



**Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 266**

**SITE 65M SOUTH-EAST OF 53 GLEN ROAD  
BROCKAGHBOY  
GARVAGH  
COUNTY LONDONDERRY**

**LICENCE NO.: AE/13/90E**

**NAOMI CARVER**

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* 65m south-east of 53 Glen Road

*Townland:* Brockaghboy

*SMR No. :* LDY 026:033 & LDY 026:050

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other                       [delete as applicable]

*Grid Ref.:* C 8009 1228

*County:* Londonderry

*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/13/90E

*Planning Ref / No. :* C/2012/0436/O

*Dates of Monitoring:* 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013

*Archaeologist(s) Present:* Naomi Carver

### *Brief Summary:*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 65m to the south-east of 53 Glen Road in Brockaghboy townland, Co. Londonderry. The work was requested in response to an application for outline planning permission. The proposed development site is in the vicinity of two raths, the closest of which is 35m to the south-west. Four trenches were excavated during the course of the evaluation, ranging in length from 35.0-40.0m. No finds or features of archaeological interest were found in any of the trenches and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological mitigation is undertaken.

### *Type of monitoring:*

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

### *Size of area opened:*

Five trenches each 2.0m wide and ranging 35.0-40.0m in length.

*Current Land Use:* Pasture

*Intended Land Use:* Residential

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

The application site for a proposed split-level farm dwelling, garage and farm shed is located just over 7km to the north-west of Swatragh and 5km to the south-west of Garvagh in Co. Londonderry (Figure 1). The site is located immediately off the Glen Road, 65m to the south-east of 53 Glen Road and lies at a height of around 170m above sea level (Figure 2). The application site is located in a field approximately 0.5 hectares in size (Plates 1-3). The field is enclosed by a double row of post-and-wire fencing, interspersed with saplings on the eastern and southern sides and with more mature trees to the west and north, which screen it from the road. There is a ditch between the site and the road. The field is in grass, quite overgrown, and slopes up from north to south.

The evaluation was requested due to the site's proximity to two archaeological monuments. In a field to the south-west of the development is Lisbeg fort (NISMR No. LDY 026:033), thought to be the remains of a rath. All that is left of the rath is a length of bank close to the Glen Road (Plates 4 and 5). The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) details that the bank is approximately 1.5m wide and 1.0m above the surface of the field. There is a deep ditch running along the southern side of the bank, parallel to the road (Plate 6). The ditch, which continues to the west and east, appears to have been utilized for road drainage. The fort is shown on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey six inch map series as well as being described in the Ordnance Survey memoirs for the parish. Its description in the memoir sheets for Errigle parish in December 1835 indicates that at this date it was much better preserved and it was described as being roughly oval in shape and around 29 x 27m in diameter. Presumably the remainder has since been ploughed-out.

Also in proximity to the proposed development site is Lismore rath (NISMR No. LDY 026:050), a scheduled monument to the south-east. This monument, which is much better preserved than Lisbeg, exists as a circular rath, the ditch of which is partially rock-cut.

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

### *Excavation*

Four test trenches were excavated at the site in the approximate positions shown on Figure 3. The trenches were each 2.0m wide and ranged in length 35.0-40.0m. The trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at depths of between 0.2-0.6m.

### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was 7.0m to the east of the westernmost field boundary to which it ran parallel. It was also 12.0m from the northernmost boundary. The trench was 2.0m wide and 40.0m long (Plates 7 and 8). The uppermost layer in Trench 1 was the sod and topsoil layer (C101) consisting of mid brown loamy clay which was quite compact with a spongy consistence. The layer contained small sub-angular stones up to 2mm in length. It was up to 0.2m thick and thickest at the northern end of the trench. The topsoil contained fragments of rusted metal.

Below the topsoil was a cultivation layer (C102) consisting of mid orangeish brown silty loamy clay. The layer was up to 0.4m thick at the northern end but virtually absent at the southern end of the trench. It contained fragments of quartz which appeared to be of natural original (i.e. unworked).

Physically below the cultivation layer (C102) was orangeish grey boulder clay subsoil (C109), the surface of which was encountered at a depth of up to 0.6m. Cut into the subsoil were three field drains (C103/104, C105/106 and C107/108). The first drain (C103/104: Plate 9) was 7.0m from the northern end of the trench. The second (C105/106: Plate 10) was 13.0m to the south of the first, while the third field drain (C107/108: Plate 11) was 7.0m from the southern end of the trench. Each drain was 0.25-0.30m wide and filled with well-sorted, sub-rounded pebbles 50-70mm in diameter. The drains ran parallel to one another, north-west/south-east across the trench and at an oblique angle to the slope of the ground surface.

### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 was located 6.0m to the east of Trench 1 and ran parallel to it. The northern end of the trench was 13.0m to the south of the northernmost field boundary. The trench was 2.0m wide and 38.0m long (Plates 12 and 13). The uppermost layer in Trench 1 (C201) consisted of spongy but compact loamy clay sod and topsoil. The layer was mid brown in colour and 0.1m thick at the northern end of the trench. Below it was a mid brown cultivation layer (C202) which was 0.1m thick and composed of silty loamy clay.

The surface of the subsoil in Trench 2 (C212) was encountered at a depth of 0.2m. Cut into the subsoil were a number of field drains similar to those uncovered in Trench 1. The first field drain (C203/204: Plate 14) was 5.0m from the northern end of the trench. There was another drain (C205/206: Plate 15) 7.0m to the south of the first and a third drain (C207/208: Plate 16) 6.0m to the south of this again. Like the drains in Trench 1, these were 0.25-0.30m wide, ran north-west/south-east across the trench and were filled with well-sorted, sub-rounded pebbles 50-70mm diameter.

Also cut into the subsoil of Trench 2, at the southern end of the trench, was a linear feature (C209/210: Plate 17) running approximately north-south. The cut of the linear feature (C209) was up to 0.6m wide and 0.14m deep (Plate 18). It was filled with mottled greyish orange silty clay (C210) with a spongy texture that contained degraded roots and organic material. There was naturally-occurring quartz within the fill. The

dimensions of the feature, and its position running parallel to the slope of the field, indicate that it was a cultivation-related feature.

Trench 2 also contained a spread of dark brown, humic clay (C211: Plate 19) which was 13.0m from the northern end of the trench. The irregular spread, with maximum dimensions of 2.0 x 2.0m overlay the subsoil (C212). It contained organic material, roots and small sherds of glazed red earthenware. It is likely to be the remains of a kitchen midden and therefore not of archaeological significance. The underlying subsoil was grey in this area.

### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 was located 6.0m to the east of Trench 2 and 14.0m out from the northernmost field boundary. The trench was 2.0m wide and 35.0m long (Plates 20 and 21). The uppermost layer in the trench was a shallow sod and topsoil layer (C301) which consisted of mid brown, sandy loamy clay around 0.08m thick. The layer contained some sub-rounded grits around 2mm diameter. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a shallow cultivation layer (C302) consisting of friable, mid brownish orange, clay sand. The layer was 0.08m thick and not always present within the trench.

Below the cultivation layer were two features cut into the subsoil of Trench 3. The first was a field drain (C303/304: Plate 22) running north-west/south-east across the trench. The feature was up to 0.25m wide and filled with well-sorted, sub-rounded stones up to 100mm wide. Towards the southern end of the trench was a linear feature (C305/306: Plate 23) which ran parallel to the linear feature in Trench 2 (C209/210) and was of a similar nature. The subsoil (C307) in Trench 3 consisted of orange boulder clay, the surface of which was encountered at a depth of up to 0.2m.

### *Trench 4*

Trench 4 was located 6.0m to the east of Trench 3 and 13.5m from the northernmost field boundary. The trench was also 13.0m from the easternmost field boundary. The trench was 2.0m wide and 35.0m long (Plates 24 and 25). The uppermost layer in Trench 4 was the sod and topsoil layer (C401). This consisted of quite compact, mid brown, loamy clay with small sub-rounded inclusions around 2-3mm long. The layer was 0.1m thick. Below it was a cultivation layer (C402) consisting of friable orangeish brown sandy clay. The layer contained small inclusions 2-3mm long and was 0.12m thick. Below the cultivation layer was the boulder clay subsoil (C403) which in Trench 4 ranged in colour from orange to brown to grey. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance in Trench 4.

### *Recommendations*

No finds or features of archaeological interest were found during the evaluation. The presence of the drains indicate that the field is prone to becoming waterlogged. The presence of cultivation furrows indicate some level of cultivation, but the shallowness of the cultivation soil suggests that the field was not intensively cultivated. It is not thought

that the proposed development will impinge on any unknown archaeological deposits and therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual 'Excavations' bulletin.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* N/A

*Photographs:*

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

*Plans / Drawings:* N/A

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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Center Point (280104, 412244)



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



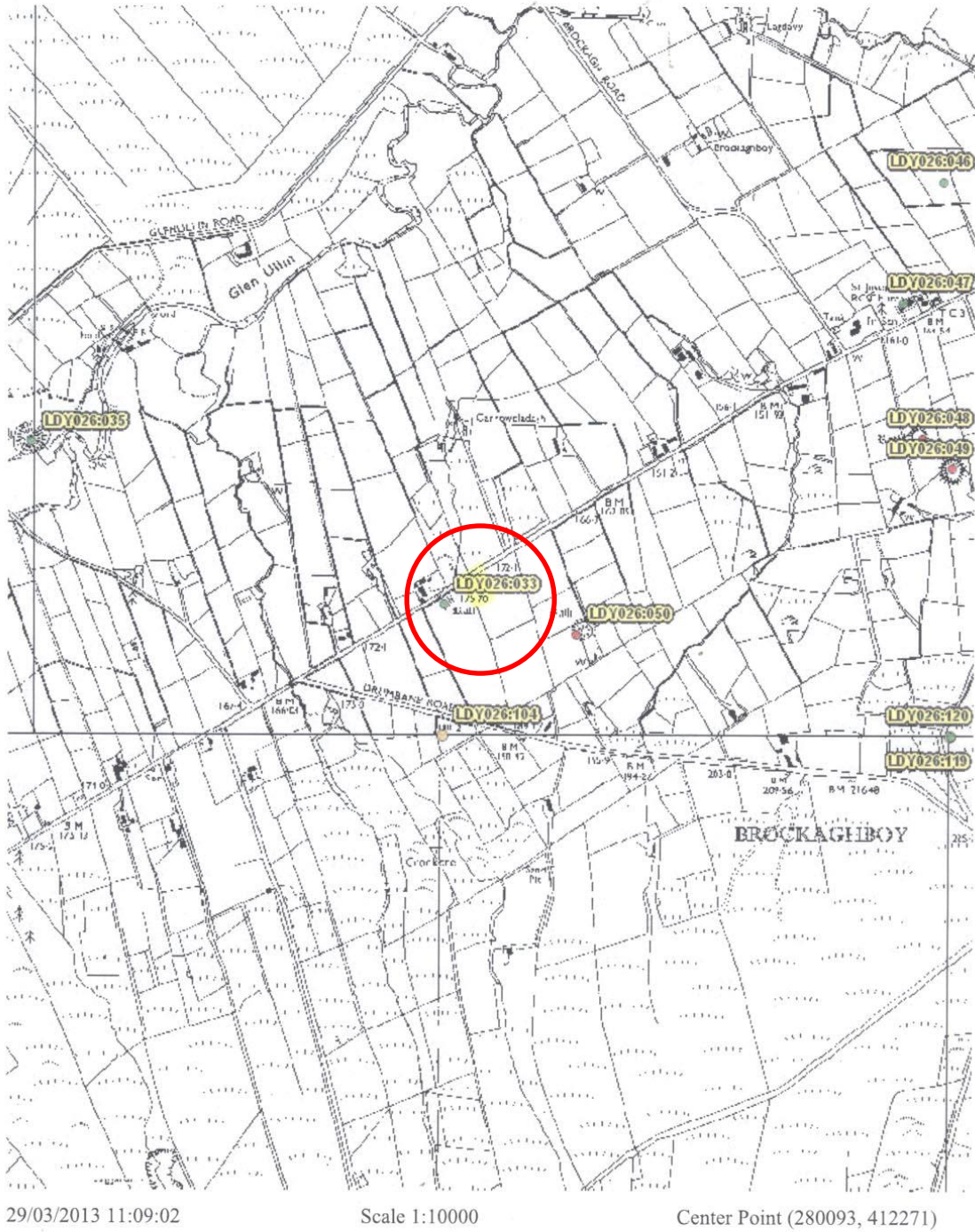
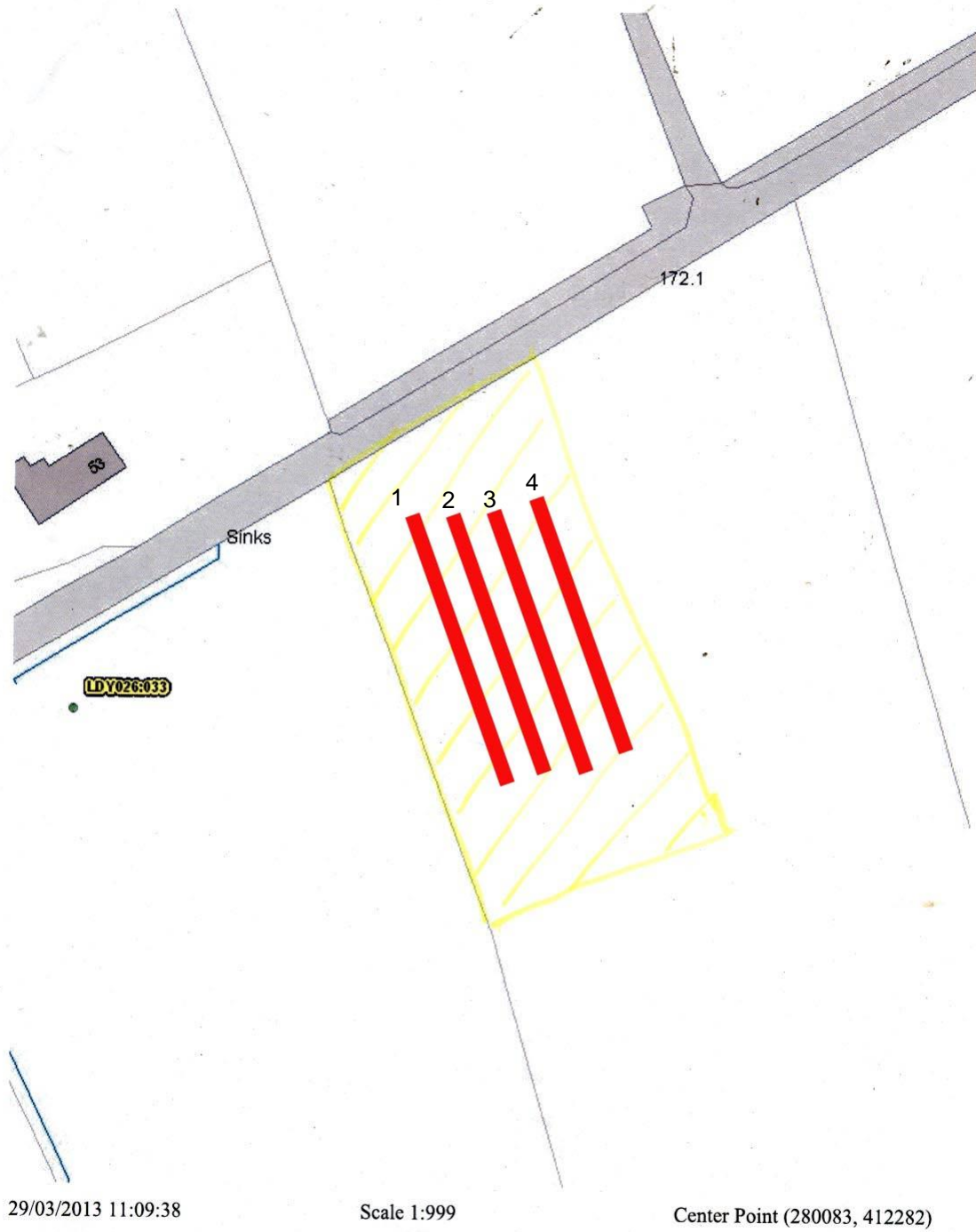


Figure 2: Detailed map showing the location of the site (circled in red)



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Figure 3: site outline showing location of test trenches

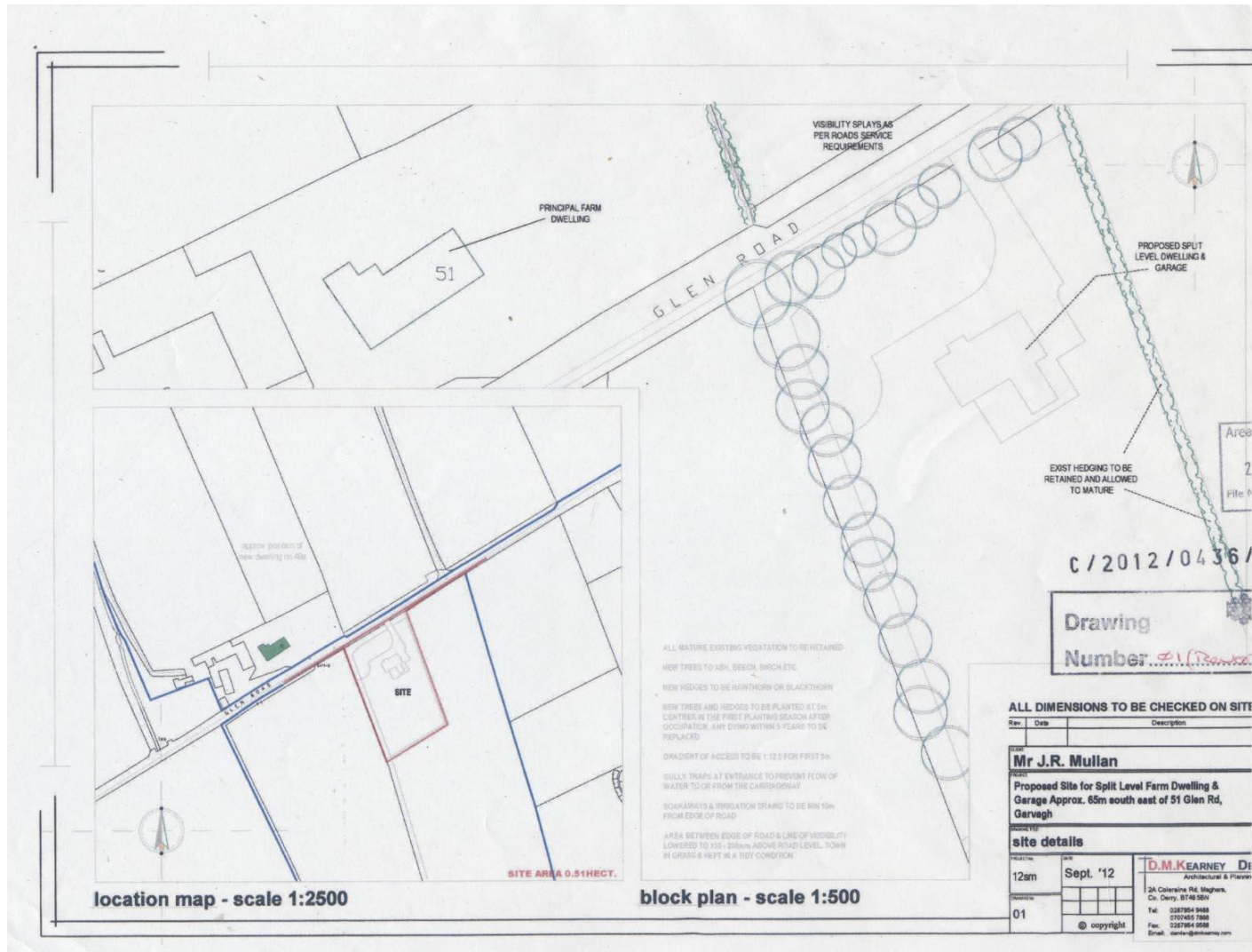


Figure 4: Architect's drawing showing proposed layout of new development



Plate 1: General view of the site prior to evaluation, looking south-west



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



Plate 3: View of the site prior to evaluation, looking east



Plate 4: Remains of rath bank, looking north-east



Plate 5: Stones in rath bank, looking east



Plate 6: Remains of rath ditch, looking east



Plate 7: Trench 1 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south





Plate 8: East-facing section of Trench 1 (part of), looking west



Plate 9: Field drain (C103/104) in Trench 1, looking south



Plate 10: Field drain (C105/106) in Trench 1, looking south



Plate 11: Field drain (C107/108) in Trench 1, looking south



Plate 12: Trench 2 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north



Plate 13: East-facing section of Trench 2 (part of), looking west



Plate 14: Trench 4 following excavation to subsoil level, looking east



Plate 15: Field drain (C205/206) in Trench 2, looking south



Plate 16: Field drain (C207/208) in Trench 2, looking south



Plate 17: Possible cultivation furrow (C209/210) in Trench 2, looking south



Plate 18: Section excavated across possible cultivation furrow (C209/210), looking south



Plate 19: Possible feature (C211), looking south





Plate 20: Trench 3 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north



Plate 21: West-facing section of Trench 3 (part of), looking east



Plate 22: Field drain (C303/304) in Trench 3, looking south



Plate 23: Possible cultivation furrow (C305) in Trench 3, looking south

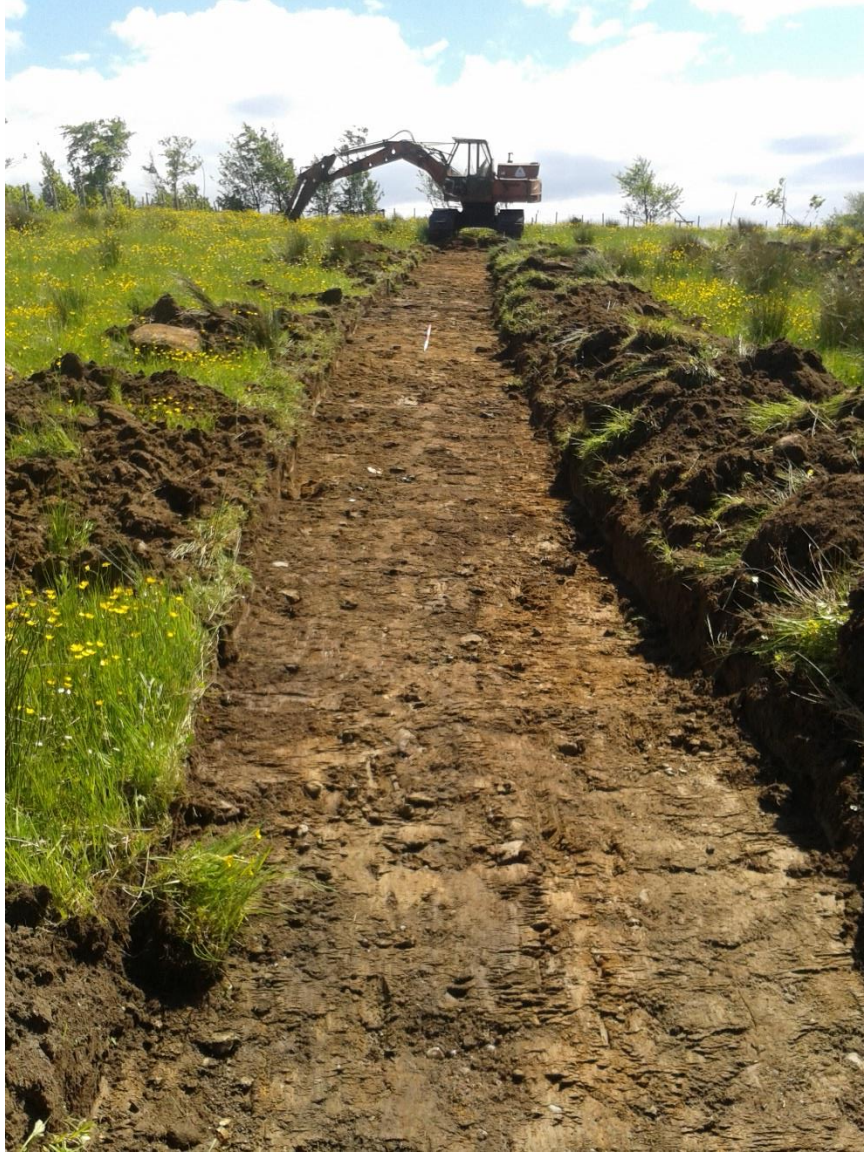


Plate 24: Trench 4 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 25: West-facing section in Trench 4 (part of), looking east