



Archaeological Evaluation Report No. 215

**Site at the rear of 102 Glenavy Road and
fronting onto Hungry House Lane,
Ballycarrickmaddy,
Lisburn,
Co. Antrim**

AE/10/184

S/2010/0076/0

RUAIRÍ Ó BAOILL

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Rear of 102 Glenavy Road, Ballycarrickmaddy, Lisburn, Co. Antrim and fronting on to Hungry House Lane

Townland: Ballycarrickmaddy

SMR No. : SM 11/1 Ant 063: 025

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: 2066868175 *County:* Antrim

Excavation Licence No: AE/10/184

Planning Ref / No.: S/2010/0076/O

Dates of Evaluation: Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th January 2011

Archaeologist Present: Ruairí Ó Baoill

Brief Summary:

Test trenching took place at the proposed development site, currently a green field, on Monday and Tuesday 10th and 11th January 2011. The proposed development is in close proximity to a recorded monument (NISMR Ant: 063: 025), which is an enclosure, possibly an Early Christian rath. The archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site (Planning reference number S/2010/0076/O) was required to assist NIEA make an informed response to Planning Service.

No archaeological strata, features, artefacts or masonry were observed during the test trenching that was earlier than the late 19th or early 20th centuries. These modern features included two field drains, the slight remains of a red-brick structure and several adjacent spreads, all directly above subsoil, which yielded glazed machine-made bricks, bottle glass, slate and iron. It clear that there was building and other human activity in the field within the last century but which is now buried beneath the sod of the current field. No evidence of the enclosure/ rath- such as ditches, strata or artefacts- were uncovered during the evaluation and it would appear that the monument, if it survives, is most likely located to the north of the proposed development. The evaluation at the proposed development revealed nothing of archaeological significance and no further archaeological work is recommended at this development site.

Type of monitoring: Mechanical test trenching in the area of the proposed dwelling and garage and along the new site boundary to the north of these.

Size of area opened: Five trenches were mechanically excavated, using a flat-bottomed (sheugh) bucket 1.40m wide, under strict archaeological supervision. The first trench, 29m long, was excavated along the proposed new site boundary to the north of the dwelling and garage. The second trench, 14.50m long, was excavated within the area of the proposed garage. The last three trenches, 10m, 13.50m and 14.50m long, respectively were excavated within the area of the proposed dwelling.

Current Land Use: Green field.

Intended Land Use: Dwelling, garage and new property boundaries.

Brief account of the archaeological evaluation

Introduction

The application site is located at the rear of 102 Glenavy Road, Ballycarrickmaddy, Lisburn, Co. Antrim and, on its eastern side, fronts onto Hungry House Lane (Figs 1-4). The proposed development is located in what is currently a green field, but immediately south of a recorded monument (NISMR Ant: 063: 025), which is an enclosure, possibly an Early Christian rath.

The archaeological evaluation took place on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th January 2011 as part of the planning application for the construction of a dwelling, garage and the creation of new associated property boundaries leading to the subdivision of the existing field. The evaluation, which took the form of machine excavated trenches under archaeological supervision, was requested by Gina Baban: Caseworker with Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It was requested due to the proximity of the application site to the enclosure/ rath (NISMR Ant 063: 025) and the possibility that the development site might encroach upon this monument.

Account of the excavation

Stratigraphy across the site consisted of grass/sod below which was brown clay topsoil with some lenses of redeposited natural clay, under which was subsoil. Subsoil consisted of rusty yellow compact clay with some stone content. Stratigraphy varied in depth between 0.30-0.40m across the site.

Trench 1. (Figs 4-5; Plates 1-3)

Trench 1 was excavated along the line of the proposed new site boundary at the northern limit of the proposed development. The eastern end of the trench was located 3.5m west of the existing treeline that runs along the east of the field. The trench was 29m long and the western end was parallel to the north-west corner of the proposed garage.

Fragments of modern creamware and red brick were recovered during the removal of the topsoil. Several modern features were uncovered in the eastern half of the trench below the topsoil layer. These included a modern field drain (cut Context 1), 0.20m wide, filled with medium-sized gravel (Context 2). This was cut into subsoil and was tracked for a distance of 3.60m within the trench. Close to it were the slight remains of a red-brick structure, recorded in section. It was located roughly 0.25m below modern field level and was 3.60m long (east-west). The structural remains consisted of layer of construction debris (Context 3) containing red brick and mortar and it was approximately 0.10m thick. Machine-made glazed and unglazed red brick were recovered from this horizon. The remains would appear to date from the late 19th or early 20th centuries. The structural remains sat over a layer of grey silty clay (Context 4). This layer, 0.06m deep and lying directly on top of subsoil, extended for another 6m west of the structural remains. It seems likely that it is a surface contemporary with the structural remains. The partial excavation of Context 4 uncovered fragments of modern bottle glass, slate and an iron object. Directly above both it and the structural remains was a layer of dark brown organic material (Context 5). This consisted of malodorous material containing straw and twigs. Although no artefacts were recovered from the organic layer it clearly post-dated the structural remains and Context 4. Close to the western limit of Context 4 was a second field drain (cut Context 6), cut into subsoil and filled with gravel (Context 7). It was identical in fill and construction to the first field drain.

Trench 1 was the nearest excavated trench to the presumed location of the enclosure/ rath (NISMR Ant : 063: 025). No evidence of the monument either in terms of features, strata or artefacts were uncovered within Trench 1 and all the features recorded were of modern vintage.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated diagonally across the area of the proposed garage. It was 14.50m long. No archaeological features were uncovered in the trench.

Trenches 3-5 (Figs 4, 6-7; Plate 4)

Trench 3 was excavated across the northern end of the area of the dwelling. It was 10m long. The only feature uncovered in this trench was a rudimentary field drain (cut Context 303), cut into subsoil. It was a maximum of 0.46m wide at the top, narrowing to 0.20m wide at the base and was 0.32m deep. It was filled with large and medium-sized stones along with fragments of chalk (Context 304). No artefacts were recovered from the feature and its date is uncertain.

Trench 4 was excavated along the western side of the area of the dwelling. It was 15.50m long. Trench 5 was excavated along the eastern side of the area of the dwelling. This trench was 13.50m long. No archaeological features were recorded in either Trenches 4 or 5.

Interpretation

No archaeological features older than the late 19th or early 20th century were observed during the archaeological evaluation within the area of the proposed development. These late features were only uncovered in Trench 1 and did not extend over a large area. In the other four trenches investigated only one small archaeological feature, a field drain, was uncovered. No evidence for the enclosure/ rath (NISMR Ant 063: 025) was uncovered on any of the evaluation trenches.

Conclusion

No *in situ* deposits of any antiquity were observed during the test trenching of area of the proposed development at 102 Glenavy Road, Ballycarrickmaddy, Lisburn, Co. Antrim. It is not, therefore, probable that the development of the dwelling will impact upon previously unrecognized and unrecorded archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that no

further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication of this work is merited save a short summary in *Excavations Bulletin 2011*.

Archive:

Finds: No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Photographs: 108 images (digital files) currently archived with Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast, BT7 1NN

Plans / Drawings: Three plans and one section drawing were generated during the evaluation.

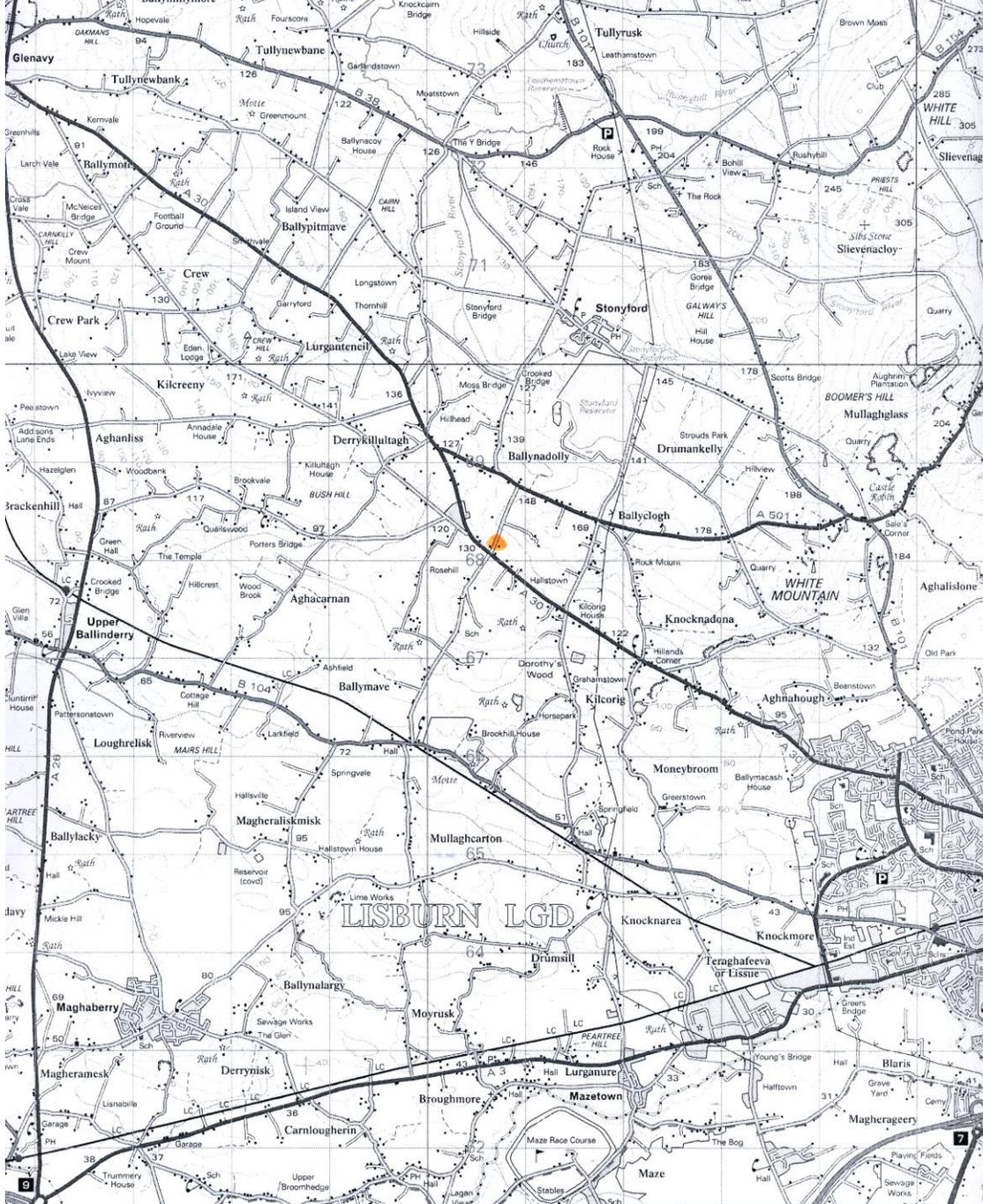
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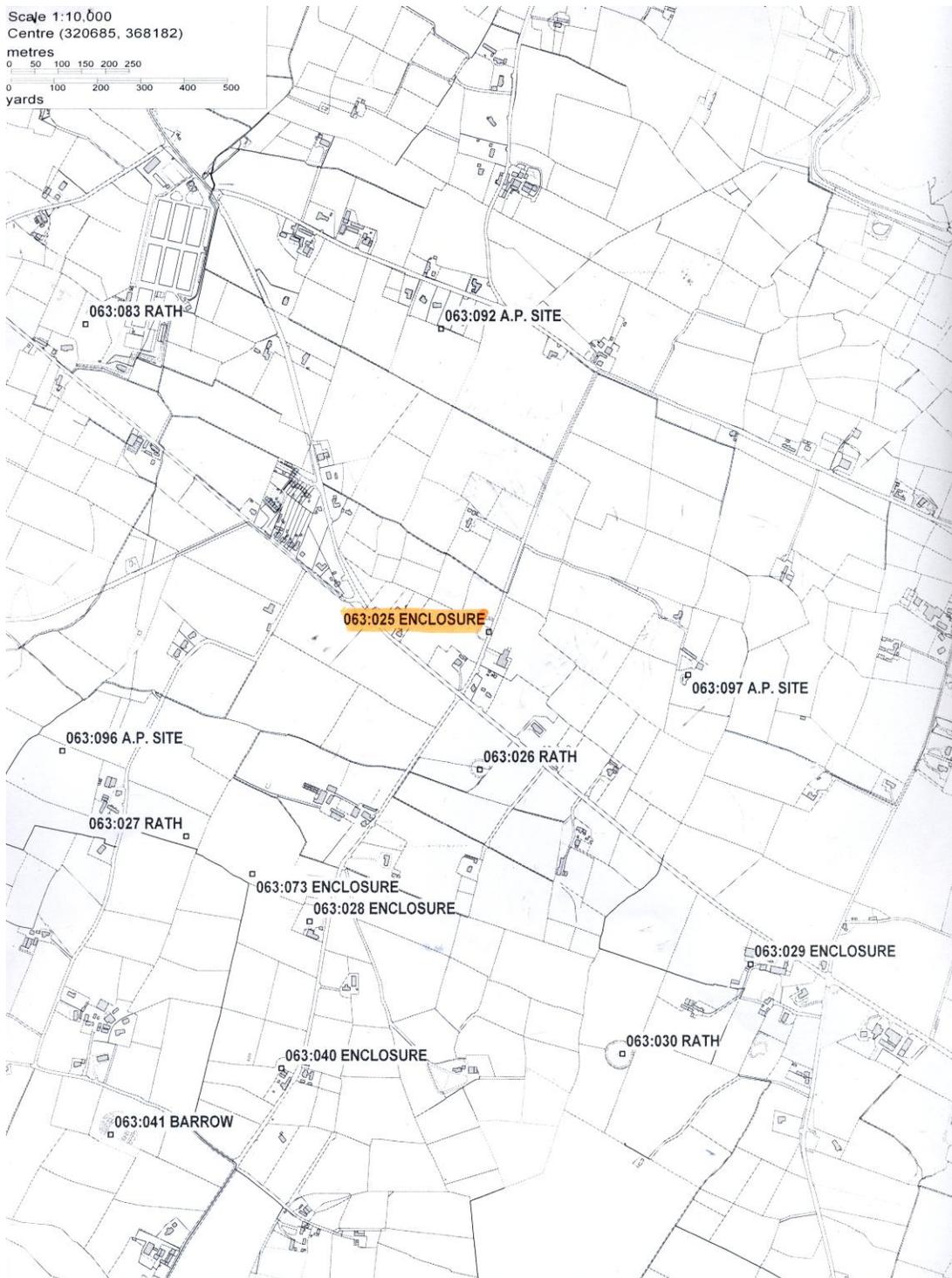
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**Fig. 1. Ordnance Survey Map showing location of site (marked by orange dot).
Scale 1: 50,000.**



Anr 63: 25. s/2010/0076/0 Land to rear of 102 Glenavy Road, Lisburn with frontage to Kungfy Home Lane.
Site for 2-storey farm dwelling & garage.

Fig. 2. Map showing site of proposed development (highlighted) and other archaeological sites in the immediate area.

Scale 1:1,050
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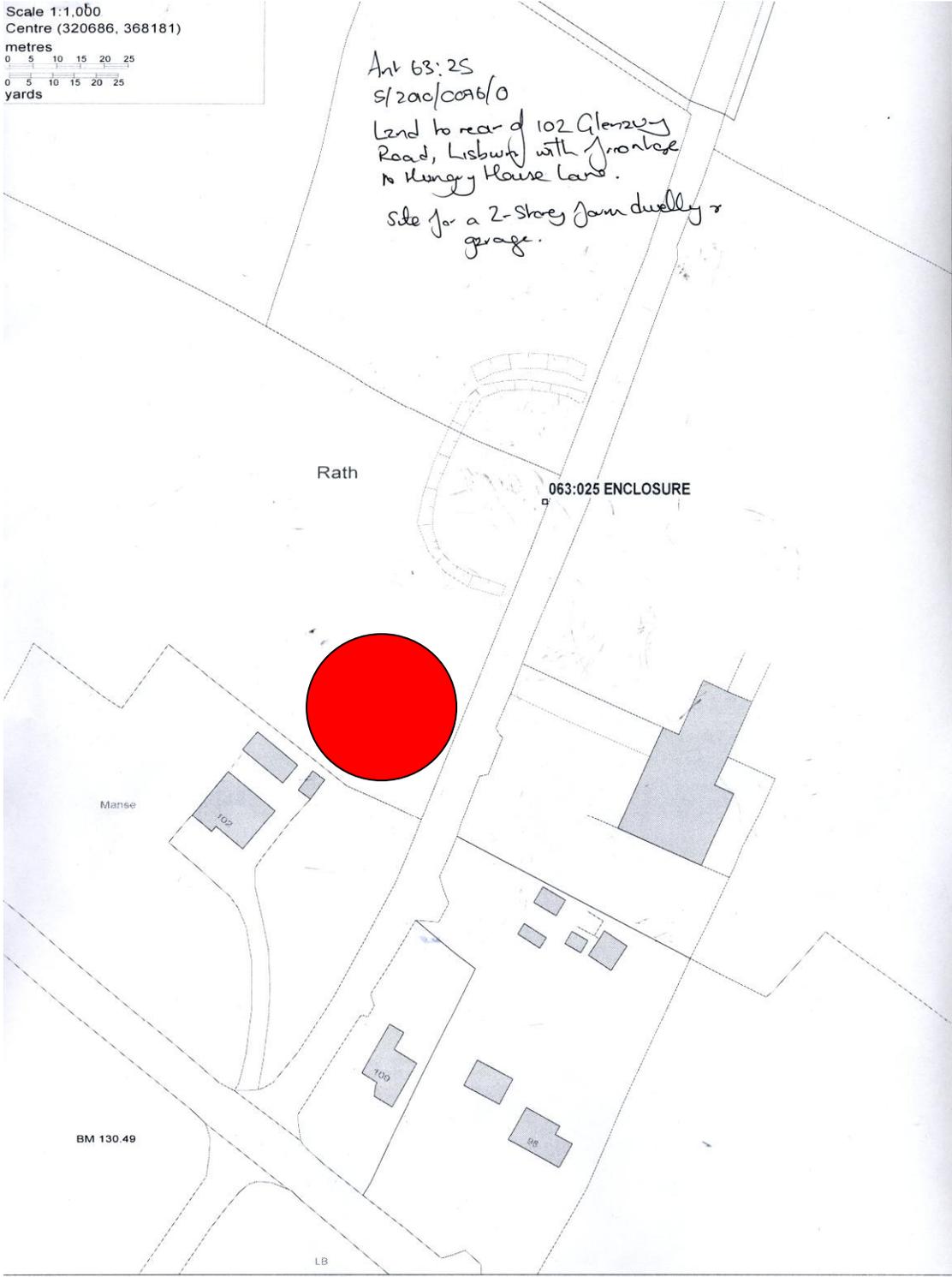


Fig 3. Proposed development site (in red) showing the proximity of the enclosure/ rath (Ant 063: 025).

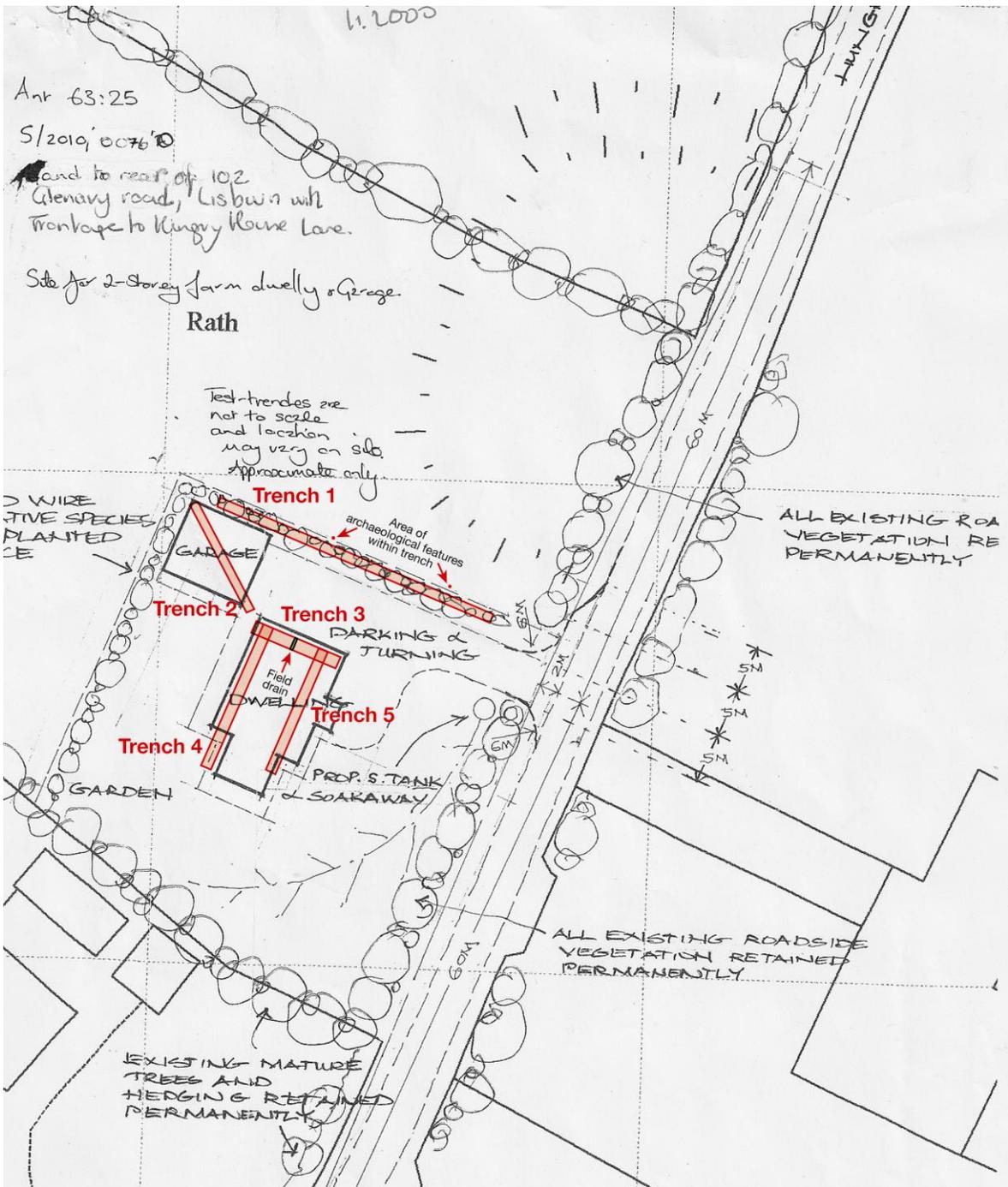


Fig 4. Map showing location of test trenches.

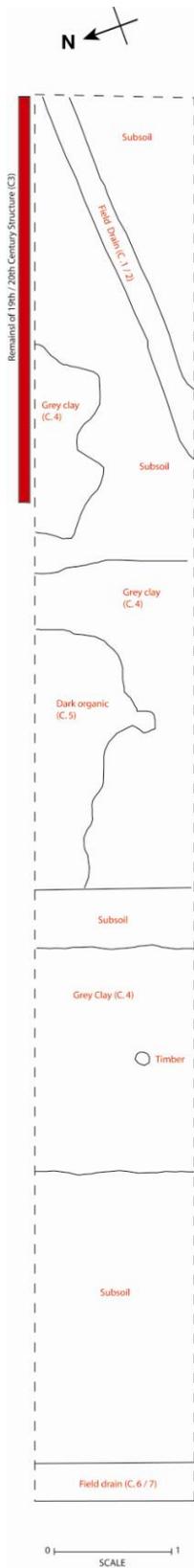


Fig. 5. Plan of modern archaeological features in Trench 1.

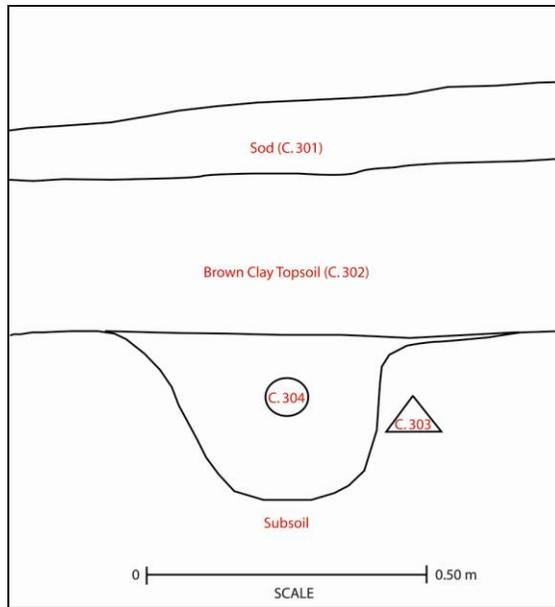


Fig 6. Trench 3. South-east facing section through field drain Context 303/ fill Context 304.

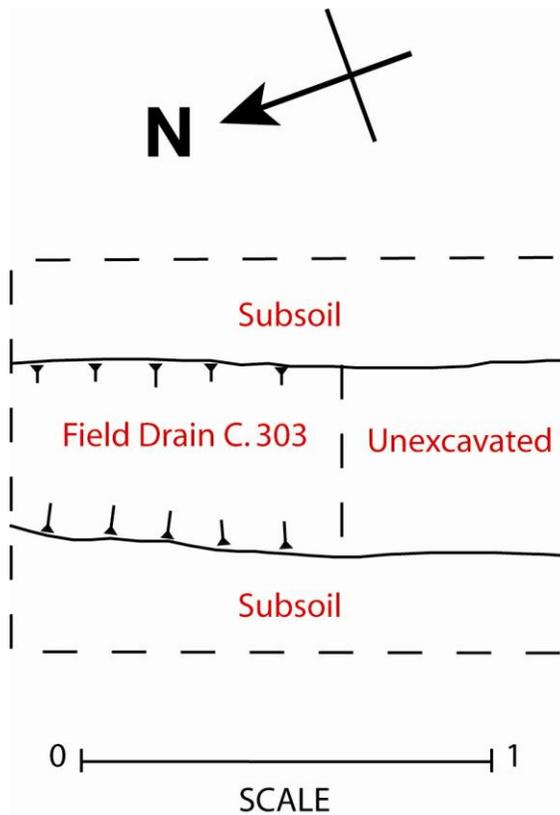


Fig 7. Trench 3. Plan of field drain Context 303/ fill Context 304.



Plate 1. The five excavated test trenches. From the south.



Plate 2. Trench 1, eastern end. From the south-west. Construction horizon of bricks and mortar (Context 3) visible in the section face with remains of contemporary surface of grey silty clay (Context 4) below it and in bottom left of shot. Dark organic layer (Context 5) clearly visible directly above the structural remains in the section face. To the right of the shot is a field drain (Context 1) and subsoil.



Plate 3. Trench 1, south-east-facing. Grey clay layer (Context 4) visible underneath the ranging rods. In foreground above Context 4 is dark organic layer (Context 5). In the distance, beyond the second ranging rod, is the second field drain (Context 6/ fill Context 7).



Plate 4. Trench 3. Field drain Context 303/ fill Context 304. From south-west.