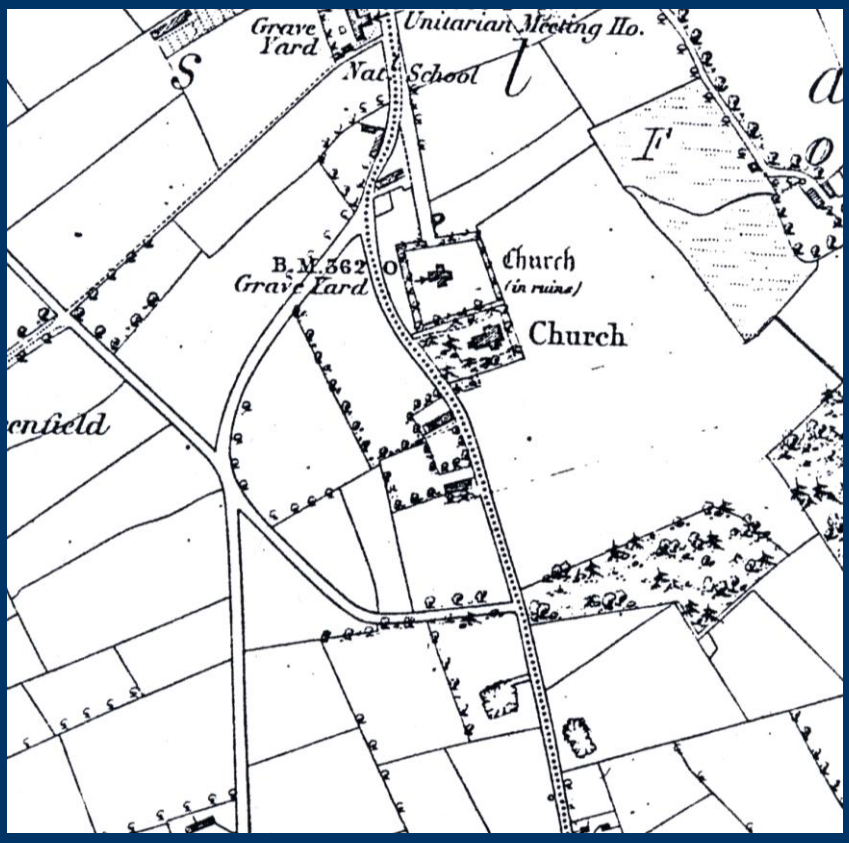
Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork

School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology
Queen's University Belfast



Data Structure Report No. 075

Excavations at a Scheduled Enclosure site, (ANT 047:068) at Ballycarry, Co. Antrim Phase 2: 2011

Excavations at a Scheduled Enclosure site (ANT 047:068), Ballycarry, Co. Antrim Phase 2: 2011

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CAF DSR 075

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1 Summary

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Phase 2 of an archaeological investigation was undertaken at a scheduled enclosure site of uncertain date in Ballycarry, Co. Antrim (Figure 1 and 2). The work was carried out in the summer of 2011 and was undertaken by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast. The work was carried out on behalf of, and funded by, the landowner Mr Tom Topping.

1.1.2 A previous investigation in 2010 centred on the excavation of two trenches (each 11m in length by 2m in width) across the bank that delineates the western side of the scheduled area (Figure 3; Plates 1 and 2). The results of these trenches suggested that the bank is not of antiquity, probably being constructed in the Post-Medieval period (perhaps the early nineteenth century) (Sloan 2010).

1.2 Aims

1.2.1 The principle aim of the current investigation was to further investigate the curvilinear boundary that constitutes the western side of the scheduled area. It was proposed that a series of trenches were excavated around the interior and exterior of the bank and within Fields 2 and 3 (the results of which are to be combined with the results of the 2010 investigation), to further understanding of the monument as a whole.

1.2.2 It was also proposed to carry out a geophysical survey of the western portion of Field 3. This area had already been subject to geophysical survey by DVAS in 2008, although it was hoped that a re-survey of the area at a higher resolution would better advise on the location of three evaluative trenches (each measuring 10m by 2m as per scheduled monument consent).

1.3 Excavation

1.3.1 Twenty evaluative trenches were excavated around the perimeter of the scheduled boundary, as well as in the interior of the 'enclosure' (Figure 10). In all, 950m^2 was investigated with three areas of archaeological potential being identified. The excavation of the trenches continued to the subsoil or bedrock level, apart from where intact

archaeological horizons were encountered. Archaeological features were encountered in Trenches Eleven, Fourteen, Fifteen, Eighteen, Nineteen and Twenty.

1.3.2 Numerous features of archaeological potential were encountered in Trench Eleven, with shallow ditches/gullies and spreads of burnt material being encountered. Artefacts recovered during the evaluation of these features suggest activity in both the Prehistoric (possibly Neolithic) and Medieval (principally the thirteenth/fourteenth century) periods.

1.3.3 A potentially interesting feature was encountered spanning Trenches Fourteen, Fifteen and Twenty, in the north-western side of the excavation area. Upon removal of the topsoil in Trenches Fourteen and Fifteen, a mass of loose boulders was observed and what appeared to be a narrow ditch excavated into the bedrock. Trench Twenty was excavated to the south of Trench Fifteen to see if the boulders or ditch continued in this area, however a steeply slopping shelf of bedrock was encountered. This suggests that an existing shelf of bedrock was augmented with the boulders that were possibly excavated from the rock-cut ditch. It is possible that this feature represents a burial cairn of possible Bronze Age date.

1.3.4 Further archaeological features were encountered in Trenches Eighteen and Nineteen. In both trenches a spread of clay and small rounded stones was encountered, and is presumed to be the same feature. Artefacts recovered from the cleaning of the stone and clay spread in Trench Nineteen suggests this feature to date to the Neolithic period.

1.3.5 It should be noted however, that none of these areas of archaeological potential are associated with the curvilinear bank that constitutes the boundary of the scheduled area. The trenches that directly investigated this boundary (Trench One and Two of the 2010 investigation and Trenches One extension, Two extension, Three and Four) failed to show anything to suggest a date earlier than the eighteenth century for the boundary. What the excavation of the trenches shows is that there are discrete areas of archaeological potential within the scheduled area, but this activity is restricted to distinct zones of Fields 2 and 4 (Figure 35).

1.4 Results

1.4.1 The results of the excavation showed there to be distinct areas of archaeological potential within the boundary of the scheduled enclosure, although the current upstanding bank is unlikely to be of any great antiquity. The archaeological features encountered

include a possible Bronze Age burial cairn (Trenches Fourteen and Fifteen), miscellaneous features of Prehistoric and Medieval date (Trench Eleven) and Prehistoric features in Trenches Eighteen/Nineteen.

1.4.2 Analysis of the aerial photographs (particularly the 1951 version) for the site suggest that an enclosure is present encircling the remains of Templecorran and St. Patrick's Church of Ireland (Figures 36 and 37). This feature (at approximately 130m in diameter) is much smaller, however, than the enclosure of which the western portion is scheduled (ANT 047:068).

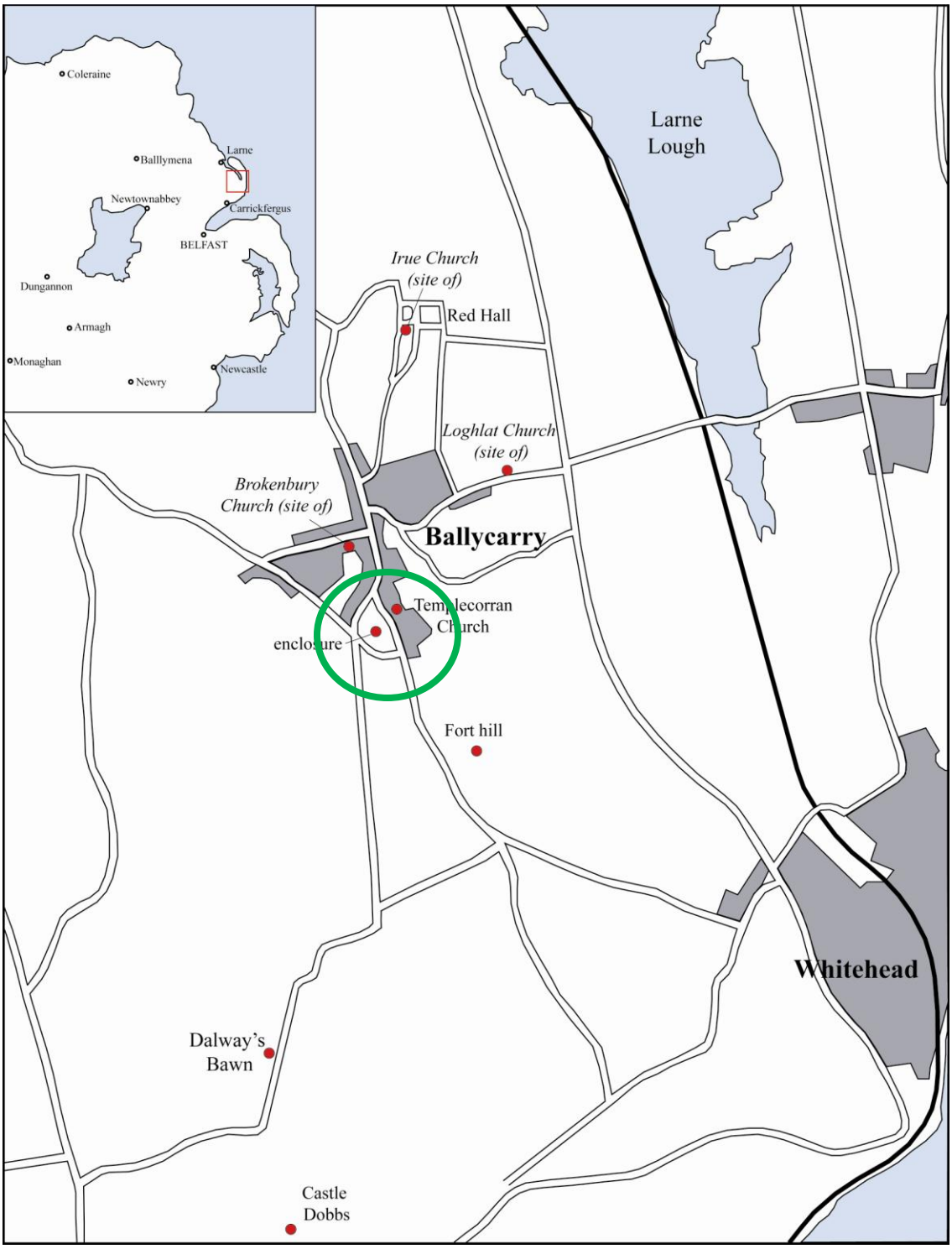


Figure 1: General location map showing location of Ballycarry. The scheduled enclosure is circled (green).

2 Introduction

2.1 General

2.1.1 The following report details the results of Phase 2 of an archaeological investigation into the site of a Scheduled enclosure (ANT 047:068) at South-West Ballycarry, Ballycarry, Co. Antrim. The excavation took place between the 18th July and 12th August 2011, and was carried out by members of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF), Queen's University Belfast (QUB).

2.1.2 As the excavated trenches were located within a scheduled area, Scheduled Monument Consent was applied for prior to the excavation (REF: B 71/08). The excavation was directed by Brian Sloan of the CAF under the Licence No. AE/11/79E. The investigation was carried out on behalf of, and funded by, the landowner Mr. Tom Topping.

2.2 Geological background

2.2.1 The site at Ballycarry is located within an area of relatively simple geological foundations. This primarily consists of glacial till overlying basalt, which dates to the Cretaceous period of approximately 135 million years BP (Mitchell 2004, 151).

2.3 Placename Evidence

2.3.1 Ballycarry is the anglicisation of *Baile Cora* which means 'townland of the causeway or ford' (McKay 1999, 11). This refers to the ford across the shallow waters at the head of Larne Lough to the east of the village, between Ballycarry and Island Magee, and which is now spanned by a bridge. MacKay (*ibid*.) notes that the earliest documentary record for the name of Ballycarry is 1669. The village lies in the parish of Templecorran although the Ordnance Survey (OS) Memoirs for the parish and village note that the parish is more commonly known as Broadisland (also 'Braidisland' and 'Braidenisland'; Day *et al.* 1994, 82). Lewis (1837, Vol. 2, 558) also gives 'Broad Island' as a synonym of Templecorran. The OS Memoirs record that most of the eleven townlands which make up the parish are 'recent' subdivisions respecting modern roads rather than ancient boundaries. Of these eleven townlands only four are noted as being similar to 'ancient names' mentioned in 'old deeds' (Day *et al.* 1994, 82).

2.3.2 In the rolls of Pope Nicholas IV's taxation of circa 1306-7 three churches and a chapel are listed in the parish of Templecorran and these are the Churches of Irue (with the chapel of Brokenbury), Loghlat and Laslaynan (Reeves 1847, 56-8). No physical descriptions of the churches are given in the taxation. The name Irue or Irewe no longer exists having being replaced by Redhall with the stable-yard of Redhall House, according to Reeves (*ibid*. 57), being the site of the former church and cemetery. The name of Brokenbury or Brakenberghe also no longer survives but the site of the chapel has been identified just west of the village of Ballycarry where human remains and building foundations were reportedly discovered (*ibid*.) in the townland of South-West Ballycarry (ANT 047:009). Similar remains were also discovered and cleared-out at the site of the church of Loghlat or Lagnalitter (*ibid*.) which is located east of the village in the townland of Redhall (ANT 047:008). The last of the churches, Laslaynan has been identified as the church of Templecorran (ANT 047:010) in the townland of Forthill (*ibid*. 58).

2.3.3 The origin of the name of Forthill is not known but it could derive from the hill of the same name approximately 2km south of Ballycarry village (Figure 2), on which are located possible earthworks (ANT 047:038). The Bentra Road, whilst providing the townland boundary between Forthill and South-West Ballycarry, dissects the possible enclosure, and also delineates the eastern most limit of the scheduled area. Templecorran Church (ANT 047:010) is located towards the north of the possible enclosure (ANT 047:068).

2.4 Historical background

2.4.1 The exact date when the ruined cruciform-plan church of Templecorran was built is not known. *The Ulster Visitation Book* of 1622 noted that the church (Temple-i-corran) had 'the walles newly erected, but not roofed as yet' (O'Laverty 1884, 90). The presence of two musket loops in the west gable of the building indicates that the fabric of the church belongs to this period. In 1657 it is recorded as being in repair but as being *ruinosa* by 1679 when it appears to have gone out of use (Roulston 2003, 123) and the Ballycarry Presbyterian meeting house was erected in 1710 (Day *et al.* 1994, 112).

2.4.2 In the 1830s the burial ground of Templecorran Church enclosed a quadrangular area, 176 feet square. It is, however, suggested that the graveyard was once much larger as human remains and coffins had reportedly been found outside the demarcated burial ground to the south and east (Day *et al.* 1994, 111). The foundations of several extensive buildings in the vicinity of the church were also recorded in the OS Memoirs. These are

described as having 'walls much thicker than those of the present church' and were found in the graveyard and surrounding fields (Day *et al.* 1994, 111). Stone-built graves orientated east-west were also reportedly found to the east of the church (*ibid*. 112). The description of these graves matches that of Early Christian 'lintel-graves' (i.e. with side and covering slabs) similar to those excavated at sites such as Kilnasaggart, County Armagh, and at Nendrum monastery, County Down (Hamlin 2008, 88-91). There is no mention made in the OS Memoirs of any sort of earthworks possibly relating to an enclosure at Templecorran.

2.5 Surrounding archaeological landscape

2.5.1 The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record details eleven sites of archaeological interest in the immediate vicinity of the excavation area at Ballycarry. These sites are outlined in Table 1:

SMR NO.	Grid Reference	Site Type
ANT 047:007	J 4534094460	Tree Plantation – Post-Medieval
ANT 047:008	J 4541094320	Ecclesiastical site - Medieval
ANT 047:009	J 4464093960	Ecclesiastical site - Medieval
ANT 047:010	J 4483193693	Ecclesiastical site - Medieval
ANT 047:020	J 4596093050	Standing Stone – Prehistoric
ANT 047:021	J 4629093260	Barrow – Bronze Age
ANT 047:037	J 4400093000	Cist Burial – Bronze Age
ANT 047:038	J 4529092950	Enclosure - Unclassified
ANT 047:047	J 4482094400	Enclosure – Unclassified
ANT 047:063	J 4507093490	Decorated Stone – Prehistoric
ANT 047:064	J 4380094120	Graveyard - Post-Medieval

Table 1: Archaeological sites within 1km of the Enclosure site at Ballycarry (NISMR).

2.5.2 The sites of archaeological significance in the vicinity of the excavation area show that Ballycarry has been a particular focus for human activity. The wealth of Prehistoric activity in the area is understandable due to proximity to supplies of good quality flint all along the Co. Antrim coastline. The Prehistoric activity is dominated by funerary

monuments, although settlement sites such as flint scatters and structures (both at Ballygally and Islandmagee), are also known from the vicinity.

2.5.3 The wealth of evidence for the use of the area during the Medieval period is testament to the importance of the locale at this time. At least three ecclesiastical centres are known (see Section 2.3 above for detail), as well as a probable motte (ANT 047:006) in the grounds of Redhall.

2.6 Previous archaeological investigations

2.6.1 Previous episodes of archaeological investigation in the direct vicinity of the site have been undertaken prior to the current investigation (cf. Sloan 2010; Murray 2010) and so a short synopsis is provided below in Sections 2.7-2.9.

2.7 Geophysical survey

2.7.1 A geophysical survey was carried out by Dearne Valley Archaeological Services Ltd (DVAS), following a request by the landowner, Mr. Tom Topping (DVAS 2008). The site surveyed comprised approximately 3.8 hectares (approx. 250m north-south by 150m east-west) and represents the entirety of the scheduled enclosure (ANT 047:068) which is subdivided into four uneven-sized fields. A magnetometry and resistivity survey was conducted over the entire area. A number of anomalies and possible archaeological features were detected including the outline of a square structure with two diagonally opposing angular corner bastions. This was to provide the focus of an archaeological excavation carried out by the CAF in 2009/10 (Murray 2010).

2.7.2 A small scale geophysical survey was carried out by Barrie Hartwell (QUB) on land to the north-east of Templecorran Church (ANT 047:010) to investigate a possible curvilinear bank that was identified as a perimeter boundary to the church by John McClintock (1990, 23). Soil resistivity readings indicated a high resistance anomaly running roughly north-west/south-east in the western portion of the survey area (Hartwell 1990, 27). This has been interpreted by Hartwell (*ibid.* 29) as either representing a shelf of natural bedrock or a bank associated with an enclosure surrounding Templecorran Church, and possibly part of the scheduled enclosure currently under study.

Figure 2: Annotated Google Earth image showing: (1) Location of archaeological investigation carryout by NAC in 2008, (2) Ruins of Templecorran Church, (3) Location of the Phase 1 investigation into the curvilinear bank (Sloan 2010), (4) Location of the probable seventeenth-century fort discovered during geophysical survey in this area (DVAS 2008; Murray 2010), (5) Location of Crothers' excavations in 1993/4 and (6) Location of Hartwell's geophysical survey (Hartwell 1990).

2.8 Excavations

2.8.1 Excavations were undertaken by ADS Ltd (Crothers 2000) within the area of the south-east of the enclosure in 1993 and 1994 in advance of developments in Churchlands housing estate (Figure 2; 5). The excavations uncovered remains dating to the Neolithic, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. It was suggested by the Director of the excavation that the traces found were of a Late Neolithic bank (dated by the lithic assemblage), with internal and external gullies, (Crothers 2000, 45). The excavations also indicated that the Prehistoric bank was subsequently leveled, and a dry stone wall was built over it in the Medieval period. The absence of Souterrain Ware and presence of pottery dating to the thirteenth century and later, suggest that this activity dates to the Late Medieval period.

2.8.2 The discovery of lintel-graves found in proximity to Templecorran church in the early nineteenth century or earlier (Day *et al.* 1994, 112) is suggestive of probable Early Christian burials of the first millennium AD. The church, however, is not mentioned by Hamlin in her thesis on the archaeology of early Christianity in the north of Ireland (2008). The Medieval pottery recovered from the excavations carried out south of the church in 1993 and 1994 included no Early Medieval pottery (Crothers 2000). The Medieval pottery found was dated to the thirteenth century and later and there are also fourteenth-century references to a church at Lislaynan (see Section 2.3.2). There is therefore, thus far, only secure evidence for Prehistoric and Late Medieval activity at Ballycarry.

2.8.3 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the CAF at the site of a probable Post-Medieval fort within the scheduled area in the western half of the enclosure, in late December 2009 and early January 2010. The fort was represented by a sub-surface geophysical anomaly in Field 1 (Figures 7 and 10) and was first recorded through magnetometry and resistivity surveys undertaken by Dearne Valley Archaeological Services Ltd in 2008 (DVAS 2008). The fort was previously unrecorded and is not traceable in the surface topography of the field in which it is located. The fort is most clearly identified through the magnetometry survey in which it is represented by a rectilinear anomaly (approx. 32.6m by 34.8m), with two projecting angular spear-shaped bastions at opposing north-western and south-eastern corners.

2.8.4 Six small test-trenches were opened to assess the nature of this geophysical anomaly. In two of these trenches along the northern extent of the fort, two sections of a rock-cut ditch were encountered. The excavated ditch sections were filled by a series of fairly sterile stony loam deposits. The predominant, if almost exclusive finds from the ditch fills were worked flints, which cursory examination suggests are Neolithic and Bronze Age in date (identified by the author). Despite the only artefacts recovered from the ditch being flint, it is thought that this represents a residual assemblage, reflecting the intensity of Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the excavation area. No traces of mortar or brick were noted in either trench, neither was any trace of a bank or wall identified. Some clay tobacco pipe bowls and tobacco pipe stems were also recovered from topsoil deposits including examples of pipe-bowls of mid-seventeenth, late-eighteenth and mid-nineteenth century date (R. O Baoill, pers. comm.). A range of glazed ceramic sherds (predominantly Post-Medieval but some material of fourteenth century and later), some pieces of glass and animal bones and teeth were also recovered from the topsoil (Murray 2010).

2.8.5 An Archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Consultancy (under Licence No. AE/08/051) on land to the immediate north-west of the scheduled enclosure (O'Regan 1998) (Figure 2; 1). Several features of archaeological potential were observed, although these were not subject to further archaeological mitigation. However, artefacts recovered from the topsoil would suggest activity dating from the Prehistoric and Early Christian periods.

2.9 Brief account of the 2010 investigation (Sloan 2010)

2.9.1 A small scale investigation into the curvilinear boundary that constitutes the western boundary of the scheduled area was undertaken between 1st and 13th September 2010, carried out by members of the CAF. Two trenches, measuring 11m in length by 2m in width were excavated across and either side of the current bank. Due to the presence of roadways around the majority of the circuit of the bank, it was only possible to investigate the exterior of, and the bank itself, in the south-western area where a picnic area is currently located (Figure 3). The scheduled bank in this area runs approximately north-west/south-east. The trenches were aligned roughly south-west/north-east and were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil. A relatively simple stratigraphic sequence was present in both trenches, with little of archaeological significance being encountered.

2.9.2 Trench One was located across the bank in the south-east of its circuit in this area (Figure 3). The trench measured 11m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the subsoil. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench, on the most part consisting of topsoil directly overlying subsoil. Artefacts recovered included flint (on the whole flake debitage), pottery sherds (with Medieval green glazed and Post-Medieval wares being found in the same context), glass and corroded iron objects. In the extreme south-western end of the trench (exterior of the bank) a road surface was encountered. Excavation of this feature showed it to be constructed of tarmac with a stony hardcore layer directly beneath. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered. Removal of the lowermost deposit of bank material produced a fragment of clay pipe stem, suggesting the feature is a product of Post-Medieval activity. A narrow linear feature was observed in the north-eastern end of the trench (interior of the scheduled area). However, upon excavation the feature was found to be extremely shallow (0.16m). A single sherd of eighteenth/nineteenth century pottery was recovered from this feature, testifying the relatively modern nature of the deposits in this area.

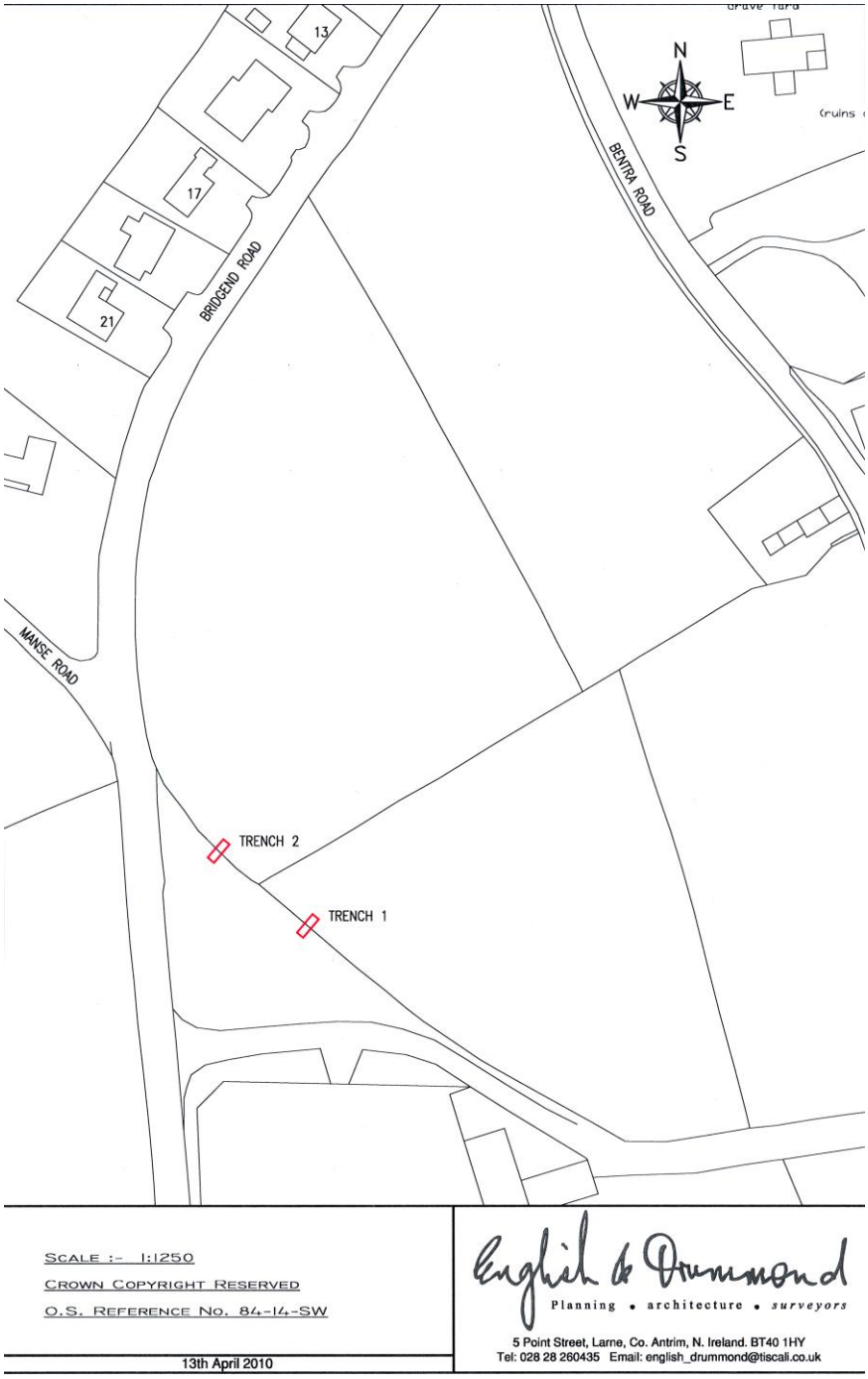


Figure 3: Location of the Phase 1 investigation. These trenches (One and Two) were subject to further investigation during Phase 2 of the archaeological programme of works (designated Trench One ext. and Trench Two ext.).

Plate 1: Trench One (2010 investigation) following excavation to the subsoil, looking north-east.

2.9.3 Trench Two was located approximately 20m to the north-west of Trench One. The trench measured 11m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the subsoil. As with Trench One, the modern tarmac roadway was encountered on the exterior of the bank, with little of archaeological significance being observed on the interior of the scheduled area at this point. Numerous fragments of flint were recovered from the topsoil deposit, along with a fragment of a polished stone axe, glass and Post-Medieval pottery sherds. Removal of the bank material itself produced a sherd of white glazed ceramic of probable nineteenth century date (Ruairí Ó Baoill *pers comm.*) again testifying to the banks Post-Medieval origins.

Plate 2: Trench Two (2010 investigation) following excavation to the subsoil, looking south-west.

2.9.4 The excavation of the two trenches suggests little of archaeological significance survives in this area of the enclosure. Some archaeological material of Prehistoric and Medieval date was recovered from both trenches, but these artefacts were recovered from the same deposits as modern material including ceramics of a nineteenth/twentieth century date. The archaeological evidence suggests that the bank (delineating the western side of the scheduled enclosure) is not of antiquity. Phase 2 of the investigation (this report) was designed to further test the exterior of the enclosure (with an extension to the 2010 Trenches One and Two, as well as the excavation of Trenches Three and Four – Figures 10 and 11), as well as assess the archaeological potential of the interior of the enclosure (Trenches Five to Twenty – Figure 10).

2.10 Cartographic evidence

2.10.1 The area of the Scheduled Enclosure is well documented cartographically, from the first edition OS 6" map of 1834 to the present day.

2.10.2 The first edition OS 6" map (1834; Figure 4) clearly shows the scheduled area as being defined by roadways. Templecorran Church (ANT 047:010) is depicted as 'church in ruins'. The present church (St. Patrick's Church of Ireland) had not been constructed to the south of the ruined seventeenth-century church, and the scheduled area is shown as a relatively open space, apart from two buildings with yards along Bentra Road. Field boundaries (running approximately west/east) are shown to the south and east of the ruined church site.

2.10.3 Later editions of the 6" maps (particularly that published in 1902) show the development of the field boundaries to the east of the Bentra Road and scheduled enclosure (Hartwell 1990, 27; Figure 5). Of particular interest is a field boundary that runs approximately north/south and then turns slightly to run south-east/north-west (represented by the blue line in Figure 5).

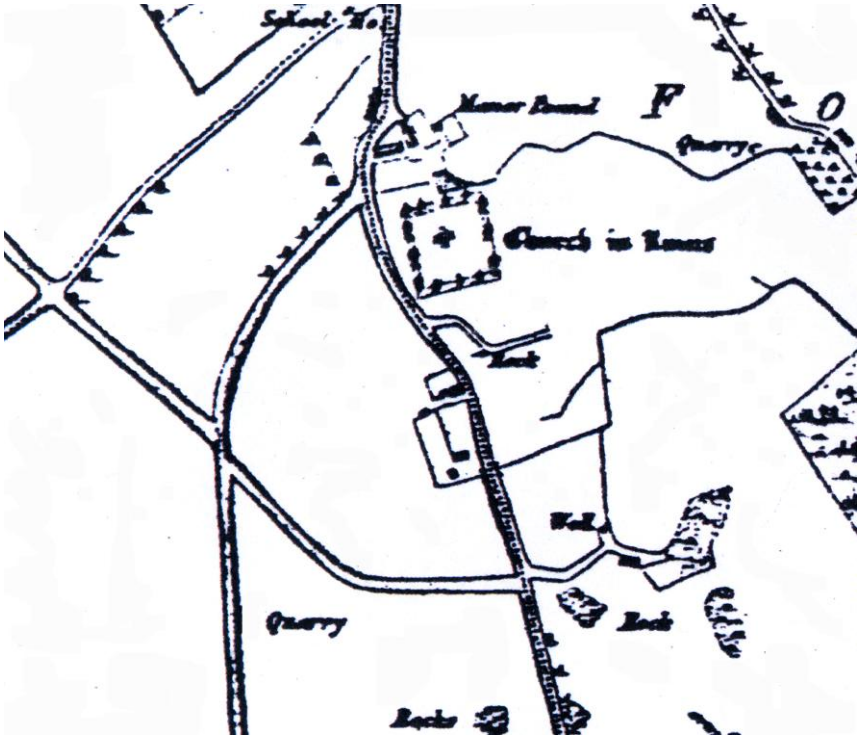


Figure 4: 1st edition (1834) map showing the now scheduled area, defined by roadways, and Templecorran Church as 'in ruins' (ANT 047:010).

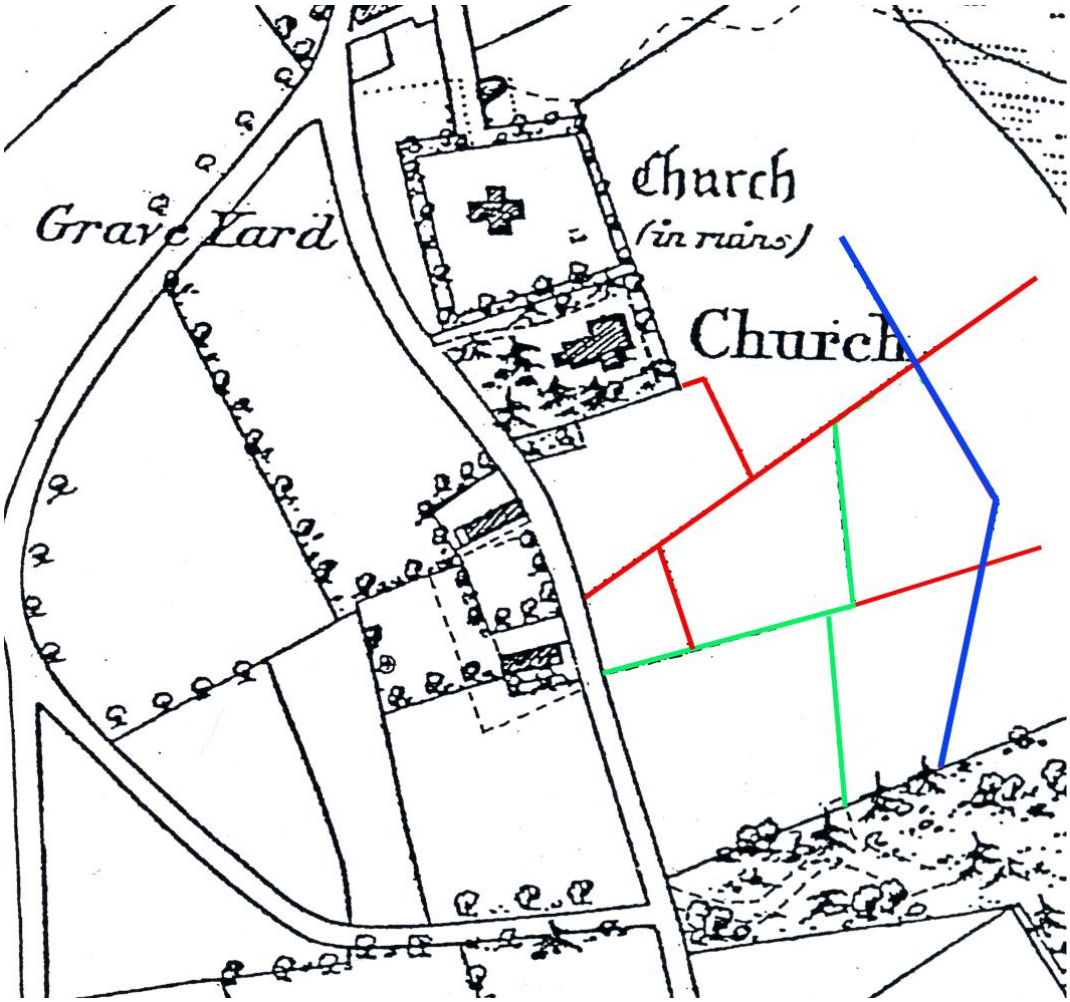


Figure 5: Composite plan of field boundaries to the east of the scheduled area, overlaid on the 1858 OS map (cf. Hartwell 1990, 27). Field boundaries represented on the 1st Edition OS map (1834) are shown in green, with those depicted on 1858 and 1902 maps are shown in red and blue respectively. It is possible that the field boundaries depicted in blue represent the crop marks visible in the 1961 aerial photograph (Figure 6) which have been interpreted as the eastern side of an enclosure and subsequently led to the western side being scheduled.

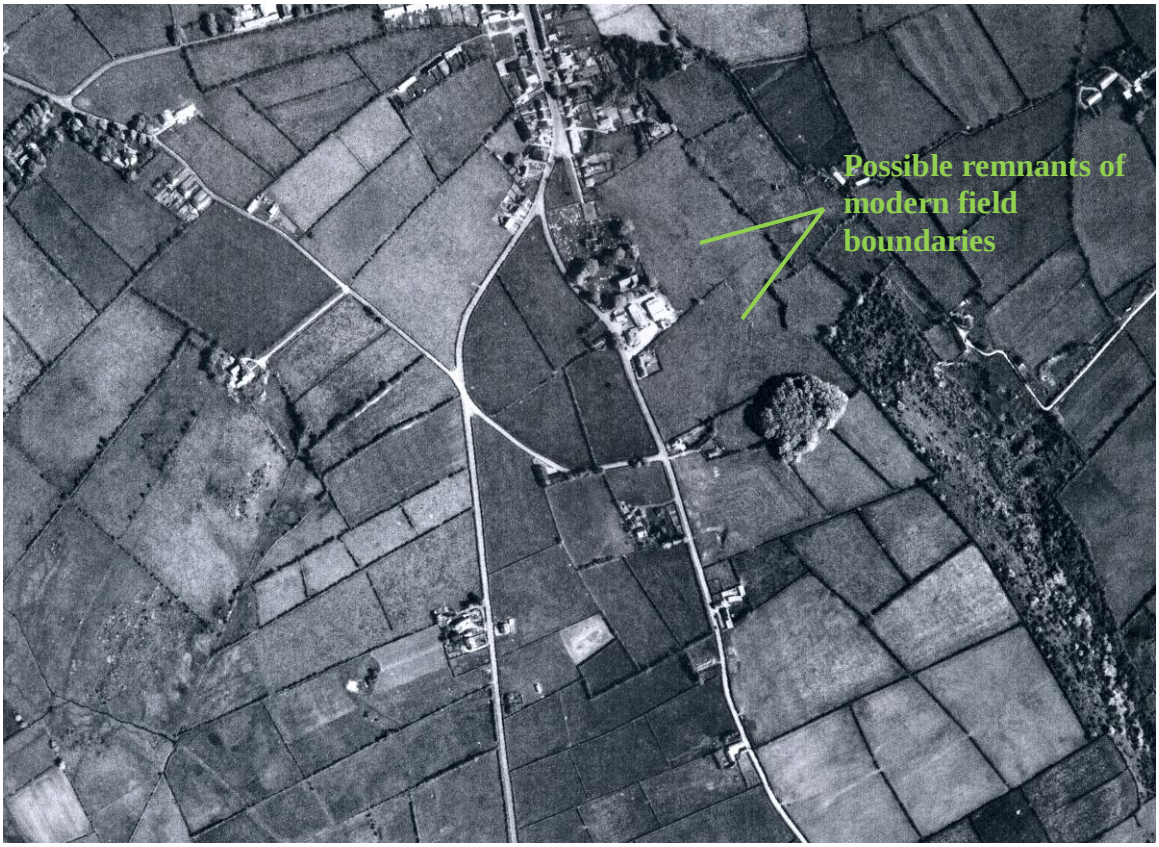


Figure 6: Aerial photograph taken in 1961 (No. 26860. Crown Copyright). The possible remnants of the field boundaries shown on the 1902 map (Hartwell 1990) are highlighted.

2.10.4 By comparing this pattern of field boundaries to a 1961 aerial photograph (Figure 6) it is conceivable that the crop mark visible in the photograph represent a now defunct field boundary. Hartwell states that as it does not appear on the earlier maps, it is likely to be a modern creation (Hartwell 1990, 26).

2.11 Archiving

2.11.1 Copies of this report have been deposited with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). All site records are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

2.12 Credits and acknowledgements

2.12.1 The excavation was directed by Brian Sloan of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF). The excavation crew consisted of Ruairí Ó Baoill, Grace McAlister, Harry Welsh and Ruth Logue, all of the CAF. Student support was provided by Hugh Stewart Alexander and Dermot Redmond of Queen's University Belfast.

2.12.2 The geophysical survey and subsequent report (Section 3) was completed by Ronan McHugh, assisted by Sapphire Mussen, both of the CAF.

2.12.2 Assistance during the course of this excavation and the preparation of this report was kindly provided by; Naomi Carver (CAF), Colm Donnelly (CAF), Audrey Gahan (Gahan & Long Ltd), Andrew Gault (NIEA), Crawford Leitch (English and Drummond Ltd), Paul Logue (NIEA), Philip Macdonald (CAF), Cormac McSparron (CAF) and Emily Murray (CAF). The illustrations were prepared by the author and Sapphire Mussen.

2.12.3 Particular thanks are due to the landowner, Mr. Tom Topping, for facilitating and supporting the programme of archaeological investigation.

Figure 7: Schematic representation of the scheduled area (in red) showing the locations of Fields 1, 2, 3 and 4.

3 Report on the Geophysical survey – provided by Ronan McHugh and Sapphire Mussen

3.1 The geophysical survey was carried out in the western portion of Field 3 (Figure 8), in an area where the DVAS magnetometry survey had previously detected a number of unexplained anomalies. The DVAS investigation had included both magnetometer and electrical resistance surveys, but the results of the latter had proved to be ambiguous. It was therefore decided to employ high resolution electrical resistance survey techniques for the present survey, and to combine the results with the previous magnetometry survey in order to identify features of possible archaeological significance within the field. The excavation director requested that three features identified in the revised survey be prioritised and targeted for ground-truthing by the excavation of test trenches over the position of the anomalies.

3.2 A survey area of approximately 6000m^2 was subdivided into ten grids, each measuring 30m by 30m. The survey was then undertaken with a traverse and sample interval of 0.5m, providing 3600 data readings per 30 x 30m grid square. Technical details are provided in Table 2.

Survey Type	**Electrical Resistance**
Instrumentation:	Geoscan RM 15 and MPX15 Multiplexer
Probe configuration	Twin probe
Probe spacing:	0.5m
Grid size:	30m x 30m
Traverse interval:	0.5m
Sample Interval:	0.5m
Traverse Pattern:	Zig-zag
Spatial Accuracy:	Grids set out and recorded using TPS 705 series Total Station

Table 2: Technical details of geophysical survey.

3.3 The survey was carried out between the 18th and 21st May 2011 by Ronan McHugh, Sapphire Mussen and Ruth Logue. The overall pattern across the site is of low resistance readings punctuated by areas of significantly higher resistance from the south-east to the centre of the plot, and along the north-west boundary. This is suggestive of a

poorly draining soil, with prominent bedrock ridges providing the most extreme high resistance readings. Inspection of the test trenches excavated prior to the survey confirmed this pattern.

Figure 8: Area in which the 2011 geophysical survey was undertaken (shaded green).

3.4 A small number of anomalies of potential archaeological significance were identified, and Trenches Twelve, Thirteen and Fourteen were set out over the most prominent of these. A description of the anomalies detected and recommended for testing is provided in Table 3, as along with suggestions as to their interpretation. Table 3 should be read in association with Fig 7, which is a greyscale image of the survey area.

Anomaly Label in Fig. 7	**Description**	**Interpretation**
R1	Linear/curvilinear anomaly which is most visible in the south of the survey area and appears to extend south-south-west/north-north-east across it. The anomaly appears to be defined by a central line of relatively high resistance, approximately 2m wide flanked by lines of lower resistance on either side. The anomaly is most visible and broadest at its southern end and tapers as it extends north.	The anomaly is not inconsistent to the response to a stone or cobble-surfaced road or lane, with drainage gullies on either side. Given the amount of bedrock revealed by the survey, it may also be a seam of bedrock, although it is regular and well defined, particularly at its southern end.
R2	Strikingly linear division between zones of high and low resistance.	The linear definition of the boundary between contrasting areas of high and low resistance suggests the possibility of some human modification of the subsurface. Difficult to interpret, but possibly a wall or other stone boundary against a background of poorly drained waterlogged soil.
R3	Circular anomaly of high resistance, with a diameter of approximately 15m towards the northern boundary of the field.	Probable archaeological significance

Table 3: Anomalies identified and targeted for test trenching by the geophysical survey.

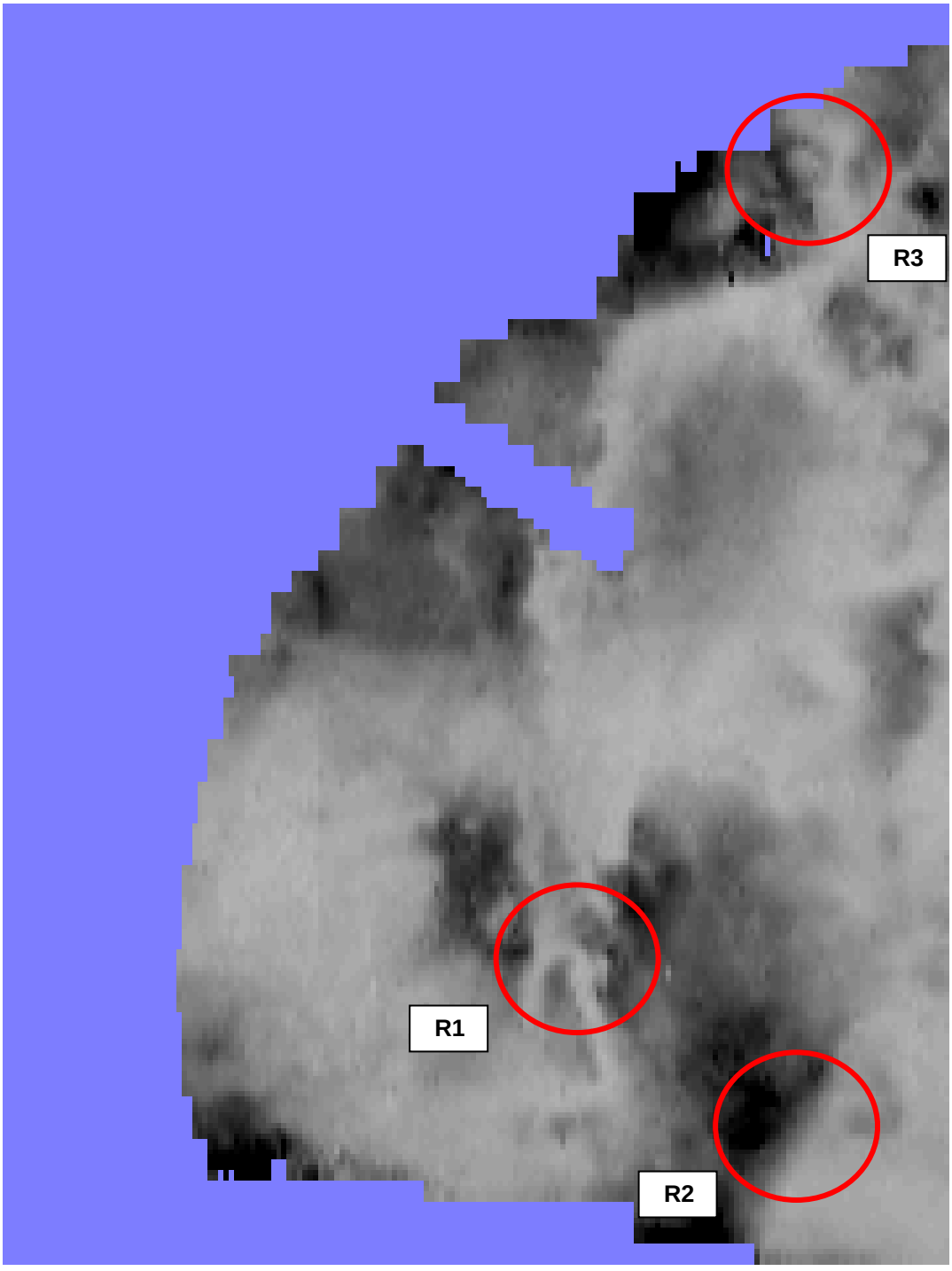


Figure 9: Greyscale plot showing the results of the geophysical survey. The three anomalies chosen for further investigation are circled in red (Anomalies R1, 2 and 3).

4 Account of the excavation

4.1 Methodology

4.1.1 The sod and topsoil was mechanically removed from all trenches. The scheduled area is currently used for pasture, and it is assumed that this was the dominant form of agriculture carried out within these field systems in the past due to the paucity of arable evidence (for example a plough soil horizon or spade-cultivation furrows).

4.1.2 The context record was created using the standard context recording method. The list of contexts is reproduced as Appendix One, and the photographs taken during the excavation are detailed in Appendix Three. The remainder of the site records are included the Field Drawing Register (Appendix Four) and the Sample Register (Appendix Five).

4.1.3 The Harris matrix for each trench has been included as Appendix Two in the rear of this report. It is recommended that these are referred to whilst reading the stratigraphic sequence present in the trenches.

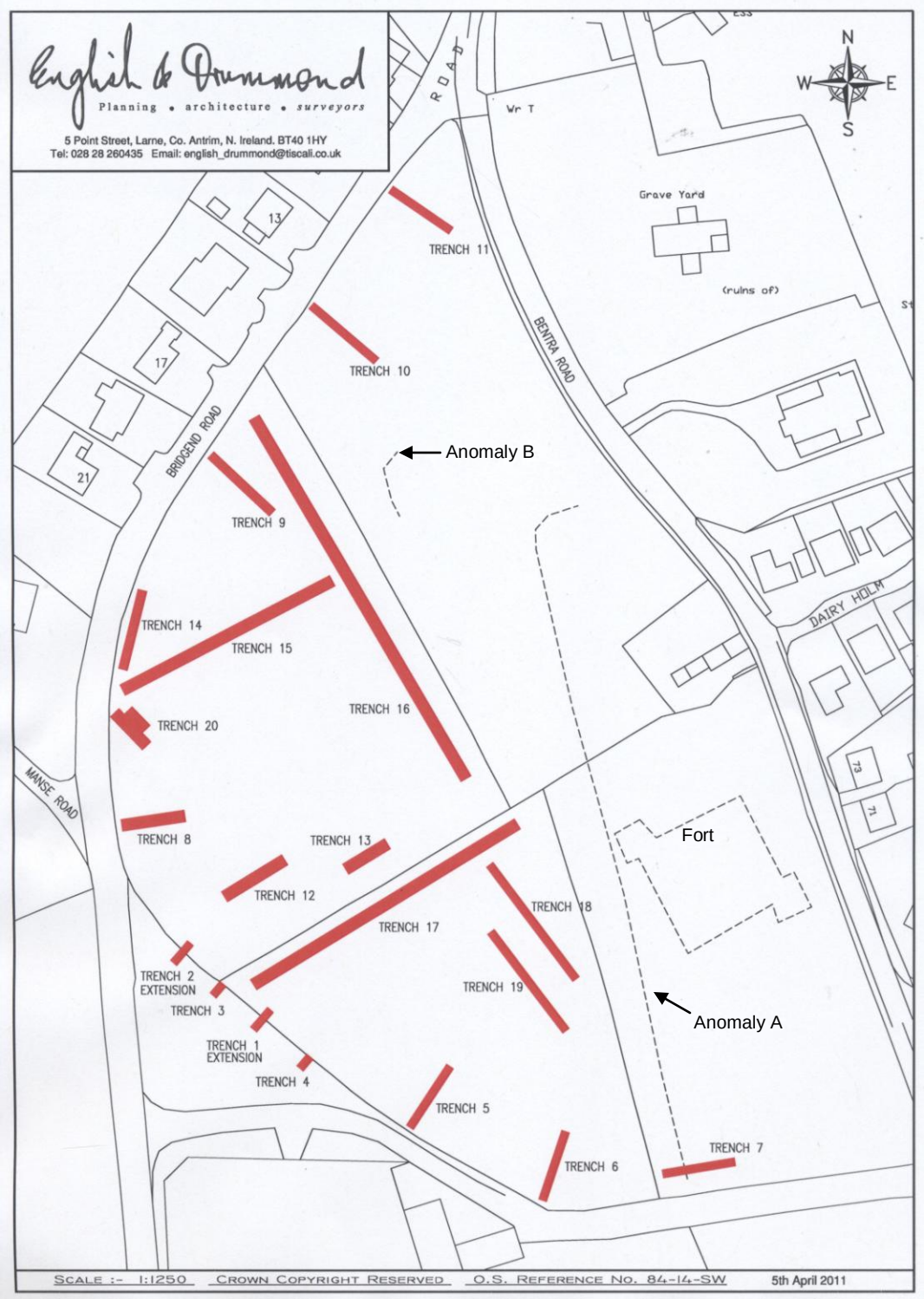


Figure 10: Trenches excavated during Phase 2 of the archaeological investigation into the scheduled enclosure. 'Anomaly A', 'Anomaly B' and 'Fort' were identified during the 2008 geophysics exercise conducted by DVAS (DVAS 2008).

4.2 Account of the Phase 2 Excavation 2011.

4.2.1 The Phase 2 element of this investigation was designed to further test the antiquity of the curvilinear bank, as well as investigate the interior of the enclosure to assess the presence and survival of archaeological features and deposits within the scheduled area. In all, 20 trenches were excavated to natural subsoil or to the surface of intact archaeological strata. Trenches One Extension, Two Extension, Three and Four were excavated on the exterior of the bank in the picnic area; with Trenches Five to Twenty assessing the archaeological potential on the interior of the scheduled enclosure. The stratigraphic sequence in each trench was relatively simple, on the whole consisting of sod and topsoil directly overlying natural subsoil and bedrock.

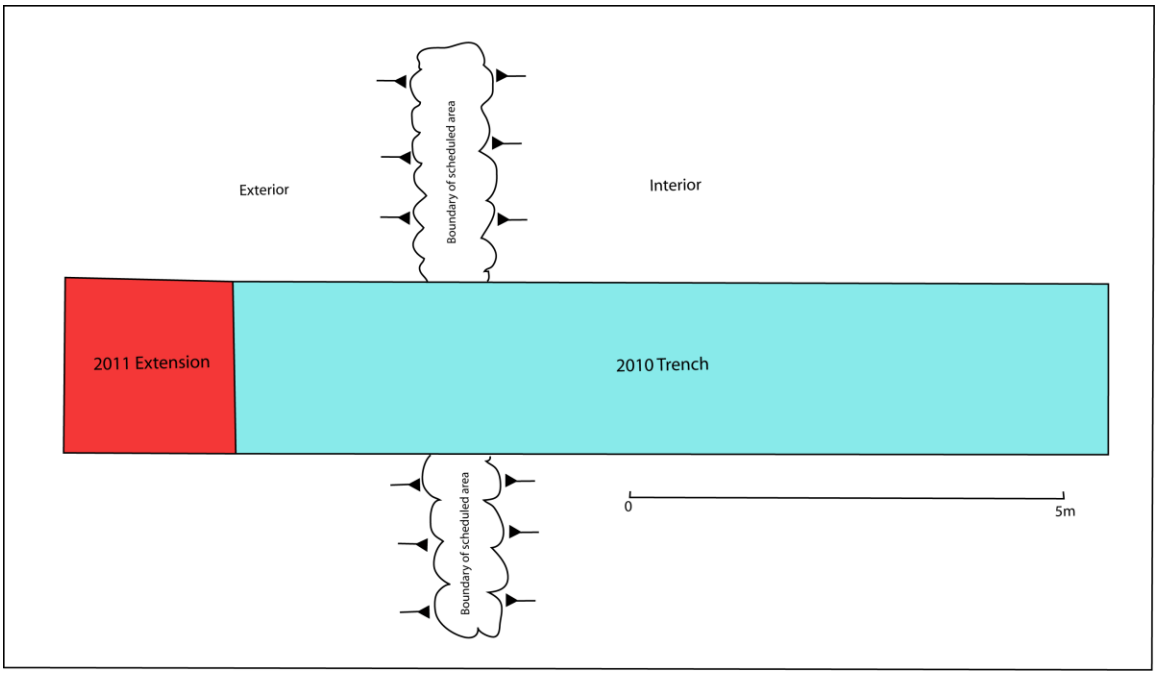


Figure 11: Schematic representation of the location of the 2011 extension (in red) to the 2010 Trenches One and Two (in blue).

4.3 Trench One extension

4.3.1 A 2m x 2m extension was mechanically excavated to the south-west of Trench One, which was first excavated during the Phase 1 investigation in 2010 (Figures 3 and 11). The purpose of this trench extension was to confirm the absence of archaeological features in this area that might have been respected by the current upstanding curvilinear

bank. The results of this trench extension verified the previous results with little of archaeological significance, and a simple stratigraphic sequence being encountered (Figure 12).

4.3.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 101) consisted of a light to mid brown friable sandy loam and was a maximum of 0.28m in thickness. Three fragments of modern bottle glass were recovered from this deposit (Context No. 101) which had frequent inclusions of small angular stones and active hedgerow roots. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) directly overlay a series of deposits (Context No. 102, 103 and 104) associated with the twentieth-century road which had previously been identified during the 2010 investigation (Sloan 2010).

4.3.3 The uppermost layer consisted of a deposit of modern tarmac (Context No. 102) which had an average thickness of 0.08m. Although the cartographic evidence indicates that there has been a roadway along this alignment since at least the early nineteenth century, this layer is thought to be late twentieth century in date. The tarmac layer (Context No. 102) overlay a layer of gravel hardcore (Context No. 103). The hardcore (Context No. 103) was on average 0.25m thick and overlay a further hardcore deposit (Context No. 104) which was on average 0.14m thick. The lower layer of hardcore (Context No. 104) consisted of rounded and sub-angular nodules of chalk and limestone (average size: 0.1m x 0.05m x 0.08m) which differed from the upper course (Context No. 103) which consisted of small, angular gravel (average size: 0.04m x 0.04m x 0.05m).

4.3.4 The deposits associated with the roadway (Context Nos. 102, 103 and 104) overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 105) which consisted of compact reddish orange sandy clay and which was encountered at an average depth of 0.8m. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the excavation of the trench.

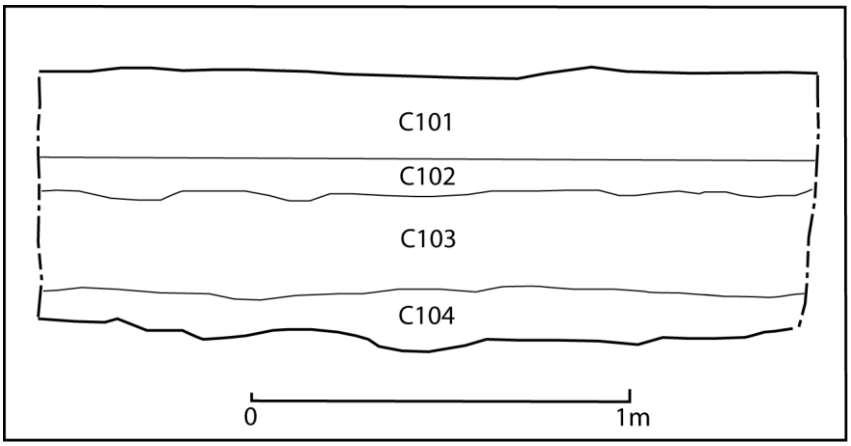


Figure 12: North-west facing section of the 2011 extension to Trench One.

4.4 Trench Two Extension

4.4.1 Trench Two extension was positioned approximately 22m to the north-west of Trench One extension (Figure 10). The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 205) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.55m. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in this trench, and the stratigraphic sequence was identical to that encountered in the other trenches in this area (Trenches One extension, Three and Four) (Figure 13).

4.4.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 201) consisted of a light to mid brown friable sandy loam and was a maximum of 0.3m in thickness. The topsoil (Context No. 201) had frequent inclusions of small angular stones and active hedgerow roots. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) directly overlay a series of deposits (Context No. 202, 203 and 204) associated with the twentieth-century road way.

4.4.3 The uppermost layer consisted of a deposit of modern tarmac (Context No. 202) which had an average thickness of 0.07m. The tarmac layer (Context No. 202) overlay a layer of gravel hardcore (Context No. 203). The hardcore (Context No. 203) was on average 0.25m thick and overlay a further hardcore deposit (Context No. 204) which was on average 0.1m thick. The lower layer of hardcore (Context No. 204) consisted of rounded and sub-angular nodules of chalk and limestone (average size: 0.1m x 0.05m x 0.08m) which differed from the upper course (Context No. 203) which consisted of small, angular gravel (average size: 0.04m x 0.04m x 0.05m).

4.4.4 The deposits associated with the roadway in Trench Two Extension (Context Nos. 202, 203 and 204) overlay the subsoil (Context No. 205) which consisted of compact reddish orange sandy clay and which was encountered at an average depth of 0.7m. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the excavation of the trench.

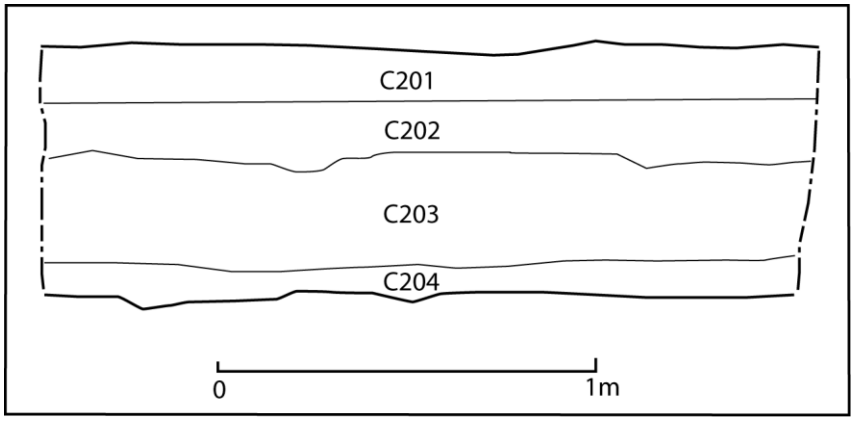


Figure 13: South-east facing section of the 2011 extension to Trench Two.

4.5 Trench Three

4.5.1 Trench Three was positioned 9.5m to the north-west of Trench One extension and 11.5m to the south-east of Trench Two extension (Figure 10). The trench was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 305) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.55m. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in this trench, and the stratigraphic sequence was identical to that encountered in the other trenches in this area (Trenches One extension, Two extension and Four) (Figure 14.

4.5.2 The sod and topsoil (Context No. 301) consisted of a light to mid brown friable sandy loam and was a maximum of 0.26m in thickness. The topsoil (Context No. 301) had frequent inclusions of small angular stones and active hedgerow roots. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) directly overlay a series of deposits (Context No. 302, 303 and 304) associated with the roadway.

4.5.3 The uppermost layer consisted of a deposit of modern tarmac (Context No. 302) which had an average thickness of 0.08m. The tarmac layer (Context No. 302) overlay a layer of gravel hardcore (Context No. 303). The hardcore (Context No. 303) was on average 0.26m thick and overlay a further hardcore deposit (Context No. 304) which was on

average 0.18m thick. The lower layer of hardcore (Context No. 304) consisted of rounded and sub-angular nodules of chalk and limestone (average size: 0.1m x 0.05m x 0.08m) which differed from the upper course (Context No. 303) which consisted of small, angular gravel (average size: 0.04m x 0.04m x 0.05m).

4.5.4 The deposits associated with the roadway in Trench Three (Context Nos. 302, 303 and 304) overlay the subsoil (Context No. 305) which consisted of compact reddish orange sandy clay and which was encountered at an average depth of 0.8m. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the excavation of the trench.

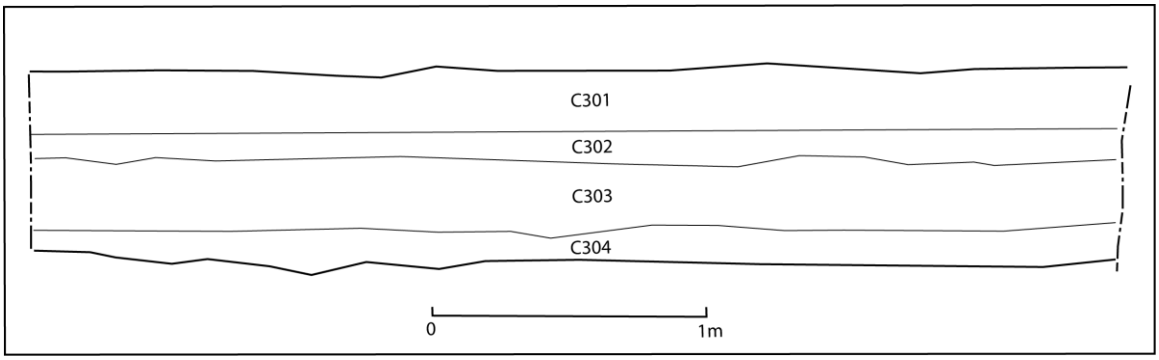


Figure 14: North-west facing section of Trench Three.

4.6 Trench Four

4.6.1 Trench Four was positioned 7m to the south-east of Trench One extension (Figure 10). The trench was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 405), which was encountered at an average depth of 0.55m. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in this trench, and the stratigraphic sequence was identical to that encountered in the other trenches in this area (Trenches One extension, Two extension and Three) (Figure 15; Plate 3).

4.6.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 401) consisted of a light to mid brown friable sandy loam and was a maximum of 0.32m in thickness. The topsoil (Context No. 401) had frequent inclusions of small angular stones and active hedgerow roots. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 401) directly overlay a series of deposits (Context No. 402, 403 and 404) associated with the roadway.

4.6.3 The uppermost layer consisted of a deposit of modern tarmac (Context No. 402) which had an average thickness of 0.06m. The tarmac layer (Context No. 402) overlay a layer of gravel hardcore (Context No. 403). The hardcore (Context No. 403) was on average 0.25m thick and overlay a further hardcore deposit (Context No. 404) which was on average 0.16m thick. The lower layer of hardcore (Context No. 404) consisted of rounded and sub-angular nodules of chalk and limestone (average size: 0.1m x 0.05m x 0.08m) which differed from the upper course (Context No. 403) which consisted of small, angular gravel (average size: 0.04m x 0.04m x 0.05m).

4.6.4 The deposits associated with the roadway in Trench Four (Context Nos. 402, 403 and 404) overlay the subsoil (Context No. 405) which consisted of compact reddish orange sandy clay. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the excavation of the trench.

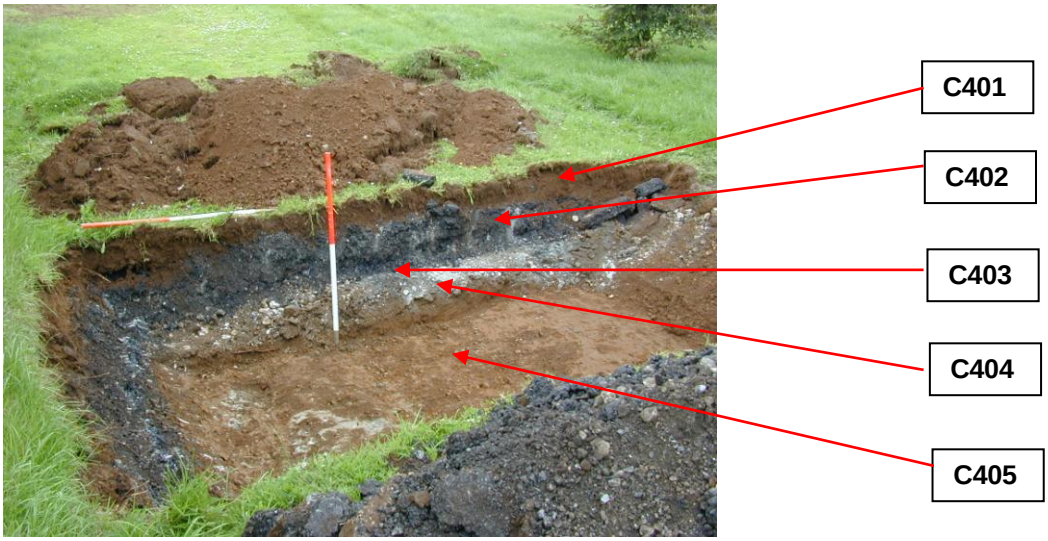


Plate 3: Annotated picture of the north-west facing section of Trench Four showing the stratigraphic sequence of the roadway.

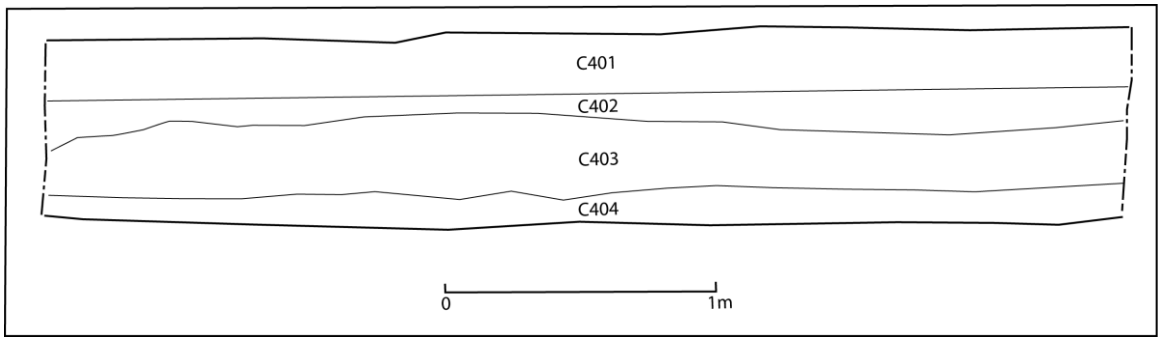


Figure 15: North-west facing section of Trench Four.

4.7 Trench Five

4.7.1 Trench Five was located within Field 2, along the interior of the enclosure and approximately 40m to the north-west of Trench Six (Figure 10). The trench was aligned roughly north/south and measured 20m in length by 1.5m in width. The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which consisted of reddish orange sandy clay with numerous protrusions of the natural bedrock (Plate 4). The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 501) was on average 0.25m deep and consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation of Trench Five.

Plate 4: Trench Five following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 502), looking south-west.

4.8 Trench Six

4.8.1 Trench Six was located within Field 2, approximately 40m to the south-east of Trench Five (Figure 10). The trench was aligned roughly east/west and measured 20m in length by 1.5m in width. The topsoil (Context No. 601) was 0.28m in depth and directly overlay the subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 602). The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 602) which consisted, on the most part, of natural bedrock, with isolated patches of reddish orange sandy clay (Plate 5). Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation of this trench.

Plate 5: Trench Six following excavation to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 602), looking south-west.

4.9 Trench Seven

4.9.1 Trench Seven was located in Field 1 and, due to the presence of the seventeenth-century fort identified through geophysical survey, was the only trench excavated in this area. The trench was aligned east/west and measured 19m in length by 1.5m in width. The trench was positioned in an effort to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly (Anomaly A – Figure 10) that was observed in the original geophysics results of 2008 (DVAS 2008).

4.9.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 701) consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam that was on average 0.38m deep. Removal of the sod and topsoil (Context No. 701) revealed the natural subsoil (Context No. 702) as well as a linear feature (Context No. 704) running approximately north/south. A cutting made across this feature (Context No. 704) revealed it to be relatively shallow cut into the subsoil with a maximum depth of 0.22m. The feature (Context No. 704; Plates 6 and 7, Figures 16 and 17) had a maximum width of 0.58m and was filled by a mid grey compact clay (Context No. 703). The fill of this feature (Context No. 703) had infrequent charcoal inclusions and excavation produced both struck and thermally shattered flint fragments. It is assumed that this feature is representative of the geophysical anomaly. Nothing of further archaeological was encountered in this trench.

Plates 6 and 7: Shallow gully (Context No. 704) pre-excavation on the left and mid-excavation on the right. Looking south.

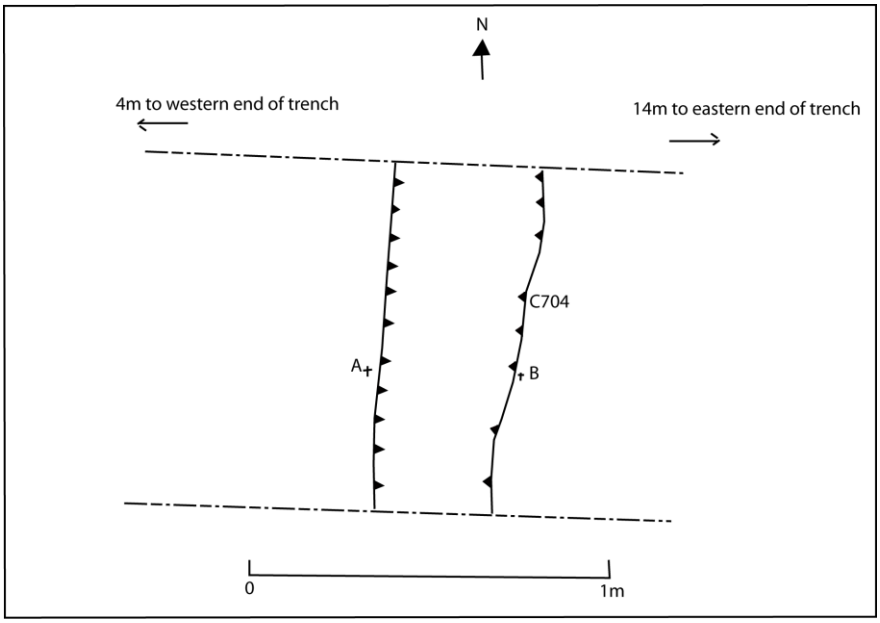


Figure 16: Post-excavation plan of the shallow gully in Trench Seven (Context No. 704).

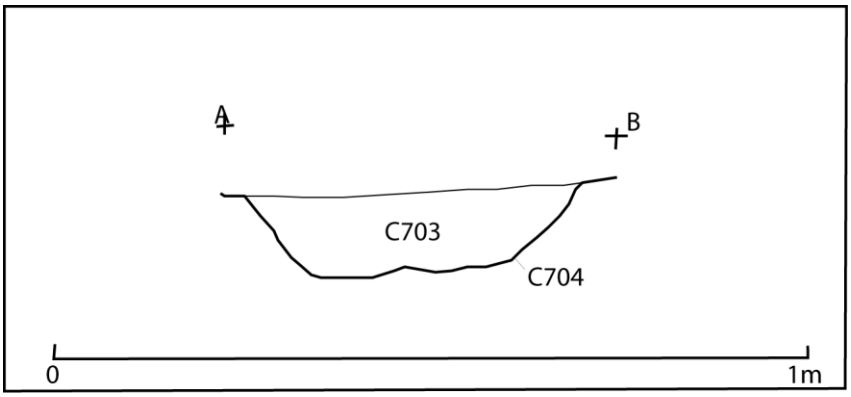


Figure 17: North-facing section through the shallow gully in Trench Seven (Context No. 704)

4.10 Trench Eight

4.10.1 Trench Eight was located in Field 3, approximately 110m to the north-west of Trench Five (Figure 10). The trench was aligned roughly east/west and measured 20m in length by 1.5m in width. The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 802) which consisted of reddish orange sandy clay with isolated patches of bedrock (Plate 8). Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation

of this trench with topsoil (Context No. 801) directly overlying subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 802) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.28m.

Plate 8: Trench Eight following excavation to the subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 802), looking west.

4.11 Trench Nine

4.11.1 Trench Nine was located in Field 3, approximately 100m to the north-west of Trench Eight (Figure 10). The trench was aligned roughly east/west and measured 20m in length by 1.5m in width. The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 902) which consisted of reddish orange sandy clay and bedrock (Plate 9). Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation of this trench with topsoil (Context No. 901) directly overlying subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 902) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.28m.

Plate 9: Trench Nine following excavation to the subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 902), looking south-east.

4.12 Trench Ten

4.12.1 Trench Ten was located in the western area of Field 1, and ran roughly parallel to the western boundary between Fields 1 and 4 (Figure 10). The trench measured approximately 17m in length by 1.5m in width and was excavated to the surface of the subsoil which consisted of reddish orange clay in places, interspersed with outcrops of bedrock (Plate 10).

4.12.2 A single feature was observed in this trench. This consisted of a sub-circular cut (Context No. 1003) filled by a sandy loam (Context No. 1004). The irregular shape of the cut (Context No. 1003) and a sherd of modern bottle glass being recovered from the fill (Context No. 1004) suggests that this feature is a tree bowl and not archaeological in nature (Figure 18).

Plate 10: Trench Ten following excavation to the subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 1002), looking north-west. The possible tree bowl (Context No. 1003) is circled.

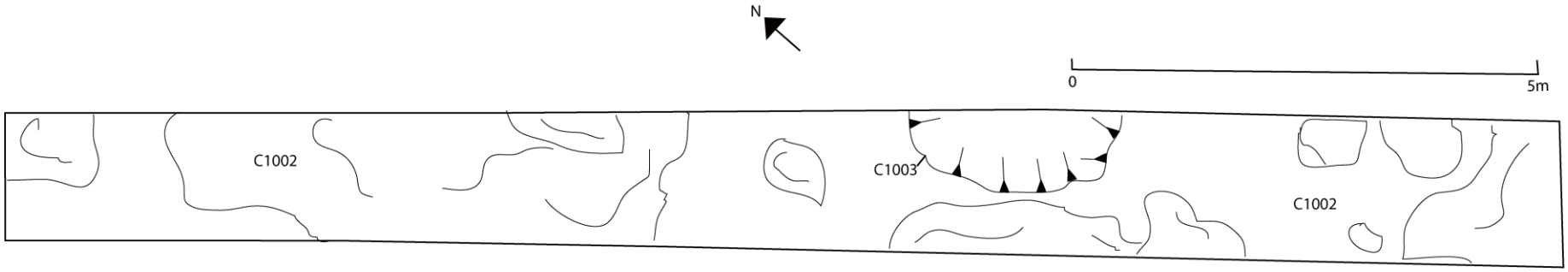


Figure 18: Post-excavation plan of Trench Ten.

4.13 Trench Eleven

4.13.1 Trench Eleven was located to the extreme north of the investigation area and was positioned near to the junction of Bentra Road and Bridgend Road (Figure 10). The trench originally measured 30m in length by 1.5m in width, although following the identification of potential archaeological features and discussion with members of the inspectorate of the NIEA, the width of the trench was extended to 4m. The trench was excavated to the natural subsoil, which was encountered at an average depth of 0.5m. Several features cutting the natural subsoil were observed (Figure 19). The subsoil (Context No. 1115) in Trench Eleven consisted of an orangey red sandy clay, which interestingly, lacked the outcrops of bedrock that characterised the other trenches.

4.13.2 The topsoil in this trench (Context No. 1101) consisted of a friable, mid to light brown sandy loam. Sherds of white glazed ceramics of probable nineteenth-century date (Ruairí Ó Baoill *pers comm*.) as well as bottle glass and fragments of flint were recovered from this deposit. The topsoil (Context No. 1101) overlay a relatively sterile deposit of hill wash (Context No. 1102) and was on average 0.15m thick.

4.13.3 The deposit of probable hill wash (Context No. 1102) was relatively sterile, apart from yielding a few fragments of flint. This deposit was relatively thick, ranging between 0.3-0.4m. Removal of the hill wash (Context No. 1102) revealed the natural subsoil (Context No. 1115) as well as several potential archaeological features.

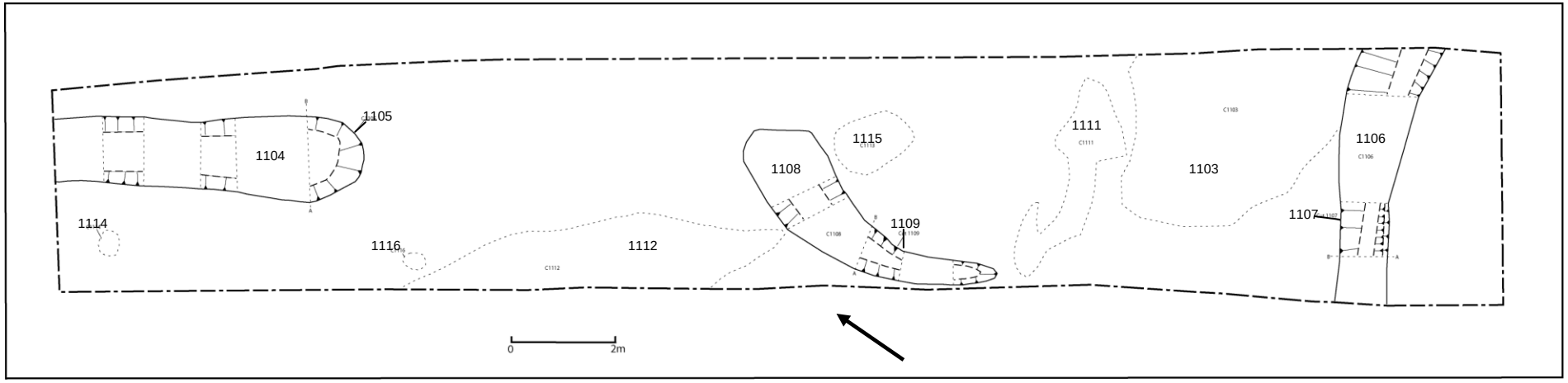


Figure 19: Plan showing archaeological features present in Trench 11. Features were exposed in plan, but only those depicted with a solid line were subject to archaeological inspection.

4.13.4 At the northern end of the trench, a linear feature (Context No. 1105) (Plate 11) was observed. This was investigated through a series of cuttings across the feature to inform on the size and depth, as well as to recover any artefactual evidence which would indicate a date or function for the feature (Figure 20). The cut of the feature (Context No. 1105) was aligned approximately north/south and was a maximum of 3.92m in length. The width of the feature (Context No. 1105) varied between 0.9-1.05m and had a maximum depth of 0.29m. The cut (Context No 1105) had a sharp break of slope and steep edge on its eastern side, the feature being increasingly gentle on the west. The cut (Context No. 1105) had a relatively flat base and a rounded terminal at the southern extreme of the feature. The fill (Context No. 1104) of the feature consisted of a mid-brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecking, and small rounded stones. Finds from this feature included flint fragments (both struck and thermally shattered pieces), as well as burnt flint and small sherds of coarse pottery which are relatively undiagnostic but potentially of Neolithic or Bronze Age date (Naomi Carver *pers comm.*).

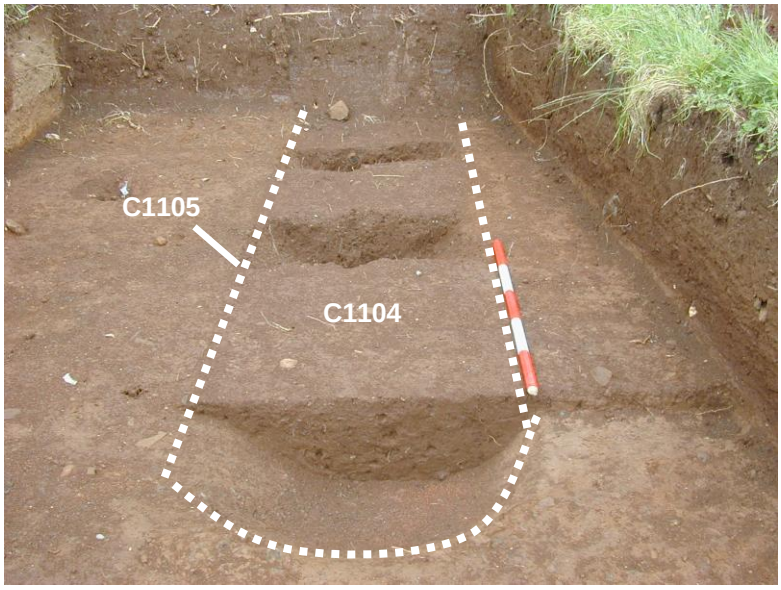


Plate 11: Linear gully (Context No. 1105) looking north-west. NB scale is 1m in length.

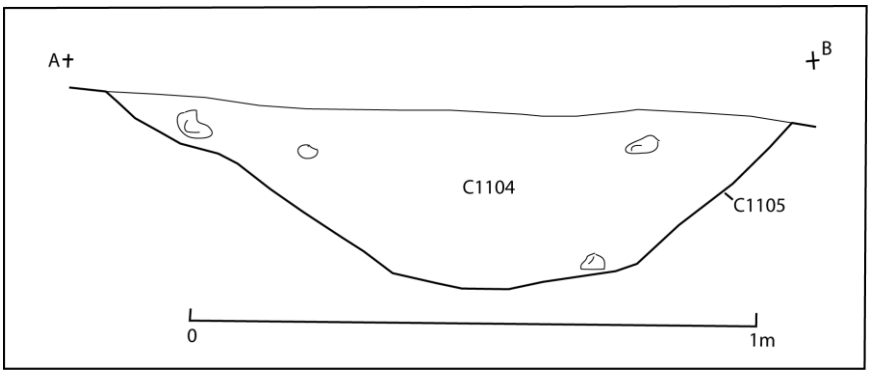


Figure 20: South-east facing section through Context No. 1105

4.13.5 Approximately 8m to the south of the linear gully (Context No. 1105), a curvilinear feature was observed (Plate 12). This feature (Context No. 1109) was aligned approximately north-east/south-west, although curved to a north/south orientation and was a maximum of 2.6m in length. The width of the feature varied between a maximum of 0.85m at the north-eastern end and narrowed to a sharp terminus at the south. The sides of this feature (Context No. 1109) sloped gently to a relatively flat base, which had natural stones from the subsoil protruding through it. The fill (Context No. 1108) of the curvilinear gully (Context No. 1109) consisted of a friable mid to dark brown silty loam with frequent charcoal inclusions. A series of cuttings excavated across this feature to assess its archaeological potential (Figure 21) produced several sherds of coarse pottery (for example Plates 26 and 27), flint, burnt bone and a fragment of a possible hone stone.

Plate 12: Curvilinear gully (Context No. 1109). The fill of this feature (Context No. 1108 – still visible in the unexcavated sections) produced two base sherds of pottery dating to the Medieval period (pottery provisionally identified by Cormac McSparron and Audrey Gahan). Looking south.

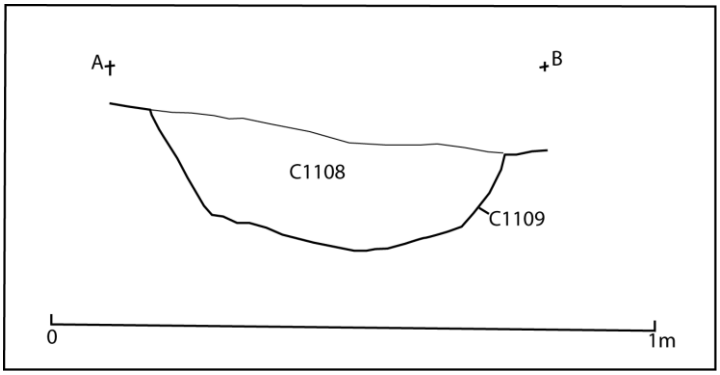


Figure 21: South facing section through the curvilinear gully Context No. 1109.

4.13.6 At the southern end of the trench, another linear feature (Context No. 1107) was observed, aligned approximately east/west and running across the width of the trench. This feature (Context No. 1107) was on average 0.9m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.37m (Plate 13; Figure 22). The slope of the sides of the gully varied from steep to quite gentle, although a pronounced 'step' was notable along its southern edge. The fill

of this feature (Context No. 1106) consisted of a compact mid grey to brown silty loam. Small to medium sized sub-rounded stones (average size 0.05m x 0.03m x 0.04m) as well as light charcoal flecking was observed throughout the fill (Context No. 1106). Artefacts recovered included flint fragments, burnt bone and two small sherds of undiagnostic coarse pottery. This feature (Context No. 1107) provided the only definitive stratigraphic relationship within the trench as it appears to have cut through a spread of tenacious grey clay (Context No.1103). This spread was not excavated due to the evaluative nature of this investigation, although a sherd of coarse pottery was recovered from its surface during the mechanical excavation of the trench. Initial analysis of this pottery sherd shows it to be a body sherd of a carinated bowl of Early Neolithic date (Naomi Carver *pers comm.*).

Plate 13: East facing section through cut Context No. 1107 showing fill Context No. 1106.

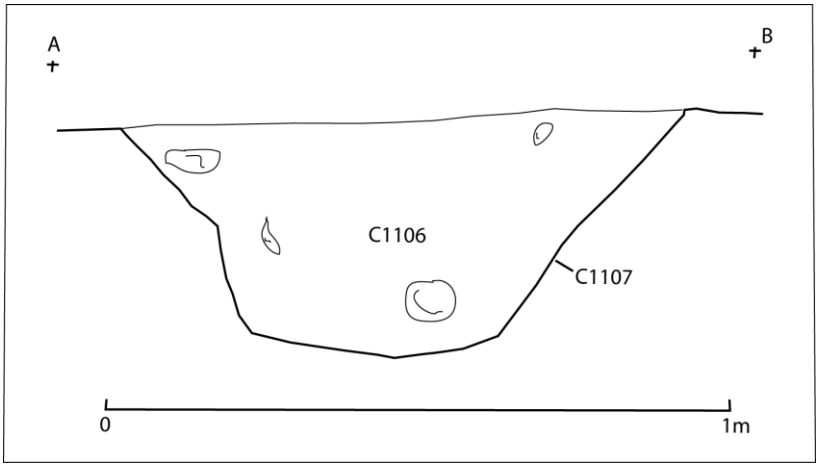


Figure 22: East facing section through Context No. 1107.

4.13.7 Other features of potential archaeological significance were encountered in the trench, but were not investigated due to the evaluative nature of the excavation, as well as features of archaeological significance already being encountered in the trench. These include various spreads (Context Nos. 1103, 1111, 1112, 1113) as well as possible post holes (Context Nos. 1114 and 1116) (see Figure 19).

4.14 Trench Twelve

4.14.1 Trench Twelve (Figure 10) was located over a geophysical anomaly (R1; Figure 9), measured 10m in length by 2m in width and was aligned roughly east/west. The trench was excavated to the surface of the subsoil/bedrock, which was encountered at an average depth of 0.25m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench with the topsoil (Context No. 1201) directly overlying subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 1202). The trench was located in an effort to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly that could possibly represent a ditch feature (Ronan McHugh *pers comm.*). However, excavation of the trench showed the anomaly to be the product of two raised areas of bedrock with subsoil between (Plate 14). It can therefore be stated that the linear geophysical anomaly is geological in origin and not of archaeological significance.

4.14.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 1201) consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam which was on average 0.25m deep. Removal of this deposit (Context No. 1201) revealed the subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 1202). Cleaning of the subsoil surface revealed a pit (Context No. 1205) along the south-facing section of the trench. The pit

was 1.85m in length (east/west), at least 0.7m in width (north/south- the south facing section of the trench was utilised as the section face for the excavation of this feature) and a maximum of 0.51m deep (Figure 23). The uppermost fill of the pit consisted of a light greyish brown silty loam (Context No. 1203). Occasional flecks of charcoal were observed throughout this deposit which had a maximum thickness of 0.41m. Removal of the silty loam (Context No. 1203) revealed a thin (0.02m) lower deposit of dark greyish black charcoal rich loam (Context No. 1204). This deposit was a maximum of 0.09m thick and lay at the base of the pit cut (Context No. 1205). No artefacts were recovered from any of the fills of the pit (Context Nos. 1203 and 1204) and it is therefore of uncertain date or function.

Plate 14: Trench Twelve following excavation to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 1202), looking south-west. The pit feature (Context No. 1205) is visible along the south-east facing section (circled)

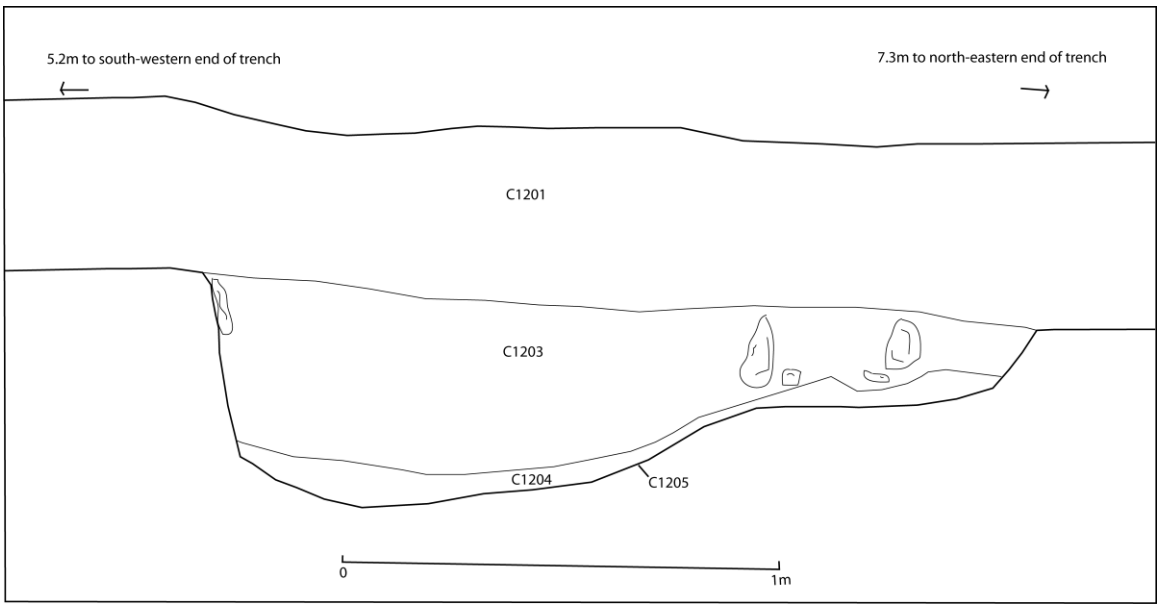


Figure 23: South-east facing section showing the pit feature (Context No. 1205) and associated fill deposits (Context Nos. 1203 and 1204).

4.15 Trench Thirteen

4.15.1 Trench Thirteen (Figure 10) was located over a geophysical anomaly (R2; Figure 9), measured 10m in length by 2m in width and was aligned roughly east/west. The trench was excavated to the surface of the subsoil/bedrock, which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench with topsoil (Context No. 1301) directly overlying subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 1302). The trench was located in an effort to investigate a differentiation between high and low resistance readings (Ronan McHugh *pers comm.*). However, excavation of the trench showed the anomaly to be the product of a change from a shelf of bedrock to subsoil (Plate 15). It was therefore the case that this geophysical anomaly was geological in origin and not of archaeological significance.

Plate 15: Trench Thirteen following excavation to the subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 1302), looking north-east.

4.15.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 1301) consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam which was on average 0.3m deep. Removal of this deposit (Context No. 1301) revealed the subsoil/bedrock (Context No. 1302).

4.16 Trench Fourteen

4.16.1 Trench Fourteen was located along the interior of the boundary at the north-western corner of the investigation area (Figure 10). The trench was aligned roughly north-east/south-west, measured 12m by 2m and was excavated to the surface of an intact archaeological horizon. The trench was positioned here to investigate a curvilinear geophysical anomaly (R3 - Figure 9). Excavation revealed a relatively complex stratigraphic sequence.

4.16.2 The sod and topsoil layer in this trench (Context No. 1401) consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam. This deposit was on average 0.35m deep, and directly overlay a large protrusion of the bedrock in the north-eastern portion of the trench. Few finds were

recovered from the topsoil deposit (Context No. 1401) apart from a small assemblage of thermally shattered flint, two chalk nodules and a large base sherd from a glass vessel of probable modern date. Removal of the topsoil in the south-western end of the trench revealed features of archaeological significance (Plate 16; Figures 24 and 25).

Plate 16: Trench Fourteen following removal of the topsoil deposit (Context No. 1401), looking south.

4.16.3 Directly below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 1401), a tenacious layer of darkish grey clay was encountered. This layer (Context No. 1416) had a relatively uniform thickness of approximately 0.09m across the entire trench. Cleaning of this deposit produced numerous fragments of thermally shattered flint, as well as four chalk nodules. The grey clay (Context No. 1416) was removed to reveal two deposits; a layer of medium to large angular and sub-rounded rocks (Context No. 1404) and a discreet deposit of small angular stones within a pale yellow sandy matrix (Context No. 1409).

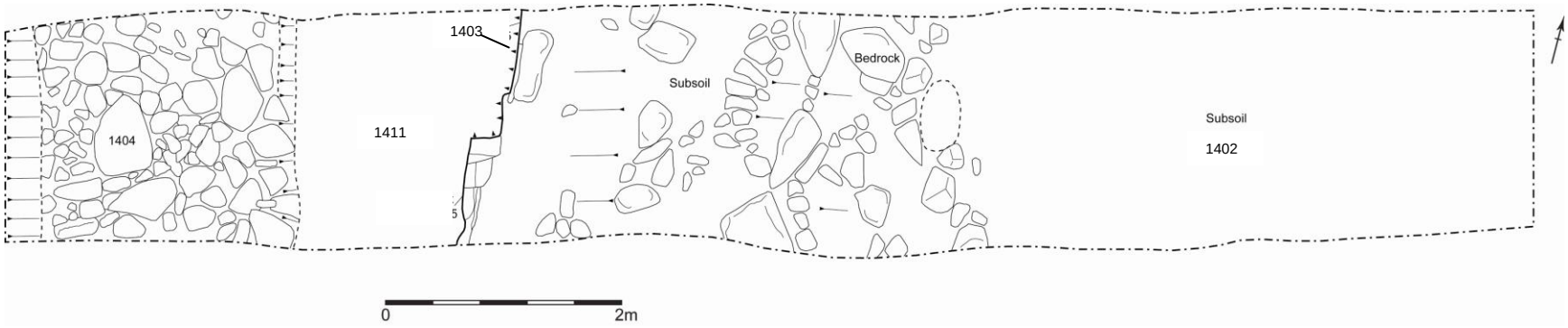


Figure 24: Plan of Trench Fourteen.

4.16.4 The angular and sub-rounded rocks (Context No. 1404, average size: average 0.4m x 0.6m x 0.65m) were observed as a relatively flat deposit, which was a single course thick (Plate 9). The small angular stone (average size: 0.04m x 0.05m x 0.05m) deposit (Context No. 1409) had a maximum thickness of 0.25m, although tapered to a minimum of 0.03m to the north-east. Both these deposits (Context Nos. 1404 and 1409) overlay a thin lens of quite loose pale yellow sandy loam (Context No. 1408) which had an average thickness of 0.09m and extended for a total distance of 4.05m from the south-western end of the trench.

4.16.5 Removal of the sandy loam (Context No. 1405) revealed a compact mid brown silty loam that appeared relatively sterile. Nothing of significance was noted in this deposit apart from infrequent inclusions of small fragments of charcoal. Upon cleaning of the section face prior to recording, it was noted that this deposit (Context No. 1405) was in fact the fill of a shallow pit (Context No. 1415). This feature (Context No. 1415) had gently sloping sides and a relatively flat base. The maximum dimensions of the pit (Context No. 1415 were 1.36m (south-west/north-east) by 0.22m deep. A north-west/south-east dimension was not recorded for this pit as it was observed in the section of the trench.

4.16.6 The pit (Context No. 1415) appeared to have been cut through the various fills of another extensive cut (Context No. 1414). This feature (Context No. 1414) was filled with various layers of stony loam (Context Nos. 1413, 1412, 1410 – stratigraphically earliest to latest). Little distinguishable differences were noted between these layers apart from the size of the stones. The uppermost fill of this pit (Context No. 1414) was a deposit of light brown sandy loam with abundant inclusions of crushed shell or burnt flint (Plate 17). The brown sandy loam (Context No. 1408) varied in thickness between a minimum of 0.03m to a maximum of 0.22m. The various fills (Context Nos. 1413, 1412, 1410 and 1408) of this pit (Context No. 1414) were not fully excavated, and no artefacts were recovered from the tested portions. The pit (Context No. 1414) had been excavated through a relatively thick (maximum thickness 0.42m) deposit of stony brown loam (Context No. 1411). This deposit (Context No. 1411) is interpreted as the basal layer of a possible ditch cut (Context No. 1403).

4.16.7 Approximately 4.5m from the south-eastern edge of the trench, a cut (Context No. 1403) in the bedrock was observed. Initial cleaning of the feature (Context No. 1403) showed that it represented a sharp break in the natural gradient of the bedrock, and had a relatively flat base. A small distinct pile of medium-sized rocks (Context No. 1406), similar

in appearance to the stone spread (Context No. 1404) was observed at the base of the cut.

4.16.8 The interpretation of the sequence of deposits outlined above is problematic due to the restricted nature of the investigation and lack of dating evidence. However, the evidence presented above, taken with the sequence of deposits encountered in Trench Fifteen (see below) could suggest that the features encountered in this area are the remains of a cairn, potentially of Prehistoric (Bronze Age) date.

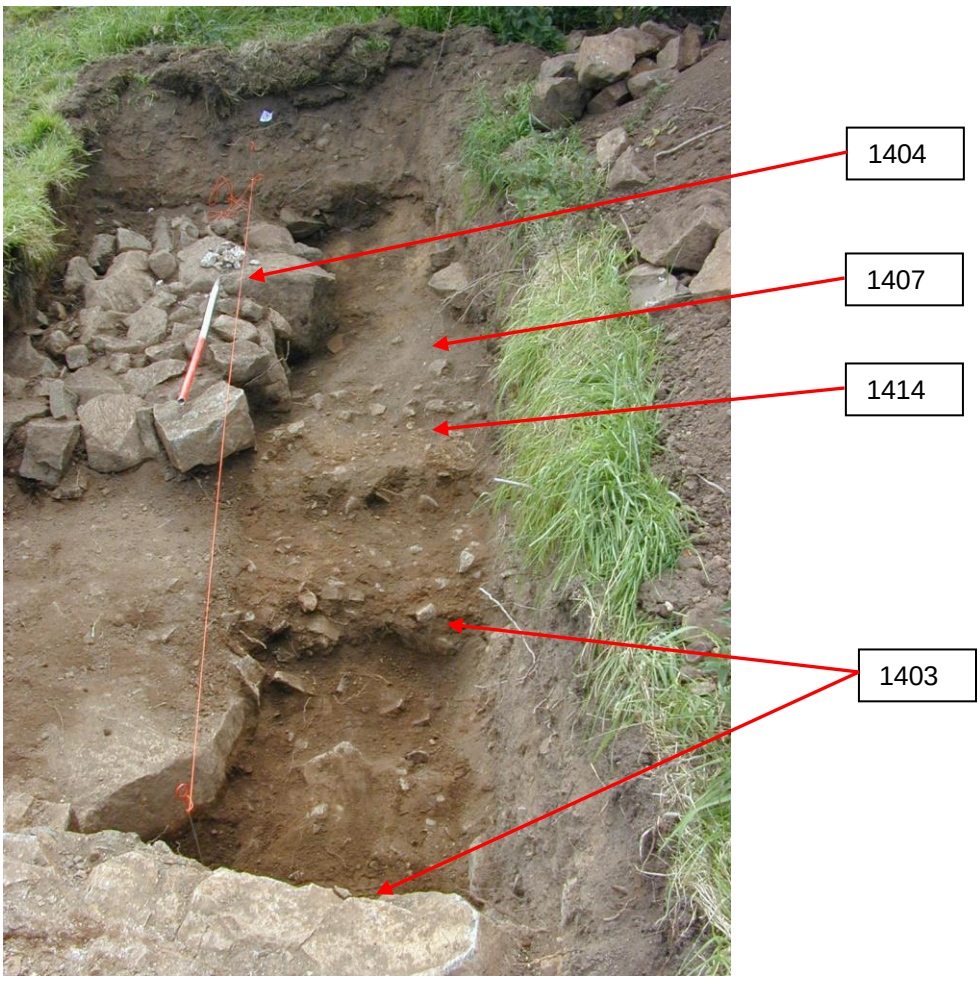


Plate 17: Trench Fourteen following removal of Context No. 1404 along the south-east facing section. Looking south-west.

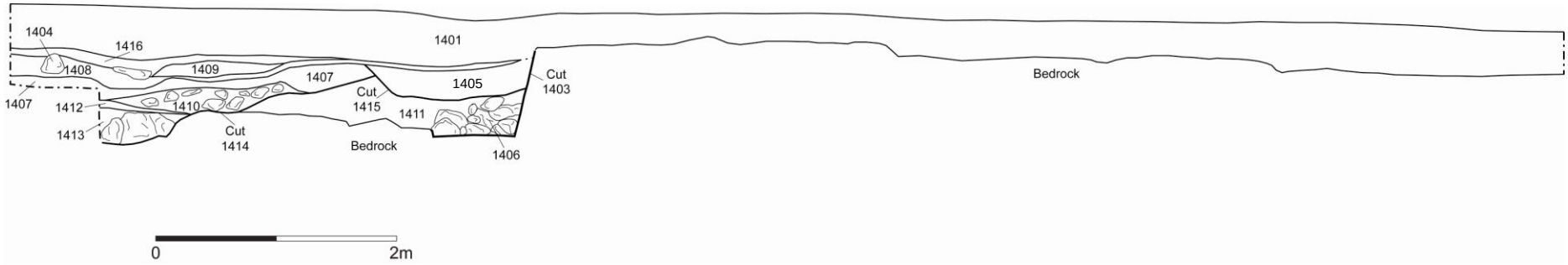


Figure 25: South-east facing section of Trench Fourteen.

4.17 Trench Fifteen

4.17.1 Trench Fifteen was excavated to assess the continuation of the archaeological features investigated in Trench Fourteen, as well as to investigate further into the interior of Field 3 (Figure 10). The trench was aligned roughly west-south-west/east-north-east and measured 63m in length by 1.5m in width. A continuation of the possible ditch feature encountered in Trench Fourteen (Context No. 1403) was observed in the western end of the trench, as well as the probable cairn material. However, the vast majority of the trench revealed undisturbed subsoil (Context No. 1502).

4.17.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 1501) consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam and was on average 0.15m deep. Few finds were recovered from this deposit, apart from fragments of struck and thermally shattered flint, as well as six sherds of black glazed earthenware (of eighteenth or nineteenth century date – Ruairí Ó Baoill *pers comm.*) and a single sherd of abraded pottery of probable thirteenth or fourteenth century date (Cormac McSparron *pers comm.*). In the majority of the trench, the topsoil (Context No. 1501) was removed to reveal undisturbed natural subsoil with random protrusions of bedrock (Context No. 1502), apart from the western end of the trench which revealed features of archaeological potential (Plate 18).

4.17.3 Immediately below the topsoil (Context No. 1501) at the western end of the trench, a deposit of angular and sub-rounded rocks (Context No. 1505) was uncovered. This deposit (Context No. 1505) consisted of medium to large stones (average size: 0.4m x 0.6m x 0.5m) with numerous voids observed amongst them (Plate 18). Cleaning of this feature (Context No. 1505) produced struck flint, chalk nodules and three small fragments of corroded iron. A curious feature of this deposit (Context No. 1505) was observed along the south-east facing section, approximately 3.8m from the western end of the trench. A slab of rock (Context No. 1506- maximum dimensions 0.45m x 0.73m x 0.08m thick) was located protruding from the section face at this point (Plate 18; Figure 26). Despite this stone not being lifted, it was evident that there was a distinct void beneath the slab of rock (Context No. 1506) and the underlying stones (Context No. 1505). It is possible that this feature (Context No. 1506) represents the capstone of a cist burial that has been inserted into an earlier cairn (Context No. 1505), however, without further excavation, this interpretation remains speculative.

Plate 18: Trench Fifteen following removal of topsoil deposit (Context No. 1501) showing the possible cairn material (Context No. 1505) and possible capstone (Context No. 1506), looking south-west.

4.17.4 The ditch encountered in Trench Fourteen (Context No. 1403) was observed in this trench (Context No. 1503). The bedrock (Context No. 1502) had been cut on its eastern side, although the western side of this feature was not observed due to the cairn material (Context No. 1505) being left *in situ* (Figure 26). The space between the ditch edge (Context No. 1503) and the cairn material (Context No. 1505) was filled with a mid to dark brown clay loam (Context No. 1504) that was similar in consistency and texture to the primary fill in Trench Fourteen (Context No. 1411).

4.17.5 An interesting feature of the cairn material (Context No. 1505) was observed at the western end of the trench. It would appear that an outcrop of bedrock had been modified with the cairn material (Context No. 1505). This is testified by Trench Twenty (see Section 4.23) that showed that to the south of Trench Fifteen, there would appear to be no cairn material or continuation of the ditch feature, but rather the bedrock (Context No. 2002) that sloped to the north-west. Should this feature turn out to be a cairn, it would appear that the bedrock had been augmented with quarried rocks, which possibly originated from the ditch feature (Context Nos. 1404 and 1503).

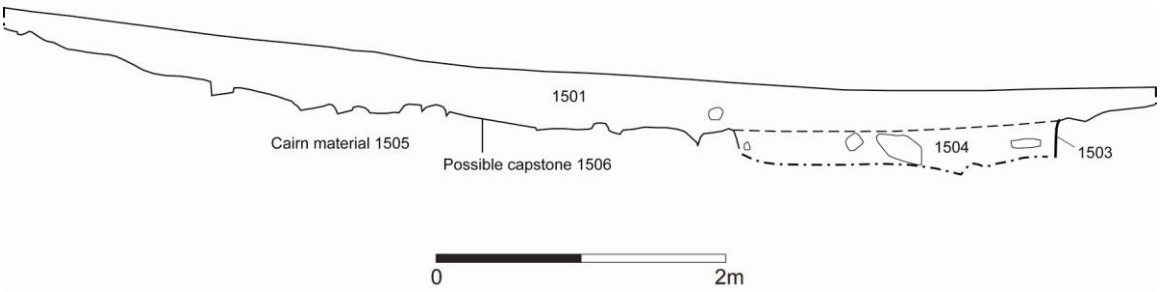


Figure 26: Portion of the south-east facing section of Trench Fifteen.

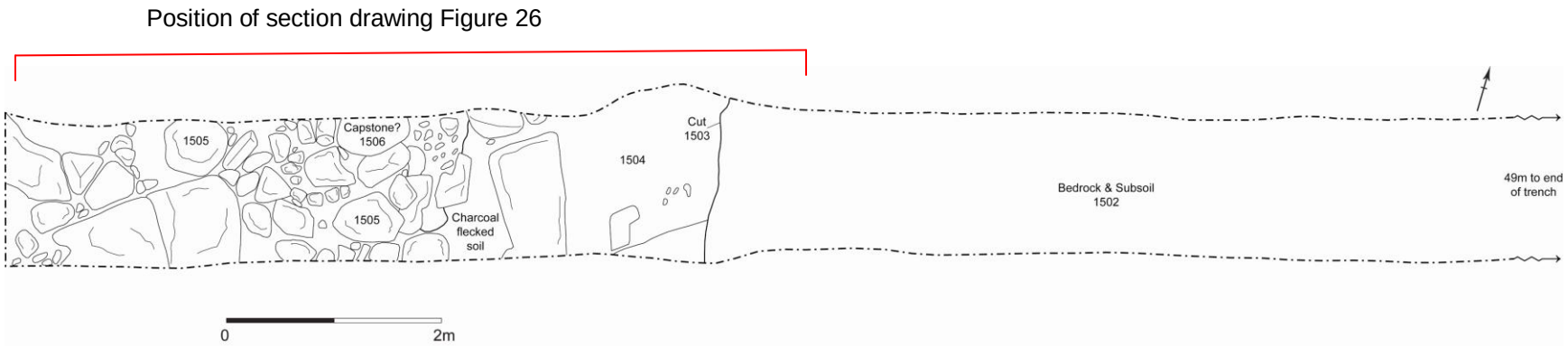


Figure 27: Plan of Trench Fifteen following removal of the topsoil (Context No. 1501).

4.18 *Trench Sixteen*

4.18.1 Trench Sixteen was located in Field 3 and measured approximately 113m in length by 1.5m in width (Figure 10). The trench was aligned roughly north-north-west/south-south-east and was positioned parallel to the field boundary that separates Fields 3 and 4. The trench was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 1602) with nothing of archaeological significance being encountered (Plate 19).

4.18.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 1601) consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam and was on average 0.3m deep. Finds from this deposit included numerous fragments of flint (both struck and natural) as well as fragments of black-glazed earthenware and bottle glass. The topsoil (Context No. 1601) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 1602) which consisted of reddish orange sandy clay.

Plate 19: Trench Sixteen following excavation to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 1602), looking south-east.

4.19 Trench Seventeen

4.19.1 Trench Seventeen was located in Field 2 and measured approximately 81m in length by 1.5m in width (Figure 10). The trench was aligned roughly west-south-west/east-north-east and was positioned parallel to the field boundary that seperates Fields 2 and 3. The trench was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 1702) with nothing of archaeological significance being encountered (Plate 20).

4.19.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 1701) consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam and was on average 0.4m deep. Little was recovered from the topsoil deposit (Context No. 1701) apart from three small sherds of transfer printed white glazed ceramics of probable nineteenth-century date (Ó Baoill *pers comm*.).The topsoil (Context No. 1701) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 1702) which consisted of reddish orange sandy clay with isolated outcrops of bedrock.

Plate 20: Trench Seventeen following excavation to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 1702), looking north-east.

4.20 Trench Eighteen

4.20.1 Trench Eighteen was located in Field 2 and was aligned north-west/south-east (Figure 10). The trench measured 38m in length by 1.5m in width and was excavated to the surface of an intact archaeological horizon (Context No. 1803) which was encountered approximately 22m from the north-western end of the trench.

4.20.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 1801) consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam and was an average of 0.45m deep. Numerous pieces of struck flint, along with two small sherds of coarse pottery of possible Neolithic date were recovered from the topsoil deposit (Context No. 1801), as well as fragments of glass and modern transfer-printed ceramics. Removal of the topsoil in this trench (Context No. 1801) revealed the subsoil (Context No. 1802) in the north-western end of the trench. The subsoil (Context No. 1802) consisted of a reddish orange sandy clay with occasional protrusions of bedrock. Removal of the topsoil (Context No. 1801) in the south-eastern end of the trench revealed a layer of rounded and sub-rounded stones (Context No. 1803; average size 0.05m x 0.1m x 0.1m) that formed a roughly level surface (Plate 21; Figures 28 and 29). Cleaning of this stone feature (Context No. 1803) produced numerous struck flints, as well as four small sherds of Prehistoric coarse pottery.

Plate 21: Trench Eighteen stone surface Context No. 1803, looking north-east.

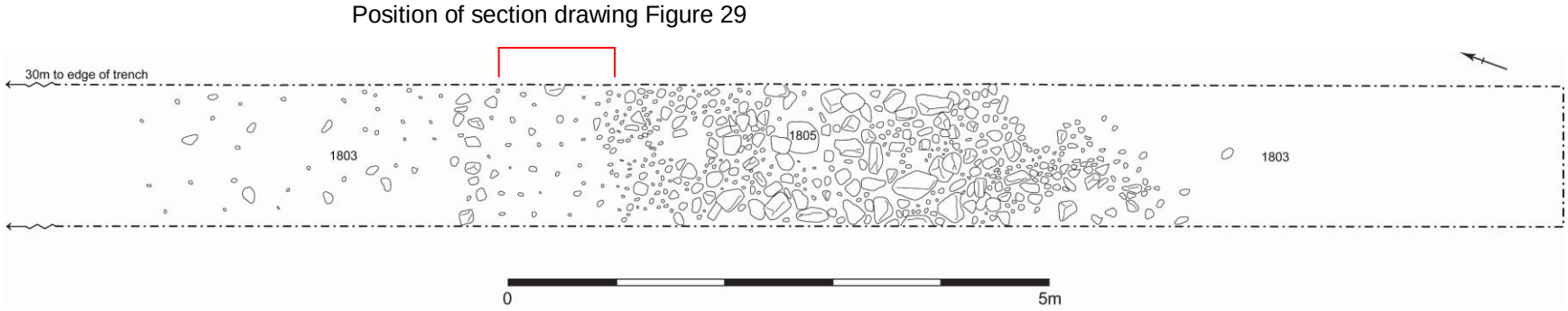


Figure 28: Plan of stone spread (Context No. 1805)

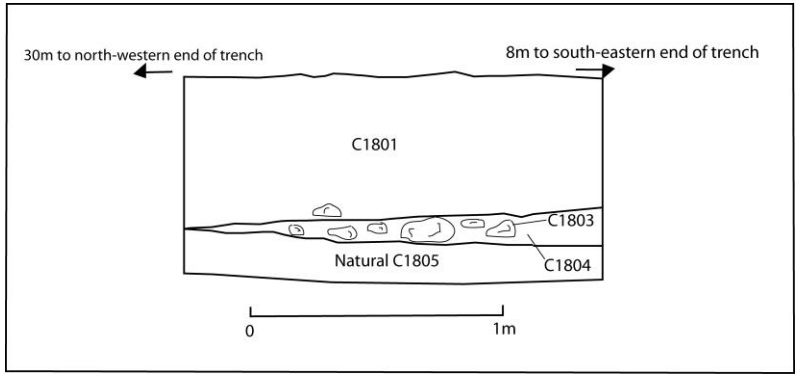


Figure 29: Portion of the south-west facing section showing the stratigraphic sequence in Trench Eighteen.

4.20.3 A small section of the stone feature (Context No. 1803) was excavated to assess the stratigraphy of the deposits. Removal of the stones (Context No. 1803) showed they were set on/in a deposit of firm grey clay with frequent charcoal inclusions (Context No. 1804). The grey clay was on average 0.23m thick and overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 1805) (Figure 29; Plate 22). No features that pre-date the grey clay were noted in the small area investigated.

Plate 22: South-west facing section of Trench Eighteen, showing stratigraphic sequence of deposits in the trench. NB: scale is 0.5m in length.

4.21 Trench Nineteen

4.21.1 Trench Nineteen was positioned approximately 12.5m to the south-west and parallel to Trench Eighteen (Figure 10). The trench was located here to assess the continuation of the stony feature encountered in Trench Eighteen (Context No. 1803). The trench measured 31m in length by 1.5m in width and was excavated to the surface of an intact archaeological horizon (Context No. 1906).

4.21.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 1901) consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam. On average this deposit (Context No. 1901) was 0.35m deep and produced sherds of pottery of probable eighteenth-century date (Ruairí Ó Baoill *pers comm.*), struck and unworked flint and fragments of corroded iron. Removal of the topsoil deposit (Context No. 1901) revealed the subsoil (Context No. 1902) as well as a series of archaeological features (Context Nos. 1903, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1909).

4.21.3 Removal of the topsoil (Context No. 1901) revealed a spread of stones (Context No. 1906) set in, or upon, a deposit of tenacious grey clay (Context No. 1903) that was encountered in the south-eastern end of the trench. This deposit (Context Nos. 1903 and 1906) ran north-west for 6.8m and was an average of 0.35m thick. Cleaning up of these deposits (Context No. 1903 and 1906) produced numerous fragments of flint flakes, modified flint tools, including a fine example of an end scraper and two hollow scrapers (see Plate 28) as well as a fragment of Prehistoric pottery. The absence of more modern finds that were previously recovered from the topsoil deposit (Context No. 1901), would suggest that these deposits (Context Nos. 1903 and 1906) are intact Prehistoric horizons. It is thought that this sequence of deposits (Context Nos. 1903 and 1906) represents the same feature encountered in Trench Eighteen (Context No. 1803) (Plate 21).

4.21.4 The stone spread (Context No. 1903/1906) stratigraphically overlay a pit feature in the south-eastern end of the trench (Context No. 1905) that measured 0.43m (north/south) by 0.56m (east/west) and had a maximum depth of 0.36m. The pit (Context No. 1905) had a single fill of compact mid to dark brown clay loam (Context No. 1904) with infrequent flecks of charcoal throughout. Excavation of the feature produced two sherds of probable Neolithic pottery as well as naturally occurring thermally shattered flint.

4.21.5 Removal of a portion of the stone and clay (Context No. 1903/1906) in the north-western end of the feature showed that it overlay, and was stratigraphically later than, a gully feature (Context No. 1910) (Figures 30, 32 and 33; Plate 23). This gully was 1.3m in length (north/south) by 0.8m (east/west) and had a maximum depth of 0.22m. The gully was filled with a compact mid-brown grey clay (Context No. 1909) with occasional charcoal flecking. Numerous fragments of thermally shattered flint were observed throughout the fill (Context No. 1909).

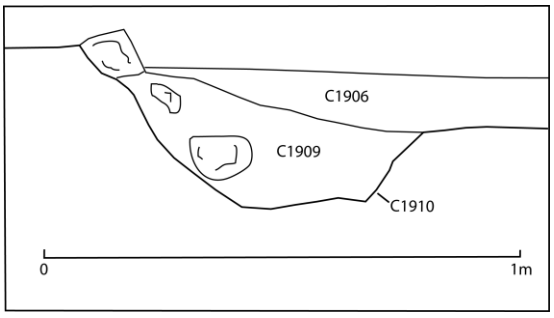


Figure 30: North facing section through shallow gully C1910, showing the relationship with the stone and clay spread (Context No. 1903/1906).

4.21.6 Isolated to this sequence of features was another linear gully (Context No. 1907). This feature was aligned approximately west/east and was located approximately 2.3m to the north-east of the edge of the stone and clay spread (Context No. 1903/1906). This feature was 1.73m in length (north/south) by 0.75m in width (east/west) and had a maximum depth of 0.34m. The fill of the feature (Context No. 1908) consisted of a relatively compact grey clay with occasional charcoal flecking (Figure 31). No artefacts were recovered from the fill (Context No. 1908) and it is not clear what the date or function of the gully might be, or if it is associated with the other linear gully (Context No. 1910) that was encountered beneath the stone and clay spread (Context No. 1903/1906).

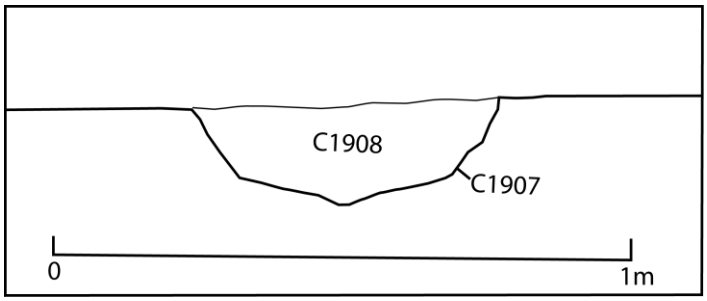


Figure 31: South-west facing section through shallow gully (Context No. 1907).

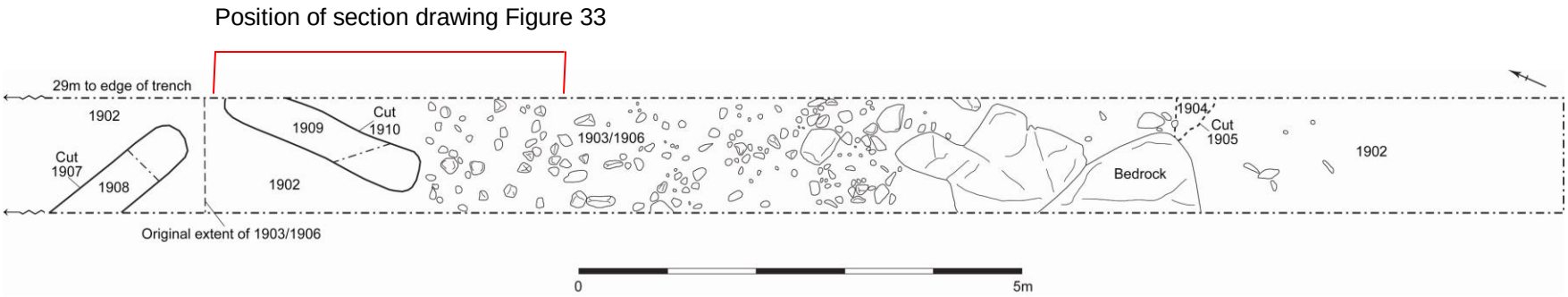


Figure32: Post-excavation plan of Trench Nineteen

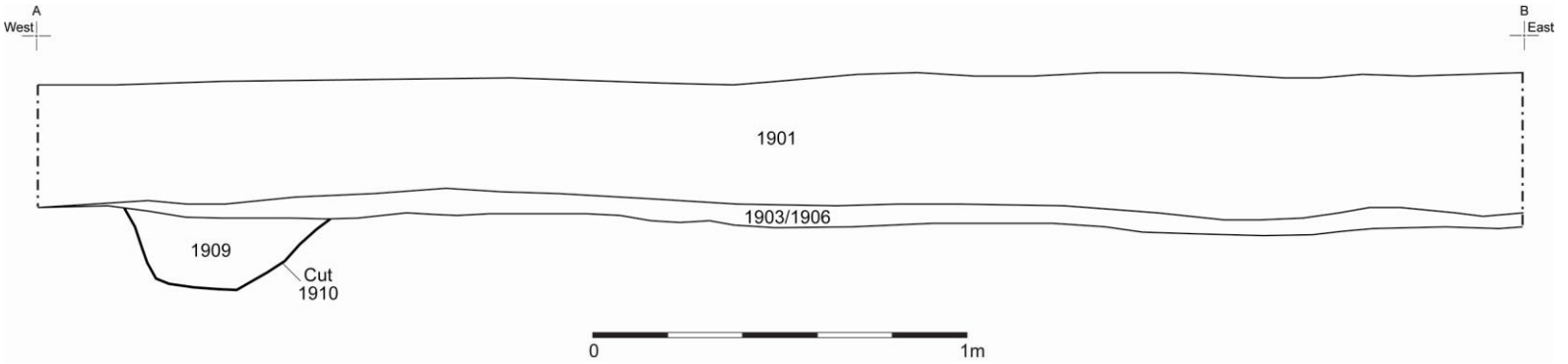


Figure 33: Portion of the south-west facing section of Trench Nineteen

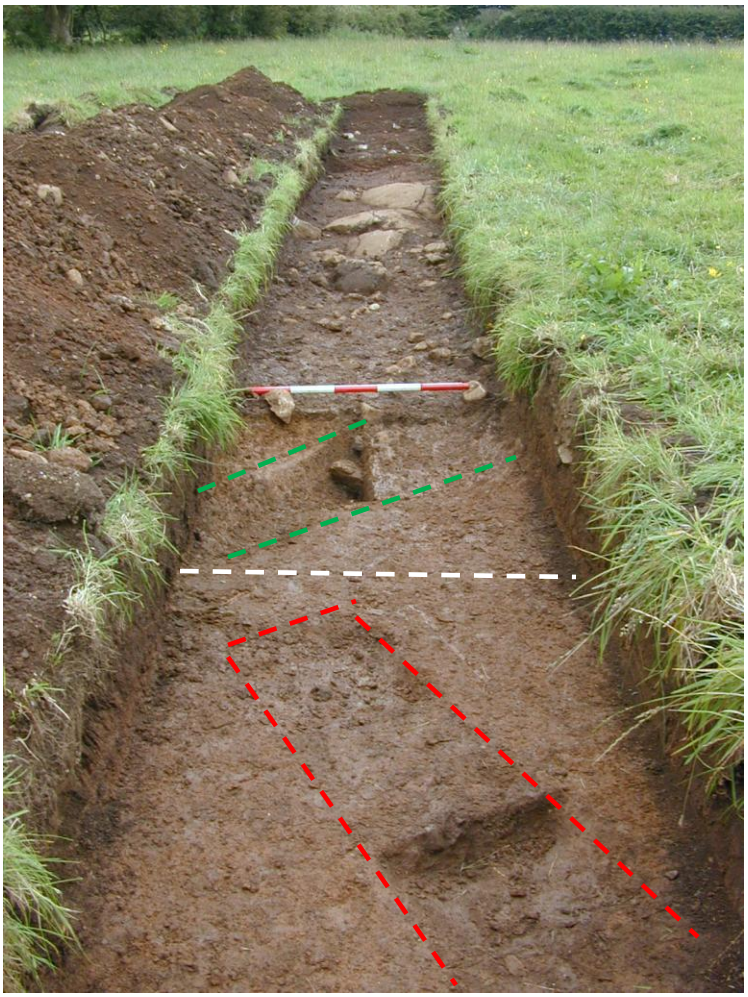


Plate 23: Trench Nineteen looking south-east. The isolated gully (Context No. 1907) is highlighted in red, with the original extent of the stony spread (Context No. 1903/1906) shown by the white dashed line. The gully (Context No.1910) that is underlying the stony spread (Context No. 1903/1906) is highlighted in green.

4.22 Trench Twenty

4.22.1 Trench Twenty was positioned approximately 1.8m to the south-west of the western end of Trench Fifteen (Figure 10). The trench was aligned north-west/south-east and originally measured 10m in length (north-west/south-east) by 1m in width. However, the trench was extended to the north-east by 1m to investigate a possible feature (Context No. 2003) that had been observed. The trench was located in this position to observe if the ditch-like feature (Context Nos. 1403 And 1503) and stone deposit (Context Nos. 1404 and 1505) encountered in Trenches Fourteen and Fifteen continued in this area (Figure 34; Plate 25). Excavation of the trench proved that this was not the case (Plate 24).

4.22.2 The sod and topsoil (Context No. 2001) in this trench consisted of a light to mid brown sandy loam with numerous active tree roots (originating from the hedge line to the immediate north and west of the trench). The topsoil deposit was an average of 0.2m deep and directly overlay the bedrock which appeared to slop steadily to the north-west. A small sub-circular feature observed in the middle of the trench (Context No. 2003) turned out to be a shallow depression in the bedrock infilled with topsoil (Context No. 2001). A small sherd of modern bottle glass was recovered from this depression indicating that it is not archaeological or a feature of antiquity.

Plate 24: Trench Twenty following excavation to the surface of the bedrock (Context No. 2002) looking north-west.

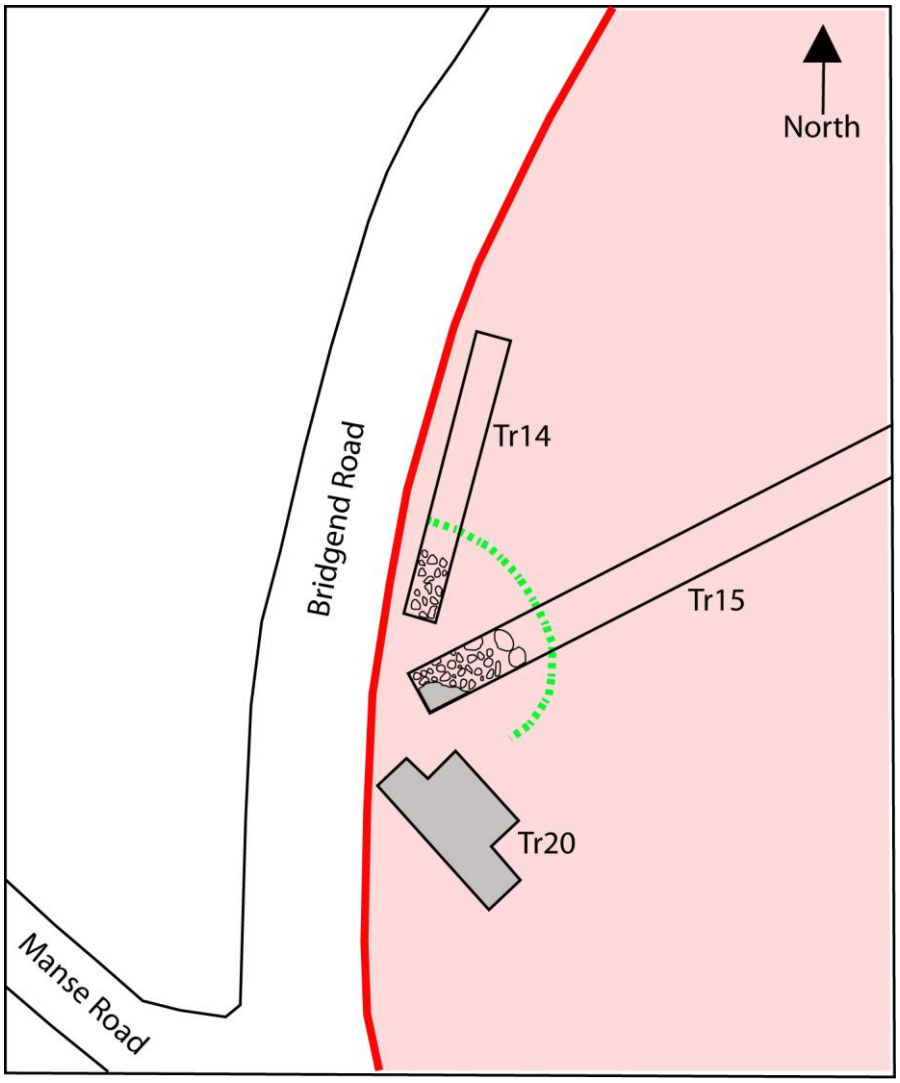


Figure 34: Schematic representation of the north-western end of the scheduled area (shaded red). Trenches Fourteen, Fifteen and Twenty show the location of the possible cairn as well as the possible extrapolation of the ditch feature (Context Nos. 1403 and 1503) (shown as the dashed green line). The bedrock encountered in Trenches Fifteen and Twenty has been shaded grey.

Plate 25: Trenches Fourteen, Fifteen and Twenty that were excavated in the area of the possible cairn, looking north.

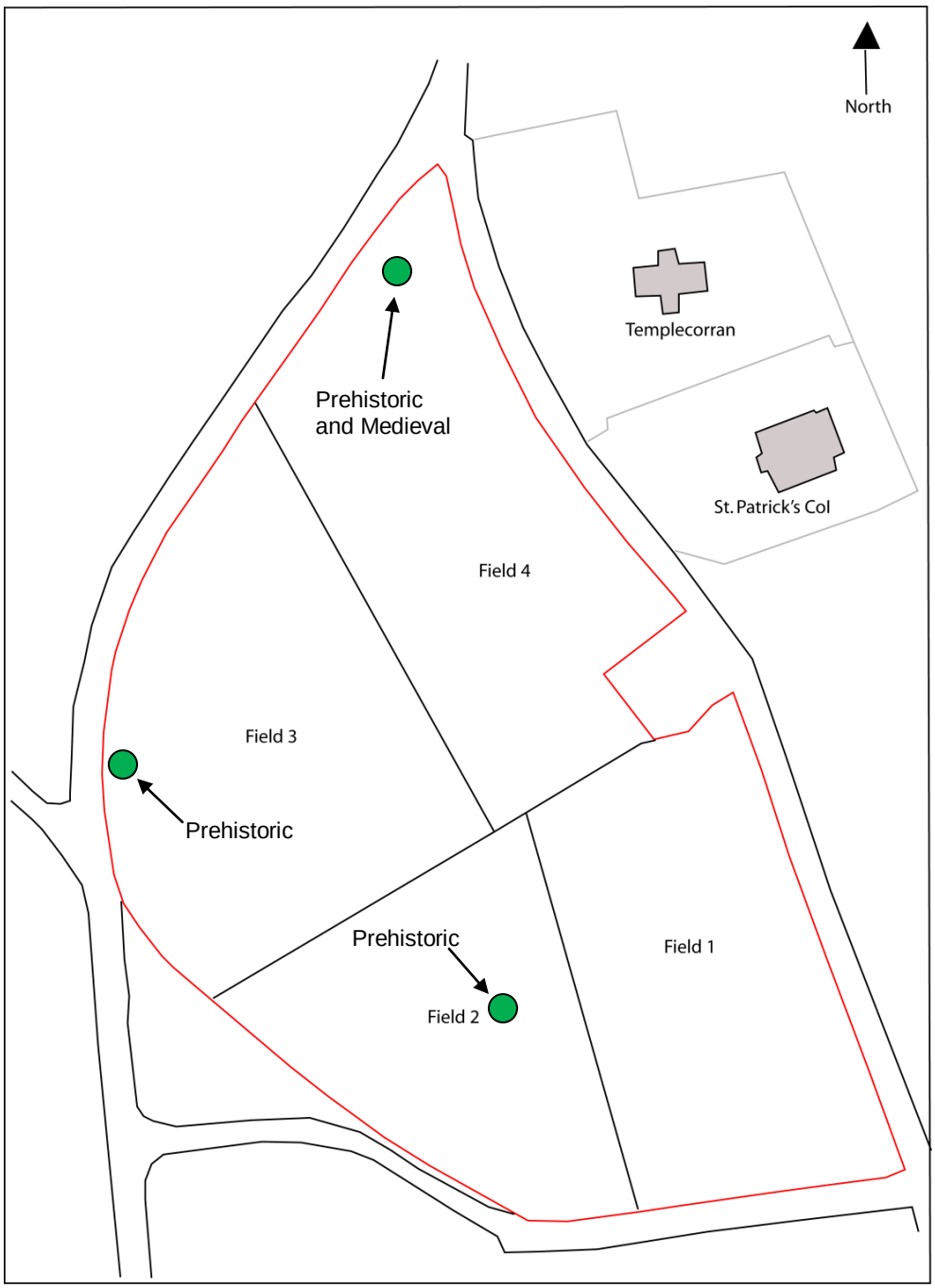


Figure 35: Approximate location of the discreet areas of archaeological potential (green dots) within the scheduled area.

5 Discussion

5.1 Introduction

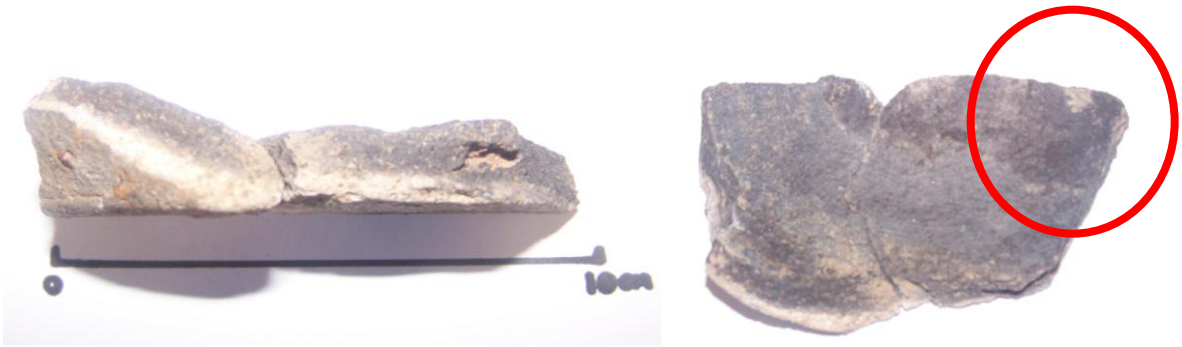
5.1.1 Although the Phase 2 investigation further supports the theory that the curvilinear bank that constitutes the western edge of the scheduled area is non-archaeological, it proved the presence of discreet areas of archaeological potential within the scheduled area (Figure 35). These features were not investigated in detail due to the remit of the exercise, which was to establish the existence and extent of the survival of any archaeological deposits.

5.2 Assessment of the curvilinear boundary and the archaeological features encountered

5.2.1 The excavation undertaken across the curvilinear boundary in 2010 (Sloan 2010), coupled with the results of the 2011 investigation would suggest that the curvilinear boundary is of no archaeological importance and is probably of early modern date. Although archaeological features were encountered along the boundary in Trenches Eleven, Fourteen, Fifteen and Twenty, it is not the case that these are related to the boundary itself, but they relate to Prehistoric (Trenches 14, 15 and Twenty) and Prehistoric and Medieval (Trench 11) activity.

5.2.2 Trench Eleven revealed numerous features of archaeological potential. The artefacts recovered from these features suggest activity ranging from the Prehistoric to Late Medieval periods, although the minimal investigation of the features makes the interpretation of their function difficult. Two joining sherds of pottery recovered from the curvilinear gully (Context No. 1108/1109) in Trench Eleven are of particular interest. The sherds represent a fragment of the base of a vessel of Medieval date (based on the riling on the interior of the sherds indicating that the vessel was wheel-thrown, excluding it from local Prehistoric wares). Provisional analysis of the pottery sherds suggests that they are French in origin, and date to around the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries AD (Audrey Gahan *pers* comm.). Charred encrustations are also visible on the interior of the pottery sherds, potentially providing a suitable sample to be submitted for radiocarbon dating (Plate 27). The linear gully (Context No. 1106/1107) encountered in the south-west of the trench appears to have cut through a spread of tenacious clay (Context No. 1103). Initial cleaning of the surface of this spread (Context No. 1103) produced a large sherd of carinated pottery, of probable Early Neolithic date (Naomi Carver *pers comm.*). This

evidence would suggest that the area closest to the ruins of Templecorran Church has been subject to many episodes of activity.



Plates 26 and 27 : Base sherds of Medieval pottery vessel that was recovered from the fill (Context No. 1108) of the curvilinear gully (Context No. 1109) in Trench Eleven. The image on the left shows the fabric of the vessel with a whitish exterior surface and dark grey to black interior. The image on the right shows the organic encrustations (circled) that could be suitable for submission for radiocarbon analysis.

5.2.3 The features encountered in Trenches Fourteen, Fifteen and Twenty are of archaeological potential. The presence of a rock cut ditch (Context Nos. 1403 and 1503) and a deposit of loose boulders (Context Nos. 1404 and 1505) would suggest that this feature represents a burial cairn of a type common in the Bronze Age.

5.2.4 The cairn material was particularly interesting in Trench Fifteen (Context No. 1505). During cleaning of the stones, it became clear that loose boulders and stones (Context No. 1505) as well as outcrops of bedrock were present in this area of the trench. The excavation of Trench Twenty to the south of Trench Fifteen showed that this area was dominated by a large outcrop of bedrock (Context No. 2002), suggesting that the cairn material in Trench Fifteen (Context No. 1505) had been deposited to the north and east of a pronounced outcrop. It is possible that the builders of this feature utilised a natural outcrop of bedrock, quarried out stones from its northern and eastern side, and then used the stones to augment the shape of the mound. This has previously been identified in excavations of cairns carried out at Loughkeelan and Castleward, Co. Down (Collins 1957, 29; 32).

5.2.5 The cairn material (Context Nos. 1404 and 1505) largely comprised angular and sub-rounded rocks and boulders (average size: 0.3m x 0.2m x 0.25m). However, a single flat slab of rock (Context No. 1506 - exposed measurements: 0.45m (north/south) x 0.73m (east/west) x 0.08m thick) was observed (Figure 27; Plate 18). The slab of rock continued into the south-east facing section of the trench. A void was noted beneath this stone,

although it was not further investigated at the request of the NIEA. This feature is suggestive of a cist burial of Bronze Age date.

5.2.6 The other archaeological features observed during Phase 2 of the investigation were encountered in Trenches Eighteen and Nineteen. These primarily consisted of a stone and clay layer that appeared to be present in both trenches (Context No. 1803 and 1906 respectively). The artefact assemblage recovered from this feature comprised wholly of Prehistoric material, with both flint and pottery being recovered. It is thought the pottery sherds are Prehistoric in date (Naomi Carver *pers comm.*), although a formal date could not be assigned as they are undecorated body sherds of coarse ware vessels. The presence of two hollow scrapers amongst the lithic assemblage would indicate activity dating to the Middle Neolithic, when this tool form was most common. The two hollow scrapers recovered from the stone and clay spread in Trench Nineteen (Context No. 1906) are of 'classic type' (trapezoidal flake, *chapeau de gendarme* striking platform and pronounced double dorsal ridges). This tool form is indicative of activity between c.3600 BC and 3100BC (Woodman 1994, 213). The function of hollow scrapers is an issue of debate. It has been suggested that they did not have a single specific purpose, rather provided a suitable tool whenever a sharp serrated cutting edge was required. Nelis (2004) has noted that the tool form starts to appear in assemblages around the same time as the demise of the Plano-convex knife and associated types, and it is suggested that they took a knife role in the Middle Neolithic (Nelis 2004, 165).

Plate 28: Flint artefacts recovered from the grey clay deposit (Context No. 1903) in Trench Nineteen. The artefact on the left is an end scraper and, although a fine example of the implement type, is by form relatively undiagnostic. The two artefacts on the right are Hollow Scrapers of probable Middle Neolithic date.

5.3 Aerial photographs

5.3.1 Analysis of the aerial photographs of the vicinity lends much to the interpretation of the site. The area to the west of the Bentra Road was scheduled on the assumption that the current upstanding bank delineated the western side of a large sub-circular enclosure of possible Early Medieval date. Indeed, the aerial photograph taken in 1961 (Figure 6) shows crop marks to the east of the Bentra Road, in the fields to the east of Templecorran Church and the modern St. Patrick's Church of Ireland. However, cartographic analysis of the area (Hartwell 1990) suggests that the crop marks visible in the 1961 photograph are relict Post-Medieval field boundaries (Figure 5) and are not of archaeological significance.

5.3.2 Photographic records from 1951 (Figure 36) further support the theory that the crop marks visible to the east of the Bentra Road on the 1961 image (Figure 6) are relict field boundaries, as a hedge line is extant in the south-east of the enclosure (Figure 37: 8). It is possible that it was this feature that was subject to archaeological excavation during work carried out in 1993/4 (Crothers 2000). However, a distinct circular crop mark enclosing the ruins of Templecorran and the present day church is visible (Figure 36 and 37; 1). The curvilinear feature is not visible on the 1961 aerial photograph.

Figure 36: RAF aerial photo of Ballycarry village and the scheduled enclosure, taken in November 1951 (QUB map library).

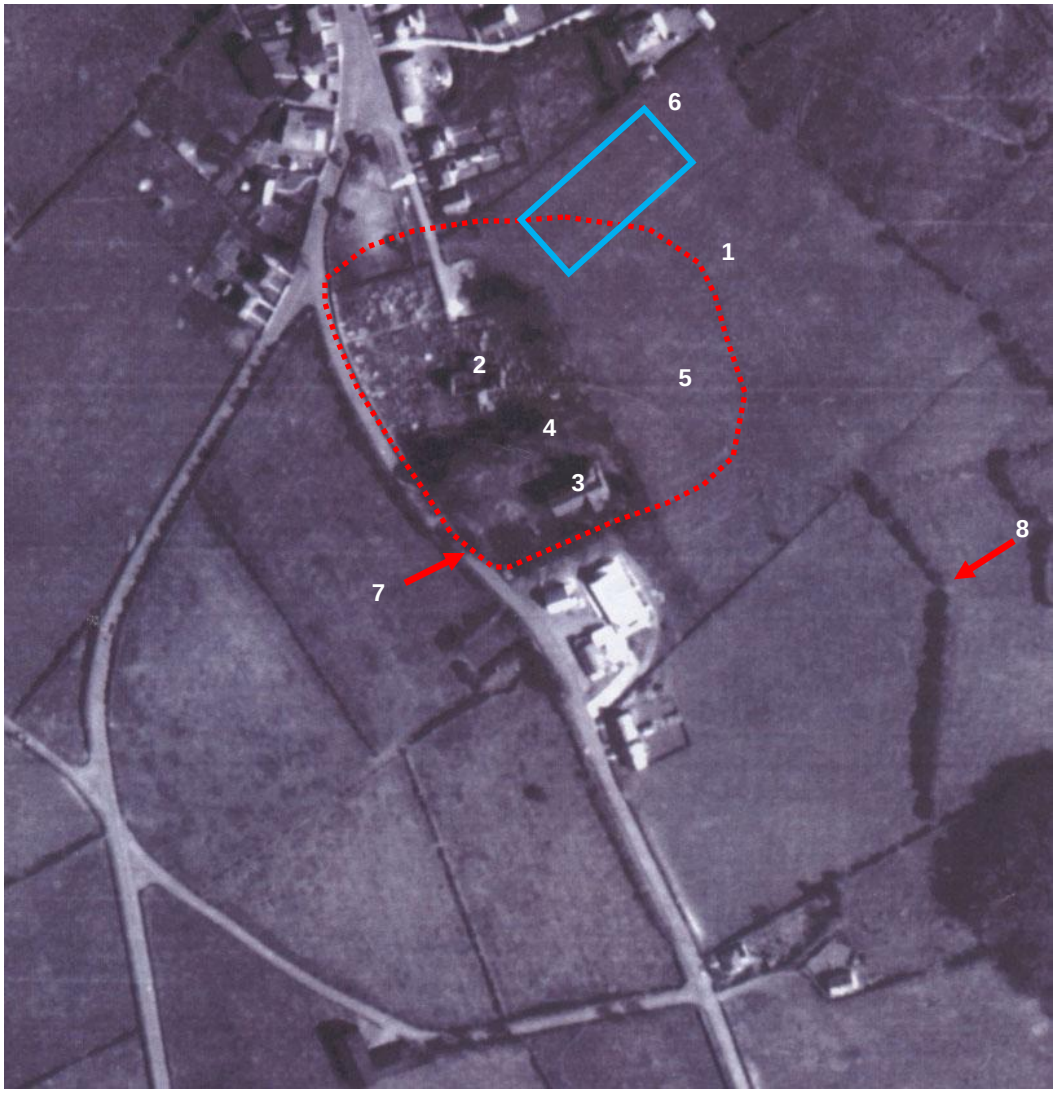


Figure 37: Annotated version of Figure 36 showing: (1) the suggested outline of the ecclesiastical enclosure; (2) the ruins of the 17th-century church of Templecorran; (3) St. Patrick's Church of Ireland; (4) the approximate location of the discovery of mortared wall foundations (O'Laverty 1884, 91; McClintock 1990, 25); (5) possible structure shown by square-shaped crop mark; (6) location of Hartwell's geophysical survey (1990); (7) the kink in the Bentra Road that possibly respects the western side of the enclosure and (8) extant hedge line/field boundary.

5.3.3 This feature seems to enclose an approximate 'D' shaped area, approximately 130m in diameter. A distinct 'kink' (Figure 37: 7) in the Bentra Road is visible along the western side of the current St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, as well as the ruins of Templecorran church. It is probable that this kink respects the western side of the enclosure that appears as a crop mark to the east. The size of this enclosure (c.130m east/west by c.128m north/south) corresponds well with other known Early Medieval ecclesiastical

enclosures such as the middle enclosure of Nendrum Co. Down (diameter of 122m) (Edwards 1990, 107), and the enclosure at Inishargy Co. Down (diameter of 130m) (NISMR DOW 018:001).

5.3.4 O'Laverty (1884, 91) states that '*the foundations of several extensive buildings which had very broad walls have been found in the graveyard and adjoining fields'.* This suggests that masonry had been recorded in the vicinity of the St. Patrick's Church, located to the immediate south of the ruins of Templecorran. This is supported by McClintock who records the discovery of mortared walls during grave digging in the area to the north of the present church in 1989 (1990, 25). Assuming that these remains represent the foundations of a substantial building (the Medieval church of Lislaynan?), it would be located at, or near to the centre, of the enclosure. This positioning of the church is more likely than being at the northern end of a huge enclosure, as the scheduled monument would suggest.

5.3.5 O'Laverty also records the discovery of *'stone lined graves, formed by slabs of white limestone….are found in the adjoining fields at a considerable distance from the present graveyard'* (1884, 91). The description of these graves sounds akin to 'long cists' which Hamlin states were the preferred form of burial for a prolonged time, certainly from the Early Christian period through to the Medieval (Hamlin 1976, 89). It is possible that O'Laverty is ascribing these discoveries the area to the east of St. Patrick's, as archaeological mitigation undertaken to the south of the church in 2005, as well as the current investigations within the scheduled enclosure on the west of the Bentra Road, have not produced any evidence of burials.

5.4 Conclusion

5.4.1 Both the 2010 and 2011 archaeological investigations at Ballycarry uncovered no remains dating to the Early Medieval period, while other previous excavations in the vicinity (Crothers 2000; Murray 2010) also found no evidence of Early Medieval structures or material culture. Archaeological evidence, however, has been uncovered during the course of these excavations, but has been dated to the Prehistoric, Late Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. If the enclosure at Ballycarry did contain an Early Medieval monastery then not only is the historical record silent, but the archaeological evidence in support of such a theory is lacking. What might we have expected to have found at Ballycarry if this were indeed an early monastic site? The most extensive excavation carried out at a large ecclesiastical site of Early Medieval date in Ulster was Henry

Lawlor's investigation at Nendrum, Co. Down, in the period from 1922 to 1924 (Donnelly 1997, 59), although small-scale excavations have also been carried out at sites like Armagh. The combination of excavated evidence and surviving remains indicates that a central element at a monastic site was the vallum, an enclosing bank that may have been accompanied by ditches and stone walls (Edwards 1990, 106). Within the main enclosure it was also common for ecclesiastical sites to have inner enclosures. At Nendrum, for example, there are three roughly oval concentric enclosures, with the innermost area containing the most important buildings in the monastery, including a round tower and a church. High crosses and souterrains might also be found at a monastery, as well as buildings (monk's cells) and artefacts (metalworking debris, pottery) associated with daily monastic life, and a monastic burial ground. These are the elements one would normally expect to encounter at the site of an Early Medieval monastery - such as at Iona, Nendrum, Armagh and Devenish – but, as can be seen from Table 4, archaeological evidence for none of these elements were encountered during the investigation at Ballycarry, despite the excavation of 20 trenches that encompassed an area of 950m².

Element of Monastic Complex	***Evidence at Ballycarry enclosure***
Vallum or inner enclosures	No evidence
Souterrain	No evidence
Foundations of a round tower or circular hut platforms (monk's cells)	No evidence
Romanesque or carved masonry fragments (eg: high cross pieces, angle pilasters)	No evidence
Burials	No evidence
Evidence of metalworking (eg: slag, crucible fragments)	No evidence
Material Culture diagnostic of Early Medieval date (eg: sherds of Souterrain Ware)	No evidence

Table 4: Elements of Early Medieval monastic sites and the evidence for these elements at Ballycarry, County Antrim.

5.4.2 Both Phase 1 (Sloan 2010) and Phase 2 of the archaeological investigation into the Scheduled enclosure at Ballycarry, Co. Antrim have shown that the current Scheduled Area (as defined by the upstanding bank along its western side) is not of significant antiquity, nor is the alignment of the boundary based on the line of a previous

archaeological or historical boundary. Areas of archaeological potential do exist within the enclosed space, although these are not associated with the boundary itself, nor can they be interpreted as belonging to an Early Medieval monastic complex. Analysis of the 1951 aerial photograph for the area (Figures 36 and 37) suggests that an enclosure is present around Templecorran Church, although at c.130m in diameter it is much smaller than the Scheduled Area itself (which is approximately 330m in diameter). If the enclosure were to be considered as the Scheduled Area then the ecclesiastical foundation at Ballycarry would have been on a scale of Armagh and Downpatrick. One might imagine that the existence of such a major settlement of this scale would have merited mention in the historical sources. However, the absence of any reference to any ecclesiastical foundation at Ballycarry prior to the Papal Taxation of 1306-7, suggests a more humble role for Ballycarry during the Medieval period. As such, it can be suggested that the monastery here was surrounded by a smaller vallum, possibly the feature shown on the 1951 aerial photograph (Figures 36 and 37:1). Late Medieval activity in this area is supported by the discovery of the sherds of thirteenth/fourteenth century pottery in Trench Eleven. It may be significant that this trench was located near to the ruins of Templecorran Church, close to the western boundary of the possible enclosure, represented as a distinct kink in the Bentra Road (Figure 37: 7).

6 Recommendations

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The investigations carried out in 2010 and 2011 have concluded that the current upstanding bank that delineates the western side of the scheduled area is not of an archaeological nature. Discreet areas of archaeological potential, however, do exist within the enclosure, although it is not the case that these are related to the upstanding bank which is Early Modern in date. Analysis of the 1951 aerial photograph does, however, suggest that an enclosure surrounds the ruins of Templecorran Church, but it is much more restricted in size (Figure 36 and 37:1).

6.2 Further study of the artefact assemblage

6.2.1 The majority of the artefact assemblage was recovered from topsoil deposits, is residual and thus lends little to our interpretation of the site as a whole. However, it is recommended that the pottery sherds (Plates 26 and 27) recovered from the curvilinear gully in Trench Eleven (Context No. 1108) are forwarded to a specialist for formal identification and study.

4.3 *Sample processing and radiocarbon dating*

6.3.1 The soil sample collected during the excavation, of the fill (Context No. 1108) from the curvilinear gully (Context No. 1109) in Trench Eleven should be processed to retrieve any macrofossils that could be forwarded for radiocarbon dating.

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Appendix One: Context Register

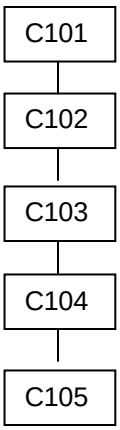
Trench	Context No.	Description
One extension	101	Sod and topsoil
	102	Tarmac surface of roadway
	103	Upper hardcore deposit
	104	Lower hardcore deposit
	105	Natural subsoil
Two extension	201	Sod and topsoil
	202	Tarmac surface of roadway
	203	Upper hardcore deposit
	204	Lower hardcore deposit
	205	Natural subsoil
Three	301	Sod and topsoil
	302	Tarmac surface of roadway
	303	Upper hardcore deposit
	304	Lower hardcore deposit
	305	Natural subsoil
Four	401	Sod and topsoil
	402	Tarmac surface of roadway
	403	Upper hardcore deposit
	404	Lower hardcore deposit
	405	Natural subsoil
Five	501	Sod and topsoil
	502	Natural subsoil
Six	601	Sod and topsoil
	602	Natural subsoil
Seven	701	Sod and topsoil
	702	Natural subsoil

	703	Fill of shallow gully
	704	Cut of gully
Eight	801	Sod and topsoil
	802	Natural subsoil
Nine	901	Sod and topsoil
	902	Natural subsoil
Ten	1001	Sod and topsoil
	1002	Natural subsoil
	1003	Cut for probable tree bowl
	1004	Fill of 1003
Eleven	1101	Sod and topsoil
	1102	Hill wash deposit
	1103	Tenacious clay spread
	1104	Fill of small ditch in northern end of trench
	1105	Cut for 1104
	1106	Fill of small ditch in southern end of trench
	1107	Cut for 1106
	1108	Fill of curvilinear gully
	1109	Cut for 1108
	1110	Unused
	1111	Curvilinear feature – possibly associated with 1109
	1112	Possible area of burning/scorched earth
	1113	Circular clay spread
	1114	Possible posthole
	1115	Natural subsoil
	1116	Possible posthole
Twelve	1201	Sod and topsoil
	1202	Natural subsoil

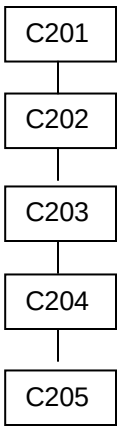
	1203	Loam upper fill of pit
	1204	Charcoal rich lower deposit of pit
	1205	Cut of pit, filled by 1203 and 1204
Thirteen	1301	Sod and topsoil
	1302	Natural subsoil/bedrock
Fourteen	1401	Sod and topsoil
	1402	Natural subsoil/bedrock
	1403	Ditch cut
	1404	Cairn material
	1405	Loamy fill of 1415
	1406	loose rounded stones at base of 1403
	1407	Light greyish layer with crushed shell(?)
	1408	Loose silty clay layer
	1409	Possible redeposited subsoil
	1410	Rounded stones within gritty clay
	1411	Primary fill of 1403
	1412	Thin lens of grey clay
	1413	Primary fill of 1414
	1414	Cut
	1415	Cut
	1416	Possible sod layer above 1404
Fifteen	1501	Sod and topsoil
	1502	Natural subsoil/bedrock
	1503	Ditch cut
	1504	Loamy ditch fill
	1505	Cairn material
	1506	Possible capstone
Sixteen	1601	Sod and topsoil
	1602	Natural subsoil
Seventeen	1701	Sod and topsoil
	1702	Natural subsoil

Eighteen	1801	Sod and topsoil
	1802	Natural subsoil
	1803	Stone spread
	1804	Tenacious clay with charcoal inclusions
Nineteen	1901	Sod and topsoil
	1902	Natural subsoil
	1903	Tenacious clay with charcoal inclusions
	1904	Fill of shallow pit
	1905	Cut filled by 1904
	1906	Stone spread
	1907	Fill of linear gully
	1908	Cut of linear gully
	1909	fill of linear gully
	1910	Cut of linear gully
Twenty	2001	Sod and topsoil
	2002	Natural subsoil/bedrock

Appendix Two: Harris matrices



Trench One extension



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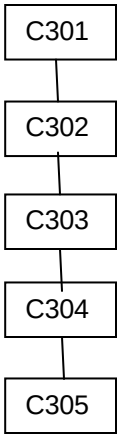

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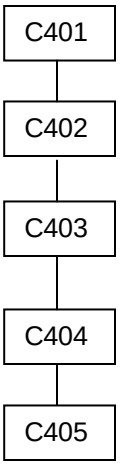

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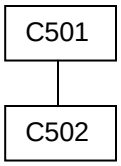

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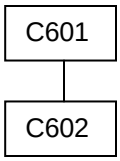

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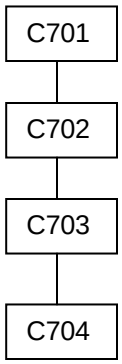

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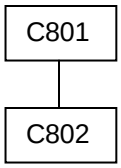

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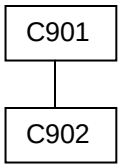

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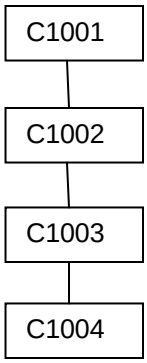

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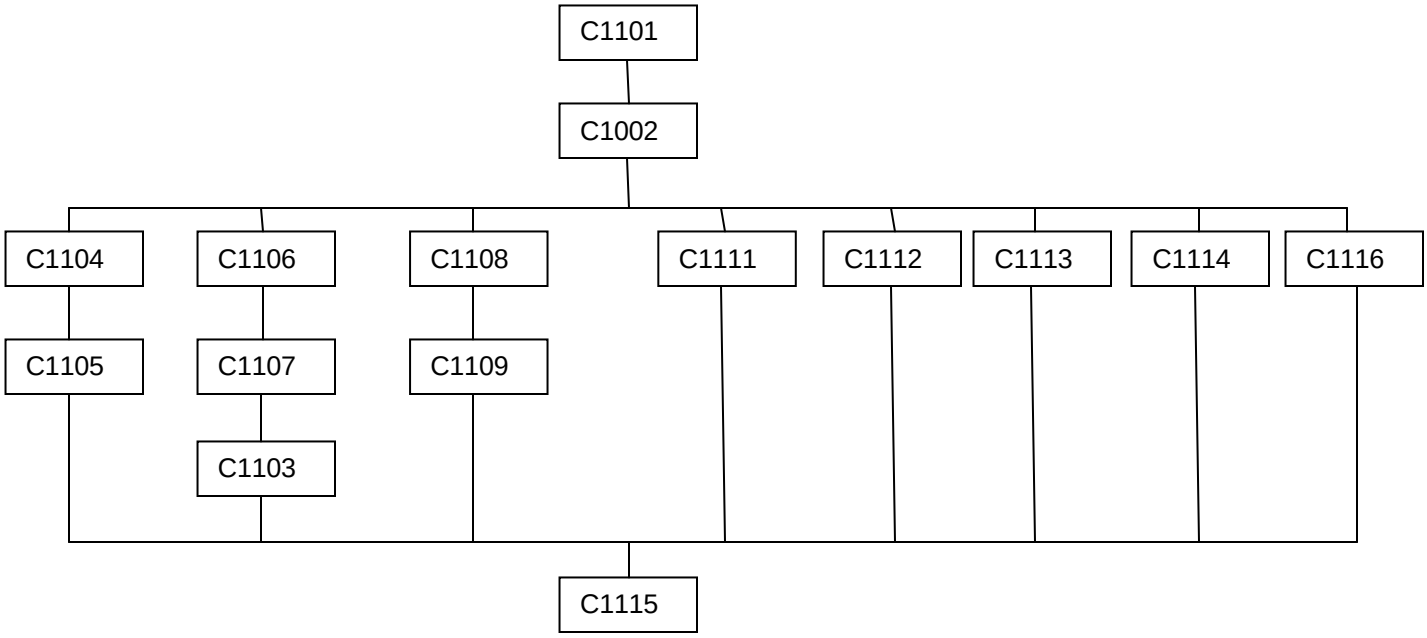

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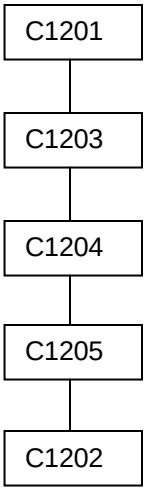

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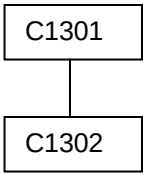

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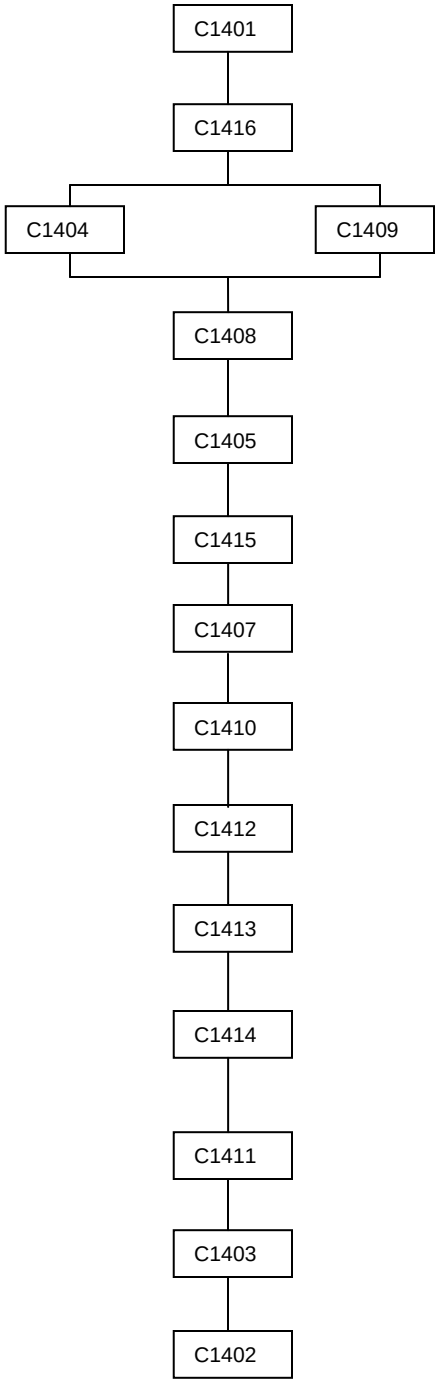

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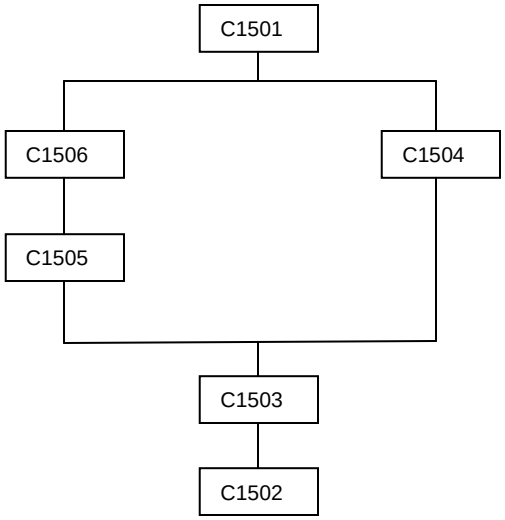
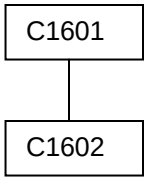
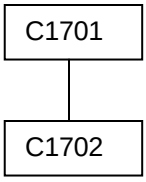


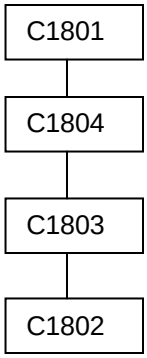
Trench Fifteen



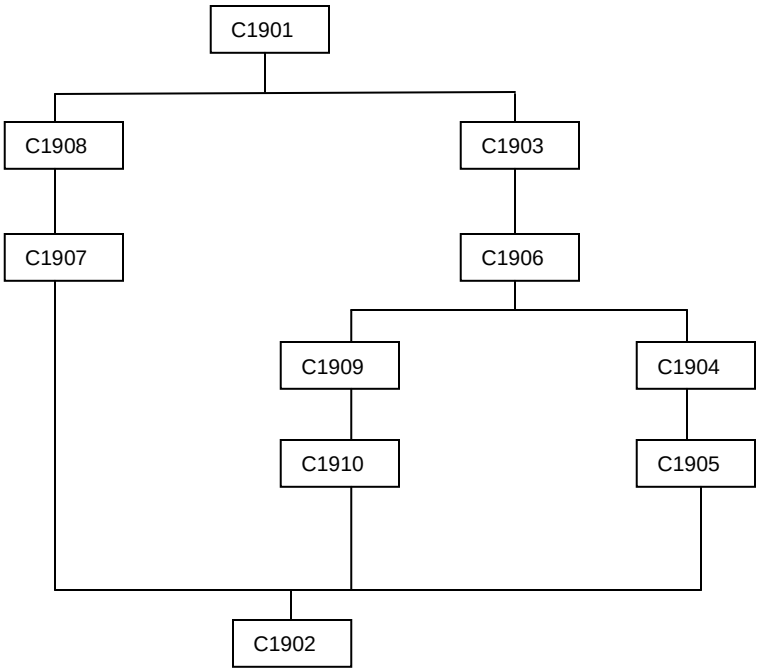
Trench Sixteen



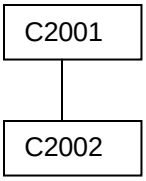
Trench Seventeen



Trench Eighteen



Trench Nineteen



Trench Twenty

Appendix Three: Photographic Register

Jpeg #	Description
0002	Trench Seven looking east
0003	Trench Seven looking east
0004	Context No. 704 looking north
0005	Context No. 704 looking west
0008	North-facing section of Context No. 704
0009	Exterior of scheduled bank, pre-excavation
0011	Trench One road surface, looking south
0012	Trench One mid-excavation
0013	Excavation of hardcore deposit, looking south-west
0014	North-west facing section of Trench Two
0015	Trench Three mid-excavation
0018	North-east facing section of Trench Two
0020	South-east facing section of Trench Four
0022	Post-excavation view of Context No. 704, looking west
0023	Trench Seven looking west
0024	Trench Six looking south-west
0025	Bedrock outcrop in Trench Five, looking north-east
0028	North-west facing section of Trench Four
0032	Trench Eight looking west
0043	Trench Eleven looking north-west
0044	Trench Eleven looking south-east
0045	Trench Eleven looking south-east
0047	Trench Eleven looking south-east
0048	Trench Eleven looking south-east
0049	Trench Eleven looking north-west
0050	Trench Eleven looking north-west
0051	Trench Ten looking north-west
0052	Trench Ten looking north-west
0053	Trench Ten looking south-east
0054	Trench Thirteen looking west
0055	Trench Thirteen looking east
0056	Trench Twelve looking west
0057	Trench Twelve looking east

0060	Trench Fifteen looking west
0061	Trench Fifteen looking west
0062	Close up of possible cairn material in Trench Fifteen, looking north
0064	Trench Fifteen looking east
0065	Trench Fifteen looking east
0066	Trench Sixteen looking north-west
0067	Trench Sixteen looking north-west
0069	Trench Sixteen looking south-east
0070	Pit feature in Trench Twelve looking north-west
0071	Pit feature in Trench Twelve looking north-west
0075	Trench Fifteen cairn material looking south-west
0076	Trench Fifteen cairn material looking south-west
0077	Trench Fifteen cairn material looking north-east
0078	Trench Fifteen cairn material looking north-east
0079	Close up of possible capstone
0080	Close up of possible capstone
0081	Close up of possible capstone
0083	Trench Fourteen looking south-west
0084	Trench Fourteen looking south-west
0085	Trench Fourteen looking south
0086	Trench Fourteen looking south
0087	Close up of cairn material in Trench Fourteen
0090	Ditch in Trench Fourteen looking north-east
0091	Trench Fourteen bedrock looking west
0092	Trench Fourteen looking south-west
0093	Trench Fourteen looking north-east
0095	Trench Seventeen looking south-west
0096	Trench Seventeen looking south-west
0097	Trench Seventeen looking north-east
0099	Trench Twenty looking north-west
0100	Trench Twenty looking north-west
0101	Trench Twenty, depression in subsoil, looking north
0102	Trench Twenty, depression in subsoil, looking north
0103	Trench Twenty looking north-west
0104	Trench Twenty looking north-west
0109	Trench Fourteen looking south-west

0110	Trench Fourteen looking south-west
0111	Trench Fourteen looking north-east
0112	Trench Fourteen looking north-east
0113	Trench Fourteen following removal of section of cairn material
0114	Trench Fourteen following removal of section of cairn material
0115	Trench Nineteen looking north-west
0116	Trench Nineteen looking north-west
0117	Trench Nineteen looking south-east
0118	Trench Nineteen looking south-east
0119	Pottery sherds *in situ* Context No. 1904
0121	Trenches Eighteen and Nineteen looking north
0122	Trenches Eighteen and Nineteen looking north
0123	Trench Eleven Context No. 1106
0124	Trench Eleven Context No. 1106
0125	Trench Eleven Context No. 1106
0127	Trench Eighteen looking south
0128	Trench Eighteen looking south
0129	Trench Eighteen looking north
0131	Detail of stones Context No. 1803
0132	Detail of stones Context No. 1803
0134	Trench Nineteen looking south-east
0136	Trench Nineteen looking north-west
0138	Trench Fourteen, mid-excavation, looking south-west
0139	Trench Fourteen, mid-excavation, looking south-west
0140	Trench Fourteen, mid-excavation, looking north-east
0142	South-east facing section of Trench Fourteen
0146	South-west facing section of Trench Eighteen
0147	Trench Eighteen looking south-east
0151	Context No. 1909 in Trench Nineteen, looking north
0153	Context No. 1909 in Trench Nineteen, looking south
0154	Context No. 1909 in Trench Nineteen, looking south
0155	Context No. 1106, Trench Eleven, looking north-west
0157	Context No. 1109, Trench Eleven, looking south
0158	Context No. 1109, Trench Eleven, looking north
0160	Context No. 1104, Trench Eleven, looking north-west
0161	Context No. 1104, Trench Eleven, looking south

0163	Trench Eighteen looking south-east
0165	South-west facing section of Trench Eighteen
0167	Context No. 1908, Trench Nineteen, looking west
0168	Trench Nineteen looking south
0169	Trench Nineteen looking south-east
0170	Trench Twenty looking north-west
0171	Trench Twenty bedrock looking south-west
0172	Trenches Twenty, Fourteen and Fifteen looking north
0173	Trench Twenty looking south-east
0175	Trench Fourteen post-excavation looking west
0176	Trench Fourteen post-excavation looking west
0177	South-east facing section of Trench Fourteen
0178	South-east facing section of Trench Fourteen
0179	South-east facing section of Trench Fourteen
0180	South-east facing section of Trench Fourteen

Appendix Four: Field drawing register

Drawing No.	Type	Detail
1	Section	Trench Seven, north-facing section of C704
2	Plan	Trench Seven, post-ex plan of C704
3	Section	Trench Twelve, south-east facing section of C1205
4	Plan	Trench Twelve, post-ex plan of C1205
5	Plan	Trench Ten, post-ex plan
6	Plan	Trench Eleven, mid-ex plan
7	Plan	Trench Fifteen showing cairn material C1505
8	Section	Trench Eleven, south-east facing section of C1105
9	Section	Trench Eleven, south facing section of C1109
10	Section	Trench Eleven, east facing section of C1107
11	Plan	Trench Eighteen, post-ex plan
12	Plan	Trench Nineteen, post-ex plan
13	Section	Trench Fifteen, south-facing section
14	Plan	Trench Eleven post-ex plan of prior to backfilling
15	Plan	Trench Fourteen prior to removal of cairn C1404
16	Section	Trench Fourteen south-east facing section
17	Plan	Trench Fourteen plan following removal of cairn material C1404
18	Section	Trench Fourteen east-facing showing C1404, and 1407

Drawing No.	Type	Detail
19	Section	Trench Nineteen north-facing section of C1910
20	Section	Trench One Extension, north-west facing section
21	Section	Trench Two Extension, south-east facing section
22	Section	Trench Three, north-west facing section
23	Section	Trench Four, north-west facing section
24	Plan	Trench Ten, post-excavation plan
25	Section	Trench Eighteen south-west facing section
26	Section	Trench Nineteen, south west facing section of C1907
27	Section	Trench Nineteen, south-west facing section

Appendix Five: Sample Register

Sample No.	Trench	Context No.	Weight	Reason for sampling
1	11	1108	5.32Kg	Potential feature for radiocarbon dating