



## **Monitoring Report No. 102**

**Aghavea  
Brookeborough  
Co. Fermanagh**

**AE/06/263**

Ruth Logue

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* Aghavea, Brookeborough

*Townland:* Aghavea

*SMR No (if applicable):* rath – FER 231:016

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other

*Grid Ref:* H37233866

*County:* Fermanagh

*Excavation Licence Number:* AE/06/263

*Planning Reference Number:* L/2006/0488/O

*Date of Monitoring:* 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006

*Archaeologist Present:* Ruth Logue

### *Brief Summary:*

Monitoring of four test trenches excavated to subsoil to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any previously unrecorded below-ground remains. Nothing of archaeological significance found.

*Type of monitoring:* Mechanical back-acting digger

*Size of area opened:* Four trenches each 43m long and 1.8m wide

*Current Land Use:* Rough grazing

*Intended Land Use:* Erection of private dwelling

## Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site is located in the western corner of a field in the townland of Aghavea in County Fermanagh. The application site is approximately 80m to the east of the site of a rath (FER 231:016), and is close to the Aghavea multi-period church site (FER 231:036). There is also a potential 17<sup>th</sup> century house in the vicinity (FER 231:041), though it remains unlocated.

The rath is sited on a drumlin. It is shown complete on the 1860 OS 6" maps, but marked as an arc of a platform on the 1908 edition and the current IG map. The interior of the rath is sub-circular, slopes gradually down to the south and is enclosed by traces of a bank. There are possible traces of an outer ditch, and a 2m wide gap in the bank at the south-east could be an original entrance.

An archaeological evaluation was requested to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Four test trenches were excavated (Figure 2) in the area requested by the Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Edith Gowdy.

The topsoil was uniform in all four trenches, a mid-brown silty loam which was relatively shallow across the site. The topsoil lay directly above the subsoil, a mid-grey silty clay with orange flecking and some stone inclusions. All four trenches were aligned south-east to north-west, the site sloped gently downwards from south-east to north-west.

Trench 1 was 43m long and 1.8m wide. Topsoil (Context 100) was an average of 0.12m deep along the trench. Topsoil lay above subsoil (Context 101). (Plate 1)

Trench 2 was 43m long and 1.8m wide. The topsoil (Context 200) was an average of 0.09m deep in this trench. Topsoil lay above subsoil (Context 201). (Plate 2)

Trench 3 was 43m long and 1.8m wide. The topsoil (Context 300) was an average of 0.12m deep. Topsoil lay above subsoil (Context 301). (Plate 3)

Trench 4 was 43m long and 1.8m wide. The topsoil (Context 400) was an average of 0.095m deep. Topsoil lay above subsoil (Context 401). (Plate 4)

No features or finds of archaeological significance were found in any of the test trenches.

### Archive:

*Finds: N/A*

*Photographs: 8 digital photos, held in Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork offices*

*Plans / Drawings: N/A*

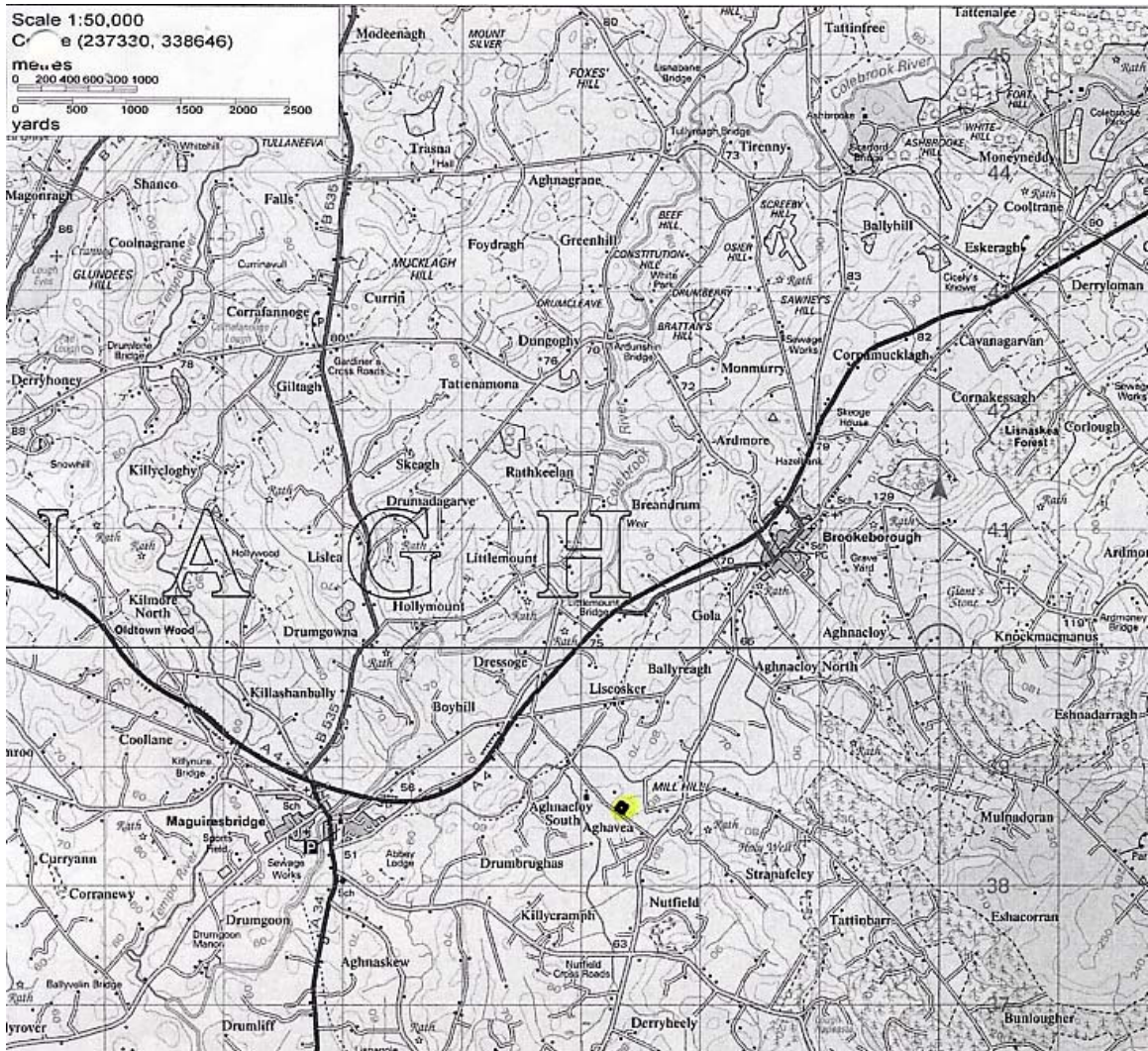


Figure 1: 1:50,000 map showing location of application site (highlighted in yellow).

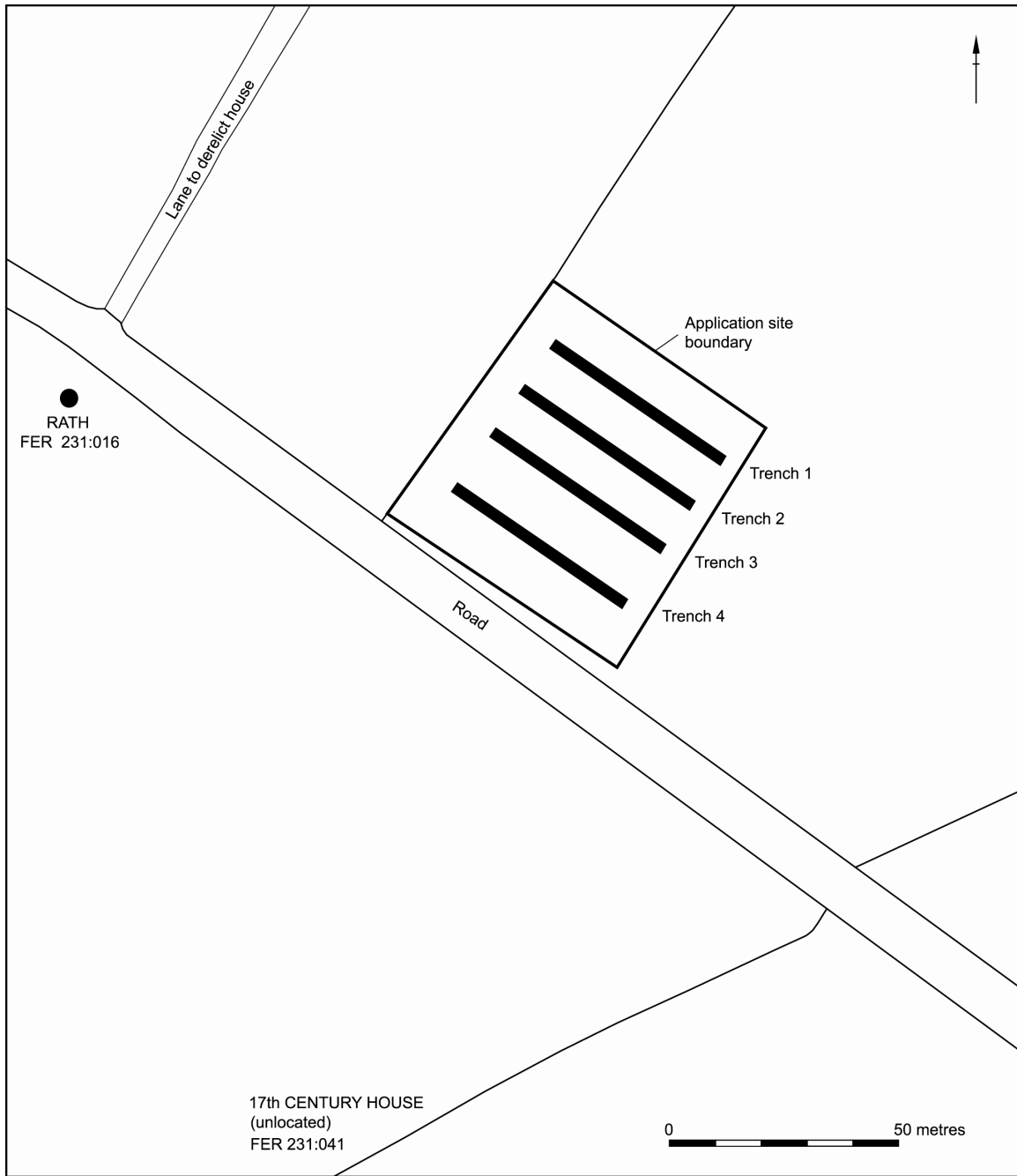


Figure 2: Plan of application site showing location of trenches.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-west.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-west.



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north-west.



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking north-west.



Plate 5: Application site with excavated trenches and Aghavea Church (C of I) in background, looking north-west.