



Monitoring Report No. 135

**330m SW of Ballyhill House
Ballyhill
Brookeborough
Co. Fermanagh**

AE/07/156

Ruth Logue

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 330m south-west of Ballyhill House, Ballyhill, Brookeborough

Townland: Ballyhill

SMR No (if applicable): rath, church (site of) and graveyard – FER 213:019

State Care Scheduled ✓ Other

Grid Ref: IH 3919843545

County: Fermanagh

Excavation Licence Number: AE/07/156

Planning Reference Number: L/2006/0892/O

Date of Monitoring: 20th August 2007

Archaeologist Present: Ruth Logue

Brief Summary:

Monitoring of two trial trenches excavated to subsoil to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any previously unrecorded below-ground remains. Nothing of archaeological significance found.

Type of monitoring: Trench excavation by mechanical back-acting digger under archaeological supervision

Size of area opened: Two trenches: one 25m long, one 30m long, and each 1.8m wide

Current Land Use: Rough grazing

Intended Land Use: Erection of private dwelling

Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site is located in a field in the townland of Ballyhill in County Fermanagh. The application site is just over 80m to the south-west of an enclosure, FER 213:019. The site is recorded in the NISMR as being a rath, church (site of) and graveyard. (Figure 2)

The site comprises a circular enclosure, the bank of which has been ploughed out on the north-east to south side, and which has a scarp on the remaining sides. There is no visible trace in the interior of the church. The site may be an ecclesiastical enclosure or a rath reused as a church site. There is a bullaun stone on the site which the landowner has moved to beneath a tree. (Plates 5 and 6)

An archaeological evaluation was requested to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of trial trench excavation took place on 20th August 2007. Two trial trenches were excavated in the area requested by the Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Edith Gowdy.

Topsoil was an average of 0.2m in Trench 1 (Context 100) and lay directly on subsoil (Context 101). Topsoil was also an average of 0.2m in Trench 2 (Context 200) and lay directly on subsoil (Context 201). The trenches were aligned north-west to south-east. Trench 1 was 25m long and Trench 2 was 30m long.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were found in either of the trial trenches.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 6 digital photos, held in Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork offices

Plans/Drawings: N/A



Figure 1: 1:50,000 map showing location of application site (highlighted in blue).

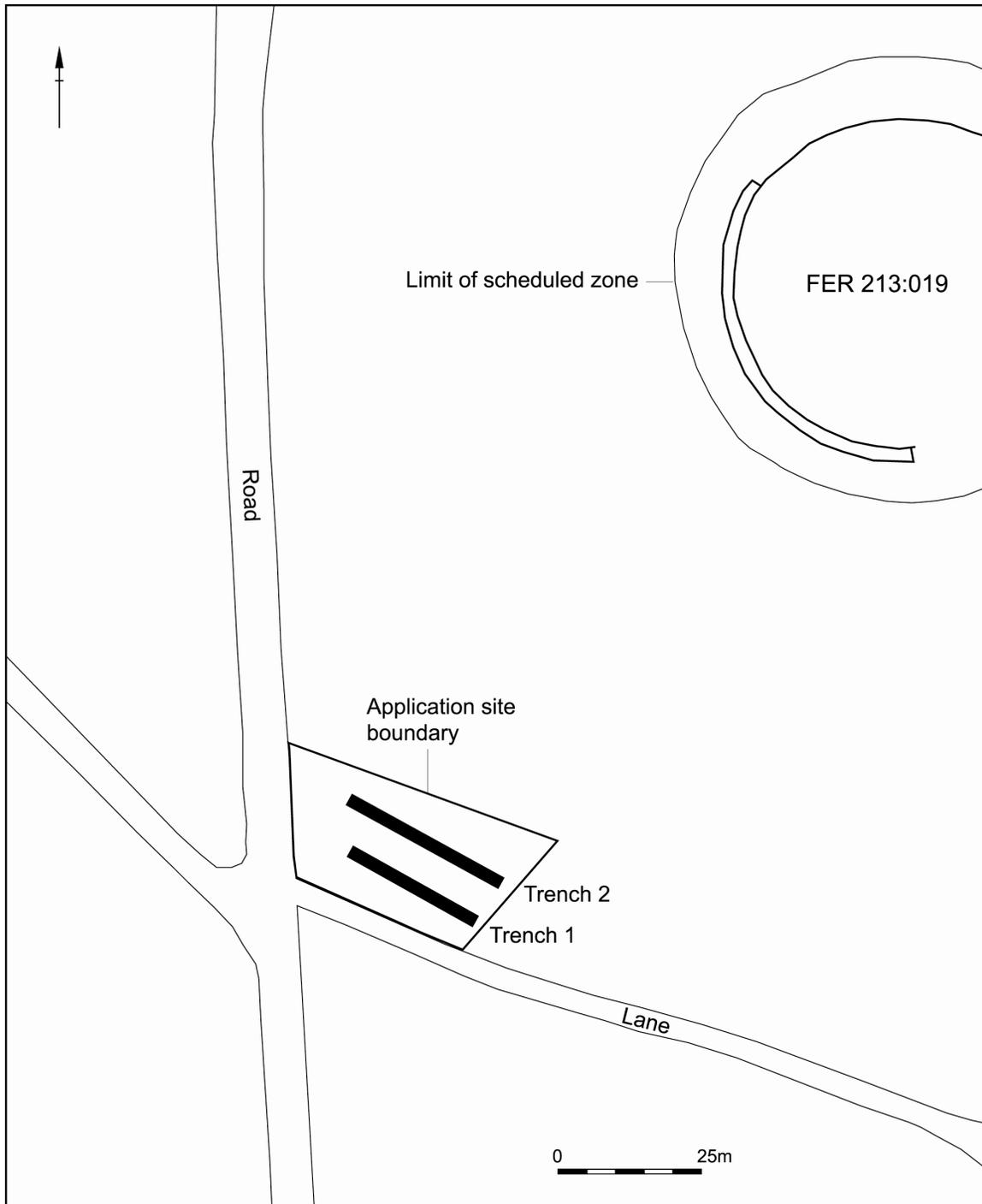


Figure 2: Plan showing application site with trenches in relation to FER 213:019.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south-east.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking south-east.



Plate 3: FER 213:019, looking north-east from application site.



Plate 4: FER 213:019, looking south-west into the interior of the enclosure.



Plate 5: Bullaun stone.



Plate 6: Bullaun stone.