



Monitoring Report No. 32

**Lissan Church
Tullynure
Co. Derry**

AE/05/147

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Lissan Church

Townland: Tullynure

SMR No: Ldy:046:001 Ldy 048:018

State Care Scheduled Other

Grid Ref: H80568289

County: Derry

Excavation License No: AE/05/147

Planning Ref / No. : I/2005/0106/F

Dates of Monitoring: 15th November 2005.

Archaeologists Present: Kara Ward and Ronan McHugh

Summary:

Monitoring of topsoil stripping carried out on site of proposed extension to graveyard. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted.

Type of monitoring:

Topsoil stripped with a machine equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened: Approximately 650m squared

Current Land Use: Farming, pasture.

Intended Land Use: Graveyard

Account of the monitoring.

Monitoring of topsoil stripping was carried out under archaeological supervision on 15th November 2005. The topsoil stripping was required to evaluate the impact on archaeological material of the proposed extension to the graveyard at Lissan Church (Plate 1, 2 and 3 and Figure 1). Topsoil stripping was carried out by a back-acting mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket.

Approximately 0.37m of sod layer (C101) and ploughsoil (C102) were removed to reveal a compact red sandy clay with natural inclusions of granite, quartz and limestone. This was the subsoil (C104).

It was apparent that the area had been disturbed by intensive agricultural activity. A series of parallel plough furrows cut through the site on a north-south axis. Three agricultural drains were found to cut across the site (Figure 2). Two of these were aligned east-west; Drain 1 (C108) was a modern drain containing a red ceramic pipe surrounded by small stones. Drain 2 (C109) was also a modern drain packed with small stones but did not appear to contain a pipe. The third drain (C110) was aligned north-south and drained downslope and away from an oval shaped feature (Plate 4). The oval shaped feature (C106) appears to have acted as a sump to collect runoff from the other drains and carry it down slope via Drain 3. The feature measured 2.4m east-west by 1.9m wide and had a depth of 0.30m. The fill (C107) was a moist grey brown sandy silt.

Two further modern features were noted during monitoring (Figure 2). There was a dump of mortar (C105) measuring 1.2m long by 0.70m wide containing a sherd of modern glass (Plate 5). A spread of burnt material (C103) also proved to be of relatively recent date. It was apparent that this area and particularly the south-east corner of the site next to the wall had been used as a dumping ground.

No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered during this programme of monitoring.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 5 digital images included in report. Held by CAF.

Plans / Drawings: 1 drawing included in report. Held by CAF.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Figure 1: Plan of site, as issued by PHM

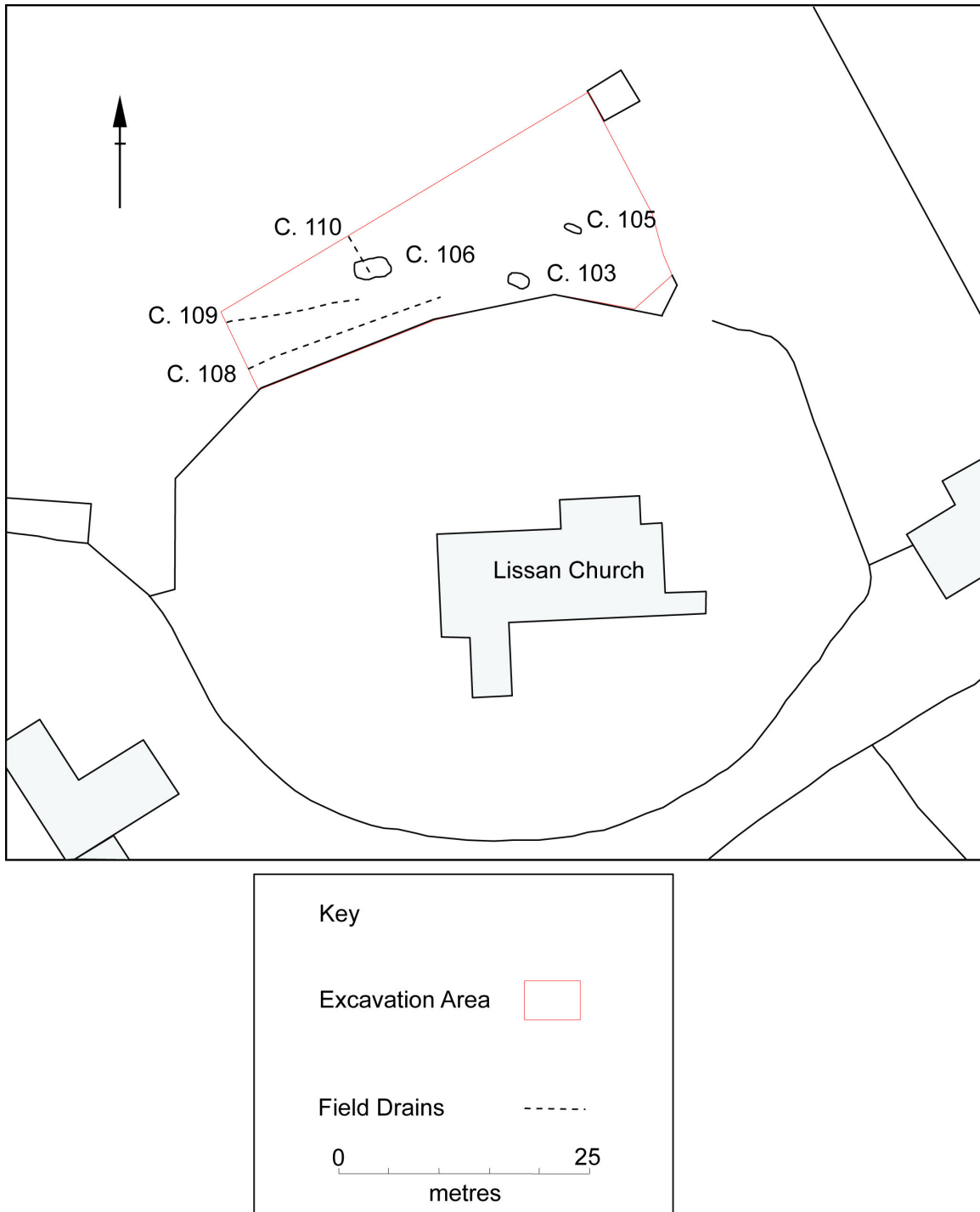


Figure 2: Plan of site after topsoil removal



Plate 1: View of church and graveyard from north-west



Plate 2: View of site from east



Plate 3: View from site towards north-east



Plate 4: Sump (C106) and drain (C110) from south



Plate 5: Dump of mortar (C105) viewed from east