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MEATH
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES LTD.



M3 Clonee-North of Kells Contract 5 Kells to North of Kells

Report on the Archaeological Excavation
of
Chapelbridge 3, Co. Meath

Ministerial Directions No.
A030/008
E3170

Ed Danaher
June 2008

Final

PROJECT DETAILS

Project	M3 Clonee–Kells Motorway
Site Name	Chapelbride 3
Ministerial Direction Number	A030/008
Registration Number	E3170
Senior Archaeological Consultant	Donald Murphy
Site Director	Ed Danaher
Excavated	16 – 20 October 2006
Client	Meath County Council, National Roads Design Office, Navan Enterprise Centre, Navan, County Meath
Townland	Chapelbride
Parish	Burry
County	Meath
National Grid Reference	270649 274767
Chainage	82320
Report Type	Final
Report Status	Submitted
Date of Report	June 2008
Report by	Ed Danaher and Vicky Ginn

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report has been prepared by Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd on behalf of Meath County Council National Roads Design Office (NRDO) and the National Roads Authority (NRA). The excavation was carried out under Ministerial Direction Number issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DOEHLG) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

Consulting Engineers - N3 Meath Consult

Engineer – Peter Thorne and Thomas Meagher

Resident Engineer – Conor Wilkinson

Meath County Council, National Roads Design Office

Senior Engineer – John McGrath

Project Archaeologist – Mary Deevy

Project Liaison Officer – Ambrose Clarke

National Monuments, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Archaeologist – Martin Reid

Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland

Keeper – Nessa O'Connor

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This site at Chapelbride 3 was excavated by Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd (ACS) as part of the M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme on behalf of Meath County Council NRDO and the NRA. The excavation was carried out between 16 and 20 October 2006 under Ministerial Direction Number A030/008 issued by DOEHLG in consultation with the NMI. Very few features were present within this site. An isolated fire-spot comprising a small patch of oxidised subsoil with some overlying fire debris, charcoal and ash was located. A number of surrounding hollows also contained small traces of this fire debris. It is likely that this feature represents a single episode of in situ burning with no associated features present.

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PLATE LIST

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1 INTRODUCTION

The site at Chapelbride 3 (Figures 1–6) was identified during advance testing carried out by David Bayley of Irish Archaeological Consultancy (IAC) during June 2004 under licence number 04E1054 (Bayley 2005). Testing revealed the presence of four postholes, two stakeholes, three pits, and one possible hearth (0.80m x 0.45m x 0.30m) which contained charcoal-rich material underlying a layer of fire-reddened clay that in turn underlay a second layer of charcoal-rich silty clay. Full resolution of the site occurred in 2006 and only one pit was observed, although several hollows were also filled with similar material.

1.1 Development

Meath County Council and the National Roads Authority are constructing 49km of two-lane, dual-carriageway motorway between Clonee and Kells and 10km of single carriageway from Kells to Carnross, north of Kells, along with additional road upgrades, realignments and associated ancillary works. For the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment and the subsequent archaeological investigations the scheme was subdivided into five separate sections as follows: Clonee to Dunshaughlin (Contract 1), Dunshaughlin–Navan (Contract 2), the Navan Bypass (Contract 3) Navan to Kells (Contract 4) and Kells to North of Kells (Contract 5). This section of the scheme (Contract 5) will commence at the N52 Mullingar Road situated to the southwest of Kells in the townland of Calliaghstown (NGR 272828 274647) and runs to the northwest, crosses the River Blackwater at Balgree and terminates in the townland of Derver at the existing border between counties Meath and Cavan (NGR 266012 280943).

The archaeological components of the Environmental Impact Statement published in 2002 where carried out by Valerie J. Keeley Ltd (VJK) and Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd (MGL) in 2000–2001. This included desk-based studies and field surveys of each section (VJK Sections 1 & 3 and MGL Sections 2, 4 & 5). Additionally on behalf of MGL geophysical survey was undertaken on the Dunshaughlin–Navan section and at Nugentstown on the Navan–Kells section by GSB Prospection (2000 & 2001). These studies carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment were augmented by further geophysical survey conducted by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy on the remainder of the scheme (2002). Archaeological testing was completed by ACS and Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (IAC) in 2004 (ACS Sections 1–3 and IAC Sections 4–5). Excavation of the sites identified during testing was conducted by ACS and IAC between 2005 and 2008 (ACS Sections 1–3 & 5 and IAC Section 4).

2 EXCAVATION

Excavation occurred between 16 and 20 October 2006 under Ministerial Direction Number A030/008 issued to Meath County Council NRDO. The work was carried out by Ed Danaher on behalf of ACS. The topsoil (F24) was removed by machine equipped with a grading bucket.

All archaeological features exposed were recorded and excavated by hand using the single context method. Each feature was assigned a context number. No samples were obtained. Unless otherwise stated, the features have been measured length-width-depth. All measurements are in metres. No artefacts were recovered.

2.1 Results

Eight contexts of archaeological interest were identified. Full details of all these, and further, contexts are located in Appendix 1 (Figures 7–8).

The isolated fire-spot, F7, consisted of an area (0.60m x 0.41m x 0.06m) of oxidised subsoil (Plate 1).

Three natural deposits (F5: 0.31m x 0.28m x 0.03m; F9: 0.37m x 0.30m x 0.04m; F11: 0.40m x 0.14m x 0.02m) were filled with charcoal-rich material.

An isolated posthole (F4: 0.20m diameter x 0.22m depth) was also observed.

2.2 Finds

No artefacts were recovered.

3 DISCUSSION

Due to a lack of chronologically diagnostic features or artefacts it is not possible to determine the date of this fire-spot or the deposits; it is likely that these features represent one episode of activity. It may relate to nearby sites; activity at Chapelbride 4 (A030/007) was dated by virtue of associated pottery sherds to the late Neolithic and the Middle Bronze Age and a burnt mound at Chapelbride 5 (A030/006) also appears prehistoric, and Bronze Age, in nature.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Chapelbride 3, (A030/008), excavated (16 – 20 October 2006) by Ed Danaher (ACS) as part of the M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme on behalf of Meath County Council,

NRDO, and the NRA, represented an isolated fire-spot comprising a small patch of oxidised subsoil with some overlying fire debris and charcoal. A number of surrounding hollows also contained small traces of this fire debris. It is likely that this feature represents a single episode of in situ burning with no associated features present. Much of the archaeological activity in this area was of such a dispersed nature and two pits (one possibly representing a hearth) were located at nearby Chapelbride 1 (A030/010) and an isolated pit at Chapelbride 2 (A030/009).

5 REFERENCES

Bayley, D 2005 *Report on Archaeological Assessment at Testing Area 3, Chapelbride, Co. Meath, Licence Number: 04E1054*. Unpublished report prepared for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

Signature:



Ed Danaher

June 2008.

APPENDIX 1 *Context Details*

Chapelbride 3: A030/008											
No	Type	Fill of/ Filled with	Strat above	Strat below	Description	Interpretation	Group	Artefacts	Animal bone	Cremated bone	Samples
1-3					used previously during topsoil assessment						
4	cut	12	25	12	circular cut (0.20m diameter x 0.22m depth) with a sharp break of slope at the top and vertical sides	isolated posthole					
5	deposit	N/A	25	24	loose, dark-grey-black, silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks. 0.31m x 0.28m x 0.03m	charcoal deposit within natural hollow					
6	not assigned										
7	deposit	N/A	25	24	oxidised subsoil. 0.60m x 0.41m x 0.06m	in situ burning firespot					
8	not assigned										
9	deposit	N/A	25	24	loose, dark-grey-black, silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks. 0.37m x 0.30m x 0.04m	charcoal deposit within natural hollow					
10	not assigned										
11	deposit	N/A	25	24	loose, dark-grey-black, silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks. 0.40m x 0.14m x 0.02m	charcoal deposit within natural hollow					
12	fill	04	04	24	loose, black-dark-grey, clayey silt. 0.20m diameter x 0.22m depth	fill of posthole 04					
13-23	not assigned										
24	topsoil	N/A	25	N/A		topsoil					
25	subsoil	N/A	N/A	24		subsoil					

APPENDIX 2 *Finds List*

There were no artefacts recovered from the excavations at Chapelbride 3.

APPENDIX 3 *Sample List*

No samples were taken.



Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd.

Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,
Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonmel-North of Kells PPP Scheme
Contract 5, Chapelbridge 3

Issued for: Excavation Report

Client: Meath County Council

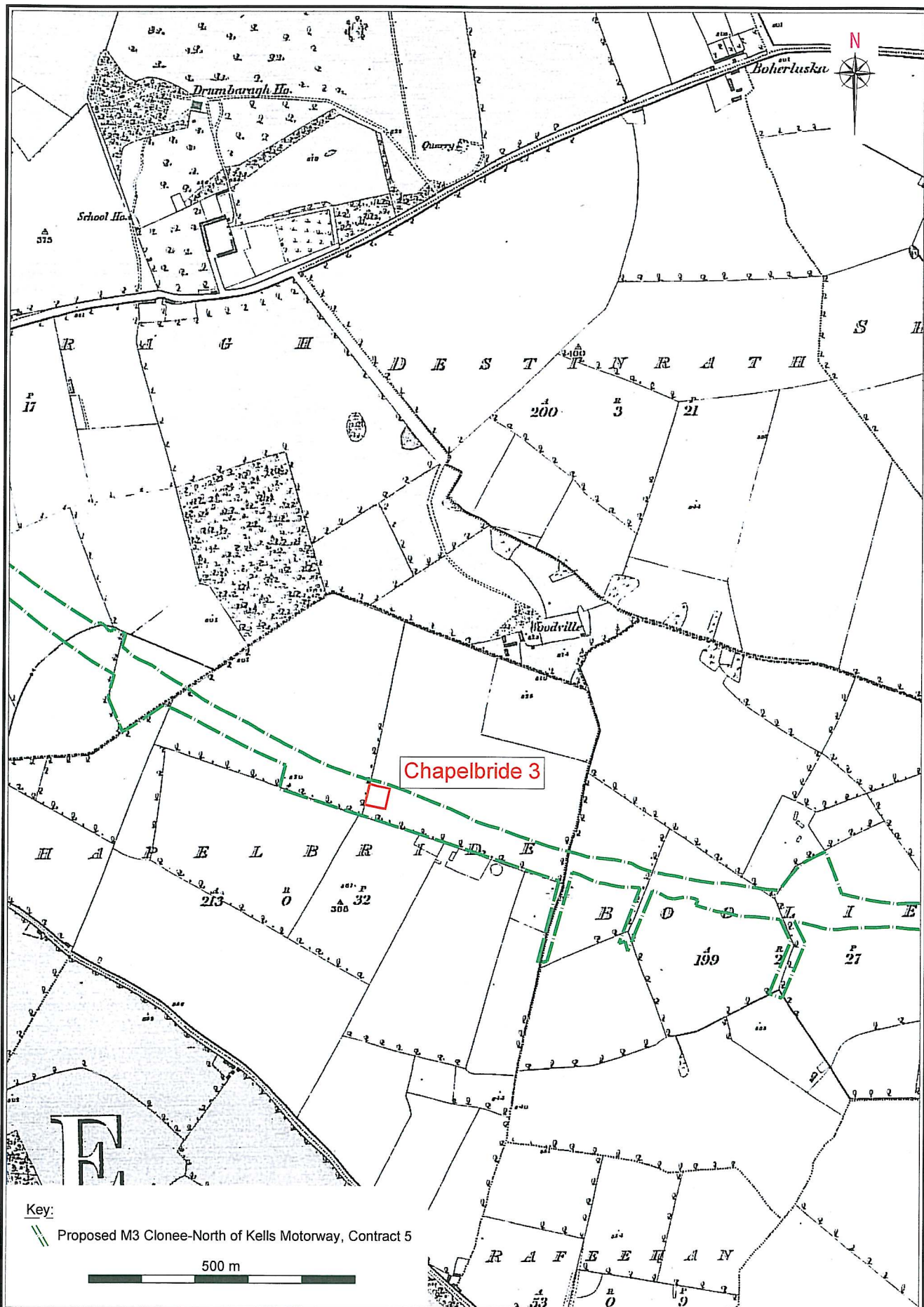
Scale: 1:50,000 A4

Date: Jun 08

Origin: OSI Discovery Series

Drawing no.: 04_01_C92711

Figure 1: Location of Chapelbridge 3



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Contract 5, Chapelbridge 3

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Client: Meath County Council

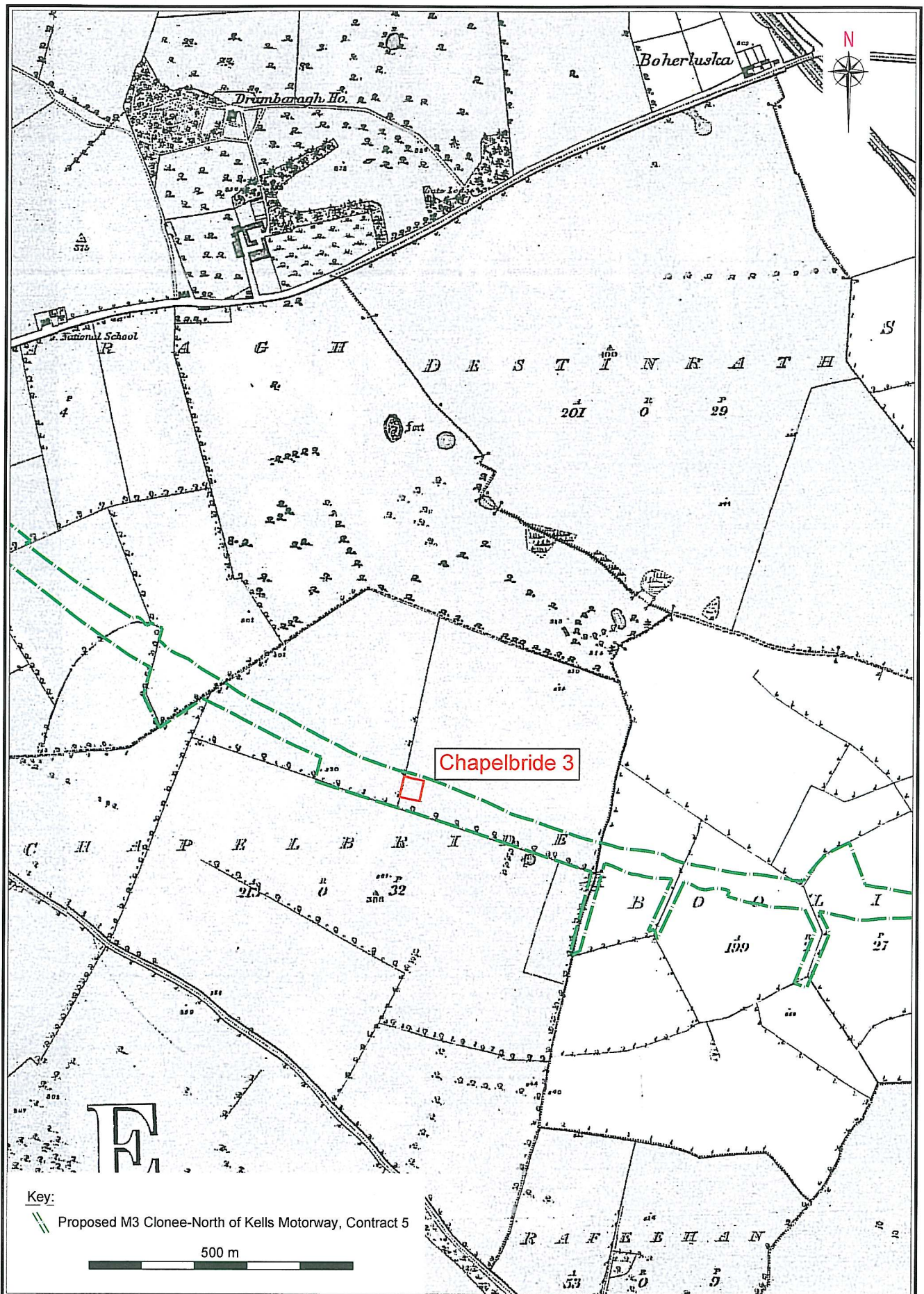
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Date: Jun 08

Origin: OSI (1836)

Drawing no.: 04_01_C9273i

Figure 3: Chapelbridge 3, extract from 1st edition OS map, Meath sheet 16

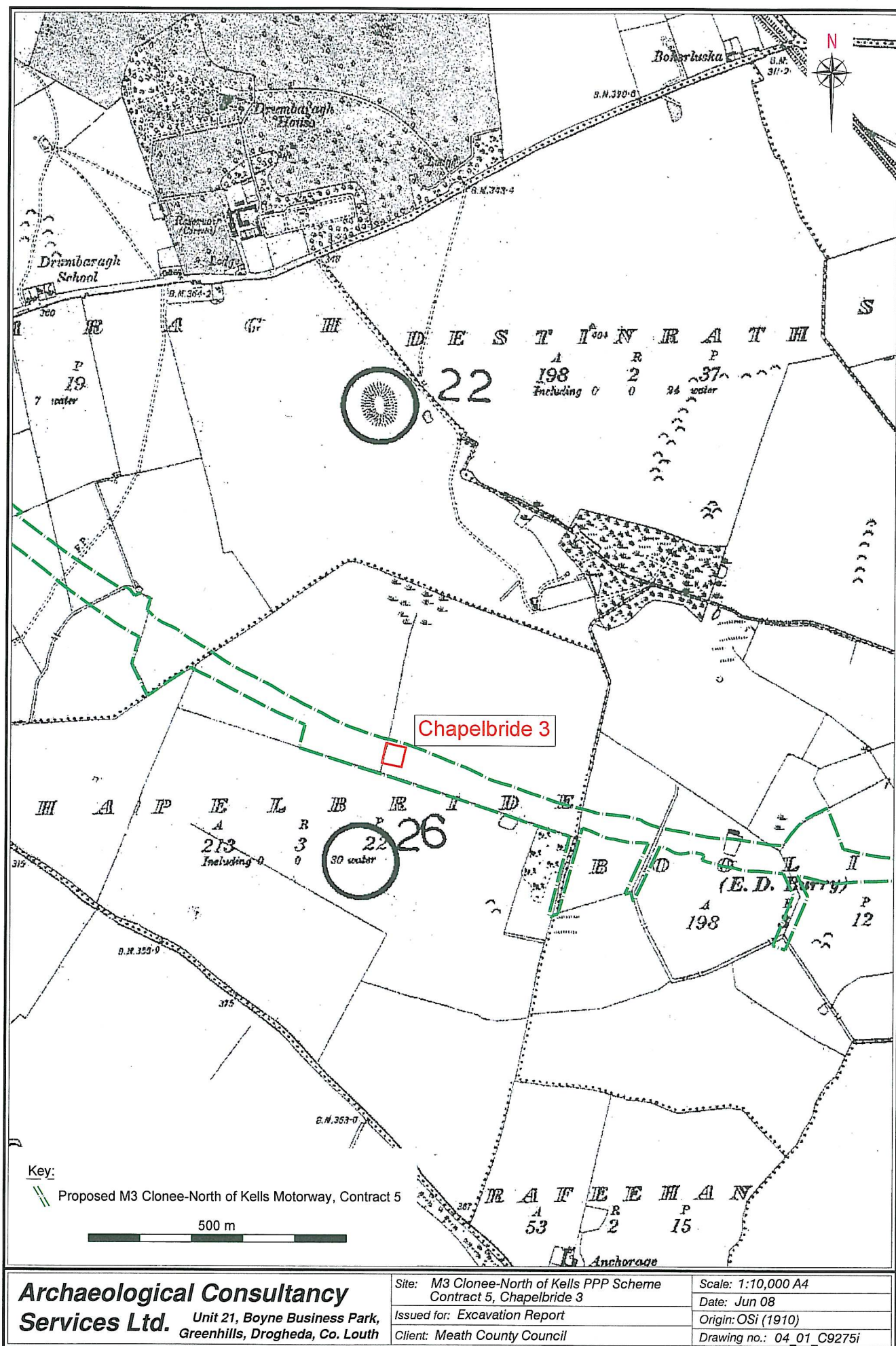


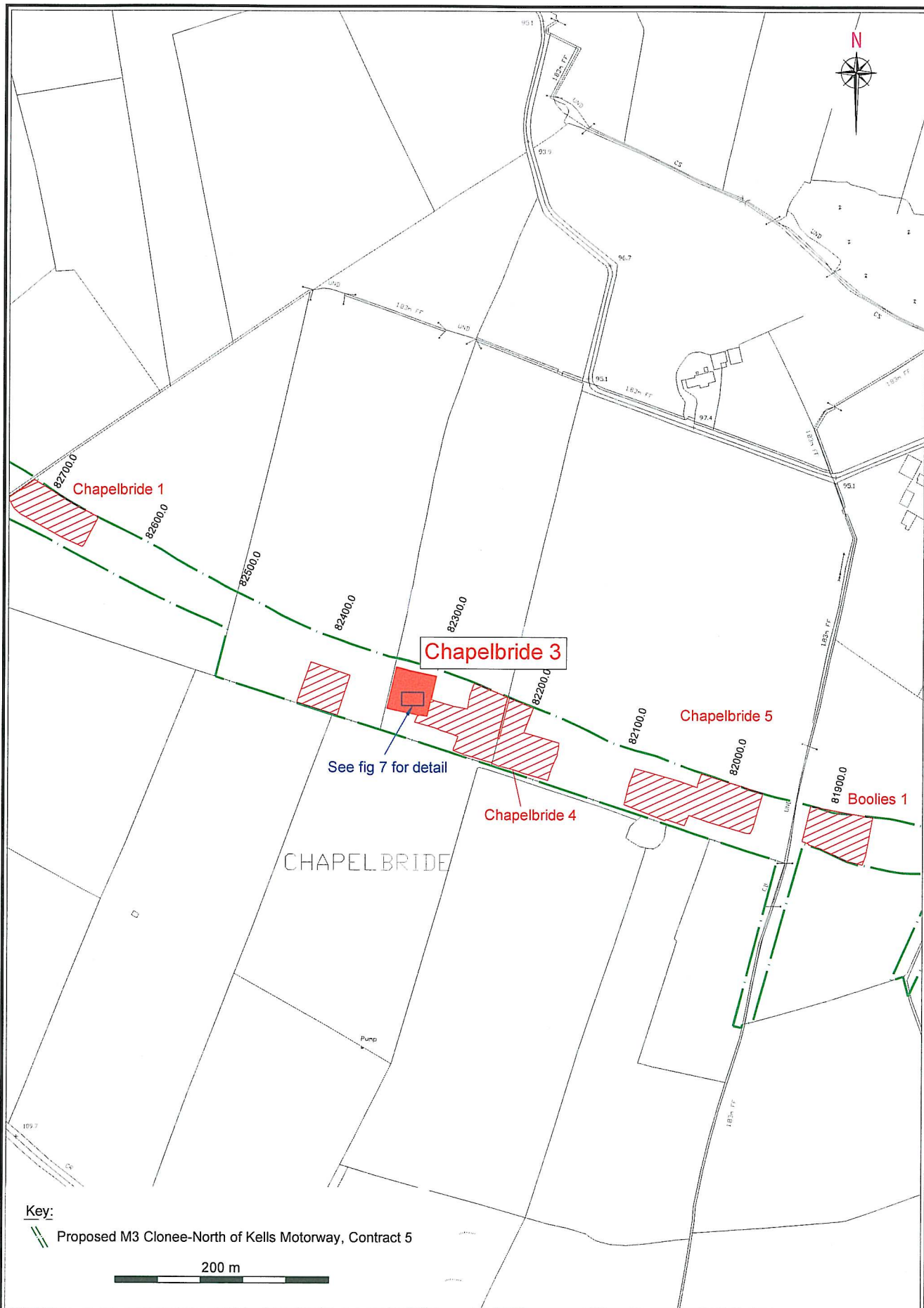
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Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:10,000 A4
Date: Jun 08
Origin: OSI (1882)
Drawing no.: 04_01_C9274i

Figure 4: Chapelbridge 3, extract from 2nd edition OS map, Meath sheet 16





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Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:5,000 A4
Date: Jun 08
Origin: Client/ACS Ltd.
Drawing no.: 04_01_C9276i

Figure 6: Detailed location of Chapelbridge 3



F7



F9

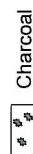


F11



F5

Key:



Charcoal

2.5 m



F4 A1
A

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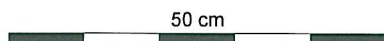
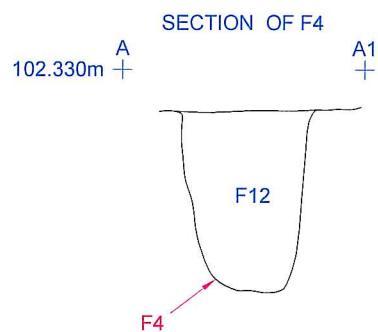
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Date: Jun 08

Origin: ACS Ltd.

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Figure 7: Plan of features at Chapelbridge 3



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Scale: 1:10 A4

Date: Jun 08

Origin: Client/ACS Ltd.

Drawing no.: 04_01_C9278i

Figure 8: Section of F4

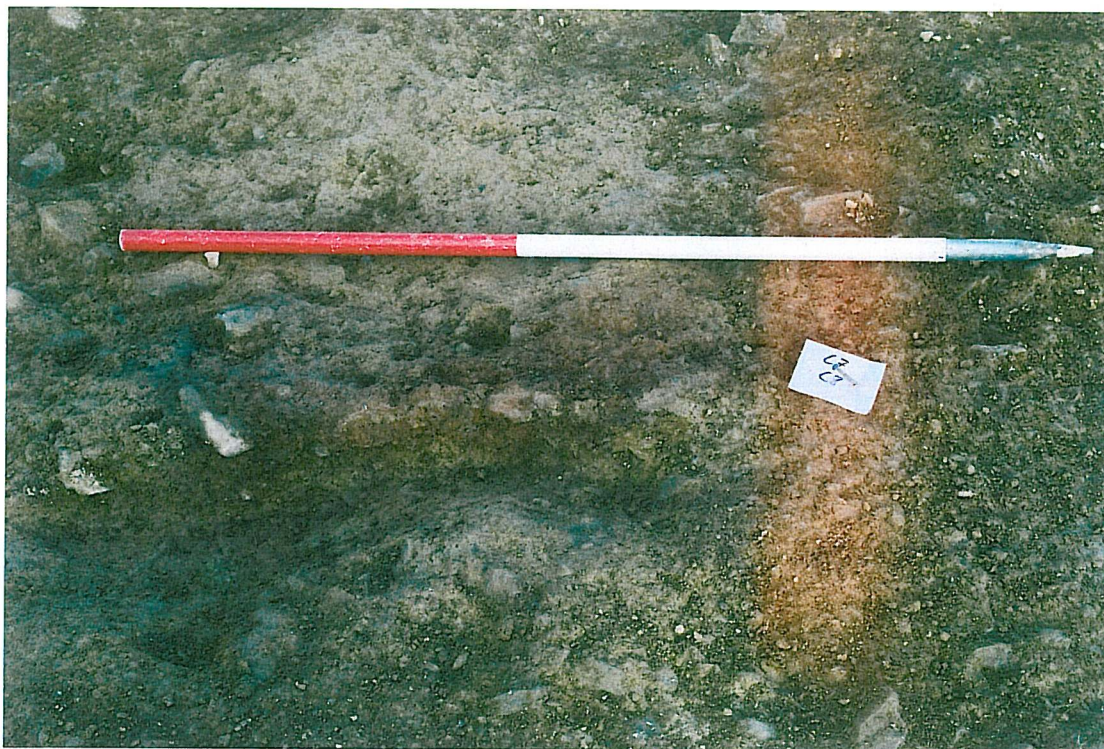


Plate 1: In situ burning of F7, from the south (04_01_Chapelbride_CP01_1)