



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 088

**MANSE ROAD
CLOGHSKELT
BALLYWARD
COUNTY DOWN**

LICENCE NO.: AE/06/216

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Manse Road

Townland: Cloghskelt

*SMR No. :*N/a

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 2307 4167

County: Down

Excavation Licence No. : AE/06/216

Planning Ref / No. : Q/2005/0266/F

Dates of Monitoring: 6th September 2006

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site off Manse Road, approximately 250.0m west of the junction with Laird's Road. The evaluation was requested due to the presence of a previously unrecorded standing stone (no SMR No.) within the same field as the application site. Another standing stone (DOW 035:051) is located approximately 50.0m to the south-west of the application site. To the south of the application site and in a field to the west of the second standing stone (DOW 035:051) lies a Bronze Age cemetery (DOW 035:039: not shown on map) which was excavated in 1973. No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered during the evaluation and it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Four trenches each approximately 2.0m wide and ranging in length from 16.0m to 30.0m

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a proposed new dwelling is located in mid County Down, around approximately 3.0km north-west of the village of Moneyslane and 2.0km from Katesbridge (Figure One). The application site occupies the eastern part of a large, grassy field (Plate One: Figure Two). The field is bordered on the northern side by the Manse Road. The north-eastern part of the field is flattish while the remainder of the field slopes noticeably to the south-east, south and west. The proposed dwelling is to be built in the south-eastern corner of the field in a position where it will not be visible from the road but will command excellent views from the south-east to the west. The application site covers an area of approximately 0.3 hectares. The evaluation was requested due to the presence of a previously unrecorded standing stone (no SMR No.) within the application area.

The standing stone is situated in the north-eastern part of the field (Plate Two). It is not listed in the Sites and Monuments Record. The stone stands at a height of 1.7m and is 0.9m at its widest point, tapering to 0.3m at the top (Plate Three). It rests on a grassy plinth which is around 0.2m high. The stone is quite weathered but appears to be of granite. The stone has several greasy, worn patches indicating that it is used as a rubbing stone by cattle. There are also signs of animal erosion around the base. The landowner (Mr McCully) suggested that the stone was erected in living memory as a landmark, however, lichen growth would suggest it had been there for some time. It is more probable, however, that the stone is of archaeological interest as another standing stone (DOW 035:051) is located in the vicinity of the site, along with an excavated Bronze Age Cemetery (DOW 035:039).

The evaluation was requested by Neil Yeaman: Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage in response to a planning application for a new dwelling.

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of four test trenches positioned in the locations shown in Figure Three. The test trenches were each approximately 2.0m wide and ranged in length from 16.0m to 30.0m. All trenches were excavated to the natural boulder clay subsoil, the surface of which varied from 0.3m to 0.4m deep.

Trench One

Trench One was situated in the eastern part of the site and ran parallel with the easternmost field boundary. The trench was approximately 7.0m west of this field boundary and approximately 10.0m south-west of the field's northernmost boundary. Trench One was approximately 2.0m wide and 30.0m long and sloped from north-east to south-west, following the topography of the field (Plate Four). Trench One was excavated to the boulder clay subsoil which was encountered at a depth of around 0.3m (Plate Five).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of compact, dark brown, clay loam which contained occasional sub-angular stone

inclusions (average size 20x10x5mm). The sod and topsoil layer was around 0.1m thick and contained a single sherd of nineteenth century pottery. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (Context No. 102) which consisted of compact, mid brown, clay loam containing some sub-angular stone inclusions (average size: 20x10x5mm). The cultivation soil was present at the northern and southern ends of the trench only- towards the middle of the trench it petered out as the bedrock rose up. The layer was 0.2m thick and contained no finds. The cultivation soil overlay the boulder clay subsoil (Context No. 103) which was punctuated by exposures of bedrock particularly towards the middle and southern end of the trench. There were no features within the subsoil which was present at a depth of 0.3m.

Trench Two

Trench Two was located in the southern part of the site and ran parallel with the field's southernmost boundary. The trench was set approximately 9.0m from the southern boundary. Trench Two followed the topography of the field, which sloped towards the south-eastern corner. The trench was 1.7m wide and approximately 30.0m long (Plate Six). Trench Two was excavated to the boulder clay subsoil, the surface of which was encountered at a depth of 0.4m (Plate Seven).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of friable, mid brown, sandy clay loam which contained frequent sub-angular stone inclusions (average size: 10x10x10mm). The layer was 0.2m thick and contained no finds. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (Context No. 202) which consisted of compact, light brown, sandy clay loam. The cultivation soil was 0.2m thick and contained no finds.

Following the removal of the cultivation soil (Context No. 202), two linear features were visible in the subsoil (Context No. 207). Running north-south across the middle of the trench was a probable plough furrow (Context No. 203). The probable plough furrow was 0.3m wide and at least 1.7m long (Plate Eight). The fill (Context No. 204) of the probable plough furrow (Context No. 203) consisted of compact, dark brown, sandy clay loam which contained infrequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20x10x10mm). The probable plough furrow contained no finds but there was evidence of lime fertiliser within it, suggesting it was associated with an episode of agricultural improvement. Running north-west/south-east through the trench was a modern pipe trench (Context No. 205). The pipe trench was 0.3m wide and at least 3.6m long (Plate Nine). The fill (Context No. 206) of the pipe trench (Context No. 205) consisted of loose, light brown, sandy clay loam which contained frequent sub-angular stone inclusions (average size 10x10x10mm). The plastic pipe was also visible. Both the probable plough furrow (Context No. 203) and the modern pipe trench (Context No. 205) were cut into the boulder clay subsoil (Context No. 207) which in Trench Two was encountered at a depth of 0.4m. There were no other features visible in the subsoil.

Trench Three

Trench Three ran parallel with Trench Two and was located approximately 5.0m to the north-east of the latter. The trench was 30.0m long and 1.8m wide (Plate

Ten). Trench Three was excavated to the boulder clay subsoil which was encountered at a depth of 0.4m (Plate Eleven).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of relatively compact, dark brown, sandy clay loam which contained infrequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 5x5x5mm). The layer was 0.1m thick and contained no finds. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (Context No. 302) consisting of compact, dark brown, clay loam which contained some sub-angular stone inclusions (size range: 20x20x10mm to 80x20x20mm). The cultivation soil was 0.2m thick and contained no finds. Below the cultivation soil was the boulder clay subsoil (Context No. 303) which in Trench Three was encountered at a depth of 0.3m. There were no features visible in the subsoil.

Trench Four

Trench Four was located approximately 6.5m to the north-west of Trench Two. The long axis of the trench was aligned roughly north-south. Trench Four was 1.9m wide and 16.0m long (Plate Twelve). The trench was excavated to the surface of the boulder clay subsoil, a depth of 0.4m (Plate Thirteen).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Four consisted of loose, dark brown, sandy clay loam which contained infrequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 5x5x5mm). The layer was 0.2m thick and contained no finds. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (Context No. 402) which consisted of compact, mid brown, clay loam which contained infrequent sub-angular stone inclusions (average size: 40x30x20mm). The cultivation soil was 0.2m thick and did not contain any finds. Below the cultivation soil, at the southern end of the trench, was a spread of dark brown humic clay loam (Context No. 403). The spread may have been a result of waterlogging. It was not fully excavated but initial investigations showed it to be around 0.1m thick and to contain no finds. It did not appear to be of archaeological significance. The subsoil in Trench Four (Context No. 404) consisted of sandy boulder clay which was present at a depth of 0.4m. There were no features visible in the subsoil.

Nothing of archaeological significance was found at the evaluation site and it is recommended that no further archaeological work, save for a summary in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin, is carried out.

Archive:

Finds:

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

Photographs:

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

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

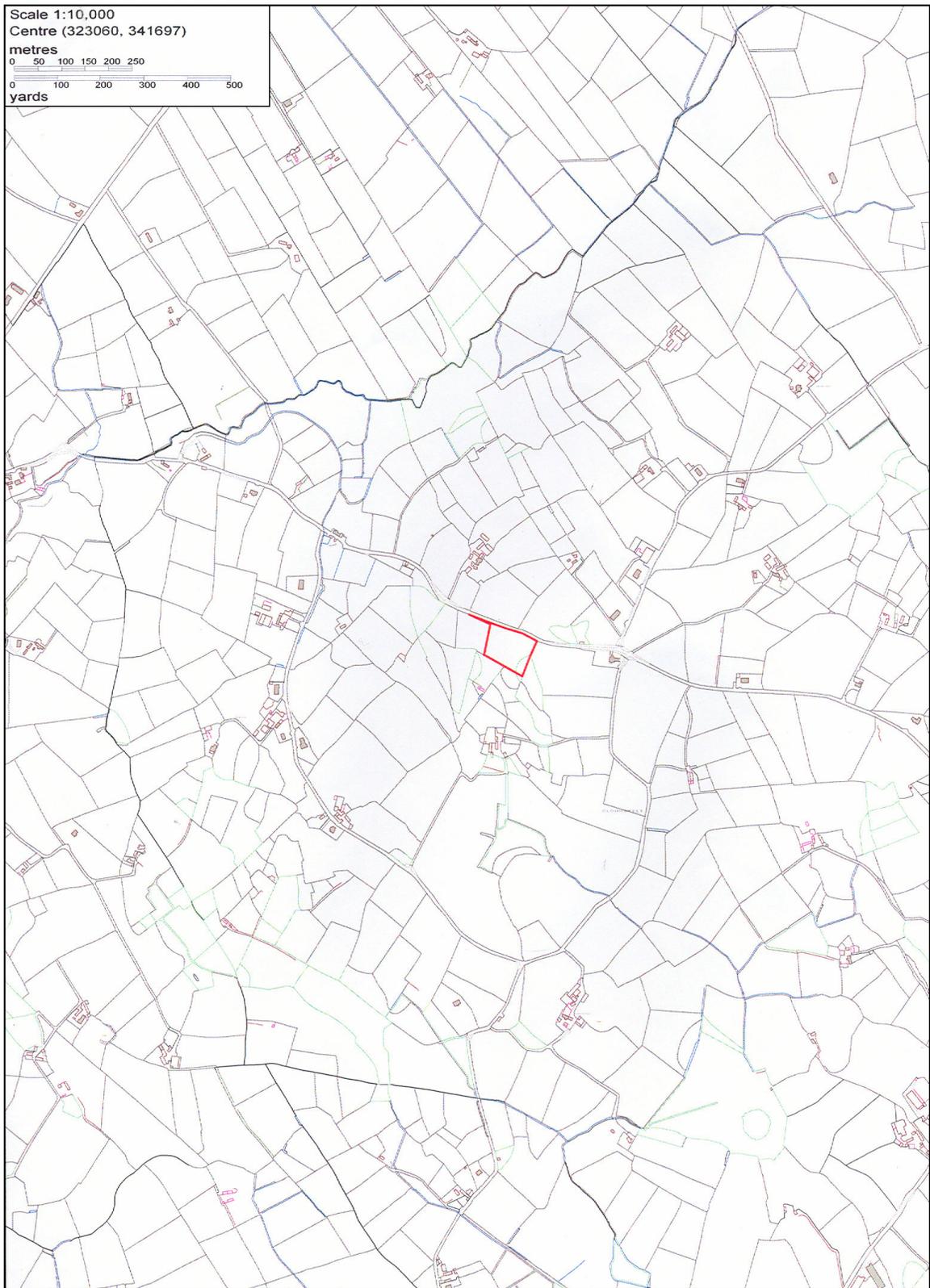


Figure Two: Detailed location map showing site outline (in red)

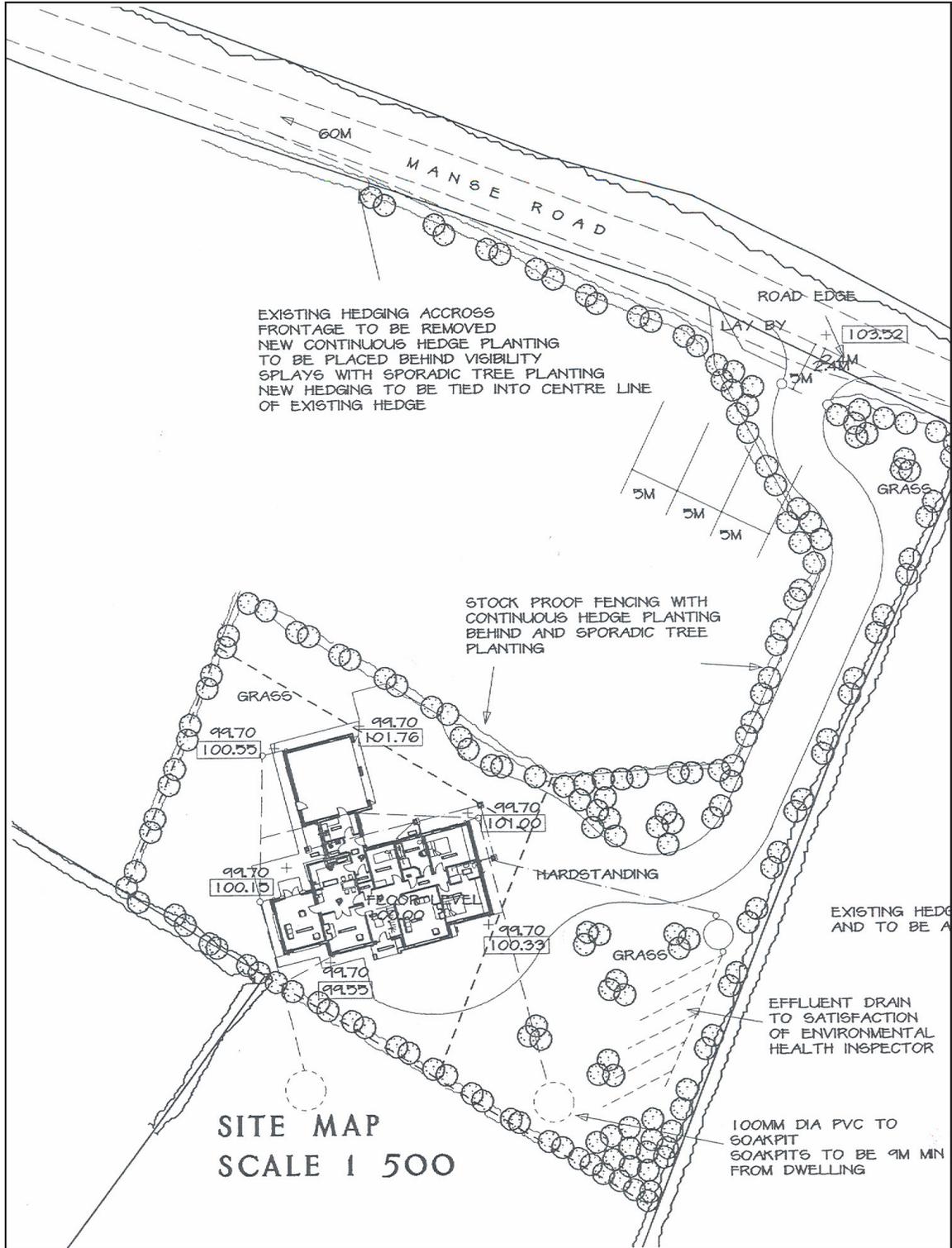


Figure Three: Architect's drawing showing proposed location of house and associated features

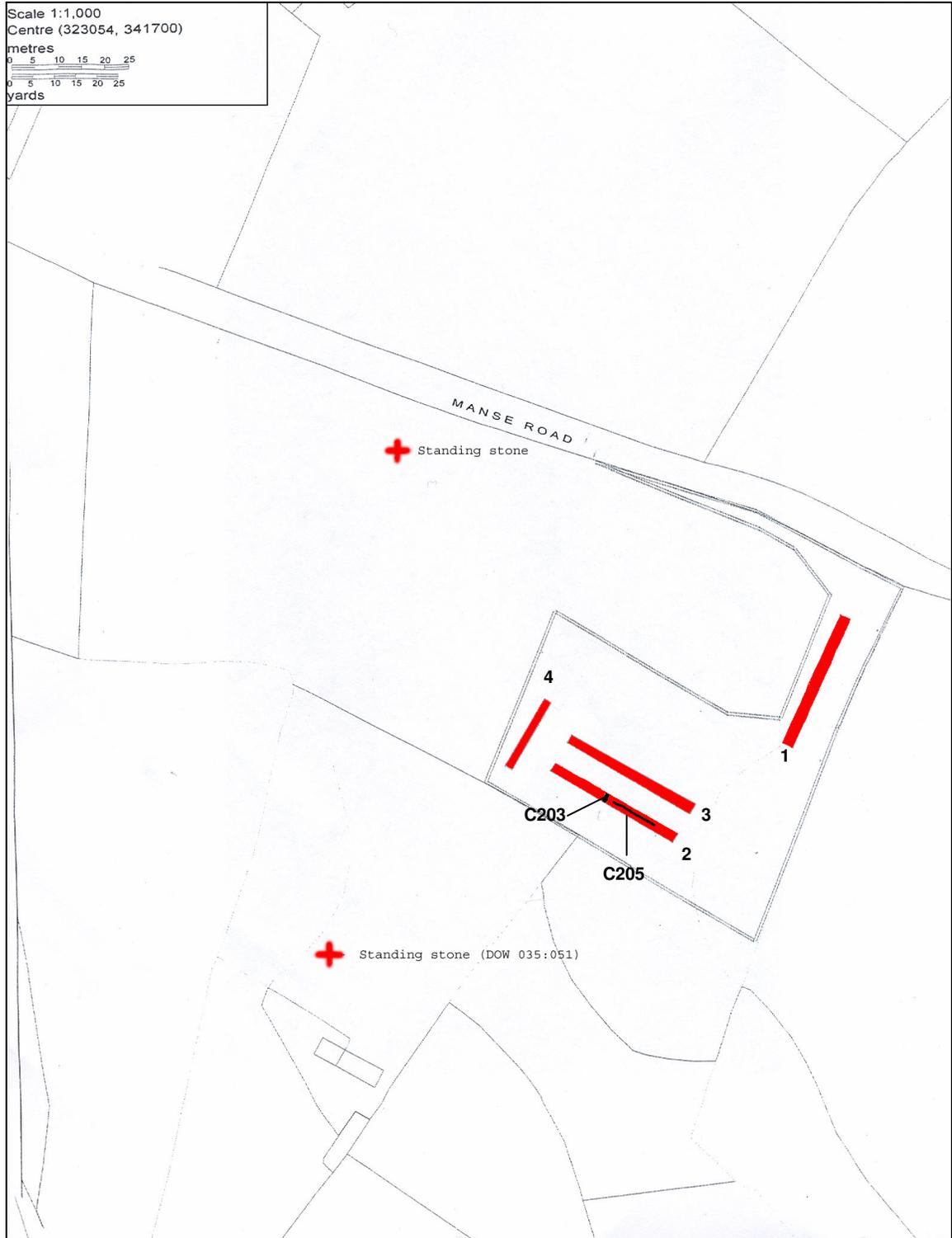


Figure Four: Site plan showing location of test trenches (in red) and features



Plate One: General view of site, looking south-east



Plate Two: General view of site, showing standing stone in background, looking east



Plate Three: The standing stone, looking south-east



Plate Four: Trench One following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 103), looking south-west



Plate Five: East-facing section of Trench One, looking west



Plate Six: Trench Two following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 207), looking north-west



Plate Seven: North-facing section of Trench Two, looking south

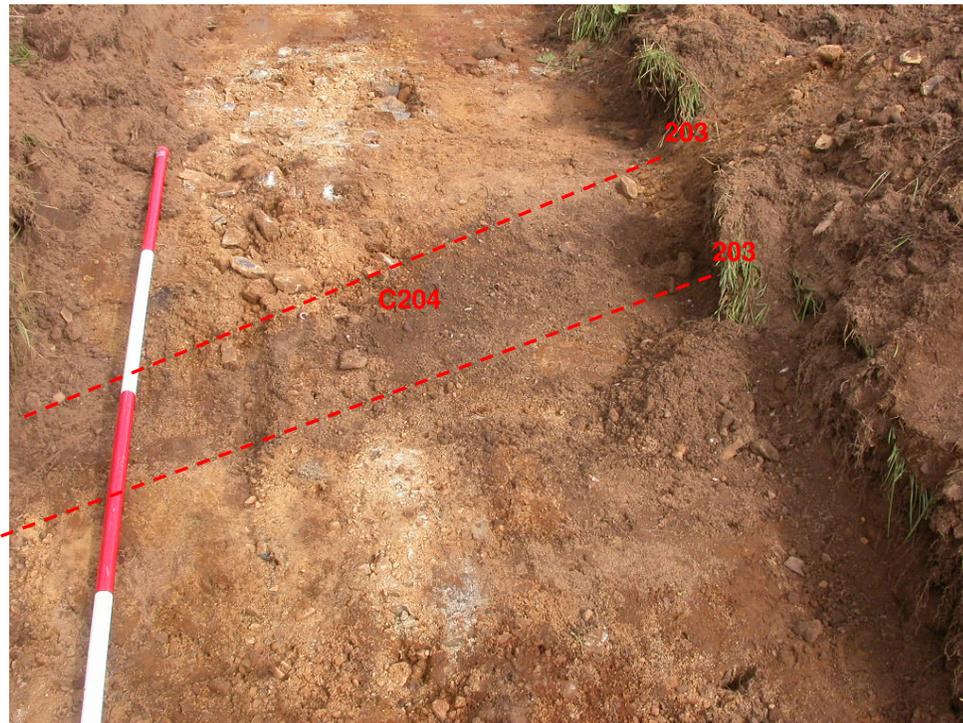


Plate Eight: Probable plough furrow (Context No. 203), looking west

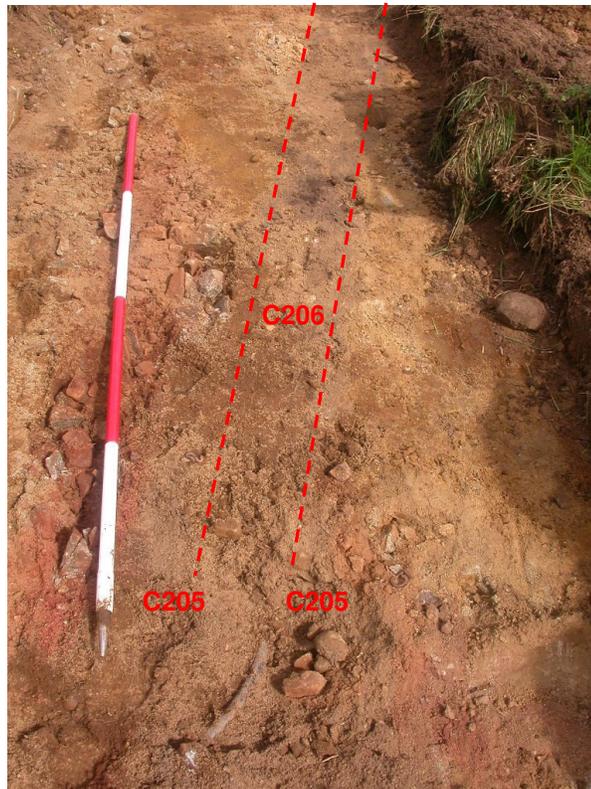


Plate Nine: Modern pipe trench (Context No. 205), looking west



Plate Ten: Trench Three following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 303), looking north-west



Plate Eleven: South-facing section of Trench Three, looking north



Plate Twelve: Trench Four following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 404), looking south



Plate Thirteen: West-facing section of Trench Four, looking east