

Stratigraphic Report of Excavations Along the A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Area 15, Site 118

Director: Peter Bowen

Compiled by: Archaeological Development Services Ltd

Chainage:	13793-13815
NGR:	306216E, 311066N
Townland:	Faughart Lower
Parish:	Ballymascanlan
County:	Louth
Country:	Republic of Ireland
Submitted:	January 2006
Date of fieldwork:	5 th -14 th December 2005

Contents

Tables	2
Figures	2
Plates	2
<i>Abstract</i>	3
1 Description of the Site and Location	4
1.1 Introduction	4
1.2 Site description	4
1.2.1 Topography	4
1.2.2 Geology	5
1.2.3 Archaeological and historical background	5
2 A Description of the Works Carried Out	10
2.1 Reason for the excavation	10
2.2 Excavation methods	10
2.2.1 Phasing	10
2.2.2 Desk top study	10
2.2.3 Phase 1 archaeological testing	10
2.2.4 Phase 2 archaeological excavations	11
2.2.5 Health and safety documents	12
2.2.6 Staff involved	13
3 Excavation Records-Phase 2	14
3.1 Results of the excavation	14
3.2 Summary	15
4 Discussion and Conclusion	16
5 Recommendations	17
5.1 Finds	17
5.2 Samples	17
5.2.1 Macrobotanical analysis	17
5.2.2 Radiocarbon analysis	17
6 Quantification of the Materials and Records	18
6.1 Quantity of the record	18
6.1.1 Context sheets	18
6.1.2 Drawings	18
7 References	19
Appendices	21
Appendix I Context log	21
Appendix II Finds per context list	22

Appendix III Sample list	23
Appendix IV Photo logs	24

Tables

Table 1 Samples collected for radiocarbon analysis.....	17
Table 2 Records Inventory	18

Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location map.
- Fig. 2 Location of Site 118 relative to the road scheme.
- Fig. 3 Location of Area 15 and Site 118 on Louth SMR map, Sheets.
- Fig. 4 Plan showing Area 15, Site 118.
- Fig. 5 Pre-excavation plan of Site 118.
- Fig. 6 Post-excavation plan of Site 118.
- Fig. 7 Southeast facing section of cut 8.
- Fig. 8 Southeast facing section of cut 23.
- Fig. 9 West facing section of cut 22.

Plates

- Plate 1 Post-excavation of cuts 9 and 12, looking northwest.
- Plate 2 Post-excavation of cut 8, looking northwest.
- Plate 3 Post-excavation of cut 23, looking southwest.

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 comprised of an area measuring 21m north to south by 18.30m east to west. The site was situated in a low-lying area at the bottom of a large slope, which lies further to the north. Therefore, the site was very water logged. The area of archaeological interest was located at the north end of the site. Three field boundaries or ditches and two pits were found. None of the features could be deemed definitely archaeological. They all appear to be post medieval/modern constructions. Sherds of post medieval pottery were found in the upper fills of two of the field boundaries/ditches.

The lack of artifacts retrieved from the site hinders close preliminary dating of the features investigated. The three ditches or field boundaries are not stratigraphically linked. The two pits are discreet features from each other but there is a stratigraphic link between the pits and two of the ditches. One pit cuts one of the ditches and the other pit is cut by the north most ditch.

All the features on this site appear to be because of agricultural practices possibly associated with the nearby old farmhouse.

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 in Area 15, Site 118.

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 December 5th through 14th, 2005. Staff of ADS carried out archaeological work on behalf of the developers under the direction of Peter Bowen. This section of the project occurs in Faughart Lower Townland, Ballymascanlan Parish, Co. Louth; at National Grid Reference 306216E, 311066N (centre point), Ordnance Datum (OD) of 7.53m and road scheme Chainage 13793-13815.

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;)¹. 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 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. Site 118 is situated in the area south of Feede Mountain.

¹ 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

1.2.2 Geology

Vaughan in Buckley and Sweetman (1991, 8-10) indicates that the bedrock geology of the site area is composed of Silurian Greywacke. Silurian rocks were deposited in deep water in active tectonic zones. Each layer in the Silurian strata represents materials displaced and then redeposited by earthquakes, which would cause sediments to slump from the shore slopes of the continental shelf that would then be deposited as a future greywacke bed.

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 11th 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 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) shows that there are five known prehistoric and historic sites in the area. These include the following sites, listed by townland, the RMP 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).

RMP: LH007-015 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991: Survey No. 242)
Townland: Faughart Lower
Parish: Ballymascanlan
Barony: Lower Dundalk
County: Louth
Country: Republic of Ireland
NGR: 305630E, 310510N
Description: *Fulacht fiadh* (possible). Small, low mound situated beside stream.

RMP: LH004-065 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991: Survey No. 628)
Townland: Faughart Lower
Parish: Ballymascanlan
Barony: Lower Dundalk
County: Louth
Country: Republic of Ireland
NGR: 305600E, 311730N
Description: Ringfort D-shaped area (int. dims. 28.5m NNE-SSW, 26m WNW-ESE) enclosed by much-degraded earth and stone bank (W 3.5m, H 0.7m internally, 1.4m externally) with straight side at SE. This bank is now almost completely gone on the ENE and SSE. Traces of internal and external drystone facings to bank on all sides (CUCAP, AYM 46).

RMP:	LH004-069 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991: Survey No. Not Listed)
Townland:	Aghaboys
Parish:	Ballymascanlan
Barony:	Lower Dundalk
County:	Louth
Country:	Republic of Ireland
NGR:	306770E, 311410N
Description:	Enclosures no further information.
RMP:	LH004-118 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991: Survey No. 770)
Townland:	Faughart Lower
Parish:	Ballymascanlan
Barony:	Lower Dundalk
County:	Louth
Country:	Republic of Ireland
NGR:	305580E, 311250N
Description:	Enclosure, 'Fort' shown on 1835 edition of OS 6" sheet. No visible surface trace.
RMP:	LH004-122 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991: Survey No. Not Listed)
Townland:	Aghaboys
Parish:	Ballymascanlan
Barony:	Lower Dundalk
County:	Louth
Country:	Republic of Ireland
NGR:	307130E, 310650N
Description:	Enclosure (possible). No further information.

Sites known from the current project. Current work has identified two 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 Dawkes, 2005a, 2005b and 2005c; McConway and Lynch, 2005a and 2005b; McConway and O'Rourke 2005). Sites investigated within one mile of this excavation during the current project include:

Site 115. Three cuttings were opened up in order to investigate features found during Phase 1 testing. The majority of these features were either modern or natural in origin. Two pits in Cutting C, to north of the site were, however, of archaeological interest, at least one of them being of probable prehistoric date (Turrell 2006).

Site 116. This site is located on a small natural rise in the underlying bedrock, which slopes in all directions, but, more steeply to the west and northwest where a small stream is located at the base of a large slope. Site 117, originally identified during testing as a separate site, was eventually amalgamated into Site 116 when the extent of topsoil removal around Site 116 was increased and was, therefore, excavated as part of Site 116. Sites 118 and 119 were located to the west of Site 116; both were excavated (Dawkes and Bowen 2007).

It is probable, though not yet definite, that the site would have originally been a bi-vallate ringfort which was enlarged and altered over time. The first phase comprises of inner ditch (018) and outer ditch (430) which were subsequently re-cut by ditches (313) and (025) respectively during the second phase. During the third phase the site was enlarged with two new ditches (729) and (024) forming a single large enclosure, although it is possible that the inner ditch (313) may have been extant in some form at this time. This larger enclosure was then altered with a large stone faced, rubble cored wall, (2107), built upon the partially infilled ditch (729). At this time the inner ditch was definitely infilled as a souterrain (027), the entrance of which was built into wall (2107) was dug through both infilled ditches (313) and (025).

The various phases on the site were formed by five individual enclosures, the smallest of which consisted of a small ditch (018) which encircled the top of the natural rise enclosing an oval shaped area with a maximum diameter of 29m north to south (incomplete). A small 5m wide entrance gap was excavated at the north, but no corresponding feature could be located to the south as this area of the site was beyond the limit of the excavation. This ditch had been allowed to silt up and was then re-cut [ditch (313)] with the inner edge being lined with stones to act as a revetment for a bank which ran along the inner edge of the ditch.

Enclosing the inner ditch and sited 5m from it was ditch (430). This ditch enclosed an area approximately 40m in diameter and had been dug into the natural bedrock or subsoil to a depth of 1.4m and had a maximum width of 3m. There was no evidence for an entrance, although as this ditch extended beyond the limits of the CPO to the south it is likely to be sited there. The edges of this ditch were steeply sloped, almost vertical in places. On the western side the ditch appears to have filled more rapidly, possibly as a result of slippage of the accompanying bank which would have rested upon a much greater slope at this point. On the east side of the site this ditch was filled from its outer edge, the fills being a series of tip lines of re-deposited subsoils and gravels. These are most likely the result of the construction of another large ditch (025), which for most of its length runs along the same line as ditch (430) (and cut into the fills of the earlier ditch (430)), except for the east side of the site. Rather than follow the line of the earlier ditch (430) the site was extended to the east by 5m with the excavated material from ditch (025) used to fill the still open ditch (430).

Ditch (025) enclosed an area measuring 45m (east to west) in diameter and was up to 3m in width and a depth of 1.2m. There was no entrance evident in the ditch; however, the southern edge extended beyond the limits of the CPO. A small, probable iron smelting furnace was found dug into the basal fill of the ditch located on the southeast side of the site, while sometime after back filling there were several large pits, two souterrains and a well, all dug through the fills.

The final ditches, **(729)** and **(024)** enclosed an area measuring 55m across east to west, with an entrance located at the northwest and a second probable entrance at the southwest. These two ditches formed a single enclosure. Ditch **(729)** was the larger of the two ditches, sited on the western edge of the site, measuring up to 2.5m in width and dug into the subsoil to a maximum depth of 1.3m. One definite terminal was found in the northwest, with a second in the southeast, although it is possible that this was due to a rise in the natural bedrock, which may have proved to difficult to dig through. The second ditch that formed this enclosing phase on the site, **(024)**, was much smaller in size than ditch **(729)**, with a maximum depth of .5m and a width of 1.2m. A single terminal was found at the northwest extent of this ditch forming a 5m wide entrance with the terminal of ditch **(729)**, while the southeast extent of the ditch ran beyond the limits of the excavation.

The final enclosing feature on the site was a large, rubble cored, stone faced wall **(2107)** which was only extant on the western edge of the site, measuring 2.5m in width and surviving to a maximum of 4 courses. This had been built upon the fills of the partially infilled ditch **(729)**. It began at the terminal of this ditch and ran from northwest, through to west and then beyond the limits of the excavation in the southwest. There was no trace of this wall found on the north or east of the site.

Built into this large stone bank was the entrance to an earth cut souterrain **(027)**, with a second entrance located within the main portion of the site. This souterrain comprised a single stone lined passageway, which ran for 16m eastwards from the stone bank before turning sharply and running 15m southwards to the second entrance. There was no chamber within the souterrain. There were no capstones still *in situ* and only one possible capstone was discovered within the backfilled passageway. Resting on the floor of the souterrain was a large iron plough coulter and plough sock, while within the fills were several millstone fragments, a small clay crucible, several pins and a quantity of potsherds.

A total of 772 burials were excavated from the site, in addition to a large amount of disarticulated human remains. These appear to include all range groups, male and female, and a concentration of babies, which suggests that the site may have served as a cillin. A preliminary estimate breaks the burial down to 528 adults, 151 juveniles and 93 infants although this is likely to change once the consultant osteoarchaeologist examines the bones in post-excavation analysis. Of this the vast majority, 643 were in simple earth cut graves, 81 were in stone lined graves, 32 in long cists, a further 8 which re-used a already occupied cist and 8 which used a natural crevice in the bedrock. The burials were mainly concentrated at the northeast quadrant of the site, with others found sparsely across the rest of the site. In general, the burials were laid east to west but in some case they were

north to south but this may have been due to space restrictions and the nature of the underlying bedrock preventing a true east to west burial.

Several initial radiocarbon dates have been obtained for a number of skeletons on the site. The earliest of these had a date range of AD 390 to 550 while the latest dated AD 790 to 1000. These suggest that the cemetery was very long lived, and as the skeletons appeared on site to post date the earlier enclosing phases it is possible that the original foundation may date to the Late Iron Age with settlement and occupation continuing into the early medieval period. However given that there is up to a 200 years date range for each skeleton then it is entirely possible that the cemetery could have had a much shorter life span.

The finds from the site ranged from numerous sherds of pottery, metal pins (iron and bronze/copper) blue glass beads, spindle whorls, bone combs and pins, iron knives, a lead ingot, several millstone fragments, a small clay crucible and iron slag.

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 within 1km of what was then the proposed route alignment.

2.2.3 Phase 1 archaeological testing

Area 15 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.

The Phase 1 report discusses the archaeological findings within Area 15, at Faughart Lower townland, between chainages 13330-13700. The testing was carried out by Eoin Halpin of ADS under project sub number A002/006 between the 15th and 26th November, 2004. Trenches totalling 3212 square metres were investigated, that is 10.9% of the Area 15 total (McConway and Dawkes, 2005c).

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.
- A supervisor, two assistants and two general operatives carried out resolution of the archaeological features described above.
- An appropriate area was 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.

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. 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.

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

Patricia Ryan—was the site supervisor; Tara Clarke and Jakub Kaczprak were site assistants and John Clarke and Raymond Balfe were general operatives.

3 Excavation Records-Phase 2

This report details the results of the excavation that took place from 5th through 14th December 2005 at Area 15, Site 118, under the direction of Peter Bowen. The site consisted of an area measuring 21m north to south and 18.3m east to west. The site sloped downwards towards the north and was a very waterlogged area. The area of archaeological interest was situated at the north end of the site. Three field boundaries or ditches and two pits were found.

3.1 Results of the excavation

Six features were found in total, three field boundaries or ditches **(009)**, **(023)**, **(022)**; two pits **(008)** and **(012)** and a test trench **(024)**.

The field boundary **(009)** was located at the far north end of the site. It measured 19.20m long, 1.70m wide and had a maximum depth 0.32m and was orientated in a northwest to southeast. It had three fills; the top fill **(003)**, the middle fill **(010)** and the basal fill **(011)**. Fill **(003)** contained post-medieval pottery including a sherd of blackware. No diagnostic finds were discovered in the two bottom fills. Water was covering the far north end of the site including a portion of this field boundary; we were therefore unable to fully investigate this feature.

The field boundary **(023)** was located to the south of **(009)** approximately 0.50m away. It was orientated in the same northwest to southeast direction as the field boundary **(009)**. The feature was 4.70m long, 1.47m wide and 0.23m deep. It contained two fills; the upper fill **(017)** and **(021)** the basal fill. The upper fill **(017)** contained two pottery sherds of a similar post-medieval type to that in the ditch **(009)**.

The field boundary **(022)** was located at the east side of the site to the south of **(009)**. It was also orientated northwest to southeast. It measured 6m long, 3.76m wide and 0.36m deep. It contained two fills **(015)** and **(016)**, which turned out to be the same context. No finds were found in this shallow feature.

Pit **(008)** truncated the field boundary **(023)** at its west end. It was 1.30m long (east to west), 1.10m wide (north to south) and 0.40m deep. It contained three fills; the upper fill **(004)**, **(006)** the middle fill and **(007)** at its base. Fill **(006)** was a charcoal rich burnt material but no finds were retrieved from this feature.

Pit **(012)** was located at the field boundary **(009)** northwest end and was truncated by the feature. It contained one charcoal rich fill **(005)** and no finds.

The final feature was a recent test trench orientated north-northeast to south-southwest, which truncated **(023)**, **(022)** and most likely **(009)**.

3.2 Summary

The two pits **(008)** and **(012)** are located near each other, 2m apart and may be associated. The three field boundaries or ditches **(009)**, **(023)** and **(022)** do not cut each other and have the same orientation northwest to southeast.

4 Discussion and Conclusion

It is possible that all three field boundaries/ditches **(009)**, **(023)** and **(022)** are contemporaneous as they do not cut each other and have roughly the same orientation northwest to southeast. However, the two pits **(008)**, and **(012)** are very near each other and perhaps they are associated. If the pits are contemporaneous then the ditch **(009)** is later as it truncates the pit **(012)**. However, all the features appear to be post medieval in date and have an agricultural use possibly associated with the nearby farmhouse.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Finds

Only a few sherds of post medieval pottery including one piece of blackware were recovered from the excavations (Appendix II). The artifacts will be analysed by the appropriate specialist. Should additional artifacts be recovered from the processed samples they will be analysed by the appropriate specialists.

5.2 Samples

5.2.1 Macrobotanical analysis

The site director has decided that no samples need be selected for macrobotanical analyses due to the modern date of the site.

5.2.2 Radiocarbon analysis

The site director has decided that no samples need be selected for radiocarbon analyses due to the modern date of the site. However, if a radiocarbon date is required the director proposes that the samples listed in Table 2 be sent for radiocarbon analysis. The pit **(008)** contained the only charcoal rich deposit **(006)** on the site.

Table 1 Samples collected for radiocarbon analysis

Context	Sample No.	Feature	Reason for sample
006	<2>	(008)	Charcoal. Fill of pit
006	<3>	(008)	Charcoal rich soil sample from pit
006	<9>	(008)	Charcoal rich soil sample from pit
006	<11>	(008)	Charcoal. Fill of pit

6 Quantification of the Materials and Records

6.1 Quantity of the record

The site archive comprises those items listed in Table 2:

Table 2 Records Inventory

Form	Number (after voids)
Context Sheets	24
Photographs (Rolls)	52 Frames in 5 Rolls
Sections and Plans	Sections 4; Plans 8
Finds	2
Samples	15

6.1.1 Context sheets

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

6.1.2 Drawings

Eight plans and four sections/profiles.

7 References

ADS

- 2003 Archaeological Development Services Ltd Health and Safety Manual. Compiled by Fergus Cooney.
- 2005 Archaeological Method Statements To facilitate Phase 2 works On the A1/N1 Newry – Dundalk Link Road Project Number A002/000, April 2005.

Bowen, P. and G. Dawkes

- 2007 *Stratigraphic Report of Phase 2 Excavations, A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road, Area 15, Site 116*. Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development, Roads Service. Belfast.

Buckley, V. and P. Sweetman

- 1991 Archaeological Survey of County Louth. The Office of Public Works, Dublin.

Louth County Council

- n.d. Louth County Development Plan. Louth County Council, Dundalk.

McConway, L. and G. Dawkes

- 2005a *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Volume 1 Archaeological Assessment Area 13*. Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development, Roads Service. Belfast.
- 2005b *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Volume 1 Archaeological Assessment Area 14*. Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development, Roads Service. Belfast.
- 2005c *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Volume 1 Archaeological Assessment Area 15*. Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development, Roads Service. Belfast.

McConway, L. and P. Lynch

- 2005a *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Volume 1 Archaeological Assessment Area 10*. Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development, Roads Service. Belfast.

2005b *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Volume 1 Archaeological Assessment Area 12.*
Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development, Roads
Service. Belfast.

McConway, L. and M. O'Rourke

2005 *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Volume 1 Archaeological Assessment Areas 7, 8 & 9.*
Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development, Roads
Service. Belfast.

RPS Ireland Environmental Services (RPS)

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.*

Turrell, S.

2006 *Stratigraphic Report of Phase 2 Excavations, A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road, Area 14 Site
115.* Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development,
Roads Service, Belfast.

Appendices

Appendix I Context log

Context	Grid	Type	Description
(001)		Topsoil	Dark brown loose silty sand that covered entire site
(002)		Natural	Orange-brown loose silty sand/gravel mixture, the natural subsoil
(003)	90/100	Fill	Grey-brown silty sand. Upper fill of field boundary/ditch (009).
(004)	90/100	Fill	Grey-brown silty sand. Upper fill of pit (008).
(005)	90/100	Fill	Mid-grey gravelly clay. Singular fill of small pit (012).
(006)	90/100	Fill	Black-dark grey silty sand. Burnt fill of pit (008).
(007)	90/100	Fill	Mid dark brown gravelly sandy clay. Basal fill of pit (008).
(008)	90/100	Cut	Pit containing three fills (004), (006) and (007).
(009)	90/100 100/100 100/90 110/90	Cut	Cut of a field boundary or ditch, contains the fills (003), (010) and (011)
(010)	90/100 100/100 100/90 110/90	Fill	Grey/brown silty sand. Fill of (009).
(011)	90/100 100/100 100/90 110/90	Fill	Grey-brown silt. Basal fill of (009).
(012)	90/100	Cut	Cut of small pit filled by (005).
(013)	100/90	Fill	Redeposited topsoil. Fill of test trench (024).
(014)	90/100 100/100	Fill	Grey brown silty sand. This is a slight variant of the natural subsoil.
(015)	100/90	Fill	Grey-brown mottled silty sand. Same as (016) fill of (022) a shallow ditch.
(016)	100/90	Fill	Grey-brown mottled silty sand. Same as (015) fill of (022) a shallow ditch.
(017)	90/100 100/100	Fill	Brown-grey silty sand. Upper fill of cut (023).
(018)	100/90	-	Non archaeological, natural subsoil.
(019)	100/90	-	Non archaeological, natural subsoil.
(020)	100/90	-	Non archaeological, natural subsoil.
(021)	90/100 100/100	Fill	Grey silty sand. Lower fill of the ditch/field boundary (023).
(022)	100/90	Cut	Linear shallow cut of a field boundary. Filled by (015) and (016).
(023)	90/100 100/100	Cut	Linear cut a possible field boundary/ditch. Filled with (017) and (021).
(024)	100/90	Cut	Cut of recent test trench. Filled with (013).

Appendix II Finds per context list

Context	Description
(003) fill of ditch (009)	Large pieces of post medieval pot sherds, including one fragment of blackware
(017) fill of ditch (023)	Two sherds of post medieval pottery

Appendix III Sample list

Sample	Context	Bags	Reason for Sample
1	(004)	1	Fill of pit (008). Radiocarbon dating.
2	(006)	1	Charcoal. Fill of pit (008). Radiocarbon dating.
3	(006)	1	Burnt Fill of pit (008). Radiocarbon dating.
4	(003)	1	Fill of ditch (009). Environmental
5	(010)	1	Fill of ditch (009). Environmental
6	(003)	1	Fill of ditch (009). Environmental
7	(011)	1	Fill of ditch (009). Environmental
8	(004)	1	Fill of pit (008). Radiocarbon dating.
9	(006)	1	Burnt Fill of pit (008). Radiocarbon dating.
10	(007)	1	Fill of pit (008). Radiocarbon dating.
11	(006)	1	Charcoal. Fill of pit (008). Radiocarbon dating.
12	(005)	1	Fill of pit (012).). Radiocarbon dating.
13	(017)	1	Fill of ditch (023). Environmental
14	(021)	1	Fill of ditch (023). Environmental
15	(015)	1	Fill of ditch (022). Environmental

Appendix IV Photo logs

Film Roll 1, Colour print

Frame number	Description
1	Test shot of photo log
2	023 mid-excavation looking northwest
3	013 pre-excavation looking northwest
4	Cuts 015, 012, 019 and 020 pre-excavation looking southeast
5	Mid-excavation of 022 and 015 west facing section
6	Post-excavation of 023 looking southeast

Film Roll 8, Colour print

Frame number	Description
5	Pre-excavation of 003, 004 and 005 looking east
6	Pre-excavation of 003, 004 and 005 looking north
7	Pre-excavation of 003 looking southeast
8	Mid-excavation of 004 southeast facing section
13	Mid-excavation of 009 section 2, southeast facing
23	Post-excavation of 008 looking northwest
30	Post-excavation of 009, 008 and 012 looking northwest
33	Pre-excavation of 004 looking northwest, no board
34	Pre-excavation of 004 looking northwest, no board

Film Roll 1, Colour slide

Frame number	Description
1	Test shot site 118
2	Test shot site 118
3	Mid-excavation of 005 southeast facing section
4	Mid-excavation of 005 southeast facing section
5	Same as above without board
10	Mid-excavation of 009 section 2, southeast facing
11	Same as above without board
20	Post-excavation of 008 looking northwest
21	Same as above without board
28	Post-excavation of 009, 008 and 012 looking northwest
29	Same as above without board
32	Pre-excavation of 004 looking northwest without board
33	Same as above
34	Same as above

Film Roll 1, Colour slide

Frame number	Description
1	Test shot of photo log
2	023 mid-excavation of southeast facing section
3	Same as above without board
4	013 pre-excavation looking northwest
5	Same as above without board
6	Working shot of 023 looking northwest
7	013 pre-excavation looking northwest
8	015, 016, 018, 019, 020 pre-excavation looking southeast
9	Same as above without board
10	Same as above but looking north without board
11	Mid-excavation of 015 and 022, west facing section
12	Same as above without board
13	Post-excavation of 023 looking southeast
14	Same as above without board

Film Roll 8, Colour slide

Frame number	Description
29	Pre-excavation of 003 and 004 looking east
30	Same as above without board
31	Pre-excavation of 003 and 004 looking north
32	Mid-excavation of 004 looking northeast
33	Same as above without board
34	Mid-excavation of 004 looking north-northwest
35	Mid-excavation of 004 southeast facing section
36	Same as above without board
37	Same as above without board

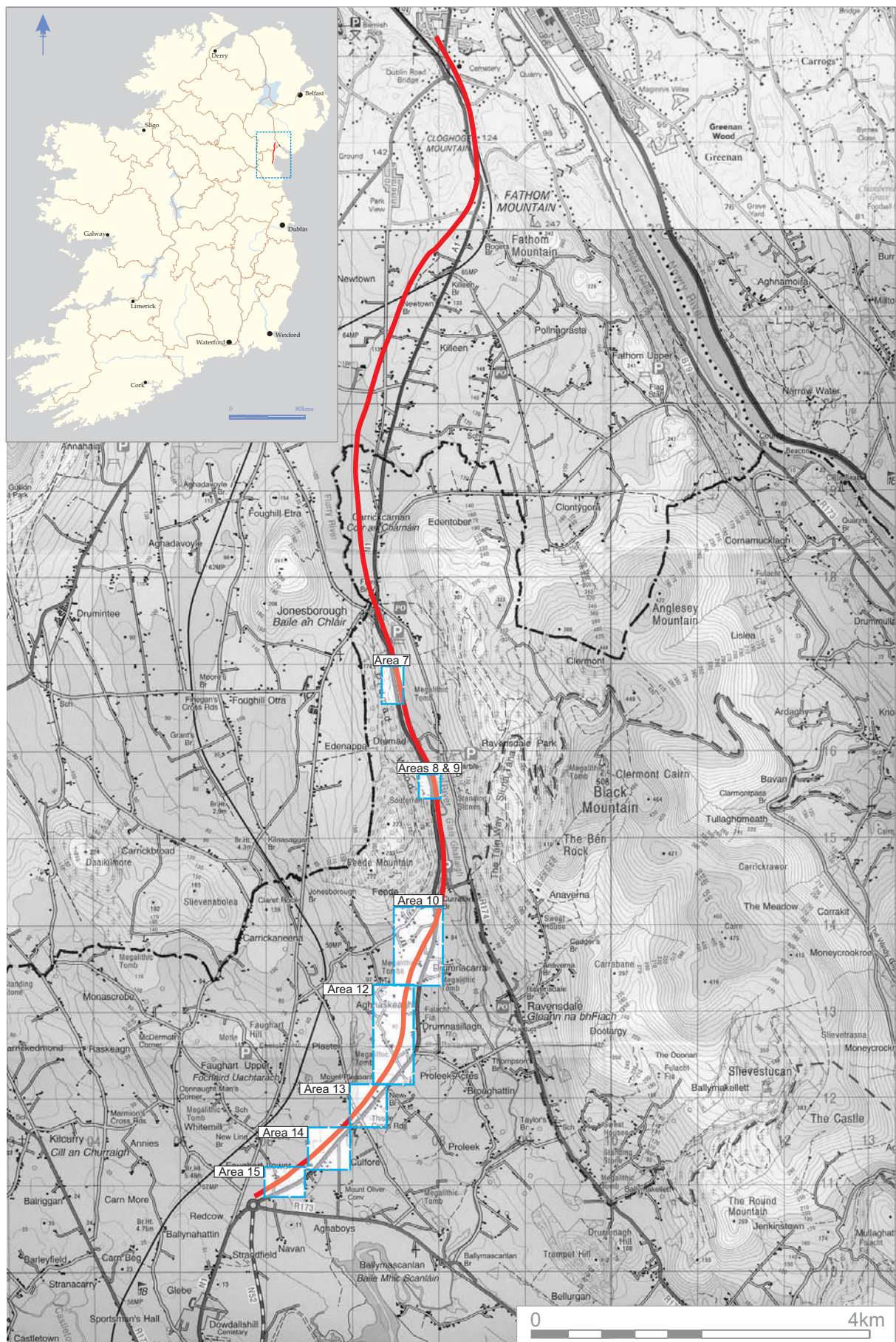


Fig. 1 Location plan for A1/N1.

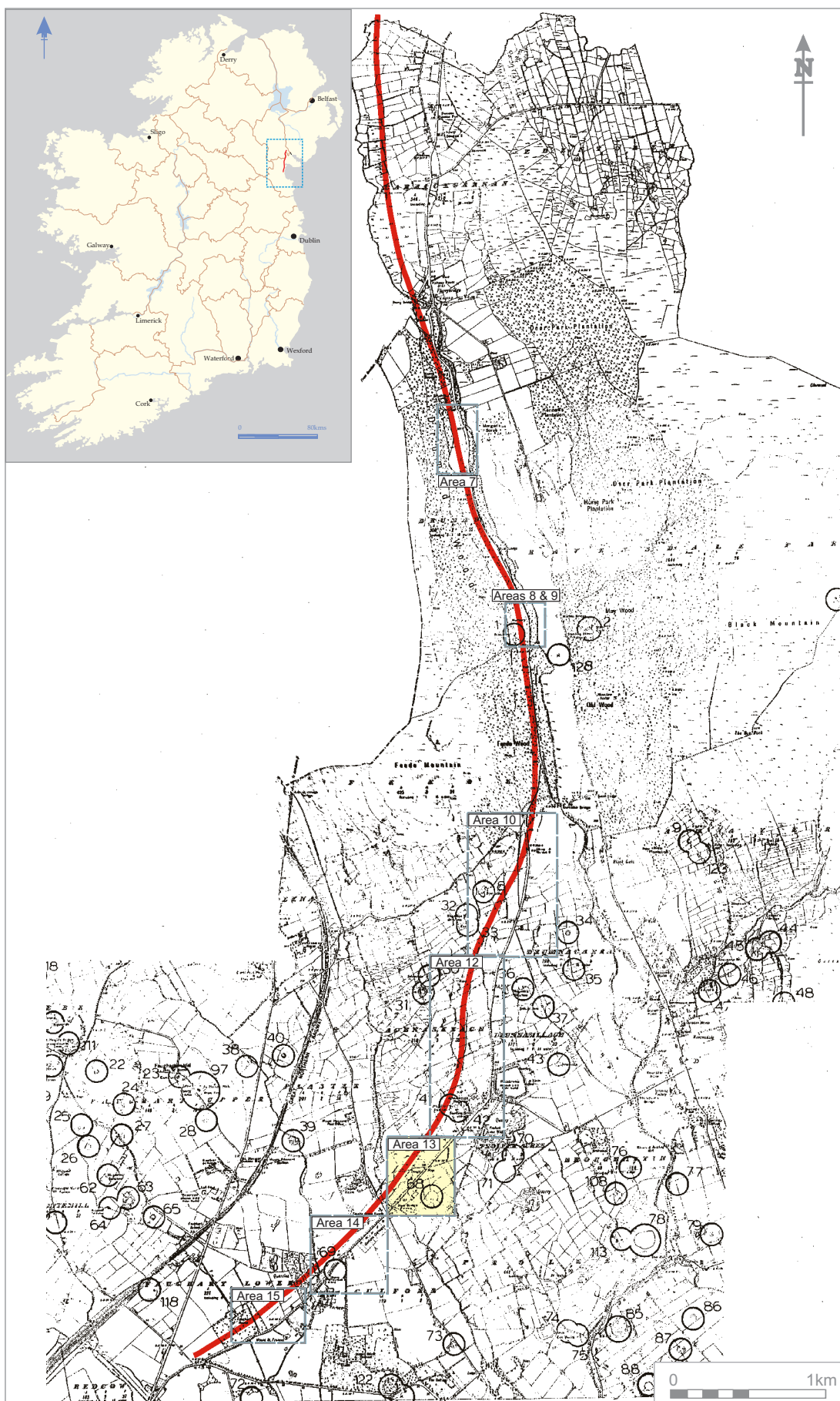


Fig. 2 Extract from RMP Maps of Louth, Sheets 1 & 4. A1/N1 in red. Scale as indicated.

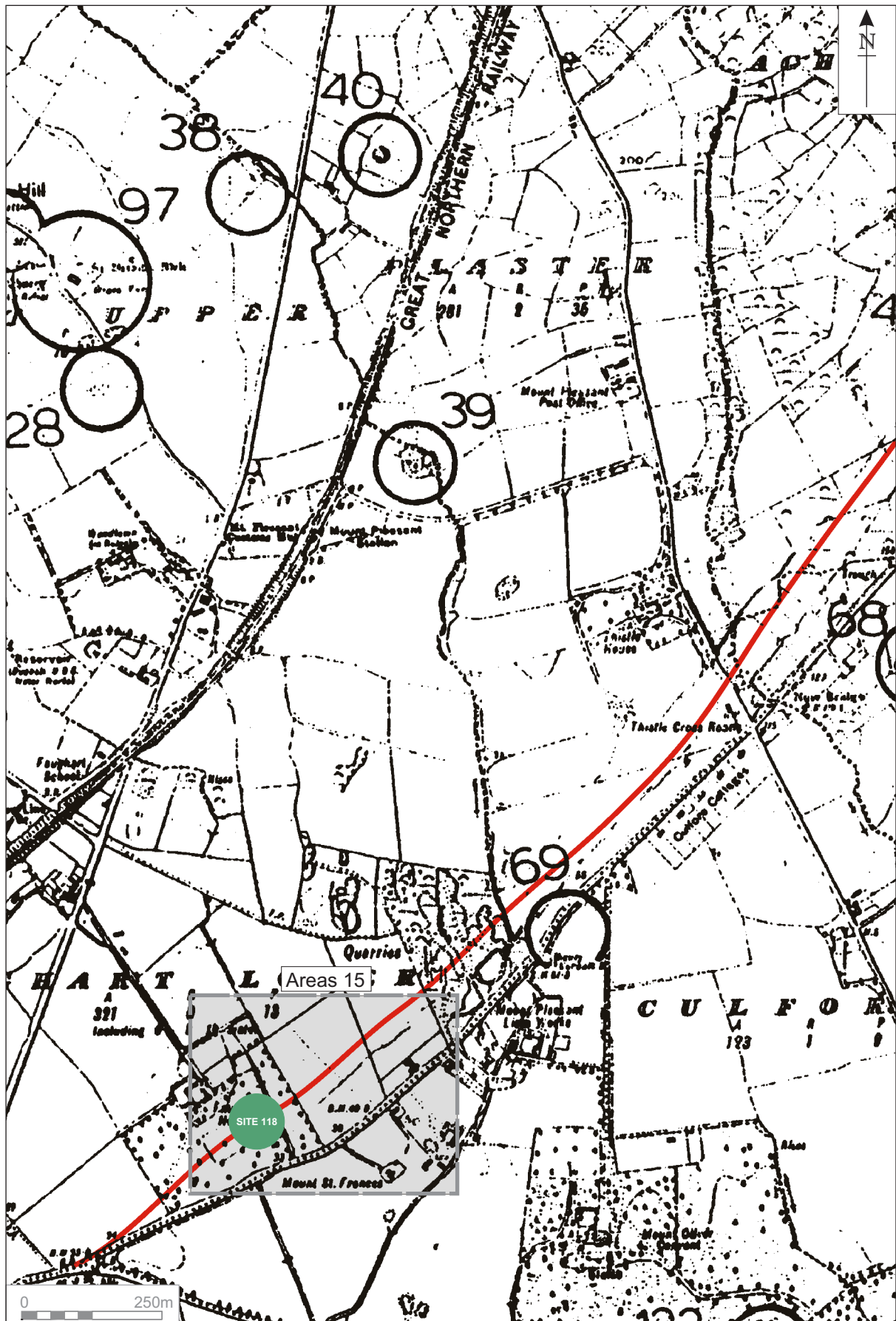


Fig. 3 Location of Area 15 and Site 118 on RMP Map of Louth, Sheet 4. A1/N1 in red. Scale 1:10,000.

Excavations Along the A1/N1 Newry to Dundalk Link Road Area 15, Site 118

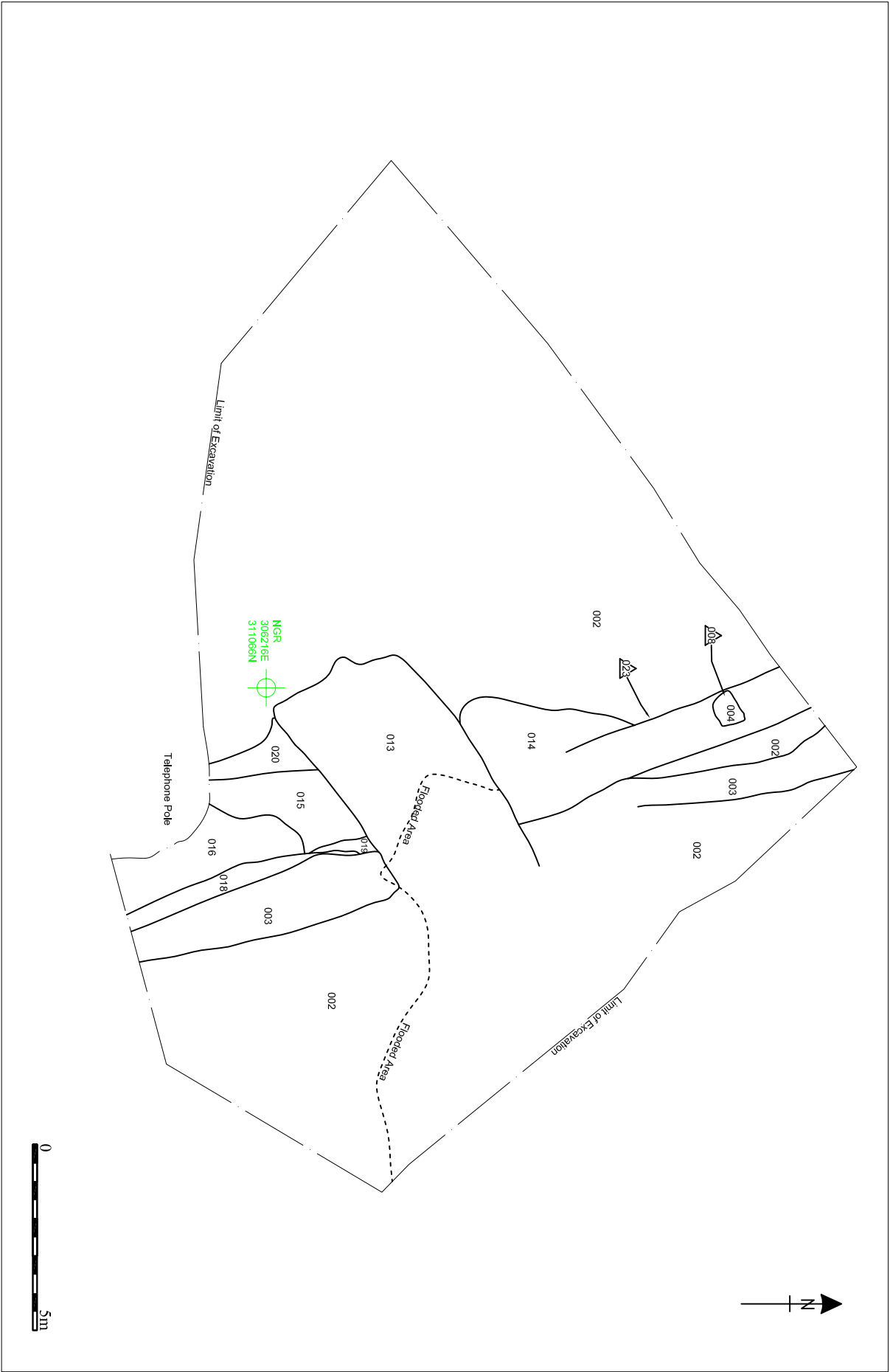


Fig. 5 Pre-excavation plan of Site 118. Scale 1:150.

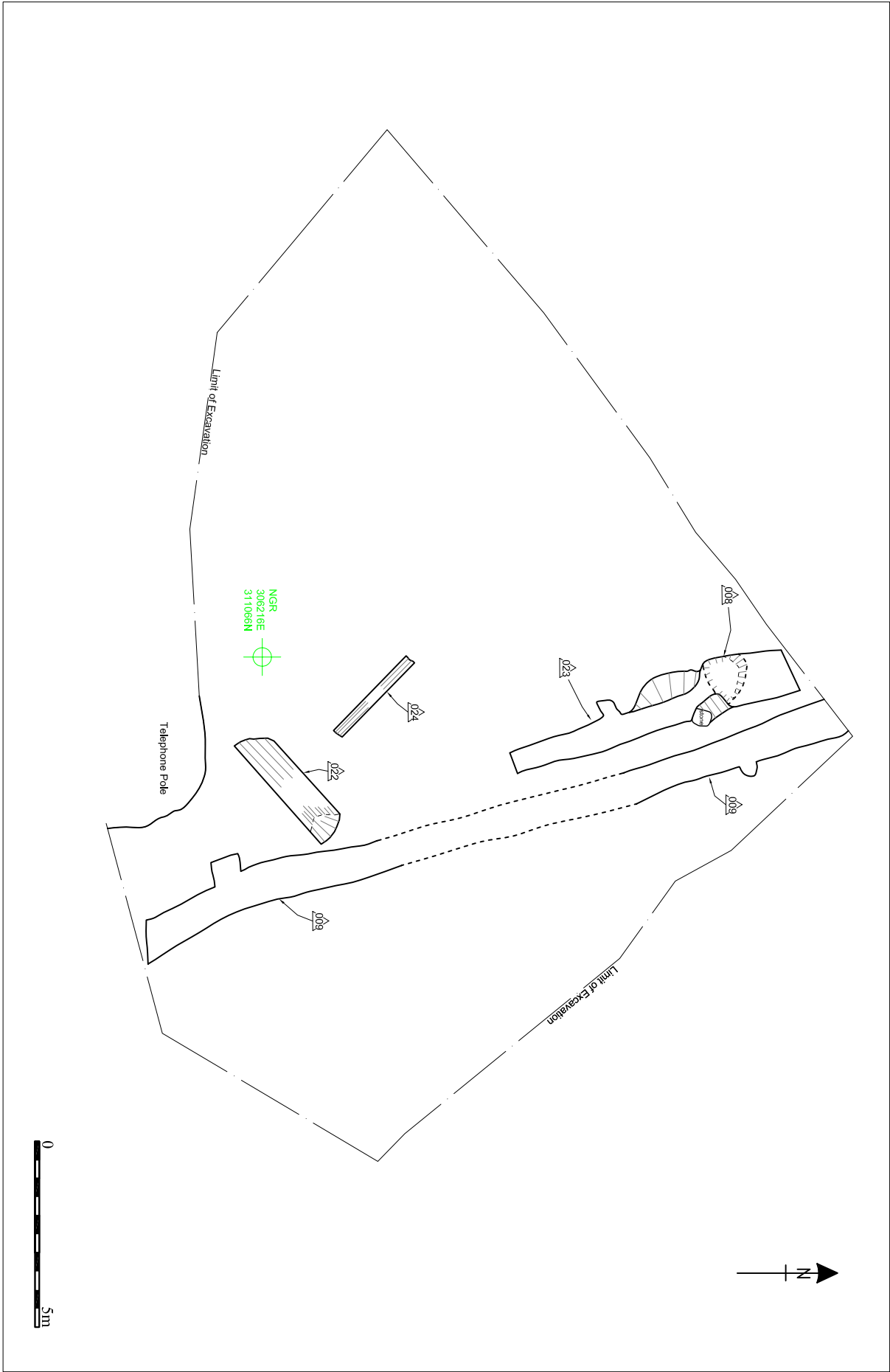


Fig. 6 Post-excavation plan of Site 118. Scale 1:150.

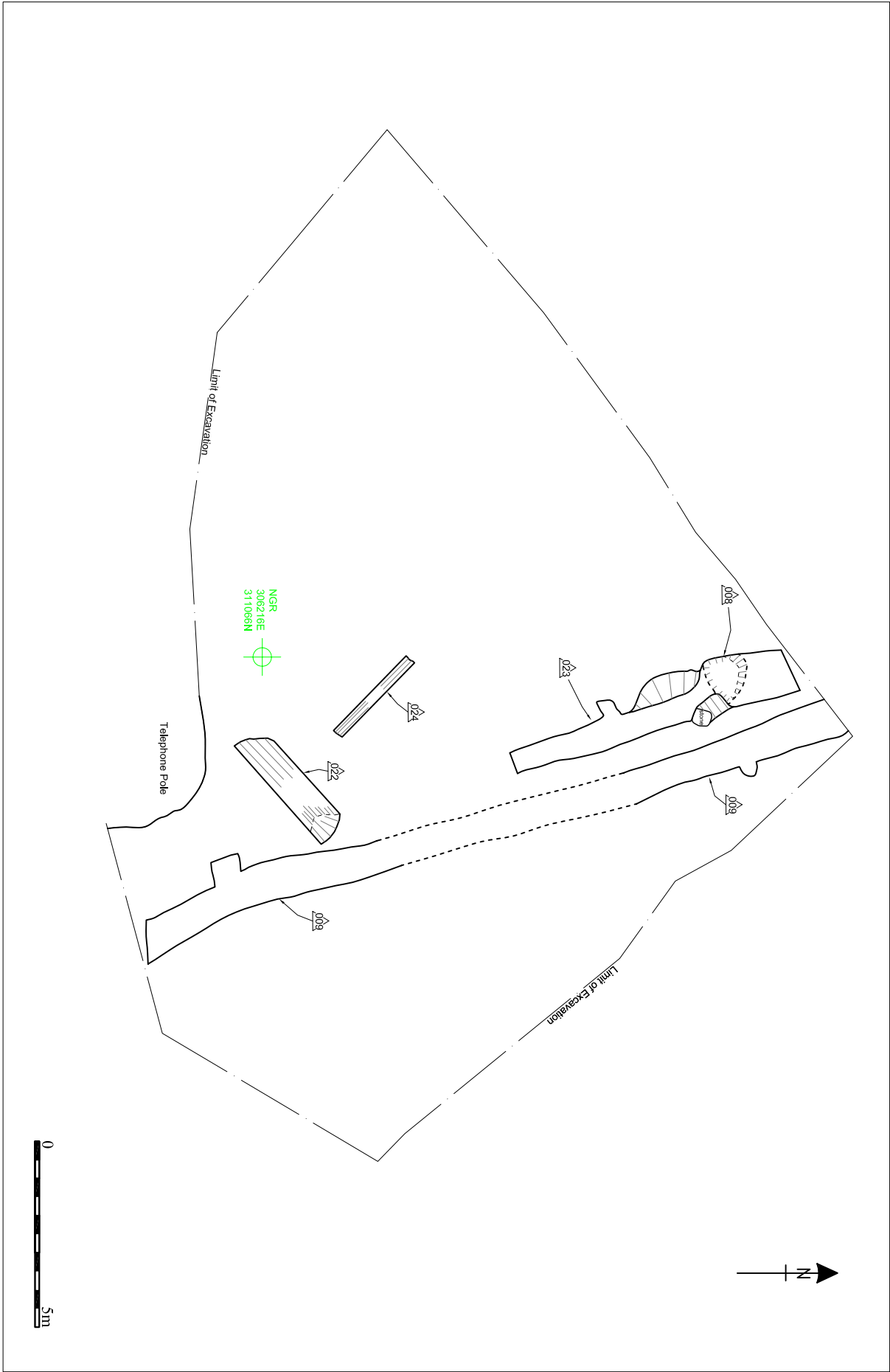


Fig. 6 Post-excavation plan of Site 118. Scale 1:150.

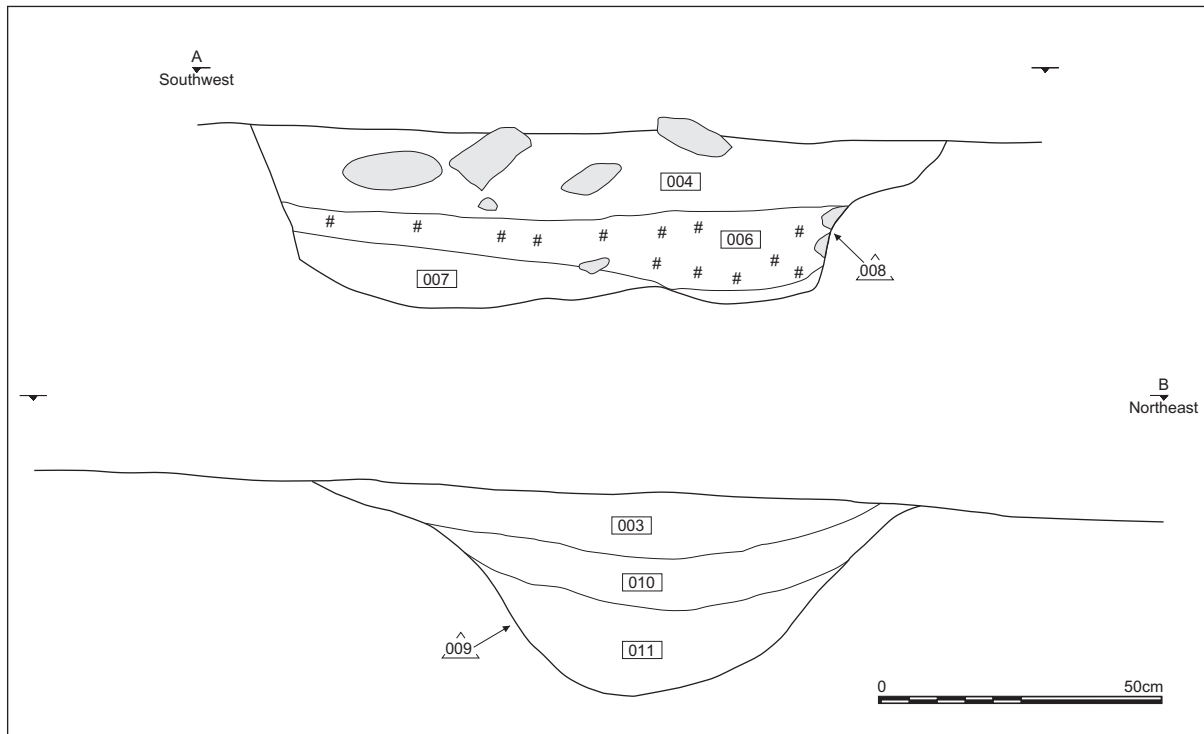


Fig. 7 Southeast facing section of cuts 8 & 9.

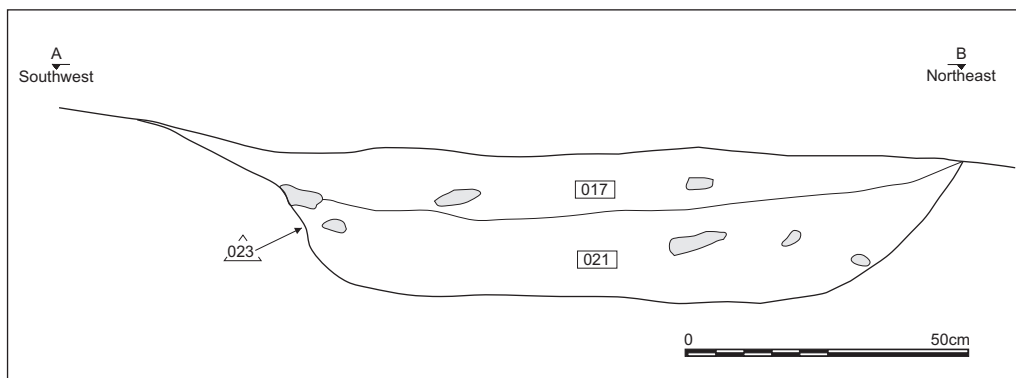


Fig. 8 Southeast facing section of cut 23.

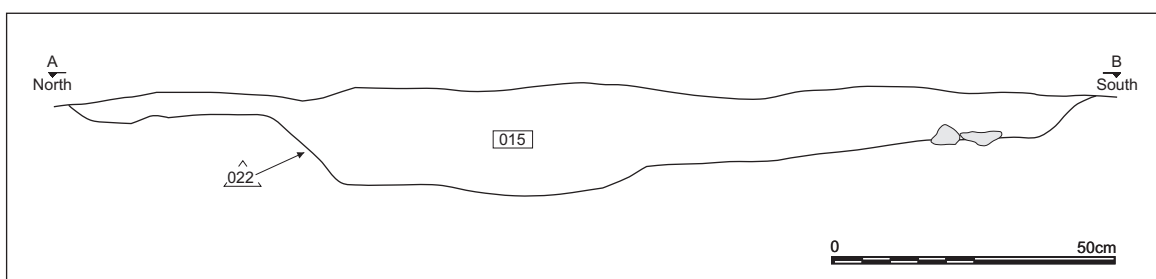


Fig. 9 West facing section of cut 22.



Plate 1 Post-excavation of cuts 9 and 12, looking northwest.



Plate 2 Post-excavation of cut 8, looking northwest.



Plate 3 Post-excavation of cut 23, looking southeast.