



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 254

**SITE 130M WEST OF 22 FORT ROAD
TULLYRUSK
GLENNAVY
COUNTY ANTRIM**

LICENCE NO.: AE/12/155E

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: site 130m west of 22 Fort Road, Tullyrusk, Glenavy, Co. Antrim

Townland: Tullyrusk

SMR No. : ANT 059:042

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 2119 7354

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/12/155E

Planning Ref / No. : S/2011/0832/O

Dates of Monitoring: 4th January 2013

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 130m west of 22 Fort Road, Tullyrusk, Glenavy, Co. Antrim in response to a planning application for a new dwelling and garage. The site is immediately adjacent to Tullyrusk Fort (NISMR ANT 059:042). Five test trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. The trenches were each 1.6m wide and 30.0-35.0m long. No finds or features of archaeological interest were uncovered during the evaluation. It is therefore recommended that there is no need for any further archaeological mitigation at the site.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of five test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Five trenches each approximately 1.6m wide and 30.0-35.0m long.

Current Land Use: Agricultural

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a proposed new dwelling and garage is located in the Belfast hills approximately 6km east of Glenavy and 2km south of the village of Dundrod (Figures 1 and 2). The site lies on relatively high ground with good views from the south to the north, including as far as to Lough Neagh in the west (Plates 1-3). It is around 200m above sea level. The application site is adjacent to and to the south of a scheduled monument called Tullyrusk Fort (NISMR ANT 059:042). The fort is a raised rath dating to the early Christian period which may have been re-used as a fort in the 17th century. According to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) the fort occupies an ideal strategic location, on a hill top with panoramic views. It consists of a mound 2.4m high and 30.0m wide (Plate 4). The mound is surrounded by a 5.5m wide ditch which is up to 0.7m deep (Plate 5). There is the remains of at least one building on the top of the mound, as well as the possible remains of another, and the site was described in the OS memoirs as 'an ancient castle'. The mound is fenced off and the grass kept quite well maintained, however, it is encroached on to the south-east by a large barn.

The application site is located in the north-eastern part of a large field and covers an area of approximately 0.2 hectares. It is fenced off from the remainder of the field by a post-and-wire fence and enclosed to the south-east by a stone wall with mature trees growing from the base of it. Beyond this is a derelict stone building which is also due to be converted into a residential dwelling. The Fort Road runs to the south-east of this property. The application site is currently used as a paddock for horses.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and garage and was requested by Kevin Maguire of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit.

Excavation

The original research design proposed the excavation of five test trenches ranging from 50-70m in length. Given the topography of the site and the location of the proposed new dwelling, garage and associated services, it was decided that five trenches each around 35m long would be excavated and concentrated in the area of the proposed works (Figures 3 and 4).

The trenches were 1.6m wide and 30.0-35.0m long. All were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at an average depth of 0.2-0.3m.

Trench 1

Trench 1 ran parallel to the post-and-wire fence on the south-western side of the site. The trench was 2.0m to the north-east of this boundary. It was 1.6m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 6 and 7). The uppermost layer in Trench 1 consisted of greyish

brown loamy clay (C101). The layer contained no inclusions and had a spongy consistence. It was around 0.2m thick and directly overlay the subsoil. The subsoil (C102) consisted of orange sandy clay which contained some angular stones. The surface was encountered at a depth of 0.2m. There were no finds or features of archaeological interest in Trench 1.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located 4.0m to the north-east of Trench 2 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.6m wide and 31.0m long (Plates 8 and 9). The uppermost layer in Trench 2 (C201) consisted of mid brown loamy clay with no inclusions. The layer was up to 0.2m thick and contained no finds. Below it was a thin cultivation soil (C202) consisting of mid brown loamy clay which was 0.1m thick. The cultivation soil overlay the orange boulder clay subsoil (C203), the surface of which was encountered at a depth of 0.3m. No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed in Trench 2.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located 5.0m to the north-east of Trench 3 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.6m wide and 35.0m long (Plates 10 and 11). The uppermost layer in Trench 3 was the sod and topsoil layer (C301). This consisted of mid greyish brown loamy clay which was up to 0.2m thick and contained no inclusions. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (C302) consisting of mid brown loamy clay which was 0.1m thick. Underlying the cultivation soil was the orange boulder clay subsoil (C303), the surface of which was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.3m. There were no finds or features of archeological interest in Trench 3.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was positioned 5.0m to the north-east of Trench 3 and ran parallel to it. It was 1.6m wide and 32.0m long (Plates 12 and 13). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench 4 (C401) consisted of mid brown silty clay loam which was 0.15m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation layer (C402) consisting of orangeish brown silty clay loam. The layer was 0.15m thick and contained tree roots. It overlay the boulder clay subsoil (C403) which was sandier than in other trenches. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.3m and it contained tree roots. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance in Trench 4.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located 4.0m to the north-east of Trench 4 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.6m wide and 30.0m long (Plate 14). The uppermost layer in Trench 5 was the sod and topsoil layer (C501) which consisted of mid brown silty clay loam which was 0.1m thick. Below the topsoil was a silty clay loam cultivation layer (C502) which was mid orangeish brown in colour and contained tree roots. The layer was 0.2m thick. Below the cultivation layer was the boulder clay subsoil (C503) which contained tree roots and pockets of topsoil and stones at the north-western side. The

surface of the subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.3m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance in Trench 5.

No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered within the five trenches excavated at the proposed development site. It is not thought that the proposed development will impinge on any unknown archaeological deposits and therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual 'Excavations' bulletin.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

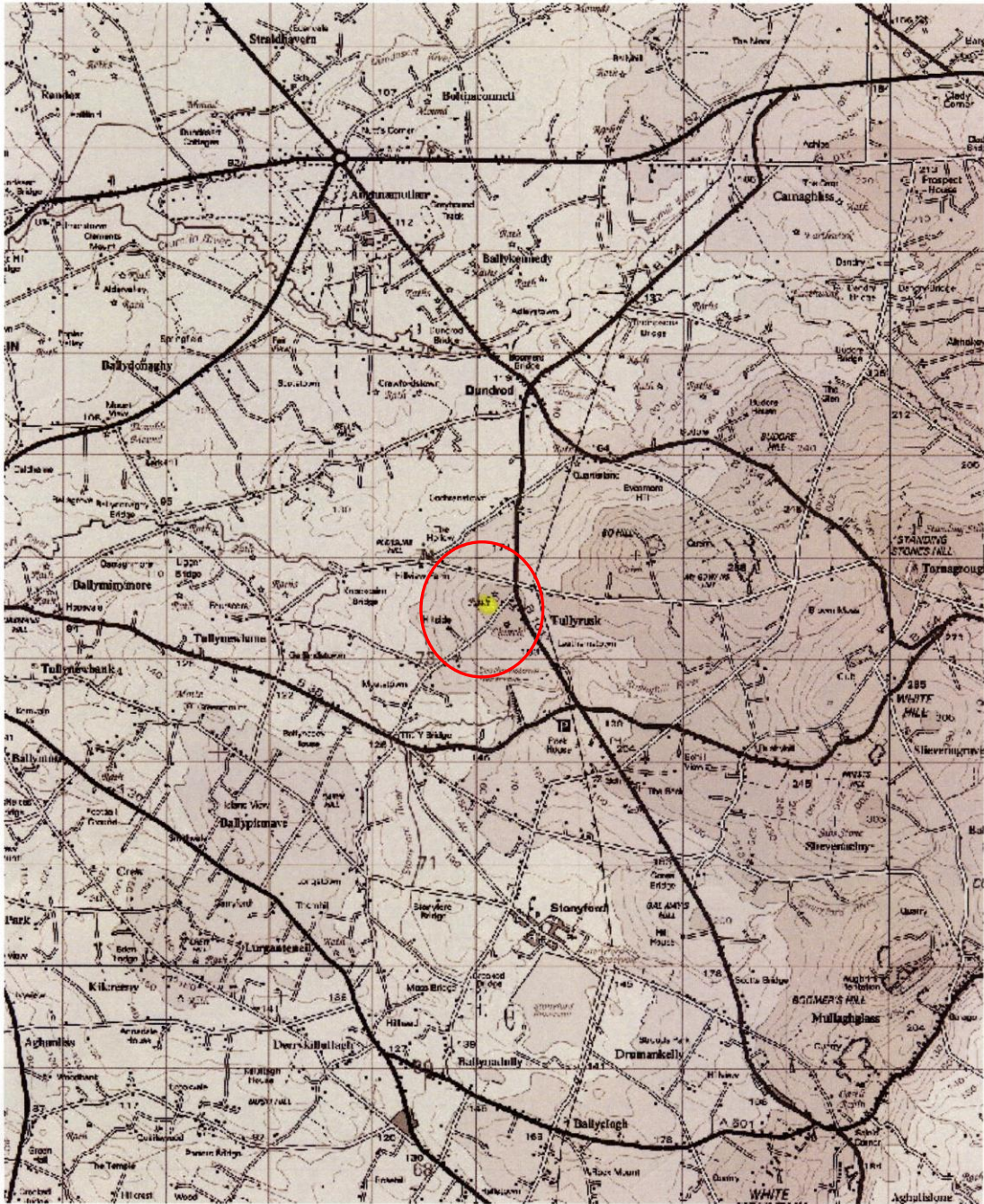
Photographs:

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

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____



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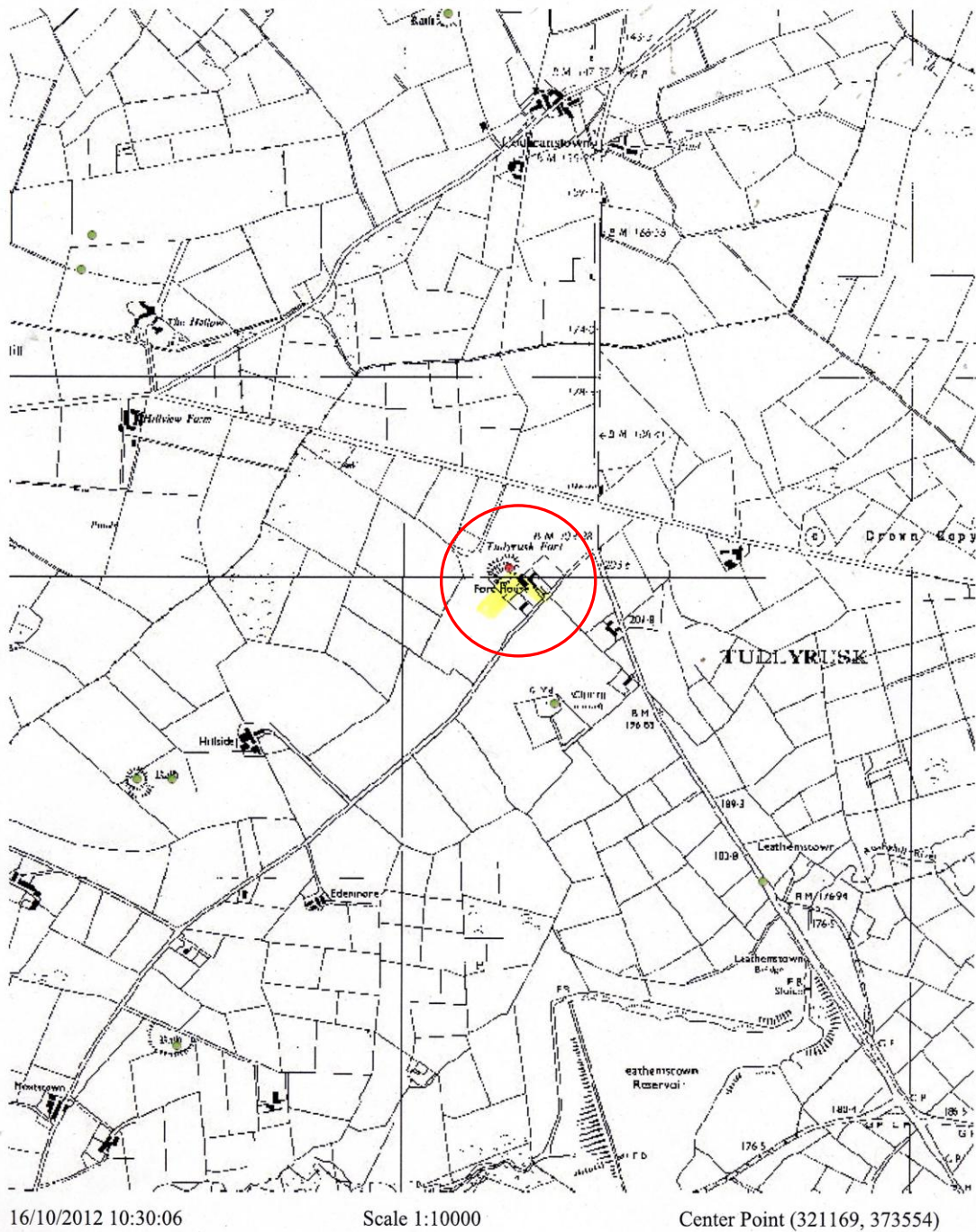
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Figure 1: Map showing the location of the site (circled in red)



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Figure 2: Detailed map showing the location of the site (circled in red)

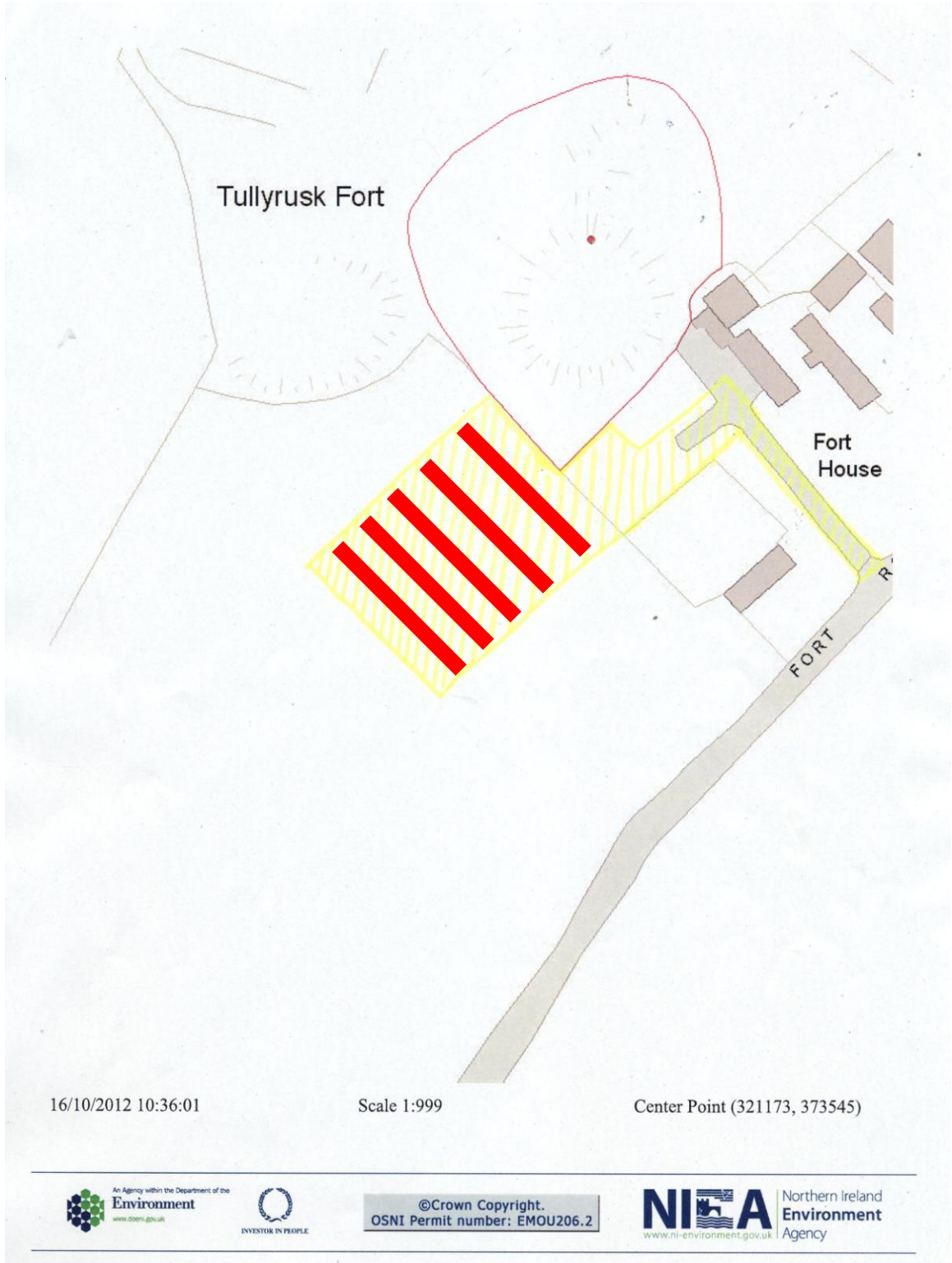


Figure 3: Site plan showing approximate location of test trenches

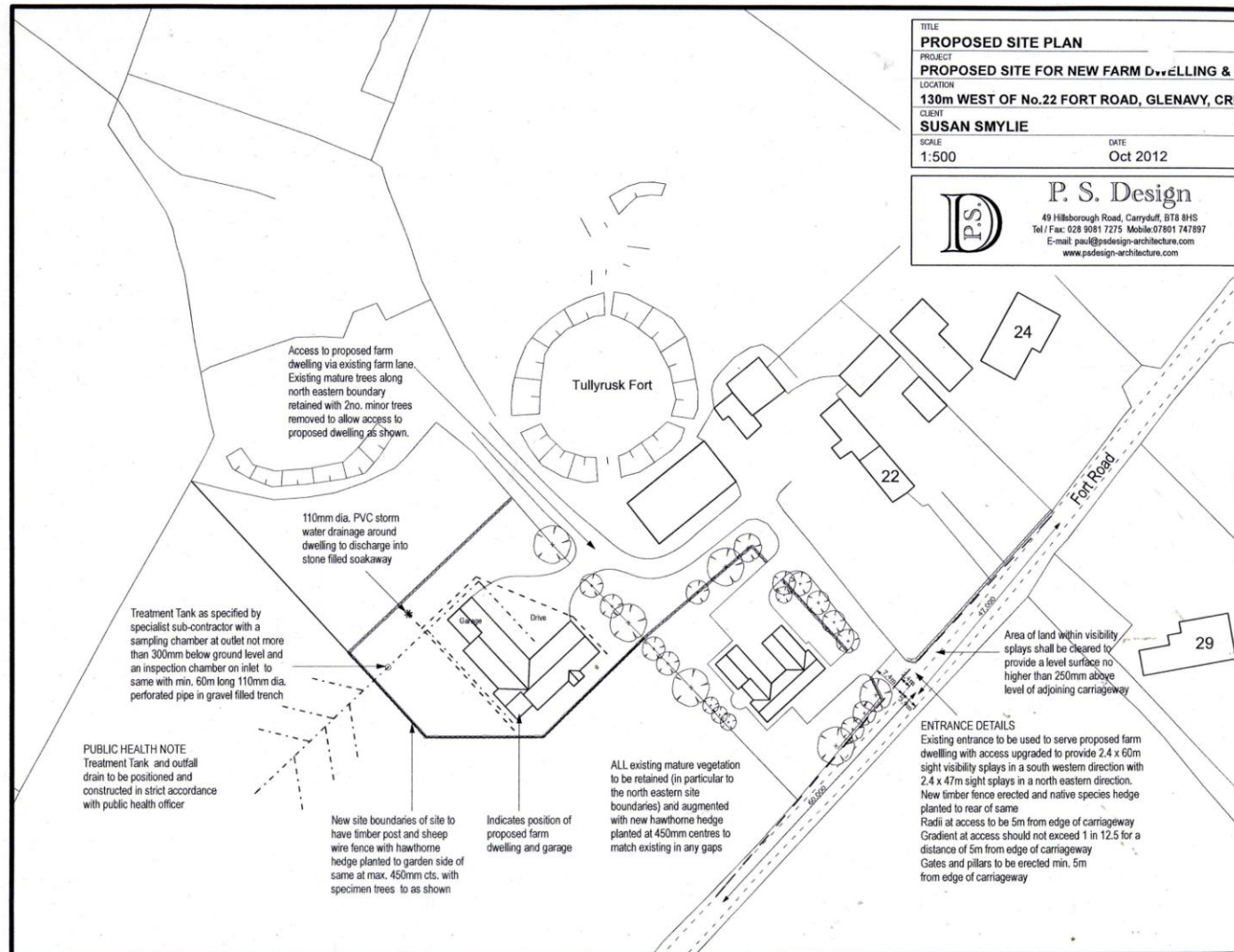


Figure 4: Architect's plan of proposed new dwelling



Plate 1: General view of the site prior to the evaluation with Tullyrusk Fort in the background, looking north-east



Plate 2: General view of the site prior to the evaluation, looking east



Plate 3: The views to the west of the site



Plate 4: The bank of the fort, looking north-east



Plate 5: The ditch of the fort, looking north-west



Plate 6: Trench 1 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south-east



Plate 7: North-east facing section of Trench 1, looking south-west



Plate 8: Trench 2 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north-west



Plate 9: North-east facing section of Trench 2, looking south-west



Plate 10: Trench 3 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south-east



Plate 11: North-east facing section of Trench 3, looking south-west



Plate 12: Trench 4 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north-west



Plate 13: North-east facing section of Trench 4, looking south-west



Plate 14: Trench 5 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south-east