



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 249

**100m NORTH-EAST OF CRANFIELD ROAD
CRANFIELD
KILKEEL
COUNTY DOWN**

LICENCE NO.: AE/12/135E

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 100m north-east of 62 Cranfield Road, Cranfield, Kilkeel, Co. Down

Townland: Cranfield

SMR No. : DOW 057:008

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 2717 1044

County: Down

Excavation Licence No. : AE/12/135E

Planning Ref / No. : P/2011/0681/F

Dates of Monitoring: 1st October 2012

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 100m north-east of 62 Cranfield Road, Cranfield, Kilkeel, Co. Down in response to a planning application for a replacement dwelling. There is a scheduled mound (DOW 057:008) in an adjacent field to the south-west of the application site. The evaluation consisted of five mechanically-excavated test trenches, each 1.5m wide and 30.0m long. Two linear features were uncovered during the course of the evaluation. As it was not possible to ascertain the nature and date of these features it is recommended that further fieldwork is carried out prior to the construction of the replacement dwelling.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of five test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Five trenches each 1.5m wide and 30.0m long

Current Land Use: Agricultural

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a replacement dwelling is located approximately 5km to the south-west of Kilkeel and just outside of the village of Cranfield, Co. Down (Figures 1 and 2). To the south-west of the application site, in the adjacent field, is a scheduled mound (NISMR DOW 057:008: Figure 3). Although this site has never been excavated, animal disturbance has revealed charcoal-rich soil as well as shells and animal bone. Souterrain ware pottery has also been recovered from the site.

The application site is located in the northern corner of a large field approximately 0.12 hectares in size (Plate 1). The field is currently used for pasture. It is bounded by hawthorn hedges and post-and-wire fences interspersed with mature trees. There are good views on all sides, particularly to the coast which is visible to the east, south-east and south (Plates 2 and 3). In the immediate area of the application site is an old dwelling house and small enclosure which is overgrown (Plate 4).

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a replacement dwelling and was requested by Adrian McAleenan of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Built Heritage (Historic Monuments Unit).

Excavation

The research design which accompanied the licence application proposed the excavation of five test trenches across the site of up to 30.0m in length. The evaluation stayed close to the original proposal and five trenches were excavated in the positions shown on Figure 4.

The trenches were 1.5m wide and 30.0m long. The trenches were all excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at an average depth of 0.40m.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was in the northern corner of the field, 2.0m from the northernmost field boundary and 3m to the east of the old dwelling house, beyond which is the Cranfield Road. The trench was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 5 and 6). It was aligned north-east/south-west. The sod and topsoil layer in Trench 1 (C101) consisted of mid brown sandy clay loam which was 0.15m thick and contained frequent stones. The stones were sub-angular in shape and up to 50mm long. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (C102) consisting of dark brown sandy loamy clay. The layer was up to 0.30m thick at the northern end of the trench and became shallower to the south, following the natural topography of the site. The layer contained frequent sub-rounded stones around 20mm long and 19th century pottery. The subsoil in Trench 1 (C103) consisted of orange sand with fragmented bedrock visible in parts. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at a depth of up to 0.45m at the northern end of the trench. There were no features of archaeological interest in Trench 1.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located 3.5m to the east of Trench 1 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.5m from the northernmost field boundary. It was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 7 and 8). The uppermost deposit, the sod and topsoil layer (C201) consisted of mid to dark brown sandy clay loam up to 0.15m thick and containing small stones up to 15mm in length. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation layer (C202) consisting of dark brown sandy loamy clay up to 0.30m thick with frequently occurring stones around 20mm long. The subsoil in Trench 2 (C203) consisted of orange sandy clay, the surface of which was encountered at 0.30-0.40m. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded in Trench 2.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located 5.0m to the east of Trench 2 and ran parallel to it. It was 1.0m from the northernmost field boundary. The trench was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 9 and 10). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench 3 (C301) consisted of dark brown loamy clay sand which contained numerous sub-rounded and sub-angular stones up to 40mm in length. The layer was 0.10-0.15m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil consisting of dark orangeish brown loamy sandy clay (C302). The layer contained frequent sub-angular stones which were around 20mm long. It was 0.25m thick. Cut into the subsoil in Trench 3, 12.0m from the northern end, was a linear feature (C303: Plate 11) which was filled with a grey sandy clay (C304). The feature was 0.5m wide. Another linear feature (C305/306: Plate 12) was observed in the subsoil around 7.0m to the south of this and 11.0m from the southern end of the trench. It was also filled with grey sandy clay and was around 0.5m wide. Both features appeared to run east/west through the trench. The subsoil in Trench 3 (C307) consisted of yellowish orange sandy clay, the surface of which was encountered at a depth of 0.40m.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located 5.0m to the east of Trench 3 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 13 and 14). It was 1.0m from the northernmost field boundary. The sod and topsoil layer in Trench 4 (C401) consisted of sandy loamy clay which was dark brown in colour. It contained numerous sub-angular to sub-rounded stones which were around 20mm in length. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (C402) consisting of mid brown sandy loamy clay which contained frequent sub-angular stones around 20mm long. There were also some sherds of 19th century pottery. The layer was up to 0.30m thick. Following the removal of the cultivation soil, a linear feature (C403/404: Figure 15) was observed cut into the subsoil 8.5m from the northern end of the trench. The feature ran approximately east/west. The cut of the feature was around 0.4-0.5m wide and filled with grey sandy clay (C404). It was briefly investigated but there were no associated dateable artefacts. The subsoil in Trench 4 consisted of orange sandy clay (C405), the surface of which was encountered at a depth of 0.40m. There were no other features of archaeological significance within the trench.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located 6.0m to the east of Trench 4 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.0m from the northernmost field boundary and defined the eastern limit of the application site. The trench was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 16 and 17). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench 5 (C501) consisted of dark brown sandy loamy clay which contained small sub-rounded to rounded stones around 20mm long. The layer was 0.10m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (C502) of gritty sandy clay loam which was dark brown in colour. It contained numerous sub-rounded to sub-angular stones around 20mm long and also some fragments of 19th century pottery. The layer was 0.25m thick, again slightly thicker at the northern end of the trench. A linear feature was observed in the subsoil, 6.5m from the northern end of the trench and running roughly east/west across the trench. The cut of the feature (C503: Plate 18) was around 0.5m wide and filled with grey sandy clay (C504). Investigation suggested that it may have been a cultivation ridge cut into the natural subsoil (C505). The subsoil in Trench 5 consisted of orange sandy with no other features. The surface was encountered at a depth of 0.35-0.40m.

Two linear features were recorded running across east/west across the site (Figure 5). The first was uncovered in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 (C303/304, C403/404 and C503/504). It was found to be around 0.50m wide, 0.20m deep and filled with grey sandy clay with no apparent artefactual remains. The second linear feature (C305/306) was observed in Trench 3 only. It too was around 0.50m wide, 0.20m thick and filled with grey sandy clay. There were no associated artefacts.

The exact nature of the linear features is unclear. They could be cultivation ridges or relict field boundaries associated with the old dwelling house. However, previous evaluations in the area of the mound revealed linear ditches. The mound (DOW 057:008) is thought to date to the medieval period and therefore it is possible that the linear features uncovered during the evaluation are part of a relict medieval field system.

It is recommended that the area of the footprint of the proposed development is stripped of topsoil and that the features are planned. Following this it is proposed that small cuttings are excavated across the linear features (and any additional features recorded) with the intention of providing dateable evidence. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual 'Excavations' bulletin and, if necessary, a short article will be written for a journal such as the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs:

The digital images taken during the evaluation are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

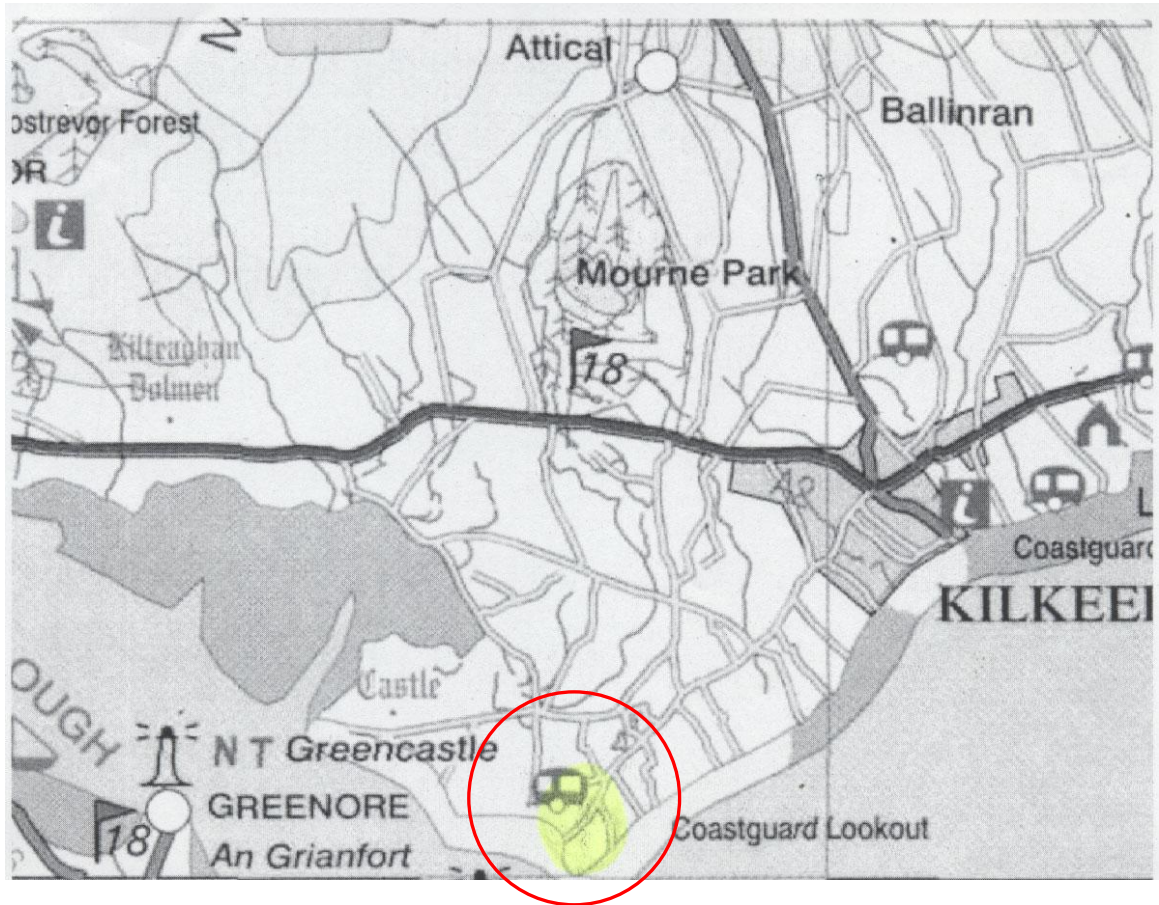


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the site (circled in red)



Figure 2: Detailed map showing the location of the site (circled in red) with the mound (NISMR DOW 057:008) to the south-west

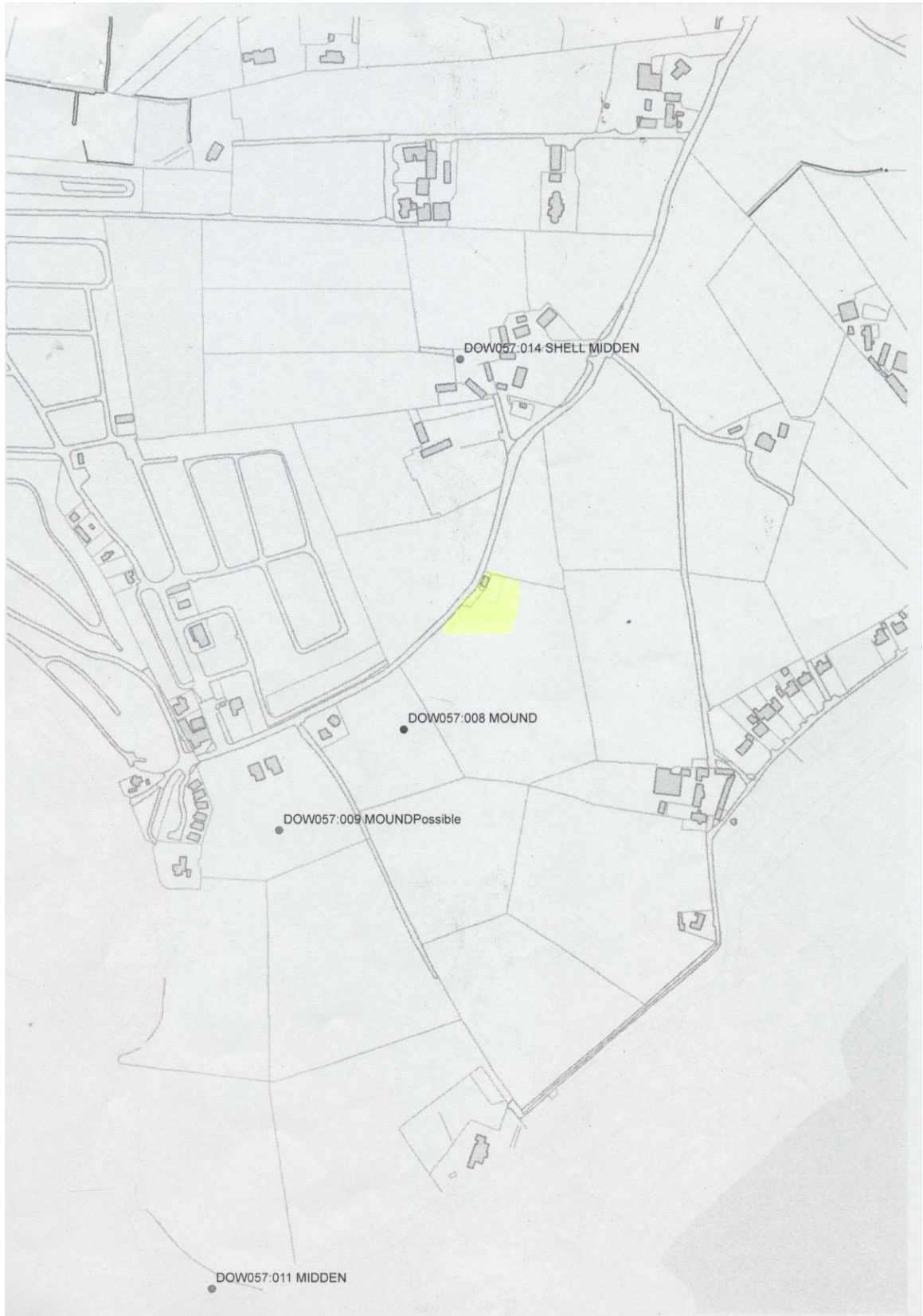


Figure 3: Site plan showing location of proposed development with nearby sites of archaeological interest

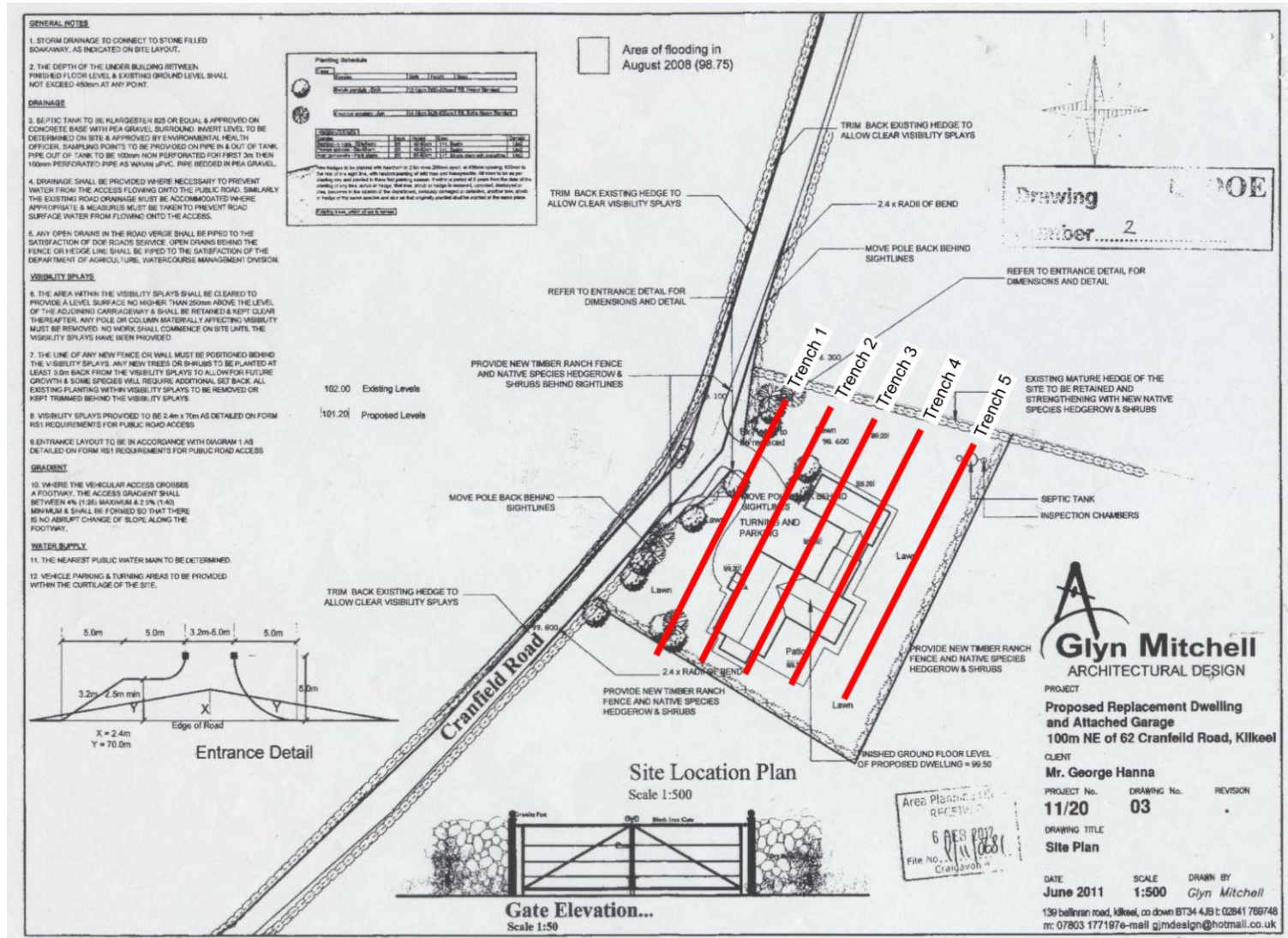


Figure 4: Architect's drawing showing location of test trenches

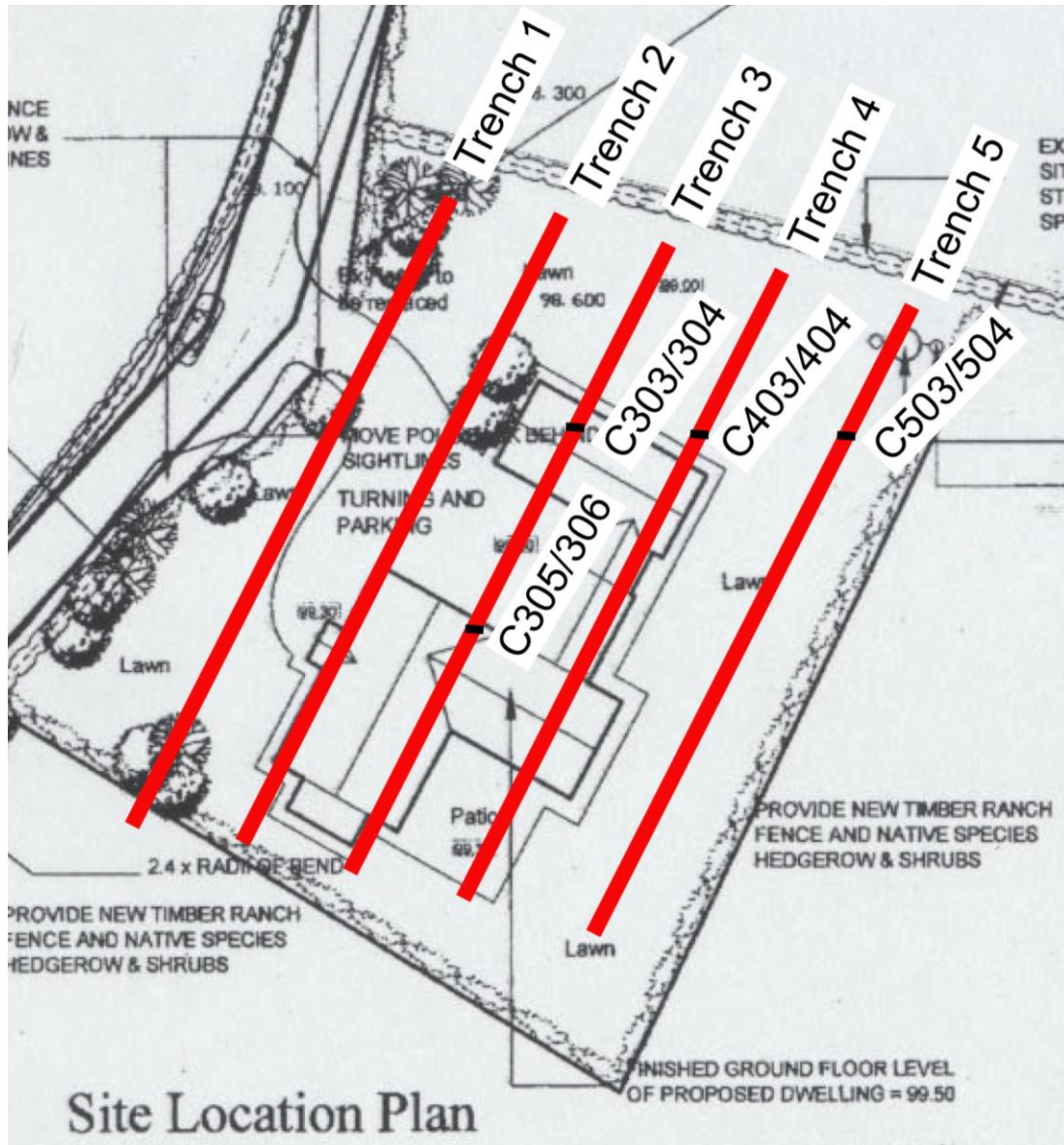


Figure 5: Close-up view of test trenches showing approximate location of the linear features



Plate 1: General view of the proposed development site, looking north-east



Plate 2: General view of the proposed development site, looking south-east



Plate 3: General view of the proposed development site, looking south towards the mound (NISMR DOW 057:008)



Plate 4: General view of the proposed development site and showing the old dwelling house, looking north-east



Plate 5: Trench 1 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north



Plate 6: West-facing section of Trench 1, looking east



Plate 7: Trench 2 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north



Plate 8: East-facing section of Trench 2, looking west



Plate 9: Trench 3 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 10: West-facing section of Trench 3, looking east



Plate 11: Linear feature in Trench 3 (C303/304), looking south



Plate 12: Linear feature in Trench 3 (C305/306), looking south



Plate 13: Trench 4 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 14: West-facing section of Trench 4, looking east



Plate 15: Linear feature in Trench 4 (C403/404), looking north



Plate 16: Trench 5 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north



Plate 17: East-facing section of Trench 5, looking west



Plate 18: Linear feature in Trench 5 (C503/504), looking south