



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 240

**PROPOSED DWELLING AND GARAGE ADJACENT TO AND NORTH-WEST
OF 16 AGHAFAD ROAD
LISNAGARDY
FINTONA
COUNTY TYRONE**

LICENCE NO.: AE/12/47E

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: site adjacent to and north-west of 16 Aghafad Road, Fintona

Townland: Lisnagardy

SMR No. : TYR 051:040

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: H 4509 6072

County: Tyrone

Excavation Licence No. : AE/12/47E

Planning Ref / No. : K/2011/0748/F

Dates of Monitoring: 14th May 2012

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site adjacent to and to the north-west of 16 Aghafad Road, Lisnagardy, Fintona, Co. Tyrone in response to a planning application for a new dwelling and garage. The application site contains the western side of a rath (NISMR TYR 051:040). The evaluation consisted of four mechanically-excavated test trenches which ranged from 6.0m to 10.5m in length. No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered during the course of the evaluation and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out, as the development does not pose a threat to significant archaeological remains.

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 1.6m wide and 6.0m to 10.5m long.

Current Land Use: Pastoral

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a proposed new dwelling and garage is located approximately 1.0km south-east of Fintona in County Tyrone (Figure Two). The site lies around 120m above sea level. There are a number of sites of archaeological interest in the surrounding area. Around 0.5km to the south-west is a rath or enclosure (NISMR TYR 051:037: Figure Three) which may contain the remains of a souterrain. An archaeological evaluation was requested due to the recorded presence of a rath on the eastern side of the proposed development area (NISMR TYR 051:040). The platform of the rath is still visible but is now occupied by a farm and outbuildings (Plates One and Two). It is possible that the development may encroach upon the western side of the rath and there may be the possibility of uncovering an associated ditch.

The application site occupies the southern end of a sub-rectangular field which opens directly onto the Aghafad Road (Plate Three). The site is bounded to the west by a post and wire fence and hawthorn hedge, beyond which is a laneway. To the east and north-east is the modern house which occupies the site of the rath (Plate Four). The north-western boundary of the site consists of hawthorn hedges interspersed with trees (Plate Five). The site is approximately 0.14 acres in size.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and garage and was requested by Edith Gowdy of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit.

Excavation

The evaluation request allowed for the excavation of trial trenches, the exact size and location of which was to be decided by the licensed archaeologist (Figure Four). A total of four test trenches were excavated- one in the area of the proposed driveway, two over the footprint of the proposed new dwelling and one over the footprint of the proposed garage.

The trenches were 1.5m wide and ranged in length from 6.0m to 10.5m. The trenches were all excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at a depth of between 0.2m to 0.5m.

Trench One

Trench One was located along the driveway of the proposed new dwelling. It was aligned north-east/south-west and was located 4.0m from the south-western boundary of the site and 4.0m from the south-eastern boundary. The trench was 1.5m wide and 10.5m long (Plate Six). The uppermost layer in Trench One was the sod and topsoil layer (C101: Plate Seven). This consisted of mid-brown loamy clay containing few inclusions. It was 0.1m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (C102) consisting of brown clay which contained some angular to sub-angular stones and was up to 0.2m thick. Below the cultivation soil was the surface of the natural subsoil (C103). This consisted of grey boulder clay, encountered at a depth of 0.3m to

0.4m. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered during the excavation of Trench One.

Trench Two

Trench Two was located over the footprint of the proposed dwelling, 6.5m from the south-eastern boundary and 6.0m from the north-western boundary. It was 1.5m wide and 9.0m long. The stratigraphically latest layer in the trench was the sod and topsoil layer (C201) which consisted of mid-brown loamy clay up to 0.1m thick. Below the topsoil was a cultivation layer (C202) consisting of heavy clay which was mid-brown in colour and up to 0.2m thick. Following the removal of the cultivation layer a pipe trench was visible running east-west across Trench Two. The cut of the pipe trench (C205) was 0.15m wide. It was filled with sub-rounded to sub-angular gravel (C206). The pipe trench cut another pipe trench (C203) which ran north-south down the middle of Trench Two. The cut of the pipe trench (C203) was 0.15m wide. It was filled with a terracotta pipe packed around with mid brown clay (C204). Below the pipe trench (C205) was the natural subsoil (C207) which consisted of yellowish grey clay, the surface of which was encountered at around 0.3m. There were no other features cut into the natural subsoil and no finds were retrieved during the excavation of Trench Two.

Trench Three

Trench Three was located 3.0m to the north-east of Trench Two and ran parallel to it. The trench was also positioned over the footprint of the proposed house. It was 7.0m from the south-eastern site boundary and 8.5m from the north-western boundary. Trench Three was 1.6m wide and 9.0m long. The uppermost layer in Trench Three was the sod and topsoil layer (C301) which consisted of mid-brown loamy clay which was up to 0.1m thick. Below the topsoil was a cultivation layer (C302) consisting of mid-brown clay with some angular to sub-angular stone inclusions. Below the cultivation layer was a field drain (C303/304). The drain was cut into the natural subsoil (C305). The cut of the field drain (C303) ran east-west across the trench and was 0.15m wide. It was filled with angular stone (C304). The heterogeneous boulder clay subsoil ranged in colour from orange brown to yellow grey. The surface was encountered at a depth of 0.4 to 0.5m. No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered during the excavation of Trench Three.

Trench Four

Trench Four was positioned over the footprint of the proposed garage, 2.5m to the east of Trench Three and perpendicular to it. It was 1.0m from the north-eastern boundary and 8.0m from the south-eastern boundary. Trench Four was 1.5m wide and 6.0m long. The sod and topsoil layer in the trench consisted of mid-brown loamy clay (C401) which was up to 0.1m thick. Below the topsoil was a cultivation layer (C402) of loamy clay up to 0.1m thick. Below the cultivation layer was the subsoil (C403) which consisted of grey brown boulder clay, the surface of which was encountered at a depth of 0.2m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance uncovered during the excavation of Trench Four.

Conclusions & recommendations

No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered within the four trenches excavated at the proposed development site, even those close to the bank of the rath. 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

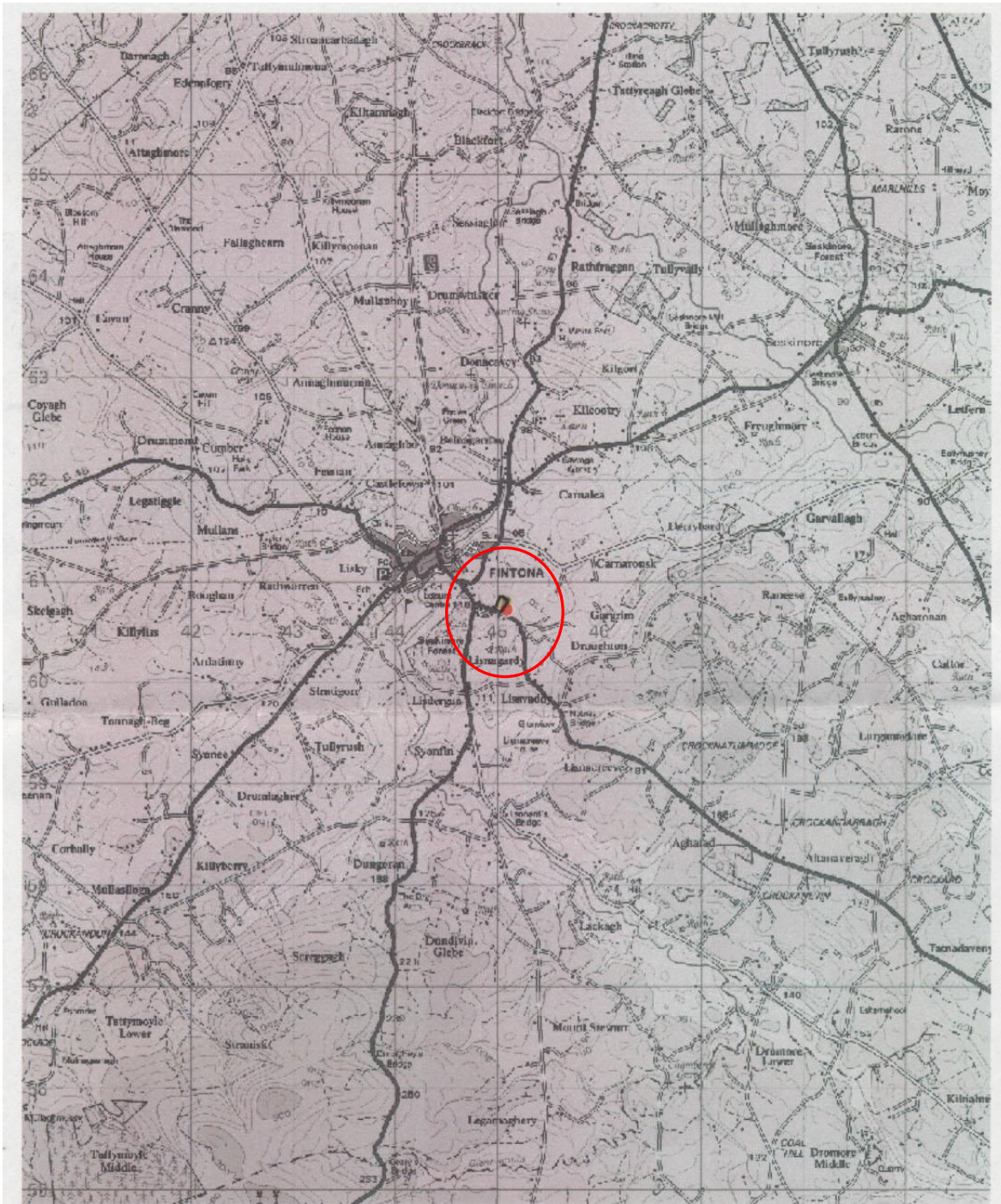
Photographs:

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: _____



04/04/2012 11:26:08

Scale 1:50000

Center Point (245090, 360720)



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

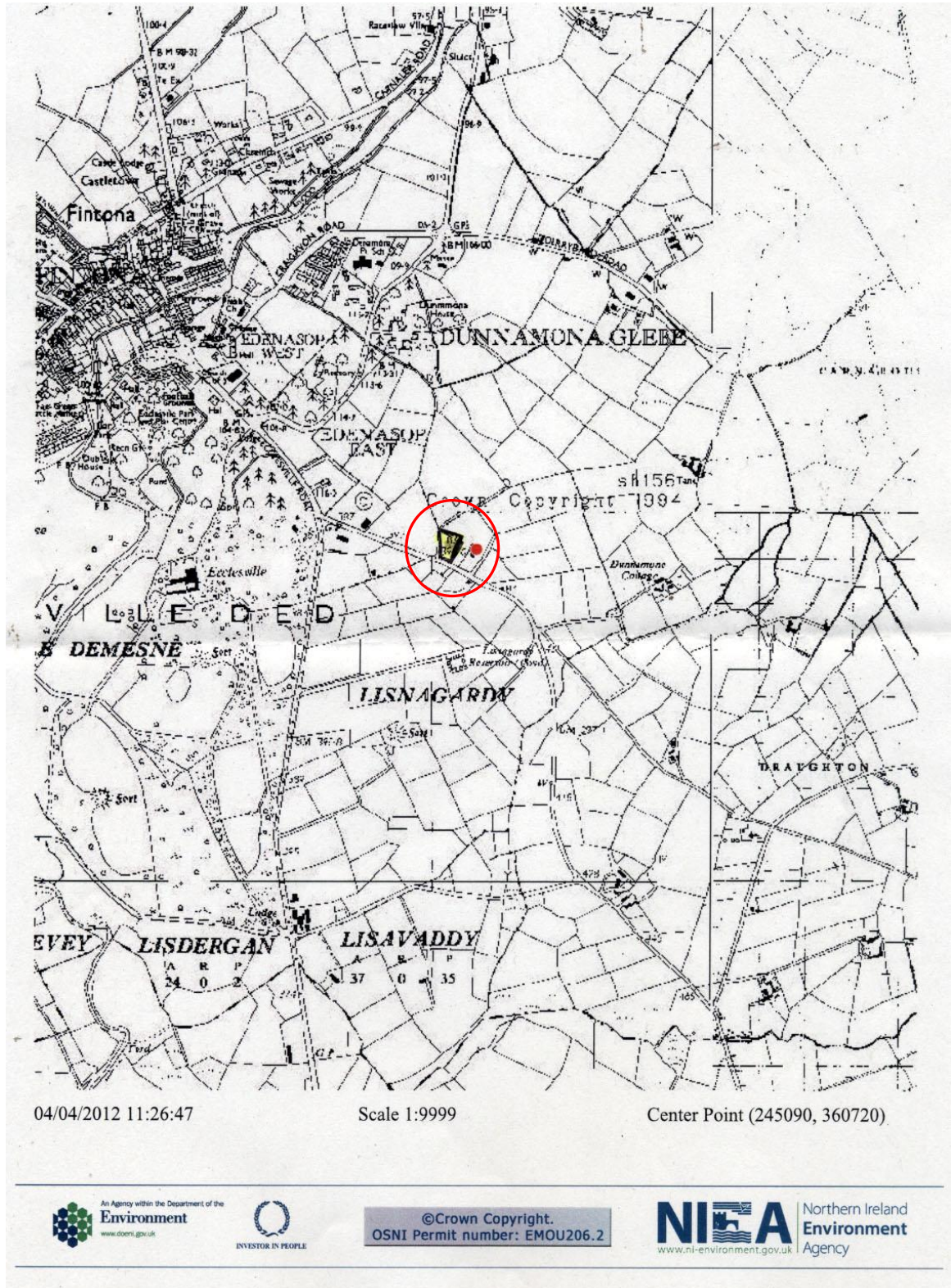


Figure Two: Detailed map showing the location of the site (circled in red)

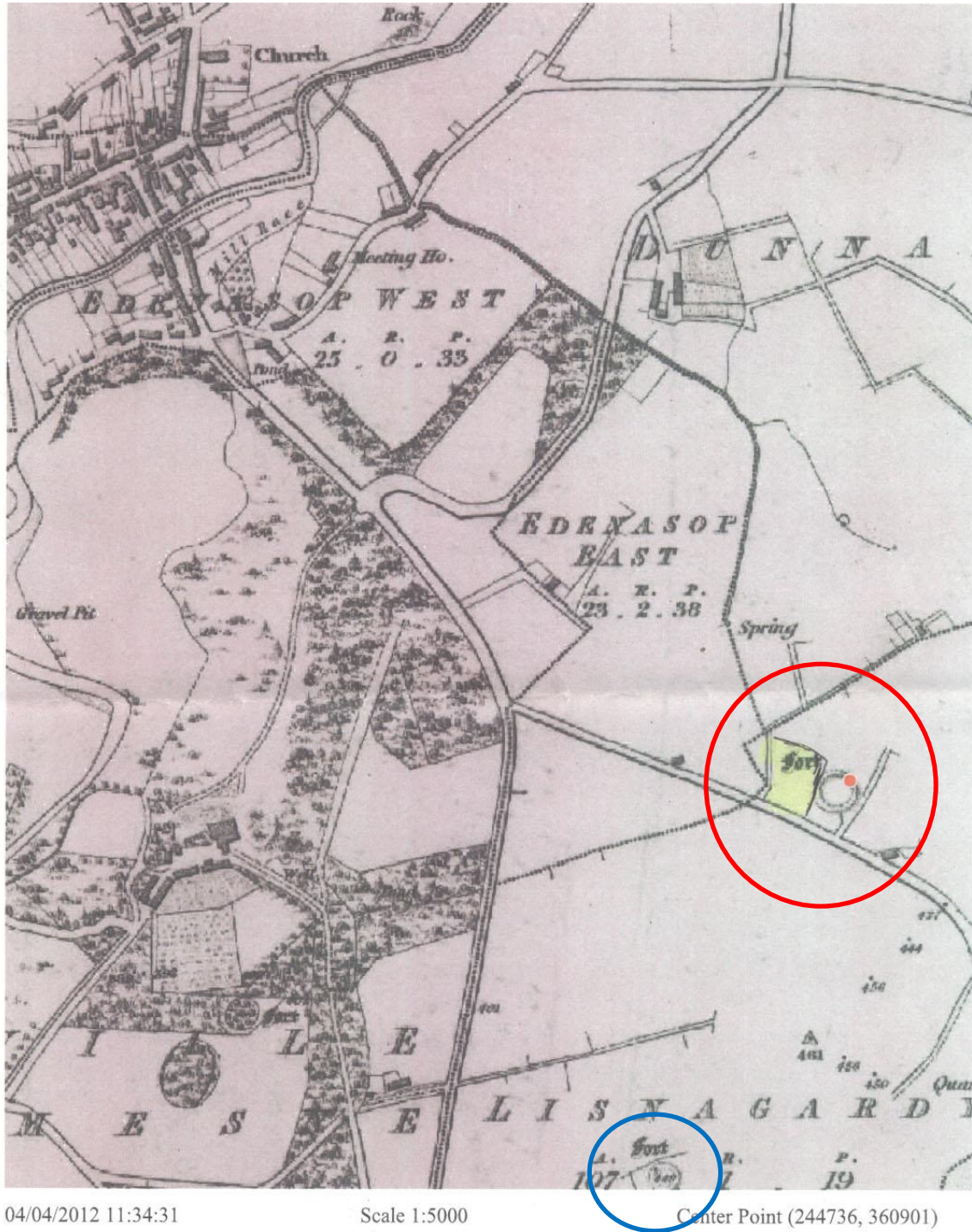


Figure Three: Extract from first edition Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the fort in the vicinity of the application site (circled in red) plus the rath to the south-west (circled in blue)

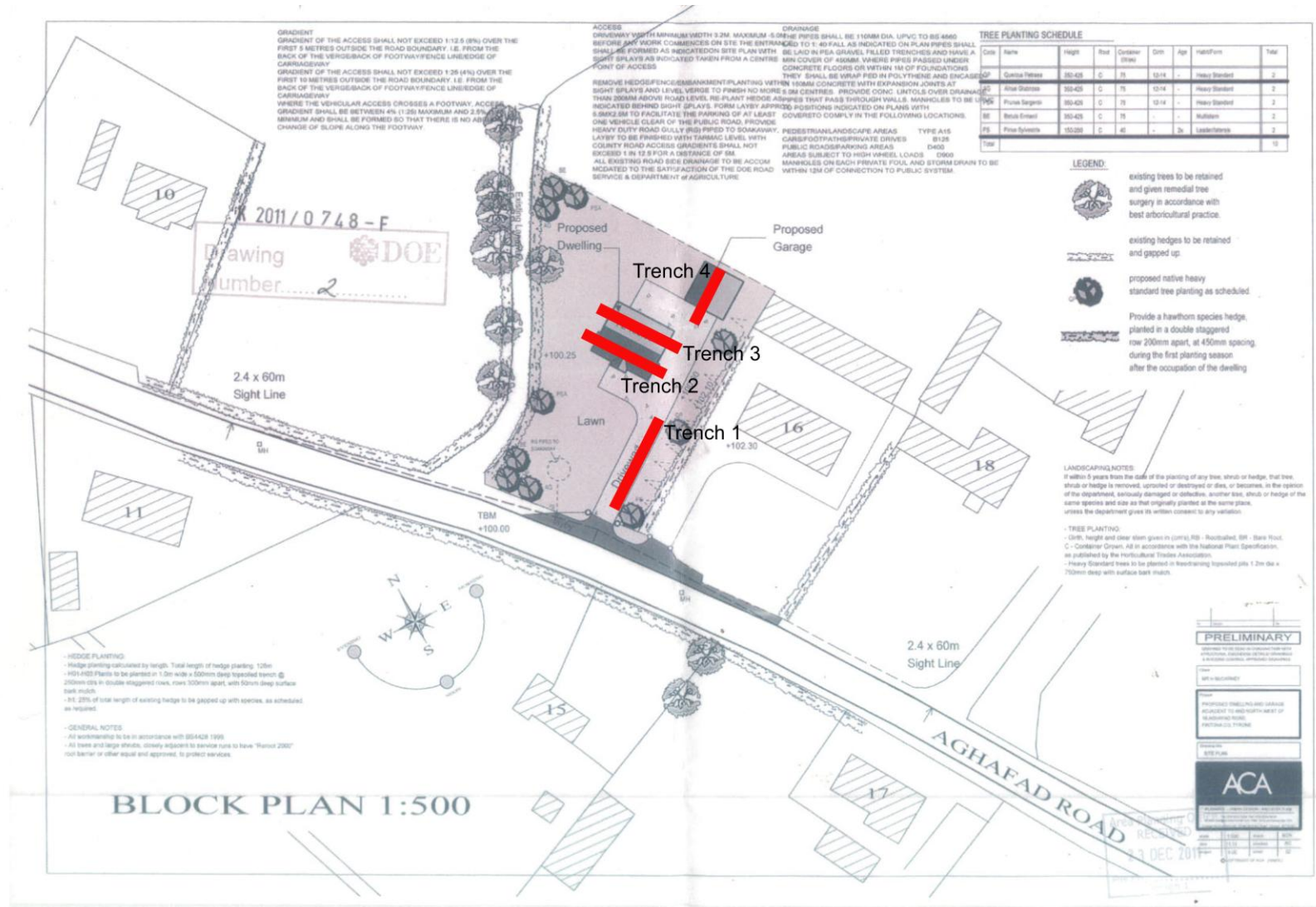


Figure Four: Site plan showing location of test trenches



Plate One: Possible rath bank, looking east



Plate Two: Possible rath bank, looking south-east



Plate Three: General view of site, looking west



Plate Four: General view of site, looking north-east



Plate Five: General view of site, looking north



Plate Six: Trench One, looking south-west



Plate Seven: North-west facing section of Trench 1, looking south-east



Plate Eight: Trench Two, looking south-west



Plate Nine: North-east facing section of Trench Two, looking south-west



Plate Ten: Trench Three, looking south-east



Plate Eleven: North-east facing section of Trench Three, looking south-west



Plate Twelve: Trench Four, looking south-west



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