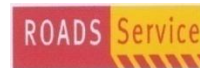


**Interim Stratigraphic Report of  
Excavations  
A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road  
Area 10, Site 104**



<b>Ministerial Direction no:</b>	E3789
<b>Chainage:</b>	10120
<b>NGR:</b>	307991E, 314134N
<b>Townland:</b>	Drumnacarra
<b>Parish:</b>	Ballymascanlan
<b>County:</b>	Louth
<b>Country:</b>	Republic of Ireland
<b>Director:</b>	Ruairí Ó Baoill
<b>Submitted:</b>	September 2005

**Interim Stratigraphic Report  
of Excavations Along the  
A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road  
Area 10, Site 104**

**Director:** Ruairí Ó Baoill

**Compiled by:** Archaeological Development Services Ltd

**Chainage:** 10120

**NGR:** 307991E, 314134N

**Townland:** Drumnacarra

**Parish:** Ballymascanlan

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**Submitted:** September 2005



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## **Abstract**

*Louth County Council, the Roads Service NI (Department for Regional Development) and the National Roads Authority are currently proposing a Road Scheme, the A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Road. The route consists of 14.2km of 2-lane dual carriageway with 5.7km of associated link roads from Cloghoge roundabout, south of Newry to the Ballymascanlan interchange north of Dundalk. The proposed route was tested for archaeological and historic remains during Phase 1 of the project, after which this site was determined eligible for further archaeological excavations.*

*The site was divided into three areas the northwest, the middle-north and the east. In the northwest area, the archaeological remains appeared to represent repeated episodes of burning. Here the archaeology consisted of a posthole, two charcoal spreads and three pits. They were all discreet features as there were no stratigraphic links between any of the features to indicate either their chronology or contemporaneity. The three pit features would appear to be a series of hearths.*

*The area of the site designated middle-north contained a stratified sequence of archaeological deposits consisting of two deliberately scarped features in the natural associated with a large area of burning. It would appear that some sort of communal activity, either cooking or perhaps ritual, was taking place at this location. There appeared to be an effort to mask the burning activity by laying down various layers of redeposited natural on top of the charcoal within the cut. Later, the digging of a linear feature damaged the earlier features. This cut, both in orientation and dimensions, has all the appearance of an early medieval grave but no remains were recovered from its basal fill. However, attributes of the feature including the digging of the berm or ledge at its south side, the orientation of the feature, the presence of a cairn of stones that slumped into the main cut and the possible stone marker socket all suggest a burial.*

*In the east area, there were two features, an irregularly shaped oblong cut and a circular pit. They were both discreet features, as there was no stratigraphic link between either of the features to illuminate either chronology or contemporaneity.*

*The excavations found no evidence for a 'ring ditch' or 'ploughed out barrow', suggested from the Phase 1 archaeological testing. However, there was evidence of small scale, multi-period activity across the site. The lack of artifacts retrieved from site hinders close preliminary dating of the features investigated. It is hoped that more information may be gained when the radiocarbon dates from the various samples taken are analysed.*

## **1 Description of the Site and Location**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The National Roads Authority (NRA) for the Republic of Ireland and Department for Regional Development (DRD) for Northern Ireland are the authorities in charge of the proposal to construct a new road between Newry and Dundalk. As part of the road works, Archaeological Development Services Ltd (ADS) was commissioned to perform an archaeological assessment along the proposed Link Road and to mitigate the impacts of any construction on archaeological resources. The following report details the results of the fieldwork at Site 104 that followed the recommendations of the assessment of Features 14 and 15 (McConway and Lynch 2005).

The proposed scheme involves a 14km route with 5.7km of associated link roads (Fig. 1). Upgrading the key transport corridors and associated trunk road links will provide a strategic framework for infrastructure investment, improvement of public transport, future urban and economic development especially for large-scale sites to accommodate industry and commerce and assisting tourist travel around the region.

This report describes the results of excavations carried out from May 30 to June 13, 2005. Staff of ADS carried out archaeological work on behalf of the developers under the direction of Ruairí Ó Baoill. This section of the project occurs in Drumnasillagh Townland, Ballymascanlan Parish, Co. Louth; at National Grid Reference 307991E, 314134N (centre point), Ordnance Datum (OD) of around 73.6m and road scheme Chainage 10120.

The director would like to acknowledge Site Supervisors Martin Keery and Mary O' Brien and archaeologists Felim MacGabhan, Brendan Malone, Patricia Ryan and Emma Taylor.

### **1.2 Site description**

#### **1.2.1 Topography**

The existing landscape character of the study area is a result of previous glacial, geological and human impacts (Figs 1, 2 and 3; Plate 1)<sup>1</sup>. The study area is contained within a mountainous backdrop known as the Ring of Gullion. Slieve Gullion defines the western extent of the study area and lies at the centre of the Ring of Gullion. To the north lies Camlough Mountain and Fathom Mountain. The eastern boundary is defined by the western edge of the Carlingford Mountains and

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<sup>1</sup> This information has been taken directly from the A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Environmental Statement/Environmental Impact Statement Non-Technical Summary prepared by RPS Ireland Environmental Sciences



specifically Black Mountain. The southern edge of the Ring of Gullion is contained within the study area and includes Feede Mountain and Slievenabolea. Between the mountains of the Ring lies a broad gently undulating agricultural landscape. South of Feede Mountain the study area levels off gently undulating to Dundalk Bay.

### **1.2.2 Geology**

Buckley and Sweetman (1991, 10) identify the dominant bedrock in the site area as granophyre, which is part of the Carlingford Igneous Complex. Granophyre refers to fine-grained granitic material, commonly though not always with graphic intergrowths. Granophyre contains quartz and feldspar crystals, in a fine-grained microgranite. Granophyre is a characteristic result of metamorphic recrystallization in the presence of active fluids, completely changing the texture of a rock while the basic chemical composition changes very little. In composition, granophyre is typical granite, but the texture has been metamorphosed. At Slieve Gullion in Northern Ireland, there was a transformation of very old granodiorite (granite with roughly equal amounts of potassium and soda feldspar) into newer granophyre while in the Northwest Scottish Highlands old Torridonian sandstone has also been found transformed into granophyre.

### **1.2.3 Archaeological and historical background**

The road follows a natural route way through mountainous terrain that may have been in use from the prehistoric period. There are numerous monuments (following) recorded near the route date from the Neolithic period to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century AD (Buckley and Sweetman 1991).

**Previously known sites within 1km of the current site.** A search of the “Archaeological Survey of County Louth” (Buckley and Sweetman 1991) and of the SMR shows that there are twelve known prehistoric and historic sites in the area. These include the following seventeen sites, listed by townland, the SMR number, the Buckley and Sweetman page number their reference number (1991) and the description (usually shortened) presented in Buckley and Sweetman (1991). All of the sites are in the Republic of Ireland (Fig. 3).

SMR:	LH004-008 (01), (02) (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, (01) 171 Survey No. 618; (02) 122 Survey No. 321)
Townland:	Drumnasillagh
Parish:	Ballymascanlan
Barony:	Lower Dundalk
County:	Louth
NGR:	307670E, 313830N
Description:	(01) Ringfort oval area (int. diams. 50m NNW-SSE, 29m WSW-ENE) enclosed by much altered and gasped bank (W 5m, H c. 1.1m). From NNE-E the bank is replaced by a modern stonewall. Original entrance not identifiable. No visible fosse. Souterrain [(02) below] in interior.
NGR:	307670E, 313840N

- Description: (02) Souterrain situated in the interior of a ringfort [(01) above] (*CLAJ* 1909, 137-8). Now inaccessible.
- SMR: LH004-009 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, 158 Survey No. 549)
- Townland: Anaverna
- Parish: Ballymascanlan
- Barony: Lower Dundalk
- County: Louth
- NGR: 308980E, 314200N
- Description: Ringfort subcircular area (int. diams. 24m E-W, 21m N-S) enclosed by earthen bank on W (W 4m; H 0.05m internally, 1.7m externally), and on E by bank obscured by modern field walls.
- SMR: LH004-030 (01), (02) (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, (01) 158 Survey No. 546; (02) 100 Survey No. 262)
- Townland: Aghnaskeagh
- Parish: Ballymascanlan
- Barony: Lower Dundalk
- County: Louth
- NGR: 307550E, 313300N
- Description: (01) Ringfort oval area (int. diams. 44m NNW-SSE, 24m WSW-ENE) enclosed by earthen bank (W 5m, H 1.3m externally) with traces of stone facing. Souterrain [(02) below] in NW quadrant of interior.
- NGR: 307330E, 313310N
- Description: (02) Souterrain lintels showing on surface of interior of ringfort [(01) above] (*CLAJ* 1908, 29)
- SMR: LH004-031 (01), (02) (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, (01) 158 Survey No. 547; (02) 100 Survey No. 263)
- Townland: Aghnaskeagh
- Parish: Ballymascanlan
- Barony: Lower Dundalk
- County: Louth
- NGR: 307300E, 313200N
- Description: (01) Ringfort circular area (diam. 32m) enclosed by earthen bank (W 6.5m, H 1.2m externally) and external fosse (W 7m) with traces of outer bank, obscured by later field boundaries. Remains of souterrain [(02) below] in SE quadrant of interior.
- NGR: 307300E, 313200N
- Description: (02) Souterrain situated in ringfort [(01) above]. Stone-lined depression, running E-W with slight turn to S at W end, located in SE quadrant of ringfort is probably the remains of a partially collapsed souterrain.
- SMR: LH004-032 (01), (02), (03) [Buckley and Sweetman 1991, 25 Survey No. 39 (01), 63 Survey No. 137 (02) and 94 Survey No. 249 (03)]
- Townland: Aghnaskeagh
- Parish: Ballymascanlan
- Barony: Lower Dundalk
- County: Louth
- NGR: 307550E, 313690N
- Description: Cairn 'Cairn A', excavated by E. E. Evans in 1934 (*CLAJ* 1935, 234-55).
- NGR: 307550E, 313690N
- Description: (01) Portal tomb: This monument was excavated in 1934 by E.E. Evans (*CLAJ* 1935, 234-55). It comprises an oval cairn (above) 17.5m long by 11m wide, orientated NNE-SSW incorporating a portal-tomb to the E and six Bronze Age cists to the W. The tomb, facing N, is represented by portal stones, each 2.7m high, and a back stone

- standing 2m to the S. The chamber area contained four pockets of cremated bone with some Neolithic and Bronze Age potsherds and a blue glass bead. The cists [No. (02) below] yielded cremations and food vessels. Evidence of iron smelting was recovered from a furnace area [No. (03) below] immediately N of the cairn.
- NGR: 307550E, 313690N
- Description: (02) Cists. Six short cists, aligned NW-SE, were found during excavations by E. E. Evans of Cairn A at Aghnaskeagh. These secondary burials, dating to the Bronze Age, were W and SW of the megalith (individual descriptions omitted).
- NGR: 307550E, 313690N
- Description: (03) Iron working furnace. Excavated by E. E. Evans in 1934. At NE end of cairn [No. (01) above] was a primitive furnace, 'stoke hole' and flue used in iron working. The structure consisted of an unlined furnace, using fused clay as walling. This type of bowl furnace probably had courses of stone added as heightening. Extending from the bowl was a flue (L c. 2m, W c. 0.3m) roughly D-shaped in section. The door of the furnace faced SW, obviously to catch the prevailing wind, and led to a small 'stoke hole' and a paved pathway (L c. 1.7m) of granite slabs. The excavator has suggested that smelting took place at the mouth of Cist 3 [No. (02) above].
- SMR: LH004-033 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, Survey No. 40)
- Townland: Aghnaskeagh
- Parish: Ballymascanlan
- Barony: Lower Dundalk
- County: Louth
- NGR: 307570E, 313650N
- Description: Court tomb: This monument, which lies 40m to the S of No. 39 [LH004-032 (01)] was excavated in 1935 by E. E. Evans (*CLAJ* 1937, 1-18). It comprises the remains of a cairn, 15m long orientated NNW-SSE, and a narrowing from about 8m wide at the S to 6m at the N. The cairn, revetted on the E and W with dry walling, incorporates four small chambers, two opening at the E and two to the W. Although Evans considered that the NW chamber may have opened to the N, the morphological evidence indicates that it probably opened to the W. Finds from the chambers included cremated bone, Neolithic potsherds and flints, including two hollow scrapers. The chambers are clearly comparable to the subsidiary chambers found in court-tombs.
- SMR: LH004-034 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, 171 Survey No. 617)
- Townland: Drumnacarra
- Parish: Ballymascanlan
- Barony: Lower Dundalk
- County: Louth
- NGR: 308220E, 313590N
- Description: Ringfort subcircular area (int. dims. 26.5m N-S, 24m E-W) enclosed by earthen bank (W 3.3m, H 0.9m) with internal and external stone facing. No visible trace of fosse. Entrance gap (W 5.6m) at SW.
- SMR: LH004-035 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, 171 Survey No. 616)
- Townland: Drumnacarra
- Parish: Ballymascanlan
- Barony: Lower Dundalk
- County: Louth
- NGR: 308270E, 313360N
- Description: Ringfort subcircular area (int. dims. 35.5m N-S, 32.5m EW) enclosed by a bank (W 5m, H 0.6m internally, 1.1m externally) with internal and external stone facings and a basal course of large stones. Probable entrance gap (W 1.5m) at ESE. No visible trace of fosse.

SMR: LH004-036 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, 28 Survey No. 44)  
 Townland: Drumnasillagh  
 Parish: Ballymascanlan  
 Barony: Lower Dundalk  
 County: Louth  
 NGR: 307950E, 313240N  
 Description: Court tomb is incorporated in a roughly trapezoidal cairn some 30m long and 20m wide at the WSW, narrowing to 7.1m wide at the ESE. There is a well-defined court at the W leading to the gallery area that is covered by cairn material. The court, 7.5m wide and 6m deep, embraces almost three-quarters of a circle and is represented by 14 orthostats, 7 at either side. Two large slabs lie at the inner end of the court. A single façade stone stands beyond the N arm of the court. Two kerb stones are exposed at the E end of the cairn and a field wall runs along its southern side.

SMR: LH004-037 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, 88 Survey No. 234)  
 Townland: Drumnasillagh  
 Parish: Ballymascanlan  
 Barony: Lower Dundalk  
 County: Louth  
 NGR: 308080E, 313120N  
 Description: *Fulacht fiadh* situated in a small swampy valley, between ridges of light soil to E and W. Immediately to E of mound is a small stream, probably the original source of water for the trough. The site consists of an irregularly shaped mound (max. dims. 15m by 9m, H 0.6m) of burnt stone and charcoal with trough depression to E. To W and S are low irregular banks extending from the mound, comprised of mound material. However, their exact relationship to the mound is indeterminate.

SMR: LH004-123 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, Survey No. Not Listed)  
 Townland: Anaverna  
 Parish: Ballymascanlan  
 Barony: Lower Dundalk  
 County: Louth  
 NGR: 309050E, 314090N  
 Description: Sweathouse, no further information.

SMR: LH004-128 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991, Survey No. Not Listed)  
 Townland: Ravensdale Park  
 Parish: Ballymascanlan  
 Barony: Lower Dundalk  
 County: Louth  
 NGR: 308110E, 315360N  
 Description: Court tomb no further information.

**Sites known from the current project.** Current work has identified a considerable number of archaeological sites within 1km of this location (Figs 2 and 3). Positive results of trial pits excavations along the route were reported in 2005 (McConway and Lynch). Sites investigated within one mile of this excavation during the current project include:

Three sites were in a cluster approximately 250m south of Site 104. These consisted of:

- **Site 105** where a 20m by 20m area was stripped down to the stony subsoil to reveal two plough furrows, several shallow pits, perhaps the result of spade cultivation, and a linear feature, perhaps a ditch or possibly the result of mechanical ridging. These features all had a similar fill and some contained sherds of modern pottery. Some burnt areas, noted during the testing phase, proved to be no more than thin spreads of charcoal-rich topsoil.
- **Site 106** was where Phase 1 testing revealed two potentially significant features; Feature 10 was a spread of charcoal flecked silty soil with stone inclusions, Feature 11 was 13m north of Feature 10 and consisted of a circular spread of ash and charcoal that continued into the northern baulk. In order to investigate the deposits an area measuring 20 by 20m was stripped of topsoil after which several additional potentially significant features were exposed in plan. In the course of the excavation, twenty-seven contexts consisting of ten cuts and sixteen fills or deposits were investigated. All of the excavated features appear to be related to post medieval agriculture, these include a wall foundation, burnt tree bowls, agricultural furrows and a field drain (Powell 2005a).
- **Site 107** consisted of a single large pit were excavated at this site. Both are thought to have resulted from modern farming activities associated with an adjacent farmhouse (Powell 2005b).

A further three sites were in a cluster centered approximately 700m south of Site 104. These were:

- **Site 108** this was Feature 8 from testing (McConway and Lynch 2005). Initially the site consisted of a concentrated charcoal spread 0.66m by 0.8m. Following surface stripping five pits, two of which may be hearths, and one stakehole were discovered and excavated.
- **Site 109** was the designation for a cluster of features found in testing. Feature 7 was the northernmost feature in the cluster of features. It was identified as two teardrop shaped spreads of charcoal flecked soil 0.75m c 0.5m. These features lay beside one another and continued into the northern baulk. Feature 6 lay 25m to the southeast of Feature 7 and consisted of a spread of brown/grey silt 2.60m by 1.00m. The eastern edge of this spread continued into the baulk. Feature 5 lay 30m to the southwest of feature 6 and consisted of a subcircular silty soil with charcoal inclusions 0.34m by 0.24m. Feature 4 lay 40m to the west of Feature 5 and consisted of two apparently discreet spreads of charcoal 0.50m by 0.20m. Feature 3 lay 20m south of feature 4 and was the southernmost feature in the cluster of Features 3 –7. It consisted of a roughly oval spread of charcoal flecked brown/grey soil 0.50m by 0.55m.
- **Site 110** was composed of testing Feature 2; it consisted of a small spread of burnt clay and charcoal 0.5m by 0.2m.

## **2 A Description of the Works Carried Out**

### **2.1 Reason for the excavation**

The principal objectives of the Roads Service in implementing the scheme are to improve the conditions for road users by reducing journey times between the major commercial centres, together with an improvement in road safety. The specific objectives are:

- To contribute to the improvement of the Regional Strategic Transport Network and major transport links with Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland;
- To reduce vehicle operating times and costs;
- To facilitate freight transport;
- To improve road safety and improve pedestrian and cycle access and safety.

### **2.2 Excavation methods**

#### ***2.2.1 Phasing***

The road works have been divided into 2 phases: Phase 1 included (a) the archaeological evaluation of known sites, possible sites and areas of archaeological potential and (b) the recording and evaluation of standing buildings/structures at identified locations. Phase 2, reported here, includes the resolution of any sites identified by the works.

#### ***2.2.2 Desk top study***

A desktop study of archaeological and cultural heritage sites was reported in the Environmental Impact Statement for the project (RPS 2002a, 236; 2002b). A particular emphasis was paid to sites with 1km of what was then the proposed route alignment.

#### ***2.2.3 Phase 1 archaeological testing***

Area 10 was considered an area of high archaeological potential, situated in good farmland within an archaeologically sensitive landscape. The potential for uncovering settlement sites was investigated and evaluated under Phase 1 of the contract by means of test excavation and a metal detecting (Project Sub No: A002/008) and wade survey (Project Sub No: A002/007) of the stream.

The Phase 1 report discusses the archaeological findings within Area 10, at Drumsillagh and Aghnaskeagh townland, between chainages 10000-10925 (McConway and Lynch 2005). Patricia Lynch carried out testing in this area under project sub number A002/002 from November 15-23, 2004.

The purpose for and the methodology employed in the Phase I testing included:

- To fully expose, investigate, record and resolve archaeological deposits uncovered in and all deposits associated with these.
- Resolution of the archaeological features described above was carried out by a licenced director, a supervisor, two assistants and four general operatives.
- A 100 by 40m area was appropriately opened over the features under archaeological supervision to the latest archaeological horizon or to the upper surface of natural geology, whichever occurs first. The area will be manually cleaned and examined for further archaeological deposits.
- All archaeological deposits were surveyed in to a site grid and in relation to their position on the road.
- All deposits were recorded and investigated by methods appropriate to their nature and complexity using best archaeological practice.
- Methods used included sectioning, planning and photographing the deposits, investigating the stratigraphic relationship with other deposits if appropriate, compiling a written record of the deposits via a context sheets

The dispersed nature of the discoveries made during the testing required the division of the original Area 10 into several sites; A1/N1-104 (reported here), A1/N1-105 (Turrell 2005), A1/N1-106 (Powell 2005a) and A1/N1-107 (Powell 2005b). At this location, Site 104, the test excavations revealed two features that required further investigation. As it was determined likely that more subsurface archaeological deposits, which may or may not be associated with the deposits described above, would be uncovered during the excavation of the identified archaeological deposits and the road construction a wide area was topsoil stripped around each of the features discovered in testing.

The two original features that were recommended for further work, and the features found while investigation these; lay to the immediate west of the present N1 (McConway and Lynch 2005, Fig. 5). The two features found in testing were:

- **Feature 14** was a spread of charcoal rich soil 1.40 by 1.00m. This spread continued into both the northern and eastern baulks and two flint pebbles were recovered from the fill.
- **Feature 15** lay approximately 60m north of Feature 14 and consisted of a curvilinear gully, possibly a ring ditch/ploughed out barrow, which continued under the western baulk and as uncovered, defined an area 4.40 by 1.90m. This feature has been interpreted as a ring ditch/ploughed out barrow. . It was recommended that this feature be fully stripped of topsoil and investigated.

As it was determined likely that additional subsurface archaeological deposits would be associated with the known features it was also recommended that an appropriate area around each feature be topsoil stripped. All features exposed from the stripping were to be fully investigated. If it became apparent that these features form part of a more extensive archaeological landscape then it was recommended that an appropriate area be opened up on plan in order to fully investigate and record any discovered features.

#### **2.2.4 Phase 2 archaeological excavations**

**Recording strategy.** Recording was by means of ‘best archaeological practise’ with the primary records of these excavations consisting of written and drawn records, photographs, survey data, finds and samples. The stratigraphic record was primarily made on context record sheets, of the standard type used by ADS. These are supplemented by information from the site daybook, photographs, notebooks, plans and sections. Nine contexts were recorded at the site that included three cuts and six fills; one context, topsoil (**001**), contained finds (Appendices I and II). Field surveying equipment consisted of an Ashtech DGPS surveying suite, which allowed real-time data collection with horizontal accuracy of 0.005m +1ppm and vertical accuracy of 0.010m +2ppm.

The primary records of these excavations consist of written and drawn records, photographs, survey data, finds and samples. The stratigraphic record was primarily made on context record sheets, of the standard type used by ADS. These are supplemented by information from the site diary and notebooks.

All Phase 2 archaeological excavations were carried out in accordance with the Specification for Archaeological Rescue Excavation on Known Sites document (ADS 2005). Field methods included:

- An appropriately sized area around each of the deposits was fenced off and access to these areas by machinery and personnel denied until they have been resolved.
- The removal of topsoil was by judicious use of a machine fitted with a toothless bucket under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- All trenches were excavated to the latest archaeological horizon or to the upper surface of natural geology, whichever occurred first. If archaeological features were revealed these deposits were in the first instance, cordoned off using high visibility tape and access to these areas by machinery denied.
- All deposits were hand investigated using methods appropriate to their composition, nature and date and time was allowed for the archaeologist to undertake the appropriate level of recording.



- The level of recording depended on the nature and extent of the archaeological remains encountered. All deposits were recorded on plan (in relation to the site grid), photographed and if appropriate, their location surveyed in advance of hand excavation.
- Excavation of deposits was carried out by sectioning using methods appropriate to their composition and nature.
- Contexts were sampled for palaeobotanical material, radiocarbon dating, soil micromorphology, petrology, wood identification, etc.
- All sections and cut features were photographed and drawn.
- The position of all finds and samples were recorded in three-dimensions (when practicable) in relation to the site grid.
- Sampling strategies depended upon the dimensions, make up and complexity of the archaeological remains encountered.
- A day book was maintained where all archaeological features were recorded in writing utilizing ADS context sheets, scaled field illustrations and by both slide and digital photography.
- All finds were logged according to context, bagged and catalogued.
- A contract conservator was on call if necessary.
- All finds are stored in our post excavation unit at Kells, Co. Meath and will ultimately be stored in whatever facility the State will provide.
- Excavation or preservation by record was carried out on archaeological deposits that will be impacted on by the construction of the road scheme.

### ***2.2.5 Health and safety documents***

It is the policy of ADS to comply with the Health & Safety at Work Acts and the Construction Safety, Health & Welfare Regulations and to ensure so far as reasonably practicable the safety, health and welfare of all employees whilst at work, and to provide such information, training and supervision needed for this purpose. To comply with these acts and regulations the works were conducted following the procedures and principles laid out in the company health and safety document (ADS 2003). Special attention to health and safety will be paid in areas close to rivers, streams, woodland, marshy ground and overhead power lines. ADS can confirm that the excavation crews all hold a valid safe pass certificate.

### ***2.2.6 Staff involved***

Martin Keery and Mary O' Brien –were the site supervisors; Felim MacGabhan, Brendan Malone, Patricia Ryan and Emma Taylor were site archaeologists.

### 3 Excavation Records-Phase 2

A number of sites were identified that contained archaeological remains during the Phase 1 archaeological testing carried out in advance of the construction of the A1/N1 Newry to Dundalk Link Road. In Summer 2005, a second phase of archaeological investigations took place on these sites to further investigate and mitigate the archaeology uncovered in Phase 1 (Figs 1 and 5).

This report details the results of the excavation that took place from 30 May to 13 June 2005 at Area 10, Site 104, under the direction of the author. The site consisted of a roughly triangular-shaped field, whose tip lay at the southern end. Three areas of archaeology were identified within the site. The first of these consisted of a series of charcoal spreads, pits and postholes close to the north of the field. The second, located in the middle of the site, was an area of scarping with associated charcoal, probably prehistoric, cut by a later grave cut of probable early medieval date. A large pit filled with stones to the west of these was probably a modern field drainage sump. The last area containing was located along the south side of the site and took the form of several charcoal spreads.

#### 3.1 The features in the north of the site

The archaeology in the north of the field consisted of (cut/fill) a posthole **(034)/(001)**, two charcoal spreads **(002)** and **(062)**, and three pits **(035)/(003)**, **(050)/(004)** and **(071)** with fills **(058)**, **(069)** and **(070)**. They were all discreet features, located directly under topsoil and either cut into or lying directly on top of natural (Figs 5, 6 and 7d; Plate 2).

Posthole **(034)** was 0.35m in diameter and 0.30m deep; it was located below topsoil and cut into natural (Figs 5, 6 and 7a). The single fill **(001)** consisted of a loose brown soil containing at least one medium-sized packing stone.

A roughly oval-shaped charcoal spread **(002)**, containing moderate amounts of small to medium sized stones, lay 0.80m to the northwest of the posthole. The spread covered a maximum area 0.60m north to south, by 1.20m east to west by 0.15m deep. The material lay directly over natural with no cut evident. Almost immediately adjacent but northwest of the charcoal spread was a shallow hearth **(035)/(003)**, cut into the natural. This was roughly diamond-shaped, with a maximum length and width, both southwest to northeast and northwest to southeast of 1m and it was a maximum of 0.20m deep. The single fill of the pit was a moderately compact grey ashy soil containing moderate amounts of charcoal and occasional small to medium sized stones. It spilled over beyond the limits of the pit cut and covered a maximum area of 1.50m northeast to southwest by 1.60m southeast to northwest. It would appear that the pit cut was a small hearth and over flow of fill represented rake out from the hearth. Immediately southwest of the hearth pit was a small sub-oval pit **(050)** cut into the natural. It

measured 0.50m northeast to southwest, by 0.20m southeast to northwest and it was 0.15m deep. The compact fill **(004)** was a mixture of brown soil and grey clay with charcoal flecking and small stones.

Southwest of the four features described above was the most substantial pit cut in this part of the site **(071)**. This was oval-shaped, oriented roughly east to west and cut into the natural (Figs 5, 6, 7b and 7c). The edges of the pit were steeply cut on its north side and sloping on the south side. It had maximum dimensions (across the top) of 2.70m east to west by 1.30m north to south. Dimensions that narrowed across the bottom to 1.80m east to west by 0.40m north to south. The pit was a maximum depth of 0.60m. The primary fill **(070)** was a layer of redeposited natural (compact creamy yellow clay), 0.15m deep. This seems to have been possibly laid down as a deliberate surface within the feature. Above it was a deposit of compact grey soil-clay mix, with a very high charcoal and ash content **(069)**. It was a maximum depth of 0.15m. The latest fill was a layer of charcoal and small to medium sized stones **(058)** that was a maximum of 0.30m deep. The pit cut and fills seems to represent a very large (communal) hearth or fire pit.

Close by and west of pit **(071)** was another charcoal spread **(062)**. It lay directly on top of natural and immediately below topsoil. The spread was a maximum length of 2.05m north to south, by 1.30m east to west and it was 0.05m deep.

### **3.1.1 Discussion**

Activity on this part of the site seems to represent many episodes of burning. However, there was no stratigraphic link between any of the features to illuminate either chronology or contemporaneity. There was no evidence of industrial working, structural remains or artefacts to help interpret more fully, and the features would appear to be a series of hearths.

## **3.2 The features in the middle of the site**

The only area of the site where there was a stratified sequence of archaeological episodes was in the middle-north of the site. This area was given its own dedicated grid designated 104/2 in the site archive to distinguish it from the rest of the site, which was designated 104/1.

The earliest feature uncovered was a large cut **(013)** in the natural (Figs 5, 6, 7e and 7f). This was roughly circular in shape and had a rounded base. The feature was 4m north to south by 3.25m east to west. It was 0.25m deep. The cut contained twelve fills **(012)**, **(022)**, **(023)**, **(025)**, **(026)**, **(030)** and **(053)** to **(056)**, **(064)** and **(065)**. The earliest fill was compact, mottled orange sandy clay **(056)** and covered an area within the cut of 0.30m east to west by 0.08m deep. It appeared to have collected in an old stone socket before the main activity connected with the cut had taken place. The primary fill was mottled grey silty clay **(055)**. This was a maximum of 1.80m east to west, by 1m north to south

and it was 0.10m deep. This in turn was below a deposit of compact grey sandy clay with some charcoal flecking and ash content **(054)**. Above this was a deposit of black-grey charcoal mixed with small amounts of sandy clay **(012)**. Within charcoal layer **(012)** were frequent medium and large stones, and occasional small stones [given a separate feature number **(057)**], which do not appear to have been structural. The charcoal layer was below four deposits of redeposited natural **(064)**, **(065)**, **(053)** and **(030)** all mottled orange sandy clays), which were also below another two layers of redeposited natural **(022)** and **(023)** brownish-orange sandy clays. These appear to be the final fills of cut **(013)** and were below two modern deposits, charcoal flecked grey sandy clay **(025)**, charcoal deposit **(026)** and topsoil.

Later, the scarped area was cut (to the east) by a similarly shaped feature **(073)** with fills **(033)**, **(038)**-**(039)**, **(051)**, **(052)**, **(059)** and **(060)**. It was roughly circular, 1.90m in diameter and approximately 0.20m deep (Figs 5, 6 and 7e). The primary fills **(051)**, **(052)**, **(059)** and **(060)** were silty clays. The main fill **(033)** was a deposit of charcoal and charred wood. Above these and below topsoil were two deposits of silty clays **(038)** and **(039)**.

Both circular pits were cut to the southeast and southwest respectively, by a deep linear feature **(020)** that was oriented northeast to southwest. This later feature was interpreted as a grave cut that consisted of an initial cut at the southern edge, which created a small platform around the southern side of the main cut (Figs 5, 6, 7f, 8, 9a and 9b; Plates 3 and 4). The overall cut was 2.50m northeast to southwest by 1.50m northwest to southeast. Within the main cut, this narrowed to 2m northeast to southwest by 0.80m northwest to southeast. It was approximately 0.65m deep. The basal fill of the main cut was black sandy clay, with frequent charcoal flecking **(063)**. It was only 0.05m deep. Above this, and constituting the main fill was large numbers of medium to large angular stones **(041)**, which had the appearance of a small cairn and was below topsoil.

Immediately northeast to the grave-cut, in the base of shallow pit **(073)** was a small pit cut **(072)/(061)**. The cut was 0.62m northeast to southwest, by 0.57m southeast to northwest and it was 0.29m deep (Figs 5, 6 and 7e; Plate 5). Although it was filled by loose grey gravelly-silty sand **(061)**, it may have been associated with a collapsed stone with the grave cut **(020)**. It is possible, therefore, that this stone may have been a grave marker, standing within cut **(072)**.

Immediately east of the cuts **(013)** and **(020)** was a third cut, oblong in shape **(015)**. It was 3.25m north to south, by 1.25m east to west and was 0.70m deep (Figs 5 and 6). The primary fill of the cut was compact brown-grey clay-sand **(037)**. Above this was a deposit of fine yellow-grey sand **(036)**. The primary fill was mostly large stones with a lesser number of small and medium stones **(014)**. The feature was almost certainly a modern soak away to aid drainage within the field.

Approximately 5m northwest of cut (013) was another cut (032) with fills (005) and (006). The pit was sub-oval in shape measuring a maximum of 1.70m north to south, by 1.60m east to west and 0.30m in depth (Figs 5 and 6). The primary fill (005) was a grey brown mix of ash and silty sand. The secondary fill (006) was a charcoal and ash mix. There was no evidence of *in situ* burning within the pit.

### 3.2.1 Discussion

Cuts (013) and (033) were deliberately scarped features in the natural that contained a large area of burning. It is unclear if the burning took place *in situ*, but it seems probable that it did. It would appear that some sort of communal activity, either cooking or perhaps ritual, was taking place at the site, probably in prehistoric times. Context (073) clearly replaced (013), but given the similarities, perhaps the function or ritual stayed the same. There was also a concerted effort to mask the burning activity by the laying down of the various layers of redeposited natural on top of the charcoal within the cut. This may again have had some ritual significance.

At some later stage, the earlier features were damaged by the digging of linear feature (020). This cut, both in orientation and dimensions, has all the appearance of a grave cut of probable early medieval date. No bones were recovered from the basal fill, but the digging of the berm or ledge at the southern side, the orientation of the feature and the cairn of stones, which has subsequently slumped into the main cut, and the possible stone marker socket all suggest burial practice. It is unknown whether the later cut was located within the earlier scarped areas by accident or design. As no artifacts were recovered from the fills of either feature, we are again reliant on environmental samples from the various fills to help fill out the story of the activities being carried out.

### 3.3 The features in the south of the site

This group took the form of an irregularly shaped oblong cut (049) with fills (047) and (048) and a circular pit (045)/(046). They were both discreet features, located directly under topsoil and either cut into or directly on top of natural (Figs 5, 6 and 7g; Plate 6).

Oblong pit cut (049) was oriented northwest to southeast, as the feature continued beyond the limits of the excavation, (to the east) its full extent was unknown (Figs 5 and 6). The known portion of the feature was 1.80m northwest to southeast, by 1.25m northeast to southwest and it was 0.22m deep. The primary fill (048) consisted of a shallow deposit of compact grey clay containing moderate amounts of small stones. Directly above this was the main pit fill (047). It was a mixture of mostly charcoal with some clay silt content. The only stratified artefact recovered during the excavation was a struck flint from this fill.

The circular pit cut (045) was 0.46m in diameter and 0.11m deep. It was filled with loose black silty clay (046).

### **3.3.1 Discussion**

Once again, there was no stratigraphic link between either of the features to illuminate either chronology or contemporaneity.

## **4 Summary**

The site was divided into three areas the northwest, the middle-north and the east to facilitate the description of the features. In the northwest area activities appeared to represent repeated episodes of burning. Here the archaeology consisted of a posthole, two charcoal spreads and three pits. They were all discreet features, located directly under topsoil and either cut into or lying directly on top of natural. There was no stratigraphic link between any of the features to illuminate either chronology or contemporaneity. There was no evidence of industrial working, structural remains or artefacts to help interpret more fully. The three pit features would appear to be a series of hearths.

The area of the site designated middle-north contained a stratified sequence of archaeological deposits consisting of two deliberately scarped features in the natural that were associated with a large area of burning. It would appear that some sort of communal activity, either cooking or perhaps ritual, was taking place at this location. There was also appeared to be an effort to mask the burning activity by laying down various layers of redeposited natural on top of the charcoal within the cut. This may again have had some ritual significance. At some later stage, the digging of a linear feature damaged the earlier features. This cut, both in orientation and dimensions, has all the appearance of a grave cut of probable early medieval date. No remains were recovered from the basal fill. However, attributes of the feature; digging of the berm or ledge at the southern side, the orientation of the feature, the cairn of stones that subsequently slumped into the main cut and the possible stone marker socket all suggest burial practice.

In the east, area there were two features an irregularly shaped oblong cut and a circular pit. They were both discreet features, located directly under topsoil and either cut into or directly on top of natural, there was no stratigraphic link between either of the features to illuminate either chronology or contemporaneity.

## 5 Conclusion

The excavation found no evidence for a ‘ring ditch’ or ‘ploughed out barrow’, suggested from the Phase 1 archaeological testing (McConway and Lynch 2005; Various, 2005, 12-13). However, there was evidence of small scale, multi-period activity across the site. The lack of temporally diagnostic artifacts retrieved from site hinders close preliminary dating of the features investigated. It is hoped that more information may be gained when the radiocarbon dates from the various samples taken are finally analysed.

## 6 Quantification of the Materials and Records

### 6.1 Quantity of the record

The site archive comprises those items listed in Table 1:

Table 1 Records Inventory

<b>Form</b>	<b>Number (after voids)</b>
Context Sheets	73
Photographs (Rolls)	82 Frames in 3 Rolls
Sections and Plans	Sections 19; Plans 15
Finds	1
Samples	13

#### 6.1.1 Context sheets

Seventy-three context sheets are archived at the ADS Dublin facility and are in queue for entry into the project database.

#### 6.1.2 Miscellaneous written records

Site Diary/ Daybook (with supplementary notes and correspondence). Miscellaneous administrative notes and correspondence.

#### 6.1.3 Drawings

Fifteen plans and nineteen sections/profiles.

## **6.2 Finds**

Only one piece of struck flint was recovered from the excavations (Appendix II). The artefact will be analysed by the appropriate specialist. Should additional artefacts be recovered from the processed samples they will be analysed by the appropriate specialists.

## **6.3 Samples**

Archaeobotanical remains, the floral component of archaeological deposits, result from a variety of events, cultural and non-cultural, deliberate and accidental, direct and indirect. Environmental analyses of select samples will include macrobotanical and microbotanical examinations. Of the sampled features and deposits, intact residential hearths and areas with primary spreads (those which have not undergone transformation processes) are the most valuable sources of food plant remains. For non-food remains, examinations of samples recovered from special use areas (i.e. the potential grave) are often the most informative.

A wide range of plant remains, from pollen and phytoliths to large fragments are necessary to assess the full breadth of man's resource production, management and exploitation. For this reason a mixed analysis stratagem is recommended that will include macrobotanical and microbotanical examinations.

Twelve soil and environmental samples were recovered from various contexts across the site. Central to our understanding of the site is the period in which they, these contexts, were in use. After sub samples for microbotanical analysis have been removed from the collected samples, (where applicable) each should be reduced by floatation with any finds catalogued and assigned to specific analysts and any burned botanical materials reserved for macrobotanical and radiocarbon analyses.

## **7 Recommendations**

### **7.1 Finds**

Only one piece of struck flint was recovered from the excavations (Appendix II). The artefact will be analysed by the appropriate specialist. Should additional artefacts be recovered from the processed samples they will be analysed by the appropriate specialists.

### **7.2 Samples**

#### ***7.2.1 Macrobotanical analysis***

The single best source of evidence for answering economic questions related to subsistence, fuel use and material culture is macrobotanical, that is, materials that can be seen with the naked eye. Such materials can be quantified and ultimately compared with faunal and other tangible aspects of an



archaeological assemblage including information recovered through pollen and other microbotanical analyses. Burned macrobotanical materials are best recovered through flotation of a soils sample. In the case where unburnt materials are suspected in the sample, they can be picked from the overall sample before flotation. If the intent is for the recovered remains to be used for radiocarbon analysis then all botanical materials recovered from the samples should undergo species identification before such analysis.

With the exception of Sample 6 that was recovered from a voided context, all environmental samples will undergo macrobotanical analyses. Particular attention will be paid to the sample from fill **(063)** recovered from cut **(020)** the possible grave, to check for fragmented human bone.

### ***7.2.2 Microbotanical analyses: pollen and phytolith***

Several types of analyses of samples that are botanic in origin can yield information that is important to the understanding or confirmation of the function of a site or its features. At this site, materials for analyses can be recovered as sub samples from the bulk soil samples.

The site director has selected samples for microbotanical analyses (Appendix III). These include **(030)** from cut **(013)** one of the fills of cuts from the area of scarping; and **(063)** the primary fill of the possible grave cut **(020)**

Pollen may be transported by wind and form part of a record of local and regional vegetation. Humans in the course of working with plants may also transport pollen more selectively. Pollen analysis can focus on interpretation of the past environment or also is a good tool for interpreting human exploitation of plants as foods, construction materials, or for a variety of utilitarian purposes. Pollen is surprisingly rugged and survives in sediments that many suppose would not be conducive to pollen preservation.

Phytoliths are silica bodies accumulated by plants when soluble silica in the ground water is absorbed by the plant roots and is carried up to the plant via the vascular system. Evaporation and metabolism of this water result in precipitation of the silica in and around the cell walls in plants that accumulate silica. Phytoliths are usually introduced directly into the soils in which the plants decay. Transportation of phytoliths occurs primarily by animal consumption, man's gathering of plants or by erosion or transportation of the soil by wind, water or ice.

### ***7.2.3 Radiocarbon analysis***

The site director proposes that the samples listed in Table 2 be sent for radiocarbon analysis. Three of these samples (**<1>**, **<8>** and **<10>**) are from the fills of the scarped area or fills **(013)** and **(073)**.

Another, Sample <12>, is from the hearth (071) and the last is from the feature that appears to be a grave cut (020). So then, the best of Samples <1>, <8> or <10>; Sample <11> and Sample <12> are recommended for radiocarbon analysis.

Table 2 Samples for radiocarbon analysis.

Context	Sample No.	Feature	Reason for sample
(012)	<10>	(013)	Charcoal. Fill of circular scarped area.
(022)	<1>	(013)	Fill of circular cut/scarped area.
(033)	<8>	(073)	Charcoal. Fill of scarped area.
(058)	<12>	(071)	Charcoal fill of fire pit/hearth
(063)	<11>	(020)	Primary fill of possible grave cut.

## 8 References

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- 2002a *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Environmental Statement Environmental Impact Statement*, Volume 1 Main Text.
- 2002b *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Environmental Statement Environmental Impact Statement*, Volume 2 Appendices.

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- 2005 *Final Report of Excavations at the A1/N1 Newry to Dundalk Link Road Area 10, Site 105*. Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development, Roads Service, Belfast.

## Appendices

### Appendix I Context log

Context	Grid	Type	Description
(001)	104/1	Fill	Brown soil. Fill of posthole cut (034).
(002)	104/1	Spread	Charcoal spread.
(003)	104/1	Fill	Ashy soil. Fill of hearth cut (035).
(004)	104/1	Fill	Mix of brown soil and grey clay. Fill of pit (050).
(005)	104/2	Fill	Grey ashy soil. Fill of pit cut (032).
(006)	104/2	Fill	Charcoal rich soil. Fill of pit cut (032).
(007)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(008)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(009)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(010)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(011)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(012)	104/2	Fill	Charcoal deposit. Contained stones (057). Fill of scarped cut (013).
(013)	104/2	Cut	Area of scarping. Filled with (012), (022), (023), (025), (026), (030), (053), (054), (055), (056), (064) and (065).
(014)	104/2	Fill	Deposit of stones. Fill of modern field soak away (015).
(015)	104/2	Cut	Drain. Modern field soak way (drainage). Filled with (014), (036) and (037).
(016)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(017)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(018)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(019)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(020)	104/2	Cut	Linear cut. Grave. Filled with (041) and (063).
(021)	-	-	Non Archaeological
(022)	104/2	Fill	Grey sandy clay. Redeposited natural. Fill of scarped cut (013). Same as (024).
(023)	104/2	Fill	Mottled sandy clay. Redeposited natural. Fill of scarped cut (013).
(024)	104/2	Fill	Same as (022).
(025)	104/2	Fill	Grey sandy clay. Fill of scarped cut (013). Modern deposit, immediately below topsoil.
(026)	104/2	Fill	Small area of charcoal. Fill of scarped cut (013). Modern deposit, immediately below topsoil.
(027)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(028)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(029)	-	-	Unused context number.
(030)	104/2	Fill	Mottled orange clay. Redeposited natural. Fill of scarped cut (013).
(031)	-	-	Non archaeological
(032)	104/2	Cut.	Pit. Filled with (005) and (006).
(033)	104/2	Fill	Charcoal. Filled of circular scarped cut (073).
(034)	104/1	Cut	Posthole. Filled with (001).
(035)	104/1	Cut	Diamond-shaped. Hearth. Filled with (003).
(036)	104/2	Fill	Yellow-grey fine sand. Redeposited natural. Fill of cut (015), modern field soak away.
(037)	104/2	Fill	Brown-grey clay sand. Fill of cut (015), modern field soak away.
(038)	104/2	Fill	Brown-grey silty sand. Fill of circular scarped cut (073).
(039)	104/2	Fill	Brown silty clay. Fill of circular scarped cut (073).
(040)	-	-	Non-archaeological.

Context	Grid	Type	Description
(041)	104/2	Fill	Cairn. Deposit of stones. Fill of possible grave cut (020).
(042)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(043)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(044)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(045)	104/1	Cut	Pit. Filled by (046).
(046)	104/1	Fill	Black silty clay. Fill of pit (045).
(047)	104/1	Fill	Charcoal. Fill of pit cut (049). Contained one piece of struck flint.
(048)	104/1	Fill	Grey clay. Fill of pit cut (049).
(049)	104/1	Cut	Pit. Filled by (047) and (048).
(050)	104/1	Cut	Pit. Filled by (004).
(051)	104/2	Fill	Grey silty clay. Fill of circular scarped cut (073).
(052)	104/2	Fill	Greasy grey silty sand. Fill of circular scarped cut (073).
(053)	104/2	Fill	Grey orange sandy clay. Fill of scarped cut (013).
(054)	104/2	Fill	Grey sandy clay. Fill of scarped cut (013).
(055)	104/2	Fill	Grey orange silty clay. Fill of scarped cut (013).
(056)	104/2	Fill	Orange sandy clay. Redeposited natural. Fill of scarped cut (013).
(057)	104/2	Fill	Deposit of stones within charcoal deposit (012). Fill of scarped cut (013).
(058)	104/1	Fill	Charcoal. Fill of fire pit/hearth (071).
(059)	104/2	Fill	Grey silty sand. Redeposited natural. Fill of circular scarped cut (073).
(060)	104/2	Fill	Grey brown silty clay. Redeposited natural. Similar to (059). Fill of circular scarped cut (073).
(061)	104/2	Fill	Mottled gravelly silty sand. Fill of pit (072).
(062)	104/1	Spread	Charcoal spread.
(063)	104/2	Fill	Grey brown sandy clay. Fill of grave cut, (020).
(064)	104/2	Fill	Grey orange clay sand. Fill of scarped cut (013).
(065)	104/2	Fill	Grey orange clay sand. Fill of scarped cut (013).
(066)	-	-	Non-archaeological (stone socket).
(067)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(068)	-	-	Non-archaeological.
(069)	104/1	Fill	Grey soil-clay mix with high charcoal content. Fill of fire pit/hearth (071).
(070)	104/1	Fill	Mottled yellow clay. Redeposited natural. Fill of fire pit/hearth (071).
(071)	104/1	Cut	Pit. Fire pit/hearth. Filled with (058), (069) and (070).
(072)	104/1	Cut	Pit. Filled by (061).
(073)	104/2	Cut	Circular area of scarping. Filled with (033), (038), (039), (051), (052), (059) and (060).

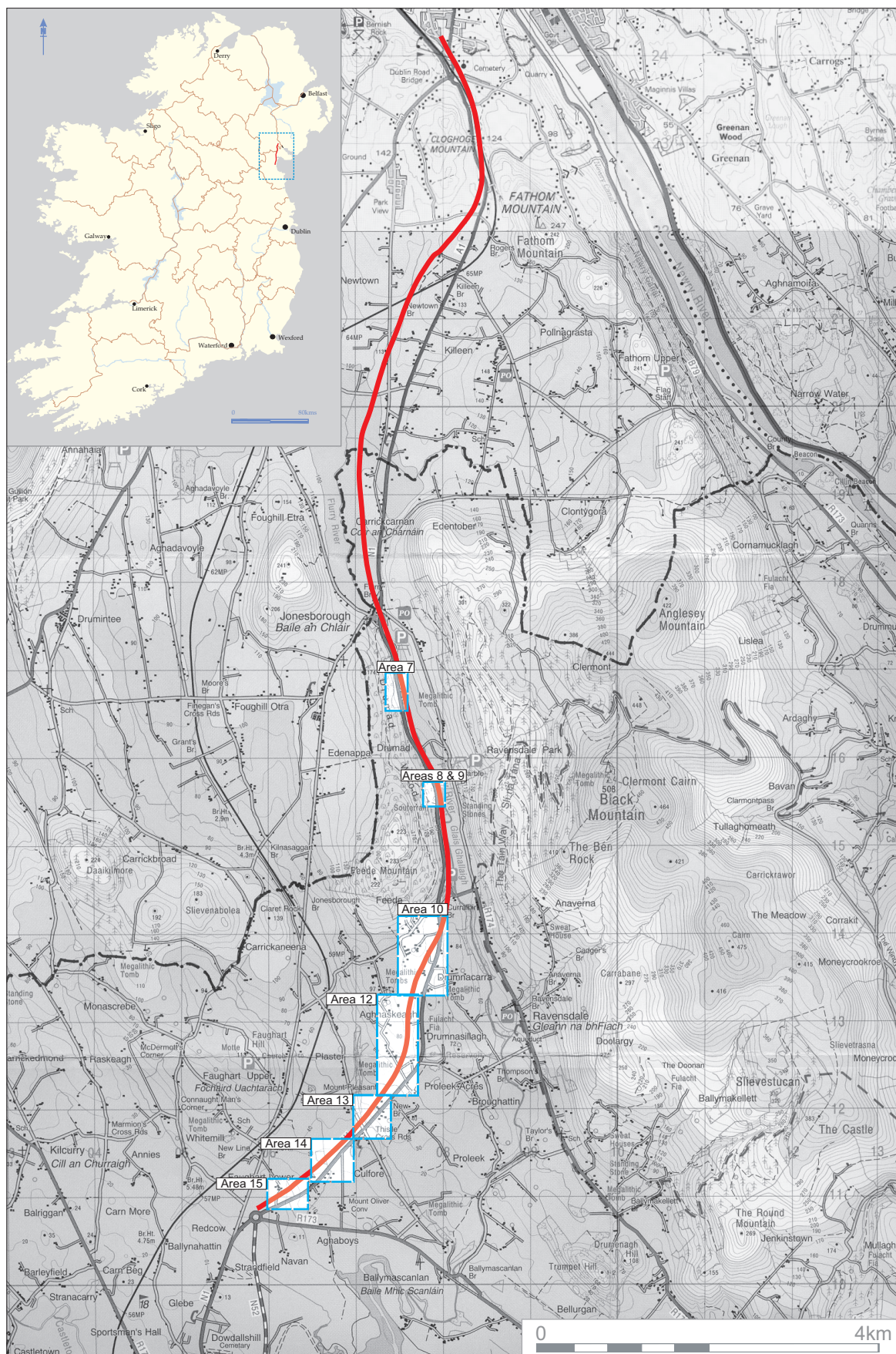
**Appendix II Finds per context list**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
(047) fill of pit (049)	Small piece of struck flint.

**Appendix III Sample list**

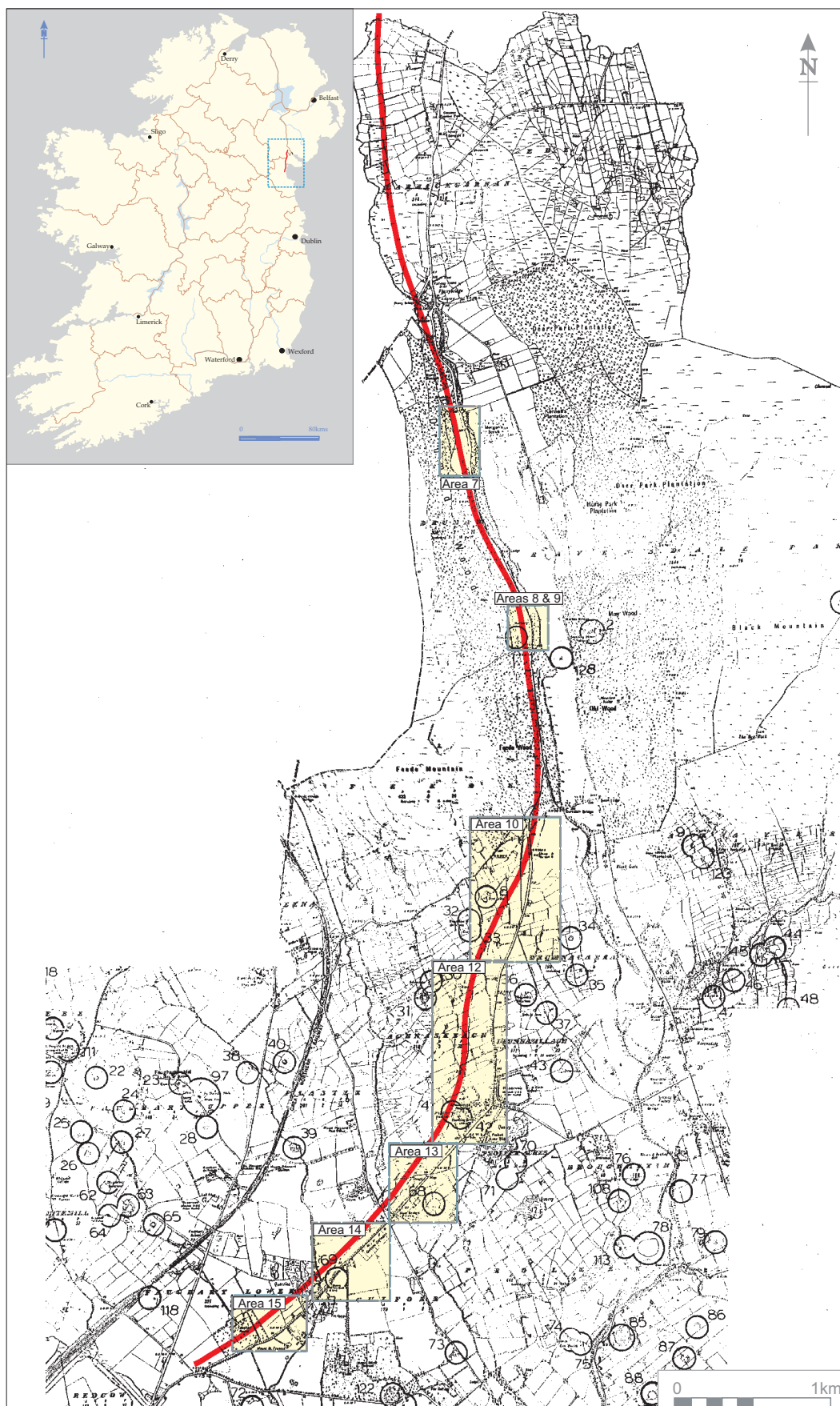
<b>Sample</b>	<b>Grid</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Bags</b>	<b>Reason for Sample</b>
1	104/2	(022)	1	Fill of cut/scarped area (013). Radiocarbon dating.
2	104/2	(030)	1	Fill of cut/scarped area (013). Environmental.
3	104/2	(005)	1	Ashy material. Lower fill of pit (032). Radiocarbon dating.
4	104/2	(006)	1	Charcoal. Upper fill of pit (032), radiocarbon dating.
5		(003)	1	Charcoal/ash. Fill of pit (035). Radiocarbon dating.
6		(017)	-	Delete non archaeological
7	104/1	(002)	1	Charcoal spread. Radiocarbon dating.
8	104/2	(033)	1	Charcoal. Fill of scarped area, (073). Radiocarbon dating
9	104/1	(047)	1	Charcoal. Fill of pit (049). Radiocarbon dating.
10	104/2	(012)	4	Charcoal. Fill of scarped area, (013). Radiocarbon dating.
11	104/2	(063)	1	Primary fill of possible grave cut (020). Environmental and radiocarbon (if possible)
12	104/1	(058)	2	Charcoal fill of fire pit/hearth (071). Radiocarbon dating
13	104/1	(062)	1	Charcoal spread, radiocarbon dating.





**Fig. 1** Location plan for A1/N1.





**Fig. 2** Extract from RMP Maps of Louth, Sheets 1 & 4. A1/N1 in red. Scale as indicated.

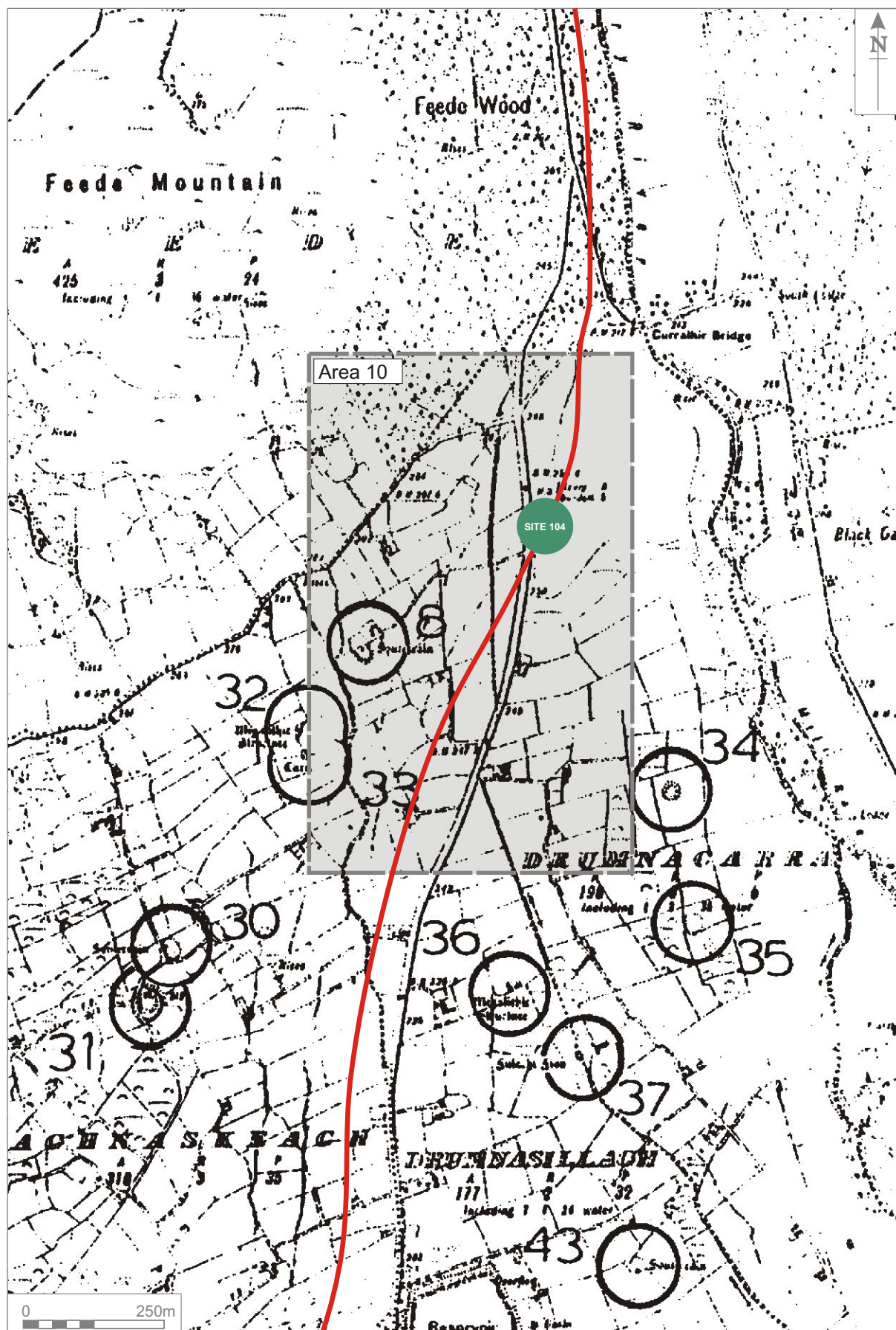
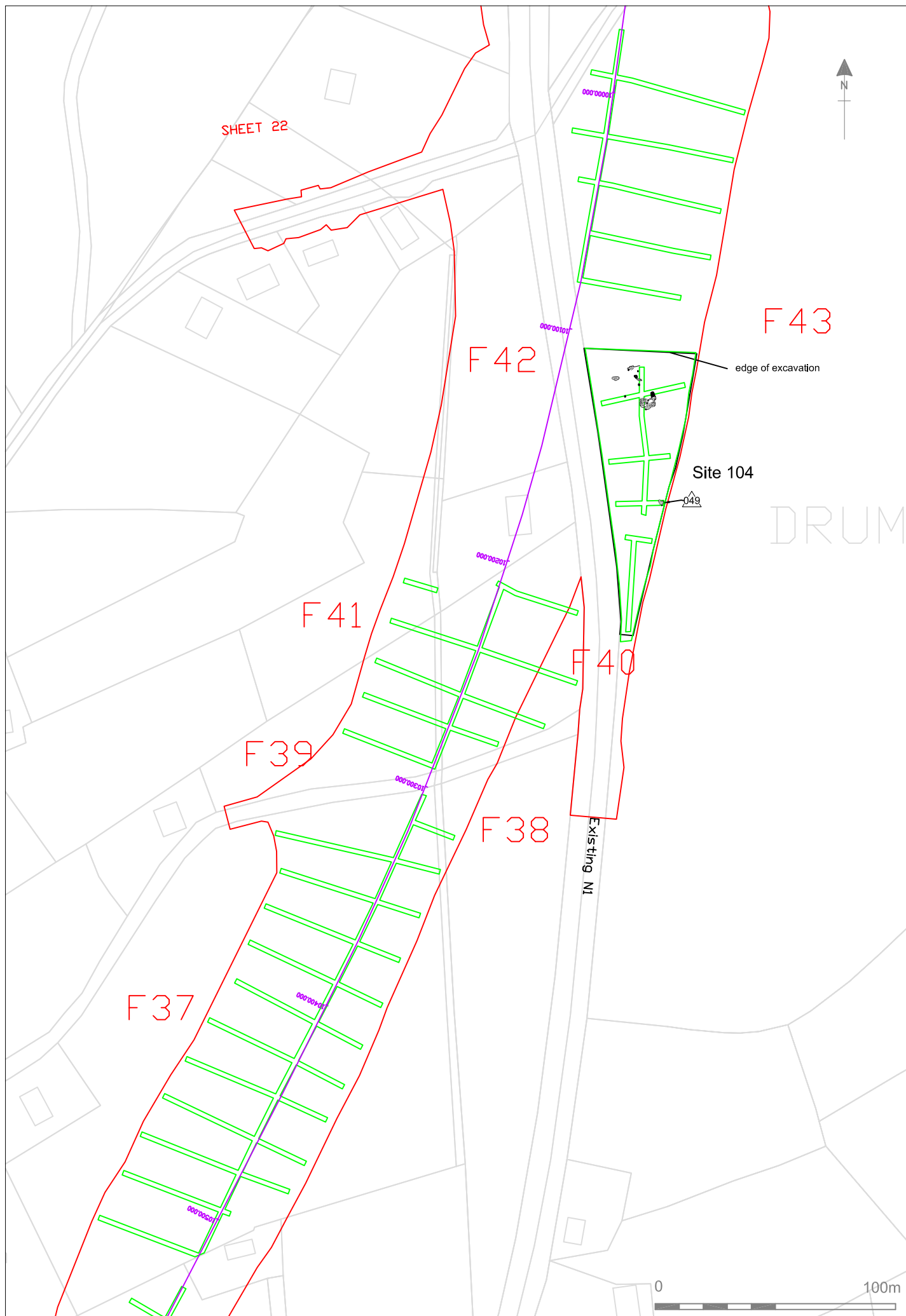
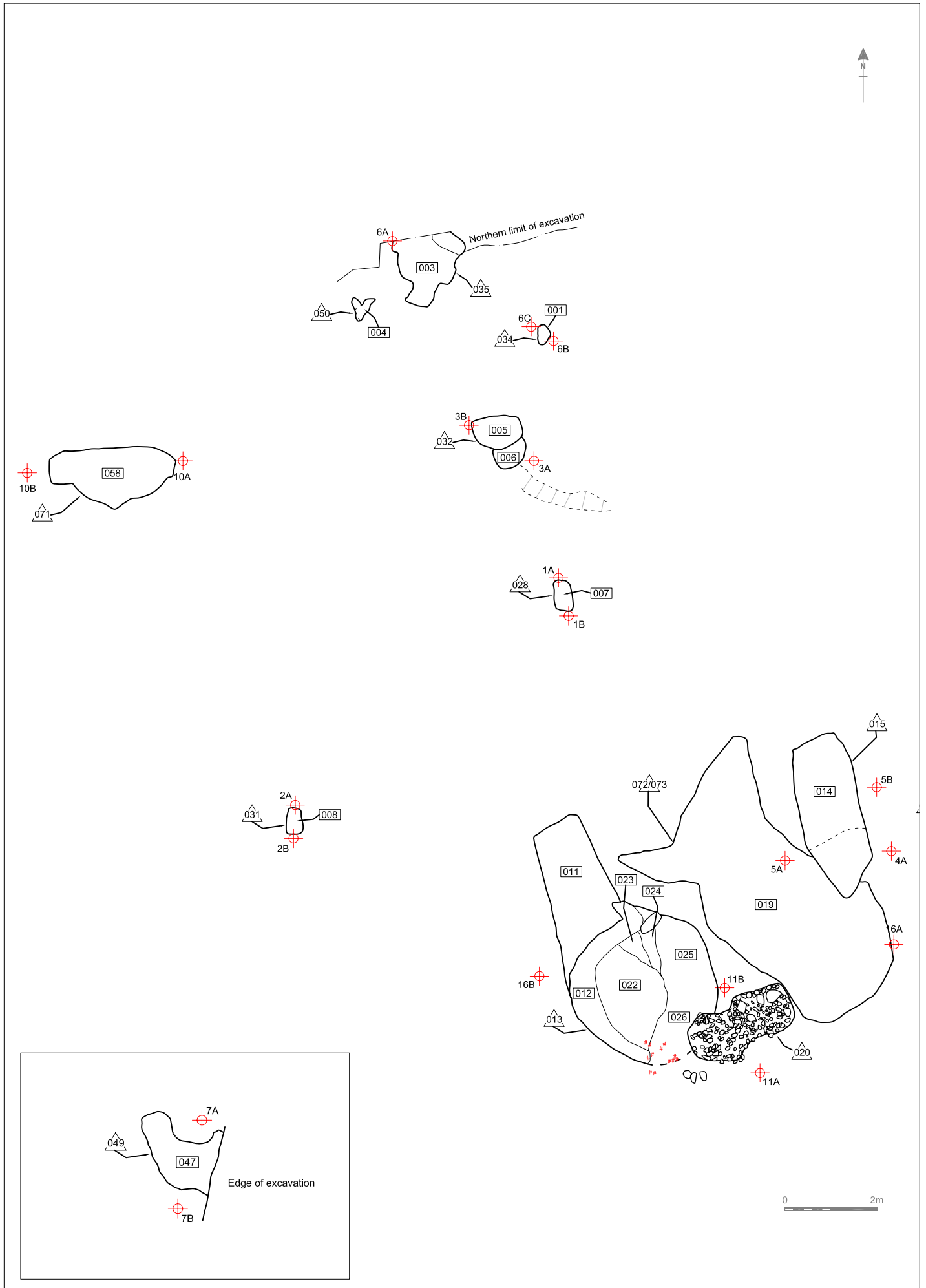


FIG. 3 Location of Area 10 and Site 104 on RMP Maps of Louth, Sheets 1 & 4.A1/N1 in red. Scale 1:10,000.

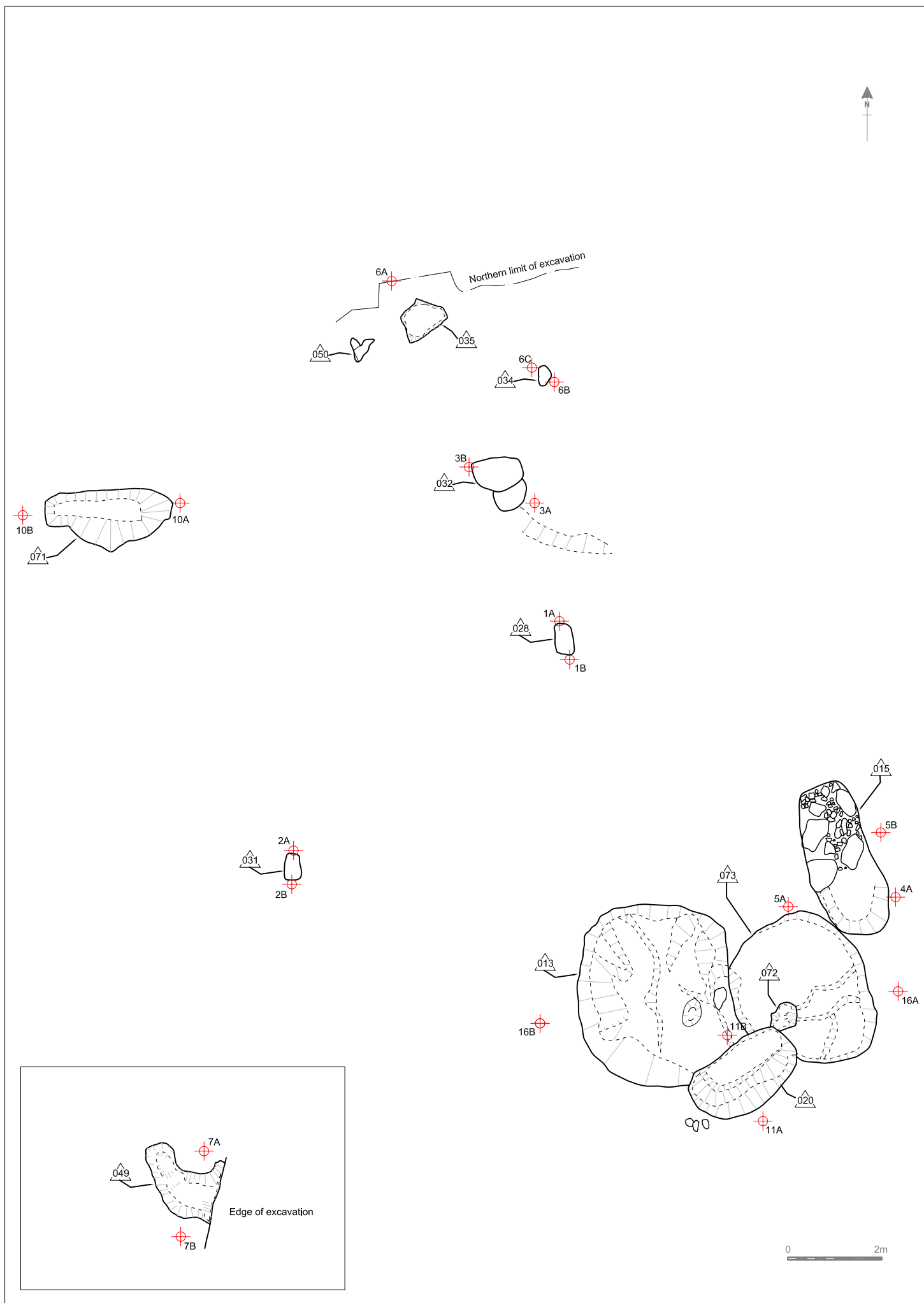


**Fig. 4** Plan showing southern stretch of Area 10 and Site 104.

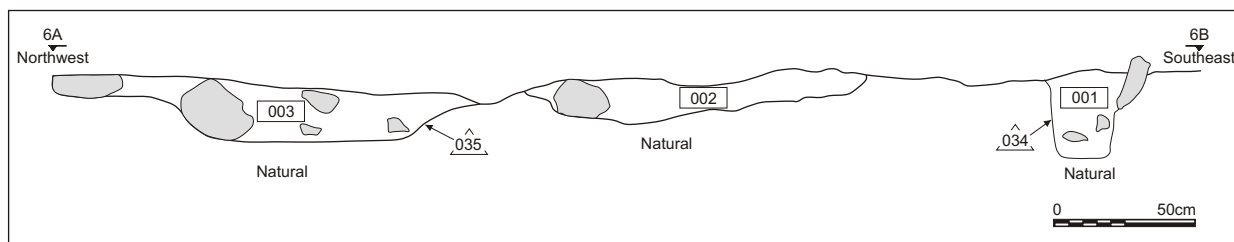


**Fig. 5** Pre-excitation plan of Site 104. Scale 1:100.

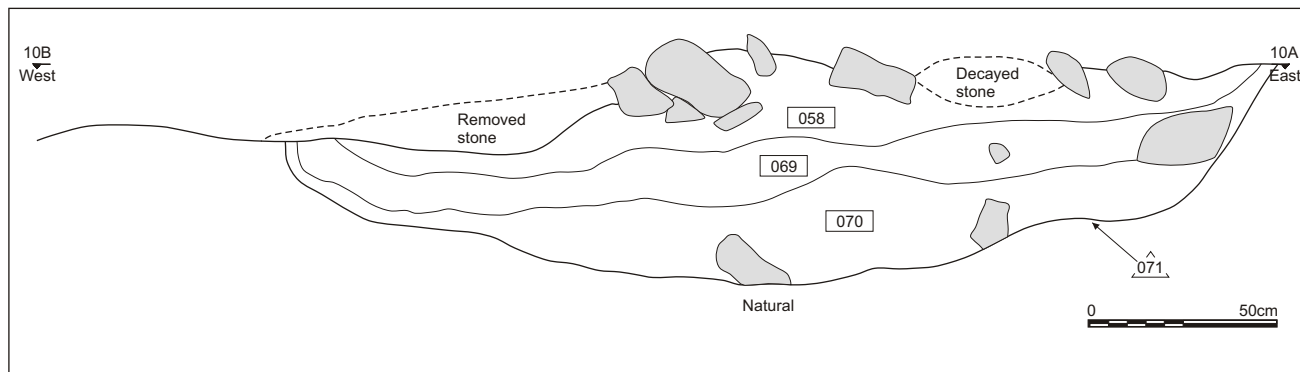




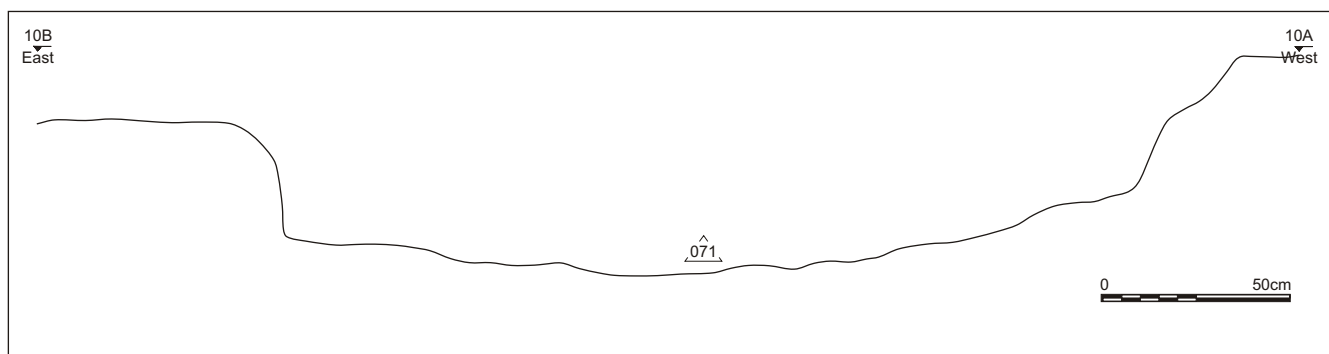
**Fig. 6** Post excavation plan of Site 104. Scale 1:100.



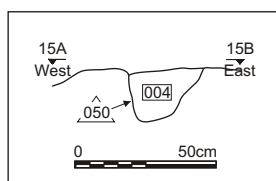
**Fig. 7a** Southwest facing section through cuts 034 and 035.



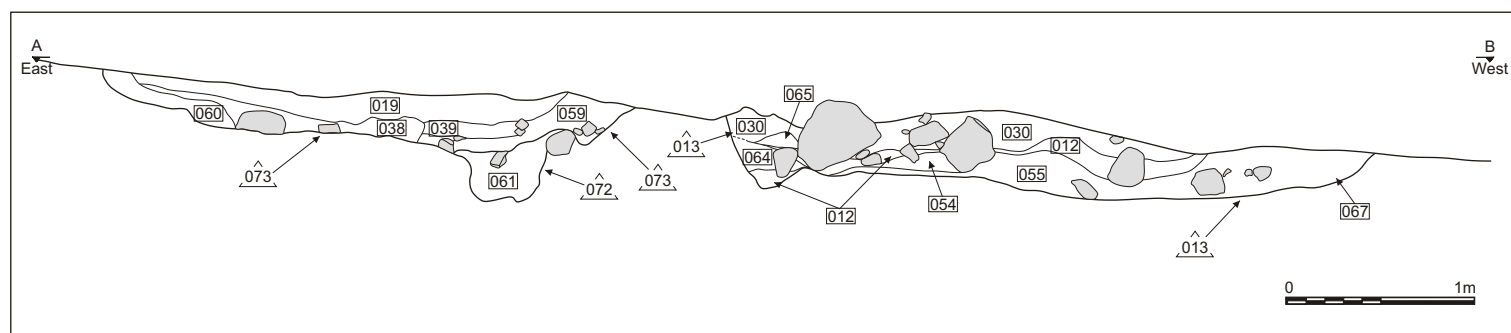
**Fig. 7b** South facing section through cut 071.



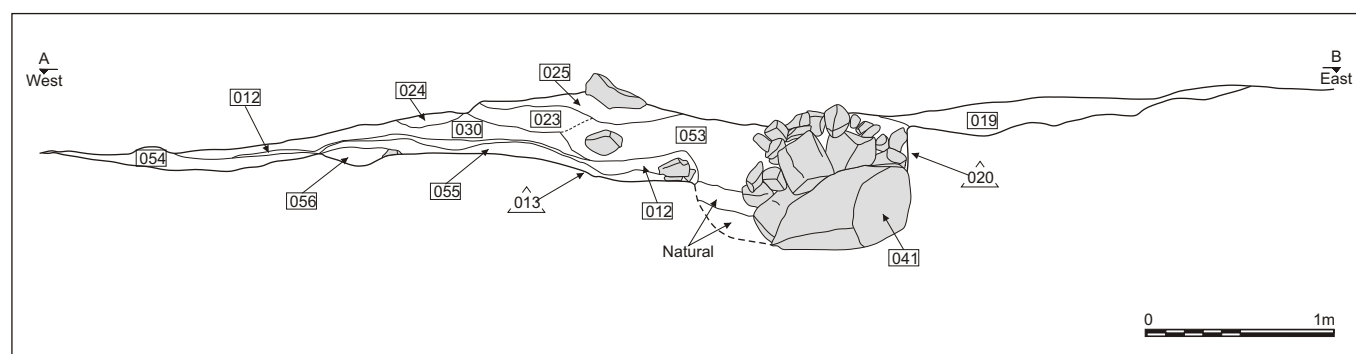
**Fig. 7c** North facing profile of hearth pit cut 071.



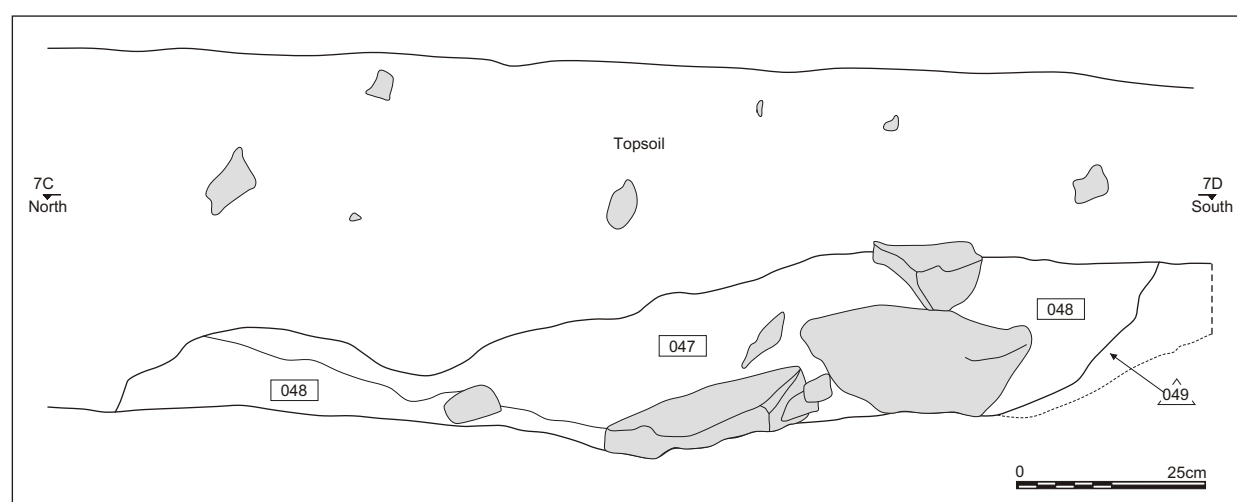
**Fig. 7d** South facing section through cut 050.



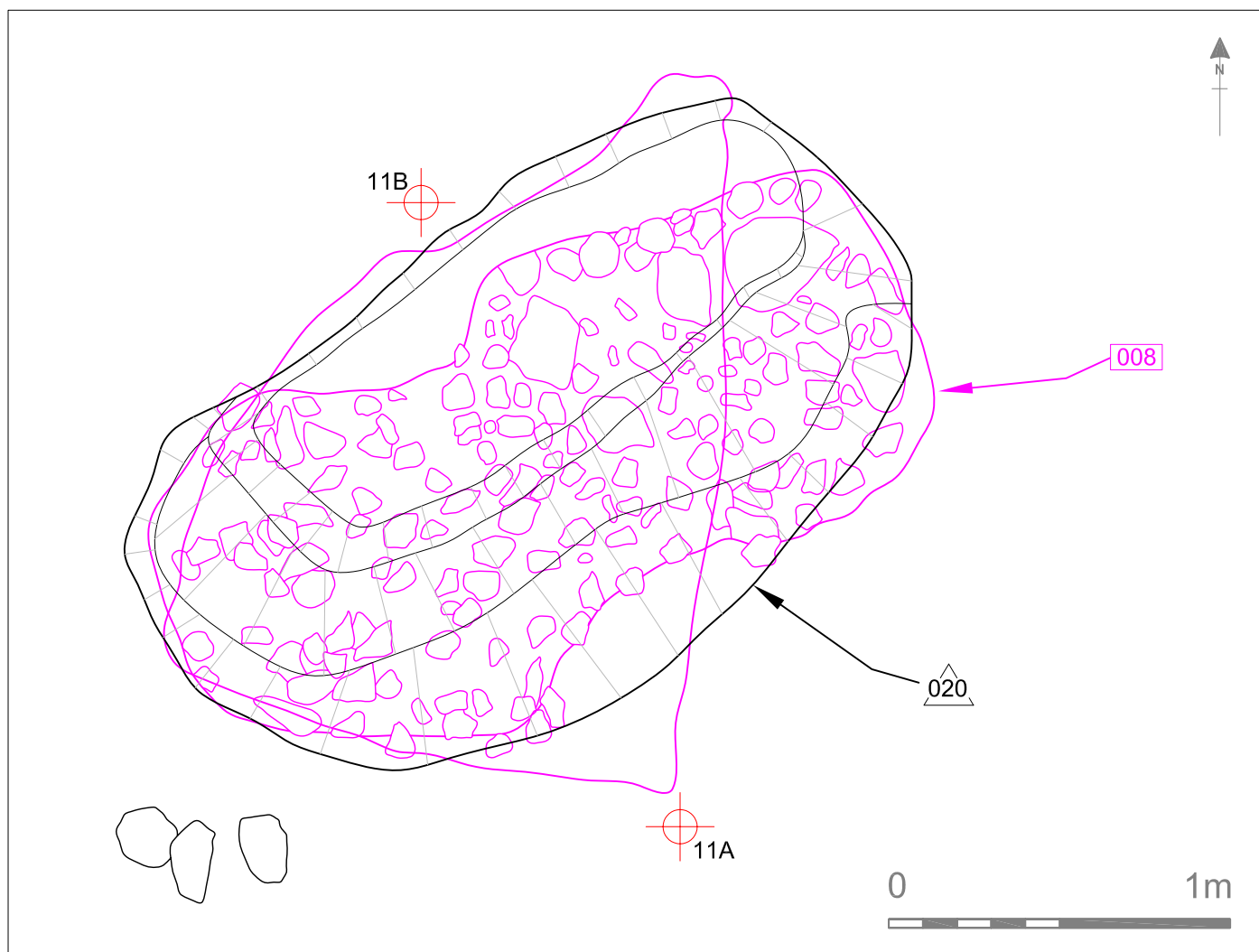
**Fig. 7e** North facing section through cuts 013, 072 and 073.



**Fig. 7f** South facing section through cuts 013 and 020.

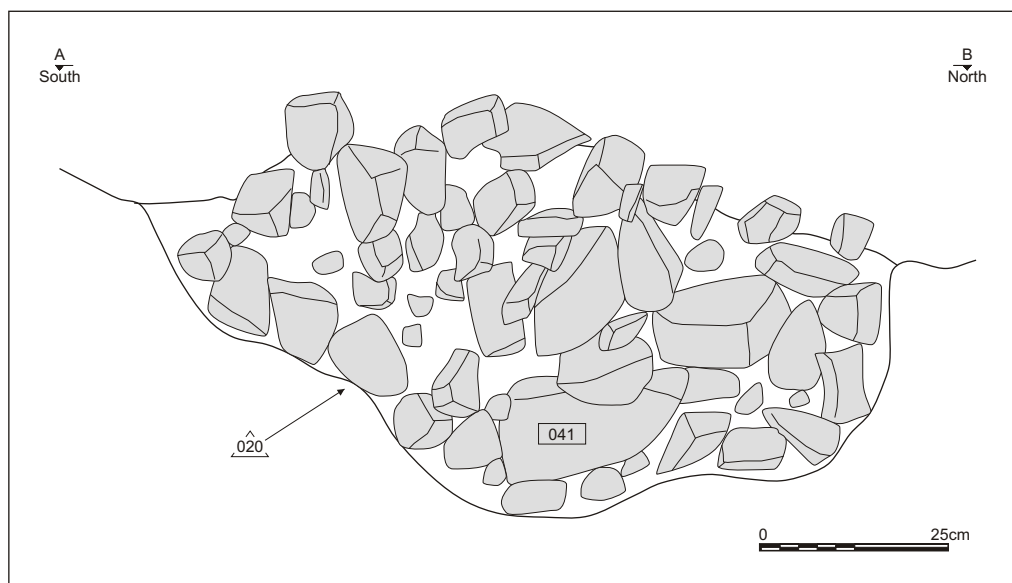


**Fig. 7g** West facing section through cut 049.

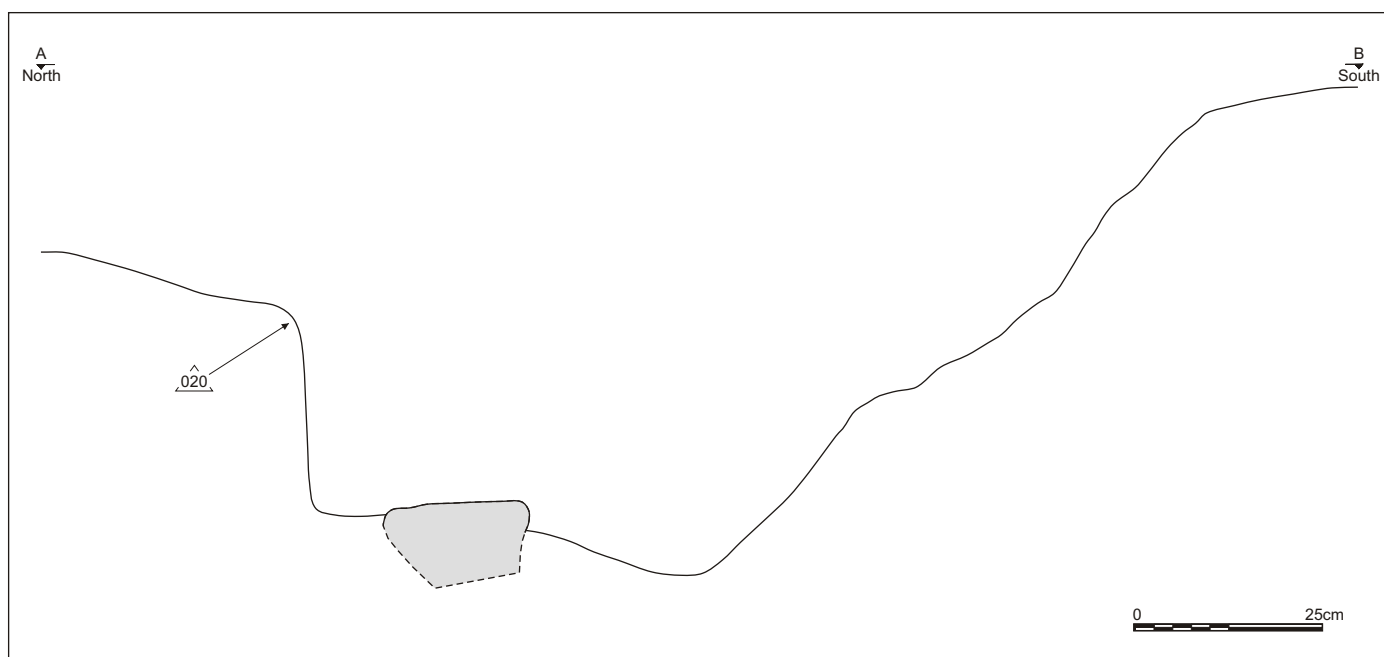


**Fig. 8** Post-excavation plan of grave cut (020). Pre-excavation of stone fill (041) (slumped cairn) overlaid in magenta.





**Fig. 9a** East facing section through cut 020.



**Fig. 9b** West facing profile through cut 020.



Plate 1 Working shot of site area.



Plate 2 Pre-excavation photo of cut (035).



Plate 3 Pre-excavation photo of cut (020) area.





Plate 4 Post-excavation photo of cut (020).



Plate 5 Post-excavation photo of cut (072).



Plate 6 Post-excavation photo of cut (049).