

**N2 CLONTIBRET TO CASTLEBLAYNEY ROAD
REALIGNMENT**

**FINAL REPORT ON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
AT
SITE 101, KILCROW 1
TOWNLAND: KILCROW
CO. MONAGHAN**

**NGR: 275436/329088
PROJECT CHAINAGE: 1550 - 1575**

ON BEHALF OF

**MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL
AND THE NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY**

LICENCE NUMBER: 05E0780

LICENSEE: BRIAN HALPIN

DATE: FEBRUARY 2007

IRISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY LTD

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report, prepared by National Archaeological Services for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Monaghan County Council and the National Roads Authority, describes the results of an excavation carried out at Site 101, Kilcrow 1 in Kilcrow townland (05E0780, Brian Halpin) as part of the N2 Clontibret to Castleblayney Road Realignment, Co Monaghan. The demolished building was identified on the 1907/9 OS sheet MO14 and was located during trial trench testing (05E0373, Tim Coughlan). The site was located at project Chainage 1550 - 1575, NGR 275436/329088, 109m OD.

The site had been thoroughly demolished and the area ploughed over and grassed. As such, many elements of the building and associated yards had been removed.

Externally the main building measured c. 9m x 4.5m oriented NNW-SSE. The walls were 0.45m wide, built of roughly coursed stone set in a loose mortar bonding. A large porch c.3m x 2.5m is illustrated on the 1907/9 OS map on the E-facing (front) side of the house and parts of this porch were visible.

Internally the main building appears to have been divided into two rooms. The southern room measured c.3.5m x 3.5m and had been partly surfaced with modern concrete. Presumably this is the kitchen / utility room, possibly containing an external (back) door. The northern room measured c.4.5m x 3.5m, but this room could have also contained a central staircase (leading from the front door) rising to a second storey, reducing the room size to around 3m x 3.5m. No hardened surface was found for this northern (living) room, so it may have contained a suspended wooden floor.

A probable internal fireplace was found along the northern wall of the building. This could have been paired with a fireplace/range on the southern wall, giving the building a two gable end and chimney form.

To the S of the Site 101 building, a 'lean-to shed' is indicated on the OS map, but this area contained a buried, live electricity cable and could not be investigated.

To the N of the building a further 'lean-to shed' (4m x 3m) is indicated, with an attached (to the E) yard area (3m x 3m). This arrangement is consistent with a pigsty. Evidence from the excavation indicated an entrance from the W and that the latest use for this structure was probably for storing coal.

On the western side of the building some remains of a cobbled yard surface abutting the 'pigsty' and building were uncovered, but its full extent was truncated.

The farm lay within a rectangular enclosure c.28m x 19m. Within this lay the building and a 'front garden' area measuring 15m x 8m. Two gates are marked on the OS map, both accessing the farm area from the eastern sides. The northern, farm enclosure boundary is part of the Kilcrow / Carrickaderry townland boundary.

The enclosure walls had been completely removed but their positions were seen by drainage channels that appear to have run down the inner wall or bank faces.

The site was subject to documentary research which revealed that it was likely constructed in the mid 19th century, as evidenced in cartographic analysis, and comprised a 'house and office' according to an 1860 entry in the valuation revision

book. A low valuation for the buildings suggests a vernacular single-storey house and outbuilding. The buildings are cited as “ruins” in 1951.

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1	Introduction	1
1.1	General	
1.2	The Development	
1.3	Specification	
2	Archaeological and Historical Background	3
2.1	Previous Excavations	
2.2	Prehistoric Period	
2.3	Early Medieval Period	
2.4	Later Medieval Period	
2.5	Post-Medieval Period	
3	The Excavation	5
3.1	Methodology	
3.2	The Excavation	
3.3	Group 1: Natural Deposits	
3.4	Group 2: Building Foundations	
3.5	Group 3: Drains	
3.6	Group 4: Topsoil	
4	Discussion	13
5	Further Work	15
6	References	16
7	Acknowledgements	18

Figures

Plates

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Context List
- Appendix 2: Finds List
- Appendix 3: Archive Index
- Appendix 4: Site Matrix
- Appendix 5: Building Report

List of Figures:

- Figure 1 Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 - Site location
Figure 2 Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 - RMP map showing site location (Sheets 19, 25)
Figure 3a Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 – OS map showing pre-excavation plan
Figure 3b Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 – Pre-excavation plan
Figure 4 Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 –S-facing section of cut of possible external wall of house [C19]
Figure 5 Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 – S-facing section showing cut of possible external wall of house [C25] & post hole [C21]
Figure 6 Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 – Mid-excavation section through site showing [C6] and [C7]
Figure 7 Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 – S-facing section of cut of possible drain or external wall [C18] and ‘gully’
Figure 8 Site 101 – Kilcrow 1 – Extract from second edition OS map (1858) showing location of excavation site

List of Plates:

- Plate 1 View of house, looking W
Plate 2 SE-facing section of possible foundation wall (C3) and [C4] taken from NW
Plate 3 Pre-excavation view of external wall [C6] showing fill (C22), post-excavation view of [C21] taken from W
Plate 4 Pre-excavation view of cobbled surface to the S of [C21], in N-S facing trench
Plate 5 View of farmhouse at Annagh, Site 103
Plate 6 Mid-excavation view of S-facing section of possible foundation wall or drain (C3) also showing SW-NE running gully
Plate 7 NW facing section through possible foundation wall or drain (C3) and [C4], taken from the SE
Plate 8 Mid-excavation view of S-facing section of possible drain (C9), in E-W excavation trench
Plate 9 View of foundation wall/drain [C4] taken from N
Plate 10 View of foundation wall/drain [C26] (C8) taken from E
Plate 11 Modern concrete floor (C11), taken from N
Plate 12 Re-deposited natural in front of possible doorway (C12) looking E

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report, prepared by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Monaghan County Council and the National Roads Authority, describes the results of an excavation carried out at Site 101, Kilcrow 1 in Kilcrow townland (Licence Ref. 05E0788, Brian Halpin) as part of the N2 Clontibret to Castleblayney Road Realignment, Co Monaghan.

An archaeological assessment of the proposed scheme was carried out by Valerie J. Keeley Ltd in 2002. This recommended that a programme of test trenching be undertaken prior to commencement of construction works.

Test trenching of the proposed scheme was undertaken in April 2005. Testing of the northern section of the proposed scheme, between Chainage 370-6920, was undertaken by Tim Coughlan of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. (Licence Ref; 05E0373). The testing consisted of a total of 10172 metres of linear test trenches (20244m²) across an area measuring approximately 463400m². A total of one archaeological site was recorded during the linear testing programme.

A demolished building had been identified on the 1907/9 OS Map Sheet for the area (MO14) and was located during the testing phase. The site was located at project Chainage 1550 - 1575, NGR 275436/329088, 109m OD. Kilcrow 1 was interpreted as post-medieval house foundations.

Full archaeological resolution of the features exposed at Kilcrow 1 was recommended.

1.2 The Development

Monaghan County Council proposes to realign the N2 between Clontibret and Castleblayney. The scheme will also include ancillary road junctions and other structures.

As currently understood, the N2 Clontibret to Castleblayney realignment will be of 15.353km of centre line chainage (Ch) and will commence at the existing N2 c.1km to the N of Clontibret and run to the Tullyvin Interchange c. 1.5km to the S of Castleblayney.

The route corridor width varies between 40m and 300m (not including side roads) and is on average c. 85m wide. The archaeological site area is thus approximately 130 hectares.

1.3 Specification

Site 101: Kilcrow 1: Ch1560

SITE NAME	Kilcrow 1		
SITE DIMENSIONS	30 x 40m	SqM	1200
FEATURES	Demolished post-medieval farm		

Summary

- Demolished post-medieval farm marked on 1907 OS Map. Demolished c.1950. No surface expression.

Specification

- Strip and record the whole site. Enlarge area of excavation if necessary.

Site specific questions

- When the site was built and what was the original ground plan (including the enclosed 'bawn' area)?
- What were the uses of the buildings or their components?
- Ask landowner who lived there and any reference detail.

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous Excavations

Archaeological testing along the northern section of the proposed N2 Castleblayney – Clontibret Road Realignment revealed one archaeological site. The site had been identified from cartographic analysis of the proposed route as a structure indicated on the 1907/9 OS Sheet MO14. It was subsequently located during testing and interpreted as the foundations of a post-medieval house.

Testing at Kilcrow 1 exposed the foundations of three walls of a structure, together with the possible remains of an internal floor surface. The N, E and W wall foundations were identified and varied in width from 0.95m to 1.25m. The width of the structure was approximately 7.00m E-W, though the full N-S extent was not identified. However, the structure appeared not to extend further than the laneway immediately to the S. The foundations consisted of rough stone rubble and loose mortar bonding. The remains of a possible floor were evident on the S side of the structure. According to the landowner a small house had stood on the site until approximately 60 years ago.

2.2 Prehistoric Period

Evidence for known prehistoric activity is sparse, with very few sites or finds being noted in this area. An attempt needs to be made to understand whether this apparent low level of activity is, in fact true. Of note is a concentration of prehistoric stone built structures (Megalithic tombs/Stone circles) in the vicinity of the Old Monaghan Road along route chainage Ch7400 and Ch10340. The implication is that there was fairly substantial settlement and presumably agricultural activity in the Neolithic – early Bronze Age in the Old Monaghan Road valley. There is a notable absence of Bronze Age and Iron Age finds and features in the area. The reasons for this could be many. It could be the area was left in a ‘wild wood’ state as a resource for timber and hunting, to the area mostly being too high or inhospitable for permanent occupation – resulting in temporary, seasonal/very low density occupations that are not visible in the present landscape.

In the first century AD the area around Clontibret was reportedly part of the ancient kingdom of *Críoch Mugdorn* on which the later, medieval, kingdom of Mugdorna was based.

2.3 Early Medieval Period

The major feature of this period is the ringfort. It is likely that a number of the ‘earthworks’ are also from this period. The majority of these monuments are recorded within 1.4km of the Old Monaghan Road and there is an implied relationship between the monuments and the old road (routeway). The main concentration consists of five recorded ringforts in the area Ch6000 – 7400, and two ‘earthworks’, located to the W of the route between Ch7400 and 7800. This represents occupation at the ‘head’ of the north-west to south-east valley occupied by the Old Monaghan Road. Other ringforts, earthworks and *crannógs* occur to the south-east in this valley, and again these are within a short distance of the Old Monaghan Road. Occasional ringforts and *crannógs* occupy the high ground adjacent to Cashel Bog.

The distribution is still fairly low and, considering the clustering of ringforts, the implication is that there was a fairly low density rural population.

2.4 Later Medieval Period

The lands of medieval (and probably early medieval) Monaghan were divided into tates or townlands, joined into groups of sixteen and collectively known as a *ballybetagh*. Each *ballybetagh* was usually named after one of the sixteen townlands but distinguished from it by the prefix *baille* (bally). The concept of the division of land into units apparently originated from the Gaelic agricultural systems of open field system and dispersed rural settlement (VJK 2002). This land division system was paralleled in Anglo-Saxon England in the time before the Norman invasion of 1066.

The absence of Anglo-Norman related activity in this area, as evidenced through historical record, is reflected archaeologically through the lack of monuments typical of the time and their influence. County Monaghan was never heavily populated by the Anglo-Normans as nearby Louth and Meath were, remaining in control of Gaelic inhabitants during the medieval period. The drumlin/hilly landscape, prone to waterlogging, and its relatively wooded nature at the time would have rendered this area less suitable for the agrarian practices of Anglo-Norman society, and easier to defend on the part of the Gaelic Irish (VJK, 2002). It is likely that many of the ringforts and *crannógs* remained in occupation during the medieval period.

It is possible that a settlement existed in Ballylorgan (the original name for Castleblayney) during the later medieval period (VJK, 2002).

2.4 Post-Medieval Period

The battle of Clontibret in 1595 between Hugh O'Neill and his Ulster allies and the English Crown forces resulted in the loss of a company of men on the English side. Such hostilities helped to initiate the main phase of pacification and plantation of Ulster by England.

In order to secure the area, garrisons were stationed at Monaghan and Newry, both important outposts for English expeditions into Ulster. These outposts came under constant attack from the local Gaelic tribes and travel between them became dangerous. Accordingly, during the first decade of the 17th century, Sir Edward Blayney, Governor of Monaghan was granted two *ballybetaghs* of land at a strategic location between both garrisons on condition that he construct a fort. As a result Castle-Blayney was constructed as a secure halting place for troops on route to either garrison. Around the date 1611 Castleblayney consisted of a bawn with stone wall 18feet high, a gatehouse and a house. In 1613 permission was granted to hold a market in the town and in 1617 permission was granted to construct taverns.

The 17th century Ulster plantation and post-plantation era may be represented by at least one house in the study area (Site AH11), Rockfield/Avalreagh House. It is reported that at least six generations of the Swanzy family lived here from c. 1690 to 1991. The house and estate are a probable gift for services rendered by Henry Swanzy in the Crown forces in the mid-1600's. The present house dates to the 19th century but the current landowner states that the remains of the 17th century house occur on the site (VJK, 2002).

It is clear from the numerous mills and other post-medieval industrial sites that the area played an important agricultural role. Mostly the mills used the frequent streams as a power source. Many of these sites are located in the NW to SE valley occupied by the Old Monaghan Road, or the N-facing hillside seen at the northern end of the route.

3 THE EXCAVATION

3.1 Methodology

The Methodology for the works was in line with the Specification (1.3 above). The site specific method statement was approved by the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Museum of Ireland, who licensed the archaeological works.

The site is located at Kilcrow Co. Monaghan just outside the village of Clontibret at chainage 1560. It is 30 x 40m, totalling approximately 1200m². The site revealed demolished post-medieval farm house foundations with associated features. The house was identified on the 1907/09 OS map sheet MO14. Each of the areas was cleaned by hand and all archaeological material was fully recorded by means of a drawn, photographic and written record. The deposits were then excavated by hand until natural geological layers were reached. All contexts are described in Appendix 1.

Documentary research was carried out on the site by Fred Hammond, which forms the basis of a building report. The results of this research are included within the building report in Appendix 5.

3.2 The Excavation

The excavation took place between the 25th July 2005 and Wednesday 3rd August 2005.

This report divides the activity by phase into groups on each site and then into subgroups for associated features within a phase of activity. Subgroup numbers have been allocated from {1000} onwards to avoid confusion with context numbers. In the following text, brackets are used as follows:

{ } - enclose subgroup numbers.

() - enclose deposit numbers.

[] - enclose cut numbers.

3.3 GROUP 1: NATURAL DEPOSITS

SUBGROUP: {1000} NATURAL SUBSOIL CONTEXTS:

C	Type	Fill of	Filled with	Description	Interpretation
2	Subsoil	n/a	n/a	Greyish yellow silty clay with small to medium sized stones.	Natural subsoil

FINDS: N/A

DESCRIPTION: Moderately compacted greyish silty clay with small to medium sized pebbles.

GROUP 1: DISCUSSION

Natural drift geology was found at a level of 109m OD. The site lies at a roughly level area facing a drop to a stream to the east.

3.4 GROUP 2: BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

SUBGROUP {1001}: Building

Context No.	Site	Description
4	101	Cut of possible drainage ditch at eastern extent of house.
5	101	Internal wall of house. EW running, the terminus of which possibly forms door jamb.
6	101	Possible northern external wall or out building. Very stony fill which is similar to that of a drain. Fill of [C25].
7	101	Possible northern yard/house wall or drain. Joins into perpendicular linear features (C9) and (C3). High concentration of unsorted stones may also suggest a drainage ditch. Filled by (C24).
9	101	Fill of drain [C23] running N-S along western side of house. Lies just west of (C11), the concrete floor.
11	101	Concrete floor, modern, representing an interior surface of the house.
12	101	Re-deposit in front of doorway. Irregular shaped patch of mid brown yellowish brown silty clay. Unexcavated.
13	101	Cobbled surface under (C12). It is in line with (C22) it is likely the two areas are connected and (C13) is a continuation of (C22). Appears to be more of a metalled surface than a proper cobbled surface. Stones used are small irregular sized stones and pebbles.
15	101	L shaped charcoal rich deposit with occasional inclusions of red brick to the south of (C15) and to the north of (C11). Perhaps representing a floor layer in an outbuilding. Possibly a fireplace due to coal inclusions.
16	101	Rubble Layer of rough course stone and red brick
19	101	Fill of [C4] possible eastern external wall of house but more likely a linear drain due to the unsorted stony fill.
20	101	Fill of posthole [C21] under (C15). Sterile fill no inclusions.
21	101	Cut of sub-circular post-hole (C20).
22	101	Cobbled surface under (C15).
24	101	Fill of possible drainage ditch (C7), very stony fill and quite shallow with occasional post-medieval pottery.
25	101	Cut of probable foundation wall of house (C6).
26	101	Cut of possible drain or a boundary marker for house. Filled by (C8).

FINDS: Post-medieval pottery sherds and clay pipes from (C3) (Find 6); Post-medieval pottery and delph ware from (C19) (Find 7); Large post-medieval pottery sherd from (C5) (Find 8).

DESCRIPTION: The foundations of a post-medieval/modern house were identified and excavated (Plate 1).

Main building

The cut of the foundation wall of the house [C25] runs E-W with sharp sides and a flat base. It measures 0.45m N-S with a depth of 0.22m (Figure 5). It is filled by a mid brown silty clay (C6) with a frequent medium sized well sorted angular stones. The fill is very stony and similar to that of a drain (Plate 3)

A percentage (40%) of the foundation walls of the house especially those to SE/E do not remain and were most likely re-used elsewhere when the building was demolished.

The internal wall of the house (C5), running E-W was a mid to dark brown silty clay on its upper surface and appeared to have a moderate occurrence of small stones and a moderate occurrence of charcoal. Its length is 3.60m and its width 0.25m. The

terminus of this wall possibly formed the door jamb (Figure 3). There was a large post-medieval pottery sherd in this fill (Find 8).

A modern concrete floor (C11) represents the best preserved interior surface of the house. The floor appears to have been well laid with very infrequent small pebble inclusions. This floor was located in the southernmost extent of the site directly abutting the site's extent and next to a live ESB power line which inhibited its full exposure to the S. This concrete floor is 2.63m N-S and 3.23m E-W (Figure 3) (Plate 11).

There is a rubble layer of rough coarse stone and mid greyish brown deposit in the north-west corner of the interior of the house (C16). The eastern side of the deposit has been cut by a test trench. The N-S trench (depth of trench 12-14cm) cuts through the western side of the deposit and has a moderate occurrence of red brick and charcoal. Charcoal and red brick are highly concentrated in the SE of the deposit and it has occasional inclusions of medium sized stones, possibly indicating the presence of at least one fireplace.

Northern 'lean-to shed'

There is a roughly square shaped floor surface in the NW corner of the building area (C15). It is mid brown in colour and is comprised of silty clay. There are moderate inclusions of charcoal and occasional inclusions of large stones approximately 0.56cm x 0.22cm x 0.05 cm. The depth is 0.03-0.07cm. There were also inclusions of coal which would suggest that at one point this may have been the location of a fireplace, however the plan of the house does not support this theory. It was probably a surface layer in one of the outbuildings of the house (Figure 3). It lay on top of (C22) a cobbled area uncovered during the excavation of N-S running trench (Figure 6). On the eastern side the cobbles are square and oval in shape. While on the western side three large stones take up half the trench, these stones are sub-angular in shape.

External cobbled surface

A cobbled surface (C22) was located along the NW area of the outline of the house. This feature comprised of sub angular oval shaped cobbles which were well placed *in situ* with a very smooth texture on the surface possibly indicating wear (Plate 3 & 4). This cobbled surface was encountered when a section was enacted N/S through the house feature. It appears to extend to the E although it was not identified in any other place on the site indicating its extent was very short or the cobbles were removed after the building was demolished.

The cobbles were left *in situ* and it's likely they extend under or form part of floor surface (C15) to the east and the west. Just north of this cobbled area was a post-hole [C21] filled by (C22) (Plate 3). It is sub-circular shaped in cut and its dimensions are 20cm N-S, 20cm E-W with a depth of 24cm. It has a sterile, loose fill with no inclusions and is comprised of mid brown silty clay.

Northern boundary drain

The cut of a possible drainage ditch [C7] is evident to the northern side of the excavation. It is a square-shaped cut with clear edges vertical sides and a flat base. It is orientated NE/SW and is 11.5m x .35m, the NW/SE side is 0.25m deep. It is filled by (C24) which has a high content of small and medium sized stones which suggest that it could be a drainage ditch also. It joins with perpendicular linear features (C9 and C3) which are also possible drains (Figure 3).

GROUP 2 DISCUSSION

The house foundations were not readily apparent and were only indicative on the south-western area of the site. The northern area of the house, where the original test trench was enacted, is heavily disturbed and no accurate foundation plan could be identified.

The remains of what appears to be the foundation walls of the house show themselves as spaces between the identified surfaces. The most evident structural remains are along the western side of the house. This was the area of the site closest to the southern and western field boundaries along the small country road and the farmers laneway, which may have provided a measure of protection from the overall removal of building material noted with the rest of the house.

The eastern half of the house was completely robbed out of building material and the subsoil is all that remains. A large stone which does remain in this area seems to coincide with the 1907/1909 OS map, which indicates an entranceway/porch area. It is therefore possible that this was the entrance to the building with this stone being set just inside the entranceway for a flat surface for the removal of boots etc. The remains of the building foundations are minimal but seem to indicate a small farmhouse aligned on a roughly north/south axis with a possible outbuilding attached with no further structures in direct association.

The house had three surface floors, one of which is concrete (**C11**). The other two surfaces are roughly metalled. The interior surface (**C16**) which is just N of the concrete floor can be identified as an interior surface within the house. The third floor surface (**C15**) may be an interior surface but it is more than likely the remains of an outbuilding that was directly attached to the structure due to its very dark fill, which had large inclusions of charcoal, red brick and assorted refuse imbedded in its fill. These inclusions do not appear on the other two surfaces. This seems to indicate that this room was a coal/storage annex which seems to coincide with the 1907/1909 OS map which shows a possible outbuilding at the northern extent.

3.5 GROUP 3: DRAINS

SUBGROUP:

CONTEXTS:

Context No.	Site	Description
3	101	Possible drain or foundation for boundary wall. Purpose of which is unclear, not evident on 1930's plan of house. Fill of [C18].
8	101	Fill of drain [C26] running E-W beside western side of house. Possibly represented on the 1930's plan which shows some sort of boundary in this location. Unexcavated.
10	101	Fill of drain [C27] running E-W in N corner of site beside western side of house, lies W of (C11) the concrete floor. Unexcavated.
14	101	Fill of drain [C17] running E-W at extreme northern edge of site.
16	101	Rubble Layer of rough course stone and red brick, usually used around windows and below roof in farmhouses in the area.
17	101	Cut of drain unexcavated filled with (C14)
18	101	Cut of possible drain or external wall filled with (C3). A shallow gully runs along side the eastern side.
19	101	Fill of [C4] possible eastern external wall of house but more likely a linear drain due to the unsorted stony fill.
23	101	Cut of linear drainage feature running SW-NE filled with (C9).
24	101	Fill of [C7] possible drainage ditch, very stony fill and quite shallow with occasional post-medieval pottery.
26	101	Cut of unexcavated, possibly a drain of some sort or a boundary marker for settlement filled by (C9).
27	101	Cut of linear drain running E-W filled by (C10). Not excavated.

FINDS: Glass bottles and pottery from (C3) (Find 6); A large post-medieval pottery sherd from (C5) (Find 8).

DESCRIPTION:

There are numerous features on site which were identified as possible drains either directly associated with the house or further away from the house itself most probably serving as agricultural field drains. There is a linear feature [C18] which runs N - S through site for 17m. Its sides are irregular on the western side but more defined on the eastern. Its base is mostly flat and even. A shallow gully runs along side it. It is filled by (C3) (Plate 6) which is a mid-greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate compaction. Its inclusions are occasional angular shaped medium sized stones. There were occasional finds of post-medieval pottery sherds and clay pipes (Find 6). At the northern end of the section towards the lower end of the fill were fragments of much corroded sheet metal (Figure 7). The purpose of this drain is unclear and it is not on the OS plan of the house. It may have been a foundation for a boundary wall or a simple drain (Plate. 7).

There is a linear drain running SW-NE along the western side of the house [C23]. It lies just W of the concrete floor (C11). A section of 56cm N-S was enacted during the excavation of the E-W trench through the site (Figure 6). This drain contained a u-shaped cut and is filled by (C9) which is a mid-brown silty clay which is very friable. It has inclusions of medium sized angular stones which were located at the bottom of the cut. Also included in the fill are small fragments of post-medieval pottery and an unidentified metal object believed to be fragmented sheet metal. Its dimensions were

width 0.70m in width x 0.43m in depth x 0.21m in length (Plate. 9). It ends at the intersection with drain (C14). It is unclear whether it cuts (C14) or is contemporary.

Another linear drain or possibly a boundary marker for settlement is [C26]. It runs 14.40m E-W and 0.35m N-S and is filled by (C8) (Plate 10) which also contained a moderate inclusion of stones.

Running E-W and located in the extreme SW corner of the site is another linear drain [C27] (Figure 3) which runs from the limit of excavation a length of 4.5m until it terminates just before the concrete floor (C11) (Figure 6). The fill of (C9) and (C10) appears to be identical and therefore possibly contemporaneous. Both fills contain moderate inclusions of loosely compacted small stones.

There is a further linear drain [C17] running 29m N-S x 0.60m E-W and is filled by (C14) which is a fill of dark pinkish brown silty clay and an occurrence of small stones and charcoal flecks.

Two parallel linear features were identified on the eastern extent of the site [C3] and [C4] (Plates 2 & 9). The larger of the two [C4] was a shallow U-shaped feature running 10m NE/SW having a depth of 0.35m with sharp clear edges and a flat base. On excavation this feature was identified as the possible remains of an enclosing wall which was identified on the 1907/1909 OS map (Figure 4). It is filled by (C19), mid-brown loose sandy silt with very frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones with frequent inclusions of gravel and pebbles. There was post-medieval pottery and delft-ware found within its fill, (Find 7).

GROUP 3 DISCUSSION

The site contained numerous drainage ditches of varying lengths and dimensions. As there were several shallow ditches associated directly with the house it is possible that they were for drainage for the house foundations itself in order to facilitate removal of runoff from rain in order to maintain the loose cobbled stone/soil floors. The existence of further drains in the investigation area is most probably simple field drains for an agricultural purpose. The remains of a possible wall which was indicated on the 1907/1909 OS map were present but their similarity to the numerous field drains found in proximity makes interpretation unclear.

3.6 GROUP 4: TOPSOIL

SUBGROUP: {1}

CONTEXTS:

C	Type	Fill of	Filled with	Description	Interpretation
1	Topsoil	2		Silty clay with occasional stones	Topsoil

FINDS: Metal fragments (Find 1), Clay pipes (Find 2), modern pottery fragments (Find 3) and a shoe (Find 4).

DESCRIPTION: Light brown silty clay with occasional stones.

4 DISCUSSION

The site forms the remains of post-medieval farmhouse identified on the 1907/1909 OS map. This map clearly shows the house upstanding in some form and the site investigation carried out reaffirms the original findings of the testing report (05E0373 Tim Coughlin) which states that the modern disturbance identified during testing was the remains of the house. The house was no longer visible above ground prior to archaeological testing and can be said to have been purposefully demolished by the landowner at some point in the last century. A large amount of building material including material originally used for the house foundations has been removed presumably for use elsewhere. The present landowner states that in living memory that there was a dump of building debris in the field directly adjacent to the site which lay *in situ* for an extended period of time before it also was removed.

Externally the main building measured c.9m x 4.5m oriented NNW-SSE. The walls were 0.45m wide, built of roughly coursed stone set in a loose mortar bonding. A large porch 3m x 2.5m is illustrated on the 1907/9 OS map on the east-facing side and parts of this porch were visible.

Internally the main building appears to have been divided into two rooms. The southern room measured c.3.5m x 3.5m and had been partly surfaced with modern concrete. Presumably this is the kitchen / utility room containing a back door to the western yard and cobbled area. The northern room measured c.4.5m x 3.5m, but this room could have also contained a central staircase (leading from the front door) rising to a second storey, reducing the room size to around 3m x 3.5m. No hardened surface was found for this northern room, so it may have contained a suspended wooden floor.

A probable fireplace was found along the northern wall of the building, and this could have been paired with a fireplace/range on the southern wall. This would give the building a two gable end and chimney form. In overall appearance, the building of Site 101 seems very similar to the building of Site 103, Annagh (05E0788) on the same project.

To the S of the building a 'lean-to shed' is indicated on the OS map, but this area of the site contained a buried, live electricity cable and could not be investigated.

To the N of the building a further 'lean-to shed' (4m x 3m) is indicated, with an attached (to the E) yard area (3m x 3m). This arrangement is consistent with a pigsty. Evidence from the excavation indicated an entrance from the west (seen by spreads of surface debris) and that the latest use for this shed was probably for storing coal.

On the western side of the building some remains of a cobbled yard surface abutting the 'pigsty' and building were uncovered, but its full extent was truncated.

The farm lay within a rectangular enclosure c. 28m x 19m. Within this lay the building and a 'front garden' area measuring 15m x 8m. Two gates are marked on the OS map, both approaching the farm area from the eastern sides. The northern enclosure boundary is part of the Kilcrow / Carrickaderry townland boundary.

The enclosure walls had been completely removed but their positions were seen by drainage channels that appear to have run down the inner wall or bank faces.

Numerous field drains were encountered which are to be believed to be of an agricultural nature. There were also linear features which were very similar to the field drains and may represent the remains of a possible bawn wall. Due to this similarity it is unclear as to their true nature.

Finds

Numerous finds recovered during this investigation attest to the site's post-medieval/modern date. These finds include modern ceramic, corroded metal pieces of various sizes including farm implements, red brick, clay pipe stems, glass and assorted modern refuse.

There are no intrinsically interesting items either of a modern or earlier date. It is envisaged that these modern finds will be discarded as they are of no archaeological or historical value.

Environmental evidence

No environmental samples were taken.

5 FURTHER WORK

No further work is recommended on the paper archive or finds assemblage.

The site archive will be compiled and submitted to the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Museum of Ireland under 050788E, Kilcrow townland, Co. Monaghan.

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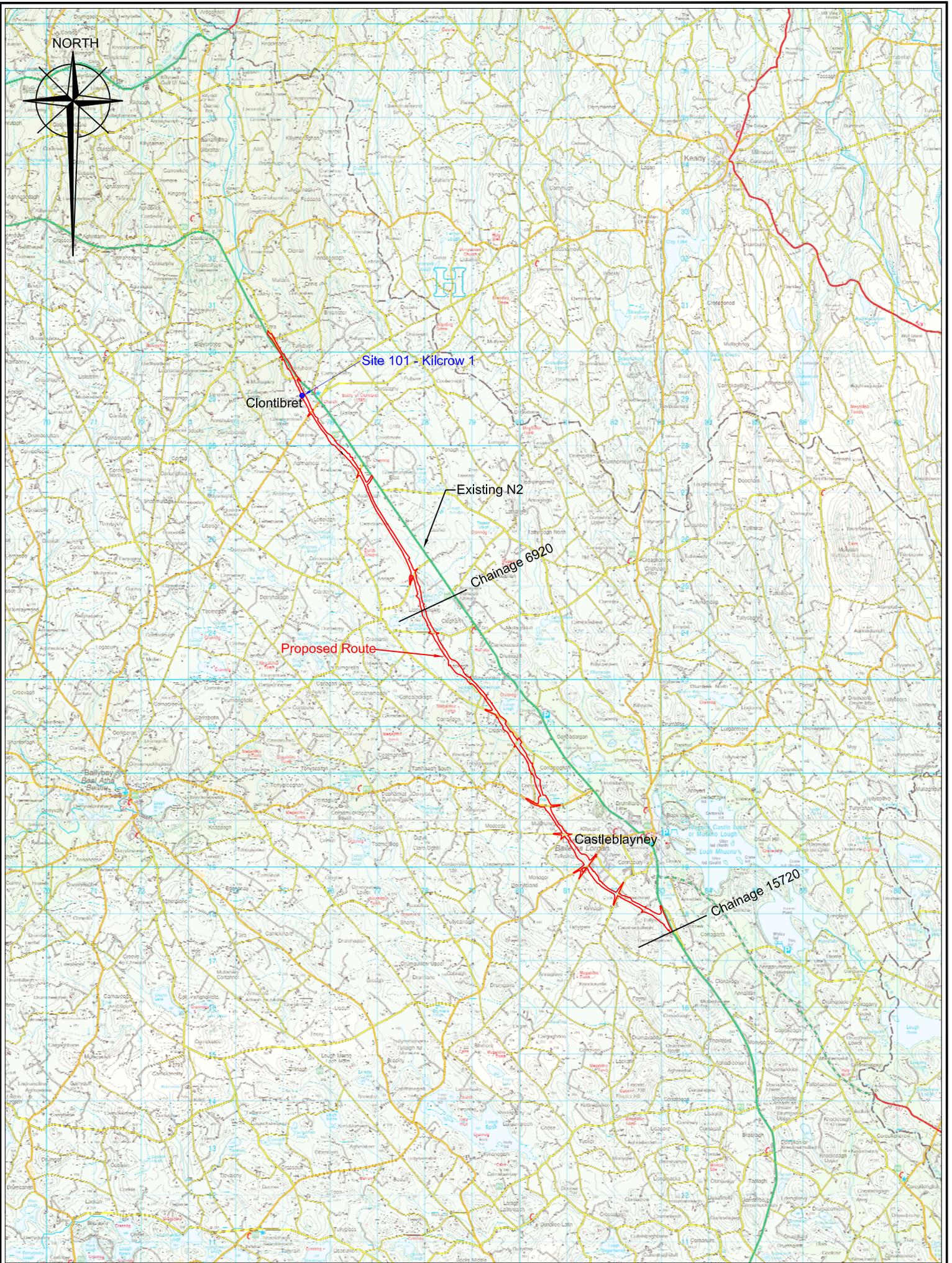
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7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Niall Roycroft, Project Archaeologist
Trevor Mncwabe, WS Atkins resident engineer
Seamus Grogan, Monaghan County Council
John McGrath, Monaghan County Council
Martin Reid, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Report Editors: Faith Bailey and Mary-Liz McCarthy, Irish Archaeological
Consultancy Ltd



Title: Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 - site location

Scale: 1:100000

Project: N2 Castleblayney - Clontibret Realignment

Date: 21/12/05

Client: Monaghan County Council

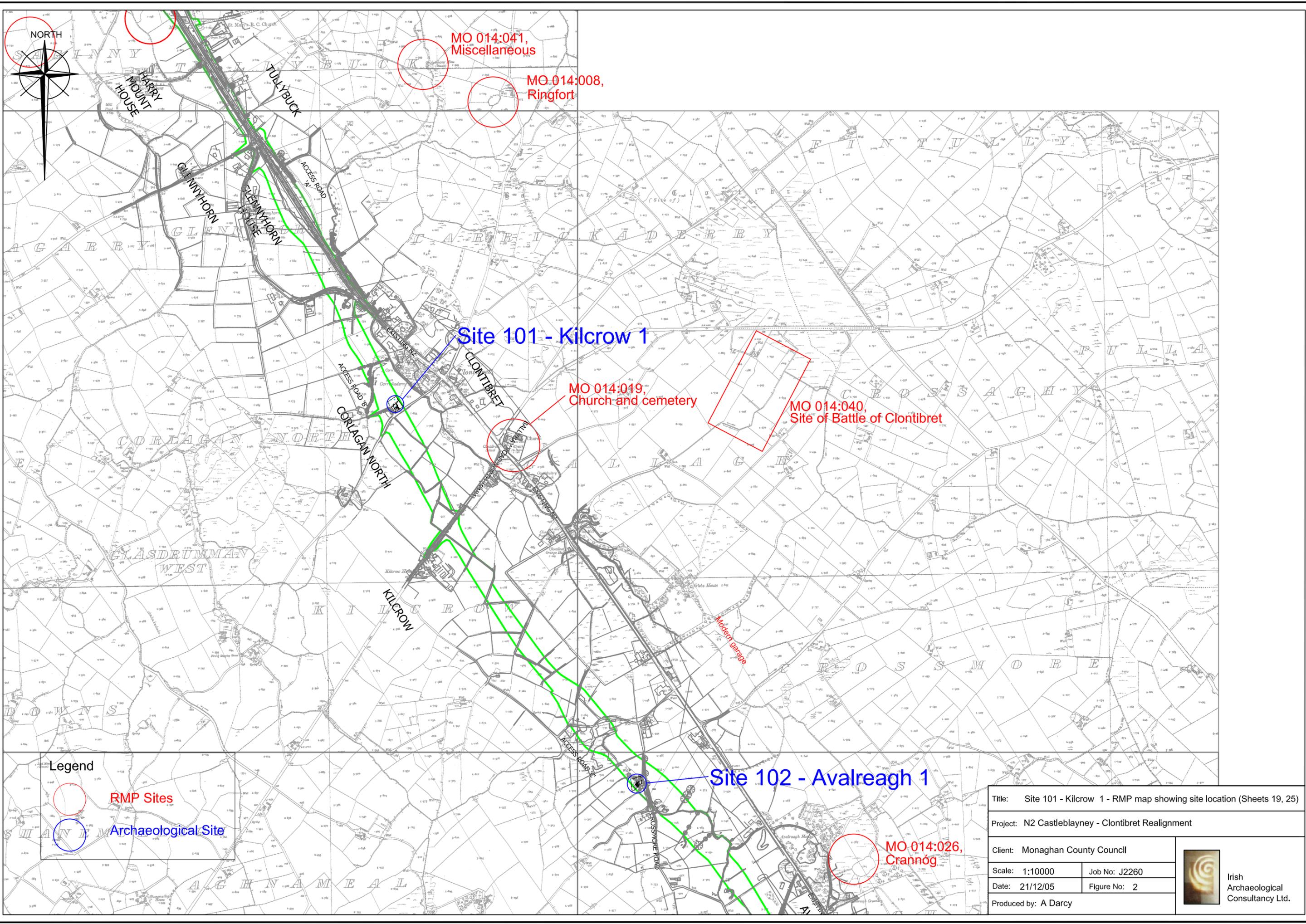
Produced by: A Darcy

Job No: J2260

Figure No: 1



**Irish
Archaeological
Consultancy Ltd.**



MO 014:041,
Miscellaneous

MO 014:008,
Ringfort

Site 101 - Kilcrow 1

MO 014:019,
Church and cemetery

MO 014:040,
Site of Battle of Clontibret

Site 102 - Avalreagh 1

MO 014:026,
Crannóg

Legend

- RMP Sites
- Archaeological Site

Title: Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 - RMP map showing site location (Sheets 19, 25)	
Project: N2 Castleblayney - Clontibret Realignment	
Client: Monaghan County Council	
Scale: 1:10000	Job No: J2260
Date: 21/12/05	Figure No: 2
Produced by: A Darcy	



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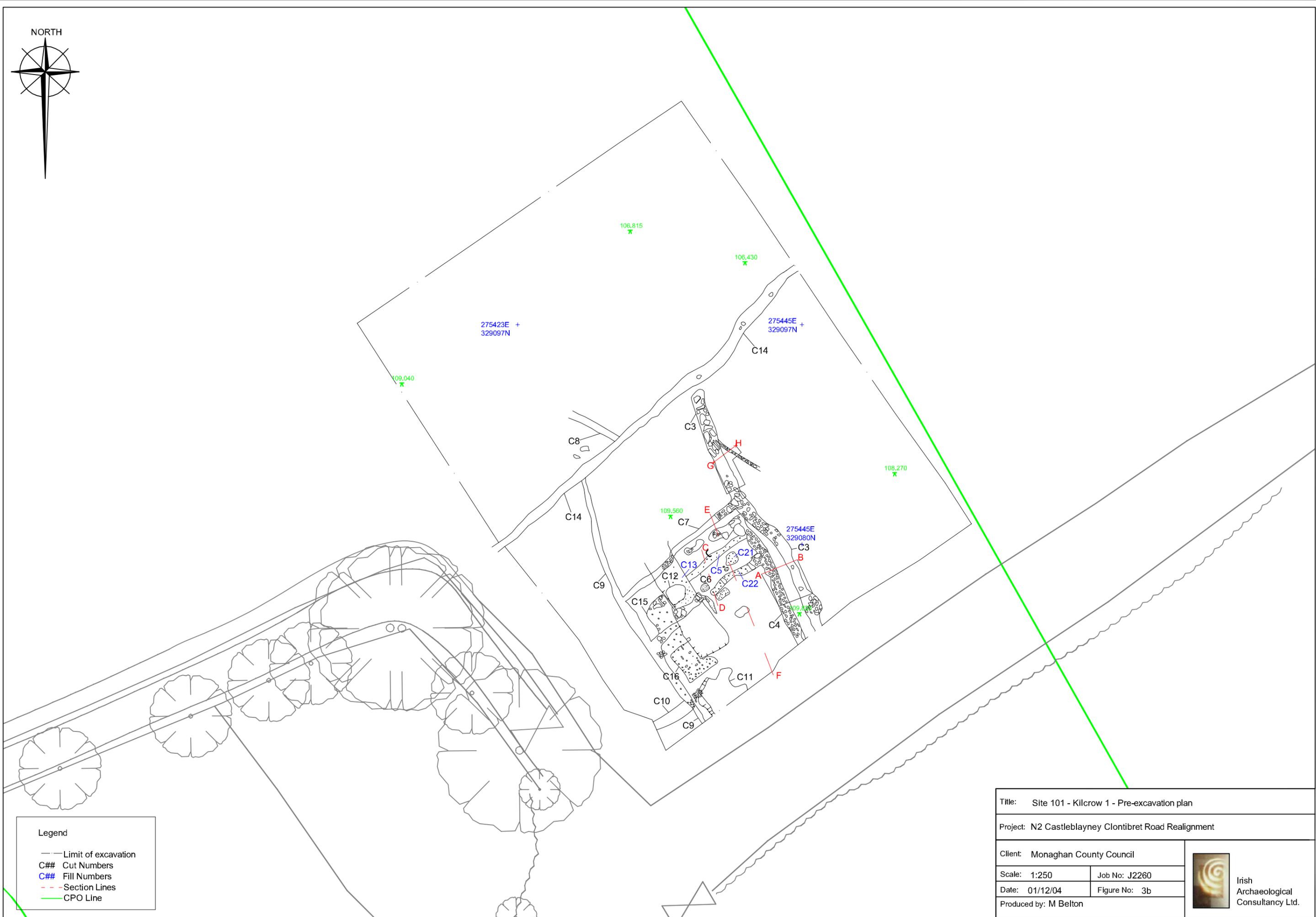
974



—	Limit of excavation
C##	Cut Numbers
C##	Fill Numbers
- - -	Section Lines
—	CPO Line

Title: Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 - OS Map showing pre-excavation plan	
Project: N2 Castleblayney Clontibret Road Realignment	
Client: Monaghan County Council	
Scale: 1:250	Job No: J2260
Date: 01/12/04	Figure No: 3a
Produced by: M Belton	

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Archaeological
Consultancy Ltd.

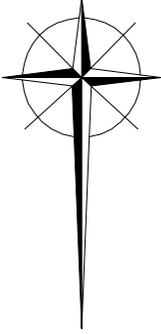


Legend	
—	Limit of excavation
C##	Cut Numbers
C##	Fill Numbers
- - -	Section Lines
—	CPO Line

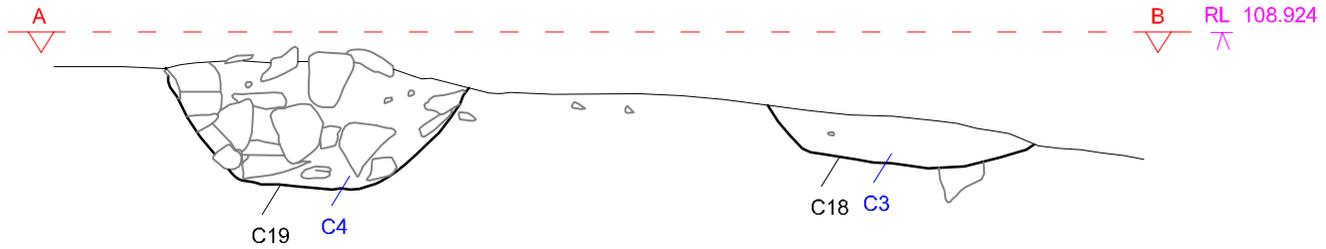
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Project: N2 Castleblayney Clontibret Road Realignment	
Client: Monaghan County Council	
Scale: 1:250	Job No: J2260
Date: 01/12/04	Figure No: 3b
Produced by: M Belton	

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NORTH



Site 101 - Kilcrow 1
Mid- ex of South facing section of C3, C18, C4 and C19

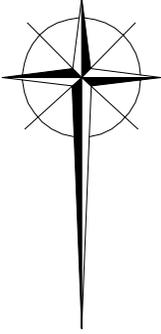


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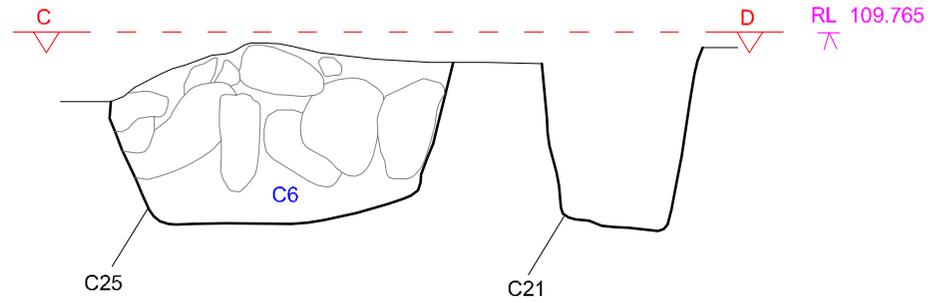
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Project:	N2 Castleblayney - Clontibret Realignment
Client:	Monaghan County Council

Scale:	1:20
Date:	22/12/05
Produced by:	A Darcy
Job No:	J2260
Figure No:	4

NORTH



Site 101 - Kilcrow 1
South facing section of C25 & C21



Legend

- C## Fill numbers
- C## Cut number
- Stone

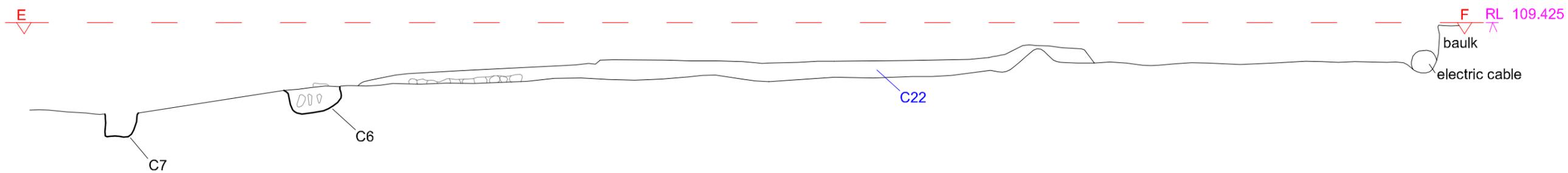


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Title:	Site 101 - Kilcrow 1- South facing section showing cut of possible external wall of house [C25] & post hole [C21]
Project:	N2 Castleblayney - Clontibret Realignment
Client:	Monaghan County Council

Scale:	1:10
Date:	21/12/05
Produced by:	R Fitzgerald
Job No:	J2260
Figure No:	5

Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 - Mid - excavation section through site showing C6 & C7

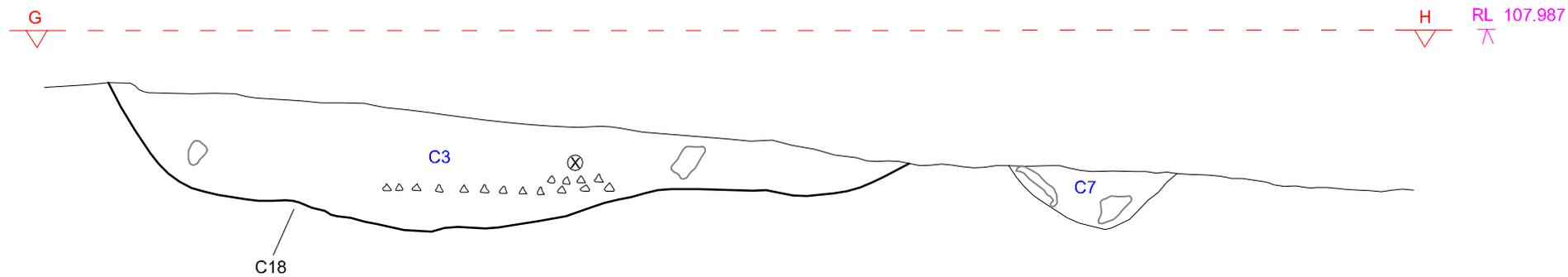


Title: Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 - mid- excavation section through site showing C6 & C7	
Project: N2 Castleblayney - Clontibret Realignment	
Client: Monaghan County Council	
Scale: 1: 50	Job No: J2260
Date: 21/12/05	Figure No: 6
Produced by: R Fitzgerald	



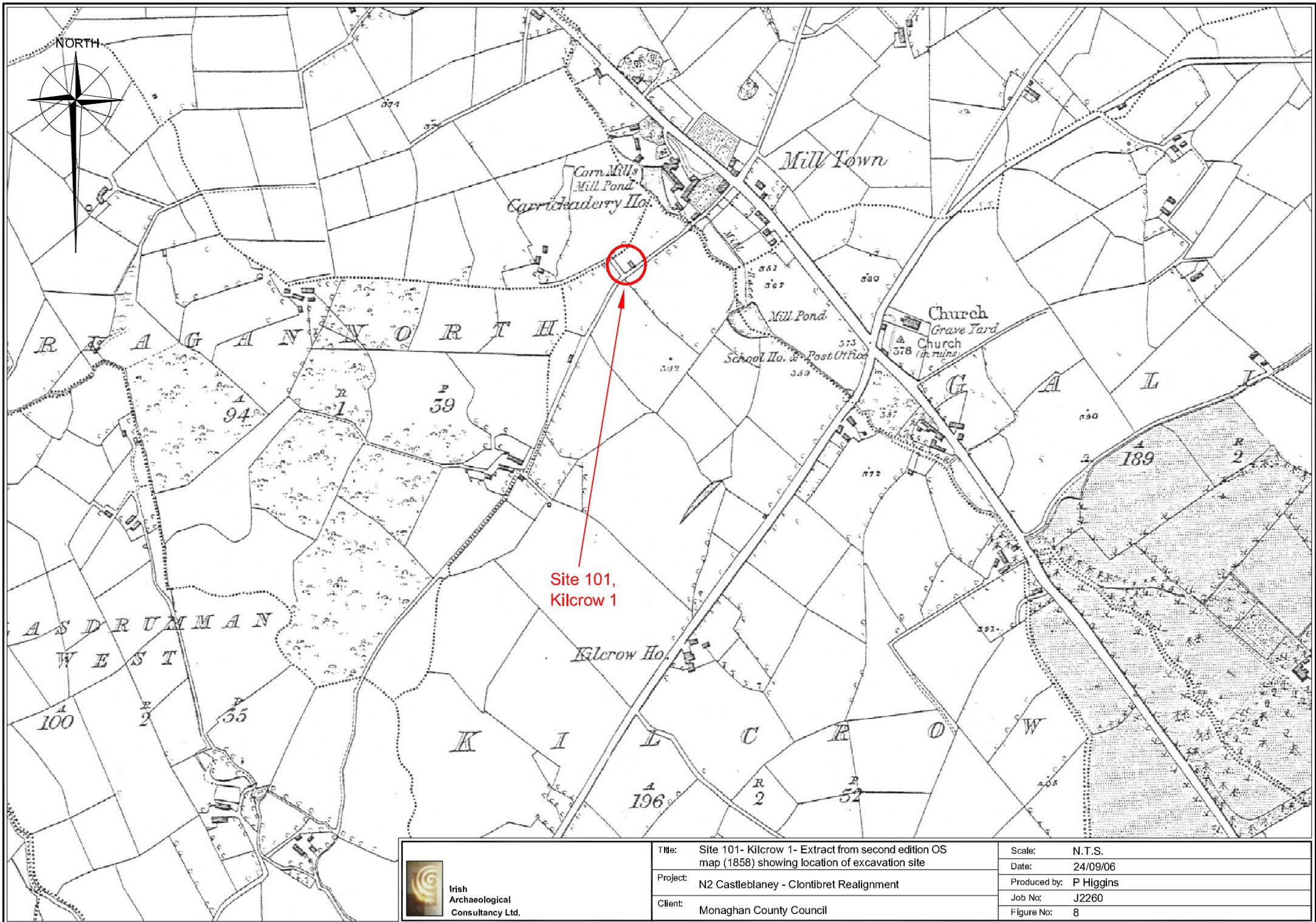
**Irish
Archaeological
Consultancy Ltd.**

Site 101 - Kilcrow 1
 South facing section of C3 and C18



Legend	
C##	Fill numbers
C##	Cut number
	Stone
	Pottery
	Metal-corroded

 Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.	Title:	Site 101 - Kilcrow 1 - South-facing section of cut of possible drain or external wall [C18] and "gully"	Scale:	1:10
	Project:	N2 Castleblayney - Clontibret Realignment	Date:	21/12/05
	Client:	Monaghan County Council	Produced by:	R Fitzgerald
			Job No:	J2260
			Figure No:	7



Site 101,
Kilcrow 1



Irish
Archaeological
Consultancy Ltd.

Title: Site 101- Kilcrow 1- Extract from second edition OS map (1858) showing location of excavation site
 Project: N2 Castleblaney - Clontibret Realignment
 Client: Monaghan County Council

Scale: N.T.S.
 Date: 24/09/06
 Produced by: P Higgins
 Job No: J2260
 Figure No: 8



Plate 1 – View of house, looking W



Plate 2 - SE-facing section of possible foundation wall (C3) and [C4] taken from NW



Plate 3 - Pre-excavation view of external wall [C6] showing fill (C22), post-excavation view of [C21] taken from W



Plate 4 - Pre-excavation view of cobbled surface to the S of [C21], in N-S facing trench



Plate 5 - View of farmhouse at Annagh, Site 103



Plate 6 Mid-excitation view of S-facing section of possible foundation wall or drain (C3) also showing SW-NE running gully



Plate 7 - NW facing section through possible foundation wall or drain (C3) and [C4], taken from the SE



Plate 8 - Mid-excavation view of S-facing section of possible drain (C9), in E-W excavation trench



Plate 9 - View of foundation wall/drain [C4] taken from N



Plate 10 - View of foundation wall/drain [C26] (C8) taken from E



Plate 11 - Modern concrete floor (C11), taken from N



Plate 12 - Re-deposited natural in front of possible doorway (C12) looking E

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context No.	Site	Description
C1	101	Topsoil
C2	101	Natural
C3	101	Possible drain or foundation for boundary wall. Purpose of which is unclear, not evident on 1930's plan of house. Fill of [C18].
C4	101	Cut of possible internal wall foundation for farmhouse but resembles a drainage ditch due to its dimensions filled with (C19).
C5	101	Internal wall of house. EW running, the terminus of which possibly forms door jamb.
C6	101	Possible northern external wall or out building. Very stony fill which is similar to that of a drain. Fill of [C25].
C7	101	Possible northern yard/house wall or drain. Joins into perpendicular linear features [C9] and [C3]. High concentration of unsorted stones may also suggest a drainage ditch. Filled by (C24).
C8	101	Fill of drain [C26] running E-W beside western side of house. Possibly represented on the 1930's plan which shows some sort of boundary in this location. Unexcavated.
C9	101	Fill of drain [C23] running N-S along western side of house. Lies just west of c11, the concrete floor.
C10	101	Fill of drain [C27] running E-W in N corner of site beside western side of house, lies W of (C11) the concrete floor. Unexcavated.
C11	101	Concrete floor, modern, representing an interior surface of the house.
C12	101	Re-deposit in front of doorway. Irregular shaped patch of mid brown yellowish brown silty clay. Unexcavated.
C13	101	Cobbled surface under (C12). It is in line with (C22) so it is likely the two areas are connected and (C13) is a continuation of (C22). Perhaps more a metalled surface than a proper cobbled surface. Stones used are small irregular sized stones and pebbles.
C14	101	Fill of drain [C17] running E-W at extreme northern edge of site.
C15	101	Deposit, L shaped charcoal rich with occasional inclusions of red brick, to the north of concrete floor (C11). Perhaps representing a surface layer in an outbuilding. Possibly a fireplace due to coal inclusions.
C16	101	Rubble Layer of rough course stone and red brick, usually used around windows and below roof in farmhouses in the area.
C17	101	Cut of drain which is filled by (C14), unexcavated.
C18	101	Cut of possible drain or external wall filled by (C3). A shallow gully runs along side the eastern side.
C19	101	Fill of [C4] possible eastern external wall of house but more likely a linear drain due to the unsorted stony fill.
C20	101	Fill of posthole [C21] under (C15). Sterile fill no inclusions.
Context No.	Site	Description

C21	101	Cut of sub-circular post hole filled by (C20).
C22	101	Cobbled surface under (C15).
C23	101	Cut of linear drainage feature filled by (C9) running SW-NE.
C24	101	Fill of [C7] possible drainage ditch, very stony fill and quite shallow with occasional post-medieval pottery.
C25	101	Cut of probable foundation wall of house filled by (C6).
C26	101	Cut of unexcavated drain of some sort or a boundary marker for settlement, filled by (C8).
C27	101	Cut of linear drain filled by (C10) running E-W. Not excavated.

APPENDIX 2: FINDS

Find no	Context No	Site	Description
1	1	101	Metal fragments
2	1	101	Clay pipes
3	1	101	Modern pottery fragments
4	1	101	Post-medieval pottery fragments
5	1	101	One shoe
6	3	101	Glass bottles, post-medieval pottery sherds and clay pipes.
7	19	101	Post-medieval pottery
8	5	101	Large post-medieval pottery sherd

APPENDIX 3: ARCHIVE INDEX

Project	N2 Clontibret-Castleblaney Realignment			
Site Names/Reference/	101			
Licence numbers	05E0780			
Contractor	Monaghan County Council			
Field director	Brian Halpin			
	Items (quantity)	Boxes/files (quantity)	Checked/indexed/ cross-referenced/filed etc	Further work to do
Field Records				
Site plan	2		Completed	To be digitised
Site registers/indexes	4			
Site diary/notes	1			
Context matrix	1			
Report	1			
Summary	1			
Survey/levels data (origin information)				
Borehole logs etc				
Context sheets	27		Completed	Completed
Trench record sheets	None			
Wood Sheets	None			
Skeleton Sheets	None			
Worked stone sheets	None			
Sample sheets used yes/no	No			
Other sheets (Specify)	None			
Single context & Multi context plans (totals rather than sheets)				
Other plans (sketches, non-context plans etc)	5			
Sections/elevations				
Timber drawings				
Stone drawings				
Images monochrome				
Images colour (slide or print)				
Images digital	13			
Image/photo index				
Project design/specification/ Methodology				
SECURITY COPY (whole or part) If so what type?				

	Items/ Fragments (quantity)	Boxes/files (quantity)	Processed/cleaned /sorted/checked/ indexed/x-ray/stored appropriately etc	Further work
Finds and Enviro. Archive				
Accessioned/special finds (specify types, especially wet finds or dry finds)				
Chert/flint	None			
Pottery (specify periods)				
Ceramic Building Material (specify types eg daub, tile)				
Worked stone				
Metalwork (specify types eg bronze, iron)				
Glass				
Slag				
Human bone (specify type eg cremated, skeleton, disarticulated)				
Animal bone	None			
Enviro bulk (specify number of samples and total number of litres sampled)	none			
Enviro monolith (specify number of samples and number of tins per sample)	none			
Name	Brian Halpin			
Title	Site Director			
Date	29/09/05			

APPENDIX 4: SITE MATRIX

C1	101	Topsoil
C5	101	Internal wall of house. EW running, the terminus of which possibly forms door jamb.
C6	101	Possible northern external wall or out building. Very stony fill which is similar to that of a drain. Fill of [C25].
C25	101	Cut of probable foundation wall of house filled by (C6).
C15	101	Deposit, L shaped charcoal rich with occasional inclusions of red brick, to the north of concrete floor (C11). Perhaps representing a surface layer in an outbuilding. Possibly a fireplace due to coal inclusions. Overlying (C22).
C22	101	Cobbled surface under (C15).
C16	101	Rubble Layer of rough course stone and red brick, usually used around windows and below roof in farmhouses in the area. Possible interior floor surface.
C12	101	Re-deposit in front of doorway. Irregular shaped patch of mid brown yellowish brown silty clay.
C13	101	Cobbled surface under (C12). It is in line with (C22) so it is likely the two areas are connected and (C13) is a continuation of (C22). Perhaps more a metalled surface than a proper cobbled surface. Stones used are small irregular sized stones and pebbles.
C11	101	Concrete floor, modern, representing an interior surface of the house.
C9	101	Fill of drain [C23] running N-S along western side of house. Lies just west of c11, the concrete floor.
C23	101	Cut of linear drainage feature filled by (C9) running SW-NE.
C21	101	Cut of sub-circular post hole filled by (C20).
C20	101	Fill of posthole [C21] under (C15). Sterile fill no inclusions.
C26	101	Cut of unexcavated drain or a boundary marker for settlement, filled by (C8).
C8	101	Fill of drain [C26] running E-W beside western side of house. Possibly represented on the 1930's plan which shows some sort of boundary in this location. Unexcavated.
C24	101	Fill of [C7] possible drainage ditch, very stony fill and quite shallow with occasional post-medieval pottery.
C7	101	Possible northern yard/house wall or drain. Joins into perpendicular linear features [C9] and [C3]. High concentration of unsorted stones may also suggest a drainage ditch. Filled by (C24).
C3	101	Possible drain or foundation for boundary wall. Purpose of which is unclear, not evident on 1930's plan of house. Fill of [C18].
C18	101	Cut of possible drain or external wall filled by (C3). A shallow gully runs along side the eastern side.
C4	101	Cut of possible internal wall foundation for farmhouse but resembles a drainage ditch due to its dimensions filled with (C19).
C19	101	Fill of [C4] possible eastern external wall of house but more likely a linear drain due to the unsorted stony fill.
C10	101	Fill of drain [C27] running EW in north corner of site beside

		western side of house, lies west of (C11) the concrete floor. Unexcavated.
C27	101	Cut of linear drain filled by (C10) running E-W.
C14	101	Fill of drain [C17] running E-W at extreme northern edge of site.
C17	101	Cut of drain which is filled by (C14).
C2	101	Natural

APPENDIX 5: BUILDING REPORT

Site 101: Farm buildings, Kilcrow Td (chainage 1560)

Site of mid 19th century farmstead in Kilcrow townland, on a minor road running west from the N2 at Clontibret (grid 275430, 329070; fig 3.1).



Fig 3.1 Site location (scale 1:25,000).

Historical

A building is shown at this location on the 1858 OS six-inch map, but not on the 1835 map (Co Monaghan sheet 14; fig 3.2). This indicates that it was not until the mid 1800s that this site was built upon.

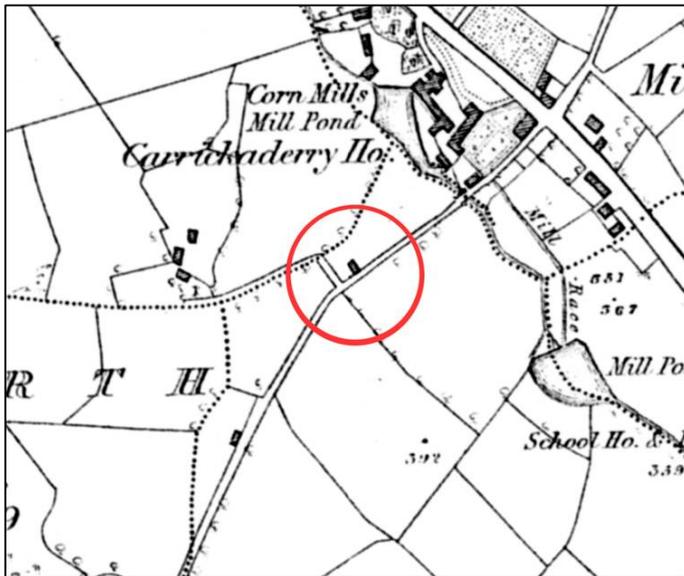


Fig 3.2 1858 OS six-inch map (rescaled to 1:5000).

The buildings are cited as “house and office” in the valuation revision book entry for 1860.¹ They were occupied by Benjamin Oliver, on lease from Abraham Reid, and had a rateable valuation of ten shillings. This low valuation suggests a vernacular single-storey house and outbuilding.

Abraham Reid took possession before 1880 and he was succeeded by William Alexander Reid c.1907.² The buildings are shown on the 1908 OS six-inch map (fig 3.3). Their size and layout is similar to those on the 1864 map, indicating that no significant alterations or rebuilding had taken place in the intervening period.

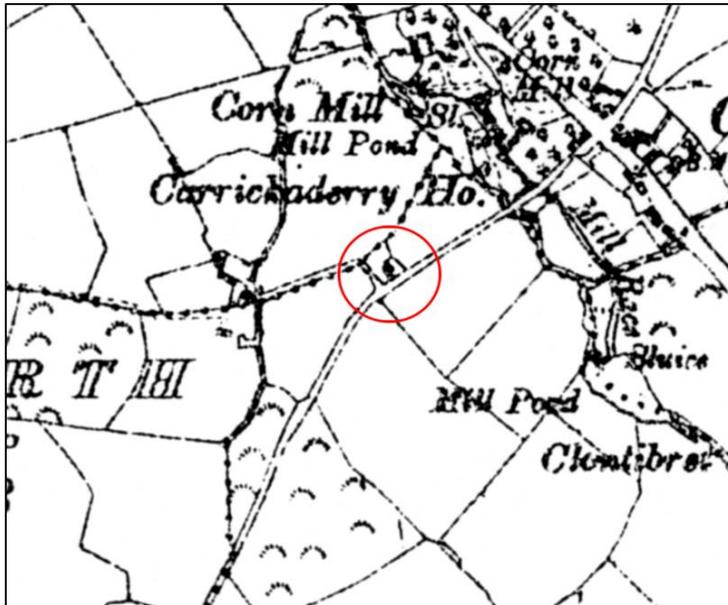


Fig 3.3 1908 OS six-inch map (rescaled to 1:5000).

The valuation revision book notes Alexander Reid junior as taking over in 1919 and James M. Reid in 1929. The buildings are cited as “ruins” in 1951.

There were no upstanding remains in 2004 and they are not shown on the *Discovery* series map. The site was archaeologically excavated in 2005; the results are presented as a separate report (see main body of text).

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Industrial Archaeologist
75 Locksley Park
Belfast BT10 0AS
December 2006

¹ Clontibret Electoral District: valuation revision book 1, p.52, plot 2 (Valuation Office, Abbey Life Centre, Dublin).

² The details of occupants are taken from subsequent revision books. Note that the dates entered in the books may lag up to several years behind the event being recorded.