

Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork

School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology
Queen's University Belfast



Data Structure Report No. 072

**Excavations at a Scheduled Enclosure site (ANT 047:068) at
Ballycarry, Co. Antrim**



**Excavations at a Scheduled Enclosure site (ANT 047:068),
Ballycarry,
Co. Antrim**

Brian Sloan

CAF DSR 072

Licence No: AE/10/129E

Contents

Summary	1
Introduction	4
Account of the excavation	14
Discussion	21
Recommendations for further work	23
Bibliography	24
Appendix One: Context Register	26
Appendix Two: Harris Matrix	27
Appendix Three: Photographic Register	28
Appendix Four: Field Drawing Register	30
Appendix Five: Sample Register	31
Plates	32

List of Figures and Tables

Figure 1: General location map	3
Figure 2: Annotated Google Earth image	8
Figure 3: Crothers' (2000) excavations	9
Figure 4: 1 st edition OS map	11
Figure 5: Composite map of field boundaries	11
Figure 6: Aerial photograph taken in 1961	12
Figure 7: Location of excavation trenches	15
Figure 8: South-east facing section of Trench One	20
Figure 9: North-west facing section of Trench Two	20
Table 1: SMR sites in immediate vicinity of excavation area	6

1 Summary

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF), Queen's University Belfast, carried out an archaeological investigation into the current boundary of a scheduled enclosure site in Ballycarry Co. Antrim (ANT 047:068). The manual excavation of two trenches took place between Wednesday 1st and Monday 13th September 2010 and was funded by the landowner, Mr Tom Topping.

1.1.2 The excavation was directed by Brian Sloan (CAF) under Licence No. AE/10/129E.

1.2 Aims

1.2.1 The aim of the investigation was to assess the antiquity of the current bank which acts as the western boundary of a scheduled area (ANT 047:068). Previous archaeological investigation to the east of this area had proved the presence of Medieval and Neolithic features which were thought to relate to the scheduled area.

1.3 Excavation

1.3.1 Two trenches, initially measuring 8m in length by 2m in width (both were later extended to 11m in length at the request of Paul Logue, Senior Inspector of the NIEA) were excavated across the current bank demarcating the scheduled area. The trenches were aligned south-west/north-east and were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil. A relatively simple stratigraphic sequence was present in both trenches, with little of archaeological significance being encountered.

1.4 Results

1.4.1 The excavation of the two trenches suggests little of archaeological significance survives in this area of the enclosure. Some archaeological material of prehistoric and medieval date was recovered from both trenches, but these artefacts were recovered from the same deposits as modern material including ceramics of a nineteenth/twentieth century date.

1.5 *Recommendations*

- 1.5.1 The excavated trenches showed that the current boundary of the scheduled area has been subject to much disturbance due to the insertion of the roadway, and little of archaeological significance remains *in situ*. It is therefore recommended that no post-excavation work is necessary to bring this project to a conclusion.
- 1.5.2 A reasonable assemblage of prehistoric lithics, as well as a small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered during the excavation. It is not deemed necessary to subject the artefact assemblage to full specialist analysis. However, a brief description of the artefact assemblage has been provided in Section 4 of this report.
- 1.5.3 It is recommended that an article based on the results of the excavation is prepared for publication in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, as well as a short note in the annual Excavations Bulletin.

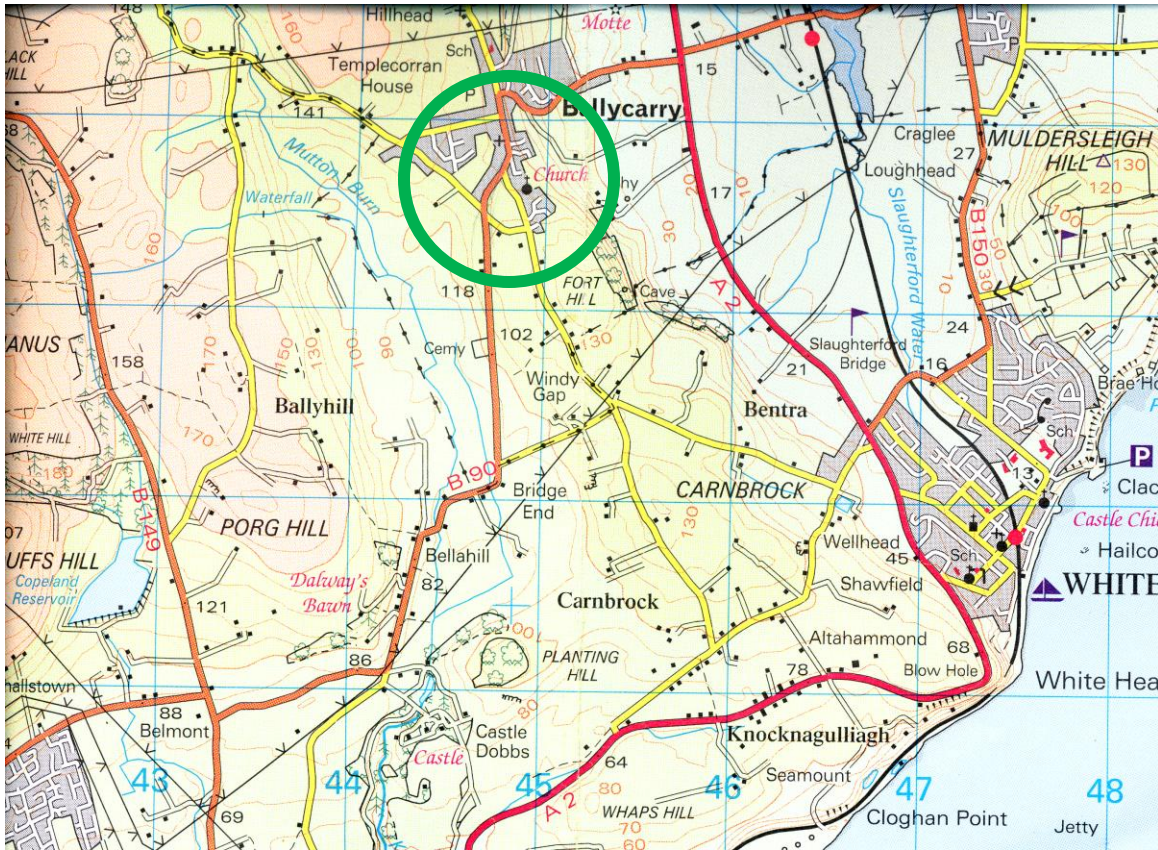


Figure 1: General map showing the location of the scheduled enclosure (as depicted on 1:50,000 OS map – circled green) to the south of Ballycarry village, Co. Antrim.

2 Introduction

2.1 General

2.1.1 The following report details the results of the archaeological excavation at the site of a Scheduled Enclosure (ANT 047:068) at Ballycarry, Co. Antrim. The excavation took place between the 1st and 13th September 2010, and was carried out by members of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF), Queen's University Belfast.

2.1.2 As the excavated trenches would encroach upon a scheduled area, Scheduled Monument Consent was issued prior to the excavation (REF: B 71/08). The excavation was directed by Brian Sloan of the CAF under the Licence No. AE/10/129E. The investigation was carried out on behalf of, and funded by, the landowner Mr. Tom Topping.

2.2 Geological background

2.2.1 The site at Ballycarry is located within an area of relatively simple geological foundations. This primarily consists of glacial till overlying basalt, which dates to the Cretaceous period of approximately million years BP (Mitchell 2004, 151).

2.3 Place-name Evidence

2.3.1 Ballycarry is the Anglicisation of *Baile Cora* which means 'townland of the causeway or ford' (McKay 1999, 11). This refers to the ford across the shallow waters at the head of Larne Lough to the east of the village, between Ballycarry and Island Magee, and which is now forded by a bridge. MacKay (*ibid.*) notes that the earliest documentary record for the name of Ballycarry is 1669. The village lies in the parish of Templecorran although the Ordnance Survey (OS) Memoirs for the parish and village note that the parish is more commonly known as Broadisland (also 'Braidisland' and 'Braidenisland'; Day *et al.* 1994, 82). Lewis (1837, Vol. 2, 558) also gives 'Broad Island' as a synonym of Templecorran. The OS Memoirs record that most of the eleven townlands which make up the parish are 'recent' subdivisions respecting modern roads rather than ancient boundaries. Of these eleven townlands only four are noted as being similar to 'ancient names' mentioned in 'old deeds' (Day *et al.* 1994, 82).

- 2.3.2 In the rolls of Pope Nicholas IV's taxation of circa 1306-7 three churches and a chapel are listed in the parish of Templecorran and these are the Churches of Irue (with the chapel of Brokenbury), Loghlat and Laslaynan (Reeves 1846, 56-8). No physical descriptions of the churches are given in the taxation. The name Irue or Irewe no longer exists having being replaced by Redhall with the stable-yard of Redhall House, according to Reeves (*ibid.* 57), being the site of the former church and cemetery. The name of Brokenbury or Brakenberghe also no longer survives but the site of the chapel has been identified just west of the village of Ballycarry where human remains and building foundations were reportedly discovered (*ibid.*) in the townland of South-West Ballycarry (ANT 047:009). Similar remains were also discovered and cleared-out at the site of the church of Loghlat or Lagnalitter (*ibid.*) which is located east of the village in the townland of Redhall (ANT 047:008). The last of the churches, Laslaynan has been identified as the church of Templecorran in the townland of Forthill (*ibid.* 58).
- 2.3.3 The origin of the name of Forthill is not known but it could derive from the hill of the same name approximately 2km south of Ballycarry village (Figure 1), on which are located possible earthworks (ANT 047:038). The Bentra Road, whilst providing the townland boundary between Forthill and South-West Ballycarry, and dissects the possible enclosure, also delineates the eastern most limit of the scheduled area. Templecorran church, both the ancient monument (ANT 047:010) and the modern building, is located towards the north of the possible enclosure (ANT 047:068).

2.4 *Historical background*

- 2.4.1 The exact date when the ruined cruciform-plan church of Templecorran was built is not known. *The Ulster Visitation Book* of 1622 noted that the church (Temple-i-corran) had 'the walles newly erected, but not roofed as yet' (O'Laverty 1884, 90). The presence of two musket loops in the west gable of the building indicates that the fabric of the church belongs to this period. In 1657 it is recorded as being in repair but as being *ruinosa* by 1679 when it appears to have gone out of use (Roulston 2003, 123) and the Ballycarry Presbyterian meeting house was erected soon after in 1710 (Day *et al.* 1994, 112).
- 2.4.2 In the 1830s the burial ground of Templecorran church enclosed a quadrangular area, 176 feet square. It is, however, suggested that the graveyard was once much larger as human remains and coffins had reportedly been found outside the demarcated burial ground to the south and east (Day *et al.* 1994, 111). The foundations of several extensive buildings in the vicinity of the church were also recorded in the OS Memoirs. These are

described as having ‘walls much thicker than those of the present church’ and were found in the graveyard and surrounding fields (Day *et al.* 1994, 111). Stone-built graves orientated east-west were also reportedly found to the east of the church (*ibid.* 112). The description of these graves matches that of early Christian ‘lintel-graves’ (i.e. with side and covering slabs) similar to those excavated at sites such as Kilnasaggart, County Armagh and at Nendrum monastery, County Down (Hamlin 2008, 88-91). There is no mention made in the OS Memoirs of any sort of earthworks possibly relating to an enclosure at Templecorran.

2.5 Surrounding archaeological landscape

2.5.1 The sites and monuments record detail eleven sites of archaeological interest in the immediate vicinity of the excavation area at Ballycarry. These sites are outlined in Table 1:

SMR NO.	Grid Reference	Site Type
ANT 047:007	J 4534094460	Tree Plantation – Post-Medieval
ANT 047:008	J 4541094320	Ecclesiastical site - Medieval
ANT 047:009	J 4464093960	Ecclesiastical site - Medieval
ANT 047:010	J 4483193693	Ecclesiastical site - Medieval
ANT 047:020	J 4596093050	Standing Stone – Prehistoric
ANT 047:021	J 4629093260	Barrow – Bronze Age
ANT 047:037	J 4400093000	Cist Burial – Bronze Age
ANT 047:038	J 4529092950	Enclosure - Unclassified
ANT 047:047	J 4482094400	Enclosure – Unclassified
ANT 047:063	J 4507093490	Decorated Stone – Prehistoric
ANT 047:064	J 4380094120	Graveyard - Post-Medieval

Table 1: Archaeological sites within 1km of the Enclosure site at Ballycarry (NISMR).

2.5.2 The sites of archaeological significance in the vicinity of the excavation area show that Ballycarry has been a particular focus for human activity. The wealth of prehistoric activity in the area is understandable due to proximity to supplies of good quality flint all along the Co. Antrim coastline. The prehistoric activity is dominated by funerary monuments, although settlement sites such as flint scatters and structures (both at Ballygally and Islandmagee), are also known from the vicinity.

2.5.3 The wealth of evidence for the use of the area during the medieval period is testament to the importance of the locale at this time. At least three Ecclesiastical centres are known (see section 2.3 above for detail), as well as a probable motte in the grounds of Redhall.

2.6 *Previous archaeological investigations*

2.6.1 Geophysical survey

2.6.2 A geophysical survey was carried out by Dearne Valley Archaeological Services Ltd (DVAS), following a request by the landowner, Mr. Tom Topping (DVAS 2008). The site surveyed comprised approximately 3.8 hectares (approx. 250m north-south by 150m east-west) and represents the entirety of the scheduled enclosure (ANT 047:068) which is subdivided into four uneven-sized fields. A magnetometry and resistivity survey was conducted over the entire area. A number of anomalies and possible archaeological features were detected including the outline of a square structure with two opposing angular bastions. This was to provide the focus of an archaeological excavation carried out by the CAF in 2009/10 (see paragraph 2.5.3 below).

2.6.3 A small scale geophysical survey was carried out by Barrie Hartwell (QUB) on land to the north-east of Templecorran Church (ANT 047:010) to investigate a possible curvilinear bank that was identified as a perimeter boundary to the church by John McClintock (1990, 23). Soil resistivity readings indicated a high resistance anomaly running roughly north-west/south-east in the western portion of the survey area (Hartwell 1990, 27). This has been interpreted by Hartwell (*ibid* 29) as either representing a shelf of natural bedrock or a bank associated with an enclosure surrounding Templecorran Church, and possibly part of the same enclosure under study.

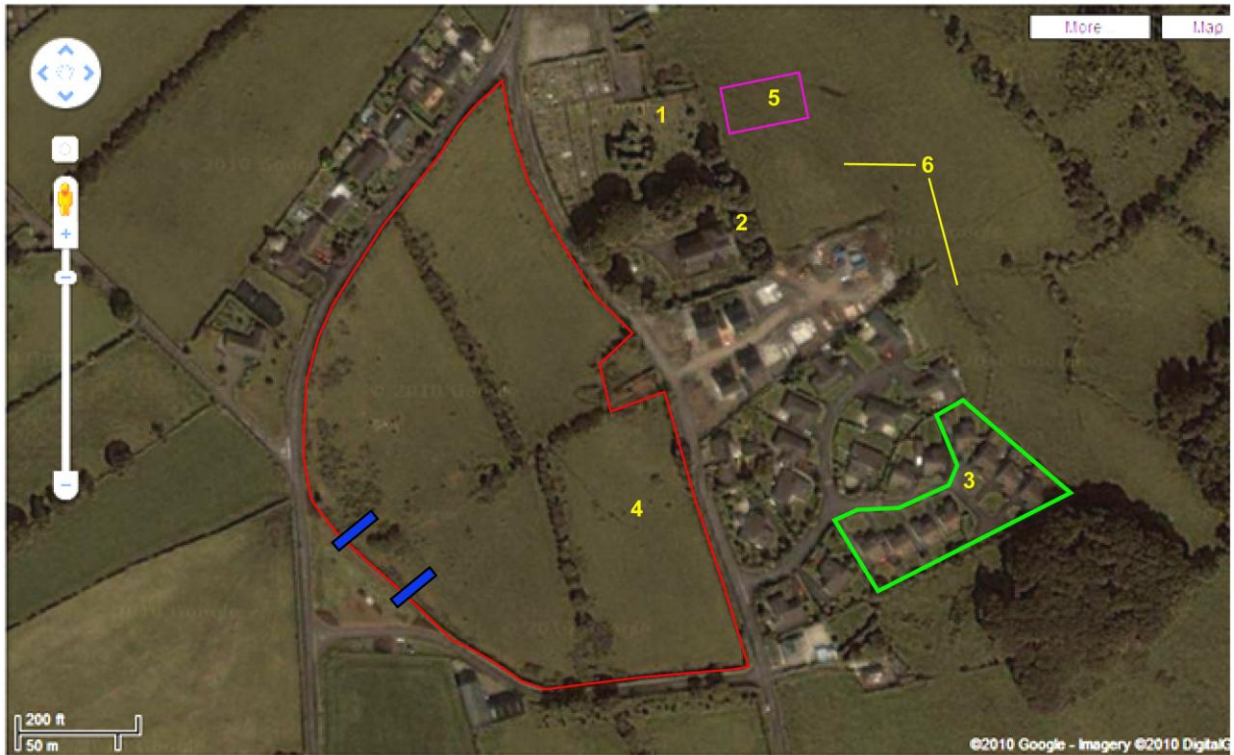


Figure 2: Annotated Google Earth image showing the scheduled area (in red), area investigated by Crothers in 1993/4 (in green) and the approximate locations of the test trenches (in blue). Also shown are: 1) Templecorran Church, 2) Modern Church, 3) Location of Crothers' 'Trench 1' (shown in better detail in Figure 3), 4) Approximate location of the probable seventeenth-century fort discovered during geophysical survey in this area (DVAS 2008), 5) Location of Hartwell's geophysical survey undertaken in 1990, and 6) Possible remnants of modern field boundaries (visible on 1961 aerial photograph; Figure 6).

2.7 Excavations

2.7.1 Excavations were undertaken by ADS Ltd (Crothers 2000) within the area of the south-east of the enclosure in 1993 and 1994 in advance of developments in Churchlands housing estate (Figure 2). The excavations uncovered remains dating to the Neolithic, medieval and post-medieval periods. The excavations were inconclusive but it was suggested that the traces found were of a Late Neolithic bank (dated by the lithic assemblage), with internal and external gullies, (Crothers 2000, 45). The excavations also indicated that the prehistoric bank was subsequently leveled, over which a dry stone wall was built in the medieval period. Other features found were interpreted as possible structures and working areas associated with the medieval site. The absence of

Souterrain Ware and presence of pottery dating to the thirteenth century and later, suggest that this activity dates to the high and late medieval periods.

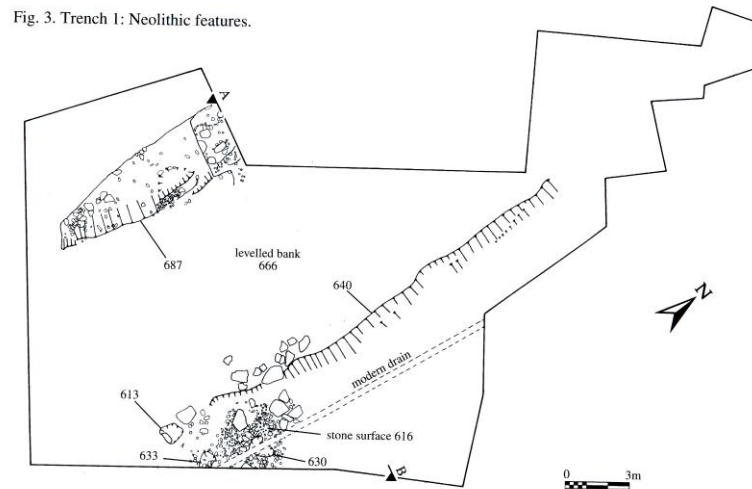


Figure 3: Published plan showing the results of Crothers' excavations in 1993 (Crothers 2000, 31).

2.7.2 The discovery of lintel-graves found in proximity to Templecorran church in the early nineteenth century or earlier (Day *et al.* 1994, 112) is suggestive of probable Early Christian burials of the first millennium AD. The church, however, is not mentioned by Hamlin in her thesis on the archaeology of early Christianity in the north of Ireland (2008). The medieval pottery recovered from the excavations carried out south of the church in 1993 and 1994 included no early medieval pottery (Crothers 2000). The medieval pottery found was dated to the thirteenth century and later and there are also fourteenth-century references to a church at Lislaynan (see above). There is therefore, thus far, only secure evidence for later medieval activity at Ballycarry.

2.7.3 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the CAF at the site of a probable post-medieval fort within the scheduled area in the western half of the enclosure, in late December 2009 and early January 2010. The fort is represented by a sub-surface geophysical anomaly and was first recorded through magnetometry and resistivity surveys undertaken by Dearne Valley Archaeological Services Ltd in 2008 (DVAS 2008). The fort was previously unrecorded and is not traceable in the surface topography of the field in which it is located. The fort is most clearly identified through the magnetometry survey in which it is represented by a rectilinear anomaly (approx. 32.6m by 34.8m), with

two projecting angular spear-shaped bastions at opposing north-western and south-eastern corners.

2.7.4 Six small test-trenches were opened to assess the nature of the geophysical anomaly recorded by DVAS in 2008. In two of these trenches along the northern extent of the fort, two sections of an earth- and rock-cut ditch were encountered. The excavated ditch sections were filled by a series of fairly sterile stony loam deposits. The predominant, if almost exclusive finds from the ditch fills were worked flints, which cursory examination suggests are Neolithic and Bronze Age in date (identified by the author). No traces of mortar or brick were noted in either trench neither was any trace of a bank or wall identified in either trench. The bulk of the finds recovered from all six trenches comprised struck flints. Some clay tobacco pipe bowls and tobacco pipe stems were also recovered from topsoil deposits including examples of pipe-bowls of mid-seventeenth, late-eighteenth and mid-nineteenth century date (R. O Baoill, pers. comm.). A range of glazed ceramic sherds, some pieces of glass and animal bones and teeth were also recovered from the topsoil (Murray 2010).

2.8 *Cartographic evidence*

2.8.1 The area of the Scheduled Enclosure is well documented cartographically, from the first edition of 1834 to the present day.

2.8.2 The first edition OS map (1834; Figure 4) clearly shows the scheduled area as being defined by roadways. Templecorran Church (ANT 047:010) is depicted as 'church in ruins'. The present church at Templecorran had not been constructed to the south of the ruined medieval church, and the scheduled area is shown as a relatively open space, apart from two buildings with yards along Bentra Road. To the south and east of the 'church in ruins' field boundaries (running approximately west/east) are shown.

2.8.3 Later editions of the maps (particularly that published in 1902) document the field boundaries to the east of the current scheduled enclosure (Hartwell 1990, 27; Figure 5). Of particular interest is a field boundary that runs approximately north/south and then turns slightly to run south-east/north-west (represented by the red and blue lines in Figure 5).

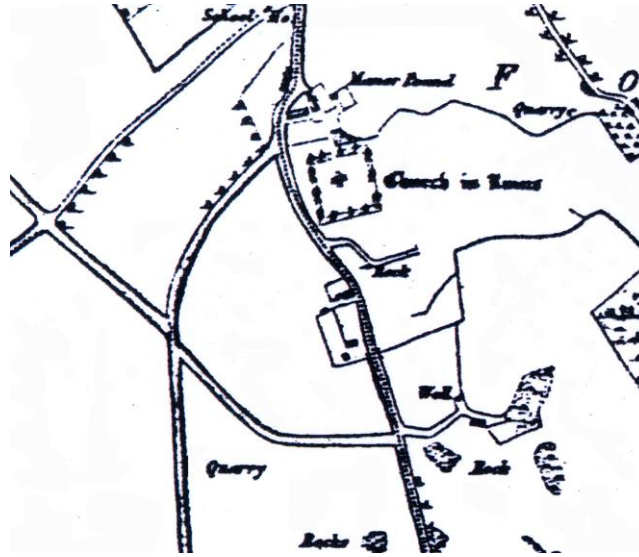


Figure 4: 1st edition (1834) map showing the now scheduled area, defined by roadways, and 'church in ruins' (ANT 047:010).

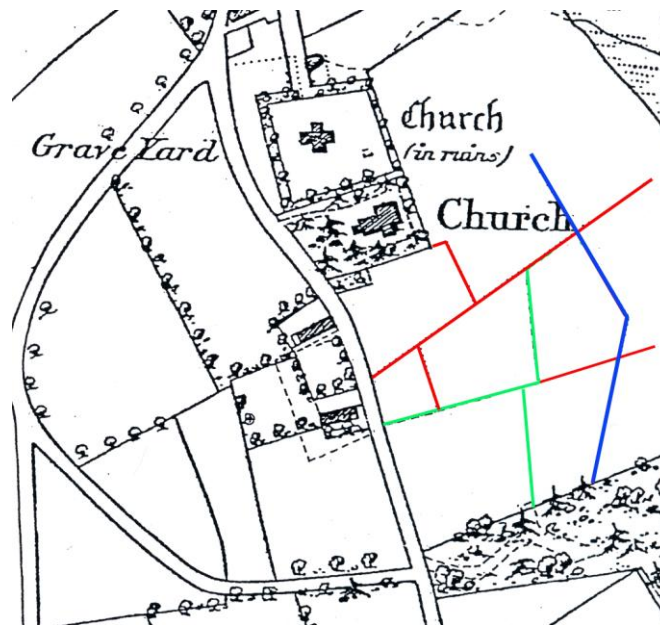


Figure 5: Composite plan of field boundaries to the east of the scheduled area, overlaid on the 1858 OS map (cf. Hartwell 1990, 27). Field Boundaries represented on the 1st Edition OS map (1834) are shown in green, with those depicted on later maps shown in red and blue. It is possible that the field boundaries depicted in blue represent the crop marks visible in the 1961 aerial photograph (Figure 6) which have been interpreted as the eastern side of an enclosure and subsequently led to the western side being scheduled.



Figure 6: Aerial photograph taken in 1961. The possible remnants of the field boundaries shown on the 1902 map (Hartwell 1990) are highlighted.

2.8.4 By comparing this pattern of field boundary to a 1961 aerial photograph (Figure 5) it is conceivable that the crop mark visible in the photograph is representing a now defunct modern field boundary. Hartwell states that as it does not appear on the earlier maps, it is likely to be a recent (modern) creation and not based on a traditional alignment (*ibid*).

2.9 *Aims and objectives*

2.9.1 The primary aim of the excavation was to assess the antiquity of the current boundary of the scheduled area. This was to make an informed response to the NIEA on the future management of the monument.

2.9.2 Crothers (2000) excavated prehistoric and medieval deposits to the east of the current investigation, and it was hoped that the two trenches would also shed more light on the presence and survival of archaeological deposits in this adjacent area.

2.10 *Archiving*

2.10.1 Copies of this report have been deposited with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). All site records are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

2.11 *Credits and acknowledgements*

2.11.1 The excavation was directed by Brian Sloan of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF). The excavation crew consisted of Ruairi O'Baoill and Ruth Logue, both of the CAF.

2.11.2 Assistance during the course of this excavation and the preparation of this report was kindly provided by; Colm Donnelly (CAF), Andrew Gault (NIEA), Crawford Leech (English and Drummond Ltd), Paul Logue (NIEA), Philip Macdonald (CAF), Cormac McSparron (CAF) and Emily Murray (CAF). The illustrations were prepared by the author.

2.11.3 Particular thanks are due to the landowner, Mr. Tom Topping, for facilitating and financially supporting the programme of archaeological investigation.

3 Account of the excavation

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 The sod and topsoil was mechanically removed from both trenches. Mechanical assistance was also utilised to remove the hedgerow in the areas of the trenches. The hedgerow was set aside to aid the restoration of the site following the investigation (as per one of the conditions attached to the Scheduled Monument Consent for the investigation). The scheduled area is currently used for pasture, although the presence of a cultivation soil in both trenches suggests that the area had been ploughed in the past.

3.1.2 The context record was created using the standard context recording method. The list of contexts is reproduced as Appendix One, and the photographs taken during the excavation are detailed in Appendix Three. The remainder of the site records are included the Field Drawing Register (Appendix Four) and the Sample Register (Appendix Five).

3.2 Account of the excavations

3.2.1 The Harris Matrix for both trenches are reproduced as Appendix Two. It is intended that this is referred to whilst reading the account of the stratigraphic sequence present on site.

3.3 Trench One

3.3.1 Trench One was aligned north-east/south-west and was located towards the south of the area investigated (Figure 6). The trench originally measured 8m in length by 2m in width (as per Scheduled Monument Consent). However, following discussions with Paul Logue (Senior Inspector with NIEA), a further 3m was excavated at the north-eastern end of the trench making the total dimensions 11m in length by 2m in width. The trench was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 110).

3.3.2 The sod and topsoil in this trench (Context No. 101) was removed with the aid of a mechanical excavator. Due to the constraints of excavation within a scheduled area, mechanical assistance ceased upon exposure of the cultivation soil (Context No. 108), which was encountered at an average depth on 0.10 – 0.15m. The topsoil consisted of a friable mid brown sandy loam, with frequent inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular

stones and pebbles (average size: 30mm x 25mm x 40mm). Numerous fragments of modern bottle glass, flint and sherds of post-medieval white glazed ceramics (of probable nineteenth-century date; Ruairi O'Baoill *pers comm.*) were recovered from this deposit.

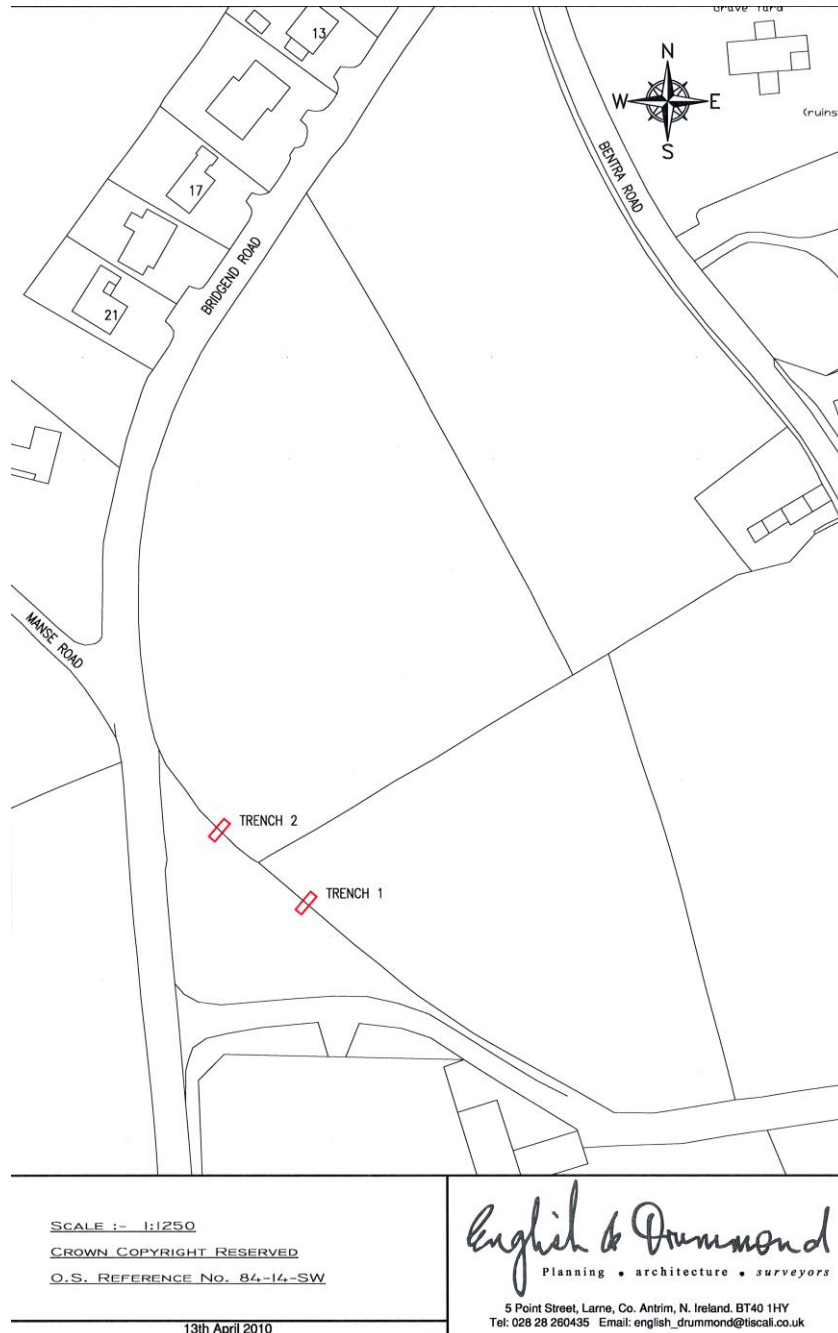


Figure 7: Location of excavation trenches (Image courtesy of Crawford Leech, English & Drummond Ltd.).

- 3.3.3 Removal of the sod and topsoil revealed several deposits; a modern road surface and associated cut and fill (Context Nos. 103, 104 and 105), upstanding bank material (Context No. 102/112), a section of drystone revetment along the inner face of the bank (Context No. 107), as well as a spread of cultivation soil (Context No. 108). The following description of these deposits recounts the sequence from the stratigraphically latest (most recent) to the earliest deposit.
- 3.3.4 At the extreme south-western end of the trench (exterior of the enclosure), removal of the topsoil (Context No. 101) revealed a modern road surface (Context No. 105) which consisted of at least three layers of tarmac. Removal of the road surface found it to be on average 0.42m thick and situated above a dark grey sandy loam (Context No. 104). The dark grey sandy loam (Context No. 104) was on average 0.2m thick and produced two sherds of bottle glass, a single sherd of white glazed ceramics and the remains of a rubber ball. Both the road surface (Context No. 105) and the dark grey sandy loam (Context No. 104) constituted the fills of a relatively shallow cut (Context No. 103) which had been excavated into the outer face of the bank material (Context No. 102/112). The maximum dimensions of this cut were 1.26m (north-east/south-west) by 2m (north-west/south-east) by 0.65m in depth (Plate 5).
- 3.3.5 Removal of the sod and topsoil in the north-eastern end of the trench (interior of the enclosure) revealed a short section of drystone revetment (Context No. 107) along the interior of the current bank (Context No. 102/112). This feature was characterised by at least three courses of largish sub-rounded rocks (average size: 400mm x 300mm x 250mm). No cut was observed for these stones, either during the excavation or in the recording of the sections of the trench. Due to the position of the feature (Context No. 107) in being above both the cultivation soil (Context No. 108) and the bank (Context No. 102/112) it is assumed that the revetment is a relatively modern feature.
- 3.3.6 The stone revetment lay directly on the cultivation soil (Context No. 108). The cultivation soil (Context No. 108) was on average 0.25m thick and was a relatively compact, light to mid brown loam. Numerous inclusions of angular and sub-angular stones were observed throughout the deposit, along with numerous fragments of flint and post-medieval ceramics and glass. Three sherds of green glazed pottery (dating to the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries) were also recovered from this deposit (Context No. 108).

- 3.3.7 Excavation of the cultivation soil (Context No. 108) revealed it to overly the bank material (Context No. 102/112). This feature was characterised by a light to mid orangey brown clay. The feature was assigned two context numbers at the time of excavation as the texture of the clay appeared to change from a relatively loose strata to very compact. However, it is assumed that the bank is constructed of one material, and the upper portion of it (Context No. 102) has been heavily disturbed by tree roots. The lower portion of the bank (Context No. 112) is in fact 'true' bank material. Excavation of the bank produced a sherd of medieval pottery as well as a fragment of clay pipe stem, indicating the post-medieval origin of this feature. The bank (Context No. 102/112) was found to be sitting directly on top of the subsoil (Context No. 110) with no traces of a buried soil horizon being noted during the excavation.
- 3.3.8 Approximately 2.2m to the north-east of the bank (Context No. 102/112), an approximately linear feature (Context No. 109) was observed (Context No. 111) cut into the subsoil (Context No. 110) (Plate 3). The fill of this feature (Context No. 109) consisted of a light to mid brown clay loam with infrequent flecks of charcoal throughout. Excavation of the feature found it to be shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.16m (Plate 4). The function of this shallow gully is not clear, although a single sherd of eighteenth/nineteenth century pottery was recovered from the fill (Context No. 109) again suggesting the modern nature of the feature.
- 3.3.9 The subsoil (Context No. 110) was encountered at an average depth of 0.4m and consisted of a reddish stony clay with frequent patches of bedrock exposed at the surface. No other features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.

3.4 *Trench Two*

- 3.4.1 Trench Two was located approximately 20m to the north-west of Trench One. The trench was aligned south-west/north-east. The original dimensions of the trench were 8m in length by 2m in width. However as in the case of Trench One, the length was increased to 11m at the request of Paul Logue (Senior Inspector NIEA). The trench was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 209).
- 3.4.2 The sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) was removed with the aid of a mechanical excavator. As with the excavation of Trench One, mechanical assistance was only used to remove the hedgerow, sod and topsoil from the excavation area (as per the condition attached to Scheduled Monument Consent). Mechanical excavation ceased upon

- exposure of the cultivation soil (Context No. 202), as well as the bank strata (Context Nos. 205/208) and the modern road surface (Context No. 206). The sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) consisted of a friable mid brown sandy loam, with frequent inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones and pebbles (average size: 30mm x 25mm x 40mm). Numerous flint fragments, as well as post-medieval ceramics and glass were recovered from the topsoil (Context No. 201), which was on average 0.2m deep.
- 3.4.3 Removal of the sod and topsoil (Context No.201) revealed several deposits; a modern road surface (Context No. 207) with associated cut (Context No. 206), a revetment wall (Context No. 204) and associated cut (Context No. 203), a cultivation soil (Context No. 202) and the upstanding bank material (Context Nos. 205/208). The following description of these deposits recounts the sequence for the stratigraphically latest (most recent) to the earliest deposit.
- 3.4.4 At the south-western end of the trench (exterior of the enclosure), removal of the sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) revealed a modern road surface (Context No. 207) and associated cut (Context No. 206). Due to the compactness of the modern road surface (Context No. 207 – constructed of a mixture of hardcore and tarmac), it was necessary to mechanically remove this deposit. The modern road surface (Context No. 207) was 1.3m in length (north-east/south-west), spanned the width of the trench (2m) and was on average 0.43m thick. It is assumed that this is the same road surface that was encountered in Trench One (Context No. 105) although here it was observed as a single deposit rather than as three layers of tarmac. The modern road (Context No. 207) was within a cut (Context No. 206) which had been excavated into the bank material (Context Nos. 205/208). This cut (Context No. 206) was only observed at its north-eastern end and had a vertical edge and slightly concave base. No other fill was discernable.
- 3.4.5 Approximately 0.7m to the north-east of the road surface (Context No. 207) was the remains of a dry stone revetment wall (Context No. 204). This feature (Context No. 204) was characterised by at least two courses of largish rounded stones (average size: 400mm x 300mm x 250mm). Unlike the revetment wall in Trench One (Context No. 107), it was apparent that the revetment wall in Trench Two (Context No. 204) was constructed within a cut (Context No.203) that had been excavated into the bank material (Context No. 205/208). This cut (Context No. 203) had a vertical side and concave base, with a maximum depth of 0.45m.

- 3.4.6 The cultivation soil (Context No. 202) was found beneath the topsoil (Context No. 201), but stratigraphically isolated from the revetment wall (Context No 204) and the road surface (Context No. 207). The cultivation soil (Context No. 202) was on average 0.25m thick and was a relatively compact, light to mid brown loam. Numerous inclusions of angular and sub-angular stones were observed throughout the deposit, along with numerous fragments of flint and post-medieval ceramics and glass. A fragment of a polished stone axe (dating to the Neolithic period) was also recovered from the cultivation soil (Context No. 202). The cultivation soil (Context No. 202) directly overlay the bank material (Context No. 205/208). This was the stratigraphically earliest deposit encountered in Trench Two, although a sherd of white glazed ceramic (of probable nineteenth-century date) recovered towards the base of the bank material (Context No. 205/208) would suggest this feature is not of antiquity. The maximum surviving height of the bank material in Trench Two was 0.65m. Excavation of the bank (Context No. 205/208) showed that it lay directly on top of the subsoil (Context No.209) and that no ancient soil was preserved beneath it.
- 3.4.7 The subsoil (Context No. 209) consisted of a reddish stony clay with frequent patches of bedrock near the surface. The subsoil was encountered at an average depth of 0.42m and no other features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.

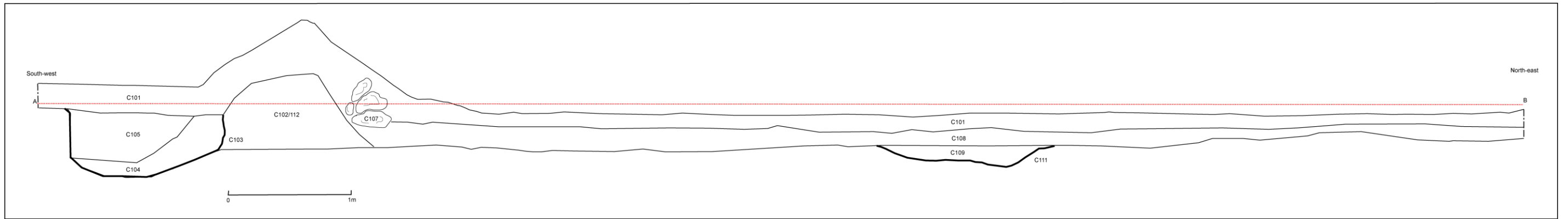


Figure 8: South-east facing section of Trench One.

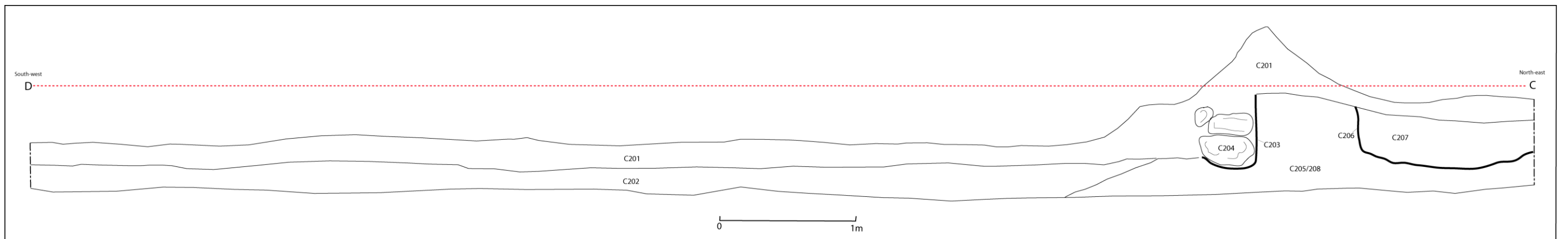


Figure 9: North-west facing section of Trench Two.

4 Discussion

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The results of the excavation would suggest that the current boundary of the scheduled area is of little antiquity. The stratigraphically earliest deposit encountered during the excavation was the lower portion of the bank - Context No. 112 (Trench 1) and Context No. 208 (Trench 2). Excavation of the lower bank material in both trenches produced sherds of green-glazed pottery (dating to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries), sherds of white glazed ceramics (of probable late eighteenth and nineteenth century), as well as a fragment of clay tobacco pipe. In both trenches the lower portion of the bank had been disturbed by the cut for the modern roadway but stratigraphically lay beneath the plough soil, which itself contained artefacts of a modern date..

4.2 Discussion of the artefact assemblages

4.2.1 A modest assemblage of flint artefacts were recovered from both trenches. On the whole these are struck flakes and blades, with few exhibiting signs of retouch or secondary modification. The flint assemblage is augmented by naturally-derived thermally shattered nodules of flint and at least two cores. Judging by the platform preparation exhibited on many of the flakes and blades, it is believed that this assemblage represents either Neolithic or Bronze Age activity. However, a secure chronological timeframe for this assemblage is hampered by the lack of diagnostic implements. The prehistoric activity is further supported by a fragment of a polished porcellanite axe recovered from the cultivation soil (Context No. 202) in Trench Two.

4.2.2 A varied assemblage of pottery fragments were recovered from both trenches. A cursory examination of the ceramic assemblage by Ruairi O'Baoill (CAF) suggests that the assemblage is dominated by white glazed ceramics and blackware sherds of probable nineteenth-century date, as well as a small corpus of medieval pottery from the thirteenth/fourteenth century. However, only one sherd was recovered from a stratified context (Context No. 109). The sherd is a small fragment of a brown-ware vessel (Ruairi O'Baoill *pers comm.*) and dates the feature (a shallow gully/depression) as post-medieval.

4.3 *Interpretation of the archaeology*

4.3.1 The excavated evidence would suggest that the current bank delineating the scheduled area is of relatively modern date, and that there is no evidence of earlier underlying deposits. It is possible that the western side of the possible enclosure, therefore, is a product of the positioning of the junction of the two roads that make use of the topography of the hilltop and circumvent its natural contour.

4.3.2 The artefact assemblage recovered from the trenches indicates that there is prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity occurring in the vicinity of the excavation area. Although the artefacts recovered during the current investigation are residual and not from stratified contexts, they do suggest that there is a substantial amount of activity, dating to all periods, in the general area.

4.4 *Conclusion*

4.4.1 The excavation area was scheduled on the basis that it may represent the western side of a substantive enclosure, possibly of prehistoric or medieval date. Previous archaeological investigation has proved the existence of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity in the area. However, the current investigation found no evidence of the western limit of the scheduled area to be based upon an ancient enclosure. Further investigation at the eastern side of the enclosure (in the vicinity of Hartwell's geophysics plot for example) could further our understanding of the nature and date of this monument

5 Recommendations for further work

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The excavations carried out at the enclosure in Ballycarry did not produce features or deposits of archaeological significance. A reasonably small assemblage of artefacts (including flint, pottery and stone) were recovered, albeit from disturbed contexts, from both trenches. It is not recommended that the artefact assemblages are put forward for specialist study, apart from the descriptions provided in section 4 of this report. It is therefore recommended that no post-excavation work is required to bring this project to completion.

5.2 Possible further excavation

5.2.1 The excavation showed that a great deal of post-medieval disturbance has occurred along the western side of the possible enclosure. It is proposed that the NIEA should re-evaluate the scheduled status of this monument in light of the excavated evidence. However, further excavation across the eastern side of the possible enclosure should dictate whether the crop marks visible in the 1961 aerial photograph (figure 4) are the product of post-medieval field boundaries, or of greater antiquity. Should further excavation take place, it is proposed that a geophysical survey of the area is undertaken in the first instance. This should highlight areas for further investigation and reduce unnecessary ground disturbance.

5.3 Publication

5.3.1 Due to the nature of the excavation in investigating a scheduled monument, it is recommended that the results are published in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*. A short note will also be prepared for the annual *Excavations Bulletin*.

6 Bibliography

Crothers, N. 2000 Rescue excavations at Templecorran, Ballycarry, County Antrim. *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 59, 29-46.

Day, A., McWilliams, P. and Dobson, N. (eds.) 1994 *Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland. Vol. 10 Parishes of County Antrim 1830-1, 1833-5, 1839-40. East Antrim Glynn, Inver, Kilroot and Templecorran*. Belfast: The Institute of Irish Studies, the Queen's University Belfast.

DVAS 2008 *Geophysical Survey Report: Fields belong to Mr Tom Topping, Ballycarry, County Antrim, Northern Ireland*. Unpublished report (17th June 2008).

Edwards, N. 2002 *The archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland*. London.

Hamlin, A.E. 2008 *The archaeology of early Christianity in the north of Ireland* (edited by T.R. Kerr). BAR British Series 460. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Hartwell, B. 1990 Templecorran – An Enclosure Wall? *Carrickfergus and District Historical Journal* Vol 5 (1990), 26-29.

Lewis, S. 1837 *A topographical dictionary of Ireland*, (2nd edition). London: S. Lewis.

McClintock, J. 1990 Where was Templecorran? *Carrickfergus and District Historical Journal* Vol 5 (1990), 23-25.

McKay, P. 1999 *A dictionary of Ulster place-names*. Belfast: The Institute of Irish Studies, the Queen's University Belfast.

Mitchell, W. I. 2004 *The geology of Northern Ireland; Our natural foundation*, (2nd edition). Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, Belfast.

Murray, E. 2009 *Project Design for a proposed archaeological evaluation at the site of a possible seventeenth-century fort and ecclesiastical enclosure , at Ballycarry Co. Antrim*. Unpublished Research Design submitted to NIEA.

Murray, E. 2010 *Summary report on the 2009-10 archaeological evaluation of a post-medieval fort at Ballycarry South-West, County Antrim*. Unpublished report submitted to NIEA.

O'Laverty, J. 1884 *An historical account of the diocese of Down and Connor, Vol. 3*. Dublin: James Duffy & Sons.

Reeves, W. (ed.) 1847 *Ecclesiastical antiquities of Down, Connor, and Dromore, consisting of a taxation of those dioceses, compiled in the year MCCCVI* (Facsimile reprint of 1847 edition published by Kessinger Publishing).

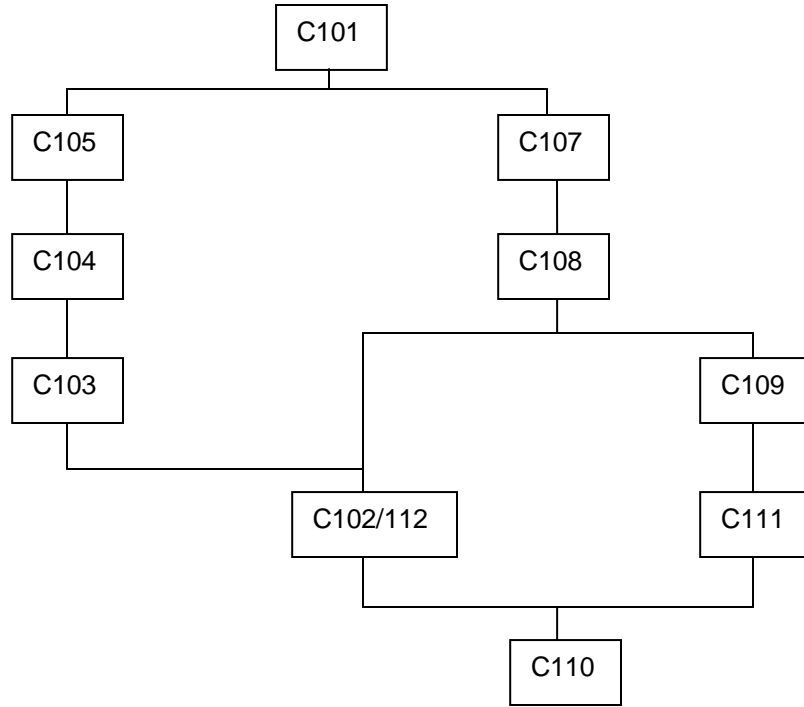
Roulston, W. 2003 *The provision, building and architecture of Anglican churches in the north of Ireland, 1600-1700*. Unpublished PhD thesis, Queen's University, Belfast.

Appendix One: Context Register

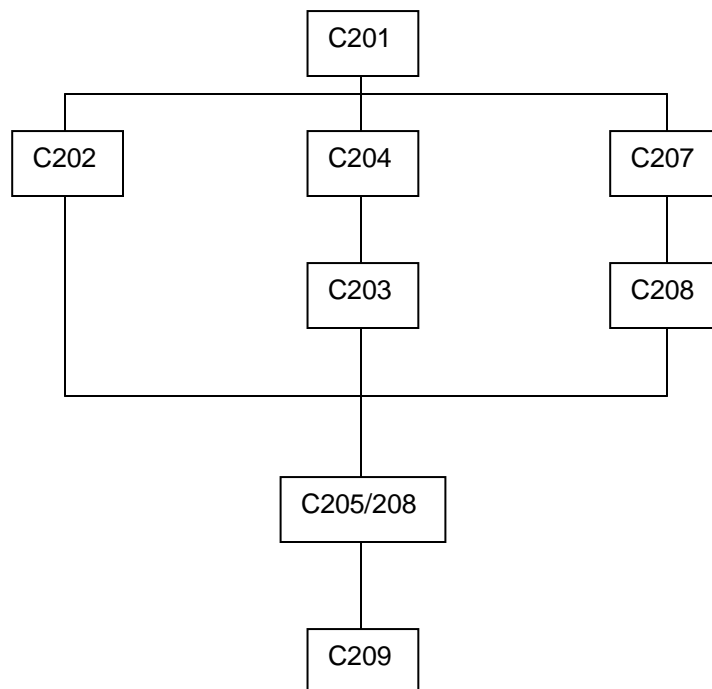
Context No.	Description
101	Sod and Topsoil
102	Upper bank material, possibly Cxt. 112 that has been disturbed by roots
103	Cut for modern roadway
104	Dark sandy fill of Context No. 103
105	Tarmac road surface
106	Cut for stone revetment on interior of bank
107	Stones constituting revetment
108	Cultivation soil
109	Fill of shallow gully
110	Natural subsoil
111	Cut for shallow gully, filled by Context No. 109
112	Lower bank material, probably same deposit as Context No. 102
201	Sod and Topsoil
202	Cultivation soil
203	Cut for revetment on interior of bank
204	Stones constituting revetment
205	Upper bank material, possibly Cxt. 208 that has been disturbed by roots
206	Cut for modern roadway
207	Tarmac road surface
208	Lower bank material, probably same deposit as Context No. 205
209	Natural subsoil

Appendix Two: Harris matrix

Trench One



Trench Two



Appendix Three: Photographic Register

Jpeg #	Description
100_3413	Subsoil of Tr 2, looking north-east
100_3414	Subsoil of Tr 2, looking north-east
100_3415	Subsoil of Tr2, looking north-east
100_3416	Subsoil of Tr 2, looking north-east
100_3417	Subsoil of Tr 2, looking south-west
100_3418	Subsoil of Tr 2, looking south-west
100_3421	Roadway in Tr 2 (Cxt. 207), looking north-east
100_3422	Roadway in Tr 2 (Cxt. 207), looking south-west
100_3423	Roadway in Tr 2 (Cxt. 207), looking north-west
100_3424	Working shot
100_3425	Working shot
100_3426	Revetment wall in Tr 1 (Cxt. 107), looking north
100_3427	Revetment wall in Tr 1 (Cxt. 107), looking north
100_3428	Revetment wall in Tr 1 (Cxt. 107), looking north
100_3429	Revetment wall in Tr 1 (Cxt. 107), looking south-west
100_3430	Mid-excavation shot of Tr1, looking south-west
100_3431	Mid-excavation shot of Tr1, looking south-west
100_3432	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking north
100_3433	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking north
100_3434	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking south-east
100_3437	Mid-excavation shot of Tr1, looking north-east
100_3438	Mid-excavation shot of Tr1, looking north-east
100_3439	Revetment wall in Tr 1 (Cxt. 107), looking north
100_3440	Revetment wall in Tr 1 (Cxt. 107), looking north
100_3441	Mid-excavation shot of Tr1, looking north-east
100_3442	Mid-excavation shot of Tr1, looking north-east
100_3444	Working shot
100_3445	Working shot
100_3446	Working shot
100_3447	Working shot
100_3448	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking south-west
100_3449	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking south-west
100_3450	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking north-west
100_3451	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking north

100_3452	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking north
100_3453	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking north-west
100_3454	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking south-east
100_3455	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking south-east
100_3456	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking west
100_3457	Gully feature in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking south-east
100_3460	Cut for modern roadway in Tr1 (Cxt. 103), looking south
100_3461	Cut for modern roadway in Tr1 (Cxt. 103), looking north
100_3462	Cut for modern roadway in Tr1 (Cxt. 103), looking north
100_3463	Cut for modern roadway in Tr1 (Cxt. 103), looking south
100_3464	North-west facing section of gully (Cxt. 109), looking south-east
100_3467	North-west facing section of gully (Cxt. 109), looking south
100_3468	North-west facing section of gully (Cxt. 109), looking north
100_3470	North-west facing section of gully (Cxt. 109), looking north-east
100_3472	Working shot
100_3473	Working shot
100_3474	Working shot
100_3479	Bank material in Tr 1 (Cxt. 102/112), looking north
100_3480	Bank material in Tr 1 (Cxt. 102/112), looking north
100_3481	Bank material in Tr 2 (Cxt. 205/208), looking south
100_3482	Working shot
100_3485	Post-excavation shot of gully in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking north
100_3486	Post-excavation shot of gully in Tr 1 (Cxt. 109), looking south
100_3487	Working shot.
100_3491	Mid-excavation shot of bank in Tr 1, looking south
100_3492	Mid-excavation shot of bank in Tr 1, looking south
100_3499	Post-excavation shot of Tr 1, looking north-east
100_3500	Post-excavation shot of Tr 1, looking east
100_3503	Post-excavation shot of Tr 1, looking south-west
100_3515	Post-excavation shot of Tr 2, looking south-west
100_3516	Post-excavation shot of Tr 2, looking north-east
100_3521	Post-excavation shot of Tr 2, looking south
100_3522	Post-excavation shot of Tr 2, looking south
100_3525	General shot of Tr 2, looking north-east
100_3526	General shot of site, looking south

Appendix Four: Field drawing register

Drawing No.	Type	Description
1	Plan (Scale 1:20)	Post-excavation plan of Trench One
2	Section (Scale 1:20)	South-facing section of Trench One
3	Section (Scale 1:20)	North-facing section of Trench Two

Appendix Five: Samples register

**No stratigraphically secure deposits were encountered during the excavation and no samples were taken.*



Plate 1: The western side of the scheduled area delineated by a bank and hedgerow prior to excavation, looking north-west.



Plate 2: General view of the excavation area, looking south.



Plate 3: Gully feature in Trench One (Context No. 109), looking north-west.

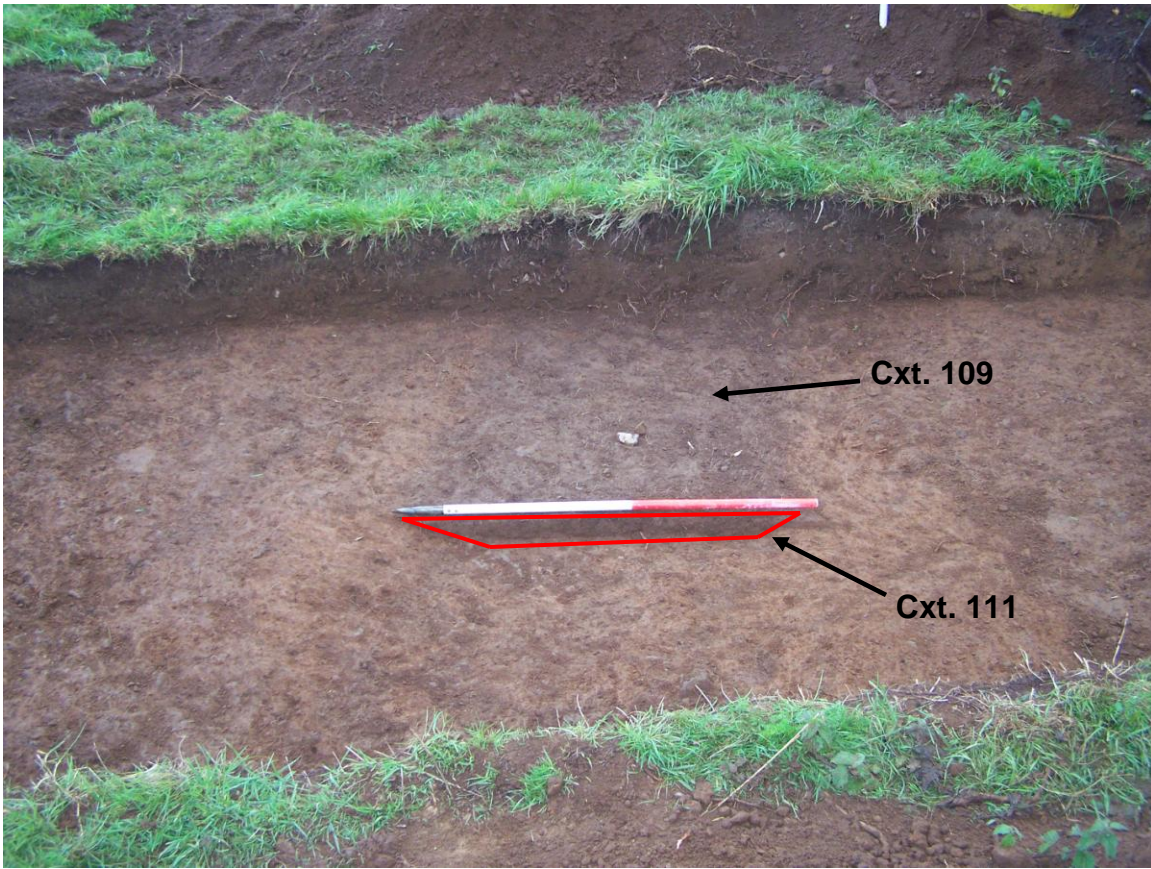


Plate 4: North-west facing section through gully feature (Context No. 109), looking south-east.

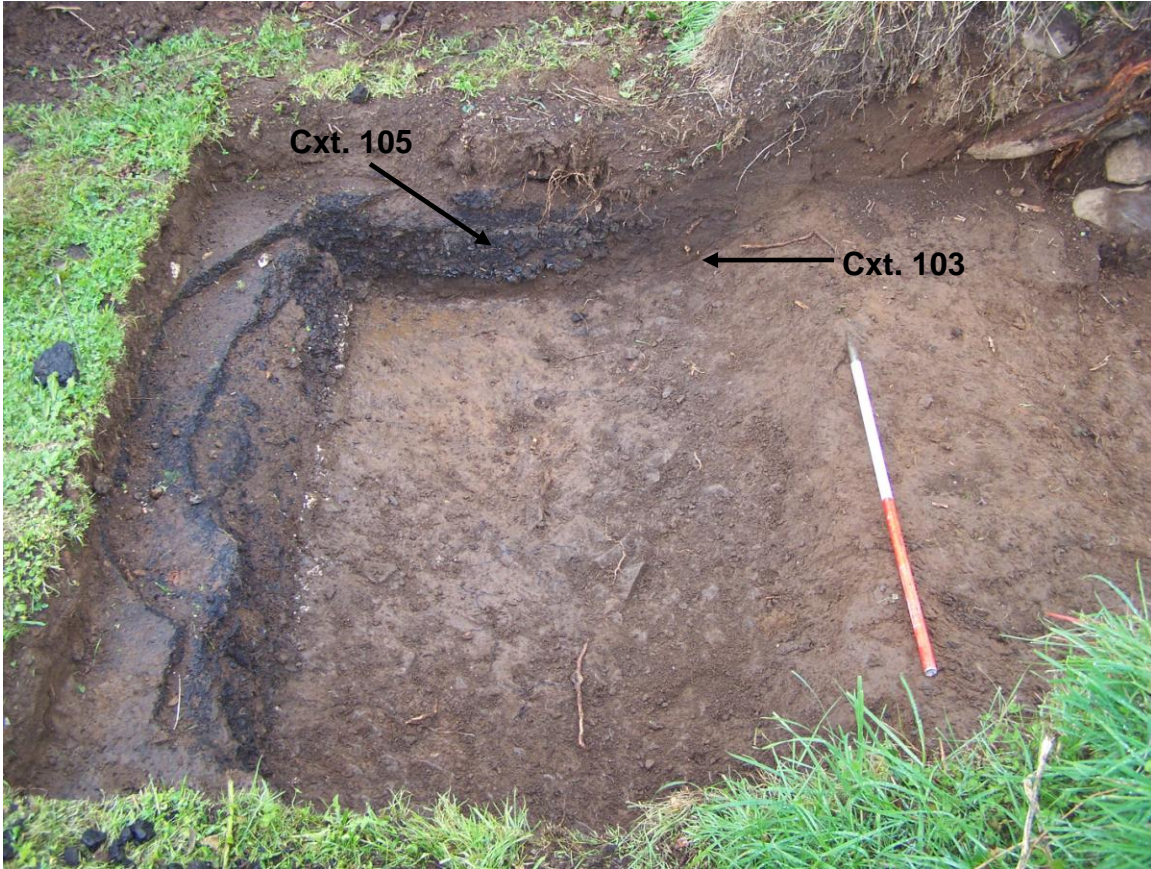


Plate 5: Modern roadway in Trench One (Context No. 105), looking north.



Plate 6: Trench One following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 110), looking north-east.



Plate 7: Bank deposits in Trench Two following excavation, looking south-east.



Plate 8: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 209), looking south-west.