



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPRAISAL ON SITE AT MULLAVALLY, LOUTH VILLAGE, COUNTY
LOUTH**

ON BEHALF OF LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

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Introduction

This report relates to the archaeological considerations of a site in the townland of Mullavally, Louth Village, County Louth. A site of 3.48 hectares, owned by Louth County Council, is proposed for development via the Accelerated Delivery Programme to provide social housing.

Louth County Council intend to undertake the development under section 179A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). The development will proceed in one single phase consisting of social housing, landscaped areas relating to the social housing units, boundary works, connection to service providers and associated works.

Planning history: archaeology

A detailed site assessment was undertaken by S.J. Linnane of archaeological consultancy ACS in July 2004, in response to conditions of a previous planning application under licence 04E0823 from National Monuments Section, (now Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage). The proposed development at that time was for the construction of ninety-two houses along with associated services (ref: 03/1257, Louth County Council). The assessment noted that the site is located close to the Zone of Archaeological Potential for Louth Village, which is listed as LH011-115 on National Monument's Heritage Viewer (available at archaeology.ie). The archaeological features uncovered in the test trenching have been allotted an entry on the Sites and Monuments Record, LH011-138, excavations, miscellaneous.

In 2004, the archaeological requirements of the planning authority were as follows:

22. The following archaeological requirements shall be carried out

1. The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist licensed under the National Monuments Act (1930 to 1994) to carry out predevelopment testing at the site. No subsurface works shall be undertaken in the absence of the archaeologist without his/ her express consent.
2. The archaeologist is required to notify Duchas in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of site preparations. This will allow the archaeologist sufficient time to obtain a license to carry out the work.
3. The archaeologist shall carry out any relevant documentary research and may excavate test trenches at locations chosen by the archaeologist having consulted the proposed development plans. Having completed the work, the archaeologist should submit a written report to the Planning Authority and to Duchas.
4. Where archaeological material is shown to be present, avoidance, preservation in situ, preservation by record (excavation) and/or monitoring may be required. Duchas the heritage service will advise the applicant developer with regard to these matters.
5. No site preparation or construction work shall be carried out until after the archaeologist's report has been submitted and permission to proceed has been received in writing from Duchas.

Reason: to ensure the continued preservation either in situ or by record of places, caves, sites, features or objects of archaeological interest.

The subsequent assessment carried out by S.J. Linnane of archaeological consultancy ACS consisted of three days of test trenching in late June 2004 into July 2004. Two areas of archaeological significance were discovered during the course of the assessment within field 2. These were concentrated within two areas within the southeastern extent of field two. One area contained a shallow spread (charcoal enriched soil) with associated stakeholes while the second area contained a number of postholes surrounding a hearth. Both groups of features indicate structural remains, while the assessment did not yield evidence for the period of occupation.

The writer recommended the following: If preservation in situ is not feasible, the archaeological remains should be preserved by record and with this a full archaeological excavation should be conducted by a licensed archaeologist therefore no construction work should be allowed to proceed within field 2 until the archaeological excavation has been completed.

As still pertains, the site is divided into two fields, located on the northern and southern slopes of a large hill. Details of the test trenching carried out in June and July 2004 are as follows: Nine test trenches with a total length in excess of 1,105m and c. 1600mm in width were excavated using a machine fitted with a grading bucket. Ploughsoil varied from 300mm to c. 900mm in depth, variation undoubtedly due to ploughing on a slope. Both zones of archaeological features were sealed beneath the deeper topsoil, towards the southern end of field 2.

The two areas of archaeological significance are summarised as follows: Hearth in trench 6: 1600 x 1700mm, 600mm below topsoil. Charcoal enriched soil over oxidized clay. Four associated postholes. No finds recovered.

Trench 8 had topsoil with a depth up to 900mm. These overlay an ovoid area with charcoal enriched silt, and three associated stakeholes on its eastern extent.

Some features of more recent date were uncovered, dated by a sherd of green glass, and a sherd of brown glazed post medieval earthenware in a shallow ditch.

Notably the test trenching does not record the presence of finds in the ploughsoil, although a single sherd of green glazed medieval pottery is recorded from the post- medieval linear feature C03.

The test trench report is included here as Appendix 1. The test trench report is thorough and stands good. The time of year and consistency of the results indicate good visibility throughout the works. The linear trenches are visible on the Map Genie aerial photographs available at archaeology.ie., most clearly on the series from 2001-2005, but also in field 2 on the 2013-2018 series.

[Other archaeological work in Mullavalley](#)

Earlier unlicensed archaeological monitoring in Mullavally in 1995 uncovered ash deposits associated with a recently demolished old house. A post- medieval mortar-based stone drain was also recorded. Both are of recent date, and of no archaeological significance. Since

completion of the archaeological test trenching on the site in 2004, some further archaeological test trenching has taken place close by. Work under Licence 22E0570, in the adjacent townland named 'Richard Taaffe's Holding', a total of 11 test trenches were excavated. Each trench measured 1.8m in width and in total 495m of linear trenches were excavated to the top of subsoil. In general topsoil measures between 0.24 to 0.61m in depth. No fines or features of archaeological significance were identified.

Impact/ Actions

Development can proceed in Field 1, with monitoring by a licenced archaeologist.

The following is recommended in relation to the archaeological zones in Field 2. It is advisable that the works should predate the arrival of the main contractor on site, or alternatively should predate the commencement of substantive construction works (if part of the main design-build contract).

Prior to any construction works in Field 2, the two zones where archaeological features are located should be revisited by a licensed archaeologist with a small team of assistants, the purpose being preservation by record.

The areas should be opened up under strict archaeological direction using a mechanical excavator fitted with a grading bucket, to the lower level of ploughsoil, exposing the total areas of archaeological features. The 2004 report suggested opening an area measuring 20m by 20m at each of the two zones. Cleaning of the features, recording pre and post- excavation, to archaeological standards should take place. Samples of soils should be retained for analysis, and possible Carbon 14 dating, if suitable.

Full excavation of the features will probably result in the retrieval of datable finds.

A full report should be issued to the relevant authorities on completion.

The above methodology will need to be refined and agreed with National Monuments staff (formerly Duchas).

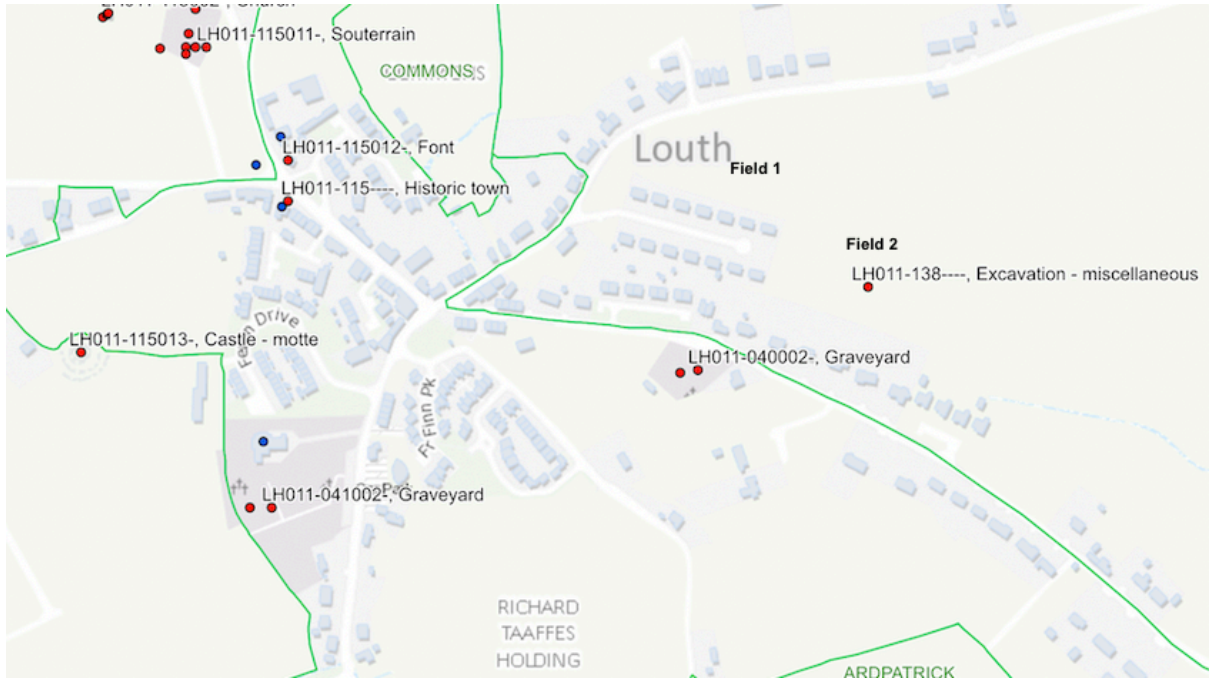


Figure 1. Site indicated on National Monuments ASI viewer. LH011-138.



Figure 2. Site on Map Genie 2001-2005, showing infilled test trenches.



Figure 3. Site on Map Genie 2013-2018, test trenches in Field 2 still visible.

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Archaeological Assessment
Archaeologist Stephen J. Linnane
Client c/o Mr Conor Quinn, Quinn Surveying Office, 12 Linenhall House, W.I.N. Business Park, Canal Quay, Newry, County Down

Site Louth Village
Townland Mullavally
Parish Louth
County Louth
Nat. Grid Ref. 295150, 301150

Licence No. 04E0823
Planning Ref. 03/1257 (22/1-5)
Job Number 04_23

Project Start Date 30th June 2004
Report Date 6th July 2004



NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The proposed development relates to the construction of ninety-two houses along with associated services at Louth Village, County Louth. The site is located close to the Zone of Archaeological Potential for Louth Village which is listed as LH011:115.

An archaeological assessment by means of test trenching was conducted on the site for three days from 30th June–2nd July 2004. A number of features of archaeological significance were discovered during the course of the assessment within Field 2. These were concentrated within two areas within the southeastern extent of Field 2. One area contained a shallow spread with associated stakeholes while the second area contained a number of postholes surrounding a hearth.

If preservation *in situ* is not feasible, the archaeological remains should be preserved by record and with this a full archaeological excavation should be conducted by a licensed archaeologist. Therefore, no construction work should be allowed to proceed within Field 2 until the archaeological excavation has been completed.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of an archaeological assessment at the site of a proposed residential development at Louth Village, County Louth (Ordnance Survey six-inch Sheet 11, 432mm from the west margin and 347mm from the south margin; National Grid Co-ordinates 295150, 301150; Figure 1). The site is located close to the Zone of Archaeological Potential for County Louth, SMR LH011:115 (Figure 2).

Archaeological assessment was carried out on behalf of Mr Conor Quinn, Quinn Surveying Office, 12 Linenhall House, W.I.N. Business Park, Canal Quay, Newry, County Down in relation to Planning Reference 03/1257 of Louth County Council. The archaeological assessment was carried out under licence 04E0823 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government which was issued to Stephen J. Linnane on 15th June 2004. The assessment was carried out from 30th June–2nd July 2004.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 The Proposal

It is proposed to construct ninety-two houses within six blocks. Two open areas will be used for landscaping and associated services will also be installed.

2.2 Archaeological Requirements

The assessment is part of a planning application (03/1257) to Louth County Council and the following archaeological requirement was requested prior to the granting of permission:

22 *The following Archaeological Requirements shall be carried out:*

1. *The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist (licensed under the National Monuments Acts 1930–1994) to carry out pre-development testing at the site. No sub-surface works shall be undertaken in the absence of the archaeologist without his/her express consent.*
2. *The archaeologist is required to notify Dúchas in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of site preparations. This will allow the archaeologist sufficient time to obtain a licence to carry out the work.*
3. *The archaeologist shall carry out any relevant documentary research and may excavate test trenches at locations chosen by the archaeologist having consulted the proposed development plans. Having completed the work the archaeologist shall submit a written report to the Planning Authority and to Dúchas.*
4. *Where archaeological material is shown to be present, avoidance, preservation in situ, preservation by record (excavation) and/or monitoring may be required. Dúchas the Heritage Service will advise the applicant/developer with regard to these matters.*

5. *No site preparation or construction work shall be carried out until after the archaeologist's report has been submitted and permission to proceed has been received in writing from Dúchas.*

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation (either in situ or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or objects of archaeological interest.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background by Robert O'Hara

The history of Louth village is well documented in the Early Christian period and medieval times. Louth was the site of a large monastery which was founded by St. Mochta who is regarded as a disciple of St. Patrick. During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, it was the centre of a royal manor. The name Louth is the genitive form of Lugh, a Celtic deity, and it indicates that the site was a possibly a shrine or temple in pre-Christian times. The *Vita of St. Mochta* preserves the tradition that the Early Christian monastery of Louth was taken over from druids. The *Vita* tradition adds that a cemetery was established before the pagan site was obtained for church use. Little is known of Mochta save the annalistic entry of his death which according to Bradley probably reflects a genuine memory (Bradley 1985, 8).

The earliest reliable reference to Mochta occurs in Adomnan's *Life of Columba* written between AD688 and 692 (Anderson & Anderson 1961, 5). In it, Adomnan alludes to Mochta as a Briton and a disciple of the Holy Bishop Patrick who foretells the birth of Columba and adds "the fields of our two monasteries, mine and his, will be separated by the width of one small hedge" (Anderson & Anderson 1961, 183). The *Vita Tripartita* recounts the story of how an angel directed Patrick not to found a church at Louth but to allow Mochta to do so instead (Mulchrone 1939, 135–36). This story also occurs in the *Vita of St. Mochta* which adds that in the event of death, each agreed to bind over their monastic community to the other, a clear indication of the affiliation between Armagh and Louth. The close association of Louth with Armagh dates from at least the time of Adomnan and it seems to have continued into the twelfth century. In AD950, half a century after the *Vita Tripartita* was composed, the death occurred of Finnachta mac Echtighern, bishop, scribe and abbot of Louth who was described as *maer* (steward) of Patrick's people from the mountain southwards. The *Vita of St. Mochta*, which was probably written circa 1140 when Louth became an independent see, shows that Louth had an important set of relics. These relics were considered worthy of public display in 1242 when the Augustinians held their provincial chapter at Louth.

The first reference to an abbot of Louth is to Cuidgile, the abbot and scribe who died in AD742. By the eighth century, Louth had become an important foundation as is evidenced by its inclusion

in the monasteries ruled by the descendants of Cormac of Slane (Hughes 1966, 163). In 832, it was plundered by Vikings from Lough Neagh who “led away captive bishops and priests and scholars and put others to death”. It was attacked again in 840. The monastery was also raided in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth centuries by Irish kings, among them Murchad, King of Aileach, and Tigernan Ua Ruairc, King of Breifne. Burnings of the monastery are recorded in 1075, 1111, 1133, 1148, 1160 and 1166. An accidental fire in 1164 which started in the house of Donnchad Ua Cerbaill burned most of the settlement. By the twelfth century, the monastery had acquired an additional importance as an episcopal see. The cathedral was established at the new Augustinian house of St. Mary which also functioned as the diocesan chapter (Lawlor 1917, 145). The account of the accidental fire in 1164 indicates that there were houses in its precinct and the fact that it was chosen for the submission of Tigernan Ua Ruairc in 1149 is a further indication of its importance.

By the time of the Anglo-Norman arrival, Louth was the most important church site in the county and a natural focus for settlement. According to the *Annals of Ulster*, the Anglo-Normans made their first raid on Louth in 1176 but actual settlement probably did not begin until after 1185 when Prince John granted Ardee to Gilbert Pippard and Ferrard to Bertram de Verdon (Otway-Ruthven 1968, 70–2). A castle, probably on the present motte, was burned in 1196 but was soon rebuilt and in 1204 Richard Tyrel was ordered to deliver the king’s castle of Louth to the Justiciar Meiler Fitzhenry (Sweetman 1875, I, no.196). On the 7th July 1210, Prince John himself visited Louth on his way from Kells to Dundalk. In 1221, an annual fair was established “at the King’s vill of Louth” and in that year the first reference to the borough of Louth also occurs (Sweetman 1875, I, Nos. 997, 1010). There are few references to the settlement after the thirteenth century and it evidently began to decline. In 1483, Louth was burned by Aodh Ruadh O’Domhnaill and it never recovered its former status. In later centuries when English power began to reassert itself, Louth was overshadowed by Ardee and Dundalk.

Today, the remains of Louth’s multi-period history include St Mochta’s early monastic site, the Augustinian priory of St Mary, the Anglo-Norman motte and the borough site and defences. All that remains of the monastery are an enclosure, a possible souterrain, a possible round tower and a possible cemetery. Elements of the enclosure can be traced on the various editions of the Ordnance Survey maps. The site is situated on a low ridge surrounded by a marsh which divides it into two sections (Bradley 1985, 12–14). The western section is the larger measuring 640 x 320m (maximum dimensions) and the eastern section is a knoll occupying a rounded area 120 x 105m. Both these sections seem to be placed within a larger enclosure which survives on the east as a townland boundary and on the south as the perimeter of a group of plots. This enclosure is oval in shape with maximum dimensions of 640 x 460m. It would, therefore, have covered an area of

c.24 hectares (59 acres). The northwestern corner of the monastic site juts into the bog and a shallow ditch 4m wide curving from southwest to northeast can be traced for a distance of almost 50m in this area. This almost certainly represents the enclosure around the church and principal monastic buildings. The field boundaries in the area around the supposed site of St Columba's church to the east also seem to convey hints of a former enclosure.

The souterrain is recorded only in local tradition while the round tower is recorded in the *Annals of Clonmacnoise* where it is written that the steeple at Louth fell in a great wind in AD981. The site of a round tower is shown on the 1895 edition of the Ordnance Survey six-inch map to the south of the church (Davies 1942, 103). However, while Barrow includes it in his synthesis (1979, 154), he lists it as very doubtful.

During conservation work on St Mochta's house in 1934, a stone-lined grave with skeleton was discovered close to the southwest quoin outside and parallel to the south wall (Leask 1937, 35). Much speculation has surrounded the date of St Mochta's house with Bradley (1985, 14) identifying it with the church of St Mohod mentioned in 1228 and 1335 while others favour a later date. North of the village is the site of a church known locally as 'the pinnacle', formerly used for the burial of unbaptised children. Bradley agrees with L.P. Murray that this site was that of an Early Christian church dedicated to St Columba.

The present village probably occupies the site of the medieval borough although the age of its street pattern is unknown. According to Bradley, the medieval borough probably extended further to the west along the road immediately north of the motte. While no documentary evidence exists for borough defences, a narrow bank running east and west from the motte was described by Wright as the "old town trench" (Wright 1748, I, Pl.12). A low bank 1m wide with a shallow internal ditch is still visible and runs into the present field boundaries. The motte is situated to the southwest of the borough atop a prominent ridge which affords a commanding view of the surrounding countryside. It consists of a round mound 5.15m high with a basal width of 25m narrowing to 10.5m at the flat top. It is surrounded by a fosse on average 7.2m wide and 1.5m deep. Wright's drawing of 1748 shows that there was a bank outside this fosse with an external ditch (Bradley 1985, 12). This bank only survives now on the southeast where it is 4.1m broad.

It is evident from the Dissolution documents that the Augustinian Priory also functioned as the parish church of late medieval Louth (White 1943, 228). In 1410, it was valued at 400 marks, making it one of the richest monasteries in Ireland (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 186). At the Dissolution, there were two castles here in addition to the conventual buildings of which all trace above ground is now gone (Bradley 1985, 16). Only the church survives of the original monastic complex and it consists of a nave and chancel separated by a cross wall of which only a fragment

remains. The masonry consists of coursed limestone and slate with quoins of limestone and sandstone. The dating of the church poses problems but three separate building sections can be identified. The chancel is of an early fourteenth-century date while the cross wall and nave were added later, probably in the fifteenth century. The capitals of the eastern window of the nave, which are of late thirteenth-century style, also appear to have been inserted at this time.

Recent development-led investigations within the village have failed to locate archaeological remains (Bennett 1995, 1996, 2000; Murphy 1995, 1996a & 1996b; 2000a & 2000b).

3.2 Archaeological Assessment Results

The archaeological assessment at Mullavally, Louth Village, was carried out over three days from 30th June to 2nd of July 2004. The site was divided into two connecting fields located on the northern and southern slopes of a large hill. Field 1 was a triangular field situated on the north-facing slope of the hill while Field 2 was subrectangular and occupied the south-facing slope of the hill.

Nine test trenches in total were excavated by a machine equipped with a grading bucket (Figure 3). Trenches 1–6 were excavated along the line of the six blocks of houses while Trenches 7–9 were located within landscape and access areas.

Field 1

Trench 1

Trench 1 was northwest–southeast orientated and was located towards the southwestern extent of this field (Figure 3; Plate 1). This trench measured 182.0m in length and 1.6m in width. It was filled with topsoil/ploughsoil (C1) consisting of compact mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small–medium-sized angular stones. No archaeological features were exposed within this trench. The natural (C2) consisted of compact orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of medium-sized–large stones. This trench ranged in depth from 0.30–0.40m. There were no finds from this context.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was north–south orientated and was located towards the eastern extent of this field (Figure 3). This trench measured 97.0m in length and 1.6m in width. It was filled with topsoil/ploughsoil (C1) consisting of compact mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small–medium-sized angular stones. No archaeological features were exposed within this trench. The

natural (C2) consisted of compact orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of medium-sized–large stones. This trench ranged in depth from 0.25–0.30m. There were no finds from this context.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was northwest–southeast orientated and was located at the centre of the field (Figure 3). This trench measured 40.0m in length and 1.6m in width. It was filled with topsoil/ploughsoil (C1) consisting of compact mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small–medium-sized angular stones. No archaeological features were exposed within this trench. The natural (C2) consisted of compact orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of medium-sized–large stones. This trench ranged in depth from 0.30–0.40m. There were no finds from this context.

Field 2

Trench 3

Trench 3 was northeast–southwest orientated and was located almost parallel to the northwestern boundary of Field 2 (Figure 3; Plate 2). This trench measured 100.0m in length and 1.6m in width. It was filled with topsoil/ploughsoil (C1) consisting of compact mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small–medium-sized angular stones. No archaeological features were exposed within this trench. The natural (C2) consisted of compact orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of medium-sized–large stones. This trench ranged in depth from 0.40–0.50m. There were no finds from this context. This trench was connected to Trenches 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was northwest–southeast orientated and was located towards the northern extent of this field (Figure 3). This trench measured 165.0m in length and 1.6m in width. It was filled with topsoil/ploughsoil (C1) consisting of compact mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small–medium-sized angular stones. No archaeological features were exposed within this trench. The natural (C2) consisted of compact orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of medium-sized–large stones. This trench ranged in depth from 0.30–0.40m.

A post-medieval linear feature (C3) was exposed running in a northwest–southeast direction across the trench. This measured 0.70m in width and reached a depth of 0.25m. Its fill consisted of loose mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small–medium-sized angular and subrounded stones. Four finds were retrieved from this ditch including a fragment of green glass, a sherd of

brown glazed stoneware and a sherd of brown glazed post-medieval earthenware (04E0823:3:1-3).

Trench 5

Trench 5 was northwest-southeast orientated and was located southeast of Trench 4 (Figure 3; Plate 3). This trench measured 145.0m in length and 1.6m in width. It was filled with topsoil/ploughsoil (C1) consisting of compact mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small-medium-sized angular stones. No archaeological features were exposed within this trench. The natural (C2) consisted of compact orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of medium-sized-large stones. This trench ranged in depth from 0.40-0.50m. There were no finds from this context.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was northwest-southeast orientated and was located southeast of Trench 5 (Figure 3; Plate 4). This trench measured 127.0m in length and 1.6m in width with a perpendicular extension trench measuring 25.0m in length. It was filled with topsoil/ploughsoil (C1) consisting of compact mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small-medium-sized angular stones. The natural (C2) consisted of compact orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of medium-sized-large stones. This trench ranged in depth from 0.40-0.60m. A number of archaeological features were encountered close to the southeastern extent of this trench. These included a large hearth (C4) and four postholes (C5, C6, C8 & C9; Figure 4).

The hearth (C4) and the posthole C6 were initially encountered within Trench 6. A northeast-southwest trench was then excavated across Trench 6 to expose any associated features and this extra trench revealed postholes C5, C8 and C9. The hearth C4 consisted of compact black silty clay with 75% charcoal and occasional heat-shattered stones (Plate 5). The circumference of the spread consisted of bright-orange oxidised clay reflecting *in situ* burning. This hearth measured 1.60 x 1.70m and was located 0.60m below topsoil. The four postholes C8, C9, C6 and C5 were located west, northeast, east and southwest of the spread respectively.

The circular posthole C8 was situated 0.30m from C4. Its fill consisted of compact mid-brown silty clay with 5% charcoal and frequent small-medium-sized stones. The circumference of this posthole was oxidised suggesting *in situ* burning. This feature measured 0.40 x 0.50m and reached a depth of 0.23m. There were no finds from this context. The posthole C9 was situated 2.20m northeast of C4 (Plate 6). Its fill consisted of compact black silty clay with 50% charcoal content and occasional small stones. It was oval-shaped and measured 0.24 x 0.30m. The circular

posthole C6 was situated 2.0m east of the hearth C4 (Plate 7). Its fill consisted of dark-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small–medium-sized stones, most probably used for packing. This feature measured 0.30m in diameter and reached a depth of 0.18m. A section of this posthole revealed that its sides were straight-cut and vertical and its base was flat. There were no finds from this context.

The posthole C5 was located 2.6m from the hearth C4 (Plate 8). Its fill consisted of compact mid–dark-brown silty clay with 10% charcoal and small–medium-sized stones. The circumference of this posthole was oxidised in the same way as that of C8. This feature measured 0.50 x 0.60m and reached a depth of 0.28m. A section of this feature revealed that its sides were straight-cut with a sharp break of slope and a flat base. There were no finds from any of these contexts.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was northwest–southeast orientated and was located southeast of Trench 6 (Figure 3). This trench measured 129.0m in length and 1.6m in width with a perpendicular extension trench measuring 7.0m in length. It was filled with topsoil/ploughsoil (C1) consisting of compact mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small–medium-sized angular stones. The natural (C2) consisted of compact orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of medium-sized–large stones. This trench ranged in depth from 0.40–0.90m. A small number of archaeological features were encountered within this trench approximately 28.0m from the point at which Trench 8 joins Trench 3. These included a deposit C7 with associated stakeholes C7a–c (Figure 5; Plate 9).

The deposit was oval-shaped and consisted of compact dark-brown silty clay with frequent flecks of charcoal. It measured 0.80 x 1.20m and was flanked by three stakeholes C7a–c to its eastern extent. These stakeholes measured 0.09–0.10m in diameter. They were filled with mid-brown silty clay and occasional flecks of charcoal. There were no finds from any of these contexts.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was northwest–southeast orientated and was located along the southeastern boundary of Field 2 (Figure 3). This trench measured 120.0m in length and 1.6m in width. It was filled with topsoil/ploughsoil (C1) consisting of compact mid-brown sandy clay with frequent small–medium-sized angular stones. No archaeological features were exposed within this trench. The natural (C2) consisted of compact orange-brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of medium-sized–large stones. This trench ranged in depth from 0.40–2.0m. There were no finds from this context.

3.3 List of Contexts

- C01 Topsoil.
- C02 Natural.
- C03 Post-medieval linear field boundary within Trench 4, Field 2.
- C04 Hearth within Trench 6, Field 2.
- C05 Posthole located southwest of C4, Trench 6, Field 2.
- C06 Posthole located east of C4, Trench 6, Field 2.
- C07 Deposit with associated stakeholes A–C, Trench 8, Field 2.
- C08 Posthole located west of C4, Trench 6, Field 2.
- C09 Posthole located northeast of C4, Trench 6, Field 2.

3.4 List of Finds

- 04E0823:3:1 Fragment of green glass.
- 04E0823:3:2 Base sherd of brown glazed stoneware.
- 04E0823:3:3 Fragment of brown glazed post-medieval earthenware.
- 04E0823:3:4 Body sherd of green glazed medieval pottery.

4. CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological remains were encountered within Field 1 during this assessment. Consequently, there is no archaeological reason why construction within this field should not be allowed to proceed as planned.

The assessment of Field 2, however, revealed two concentrations of archaeological activity within Trenches 6 and 8. The archaeological deposits detected within Trench 6 were situated within the proposed location for house numbers 90–91. The deposits within Trench 8 were located within an area for proposed landscaping. It is possible that further archaeological deposits exist within these areas. The excavation of foundation trenches and associated dwelling services along with landscaping techniques will directly impact on the archaeological deposits in this area.

If preservation *in situ* is not feasible, the archaeological remains should be preserved by record and with this a full archaeological excavation should be conducted by a licensed archaeologist. Therefore, no construction work should be allowed to proceed within Field 2 until the archaeological excavation has been completed.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the area surrounding the two concentrations of archaeological activity be stripped of topsoil by a machine equipped with a grading bucket. It is recommended that a cutting measuring 20m x 20m, at the location of C4 and C7 be excavated. If archaeological material is exposed towards the outskirts of the cutting the cutting may be extended to ensure the inclusion of any outlying features. All archaeological features exposed within these cuttings should be fully resolved through hand-excavation by a licensed archaeologist.

Due to the archaeologically sensitive nature of the site and the possibility that further archaeological deposits may exist, it is recommended that a licensed archaeologist monitor all topsoil stripping and associated groundworks within Field 2. Should further archaeological deposits be encountered, these must also be fully resolved by a licensed archaeologist.

Notes:

- **All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the relevant local authorities who may issue alternative or additional recommendations.**

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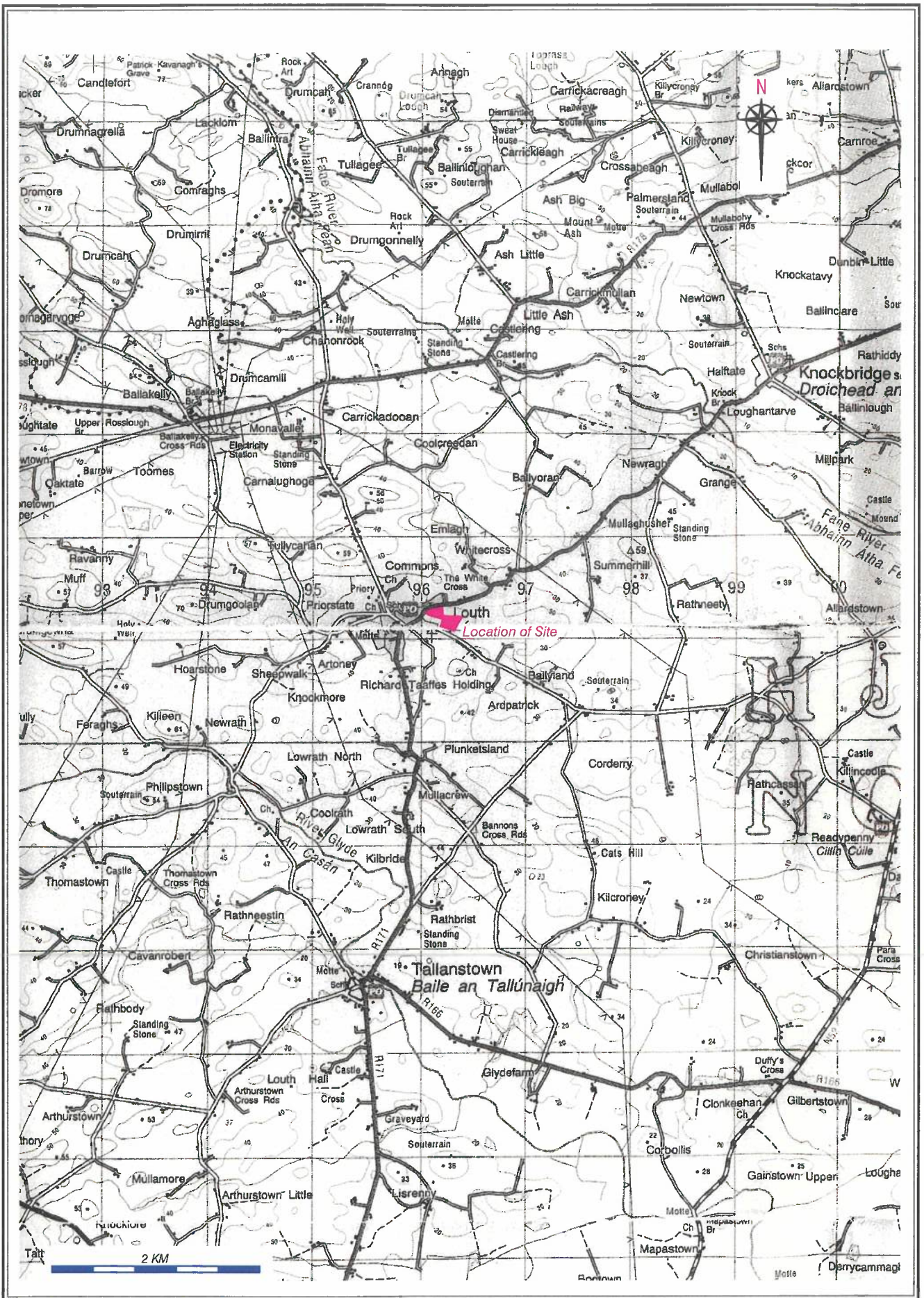
Signed:



Stephen J. Linnane

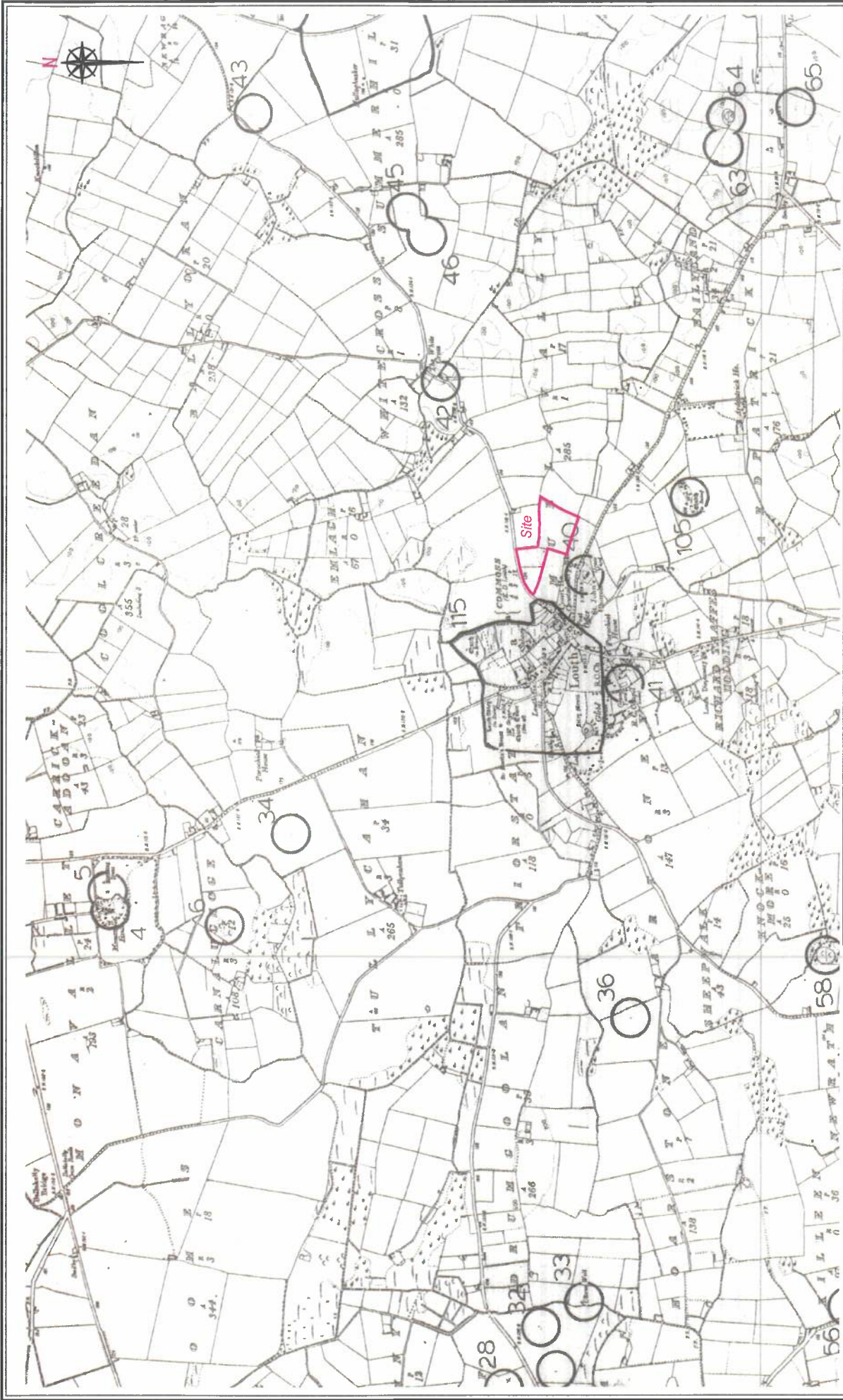
Archaeologist

6th July 2004



Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth	Site: Louth Village, Co. Louth	Scale: 1: 50000
	Issued for: Archaeological Assessment Report	Date: 6th July '04
	Client: c/o Quinn Surveying, Newry, Co. Down	Origin: OS Discovery Series (36)
		Drawing no.: 04 23 C03

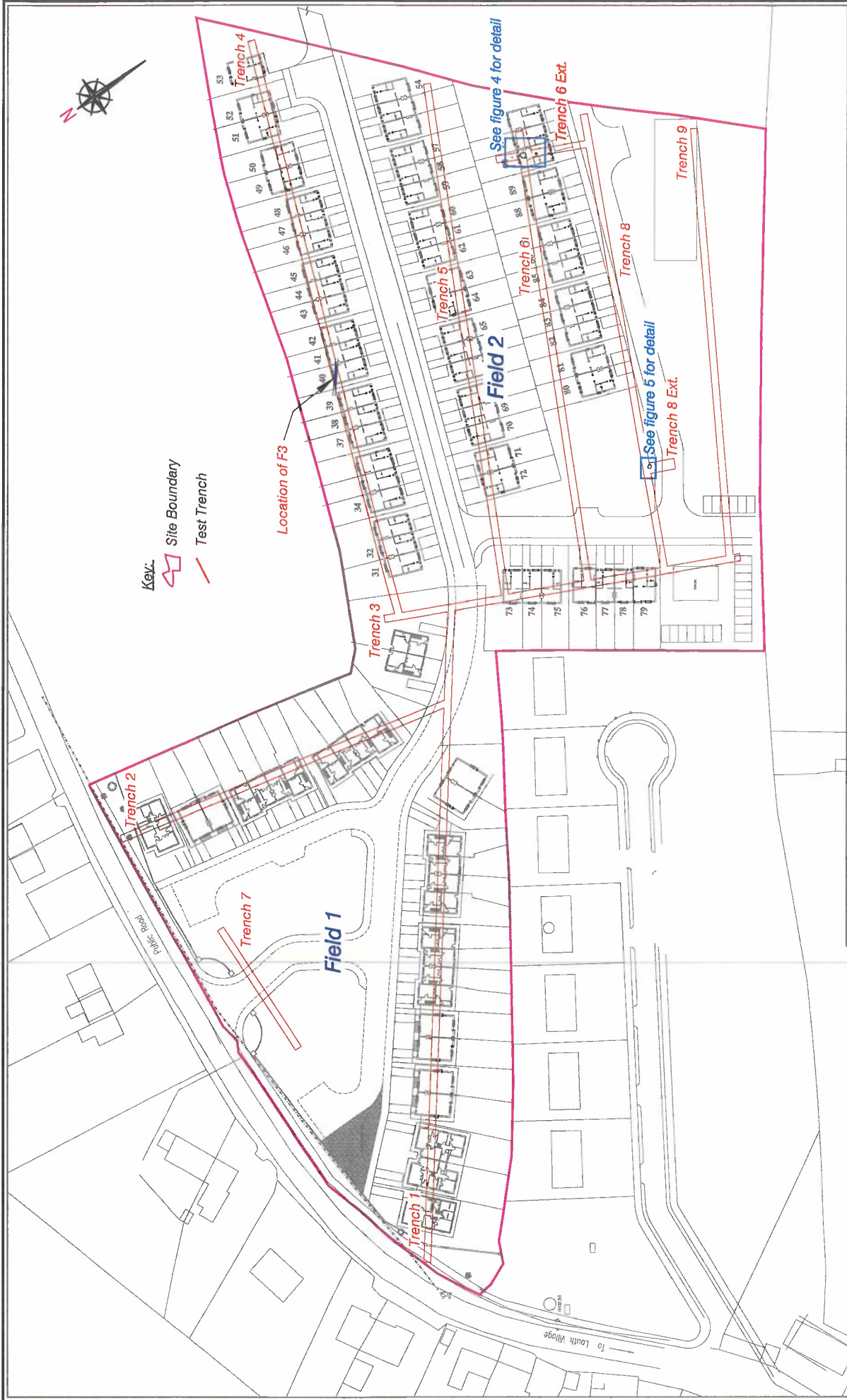
Figure 1: Location of site



Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth
 Site: Louth Village, Co. Louth
 Issued for: Archaeological Assessment Report
 Client: c/o Quinn Surveying, Newry, Co. Down

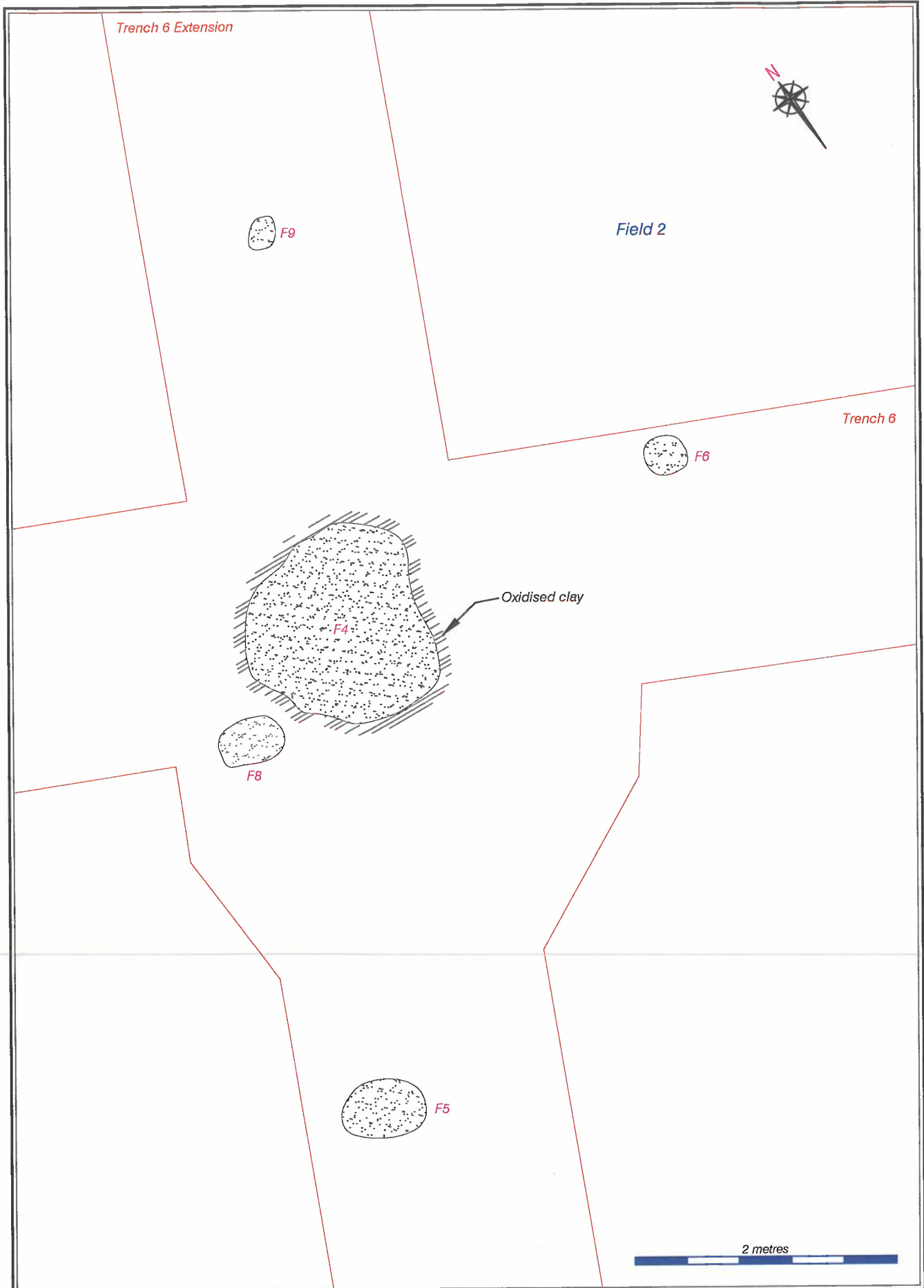
Scale: 1:20000 A4
 Date: 6th July 04
 Origin: SMR Louth Sheet 11 (1911)
 Drawing no.: 04_23_C04

Figure 2: Map showing location of SMR sites



<p>Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth</p>	<p>Site: Louth Village, Co. Louth Issued for: Archaeological Assessment Report Client: c/o Quinn Surveying, Newry, Co. Down</p>	<p>Scale: 1: 1500 A4 Date: 6th July '04 Origin: Client/ ACS Ltd. Drawing no.: 04_23_C05</p>
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Figure 3: Location of Test Trenches



Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd.
 Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,
 Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: Louth Village, Co. Louth
 Issued for: Archaeological Assessment Report
 Client: c/o Quinn Surveying, Newry, Co. Down

Scale: 1: 40 A4
 Date: 6th July '04
 Origin: ACS Ltd.
 Drawing no.: 04_23_C05

Figure 4: Detail of C4, C5, C6, C8 & C9



Plate 1: Trench 1, Field 1, from east (CP1:24)

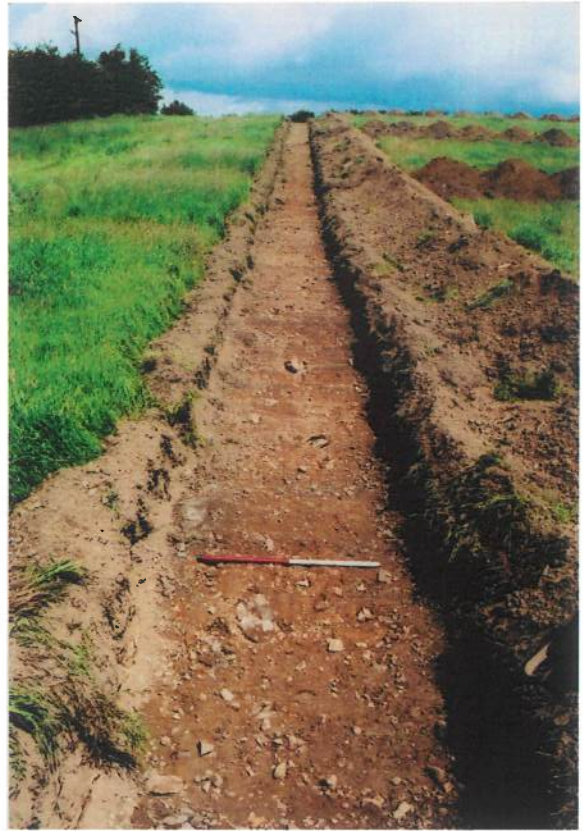


Plate 2: Trench 3, Field 2, from southwest (CP1:15)



Plate 3: Trench 5, Field 2, from east (CP1:17)



Plate 4: Trench 6, Field 2, from east (CP1:16)



Plate 5: Hearth C4 within Trench 6, Field 2, from east (CP1:12)



Plate 6: Posthole C9 within Trench 6, Field 2, from east (CP1:5)

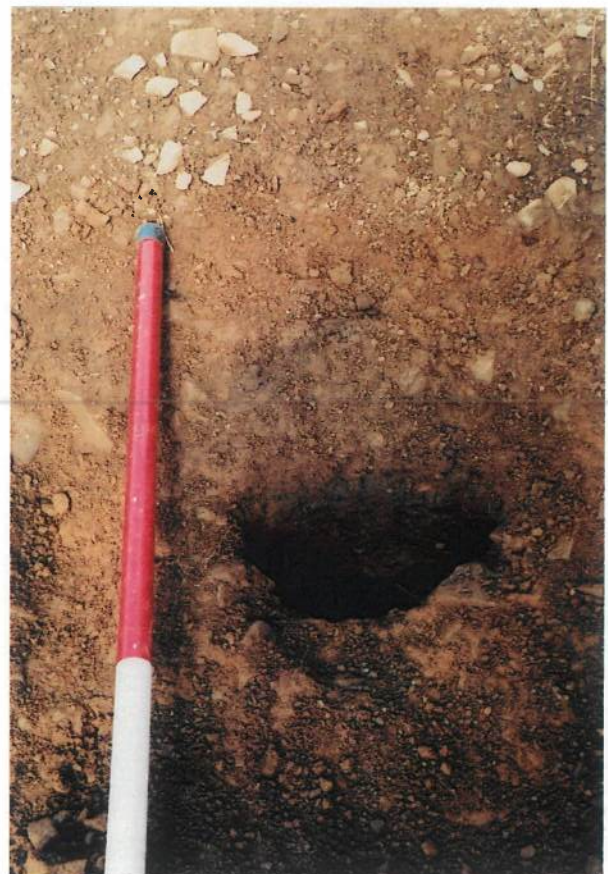


Plate 7: Section C6 within Trench 6, Field 2, from southeast (CP1:7)



Plate 8: Section C5 within Trench 6, Field 2, from east (CPI:10)



Plate 9: Section C7 with Stakehole 7c in foreground, Trench 8 (CPI:6)