

**N3-N55 Link Cavan Bypass Stage 2:  
Archaeological Resolution**

**FINAL REPORT  
04E0968**

**Site 4 Tirquin Townland  
Co Cavan**

**Site Director:** J Channing  
**Job No.:** 1088-04  
**Client:** Cavan County Council  
**Date:** July 2009

**Valerie J. Keeley Ltd**



**transport21**  
progress in motion





## SUMMARY

This report describes archaeological resolution of a possible site at Tirquin Townland, County Cavan. Investigation of a subsoil anomaly did not yield any archaeologically significant information and the single context is interpreted as root disturbance.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### Project Location

The proposed Cavan bypass stage 2 Scheme commences at the existing N3, 1.5km east of Cavan town, extending in a predominantly northeast to southwest direction to the existing N55, c.2.5km south of Cavan town. There is also a secondary link connecting the N55 at Moynehall to the Ballyjamesduff road. The development may be located on 6" sheet 25 Co. Cavan and at National Grid 242987E 302983N.

National Grid Start point (north): 243559E 304013N

National Grid End point (south): 242075E 301584N

Townlands/Barony/Civil parish effected, (listed from north to south):

Townland	Barony	Civil Parish
Pollamore Near	Upper Loughree	Annagelliff
Tirquin	Upper Loughree	Annagelliff
Gortnakesh	Upper Loughree	Annagelliff
Moynehall	Upper Loughree	Annagelliff

### Location of Site 4

The site was located to the South of site 2 in field 8 of testing report. The part of field 8 containing site 4 consisted of gently sloping flat pasture, rising up to the Southeast. One additional test trench was excavated to delimit the feature and test for possible associated features.

### The Scope of the project

The aim of the archaeological excavation was to fully resolve and preserve by record archaeological remains within the road-take at site 4, thus facilitating road construction. The area opened reflected the centreline testing results.

### Circumstances and dates of fieldwork

All cuttings were topsoil striped by tracked-excavator with a toothless bucket. Subsoil surface was manually cleaned down and archaeological features fully recorded and manually excavated. The works were conducted during week ending Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The on-site team consisted of a site director (the author), a supervisor, one assistant, and a general operative.



## **Organisation of the report**

Report format follows layout in tender document

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### ***Testing Resumé***

The site was initially discovered during centreline testing. The testing was conducted under licence 04E0968 and reported separately. The site presented as an oval spread of charcoal on subsoil surface. An additional test trench was excavated to delimit the feature and test for possible associated features. Prior to testing there were no surface anomalies to denote possible archaeological features. The land was under mature pasture.

## **3.0 SITE SEQUENCE: EXCAVATION**

### **Introduction**

The excavation uncovered one feature. The feature possessed maximum dimensions of 98cms from northeast to southwest by 21cms from southeast to northwest. It was curvilinear and is best described as banana shaped in plan. The feature extended 2-4cms into the subsoil surface. The subsoil surface did not evidence scorching or discoloration. The single fill was dark brown loamy clay which charcoal flecks.

### **Natural and topography**

The part of field 8 containing site 4 consisted of gently sloping flat pasture, rising up to the Southeast.

### **Prehistoric**

No finds or features to denote possible activity on the site. Excavations at adjacent site 2 located c 125m north, (04E173 Channing) uncovered possible Bronze Age activity in the form of burnt deposits, troughs, pits and possible prehistoric pottery and lithics.

### **Medieval Post-medieval and modern**

The feature is interpreted as a single agricultural or root feature, probably associated with field improvement works.

#### 4.0 QUANTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT

##### Site archive and assessment: stratigraphic

List of features

F #	Area	Description	Stratigraphy	Provisional Interpretation	Finds
1	all	Unstratified/topsoil	unstratified	unstratified	None
2	all	subsoil	natural	Natural	None
64	Site 4	Charcoal stained context. Interpreted as a root or agricultural disturbance.	Under F1	Agricultural	None

##### Site archive and assessment: finds and environmental

###### *Soil samples/Plant remains*

None recovered during the excavation due to lack of suitable contexts.

###### *Animal bone*

No faunal remains present on site.

###### *Accessioned finds*

None recovered during the excavation due to lack of suitable contexts.

##### Site archive and assessment: Photographs

Photographic register:

Photo	Number	Area	Feat #	Description
1173_	175	Site 4	64	Pre-excavation
1173_	176	Site 4	64	Pre-excavation
1173_	177	Site 4	64	Section

## **5.0 POTENTIAL OF THE DATA**

### **Realisation of the original research aims**

All features have been recorded in plan, section, photograph and description. This report presents the data and preserves the site by record.

### **General discussion of potential**

The site does not offer potential, it is interpreted as not archaeologically significant.

## **6.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DATA**

The site was not deemed archaeologically significant.

## 7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work was facilitated and funded by Cavan County Council in association with the NRDO Meath County Council, NRA, EU, DoEHLG & National Museum.

The site crew deserve recognition for braving inclement weather conditions to ensure a speedy resolution to the site, while the support of Cavan County Council ensured smooth progress.

## 8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Channing J. *Centreline Testing Report 04E0968 N3-N55 Link, Cavan Bypass Stage 2*, unpublished

Dept of Environment. Record of Monuments and Places Co Cavan

ORDNANCE SURVEY. 1839. *6 inch map series*. County Cavan Sheet 25

ORDNANCE SURVEY OF IRELAND. 1998 *Discovery Series Sheet 34*, 1:50,000.

## 9.0 PLATES & FIGURES

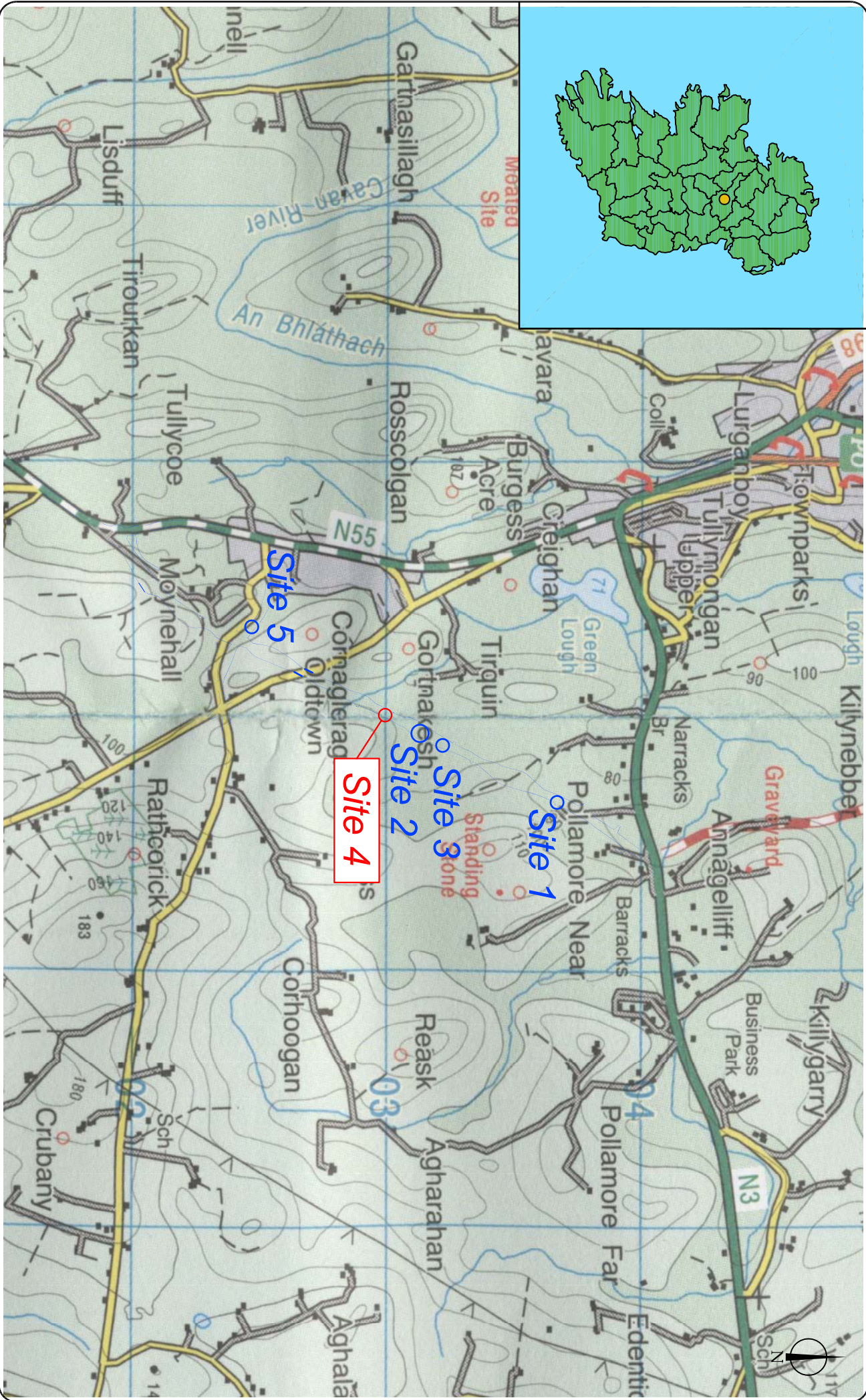
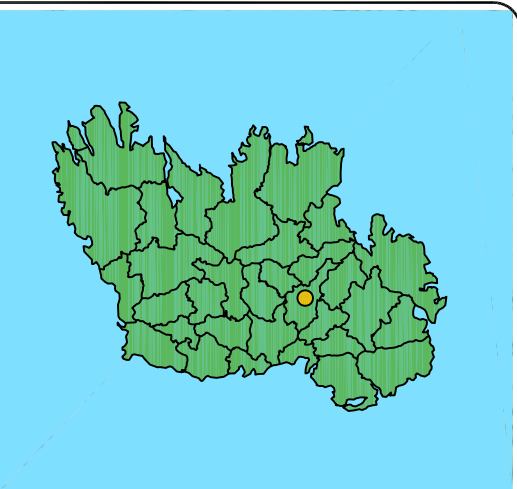



Plate 1 04E1178\_176 Pre-excavation of F64, facing north



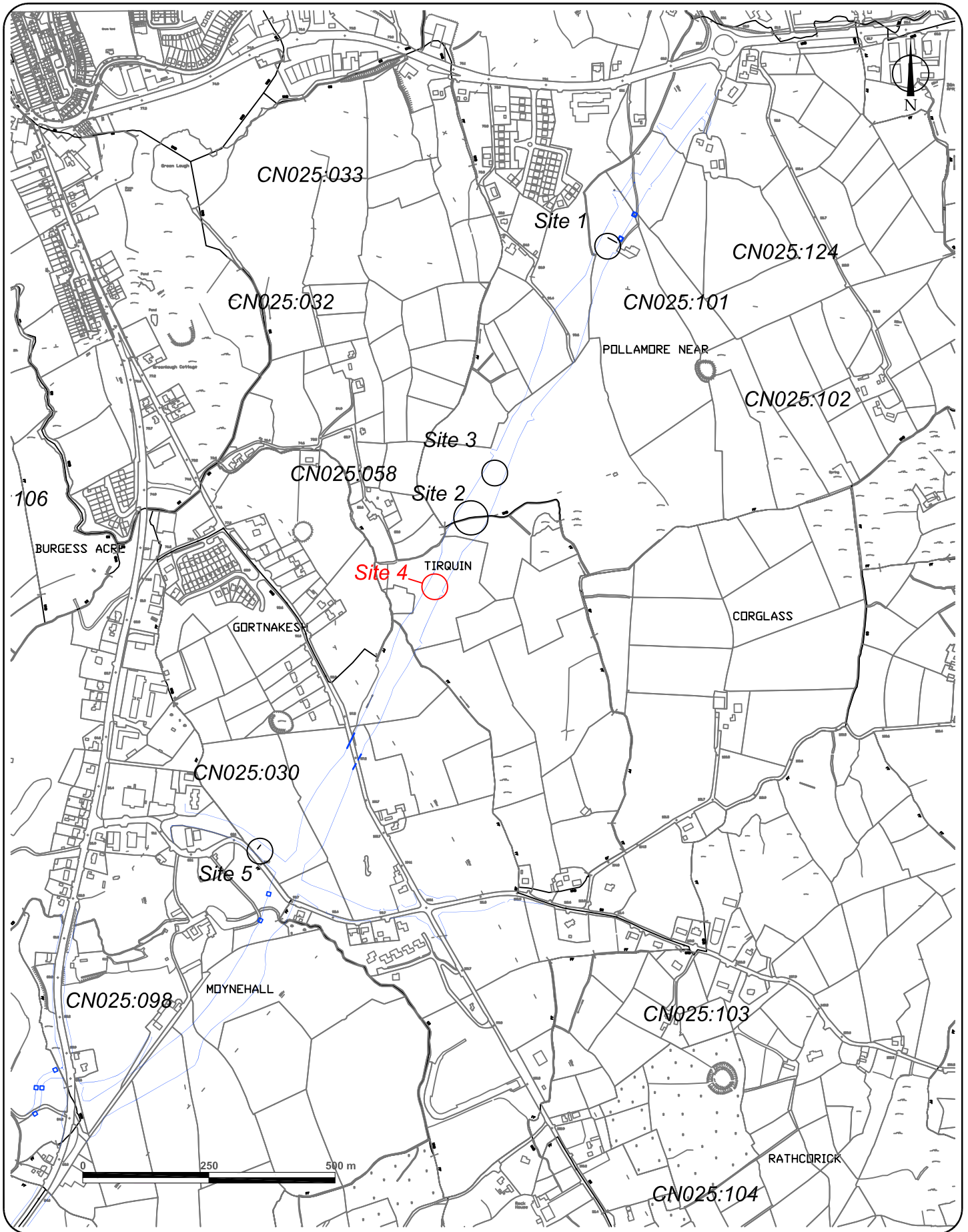
Plate 2 04E1178\_177 West Facing Section F64




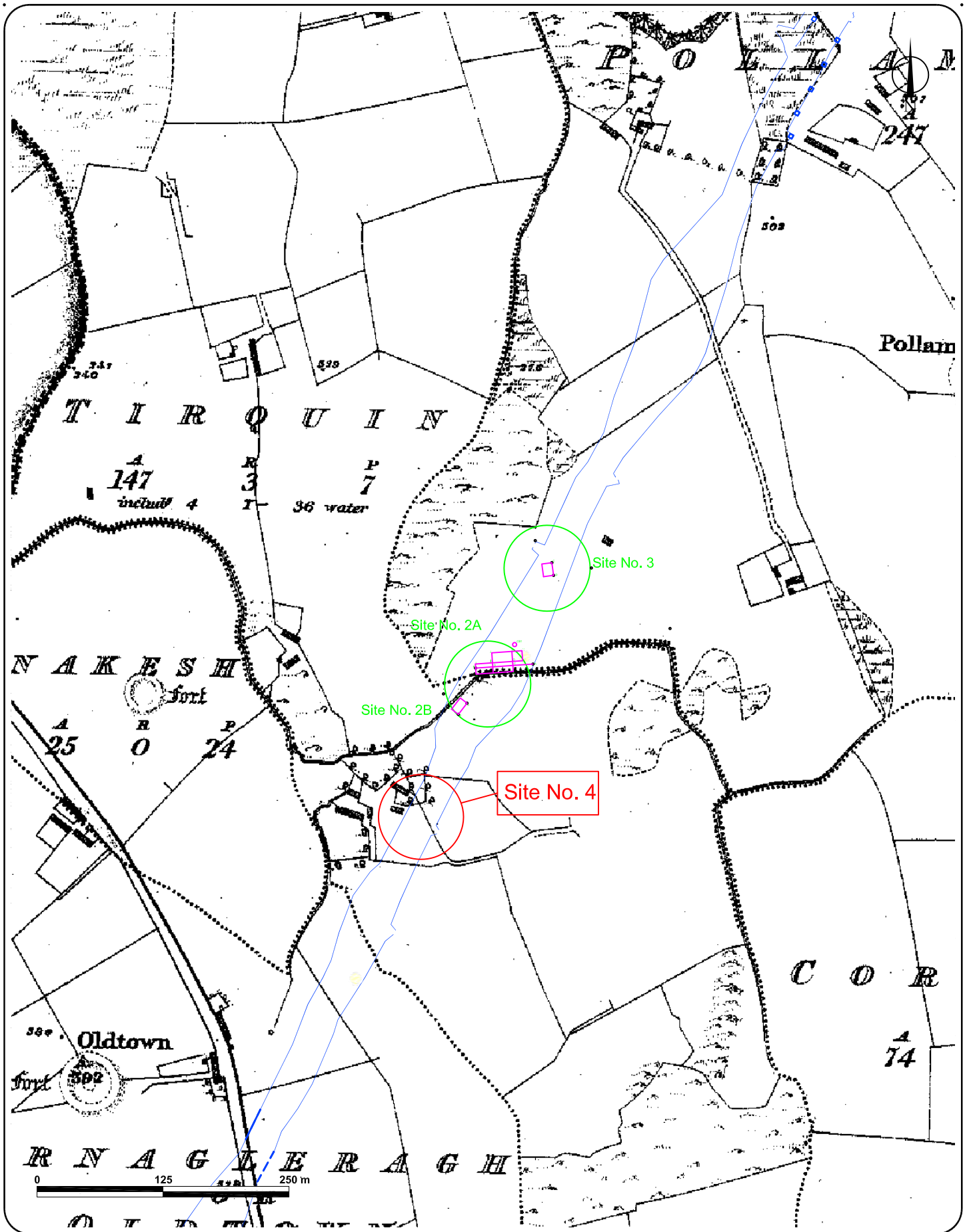



<b>Title</b>		<b>Notes</b>	
Project Location on Discovery Series Mapping			
<b>Works/Exc. No.</b>	<b>Completed by</b>	<b>CAD reference</b>	<b>Client</b>
04E09668	OR/GW	1088-04/TERRA3	Cavan County Council
<b>Date</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Project</b>
June 09	N.T.S.	Figure 1	N3-N55 Cavan Link Road
			
<b>Brehon House</b>		<b>Tel: (+353) 056 4440236</b>	
Kilkenny Road		<b>Fax: (+353) 056 4440237</b>	
Castlecomer		<b>Email: vjk@vjk.ie</b>	
Co. Kilkenny.		<b>Website: www.vjk.ie</b>	





<b>Title</b> Site Location		<b>Notes</b>				 Brehon House Kilkenny Road Castletomer Co. Kilkenny. Tel: (+353) 056 4440236 Fax: (+353) 056 4440237 Email: vjk@vjk.ie Website: www.vjk.ie
<b>Job No.</b> 04E0968		<b>Drawn by</b> SD/GW	<b>CAD reference</b> 1088-04/TERA3	<b>Date</b> June 09	<b>Scale</b> 1:10000	
<b>Client</b> Cavan County Council						<b>Project</b> N3-N55 Cavan Link Road



<b>Title</b> Site location on 1st edition 6" map, sheet 25, Co. Cavan			<b>Notes</b>				Brehon House Kilkenny Road Castletomer Co. Kilkenny.	Tel: (+353) 056 4440236 Fax: (+353) 056 4440237 Email: vjk@vjk.ie Website: www.vjk.ie
<b>Client</b> Cavan County Council			<b>Project</b> N3-N55 Cavan Link Road					
<b>Job No.</b> 04E0968	<b>Drawn by</b> OR/GW	<b>CAD reference</b> 1088-04/TERA3	<b>Date</b> June 09	<b>Scale</b> 1:5000	<b>Drawing No.</b> Figure 3			