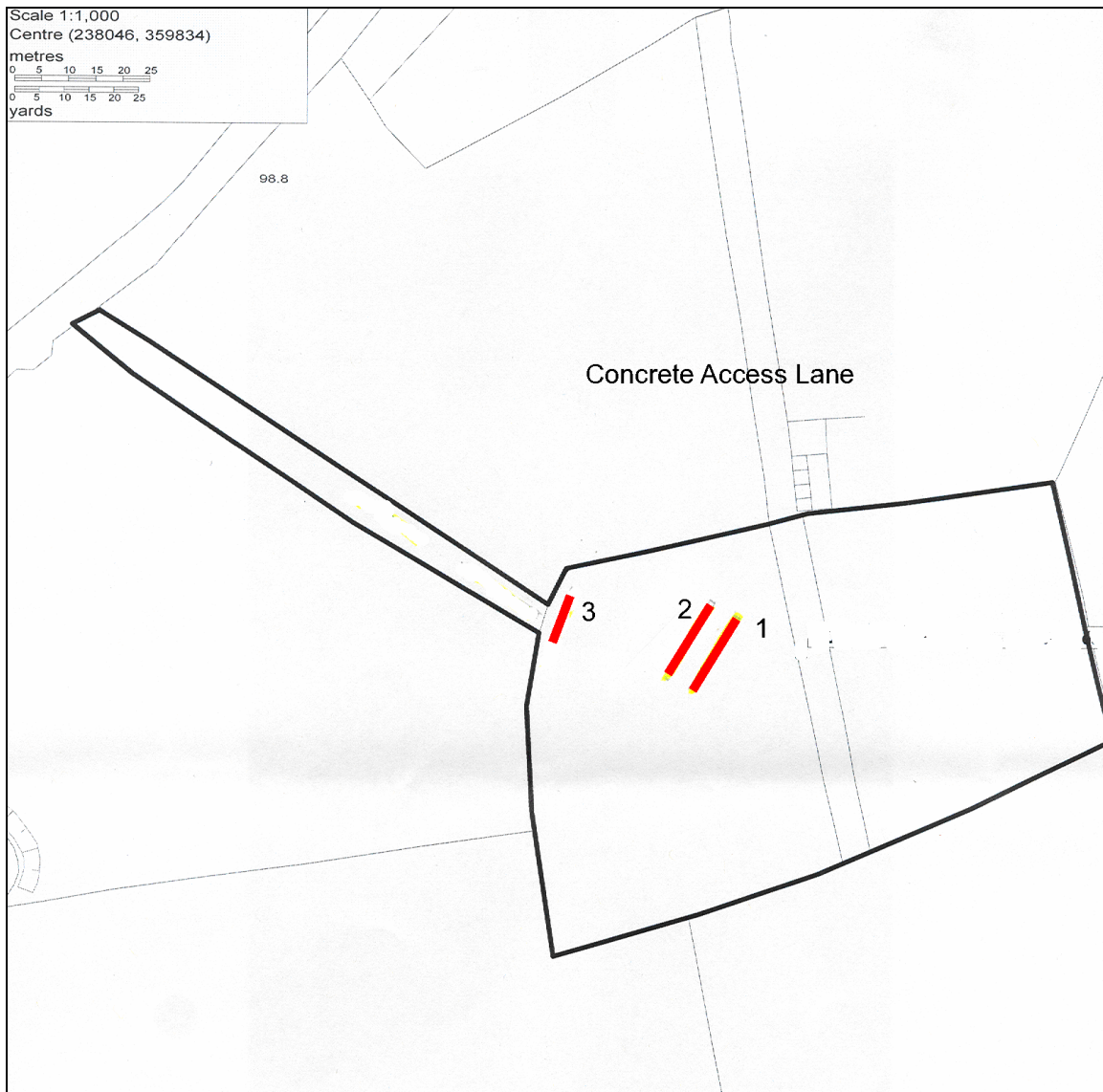


Fig. 4: Actual location of test trenches, excavated during the evaluation.

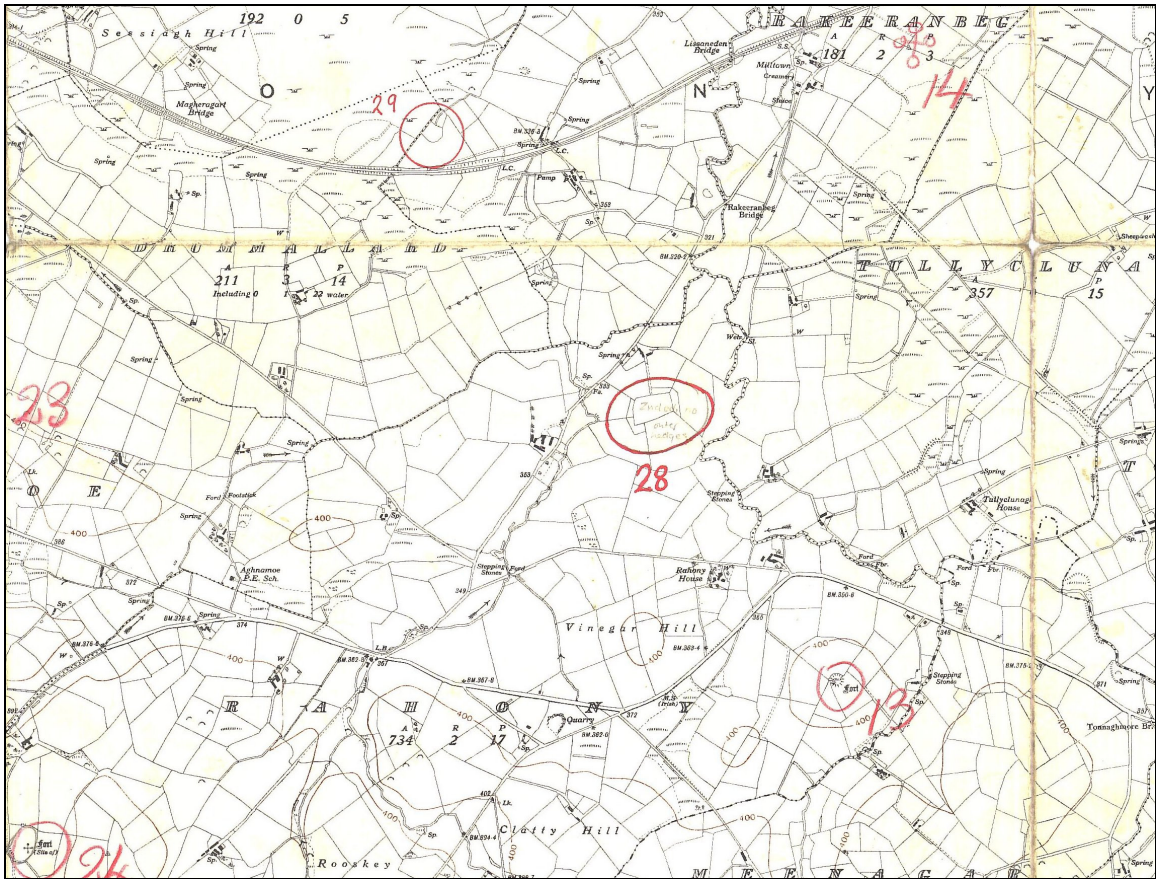


Fig. 5: OS 2nd Edition Map showing 'multiple enclosure' at Rahony (TYR 050:028).
Legend reads: '2nd Edition – Outer Hedges'



Plate 1: Trench 1 – C101 removed to reveal red boulder clay subsoil. Looking southwest



Plate 2: Trench 2 – C101 removed to reveal red boulder clay subsoil. Looking southwest



Plate 3: Trench 3 – C101 removed to reveal red boulder clay subsoil. Looking south



Plate 4: 3" drainage pipe in Trench 2 protected by gravel covering.