



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 073a
Amended Version

**TATTENABUDDAGH
FIVEMILETOWN
COUNTY FERMANAGH**

LICENCE NO.: AE/06/137

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Tattenabuddagh, Fivemiletown

Townland: Tattenabuddagh

SMR No. : FER 214:008 and FER 214:009

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: H 4607 4302

County: Fermanagh

Excavation Licence No. : AE/06/137

Planning Ref / No. : L/2005/1618/O

Dates of Monitoring: 14th June 2006

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in Tattenabuddagh townland near Fivemiletown, County Fermanagh, as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. The application site is located approximately 50m to the north-east of a stone circle (FER 210:009) and approximately 40m to the north-west of a multiple cist cairn (FER 210:008). There are no visible remains of either monument. The evaluation consisted of four test trenches within the footprint of the proposed dwelling. A number of features of modern date were recorded, but these are not considered to be of great archaeological significance. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Four trenches each approximately 2m wide and ranging in length between 20m and 30m.

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located in Tattenabuddagh townland approximately 5km from Fivemiletown, County Fermanagh (Figure One). The topography of the surrounding countryside is varied and the site lies on the southern edge of the Clogher Valley. Landuse in the immediate area is predominantly agricultural, interspersed with dwelling houses. The site is located in the south-western part of a field approximately 0.36 hectares in size. The field slopes gently towards the north-east/south-west field boundary and is bordered by hedges and trees. To the east are a group of farm buildings and the field is bordered by a road on the south-western side. The application site covers an area of approximately 1200m².

The application site is located approximately 50m to the north-east of a stone circle (FER 210:009) and approximately 40m to the north-west of a multiple cist cairn (FER 210:008) (Figure Two). There are no visible remains of either site. The stone circle (FER 220:009) is shown on the 1860 Ordnance Survey map. The multiple cist cairn did not exist in living memory but was mentioned in a 19th century account “The pile of stone was opened about 5 or 6 years since...There were 7 separate graves resembling the form of a coffin...In all of them burned ashes appeared” (Environment and Heritage Service: Sites and Monuments Record).

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Edith Gowdy: Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. It was recommended that four test trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed location of the new house. For the purpose of the evaluation these trenches were designated as Trenches One, Two, Three and Four (Figure Three).

Excavation

The four trenches were excavated mechanically using a smooth-edged (sheugh) bucket operated on a back-acting mechanical digger. The research design was revised slightly in the field to accommodate the area in which the landowner said the house was to be built. This involved extending Trenches Two, Three and Four from 20m long to 25m, 30m and 30m respectively. This was still within the area specified in the planning application.

Trench One (Plates One and Two)

Trench One was located in the south-western part of the field, perpendicular to the north-east/south-west field boundary. The trench was located approximately 7m south-east of the field boundary. Trench One was approximately 2m wide and 20m long with the long axis of the trench aligned north-west/south-east. Trench One was excavated to the natural subsoil, up to 0.4m deep. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) consisted of loose dark brown loamy clay containing small stones (average size 15x10x10mm). The topsoil (Context No. 101) was approximately 0.2m deep and supported grass. Below the topsoil (Context No. 101) was a cultivation deposit (Context No. 102) of dark brown clay. The cultivation deposit (Context No. 102)

contained some small stones and was approximately 0.2m in depth. There were no artefacts recovered from either the sod and topsoil layer or the cultivation deposit.

Below the cultivation deposit (Context No. 102) was a field drain running north-east/south-west through the centre of the trench (Figure Four). A cutting across this feature demonstrated an angular cut (Context No. 103) with a steep-sided profile and flat base. The cut was 0.35m wide and 0.28m deep. The field drain was filled with dark grey/reddish mottled loamy clay (Context No. 104). The fill (Context No. 104) contained frequent large stones (average size 150x100x100mm) and the feature was waterlogged towards the base. The fill of the field drain (Context No. 104) contained no finds and the presence of water in the feature indicates it was of a modern nature.

The field drain (Context No. 103) cut through the fill of a plough furrow (Context No. 106). The furrow ran parallel to the south-western edge of the trench for a distance of approximately 10m. The cut of the plough furrow (Context No. 105) was 0.3m wide and 0.05m in depth. The fill (Context No. 106) consisted of a compact dark brown silty clay loam containing frequent small stones (average size 10x10x5mm). There were no finds from the feature. To the north-east there may have been the trace of a further plough furrow running parallel to the north-eastern edge of the trench. Stratigraphically below the excavated plough furrow (Context No. 105) was the natural subsoil (Context No. 107). This varied throughout the site and in Trench One consisted of orange/grey mottled sandy boulder clay that contained stones ranging in size from small (average size 150x100x50mm) to large (average size 300x250x200mm).

Trench Two (Plates Three and Four)

Trench Two was located approximately 10m to the north-east of Trench One and ran parallel to the latter. Trench Two was located approximately 8m south-east of the north-east/south-west field boundary. The trench was approximately 25m long (north-west/south-east) by approximately 2m wide. The upper deposits in Trench Two were similar to those in Trench One. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) consisted of a loose, dark brown loamy clay. In Trench Two it was 0.14m in depth. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) was a cultivation deposit (Context No. 202) which consisted of a dark brown clay. The cultivation deposit (Context No. 202) was approximately 0.2m deep and overlay three features (Figure Four). The first feature was a stone-lined drain which ran north-south through in the north-western part of the trench. The cut of the drain (Context No. 203) was angular in profile and the feature was 0.26m wide and at least 0.2m deep. The drain was filled with sub-angular stones (average size 150x100x50mm) set into a dark brown clay (Context No. 204). There were no finds from the feature and it is probable it was a relatively modern feature similar to the drain found in Trench One (i.e Context No. 103). The drain was cut into the natural subsoil (Context No. 211). The second feature was also cut into the subsoil. It was a possible post-hole immediately beside which were patches of charcoal. The cut of the post-hole (Context No. 205) was triangular in plan with steeply sloping sides. It was 0.2m in diameter and 0.09m deep. The post-hole was filled with dark to medium brown silty clay loam (Context No. 206) that contained some charcoal flecks. There were no finds from the feature. The third feature below the cultivation deposit (Context No. 202) in Trench Two was a stone-lined field drain (Context Nos. 209) which was probably the continuation of the drain in Trench One

(i.e. Context No. 103). The field drain (Context No. 209) had steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was approximately 0.3m wide and at least 0.2m deep. The feature was filled with angular to sub-angular stones (Context No. 210) which ranged in size from 10x10x10mm to 200x100x50mm. The drain (Context No. 209) was cut into the fill of a plough furrow (Context No. 208). The furrow ran north-south through the south-eastern end of the trench. The cut of the furrow (Context No. 207) was 0.28m wide and 0.06m deep. It was filled with a loose silty clay loam (Context No. 208). There were no finds from the feature. The subsoil in Trench Two (Context No. 211) was orange/grey mottled sandy clay. In parts the clay was whiteish grey in colour. The subsoil occurred at an average depth of 0.34m.

Trench Three (Plates Five and Six)

Trench Three was located approximately 12m to the north-east of Trench Two and ran parallel to both Trenches One and Two. Trench Three was located at an approximate distance of 10m from the north-east/south-west field boundary. The trench was approximately 2m wide and 30m long (north-west/south-east). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of a loose dark brown loamy clay containing small stones and was 0.14m deep. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was a cultivation deposit (Context No. 302) comparable to the deposit in Trenches One and Two (Context Nos. 102 and 202). The cultivation deposit (Context No. 302) was composed of dark brown loamy clay and contained small stones (average size 15x10x10mm) and much larger stones (average size 1000x500x500mm). Many of the larger stones were heavily weathered and degraded. In parts the topsoil (Context No. 301) in Trench Three physically overlay the subsoil.

Stratigraphically below the cultivation deposit in Trench Three (Context No. 302), in the south-eastern part of the trench, was a stone-lined field drain (Context No. 303: Figure Four). The drain was probably a continuation of the field drains in Trenches One and Two (Context No. 103 and 209). The cut of the drain (Context No. 303) was aligned north-east/south-west and it was approximately 0.4m wide and at least 0.2m deep. The drain was filled with angular and sub-angular stones (average size 200x200x100mm) (Context No. 304). The stone-lined drain (Context Nos. 303/304) was cut into the natural subsoil (Context No. 305) which in Trench Three consisted of bright orange stony boulder clay which was greyish in colour in the centre of the trench. The subsoil (Context No. 305) occurred at an average depth of 0.3m although it grew shallower towards the north-western end of the trench (approximate depth 0.2m).

Trench Four (Plates Seven and Eight)

Trench Four was located 10m to the north-east of Trench Three. The trench was perpendicular to the north-east/south-west field boundary at a distance of 13.5m. Trench Four was 30m long (north-west/south-east) and 2m wide. The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Four (Context No. 401) was similar to that excavated in the previous trenches. It consisted of mid to dark brown clay loam with small stones (average size 10x10x5mm). It was approximately 0.2m deep and contained no artefactual material. The cultivation deposit (Context No. 402) was below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 401). This deposit comprised of a compact dark brown clay which physically

overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 407) in parts. The cultivation deposit (Context No. 402) was approximately 0.2m deep and contained no finds.

Following the removal of the cultivation deposit (Context No. 402) two features were visible in the subsoil in Trench Four (Figure Four). Both features were at the south-eastern end of the trench and were cut into the natural subsoil (Context No. 407). They consisted of a linear feature (Context Nos. 405/406) and a possible post-hole (Context No. 403). The possible post-hole (Context No. 403) was located immediately to the north-west of the linear feature. The cut of the possible post-hole (Context No. 403) was circular in plan and had steep sides and a rounded base. Its fill (Context No. 404) was a dark greyish brown silty clay loam. It contained small stones (average size 5x5x5mm) but did not contain any artefacts. The post-hole was 0.22m in diameter and 0.08m deep.

The linear feature (Context Nos. 405) ran north-east/south-west across the trench (Plate Nine). The feature became less distinct towards the south-western edge of the trench. The cut of the feature (Context No. 405) was at least 1.8m long and 0.6m wide (Figures Five and Six). The feature ran under the north-eastern edge of the trench. A cutting excavated across the feature revealed that it had steeply sloping sides to the north-east and a flattish base which tapered out towards the south-west. The feature was approximately 0.1m deep. Its fill (Context No. 406) was a charcoal flecked silty clay loam mixed with sandy clay silt which was probably redeposited subsoil. The fill also contained stones (average size 150x100x50mm), but there were no finds from the excavated portion of the feature. Study of the trench section suggested that the linear feature (Context Nos. 405) was probably cut through the cultivation deposit (Context No. 402), although it was not recognized at this level during excavation (Plate Ten). The subsoil (Context No. 407) consisted of light orange boulder clay which became darker towards the north-eastern part of the trench.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the four test trenches, and it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication is required apart from a short summary in the annual bulletin of excavations.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs:

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

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

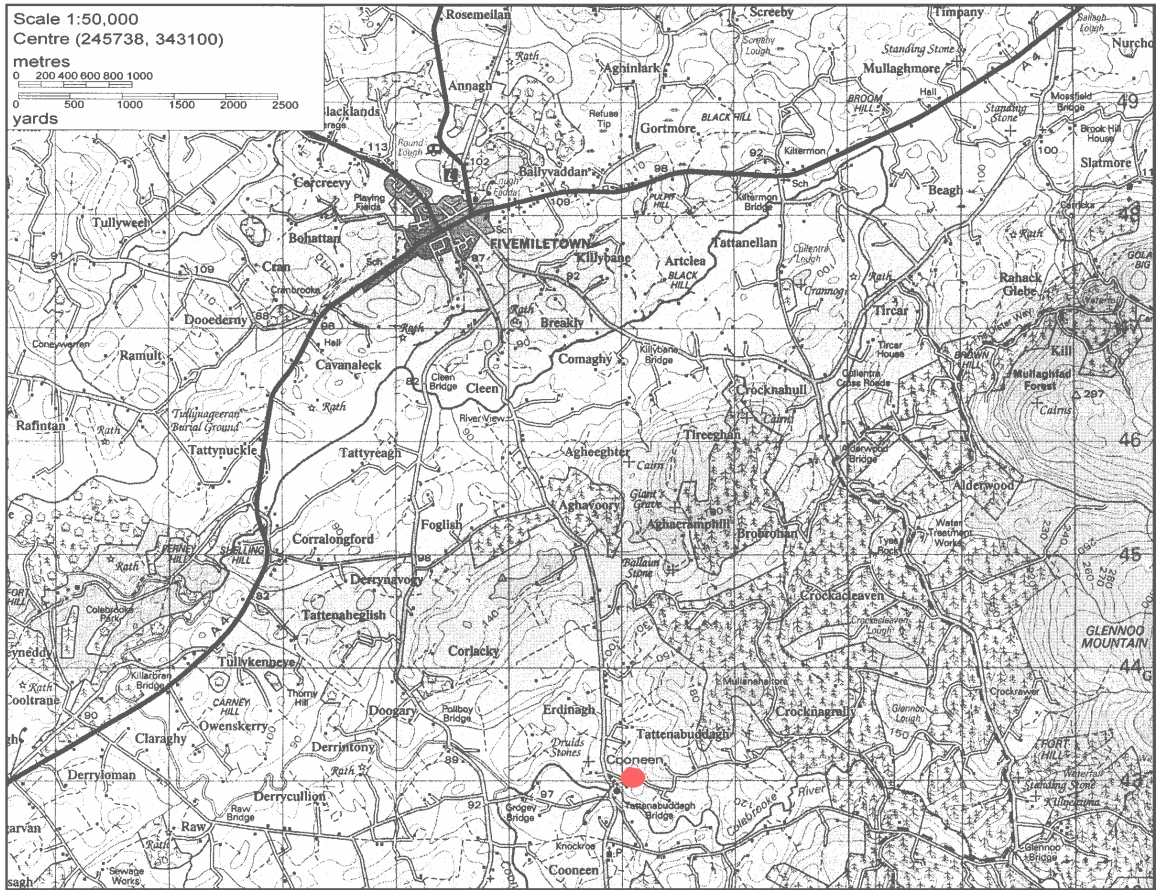


Figure One: General location map

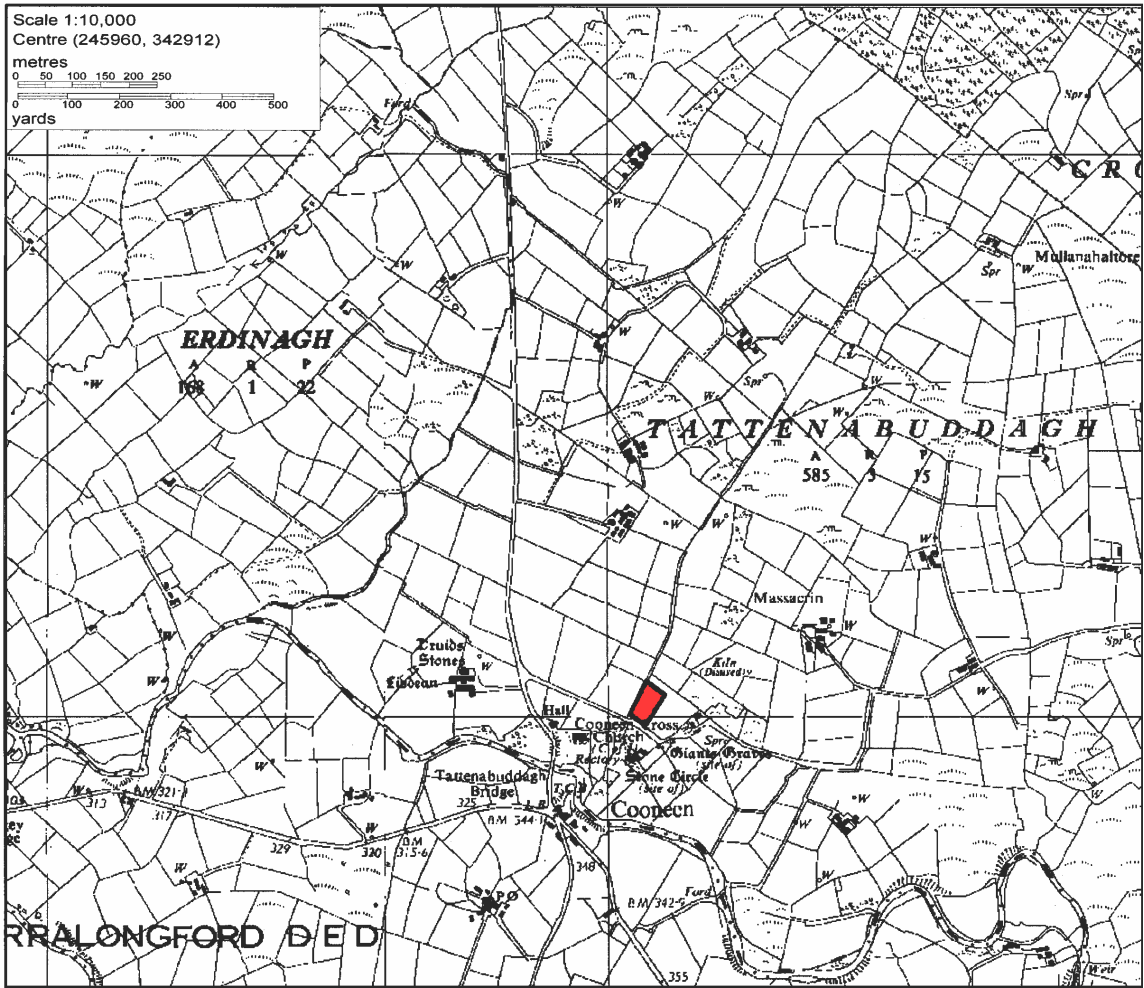


Figure Two: Detailed location map

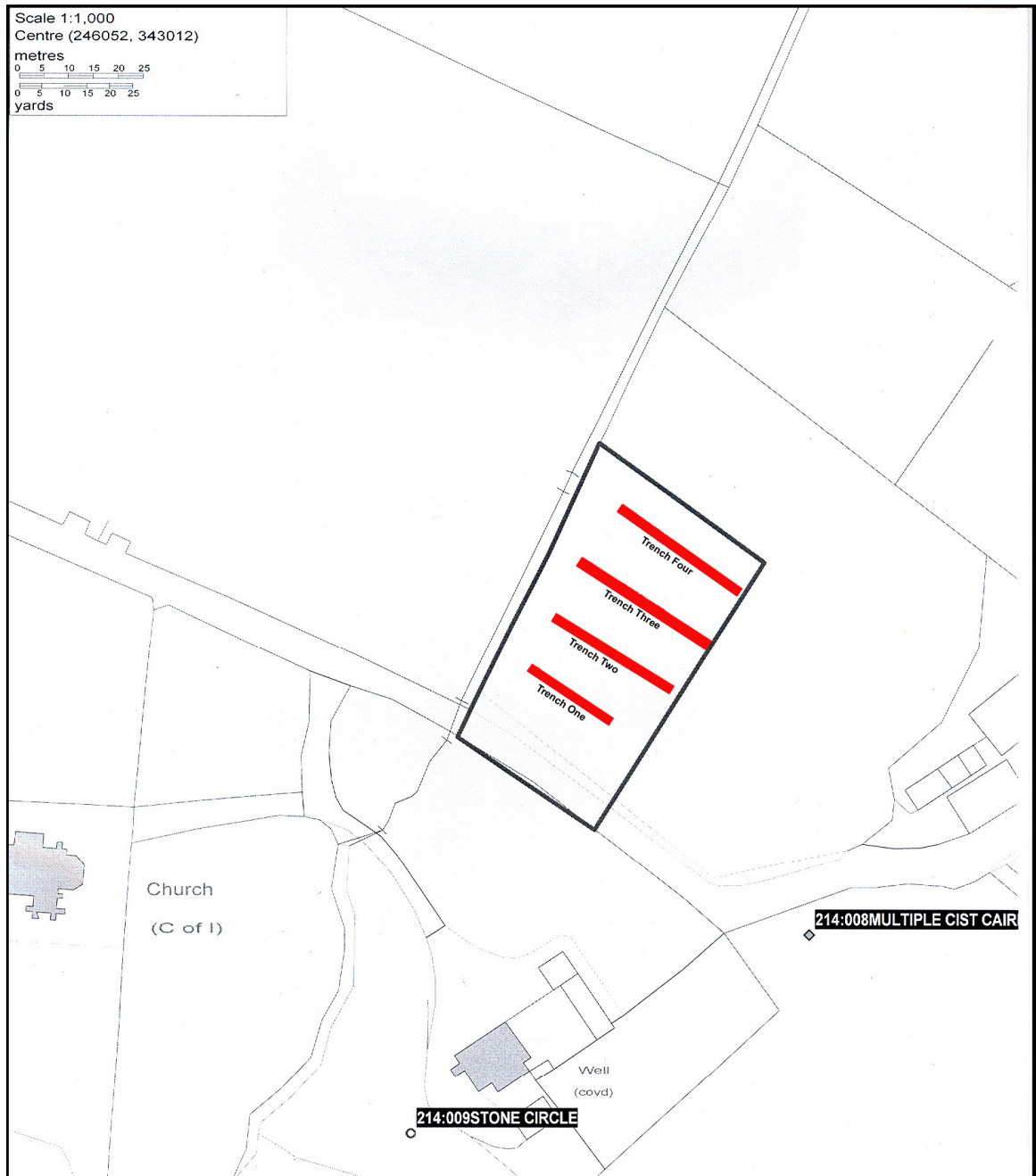


Figure Three: Plan showing location of test trenches

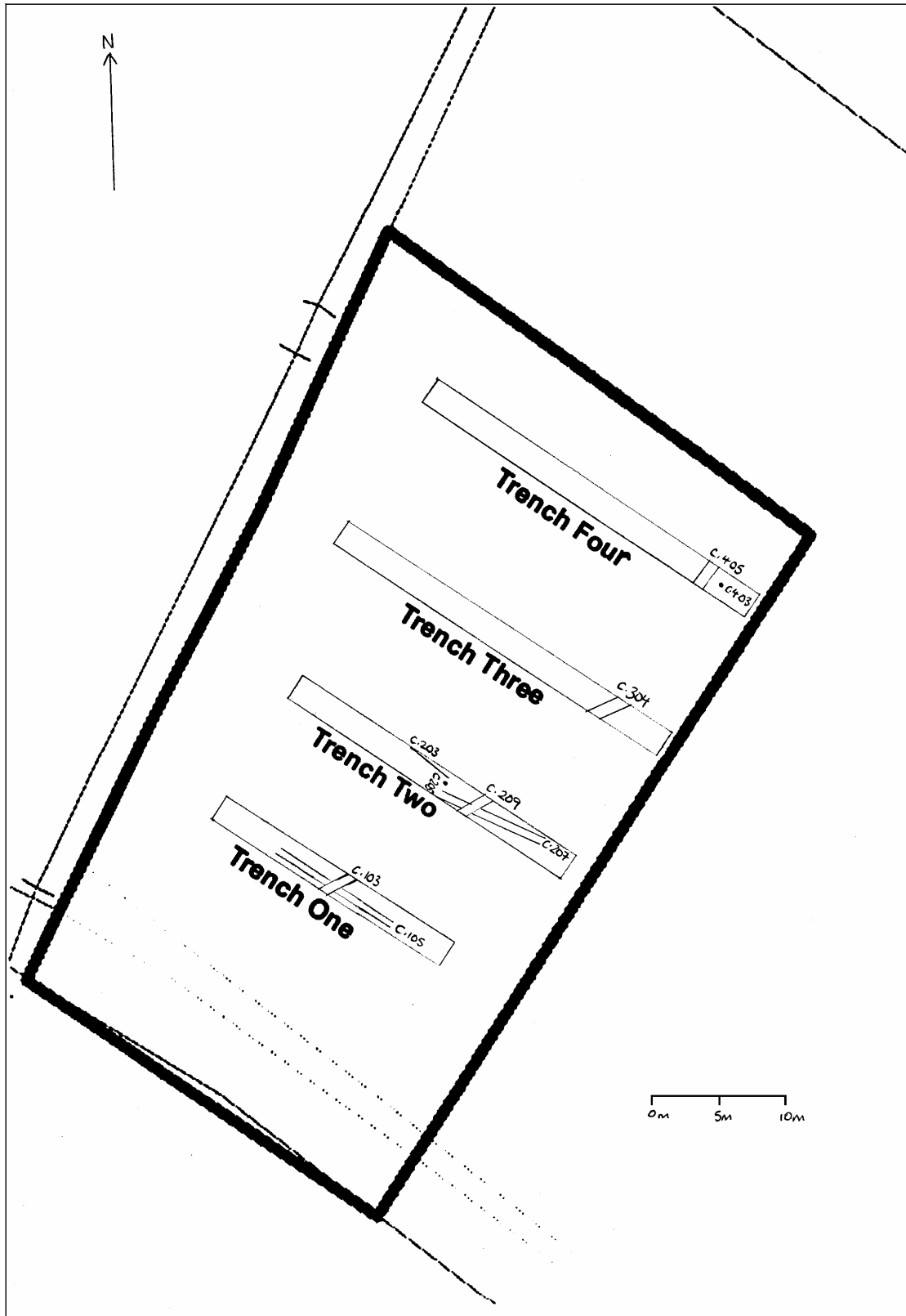


Figure Four: Sketch plan of application site showing position of features in trenches

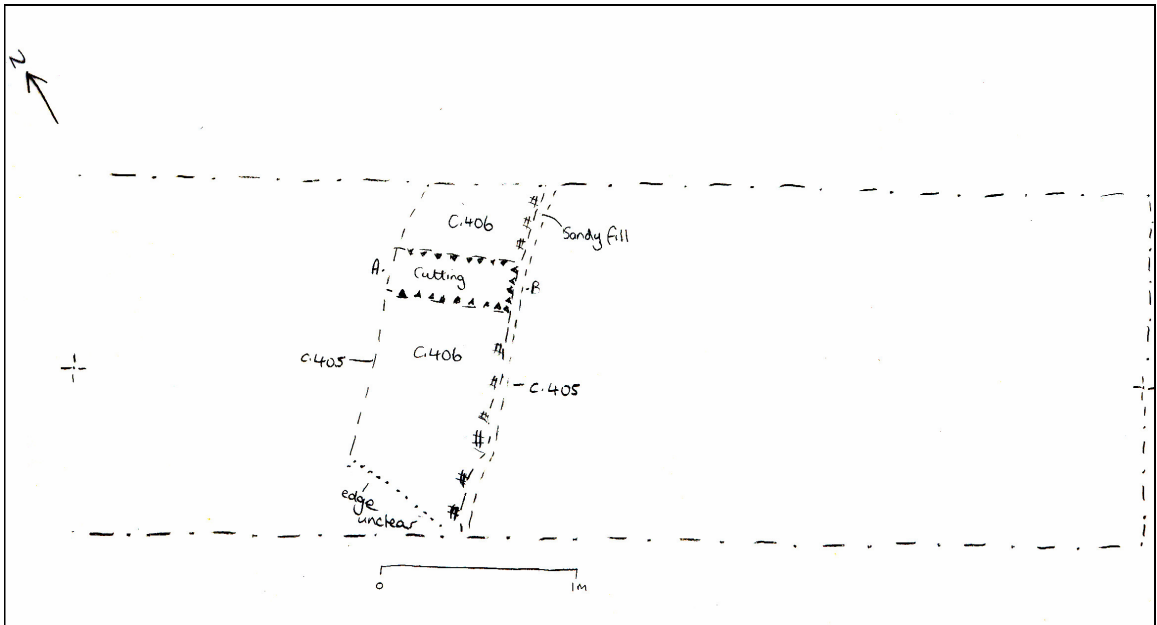


Figure Five: Sketch plan showing linear feature (Context No. 405) in Trench Four

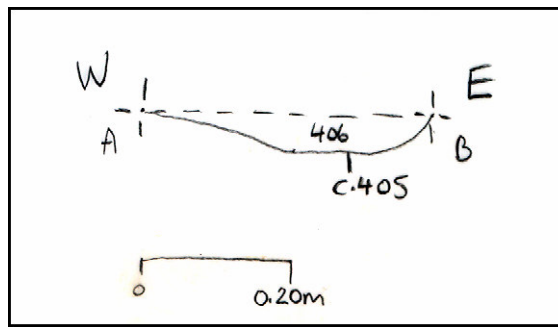


Figure Six: Sketch section through linear feature (Context No. 405) in Trench Four



Plate One: Annotated photograph of Trench One following excavation to subsoil level (Context No. 107), looking south-east



Plate Two: South-east facing section of Trench One, looking north-west



Plate Three: Annotated photograph of Trench Two following excavation to subsoil level (Context No. 211), looking south-east



Plate Four: South-east facing section of Trench Two, looking north-west



Plate Five: Annotated photograph of Trench Three following excavation to subsoil level (Context No. 305), looking south-east



Plate Six: South-east facing section of Trench Three, looking north-west



Plate Seven: Annotated photograph of Trench Four following excavation to subsoil level (Context No. 407), looking south-east



Plate Eight: South-east facing section of Trench Four, looking north-west



Plate Nine: Linear feature (Context No. 405) in Trench Four



Plate Ten: South-west facing section of Trench Four showing linear feature (Context No. 405)