

Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork
School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology
Queen's University Belfast



CAF Data Structure Report No. 59
Excavations beside Ballyclug Old Graveyard,
Ballylesson, Ballymena,
Co. Antrim
AE/13/52



Excavations beside Ballyclug Old Graveyard
Ballylesson
Ballymena
Co. Antrim

Naomi Carver

CAF DSR 059
Licence Number: AE/13/52
SMR No: ANT 037:045
Grid Ref: D 1253 0100

Contents

List of Figures	I
List of Plates	II
List of Tables	IV
1. Summary	1
2. Introduction	3
3. Excavation	12
4. Discussion	25
5. Recommendations	28
Bibliography	30
Appendix 1: Context register	32
Appendix 2: Harris matrices	38
Appendix 3: Digital photograph register	39
Appendix 4: Field drawing register	45
Appendix 5: Small finds list	48
Appendix 6: Sample register	50
Plates:	51

List of Figures

- Figure 1: General Northern Ireland location map showing Ballymena
- Figure 2: Map of Ballymena showing location of site
- Figure 3: Site plan showing location of 2011 evaluation trenches
- Figure 4: Suggested route of the Slighe Miodhluachra in Ulaidh (after Lawlor 1938)
- Figure 5: Post-excavation plan of irregularly-shaped feature C129
- Figure 6: West-facing section through irregularly-shaped feature C129
- Figure 7: Post-excavation plan of cultivation furrow C172
- Figure 8: Post-excavation plan of cultivation furrows C116 and C137
- Figure 9: Plan of cultivation ridges in north-eastern part of the site
- Figure 10: Sections and profiles through the cultivation furrows
- Figure 11: Post-excavation plan of gullies C125 and C156, also showing sections through them
- Figure 12: Pre-excavation plan of stone feature C107
- Figure 13: Pre-excavation plan of stone feature C155
- Figure 14: Section through ditch C180

List of Plates

- Plate 1: General view of Ballyclug graveyard and ruinous school-house, looking north-west
Plate 2: General view of the site prior to the monitored topsoil-strip, looking south-west
Plate 3: General view of the site prior to the monitored topsoil-strip, looking west
Plate 4: Mid-ex view of irregularly-shaped feature C129 (half-sectioned)
Plate 5: Baulk in irregularly-shaped feature C129 showing fills C130 and C159, looking east
Plate 6: Pre-excavation view of cultivation ridges, looking north-east
Plate 7: Cultivation furrow C172 following half-section, showing C137 in the background, looking east
Plate 8: North-west facing section of cultivation furrow C103, looking south-east
Plate 9: North-west facing section of cultivation furrows C108 & C112, looking south-east
Plate 10: West facing section of cultivation furrow C141, looking east
Plate 11: North-west facing section of gully C125, looking east
Plate 12: Post-excavation photo of gullies C125 & C156, looking west
Plate 13: Pre-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking north
Plate 14: Pre-excavation view of stone feature C155, looking east
Plate 15: North facing section of cutting B through ditch C180, looking south

List of Tables

- Table 1: Place name forms of Ballyclug (after Placenamesni.org)
Table 2: Sites of archaeological interest in proximity to the excavation
Table 3: Suggested samples for submission for radiocarbon dating

1 Summary

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Archaeological monitoring and a small-scale archaeological excavation were carried out in April and May 2013 at a site beside Ballyclug Old Graveyard in Ballylesson townland, Co. Antrim. The monitoring work was undertaken as part of a planning application for a proposed new dwelling and the subsequent excavation was agreed with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA): Historic Monuments Unit (HMU) as part of the mitigation strategy. The work was directed by Naomi Carver of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF) under licence to NIEA (AE/13/52).

1.2 Background

1.2.1 The development site is bordered on its western side by Ballyclug Old graveyard, where the original parish church of Ballyclug was said to have been. The parish was listed in the 14th century Taxation of Pope Nicholas. The parish church is now in the townland of Ballymarlagh but the ruins of an old church in Ballyclug graveyard were visible in the mid-19th century.

1.2 Objectives

- To satisfy BH4 planning conditions by excavating and recording archaeological features within the footprint of the proposed development

1.3 Excavation

1.3.1 The initial stage of the mitigation comprised a monitored topsoil strip of a sub-rectangular area approximately 20m (north/south) by 24m (east/west) at its widest points and a laneway approximately 4m wide and 50m long (aligned north-west/south-east). The removal of the topsoil and cultivation soil revealed a series of cultivation furrows, two stone features, plus a number of subsoil-cut features and a ditch.

1.5 Discussion

1.5.1 The excavation built upon the findings of the earlier evaluation, confirming the existence of early medieval activity outside the graveyard. It was possible to identify four phases of activity on the site beginning from an early Medieval phase to the present day.

1.6 Recommendations

- 1.6.1 It is intended that the Ballylesson excavation is published in a peer-reviewed journal such as the Ulster Journal of Archaeology (UJA), pending the results of post-excavation work. It is recommended that the environmental samples are processed to retrieve suitable material for radiocarbon dating, as well as other small artefacts and macrofossils. It is also recommended that specialist reports are prepared on the finds, namely the pottery, flint and slag.

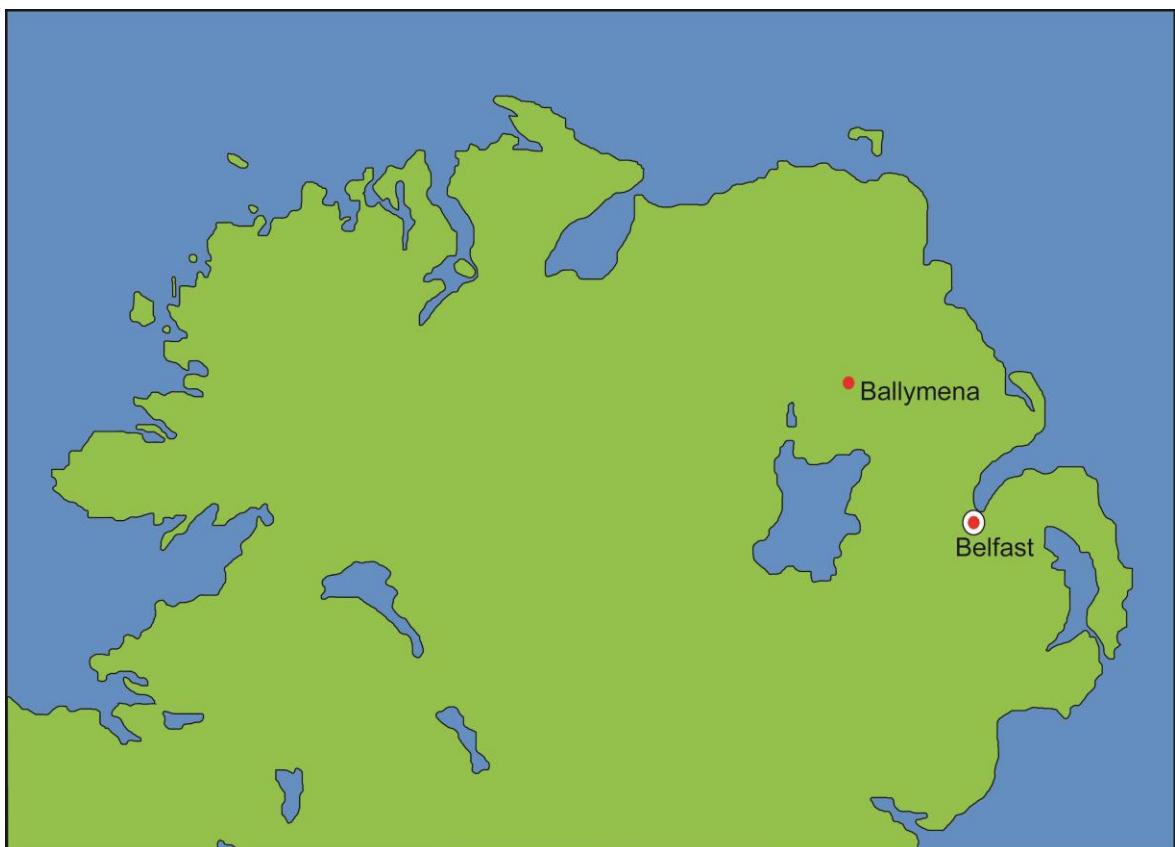


Figure 1: General Northern Ireland location map showing Ballymena

2 Introduction

2.1 General

2.1.1 The following report details the preliminary results of an archaeological excavation at a site beside Ballyclug Old Graveyard in the townland of Ballylesson, Co. Antrim. The excavation was directed by Naomi Carver of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF), School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast (QUB), under licence from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) [AE/13/52] from the 8th April 2013 to the 7th May 2013. The excavation was undertaken on behalf of the NIEA as part of the planning process. The report also details recommendations for post-excavation work necessary to bring the project to completion.



Figure 2: Map of Ballymena showing location of site

2.2 Background

- 2.2.1 The excavation took place at an application site beside and to the west of Ballyclug Old Graveyard (Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record No.: ANT 037:045; Grid Reference D1253001000). Prior to the excavation the site was covered with short grass and was used for the grazing of donkeys. The proposed development site, which covers an area of 0.19 hectares, occupies the easternmost part of a large field approximately 0.75 hectares (1.85 acres) in size. The site occupies an elevated position on a ridge with good views, particularly from the south around to the north. The ridge slopes gently from east to west, down to a marshy area beside the field's easternmost boundary. The field is bounded by post-and-wire fences, mature trees and hawthorn bushes. On the north-eastern side of field the ground drops away relatively steeply to a tree-lined stream which marks the townland boundary, beyond which is the Liminary Road. To the east and south-east is the graveyard wall and saplings. A house (No. 21 Liminary Road) occupies the northernmost portion of the field in which the development site is located- access was by a gate and short laneway to the east of this house.
- 2.2.2 The field has been improved in recent years, having been cleared of blackthorn and reclaimed (Sean Orr *pers. comm.*). Prior to the monitored topsoil-strip the three evaluative trenches were visible- overgrown but not backfilled. It was possible to see a stone feature close to the graveyard wall in 'Trench C' and several other possible features. Topsoil stripping of the house footprint on 8th April 2013 revealed a number of features and possible features. These included linear features, stone features and possible burnt spreads. Several artefacts including a struck flint blade were recovered. It was at this point that the decision was made in consultation with NIEA: HMU to instigate a mitigation strategy.

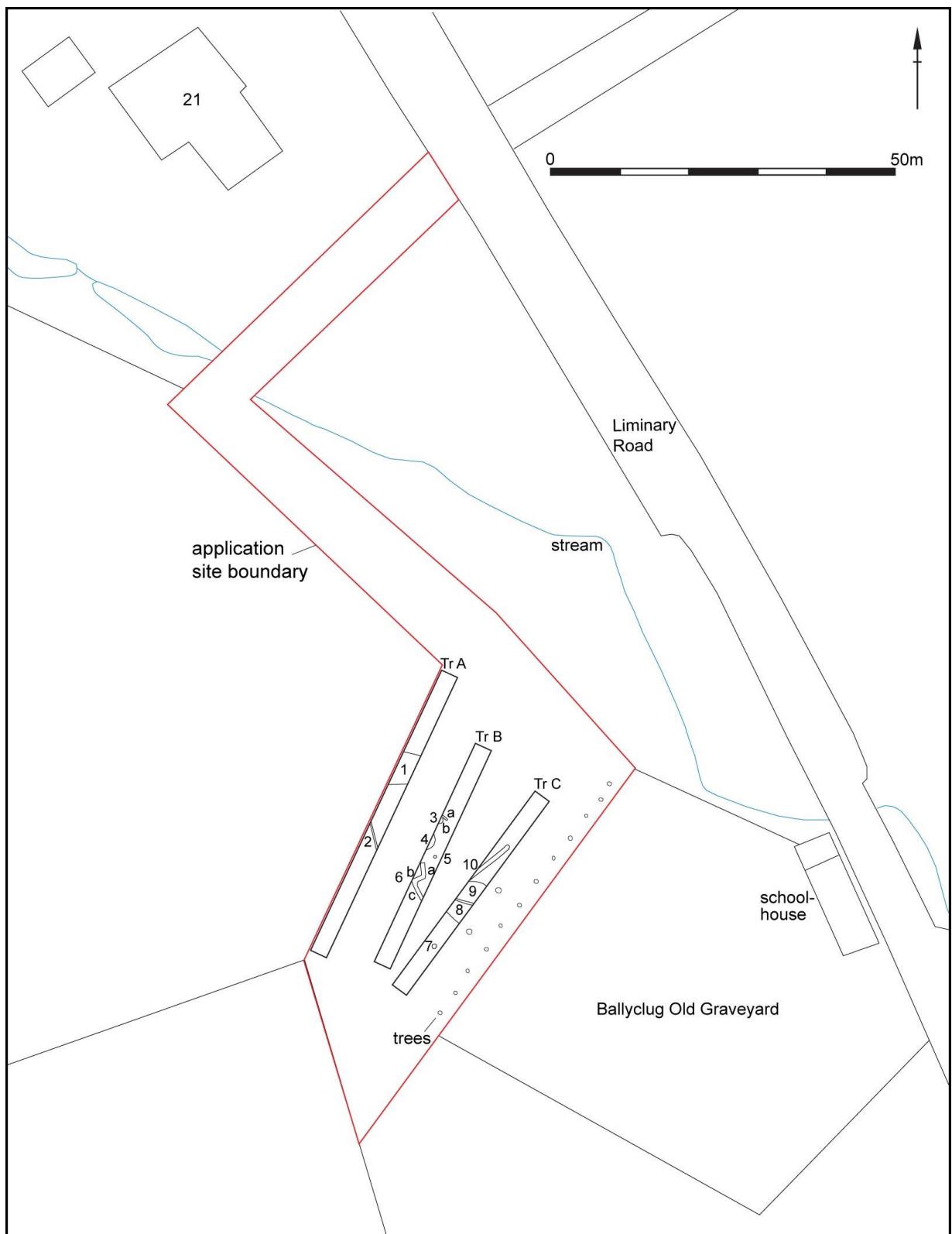


Figure 3: Site plan showing location of 2011 evaluation trenches

2.3 Historical background

- 2.3.1 The excavation site is in the townland of Ballylesson, a large townland to the south of Ballymena, in the parish of Ballyclug. Ballyclug, which means ‘town of the bell’, is first mentioned in the Irish Annals in 1164 (Ó hInnse 1947), taking the probable form ‘*Baile Cluig Comail*’. By the early fourteenth century taxation the parish (‘*Balilugd*’) had an established church valued at 1 mark. The present day parish Church of Ireland building is to the north-east, in the townland of Ballymarlagh. This church was consecrated in 1844 (Reeves 1847, 84). Both Reeves and O’Laverty mention that Ballyclug graveyard contains the remains of the old parish church with foundations measuring ‘50 feet by 28’ (O’Laverty 1884, 420), which is consistent with dimensions of Medieval parish churches as defined by Ní Ghabhláin (*ibid.* 1995, 68). The stones of the church were apparently taken to build a school-house beside the graveyard (O’Laverty 1884, 420). It is not clear when the building fell into disuse, although the Ordnance Survey memoir for the parish states that it was ruined ‘since the time of the reformation’ (Day & McWilliams 1991, 60) and there is also a reference, cited by O’Laverty, from the *Ulster Visitation Book* dated 1622 stating that ‘Ecelesia de Balieclog decayed. Possessed by Archdeacon’ (*ibid.* 1884, 420) which suggests the church or at least the parish, was in decline at this point. It is not certain where the people of the parish worshipped before the new church was erected.
- 2.3.2 The documentary sources do not directly mention any early church in the parish and Hamlin states that she didn’t not visit the site (*ibid.* 1976, 422). O’Laverty relays a bell connection with St Molagga when the saint lost (and later found) his bell when crossing a river on his way to Connor. He suggests that the story may well be connected with ‘the early history of the Church and lands of Ballyclug, which is about three miles from Connor’ (*ibid.* 1884, 419-420). Interestingly there is a bell in the Ulster Museum labelled as having been found ‘in a bog near Ballymena’ (O’Laverty 1884, 419). Both O’Laverty and the Ordnance Survey memoir refer to an ancient paved road extending ‘from Kells via Ballyclug to the neighbourhood of Gracehill, in the parish of Ahoghill (Day & McWilliams 1991, 60). The postulated route of the *Slighe Miodhluachra*, an ancient route, as mapped by Lawlor, comes within close proximity of Ballyclug graveyard (*ibid.* 1938, 5). It would be a tenuous link to suggest it was part of the same road.

Name form	Date
(?) Baile Cluig Comail	1164
Balilugd	1302-
Balilugd	1306
Ballyclyic	1435
Baliclug	1458
Balaclog	1546
Ballaclogg	1605
Ballyclugg	1605
Balliclugg	1606
Balleclugg	1609
Ballyclug	1615
Ballycloige	1616
Ballyclog	1622
Parish of Balleneclugg	c. 1657
Kert	c. 1659
B:nagh	c. 1672
Ballineclug	c. 1672
Ballyclug P.	c. 1780
Baile Clog “town of the bells”	1832
Baile-an-chluig...the town of the bell	1875

Table 1: place name forms of Ballyclug (after Placenamesni.org)

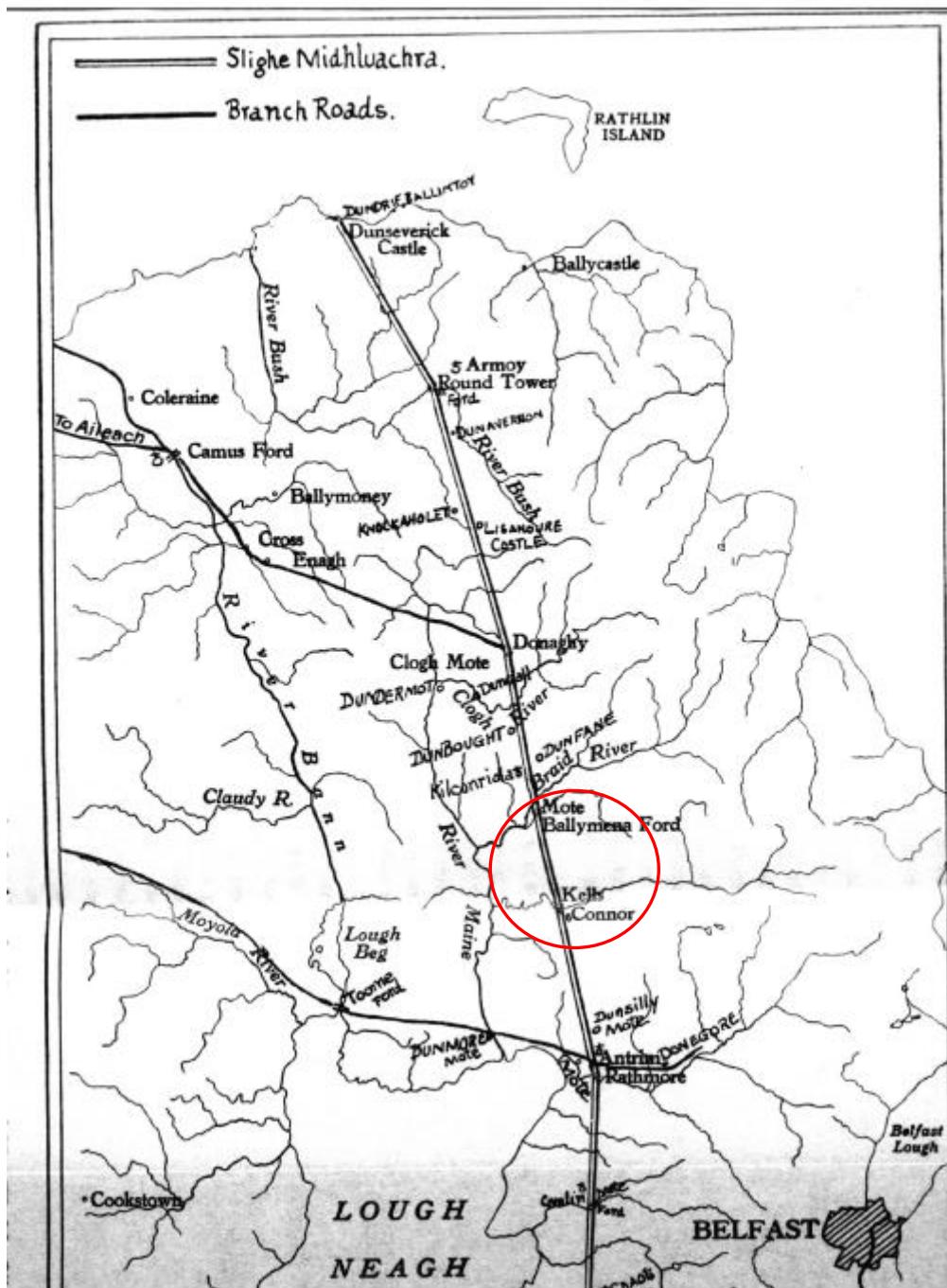


Figure 4: Suggested route of the Slige Miodhluachra in Ulaidh (after Lawlor 1938). Area around Ballyclug circled in red

2.7 Sites of archaeological interest

- 2.7.1 The site is located in an area of rich archaeological heritage which extends into the Antrim Hills to the east. Interestingly, the predominant period represented is the early Medieval period, with sites such as raths and souterrains (Table 2). Indeed, the townland name of Ballylesson (*Baile Liosain*) actually means 'town of the little fort'. The closest sites to the excavation are two enclosures (NISMR Nos. ANT 038:003 & 036) to the west of the

excavation area, on the far side of the Liminary Road. The closest of these enclosures (NISMR No. ANT 038:036) was 200m from the site. It is only shown on the 1933 edition of the Ordnance Survey 6 Inch County Series Map, depicted as an arc of hachures. The NISMR describes the site as a ‘poorly preserved arc of a scarp surviving from S to through to W to NW’ and also goes on to say that ‘[it] is natural, but may have been used to define perimeter of an enclosure in this area’. There are no other traces of the enclosure, nor are there visible traces of any ditch or entrance. The absence of it from the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps also compounds the theory that it could be a natural feature. The second enclosure (NISMR No. ANT 038:003), which overlooks the first, is 450m to the west of the excavation site, on top of a hill overlooking the stream that forms the townland boundary between Ballylesson and Ballymarlagh. There are no visible remains of the enclosure. It was marked as a ‘fort’ on the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey map and also depicted on the Second and Third editions. Also in the townland of Ballylesson, somewhere to the west of the excavation site, was a souterrain (NISMR No. ANT 038:056). This was said to have been south-east of the centre of Ballymena, but its exact location has been lost.

SMR No.	Type	Townland	Grid Reference
ANT 037:023	Rath & souterrain	Ballylesson	D1185000500
ANT 037:024	Enclosure	Ballylesson	D1208000400
ANT 037:025	Rath & souterrain	Ballylesson	D1142000130
ANT 037:043	Enclosure	Ballylesson	D1193000170
ANT 037:048	Circular cropmark	Ballycreggy	D1224001700
ANT 038:003	Enclosure	Ballycreggy	D1284001000
ANT 038:004	Rath	Ballylesson	D1306000550
ANT 038:036	Enclosure	Ballycreggy	D1266000960
ANT 038:056	Souterrain (unlocated)	Ballycreggy	D1200001000

Table 2: Sites of archaeological interest in proximity to the excavation

2.8 Previous fieldwork

- 2.8.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out in early 2011 by Ruth Logue of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF). This fieldwork consisted of three test trenches and uncovered some features of archaeological interest as well as some finds. The author concluded that ‘....as a number of finds are medieval in nature, it could be concluded that

the features within the trenches represented activity related to the medieval church'. The results of the evaluation are detailed in CAF Monitoring Report No. 218.

- 2.8.2 Excavations in 2009 in the townlands of Ballycreggy and Ballylesson in advance of the construction of the M2/A26 dual carriageway outside Ballymena uncovered a Neolithic enclosure and other features dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age (Bailie 2009).

2.9 Geological background

- 2.9.1 The site is located on olivine basalt belonging to the Lower Basalt Formation (LBF). These rocks were formed by lava flows in the relatively recent geological period of the Palaeocene. The superficial or drift geology consists of glacial till- diamicton- and some nearby exposures of peat.

2.10 Reason for excavation and research objectives

- 2.10.1 The excavation was carried out as part of the planning process. It followed a BH3 archaeological evaluation by Ruth Logue of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork in 2011, as mentioned in paragraph 2.8.1. To avoid archaeological feature identified during the earlier fieldwork, the footprint of the proposed new dwelling was confined to the north-eastern part of the application site. The initial stage of the 2013 work comprised stripping the site of topsoil under archaeological supervision. When further archaeological features were uncovered, this facilitated the need, under fulfilment of planning condition BH4, for further mitigation prior to the construction of the new dwelling. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Historic Monuments Unit (HMU) was consulted and a mitigation strategy devised. It was agreed that:

- The archaeological features in the footprint of the house were to be assessed for their archaeological potential and fully excavated if possible
- If it was not possible to fully excavate all features they were to be *at least* 50% excavated
- Any features not to be disturbed by the building work were to be preserved below geotextile

2.11 Archiving

- 2.11.1 Copies of this report have been deposited with the NIEA: Built Heritage, Waterman House, 5-33 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA. All site records and finds 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 Naomi Carver. The crew consisted of Stuart Alexander, Ruth Logue, Grace McAlister, Sapphire Mussen, Dermot Redmond and Brian Sloan., Grace McAlister and Sapphire Mussen.
- 2.12.3 Assistance during the course of the excavation and the preparation of this report was kindly provided by: Andrew Gault, Philip Macdonald, Grace McAlister, Finbar McCormick, Siobhán McDermott, Cormac McSparron, Ruairí Ó Baoill, Dermot Redmond and Brian Sloan.

3 Excavation

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The investigation at Ballylesson was an open-area excavation of an area approximately 20m (north/south) by 24m (east/west). The upper deposits, consisting of topsoil and cultivation layers, were stripped from the area of the development by mechanical excavator. The footprint of the proposed new dwelling was marked out on the ground and the excavation was targeted within this area. Features outside the development footprint were covered with geotextile to preserve them. The excavated deposits have been described stratigraphically, from the most recent deposit to the earliest. It was not possible to fully reconcile the excavated features with those exposed during the evaluation but where this could be done it has been mentioned in the following account. Below is a summary of the features exposed in the evaluative test trenches, followed by a full account of the subsequent monitoring and excavation.
- 3.1.2 Following the removal of the topsoil and cultivation layers, the remainder of the excavation was carried out by hand. The context record for the site was created using the standard context recording method. The list of contexts forms Appendix 1, the photographic record is reproduced as Appendix 3 and the field drawing register forms Appendix 4. The finds list is Appendix 5 and the soil sample register Appendix 6. The unique site code used to identify the site records was BALL'13. A matrix has been provided in Appendix 2 and it is intended that this is referred to while reading the following account of the excavation.

3.2 Account of the excavations

3.2.1 Summary of evaluation findings

- 3.2.1.1 Three test trenches were excavated ranging in width 2.0-2.8m and in length 35.0-46.0m (Figure 3). Trench A, at the site's westernmost boundary, contained a possible feature (1) and a linear feature (2) with a burnt layer along its surface. Trench B contained a linear feature (3a), burnt spread (3b), burnt area (5) and a stone feature with three legs or segments (6a-c). Within Trench C a small sub-circular feature containing burnt flint, two stone features (8 and 9) and a linear feature (10). Most finds were Medieval in nature, including everted rim ware pottery and a blue glass bead.

3.2.2 Monitoring

- 3.2.2.1 The uppermost layers were removed from the site by a mechanical excavator. The stratigraphically latest layer was a thin sod layer (C183) which had accumulated after the 2011 evaluation. Underlying this was the cut of the 2011 evaluation trenches (C184). The trenches truncated the original sod and topsoil layer (C101). This consisted of compact mid brown clay loam up to 0.1m thick. The layer contained numerous angular fragments of

shattered bedrock ranging 20-100mm in length. Finds retrieved from the topsoil included flint, clay pipe stems and Post Medieval pottery (glazed red earthenware). Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation layer (C102) consisting of compact mid brown sandy clay loam up to 0.5m thick. The layer contained moderately frequent sub-angular stones up to 20mm long. Finds from this layer included pottery of mixed date, burnt bone and flint.

3.2.2.2 Topsoil-stripping of the access lane was also monitored during the course of the excavation. The lane extended from the north-western corner of the site and ran parallel to the stream, approximately 20m to the south of it. The area stripped for the lane was 4m wide and 50m long. The two uppermost layers (C1001 & C1002) are broadly equivalent to the topsoil and cultivation layers in the main area (C101 and C102). The sod and topsoil layer (C1001) in the laneway was a mid-brown clay loam containing numerous angular fragments of shattered bedrock ranging in length 20-100mm. The layer was 0.1m thick. It overlay a cultivation layer (C1002) consisting of compact mid brown sandy clay loam containing numerous sub-angular stones around 20mm long. It was up to 0.5m thick at the north-western end of the laneway and the sole find it contained was a rubber ball.

3.2.2.3 Below the cultivation layer in the access lane was a rubbly deposit (C1003) which was present at the north-western end of the trench and extended for approximately 10m. It consisted of small sub-rounded stones around 50-100mm long and larger stones up to 300mm long. The layer also contained fragments of brick, ceramic pipe and patches of dark brown charcoal-rich clay. It may have been related to the construction of a bridge across the stream that borders the northern part of the site, or perhaps intended to level or infill a hollow. The rubbly deposit stratigraphically overlay the boulder clay subsoil (C1005). When it was removed by mechanical excavator it was possible to see a discoloured area of bedrock (C1004) approximately 10m from the south-eastern end of the trench. This area was sub-circular in plan and consisted of reddish brown to purple clay with some gravel. It was originally thought to be a burnt spread but on further investigation proved to be a degradation of bedrock resulting in heterogeneous subsoil. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.6m. It consisted of boulder clay with gravelly patches. At the north-western end of the trench, corresponding roughly where the rubbly deposit (C1003) lay, the bedrock rose up to the surface. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered in the area of the access lane.

3.2.3 *Excavation*

3.2.3.1 Once the topsoil and cultivation soil had been stripped from the site it was possible to see a number of features in the proposed development area. Some of these features had been previously recognised during the course of the evaluation (Logue 2011). The exposed archaeology was a mixture of cut features, dark-coloured spreads and stone features. There were also several spreads of discoloured subsoil like that observed in the access

lane which were initially assigned context numbers but which on further investigation proved to be not of archaeological significance (C118,121,124,135&136).

Cultivation-related features

3.2.3.2 Below the cultivation layer, at the northern limit of excavation, was an irregularly-shaped cut feature (129: Plate 4). The uppermost fill of this feature was a mid-brown silty clay (C130: Plate 5) which contained a flint flake. The upper fill was 0.15m thick and overlay a lower fill of dark grey silt (C159: Plate 5) containing charcoal which was between 0.05m and 0.38m thick. It contained pottery of mixed date along with possible Post Medieval gun flint (Brian Sloan *pers. comm.*). The irregularly-shaped feature had exposed maximum dimensions of 3.8m by 1.2m (Figures 5 & 6). The base of the feature contained angular stones and shattered bedrock. The function of this feature is unclear but the finds suggest that it is of relatively late date.

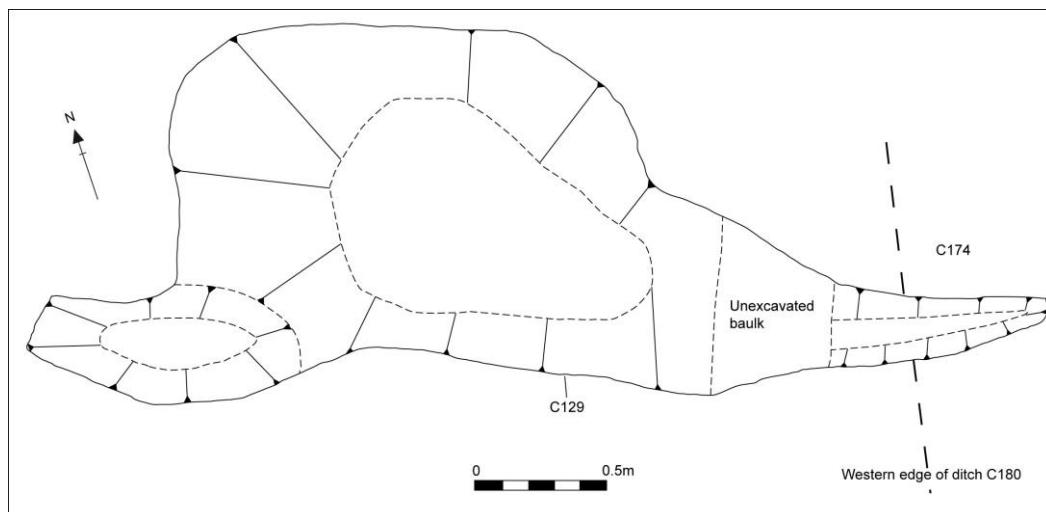


Figure 5: Post-excavation plan of irregularly-shaped feature C129

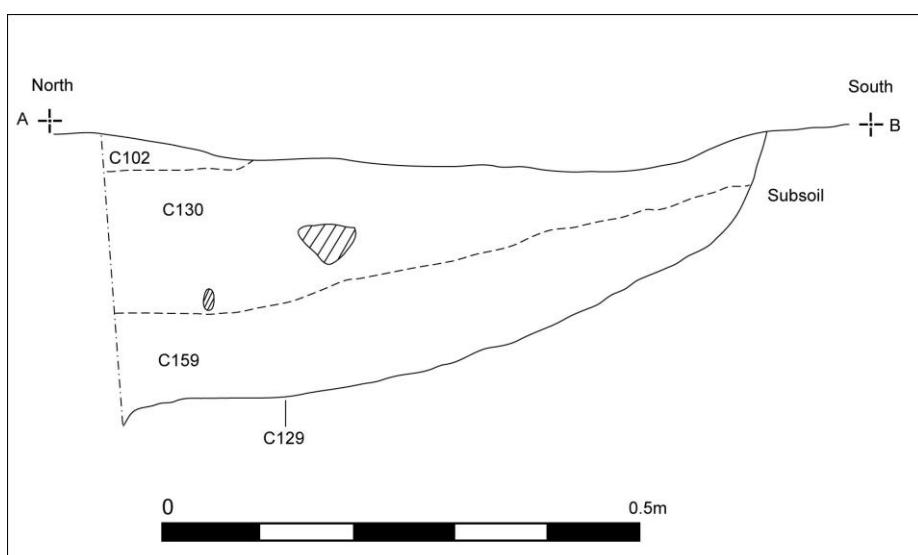


Figure 6: West-facing section through irregularly-shaped feature C129

3.2.3.3 The irregularly-shaped feature was cut into a deposit of loamy clay (C174), which was overlain by a sequence of deposits also below the cultivation soil. The uppermost of this sequence was the cut (C172) and fill (C173) of a cultivation furrow (Figure 7). This feature, which was probably a continuation of another cultivation furrow (C137/138: Figure 8) was 0.45m wide and 0.07m deep. It was linear in plan with a flat base. The northern break of slope was sharper than that on the southern side. The furrow contained a firm mid greyish brown loamy clay containing occasional small stones and gravel. The feature was aligned east/west and was one of a number of cultivation furrows which are described in the following account
 (C104,C108,C110,C112,C114,C116,C119,C141,C143,C145,C147,C149,C151&C153:
 Figures 9 & 10).

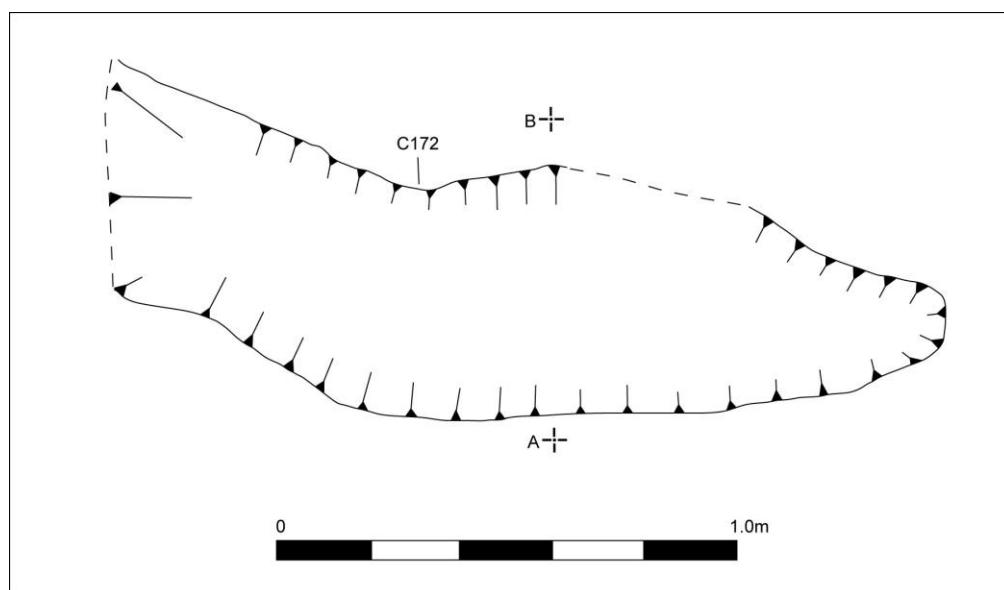


Figure 7: Post-excavation plan of cultivation furrow C172

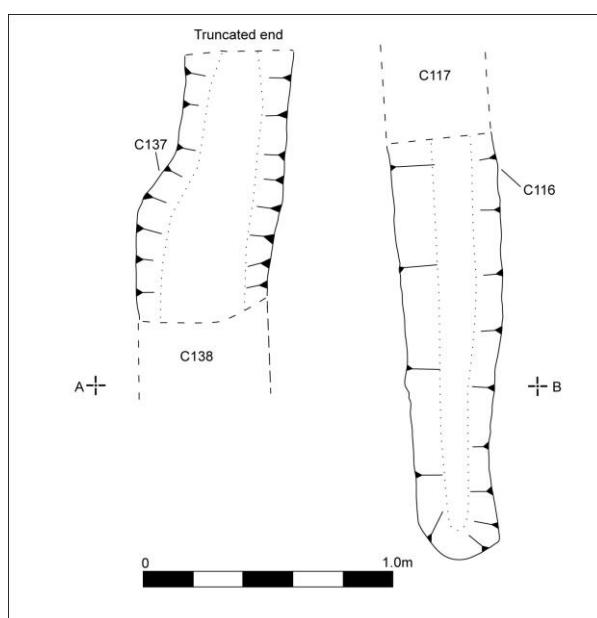


Figure 8: Post-excavation plan of cultivation furrows C116 and C137

3.2.3.4 The group of cultivation furrows was confined to the part of the site closest to the graveyard wall, at the highest point of the development area and, although it is likely that the furrows extended downslope, this area was truncated and they were not visible. The furrows were spread out over an area of around 10m wide (north/south). All were parallel to one another, aligned roughly east/west and were truncated to various degrees; some were substantial but others survived as traces only. Where possible the features were fully excavated or at least 50% of the fill was removed by cutting a section across them. The cut (C110) of the northernmost cultivation furrow was approximately 0.7m long and 0.3m wide. It was heavily truncated and disturbed, surviving only to a depth of 0.04m. It had an uneven base with sharp breaks in slope. The fill (C111) of the furrow consisted of a soft dark greyish brown clay loam from which pottery of mixed date was retrieved. Some 0.15m to the south was another cultivation furrow (C104) which was more substantial than the first. It was at least 3.0m long and 0.48m wide and consisted of a shallow linear cut with a flat base, smooth sides and a gradual break of slope at the top and base. It was 0.1m deep. The furrow contained a fill (C103) of dark greyish brown sandy clay loam containing sub-angular stones (40-100mm in diameter). A single flint flake was found within this fill. Around 0.7m to the north of C104 and parallel to it was another cultivation furrow (C108) which was at least 3.0m long, 0.3m wide and 0.06m deep. The feature had an uneven base with gradually sloping sides to the south and steeply sloping sides to the north. It was filled with soft greyish brown silty loam (C109) which had been heavily disturbed by tree roots. No artefacts were retrieved from the fill of this cultivation furrow. Immediately to the south was another cultivation furrow (C112) which was at least 4.3m long. A section excavated across the feature showed it to be 0.22m wide and 0.06m deep. It had a U-shaped profile and uneven base. The fill (C113) of the feature consisted of soft greyish brown clay silty loam containing occasional gravelly stones. Again no artefacts were found within this feature.

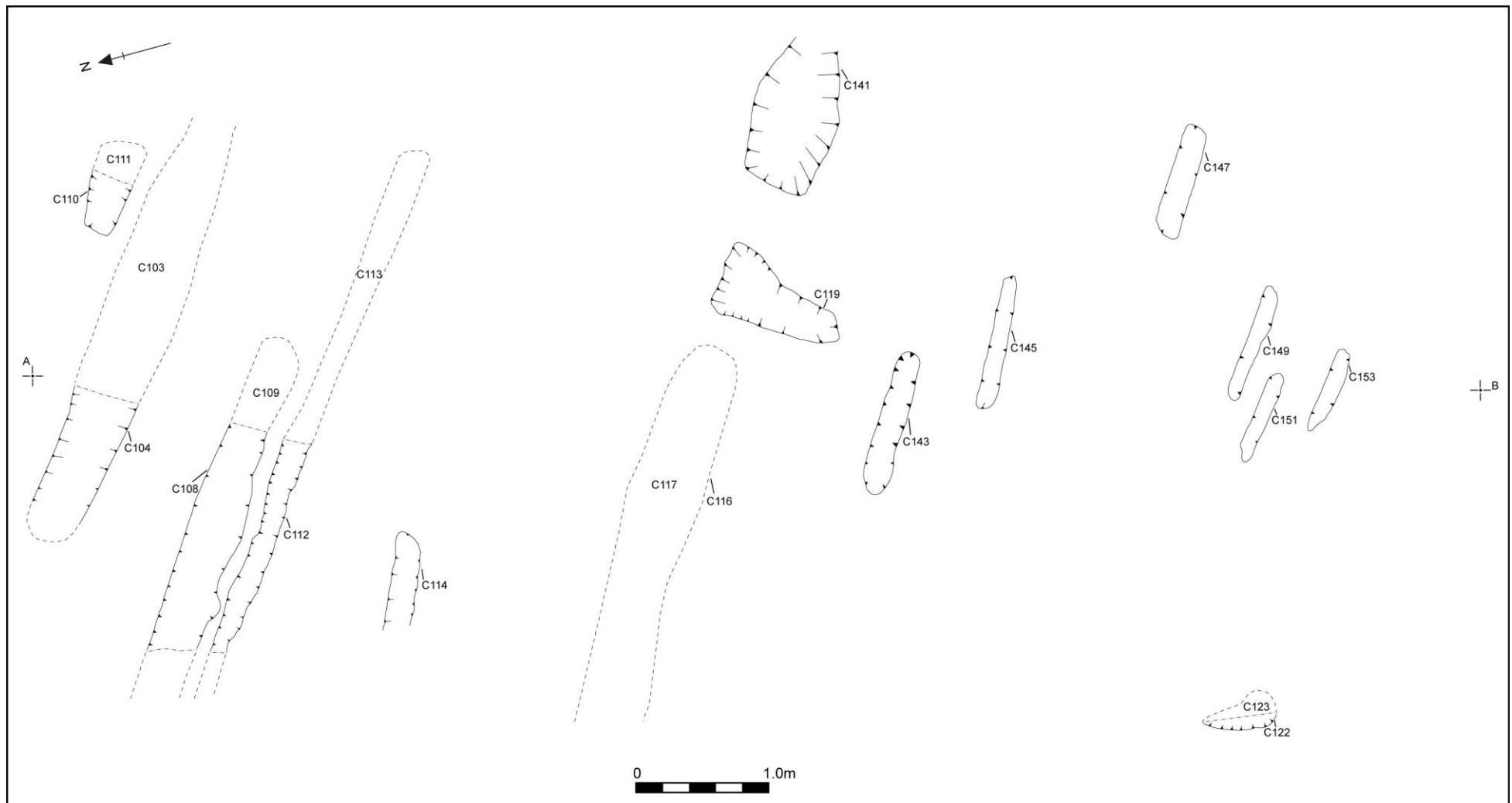


Figure 9: Plan of cultivation ridges in north-eastern part of the site

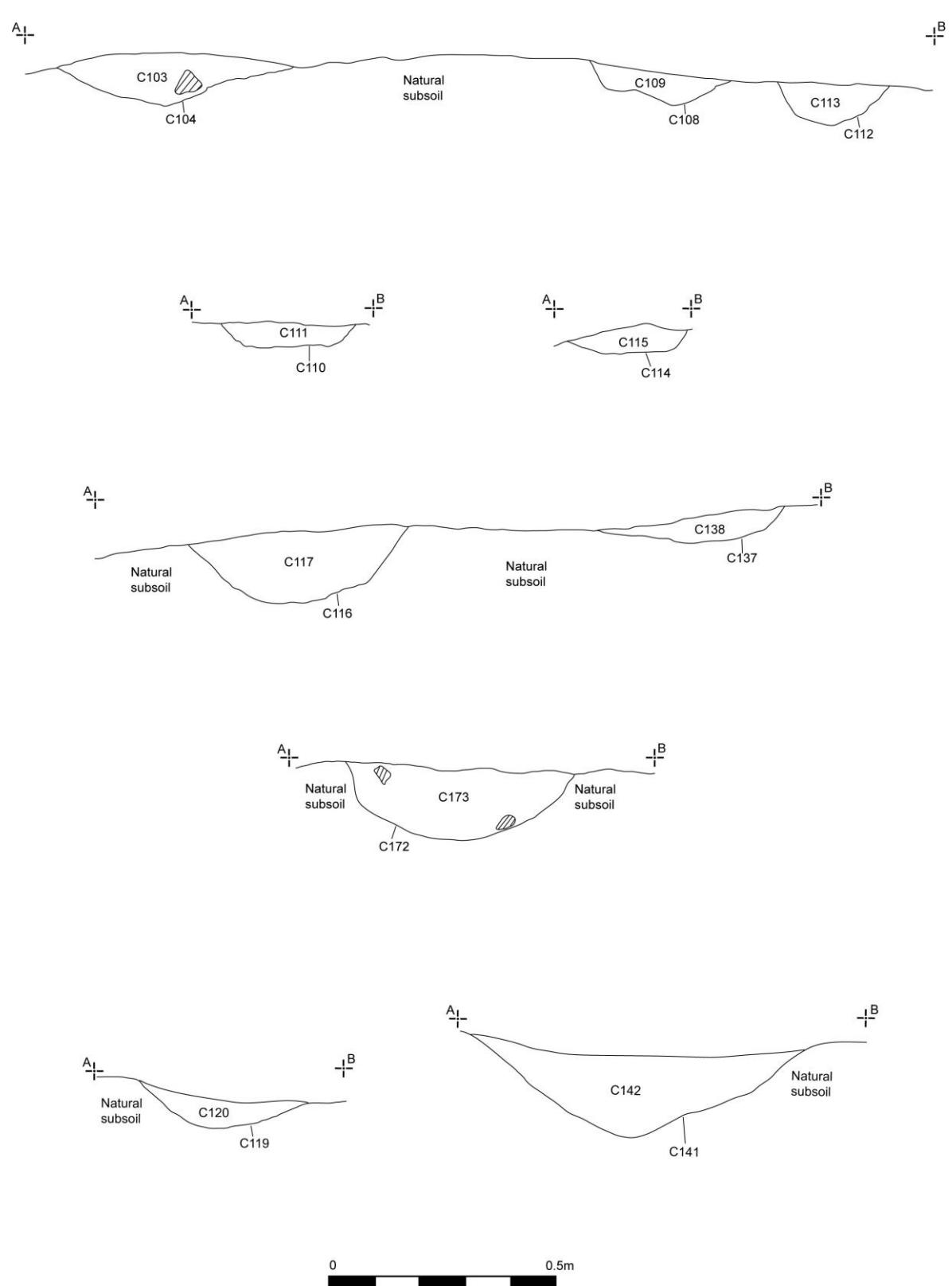


Figure 10: Sections and profiles through the cultivation furrows

- 3.2.3.5 Approximately 1m to the south of C112 was a short and truncated cultivation furrow (C114) which survived to a length of 0.6m and width of 0.25m. It was 0.07m deep and had a u-shaped profile. It contained friable greyish brown silty clay loam (C115) from which no artefacts were retrieved. 1.4m to the south of this was another cultivation furrow (C116) filled with firm dark reddish brown clay loam (C117) containing gravel and small stone inclusions (<10mm diameter). No finds were found in this context. The feature had a u-shaped profile and was deeper than the other excavated furrows, being between 0.12-0.18m deep (deepest at the western end). At the end of this feature, immediately to the east, was a small pit-like feature (C119) which may have been a disturbed cultivation furrow. It had an irregular cut, which was 1m long and 0.3m at its widest point. The feature was relatively shallow (0.06m) and its base was irregular with gradually to relatively steeply sloping sides. The fill (C120) consisted of friable to compact greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small stones. No finds were found within it. Around 0.5m to the east of it was another fragment of a cultivation furrow (C141) which ran beyond the eastern limit of excavation. This furrow was 1.2m long, 0.6m wide and 0.18m deep, and was deeper than most of the other cultivation furrows. The fill (C142) of the feature consisted of dark brown loamy clay and contained pottery, flint and quartz.
- 3.2.3.6 The remainder of cultivation furrows consisted of a group of six features of similar size, all of which were quite heavily truncated. Furthest to the north was C143, a furrow which was around 1m long, 0.2m wide and 0.05m deep. It was filled with a dark greyish brown loam (C144) which contained a sherd of coarse pottery. A second furrow (C145), which was 0.5m to the south, was also 1m long, 0.15m wide and 0.03m deep. It contained dark greyish brown loam (C146) with no finds. Just over 1m to the south-east was another metre-long cultivation furrow (C147) which was 0.2m wide and 0.03m deep. Like the other furrows in this area it contained dark greyish brown loam (C148). No finds were excavated from this context. The final three cultivation furrows (C149, C151 & C153) were grouped closely together, 1m to the south-west of C147. All were shallow (0.03m deep), between 0.6-0.9m long and up to 0.2m wide. They were all filled with dark greyish brown loam (C150, C152 & C154 respectively) containing no artefacts. To the west of this group, some 2m away, was a small cut feature (C122) which may have been the remains of a small pit. It was heavily disturbed and therefore irregular in plan. The fill consisted of an orangeish brown mottled silty clay (C123) containing a single sherd of coarse pottery. The possible pit was up to 0.6m long and a maximum of 0.2m wide.
- 3.2.3.7 The cultivation furrows represented a phase of agricultural activity of uncertain date, suggested by finds to be at least Post Medieval in date. They respected the other archaeology on the site, with the exception of C172/173 which will be discussed below. As well as the irregularly-shaped cut feature, the other feature probably dating to the same period was a hollow filled with a series of layers beside the westernmost limit of excavation, which was probably the same as Feature 1 exposed in Trench A during the

2011 evaluation (Logue 2011). The feature, which appeared to be a natural hollow, was filled with light brown clay loam (C127) containing small angular and sub-angular stones as well as charcoal flecks. Finds included fragments of flint and quartz. Stratigraphically below the clay loam was a layer of dark brown silty loam (C105) which contained rounded to sub-angular stones. This layer was rich in artefacts, containing coarse pottery, flint, burnt bone and slag. Although the pottery probably dates to the 13th century, the presence of several clay pipe stems indicates that the earlier material is residual, probably dumped from elsewhere. The lowermost layer filling the hollow was loose greyish brown gravel (C171/182) comprising small rounded to sub-angular stones around 20mm long. It may possibly have been a variation of the natural subsoil. Following the removal of the fills, the hollow was found to be 5m by 3m in size. It had an irregularly-shaped plan and continued beyond the westernmost limit of excavation.

Gullies

- 3.2.3.8 To the east of the filled hollow were two intercutting features in the subsoil (C125 & C156: Figure 11). These may be the same feature (6a-c) uncovered in Trench B during the monitoring work. The later feature (C125) was linear in plan and at least 4.6m long (being truncated at both its northern and southern ends), 0.5-0.9m in width and 0.1m deep. The feature had relatively steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled with charcoal-rich silty loam (C126) containing burnt bone, sherds of Medieval Ulster coarseware, slag, ferrous objects and a possible hearth cake. The function of the feature is unclear, particularly as it had been truncated, but it is possible it may represent a component of a small structure. At its northern end the linear feature cut another feature (C156). This gully-type feature was slightly curvilinear in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded, U-shaped base. It was approximately 2m long, 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep. The fill (C157) of the feature consisted of compact charcoal-rich greyish brown silty clay which contained coarse pottery and flint.

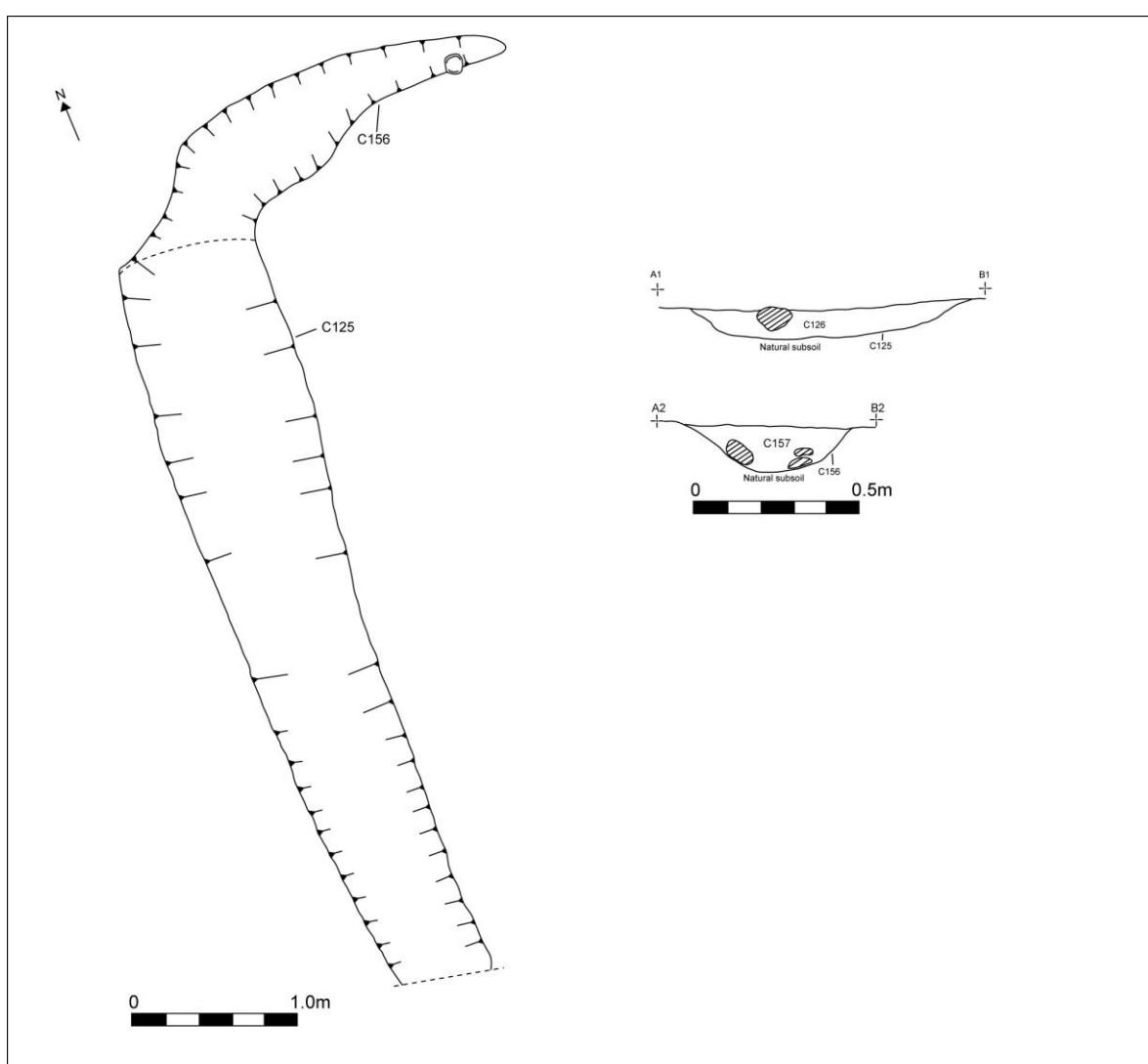


Figure 11: Post-excavation plan of gullies C125 and C156, also showing sections through them

Stone features

3.2.3.9 The two gullies belonged to an earlier period on site, probably Medieval in date as evidenced by the 13th century pottery found within the fill of the later gully. Also belonging to this period, and cut by one of the cultivation furrows (C172) was a stone feature (C107*). The uppermost layer associated with this feature was a dark brown silty loam (C106) which was probably a post-depositional or cultivation-related soil above the stone feature. It contained numerous finds including coarse pottery, quartz, flint and burnt bone. The pottery included a sherd of souterrain ware with an applied pie-crust cordon, of a type for which there is very little evidence before the 13th century (Cormac McSparron *pers. comm.*). Stratigraphically the loam overlay a horizontal discontinuity (C160) representing the removal of some of the larger stones (C163) of the stone feature. This may have been a result of ploughing. Below this was a layer of silt (C161), filling in the gaps between some of the stones. It overlay a surface (C164) which was comprised of large stones (C163) up to 0.7m long and 0.4m wide laid onto a redeposited clay levelling deposit (C162). Found within this clay were sherds of coarse pottery, fragments of flint and lumps of slag. Stratigraphically it overlay another horizontal discontinuity (C165) representing the partial truncation of an underlying metalled surface (C166). This may have been the result of a period of disuse causing the surface to fall into disrepair. The surface was comprised small rounded stones (C167) approximately 40mm in diameter above which a grey silty clay (C168) had accumulated. Below the surface the underlying deposits had been truncated (C169) as levelling in preparation for it.

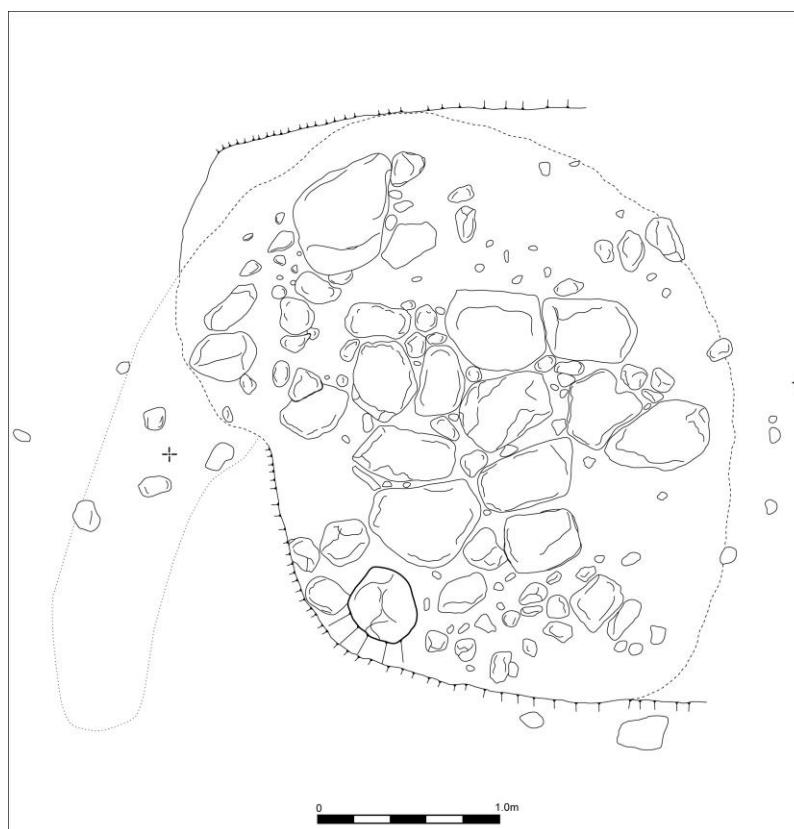


Figure 12: Pre-excavation plan of stone feature C107

*NB Context No. assigned to stone features is made up of C106&160-164

3.2.3.10 A second stone feature (C155) lay to the east of the first, close to the graveyard wall. This feature was uncovered in Trench C during the evaluation (8). It was not excavated as it lay outside the development footprint. It consisted of a number of large stones up to 0.6m long and 0.5m wide, along with smaller stones and was overlain by a loamy soil (C158) which had accumulated above it.

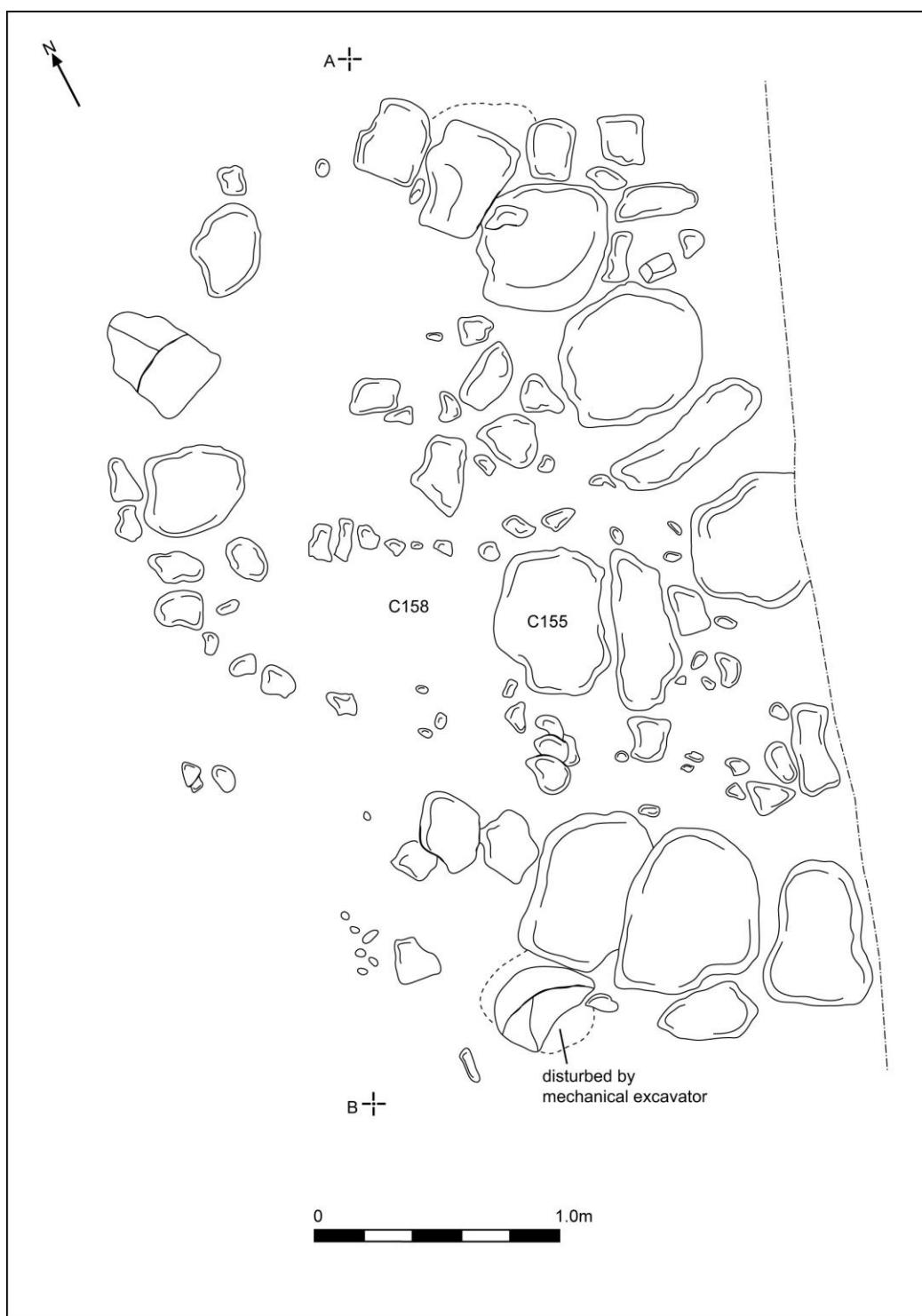


Figure 13: Pre-excavation plan of stone feature C155

Ditch

3.2.3.11 The sequence of deposits associated with the stone feature (C107) and described above stratigraphically overlay a loamy clay (C174) sealing a ditch (C180) which was also truncated by the irregularly-shaped feature in the northern part of the site (C129). Two other context numbers assigned (C175 & C176) were confirmed as part of the loamy clay when excavated. The loamy clay and associated contexts contained coarse pottery, quartz, flint and burnt bone. Upon removal it was clear that it had been used to level the top of a linear feature or ditch (C180) which was filled with a succession of fills. As such it may have been a slighted bank once associated with the ditch. The upper ditch fill (C178/181) consisted of small water-rolled pebbles in a matrix of silty clay (check). It overlay the main ditch fill (C177) of compact orangeish brown silty clay which was sterile. The ditch had a v-shaped profile and had been cut through bedrock. It was found to extend as far as the break of slope to the north of the site and beyond the limit of excavation to the south. It was 1.9m wide and 0.7m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a narrowing towards the base.

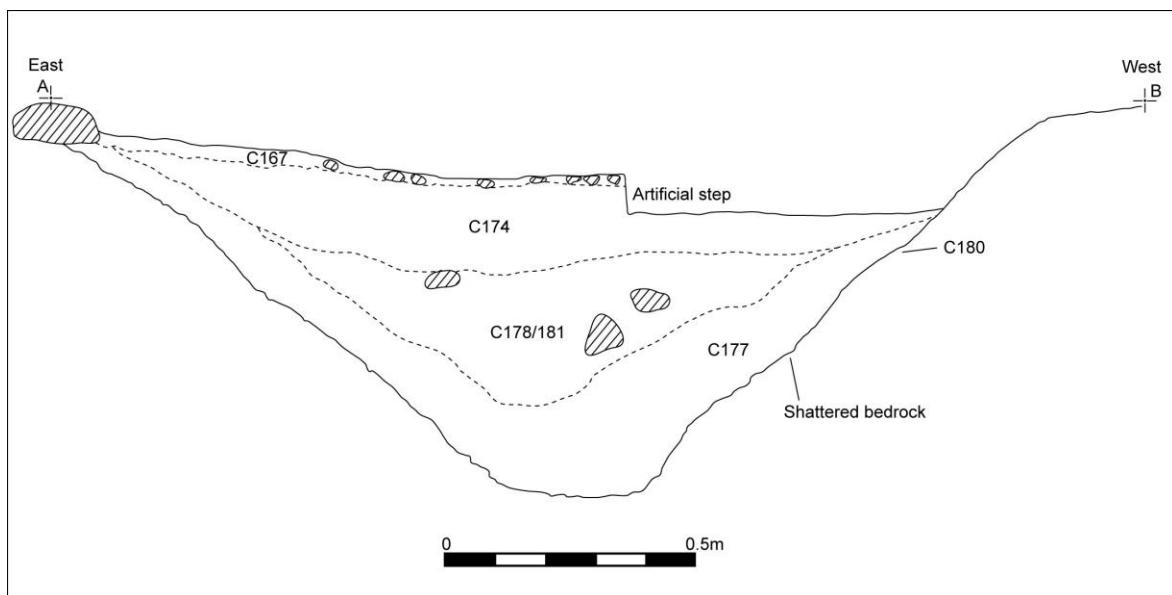


Figure 14: Section through ditch C180

5 Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The archaeological mitigation at Ballylesson was an example of a successful excavation in advance of a proposed new dwelling. It was also an example of how the planning process followed through from evaluation to monitoring to excavation stage. The excavation adds to the archaeological record a previously undocumented Medieval site, possibly associated with an early church. The excavated deposits could be divided into four broad phases, based on artefactual evidence, and these phases are highlighted below.

5.2 ?Early Medieval phase

5.2.1 During this period the ditch was excavated, and probably had an accompanying bank, as evidenced by the sealing layer (C174). This layer contained flint, quartz, burnt bone and coarse pottery. Unfortunately the coarse pottery is undiagnostic, although its fabric is consistent with the souterrain ware tradition (Cormac McSparron, *pers. comm.*). It is intended that the burnt bone is submitted for radiocarbon dating which would give an approximate date for the cessation of use of the ditch. Environmental samples taken from the sealing layer may also provide further dateable artefacts e.g. charred grain. Although no other ditches were encountered during the course of the fieldwork, it is possible that the excavated ditch could be one of a number of *vallum* enclosing an early Medieval ecclesiastical site, the focus of which may have been within the confines of the modern graveyard. The fill of the ditch was sterile, indicating that it had been deliberately in-filled during a single episode rather than naturally silting up. The earliest phases of activity at Armoy, Co. Antrim, which included a ditch, were aceramic (Nelis *et. al.* 2007, 103). Sullivan *et. al.* suggest that ecclesiastical enclosures were reorganised and as the bank element of the *vallum* often do not survive this 'raises the possibility that ecclesiastical enclosures may have been deliberately levelled (with banks being pushed into ditches at some stage when some important function of the *vallum* became obsolete. There is some evidence in the archaeological record for the in-filling of ditches e.g. at Clonfad, Co. Westmeath where the two outer enclosures were filled around the 8th or 9th centuries (Sullivan *et. al.* 2014 148).

5.3 Medieval phase

5.3.1 This phase post-dates the earlier Medieval phase although until more post-excavation work is carried out it is not possible to say how long afterwards. The excavated evidence points towards small-scale industrial activity, perhaps in one of the outer enclosures of a Medieval church site. The pottery indicates that the activity could pre-date the parish church listed in the 1306 taxation by at least a century. Post-dating the ditch was a sequence of deposits representing a metalled surface, and later a larger stone feature. The uppermost context in this sequence (C106) contained probable 13th century souterrain ware pottery, flint and burnt bone, the latter of which could be radiocarbon dated.

- 5.3.2 Also presumably part of the later Medieval phase were two stone features (C107 and C155). The latter was not excavated and therefore little comment can be made on its character. The former stone feature, overlay a metalled surface and was represented by a sequence of deposits. It is entirely possible that the stone features, which were approximately in line with each other, could be the remains of the paved road mentioned in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs for the Parish (Day & McWilliams 1991, 60) which was said to extend from the no longer extant north-western gate of the graveyard. In their current state the stone features do not appear uniform enough to be part of a paved road but it is possible that they were heavily disturbed by later agricultural activity. Another interpretation is that they are *leachta* or so called ‘external altars’, which are dry-stone features found on many early ecclesiastical sites. Dating for these features is somewhat problematical, and although they probably originated in the eighth or ninth century western monasteries, evidence from excavations has shown them to be rebuilt and renewed over time ‘probably in the late Middle Ages’ (Sullivan et. al. 2013, 162).
- 5.3.3 Elsewhere on the site and probably belonging to this phase were two intercutting linear/curvilinear features (C156 and C125). The earlier feature contained undiagnostic coarse pottery and flint while the later feature contained Medieval Ulster coarse pottery, burnt bone and evidence of metal working such as ferrous objects, slag and a possible hearth-cake.
- 5.4 *?Post-Medieval cultivation*
- 5.4.1 One area of the site in particular (the north-eastern side, close to the graveyard wall) showed a focus of cultivation-related activity. There were at least fifteen cultivation furrows which ran parallel to one another and were truncated to various degrees, probably by later farming. The fills of the features contained a mixture of finds including coarse and Post-Medieval pottery, flint and clay pipes. A reasonable assumption can be made that the features dated to at least the Post Medieval period, particularly as they appear to have been created with a plough rather than hand dug, having more gentle u-shaped profiles rather than angular edges. Towards the site’s northern limit of excavation was an irregularly-shaped, subsoil-cut feature with two different fills. It also contained a mixture of Post-Medieval and earlier finds and therefore has been interpreted as belonging to this Post-Medieval phase of activity. The function of the feature was unclear but it is hoped that post-excavation analysis of samples taken from its fills will help to inform on this.
- 5.5 *Modern activity*
- 5.5.1 The final phase of activity on the site related to modern landscaping activity as observed through the excavation of the access route. It was also possible to see the archaeological activity created by the excavation of the 2011 evaluative trenches. A ‘sand pit’ marked on

the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (six inch county series) in the general area of the access lane could be related to the rubbly deposit encountered in that area (C1003).

5.6 *Conclusions*

- 5.6.1 Ballylesson proved to be an interesting site, providing archaeological evidence to substantiate the documentary sources referring to a 14th century church. The excavated evidence also highlighted the existence of an earlier Medieval site, possibly ecclesiastical, which is not mentioned in documentary sources.

6 Recommendations

6.1 *Introduction*

6.1.1 There are several areas of further work required to bring the Ballylesson excavation report to final publication status. The proposed publication would comprise an article intended for submission to the Ulster Journal of Archaeology, combining the history of the site- and possibly a reappraisal of the documentary sources given the early Medieval excavated material- the excavation results and integration of specialist reports. A summary will also be prepared for the *Excavations 2013* bulletin. The areas requiring further attention are detailed below in Sections 6.2 to 6.7. A document detailing the associated costs will be submitted separately.

6.2 *Soil sample processing*

6.2.1 Twenty environmental samples were taken during the course of the excavation. It is recommended that these samples are processed to retrieve dateable material, small artefacts and macrofossils, all of which will give further information about the contexts from which they came.

6.3 *Programme of radiocarbon dating*

6.3.1 It is recommended that at least four samples should be submitted for radiocarbon dating. The samples are listed below in Table 3. The most suitable dateable materials would be charred macrofossils, but since the soil samples have yet to be processed it is not certain if they contain such material. There is also burnt bone present from three of the four proposed contexts for dating.

Context No.	Datable material	Reason for submission
174	Burnt bone*	To date slighted bank material
106	Burnt bone*	To date layer post-dating stone feature (C107)
126	Burnt bone*	To date cut feature associated with metalworking
173	Charred grain*	To date cultivation-related activity

Table 3: suggested samples for submission for radiocarbon dating. *Pending results of soil sample processing

6.4 *Macrofossil analysis*

- 6.4.1 It is recommended that any macrofossils retrieved during the processing of the soil samples are further examined, by an archaeobotanist, to provide information on the types of plants present on the site.

6.5 *Ceramic assemblage*

- 6.5.1 It is recommended that the ceramic assemblage is studied in detail by a ceramic specialist. It is hoped that this will provide further information on the dating of the site's stratigraphy. Several of the coarse pot sherds show evidence of encrusted residues. The ceramic specialist may recommend that these are submitted for further analysis, e.g. lipid analysis. It may also be possible to radiocarbon date some of the encrusted material.

6.6 *Metal artefacts & slag*

- 6.6.1 A small number of ferrous objects as well as fragments of slag and a possible hearth-cake were collected during the excavation. It is recommended that the ferrous objects are x-rayed and then further analysed by an expert. It is also recommended that the slag is sent off for analysis by someone with experience in this field, e.g. Dr Tim Young from GeoArch.

6.7 *Flint and quartz*

- 6.7.1 A modest collection of flint was found during the course of the excavation, as well as some possible worked quartz. It is recommended that the assemblage is studied further, to provide information on the type of tools being produced on the site and the period that they may date to.

Bibliography

Cruickshank, J.G. (ed.), 1997. *Soil and Environment: Northern Ireland*. Agricultural and Environmental Science Division, DANI and the Agricultural and Environmental Science Department, Queen's University, Belfast.

Day, A. & McWilliams, P. (eds.), 1991. *Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland, vol. 8. Parishes of County Antrim VIII 1831-5, 1837-8, Ballymena and West Antrim*. Institute of Irish Studies, the Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast.

Logue, R., 2007. Tully Castle, Co. Fermanagh, CAF Monitoring Report No. 116 (unpublished). Accessible online:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/CentreforArchaeologicalFieldworkCAF/Reports/MonitoringReports/CountyFermanagh/>

Hamlin, A., 1976. *The Archaeology of Early Christianity in the North of Ireland*. (unpublished PhD thesis, three volumes). Queen's University Belfast.

Lawlor, H.C., 1938. An Ancient Route: the Slighe Miodhluachra in Ulaidh, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology, Third Series*, Vol. 1, 3-6.

Lewis, S., 1837. A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland. London

Mitchell, W.I. (ed.), 2004. *The Geology of Northern Ireland: Our Natural Foundation*. Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, Belfast.

Nelis, E., Gormley, S., McSparron, C. and Kyle, A., St Patrick's Church, Armoy, CAF Data Structure Report No. 44 (unpublished). Accessible online:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/CentreforArchaeologicalFieldworkCAF/Reports/DataStructureReport/CountyAntrim/>

Ní Ghabhláin, S., 1995. Church and Community in Medieval Ireland: The Diocese of Kilfenora, *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 125, 61-84.

O'Laverty, 1884. *An Historical Account of the Diocese of Down and Connor, Ancient and Modern*, Vol. 3, Dublin.

Reeves, W., 1847. *Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Down, Connor and Dromore, consisting of a Taxation of those Dioceses*, Dublin.

Sullivan, A., McCormick, F., Kerr, T. and Harney, L., 2013. *Early Medieval Ireland AD400-1100. The Evidence from Archaeological Excavations*. RIA, Dublin.

Appendix 1: Context Registers

Main excavation area

Context Number	Context Type	Description
101	Layer	Sod & topsoil layer (mechanically removed)
102	Layer	Cultivation layer (mechanically removed)
103	Cut	Cut of linear feature in north-eastern part of site
104	Fill	Fill of C103
105	Layer	Spread of loam in western part of site
106	Layer	Loamy soil between associated with stone feature C107
107	Feature	Stone feature made up of C106, C164 etc.
108	Cut	Cut of linear feature to south of C103
109	Fill	Fill of C108
110	Cut	Cut of possible post-hole beside C103
111	Fill	Fill of C110
112	Cut	Cut of linear feature beside C108
113	Fill	Fill of C112
114	Cut	Cut of possible feature to south of C112
115	Fill	Fill of C114

Context Number	Context Type	Description
116	Cut	Cut of linear feature to south of C112
117	Fill	Fill of C116
118	Layer	Possible burnt spread
119	Cut	Cut of curvilinear feature beside C116
120	Fill	Fill of C119
121	Layer	Clay spread to south of C118
122	Cut	Possible feature to south of C121
123	Layer	Clay spread associated with stone feature C107
124	Layer	Red clay around curvilinear feature C125
125	Cut	Cut of curvilinear feature in south-western part of site
126	Fill	Fill of C125
127	Layer	Light brown spread beside C105
128	Layer	Red clay in northern part of site
129	Cut	Cut of irregular feature in northern part of site
130	Fill	Fill of C129
131	N/a	VOID
132	N/a	VOID
133	N/a	VOID

Context Number	Context Type	Description
134	N/a	VOID
135	Layer	Possible burnt spread in northern part of site
136	Layer	Possible burnt spread to south of C135
137	Cut	Cut of linear feature beside C136
138	Fill	Fill of C137
139	Cut	Cut of possible feature to north of C107
140	Fill	Fill of C139
141	Cut	Cut of feature beside C119
142	Fill	Fill of C141
143	Cut	Linear feature to south-west of C119
144	Fill	Fill of C143
145	Cut	Cut of linear feature running north-west/south-east
146	Fill	Fill of C145
147	Cut	Cut of linear feature running north-west/south-east
148	Fill	Fill of C147
149	Cut	Cut of linear feature running north-west/south-east
150	Fill	Fill of C149
151	Cut	Cut of linear feature to south of C149

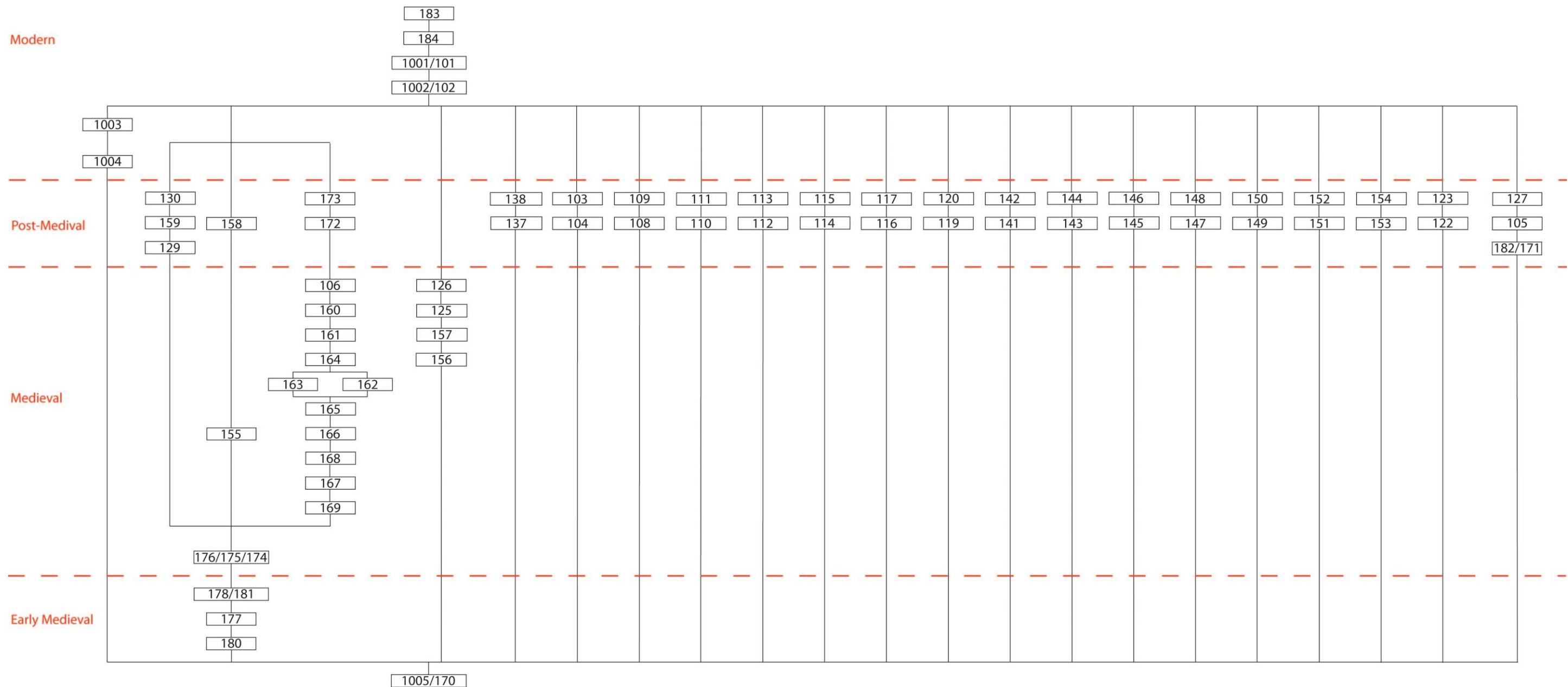
Context Number	Context Type	Description
152	Fill	Fill of C151
153	Cut	Linear feature running north-west/south-east
154	Fill	Fill of C153
155	Feature	Stone feature in south-eastern corner of site
156	Cut	Cut of linear feature in western part of site
157	Fill	Fill of C156
158	Layer	Soil associated with stone feature C155
159	Fill	Lower fill of C129
160	Discontinuity	Horizontal discontinuity- removal of boulders C163
161	Discontinuity	Period of disuse of surface C164
162	Layer	Clay packing around stones C163
163	Surface	Large stones forming surface C164
164	Surface	Created with C162/C163
165	Discontinuity	Disuse/truncation of surface
166	Surface	Surface created with stones C167
167	Layer	Small stones creating surface C166
168	Layer	Silty clay associated with stones C167
169	Discontinuity	Horizontal discontinuity- truncated natural

Context Number	Context Type	Description
170	N/a	Natural subsoil
171	Layer	Gravel layer below C105
172	Cut	Cut of pit to east of C105
173	Fill	Fill of C172
174	Layer	Loamy clay associated with C180
175	N/a	VOID
176	N/a	VOID
177	Layer	Orange clay below C174
178	Fill	Stone fill of ditch C180
179	N/a	VOID
180	Cut	Cut of ditch
181	Fill	Fill of ditch C180
182	Layer	Greyish brown gravel below C105 (same as C171)
183	Layer	Post-evaluation sod layer
184	Cut	Cut of 2011 evaluation trenches (A/B/C)

Access Lane

Context Number	Context Type	Description
1001	Layer	Sod & topsoil layer (mechanically removed)
1002	Layer	Cultivation layer (mechanically removed)
1003	Layer	Rubbly hardcore layer at north-western end of trench
1004	Layer	Discoloured area of bedrock
1005	Layer	Boulder clay subsoil. Same as C170

Appendix 2: Harris Matrix



Appendix 3: Digital Photograph Register

- 1 General view of site, looking south-west
- 2 General view of site, looking west
- 3 General view of site, looking south
- 4 General view of site, looking north
- 5 Linear feature (C103/C104)
- 6 Discoloured bedrock (C1004) in access lane, looking north-west
- 7 Discoloured bedrock (C1004) in access lane, looking south-east
- 8 Rubble layer (C1003) in access lane, looking south-east
- 9 General view of site, looking east
- 10 General view of site, looking north
- 11 Pre-excavation view of cultivation furrows, looking north
- 12 Pre-excavation view of cultivation furrows, looking south
- 13 Pre-excavation view of C108 & C112, looking south-east
- 14 Pre-excavation view of C114, looking south-east
- 15 Pre-excavation view of C110, from above
- 16 North-west facing section of C110, looking south-east
- 17 North-west facing section of C104, looking south-east
- 18 North-west facing section of C108 & C112, looking south-east
- 19 South-east facing section of C114, looking north-west
- 20 North-east facing section of C119, looking south-west
- 21 West facing section of C141, looking east
- 22 General view of cultivation furrows, looking north
- 23 General view of cultivation furrows, looking north-east
- 24 Pre-excavation view of C116 & C118, looking east
- 25 Pre-excavation view of C116 & C118, looking east
- 26 Pre-excavation view of C116, looking east
- 27 Pre-excavation view of C137, looking east
- 28 North-west facing section through C125, looking south-east
- 29 South-east facing section through C125, looking north-west
- 30 General view of section through C125, looking north-east
- 31 General view of C125 & C156, from above
- 32 General view of C125 & C156, from above
- 33 General view of C125 & C156, from above
- 34 West facing section of C116, looking east
- 35 West facing section of C116, looking east
- 36 West facing section of C116, looking east
- 37 Possible feature (C133/C134), looking south
- 38 Possible feature (C133/C134), looking south
- 39 Post-excavation view of C116 & C118, looking east

- 40 Post-excavation view of C116 & C118, looking east
- 41 Post-excavation view of C119, looking north-east
- 42 Post-excavation view of C143, looking north-east
- 43 Post-excavation view of C145, looking north-east
- 44 Post-excavation view of C147, looking north-east
- 45 Post-excavation view of C149, looking north-east
- 46 Post-excavation view of C151, looking north-east
- 47 Post-excavation view of C153, looking north-east
- 48 General post-excavation view of features C143-C154
- 49 General post-excavation view of features C143-C154
- 50 East facing section of C115 & C137, looking west
- 51 East facing section of C115 & C137, looking west
- 52 West facing section of C122, looking east
- 53 Mid-excavation view of C122, from above
- 54 Pre-excavation view of C131, looking north-east
- 55 Mid-excavation view of C131, looking north-east
- 56 Mid-excavation view of C131, looking south-east
- 57 Post-excavation view of C125 & C156, looking north-west
- 58 Post-excavation view of C125, looking south-east
- 59 Post-excavation view of C156, looking north-east
- 60 Post-excavation view of C125 & C156, looking south-west
- 61 Post-excavation view of C125 & C156, looking west
- 62 Pre-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking north
- 63 Pre-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking north-east
- 64 Pre-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking east
- 65 Pre-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking south-east
- 66 Pre-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking south-west
- 67 East facing section through C123, looking west
- 68 Mid-excavation view of C129, looking east
- 69 Mid-excavation view of C129, looking east
- 70 Mid-excavation view of C129, looking north
- 71 Mid-excavation view of C129, looking north
- 72 Baulk in C129, looking east
- 73 Pre-excavation view of C140, looking south-east
- 74 Pre-excavation view of C140, looking south-east
- 75 Mid-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking north
- 76 Mid-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking west
- 77 Mid-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking south-west
- 78 Mid-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking south
- 79 Mid-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking east

- 80 Record shot of C159 *in situ*, looking south
- 81 Record shot of C159 *in situ*, from above
- 82 Western end of C129 following removal of C159, looking south
- 83 Western end of C129 following removal of C159, looking east
- 84 Western end of C129 following removal of C159, looking north
- 85 Mid-excavation view of surface C166 following removal of large stones C163, looking east north-east
- 86 Mid-excavation view of surface C166 following removal of large stones C163, looking south south-east
- 87 Mid-excavation view of surface C166 following removal of large stones C163, looking north north-west
- 88 Mid-excavation view of surface C166 following removal of large stones C163, looking west south-west
- 89 Pre-excavation view of C175, looking east
- 90 Mid-excavation view of C175, looking south south-east
- 91 Mid-excavation view of C175, looking north north-west
- 92 Mid-excavation view of C175, looking east
- 93 Stone feature C155, looking north
- 94 Stone feature C155, looking west
- 95 Stone feature C155, looking south
- 96 Stone feature C155, looking east
- 97 Stone feature C155, looking east
- 98 Stone feature C155, looking east
- 99 Mid-excavation view of C172, looking south-west
- 100 Mid-excavation view of C172, looking east
- 101 Post-excavation view of C172, looking east
- 102 Ditch feature associated with C107, looking north
- 103 Ditch feature associated with C107, looking north
- 104 Stones with ditch feature C107, looking north
- 105 Continuation of C129, looking west
- 106 Continuation of C129, looking west
- 107 Ditch feature associated with C107, looking south
- 108 Mid-excavation view of C129, looking east
- 109 Mid-excavation view of C129, looking north-east
- 110 Eastern end of C129, looking east
- 111 Possible features associated with C129, looking east
- 112 Stones associated with C129, looking north-east
- 113 Stones associated with C129, looking north-east
- 114 Surface of clay C162 following removal of C107, looking east
- 115 Surface of clay C162 following removal of C107, looking south

- 116 Surface of clay C162 following removal of C107, looking west
- 117 General view of C105/C127, looking south
- 118 General view of C105/C127, looking south
- 119 General view of C105/C127, looking north
- 120 General view of C105/C127, looking north
- 121 General view of ditch C180, looking south-east
- 122 General view of ditch C180, looking south-east
- 123 General view of ditch C180, looking south-east
- 124 General view of ditch C180, looking south-east
- 125 North facing section of cutting B through C180, looking south
- 126 North facing section of cutting B through C180, looking south
- 127 North facing section of cutting B through C180, looking south
- 128 North facing section of cutting B through C180, looking south
- 129 South facing section of cutting A through C180, looking north
- 130 South facing section of cutting A through C180, looking north
- 131 South facing section of cutting A through C180, looking north
- 132 South facing section of cutting A through C180, looking north
- 133 North facing section of cutting A through C180, looking south
- 134 North facing section of cutting A through C180, looking south
- 135 South facing section of cutting B though C180, looking north
- 136 South facing section of cutting B though C180, looking north
- 137 North facing section of cutting B though C180, looking south
- 138 North facing section of cutting B through C180, looking south
- 139 North facing section of cutting C through C180, looking south
- 140 North facing section of cutting C through C180, looking south
- 141 North facing section of cutting C through C180, looking south
- 142 North facing section of cutting C through C180, looking south
- 143 North facing section of cutting C through C180, looking south
- 144 North facing section of cutting C through C180, looking south
- 145 General view of hollow in subsoil, looking east
- 146 General view of hollow in subsoil, looking east
- 147 General view of hollow in subsoil, looking west
- 148 General view of hollow in subsoil, looking west
- 149 Post-excavation view of C129, looking east
- 150 Post-excavation view of C129, looking east
- 151 Post-excavation view of C129, looking east
- 152 Post-excavation view of C129, looking east
- 153 Post-excavation view of C129, looking west
- 154 Post-excavation view of C129, looking west
- 155 Post-excavation view of C129, looking north-west

- 156 Post-excavation view of C129, looking north-east
- 157 Post-excavation view of C129, looking east
- 158 Post-excavation view of C129, looking north
- 159 Close-up of stones within C129, looking north
- 160 Possible redeposited subsoil related to C129, looking south-east
- 161 Possible redeposited subsoil related to C129, looking south
- 162 Spread of loam to north of C129, looking east
- 163 Spread of loam to north of C129, looking east
- 164 Natural subsoil, looking south
- 165 General view of site, looking south-east
- 166 General view of site, looking east
- 167 Surface C167 on eastern side, looking south
- 168 Surface C167 on eastern side, looking east
- 169 North facing ditch section, looking south
- 170 North facing ditch section, looking south
- 171 North facing ditch section, looking south
- 172 North facing ditch section, looking south
- 173 North facing ditch section, from above
- 174 North facing ditch section, from above
- 175 General view of site on 7.5.13, looking north
- 176 General view of site on 7.5.13, looking east
- 177 General view of site on 7.5.13, looking east
- 178 General view of site on 7.5.13, looking north-east
- 179 General view of site on 7.5.13, looking north north-east
- 180 Foundation 1, looking east
- 181 Foundation 2, looking east
- 182 Foundation 3, looking south
- 183 Section of foundation 3, looking west
- 184 Possible cut in foundation 2, looking south
- 185 Possible cut in foundation 2, looking south
- 186 Possible cut in foundation 1, looking north
- 187 Possible cut in foundation 1, looking north
- 188 Continuation of possible cut in north facing section of foundation 1, looking south
- 189 Foundation 4a, looking south
- 190 Foundation 4a, looking east
- 191 Foundation 4c, looking east
- 192 Foundation 4a, looking west
- 193 General view of foundation 4c, looking south
- 194 General view of foundation 4b, looking west
- 195 General view of foundation 4a, looking south

- 196 Bedrock at eastern end of foundation 5, looking north
- 197 General view along line of foundation 5, looking west
- 198 Western end of foundation 5, looking west
- 199 Eastern end of foundation 5, looking east
- 200 Layers in foundation 4, looking east
- 201 Layers in foundation 4, looking south
- 202 General view of western wing of house, looking north
- 203 General view of wide section of foundation 6, looking north
- 204 Western face of foundation 4a, looking west
- 205 Possible cut visible in southern face of foundation 1, looking north
- 206 Possible cut visible in southern face of foundation 1, looking north
- 207 North facing section of foundation 7, looking south
- 208 South facing section of foundation 7, looking north
- 209 C180 within foundation cuts 2/8, looking north-west
- 210 C180 in south facing section of foundation 7, looking north
- 211 C180 in south facing section of foundation 7, looking north
- 212 C180 in north facing section of foundation 7, looking south
- 213 Geotextile in position to preserve archaeological features, looking north-east
- 214 Geotextile in position to preserve archaeological features, looking west
- 215 Slope of ground in graveyard, looking east
- 216 Slope of ground in graveyard with boulders, looking west
- 217 Slope of ground in graveyard, looking east
- 218 General view of eastern end of house, looking east south-east
- 219 General view of house foundations, looking south
- 220 General view along foundation 12, looking south
- 221 Southern face of foundation 2, looking south

Appendix 4: Field Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Type	Scale	Description
1	Plan	1:20	Pre-excavation plan of site
2	Section	1:10	North-east facing section through cut features C126 & C156
3	Section	1:10	South-east facing section through cut feature C125
4	Section	1:10	North facing section through cut feature C156
5	Section	1:10	North-west facing section through cut features C104, C108 & C112
6	Section	1:10	North-west facing section through cut feature C110
7	Section	1:10	South-east facing section through cut feature C114
8	Section	1:10	South-east facing section through cut features C116 & C137
9	Section	1:10	West facing section through cut features C116 & C118
10	Plan	1:10	Pre-excavation plan of stones C107
11	Section	1:10	South facing section through cut feature C129
12	Section	1:10	West facing section of baulk of cut feature C129
13	Plan	1:20	Post-excavation plan of cultivation furrows in

Drawing No.	Type	Scale	Description
			eastern part of site
14	Profile	1:10	North-south profile through cut feature C129
15	Profile	1:10	North-south profile through western end of cut feature C129
16	Plan	1:20	Overlay of Drawing No. 10
17	Plan	1:10	Plan of stone feature C155
18	Plan	1:20	Post-excavation plan of cut feature C129
19	Plan	1:20	Post-excavation plan of cut feature C125
20	Section	1:20	North-west facing section through cut feature C172
21	Section	1:20	East facing section through loamy spread C105/C127
22	Plan	1:20	Overlay (2) of Drawing No. 10
23	Plan	1:20	Post-excavation plan of cut feature C172
24	Plan	1:20	Overlay (3) of Drawing No. 10. Following removal of C166/C167/C168
25	Profile	1:10	East-west profile through cut features C119 & C141
26	Profile	1:10	North-south profile through cut feature C119
27	Profile	1:10	North-south profile through cut feature C141

Drawing No.	Type	Scale	Description
28	Plan	1:20	Post-excavation plan of cut features C116 & C137
29	Section	1:10	Stone feature C107 and associated layers
30	Section	1:10	North facing section through cut feature C180 and showing associated fills
31	Plan	1:20	Plan of eastern part of stone feature C107 following removal of large stones
32	Plan	1:20	Mid-excavation plan of cut feature C129
33	Plan	1:20	Post-excavation plan of hollow in natural filled with C105/C127
34	Profile	1:10	East-west profile through hollow in natural filled with C105/C127
35	Section	1:10	South facing section of cutting A through cut feature C180
36	Section	1:10	North facing section of cutting A through cut feature C180
37	Plan	1:20	Post-excavation plan of cut feature C129
38	Section	1:10	North facing section through ditch cutting??
39	Plan	1:20	Overlay of Drawing No. 10 showing excavated/ exposed edges of cut feature C180

Appendix 5: Finds list

Context	Type	Quantity	Weight (g)
Topsoil	Clay pipe	3	7.0
Topsoil	Flint	2	8.0
Topsoil	Pottery	4	26.3
102 (Above c.107)	Burnt bone	5	0.7
102 (Above c.107)	Flint	4	12.2
102 (Above c.107)	Pottery	6	20.2
102 (Above c.129)	Flint	4	13.1
102 (Above c.129)	Pottery	1	1.0
104	Flint	1	6.7
105	Burnt bone	5	1.4
105	Clay pipe	2	1.4
105	Flint	10	86.5
105	Pottery	40	184.7
105	Slag	1	23.2
106	Burnt bone	1	1.7
106	Flint	5	154.0
106	Pottery	2	15.7
106	Quartz	2	30.4
108	Pottery	3	7.3
123	Pottery	5	10.3
126	Burnt bone	13	3.7
126	Charcoal	3	0.9
126	Flint	3	12.4
126	Hearth cake	1	449.4
126	Iron	2	141.1
126	Pottery	4	14.2
126	Slag	4	214.3
127	Flint	2	0.6
128	Pottery	5	21.7
128	Slate	1	378.7
130	Flint	1	7.8
131	Glass	2	1.2
131	Pottery	8	43.1
142	Charcoal	1	6.7
142	Flint	2	24.3
142	Pottery	2	7.0
144	Pottery	1	6.4

157	Flint	3	21.0
157	Pottery	1	8.2
158	Clay pipe	2	3.6
158	Flint	3	26.4
158	Pottery	3	9.5
158	Quartz	3	88.1
159	Flint	12	112.1
159	Pottery	6	33.9
159	Quartz	2	17.3
162	Flint	5	107.2
162	Hammer stone	1	263.9
162	Pottery	2	13.1
162	Slag	1	3.6
173	Flint	3	125.9
173	Pottery	3	12.1
174	Burnt bone	5	4.3
174	Flint	29	348.1
174	Pottery	1	43.8
174	Quartz	5	48.1
176	Pottery	2	55.3
176	Quartz	2	66.6

Appendix 6: Sample register

Sample No.	Context No.	No. Of Bags	Reason for sampling
1	126	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
2	103	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
3	109	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
4	113	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
5	115	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
6	117	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
7	138	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
8	106	2	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
9	159	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
10	106	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
11	173	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
12	176	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
13	105	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
14	105	2	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
15	168	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
16	130	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
17	130	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
18	159	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
19	162	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material
20	174	1	Dating evidence, macrofossils & small artefact material



Plate 1: General view of Ballyclug graveyard and ruinous school-house, looking north-west



Plate 2: General view of the site prior to the monitored topsoil-strip, looking south-west



Plate 3: General view of the site prior to the monitored topsoil-strip, looking west



Plate 4: Mid-ex view of irregularly-shaped feature C129 (half-sectioned), looking east



Plate 5: Baulk in irregularly-shaped feature C129 showing fills C130 and C159, looking east



Plate 6: Pre-excavation view of cultivation ridges, looking north-east



Plate 7: Cultivation furrow C172 following half-section, showing C137 in the background, looking east



Plate 8: North-west facing section of cultivation furrow C103, looking south-east



Plate 9: North-west facing section of cultivation furrows C108 & C112, looking south-east



Plate 10: West facing section of cultivation furrow C141, looking east



Plate 11: North-west facing section of gully C125, looking east



Plate 12: Post-excavation photo of gullies C125 & C156, looking west



Plate 13: Pre-excavation view of stone feature C107, looking north



Plate 14: Pre-excavation view of stone feature C155, looking east



Plate 15: North facing section of cutting B through ditch C180, looking south