

**Archaeological Assessment and Excavations
at
Ballymount Great, Co. Dublin**

Licence Reference 97E0316

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For
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on behalf of
LRT Project

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological excavation along the proposed Light Rail Transport (LRT) alignment at Ballymount Great, Co. Dublin (NGR 30906 23046; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The proposed LRT alignment at Ballymount lies within a zone of archaeological potential, as outlined by *Dúchas*, The Heritage Services. This zone extends as far north as the Naas Road, south to the road forming the boundary with Kilnamanagh townland, east to the Western Parkway and west to the boundary Garranstown or Kingswood townland.
- 1.3 The route of the proposed LRT alignment bisects an archaeological complex consisting of a 17th century courtyard-style manor complex and an enigmatic elliptical shaped enclosure which surrounds a tiered earthen mound with gazebo or garden feature on its summit (SMR 012:015; Fig. 2). A detailed description of the history and structural remains of the archaeological complex is outlined in sections 2 and 3 below.
- 1.4 The proposed LRT alignment has been designed to avoid both the gate-tower (close to the present M50) and the standing remains of several derelict rectangular buildings within the manor. At this latter point, the proposed alignment passes through a break in standing remains from where, travelling north, it crosses the eastern edge of the infilled ditch forming the eastern perimeter of the Ballymount enclosure (Fig. 3).
- 1.5 In 1982, as part of the evaluation for the proposed northbound carriageway of the western parkway, Geraldine Stout undertook an archaeological assessment across the enclosure ditch and within the manor complex of buildings (OPW file no.F94/1645/1) (Figs. 3 & 4). A significant portion of the proposed LRT route was therefore investigated by the excavations in 1982. The results of this evaluation are summarized in section 3 below.
- 1.6 The archaeological evaluation described in this report was carried out over a 9 week period during September to November 1997 under licence from *Dúchas* (Licence no. 97E0316). The work was undertaken on behalf of CIE/LRT as an extension to the work of the EIS for the scheme.

2 **Historical Background** by Dr. Sean Duffy (Dept. of Medieval History, Trinity College)

- 2.1 The archaeological remains in the townland of Ballymount Great, parish of Clondalkin, barony of Uppercross, County Dublin, are very extensive. They include the levelled remains of an earthwork, enclosing a two-tiered mound with a berm at its base, making it closer to the barrow tradition than that associated with medieval mottes (perhaps constructed to serve a funerary or ritualistic purpose), and an early fosse with a terminus post quem of the ninth century but probably considerably earlier in date. Medieval remains, still visible or uncovered during excavation, include: a paved floor, possibly of early Christian date; a ninth-century bronze stick pin; a medieval, possibly thirteenth-century, cooking area; and a section of medieval limestone masonry wall, re-used in the seventeenth century, possibly as part of the bawn wall surrounding the manor house constructed at that point. The mound is surmounted by a square turret with a plain doorway and window, and chamfered brick corners which may be a folly-type landscape feature, though possibly seventeenth-century in date (Stout 1982).
- 2.2 The existence of such extensive archaeological remains at Ballymount is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that the name does not occur in the historical record until as late as 1621. This silence about a site that was both prominent and productive at an earlier period is difficult to explain. While our documentary sources are incomplete it is, nevertheless, possible to account for virtually every other surviving townland in this area in documentary sources that emanate from the medieval and early modern periods: it would be extraordinary if Ballymount simply went unrecorded previously. Neither is it the case that the site was previously of no consequence, since the archaeological evidence points to the contrary. That leaves only one likely explanation: that Ballymount is recorded in 1621 for the first time because the name was only adopted at that point, the site having previously been known by another name.
- 2.3 The 1621 reference to Ballymount occurs in the Irish patent rolls for the reign of James I, in connection with a grant of lands by the Crown to Sir William Parsons, the Surveyor General for Ireland (ancestor of the Earls of Rosse). Being Surveyor General afforded Parsons ample opportunity to acquire lands, and this he eagerly did, especially in the case of Wicklow, the county of which he created in 1605. As commissioner of plantations he took charge of the plantation of Ulster in 1610, of Wexford in 1618, of Longford and Ely O'Carroll in 1619, and of Leitrim in 1620. He himself was an English undertaker in Ulster and gained 1000 acres of arable land near Clogher in Co. Tyrone, a similar amount near Dungannon, and likewise at Tullagha in County Cavan. He also obtained 1500 acres in Wexford and 800 in Leitrim. In 1620, when he was created a baronet, he received a grant of the former royal manor of Saggart in County Dublin, and other lands amounting to a yearly rental to the crown of £100.
- 2.4 These lands are listed in a royal letter-patent dated 25 January 1621, as follows:
- Ballymergin alias Ballymarge, near Killmannagh, Corbally alias Corballis, near Tassegard, Salesbawne, Fingowre, Killardan, Byrraght, the King's wood near Tassagard, and 15 acres near Ballmallace, Keranstown alias Caranstown, near Ballymergin; the castle and lands of Newhall, 40 acres near Jobstown; the castle, manor, town and lands of Killmannagh alias Killnemannagh, 1 carucate; the cell of Killmannagh near the parish of Tawlagh.
- 2.5 There then follows a list of lands in County Tyrone which Parsons also acquired at this point, but the document concludes by stating that:

“All the lands in the County of Dublin, together with the lands of Clondalkin, created the manor of **Bellamont** (I.R.C. 1830, 526).”

- 2.6 Of the names listed in the grant, all recur repeatedly in earlier descriptions of the area, and in earlier records of land transactions there, with the solitary exception of 'Bellamont'. Yet this location is, nevertheless, important enough for the entire estate to be grouped together under its name. One is forced to the conclusion that 'Bellamont' is not, as is generally assumed, an anglicisation of the Irish 'Ballymount' - which is, in any case, a most improbable name, the first component being Gaelic, the second most definitely not - but precisely the reverse; that Ballymount is a gaelicisation of 'Bellamont', an elegant new name which Sir William Parsons selected for the manorial headquarters of his new Dublin estate, and the site of his manor house, and means, needless to say, 'beautiful mount' in reference to the pre-existing mound on the spot.
- 2.7 However, Parsons's great scheme for the development of the manor came to nothing as a result of the civil wars of the 1640s and his forced withdrawal from Ireland. In November 1646 it was reported that '**Ballemount** is burnt by the rebels' (Lomas 1905, 334-5), and we have no evidence that it was reoccupied. One can well imagine how a once formidable residence could rapidly go into decline and its very name be corrupted. In the three great inquisitions of the 1650s, the Civil Survey (1654), the Down Survey (1657), and the Census (1659) it is spelt, respectively, **Ballymounte**, **Ballimount**, and **Balymount**, and so it has remained.
- 2.8 But that is not the name which distant officialdom applied to the location. In 1662, Charles II referred to 'Sir William Parsons Bart., late of **Bellomont**, County Dublin' (Mehaffy 1905, 576). By then the title to the baronetcy had been conferred on an English soldier and diplomat, Henry Bard, who, in 1645, was created Viscount **Bellomont**. When his heirs failed, Lord Wooton of Wooton in Kent was granted, in 1681, the title Earl of **Bellomont**. The Parsons family still had their eyes on it: in that same year when the earl of Arran, (guardian of Sir Richard Parsons, heir to William Parsons's titles and lands), wrote to the earl of Ormonde stating that
“My Lord Wooton having taken the title of **Bellamont** ...I hope you will not be any hindrance if I can get that title for Sir Richard” (Litton Falkiner 1911, 58).
However, the family never did recover the title, which, in 1689, was conferred by William of Orange on Richard Coote of Colooney. His heirs had died out by 1767, when what was called the earldom of **Bellamont** was granted to a cousin, Charles Coote of Cootehill, County Cavan, though the title finally became extinct at his death in 1800 (Clokayne 1912, 105-7).
- 2.9 Ballymount is not, therefore, a mere townland, but a name, albeit corrupted, that preserves a memory of a distinguished and now defunct Irish peerage, the holder of which had, until the Act of Union, a seat in the Irish House of Lords. As such, its history is not the history of a townland, but of an assemblage of lands grouped together under that title, as listed in the 1621 grant to Sir William Parsons.
- 2.10 It is important to try to tie down the lands listed as being part of this new manor of Bellamont. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the grant is the fact that it begins with a place called 'Ballymergin alias Ballymarge'. This might be taken for the modern townland of Ballymanaggin (par. Clondalkin), but it is described as 'near Killmannagh' and

Kilnamanagh is some distance away, across the parish boundary in Tallaght. Furthermore, the variant readings of it that occur in sixteenth and seventeenth-century documents (Ballymergy, Ballym[a]lgy, Ballymergan) do not look likely to have produced the modern 'Ballymanaggin' and it may well be a now historically submerged site: since it is 'near Kilnamanagh' it is quite likely to be at or near Ballymount. It is worth pointing out that the suggestion that 'Ballymergy' may in fact be Ballymount was made by A.K. Longfield (wife of H.G. Leask) in her 1960 edition of the Fitzwilliam Accounts (Longfield 1960, 125).

- 2.11 'Corbally alias Corballis, near Tassegard' is the townland of Corbally, just south-east of Saggart. 'Salesbawne' occurs repeatedly in earlier records, then vanishes at about the time that Oldbawn appears, and is possibly the same place (perhaps from Seanbhádúin), Fingowre is also attested at an earlier date but has left no later trace in the records. 'Killardan' is Killinardan, but 'Byrraght', though also attested earlier, has likewise vanished without trace. 'The King's wood near Tassagard' is probably the modern townland of Kingswood between Cheeverstown and Baldonnell. The '15 acres near Ballmallace' are in the townland of Ballymaice between Killinardan and Glenasmole. 'Keranstown alias Caranstown, near Ballymergin' is potentially significant. It is the small townland of Carranstown, otherwise known as Kingswood (though not the same Kingswood mentioned above), that lies between Ballymount and Belgard. Its north-eastern boundary is not much more than 500m from the mound at Ballymount, and the fact that it is described as 'near Ballymergin' strengthens speculation that the latter may in fact be synonymous with Ballymount.
- 2.12 If we work on the assumption, which seems a not unreasonable one, that the remains at Ballymount may, in the medieval period, have been recorded under a variant of the name Ballymergin, then the history of Ballymergin and the other lands making up the manor of Ballymount can be traced, initially, by following the history of the royal manor of Saggart, in the Vale of Dublin, of which it formed one of the outlying manorial centres. Perhaps the earliest surviving reference to it occurs in the Irish exchequer roll for Michaelmas Term 1295 which records the receipt from Simon de Camera, one of those to whom the manor had been let 'at farm', of 60 shillings 'of the farm of Tassagard [Saggart], for **Balymargyn**' (Sweetman 1881, 113).
- 2.13 Unfortunately, Saggart, which suffered much from the resurgent activity of the Irish of the Wicklow massif, is one of the more poorly accounted royal manors, and when next we hear of Ballymergin it is in 1332, when William le Dyer, the extern provost of the manor, a post which Simon de Camera had previously held, accounted to the Exchequer for £16 11s. 9d. of 'extern rent for **Balymargyn**' and other outlying lands of the manor (P.R.O.I. 1903-27, no. 43, 61). Ballymergin appears regularly as part of the 'external rents' of the manor of Saggart in the years that followed, but by the fifteenth century the area was very much on the frontiers of the Pale, subject to hostile assault, and yielding no profit to the Crown. As a result, much formerly royal land was leased out or alienated to powerful local landholders, able, by their presence on the ground, to maintain some level of governmental control.
- 2.14 If we wish, therefore, to trace the later history of Ballymergin, we must follow the fortunes of the family of Talbot of Belgard, a cadet branch of the lords of Malahide. With their caput at Belgard, by the end of the fifteenth century they became the most prominent lay landholders in the area when Robert Talbot, son of John Talbot of Feltrim, purchased Killinardan, Ballymaice, Ballinasorney and 'Fyngower' from the Fitzwilliam family, lords of Merrion (Kingston 1955, 81). However, it was stated in 1525 that Robert Talbot

of Belgard held, not only these lands, but 'Corbally, Salisboan, **Ballymergy**, Kingswood near Saggart, Killinardan, 'Fyngon', Byrragh and 16 acres near Ballymaice' (Griffith 1991, 13).

- 2.15 With some surrounding lands later added, this is precisely the estate which Sir William Parsons was to rename Bellamont almost exactly a century later. Under Parsons it saw its finest hour, but his fall from grace saw it fall into ruin, a decay that continued unabated in the years that followed.

3 Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The importance of the Ballymount complex was recognized in 1977 when Dublin County Council commissioned Paddy Healy to report on the standing archaeological remains (Healy 1977). In 1978 a number of developments were proposed for the area including housing schemes, industrial facilities and the western parkway (M50) motorway. The complex was then listed for protection under the terms of the National Monuments Acts.
- 3.2 In 1971, an enclosure (SMR 021:015/06) identified from aerial photographs (AP 2/262/1) was described as a *large oval cropmark* site (165m E-W, 102m N-S) with a track-way running north-south along its eastern side. It was located within a field adjacent (north) to a complex of standing buildings associated with the seventeenth century Ballymount manor (SMR 021:15/2). The location of the manor was thought to reflect habitation stretching back into the medieval period.
- 3.3 A two-tiered earthen mound (SMR 021:15/3) is located within the enclosure on a slight rise in ground level, with the remains of a seventeenth century building (gazebo) on its summit. The mound, described by Geraldine Stout (1982), consists of a steep-sided platform 2.50m high and 42m in diameter, with a berm 3.50m wide around the upper perimeter. On top of this is a mound, 2.50m high and 20m in diameter with an enclosing limestone masonry wall 1.50m to 2m in height, enclosing an area around 10m in diameter. Inside this is a square turret structure with a plain doorway and window with chamfered brick corners. The upper stage of the earthwork had been landscaped to insert an external stone stair way on the south side. An illustration by Beranger from 1767 shows this structure as a two storey turret. It is believed that part of the turret blew down on the night of the big wind in 1839 (Handcock 1899). The building is generally viewed as representing a sham ruin or garden folly.
- 3.4 ***Prehistoric Activity***
Excavation by Stout (1982, Fig.4) confirmed the presence of an enclosure, along the line of the cropmark, defined by a flat-bottomed ditch (located in trenches 1, 2 and 4) with evidence for an external bank (trench 3). The primary ditch fill contained a horse skull, and other animal bones, as well as corroded iron artifacts which included a socketed tool, a tanged knife (trench 3) and iron slag (trench 4). A bronze stick pin with a 'watch-winder' head of tenth/early eleventh century date was recovered from the upper layer of the ditch within a deposit sealing pushed in bank material (Stout forthcoming). Further topsoil removal from the area to be affected by proposed construction revealed the curving line of the ditch and a number of post holes. In the absence of closely datable finds or radio-carbon dates, the excavator postulated that the site may have dated to the Iron Age. Stout also felt that in morphology the enclosure displayed characteristics similar to those diagnostic of embanked enclosures or *henges* which date to the Late Neolithic period. No direct evidence was recovered from the excavation to fully support this premise.
- 3.5 ***Medieval Activity***
South of the outbuildings and west of the building known as the manor house, Stout uncovered a number of features of medieval date (trench 6, Fig. 5). These consisted of an area of rough stone paving 1.50m east-west by 3m north-south, disturbed by a series of pits containing fragments of medieval cooking ware and animal bone. A stick pin of eleventh to thirteenth century date was recovered from a disturbed context close to the paved area (Stout 1982). In ground plan these features represent a kiln-like structure, possibly an oven. The sequence of features and associated finds from this area indicate continuous activity between c.1250-1350 AD (Stout, forthcoming). The only masonry

remains for this period were a stretch of wall 9.20m long by 0.70m wide which lay southwest of the manor house. The wall contained a threshold 1.20m wide from which a sherd of green glazed pottery of thirteenth/fourteenth century date was recovered.

3.6 *Seventeenth-century manor*

The manor house with its associated outbuildings and courtyard, were built at Ballymount by the Surveyor General, Sir William Parsons in 1622. The manor was entered through Ballymount Lane, passing through a gate house which survives as a square two-storey structure built of coarse limestone walls up to 0.60m thick. A number of gun-loops exist within the walls and there are timber-framed windows in the east and west walls. The building has few dressed stones and the original crenellations survive at parapet level. By 1767 the lane-way by-passed the gatehouse and it subsequently went out of use.

- 3.7 The manor house was burnt down in 1646 and by 1982 only a portion of the original structure remained. The 1982 excavations located the southwest corner of the building, which enabled an estimate of its overall dimensions to be made; 16m north-south by 8.20m east-west (Stout 1982). The surviving north wall of the house had been re-used as the south wall of a vaulted rectangular building probably constructed after 1646. The courtyard wall extended westwards from these buildings and at least two additional structures were built on to this wall (RB1 & RB2). At least one of these farm buildings may be contemporary with the vaulted structure although excavations within these buildings yielded only evidence for nineteenth century occupation. The 1982 excavation revealed a late seventeenth century byre, probably the building referred to in 1898 as a cow-house, to the west of the manor house. Another rectangular building survived between the manor house (west) and the gate-house. This structure measured 11m east-west by 4m north-south and was built of masonry with brick surrounds over the doors and windows. It was constructed over a vaulted culvert, which is likely to be contemporary (17th century) and may have channelled water. During mechanical test trenching of the area to be affected by the western leg of the M50, a series of fragmentary medieval and seventeenth century walls were revealed. The latter may once have formed part of the enclosing bawn wall of the manor, while the medieval walls are thought to represent part of an earlier building.
- 3.8 A final phase of building is represented by outhouses associated with a structure once located west of the manor house, but demolished in 1960. These buildings, which included a shed with cobbled floor, were built during the nineteenth century.

4 Excavation 1997

4.1 The purpose of the excavation was to examine the nature and extent of the archaeological remains along the proposed LRT alignment through the Ballymount complex. This was undertaken to identify and record all subsurface features and soils of archaeological potential and to assess the level of impact and where appropriate mitigation measures on receipt of technical information on the alignment.

4.2 An area 100m by 20m in size was mechanically excavated, under supervision, to the top of the archaeological horizons (Fig.3). From this point all excavation was undertaken by hand. The stripped area corresponded with the route of the proposed alignment corridor and encompassed both the manor and enclosure sites. For recording purposes the former was designated Area 1 and the latter Area 2.

4.3 Area 1: *The Manor Buildings*

Excavation in this area focused on a corridor lying between a derelict structure designated RB2 on the west (after Stout 1982) and a rectangular building with a barrel vaulted chamber on the east (Fig. 3). Significantly, a portion of the eastern line of the proposed corridor had been disturbed by a sewer pipe trench. Stout's excavations within the manor complex (Fig.5, Trenches 6 & 7) lay mainly to the west of the present investigation area, however, Stout had carried out some limited excavation within the interiors of both rectangular buildings, revealing nineteenth century cobbled floors (Stout forthcoming). The 1982 report details four main phases of activities within Area 1:

- (i) Early Christian period (second half of the 1st millennium AD) with a paved floor.
- (ii) medieval activity (possibly of 13th century date) characterized by a cooking area.
- (iii) a series of medieval masonry walls re-used in the 17th century, possibly as part of the bawn wall surrounding the manor house constructed at that time.
- (iv) 19th century buildings associated with later activities on the site.

As some of the buildings have been damaged and other walls removed since 1982, this report provides a valuable archive for the layout of walls and buildings and includes observations on the sequence of activities within the complex as a whole.

4.4 Rectangular Building 2

Most of the eastern section of a substantial stone building, of which a small section (west) survives above ground in derelict form, was uncovered within the excavation area. The eastern end of the structure had been removed by the sewer pipe trench (at 62.09m OD). Excavation within the proposed LRT corridor, directly east of the standing section, revealed the sub-surface remains of the central portion of the structure. This included the wall foundations, a partition wall and a series of internal cobbled floors and drainage features, the upper level of which had been previously examined by Stout (forthcoming). The alignment, construction type and proximity to an associated building (RB1) suggest that it served as a farm building, most probably housing animals. The structure, located against the northern wall of the courtyard, displayed two main phases of construction and use. The earliest phase corresponds to seventeenth century constructions within the manor, while the second phase largely represents eighteenth to nineteenth century activities.

4.5 Clearance of overburden to the south of RB2 revealed cobbled surfaces and the southwest corner of the manor house (Fig.14-15, Pl.2). Excavation to the north of RB2 uncovered post-medieval dumps and several possible pathways. No remains of the enclosing bawn wall, to the south of the buildings were located during excavations.

4.6 **Period 1: Medieval Activity (12th-14th Century)**

Levels of medieval character were uncovered in the open area excavation. Immediately below the foundation layer for the earliest cobbled floor of RB2 (**120**) lay deposit **121**, which contained several features of medieval date (Figs. 6-7). Deposit **121** consisted of a compact brown clay containing animal bone, shell and charcoal fragments. It also contained 24 sherds of Leinster cooking ware of late 12th-14th century date (Figs. 16-17) and 27 sherds of Dublin type wares of 13th-14th century date (Fig. 17). Other finds from this layer consisted of pieces of chert and flint, an irregular shaped piece of iron (L.35mm) and several pieces of baked clay. The features from this level consisted of a small stone lined pit **F11**, a narrow gully **F16**, an area of cobbles **F17** and the remains of a lime kiln **F18**. Deposit **118**, which lies below and directly north of the north wall of RB2 may also represent a medieval horizon of similar date.

4.7 **Pit F11** (Figs. 6-7, Pl.1)

A stone lined pit c.0.42m in diameter measuring 0.12m deep, cut into layer **121** within RB2 and underlying layer **120**, the foundation deposit for the first phase of cobbled floor within RB2. While no finds were directly recovered from this feature, it cuts into a context producing fragments of Leinster cooking ware and butchered animal bone including a horse mandible.

4.8 **Narrow Gully F16** (Fig. 6)

A small section of a narrow gully was exposed 1.65m south-west of **F11**. The feature, within layer **121** and sealed by layer **120**, was 0.40m wide and 0.10m deep. No finds were uncovered from within its fill.

4.9 **Cobbled surface F17** (Fig. 6)

This feature was located below context **121** and directly over natural subsoil **125**. Though disturbed by the insertion of later walls **F3** and **F4**, the feature consists of a fine cobble of small water worn stones intermixed with occasional limestone slabs. No finds were recovered in association with this feature, however on plan it would seem to be associated with the lime kiln **F18**.

4.10 **Lime kiln F18** (Fig 6 & Fig 10, section J-K)

This feature, cut into natural subsoil **125**, was uncovered in profile in the western section of the sewer pipe trench **111** (Fig. 10) and partially survived in plan (Fig. 6). The kiln lies below the northern section of **F4** and while not clearly distinguishable in plan, it appears to extend west beneath **114** to the inner face of **F3**, which has removed any further trace of the kiln to the west. In profile the kiln was 1.20m wide and 0.71m deep. It consisted of a flat base (1m wide) comprising limestone slabs on average 0.22m wide (top 62.32m OD) with vertical walls composed of irregularly shaped stones 0.60m high (south) and 0.50m high (north). The feature contained three fill deposits; a basal layer of white lime mortar **128**, at most 0.13m thick, an intermediate level at most 0.36m deep of mixed brown soil with orange clay flecks **127**, and an upper boulder in-fill, mixed with a dark brown loam **126**, at most 0.22m deep. Three body sherds of Dublin type ware of 13th century date were recovered from deposits **127** (1) and **126** (2) and one sherd of Leinster Cooking ware of 12th to 14th century date was recovered from **126**.

4.11 **Period 2: Later Medieval Activity (17th Century)**

Several walls of probable seventeenth century origin were revealed within the excavation. The southwest corner of the former manor house **F10**, two stone wall foundations **F5** and

F6 on the south side of RB2 and the present northern long wall of RB2, **F1**, **F2** and **F9** which had before its construction, had served as the north courtyard wall of the manor.

4.12 **Walls F1, F2 and F9**

The walls, **F1**, **F2** and **F9** formed the north wall of RB2. The section of wall between **F1** and **F2** had been removed by the sewer pipe (**111**). Only a small section of wall **F1** was found at the base (foundation level) of the western gable end of the vaulted building (**F2** 63.35m OD). This suggests structures RB1, RB2 and the vaulted room formed a continuous line of buildings, possibly conjoined. The walls were constructed of irregularly faced limestone blocks and boulders containing a rubble core of angular and sub-angular stones. **F1** measured 3.60m long by 0.60m wide and survived to a height of 0.50m (63.38m OD). **F9** currently forms the western standing section of the north wall of RB2.

4.13 **Wall F5 (Fig. 13)**

This section of wall was uncovered within the cobble surface 1.50m south of the outhouse **F4**. The wall survived at maximum 2.60m long and is on average 0.74m wide and 0.30m high (63.29m OD). It was constructed of rough, faced limestone blocks and small stones with a rubble core. The southern end of the wall was thicker and wider than average and would suggest that the wall may have had a return to either the east or west. The wall may be connected with **F6**, though direct evidence for this has been lost with the insertion of **F4**.

4.14 **Wall F6 (Figs. 7, 14, 15)**

Partly incorporated into the south facing wall of RB2 (**F3**), **F6** survived as a smooth faced limestone wall of uneven courses with a stone rubble core. The wall survives 3.30m long by 0.54m wide and stands 0.40m high (63.30m OD). The base of the wall was cut into deposit **121** and extended below the later wall, **F3**. Its line extended beyond the western edge of the excavation area and while cut by the foundation wall of the outhouse **F4**, a faint trace of its original line still survived along the inside line of the south-facing wall of the outhouse. The precise construction date of this wall was unclear, however it clearly post-dated the medieval horizon (cutting into **121**) and pre-dated the construction of RB2. It would therefore most likely represent the remnants of a seventeenth century wall. If both **F6** and **F5** are contemporary then they may reflect ancillary buildings to the manor house.

4.15 **Wall F10 (Fig. 13, Pl. 2)**

A small section of the manor house wall was uncovered after clearance of overburden deposits **102** and **103** from the area 9m south of RB2. This represented the southwest corner of the manor house, previously uncovered by Stout in 1982, and as such remains unchanged since that report was compiled. A single rim sherd of Dublin type ware (13th century) was recovered from the backfill surrounding the wall.

4.16 **RB2 Building Phase 1 (18th to 19th Century) (Fig.14-15)**

The surviving western gable end of the structure comprises portions of the north and south long walls of the building. The walls, **F1**, **F2** and **F9** (also see 4.12 above) and **F3** (south) were traced running east into the excavated area where they survived as foundation courses. Both had been disturbed by the sewer pipe (**111**) and by later building activities (**F1/F9**), by the possible gable end of a small outbuilding (**F8** and **F3**) and by out-building (**F4**). The linkage of walls **F1**, **F2** and **F9** with the vaulted building suggests structures RB1, RB2 and the vaulted room formed a continuous line of buildings, possibly conjoined. Wall **F3** abutted and was partly constructed over an earlier wall **F6**, of probable seventeenth century date (see 4.14 above). Walls associated with RB2 were

constructed of irregularly faced limestone blocks and boulders containing a rubble core of angular and sub-angular stones. **F3** survived uninterrupted for a distance of 4.50m, extending east from **F4** to the western gable end of RB2. Within the excavation area the wall was 0.50m wide and survived to a height of 0.56m (63.405m OD). Walls **F1** and **F3** were founded on an earlier deposit of brown compact clay **121** containing finds of medieval pottery and small quantities of animal bone, shell and charcoal flecks. A mixture of medieval and post-medieval finds were recovered from **F3**, including one sherd of Leinster cooking ware (late 12th to 14th century), four sherds of glazed white earthenware and one fragment of unglazed red earthenware roof tile (18th to 19th century).

- 4.17 The phase 1 cobbled floor level **114** (Figs. 14-15) was founded on a mixed deposit of brown and grey-brown clay **120** which overlay **121** (62.90m OD). Deposit **120** contained small stones, fist sized and smaller, as well as fragments of bone, cinder and charcoal. Apart from one sherd of Leinster cooking ware this deposit contained ceramics with a date range of between the 17th-19th century as well as a large piece of unglazed red earthenware tile (97E316:120:16, Fig 16). Within RB2 deposit **120** increased in depth from north to south, from between 0.08m to 0.18m and directly south of RB2 the deposit was 0.16m deep. Deposit **120** represents a platform for **114**, being slightly higher towards the south and providing cobbled floor **114** with a south to north 'run off', leading ultimately towards a shallow drainage channel parallel with wall **F1**.
- 4.18 Floor **114** (Pl. 4) comprised an irregularly set cobbled surface, on average 0.10m deep, of smooth surfaced stones (set on edge) on average 0.10m to 0.25m in size. The floor was split level, with a higher western side (63.27m OD) and lower eastern side (63.12m OD). The break between the levels was defined by a north-south double line of elongated cobbles and occasional slabs forming the base of a ramp or low bank 0.60m to 0.80m wide (E-W), faced with irregular set cobbles (Fig.15). The higher western area was more sparsely surfaced with cobbles than the lower eastern side (Pl. 4). However, the tightly set cobbles did not extend over all of the lower level as an area c.2.20m² in the south-east corner was characterized by occasional cobble stones and flat slabs. The base of the ramp served as a channel linking a drainage feature parallel with **F3** on the south side of the upper floor level, with a drainage channel located against **F1** on the lower level. The former, **F22** (Fig. 14) consisted of a neat cobbled linear arrangement at least 1.40m long by 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep (top 63.16m OD). The feature was lined along its north-facing side with vertically placed thinly split stones. The latter feature, **F23**, represented a continuation of the open channel at the base of the ramp defined by parallel set elongated cobble stones forming a shallow V-shaped channel 1.60m long, 0.30m wide and 0.10m deep (63.05m OD), which rises up against wall **F1**.
- 4.19 Other features surviving within floor **114** consisted of a semi-circular setting of rounded and angular cobble stones **F24** defining what now appears as a cobble free area with an estimated diameter of 0.85m. This feature was located in the upper floor level and is apparently cut or disturbed by **F22**. At the base of the ramp a clearly defined arched setting of cobbles may originally have defined conjoined circular settings of stones, at most, 1.20m in diameter. Several other aligned or arranged cobble settings could be traced within the lower floor of **114** (Pl. 6), including a possible circular arrangement at the eastern end of the area and a NW-SE linear setting of double stones running diagonally across the floor of the structure. Both sets of features consist of laid cobbles no more than 0.10-0.15m in depth and it is possible they reflect the earliest laid surface within the building. The exact function of these arrangements remains unclear. It is possible that they may have marked the placement positions for objects such as barrels, or they may be little more than the remnants of a 'decorative' floor arrangement. While certainly contemporary with the construction of the split-level floor, they were later

incorporated into a more irregularly set cobbled surface, possibly as a result of a change in function of the structure.

Deposit **114** contained 22 sherds of post-medieval pottery with a date range of 18th to 19th century and a fragment of unglazed red earthenware tile. The pottery includes sherds of Victorian transfer printed ware, glazed white earthenware and Blackware. A handle sherd of Dublin type pottery of 13th century date reflects re-deposition from the earlier horizon (**121**), (Figs. 16-17).

4.20 **RB2 Building Phase 2** (Fig. 13)

In phase 2 the split level floor of phase 1 (**114**) was replaced. A foundation deposit was laid to level the floor surface and a partition wall was constructed within the building against the north wall. A series of internal posts were also introduced. The phase 2 floor consisted of a foundation deposit of mixed mortar and brown soil **110** at most 0.15m deep, which increased the level of the lower eastern portion of **114** to that of the higher western section. This deposit contained fragments of Blackware and Tin glazed earthenware of 18th century date, shards of green bottle glass, clay pipe stems, animal bone, shell, cinder and occasional pieces of corroded iron. The cobbled surface of phase 2, **105**, appeared to have been more sparse than that of the preceding phase 1. It consisted of irregularly set rounded and sub-angular stones of varying size, from small fist sized pebbles to larger stones up to 0.25m long. For the most part, the surface was relatively tightly constructed, surviving mainly through the central portion of the excavated area in RB2. Several linear cobbled arrangements were recognized including a T-shaped setting of double cobbles, similar to the linear arrangements in phase 1. This too may have served a drainage or channelling purpose. Part of this setting was disturbed by the insertion of post-pit **F20**.

- 4.21 Three centrally placed post-pits were cut into **105** (Figs. 14-15, Pl.4). The western pit **F19** consisted of a roughly circular feature 0.60m in diameter and 0.20m deep (Pl.5). The central pit **F20** lying 1.05m east of **F19** measured 0.64m by 0.45m and 0.14m deep (Fig. 9, Section C-D). Pit **F21**, located 1.45m east of **F20**, measured 0.80m by 0.54m and 0.20m deep (Fig. 9, Section E-F). Each pit had an upper surround of stones and a basal cushion stone (Pl. 4). The pits were filled with a black cinder deposit, which in both texture and appearance resembled 'fused' or vitrified material (contexts **107**, **108**, **109**). None of the surround stones or basal cushion stones were heat fractured.

The relationship of the centrally aligned post pits to the partition wall **F7** has not been fully established. In the absence of excavation within the western end of RB2, which lies outside the proposed LRT corridor, further pits and evidence for a southward continuation of **F7** can only be speculated. However, it seems probable that at least two further pits may survive beyond the excavation area to the west and that a further section of **F7** may be symmetrically positioned against the south wall of RB2 (see below).

4.22 **Internal partition wall F7** (Fig. 14)

A short stretch of stone partition wall **F7** measuring 2.50m long (N-S) by 0.64m wide and 0.10m high (63.29m OD) survived perpendicular to the western end of **F1**. The wall was faced with irregularly spaced limestone blocks and small stones with a rubble stone core. No evidence for a corresponding link section of partition wall to the main south wall was uncovered within the excavation area. Post pit **F19** was located close against the southern end of wall **F7** and appeared to post-date its construction, however the south end of the wall at this point did not display obvious quoins, suggesting that it may have been dismantled from this point south. Though it seems likely that **F7** may have abutted against **F1**, no direct evidence was found to suggest that they had been bonded. The most

likely explanation for this is that towards the end of phase 2 **F1** was cut back leaving **F7** as a free standing structure. This most likely corresponded with the demolition and removal of a section of **F1** leaving a breach in the wall up to 3.00m in length, which fits in well with the present gap between **F1** and **F9**. The construction of the section of recessed wall **F8**, against the eastern end of **F9** (formerly part of **F1**) raised questions of sequence and function. Finds associated with **F7** included one sherd of medieval pottery, two fragments of pantile (17th century onwards), sherds of Blackware (18th century) and pieces of green bottle glass and clay pipe stems.

4.23 **Wall F8** (Figs. 14-15)

This stretch of wall appeared to have been constructed hastily to fill in the gap between **F9** and **F7**. The wall was founded on a deposit of soil **118** which appeared similar to **121**. Deposit **118** consisted of a compact, dark brown, clay loam containing two fragments of Dublin type fine ware (13th to 14th century). The wall was at most 0.44m wide and survived as a single course of rough stone between 0.05-0.08m high (63.12m-63.37m OD). It was irregularly faced with small angular and sub-angular limestone boulders and probably had a rubble core. **F8** abutted **F9** to the west but lies 0.50m short of **F7**. In form, though poorly built, **F8** possibly represented either the gable end of an outbuilding constructed within the breach of the wall or defined the position of a doorway into the western half of RB2. In support of the former hypothesis, the position and extent of the deposit of black humic soil **116** (63.22m OD) to the east of **F8**, appeared to define the possible projected wall line of which **117**, a small area of cobble like stones, may have represented either the degraded remains of the eastern side wall or a threshold into the structure from the east.

4.24 The final stages of activity over the site included the in-fill of the centrally aligned post holes and the deposition of a series of mixed soil and mortar dump deposits (**106**) over cobbled floor **105** within RB2. Deposits of brown soil containing red brick rubble **102**, between 0.05-0.10m deep, were dumped over cobbled surface **104** to the south of RB2 (top 63.43m OD). A series of mixed mortar deposits **115**, c.0.05m deep (top 63.28m OD), dark brown clay **119**, on average 0.10m deep containing a sherd of north Devon gravel tempered ware and several of glazed earthenware, and the previously mentioned black humic soil **116**, were dumped directly north of RB2.

4.25 **Outhouse Structure** (Figs. 13-14; Pl.7)

A late outhouse structure was recorded cutting the south wall of RB2 by Stout. This was uncovered during excavation of phase 2. The surviving remains **F4**, consisted of the west side of the structure, including the west wall (2.40m long) and stretches of the south wall (1.46m long) and north walls (0.90m long), the latter being partly dislodged. The wall was a uniform 0.50m wide and was up to 0.35m deep. The interior of the structure can be distinguished as a sunken area filled with later site rubble and overburden. **F4** cut both **F3** and **F6** and there was evidence that a stone cutting tool, similar to a circular saw, was used to cut into **F3** to accommodate the western line of **F4**.

4.26 **Paths**

The disturbed remains of at least two linear cobbled paths were located to the north of RB2. They survived in a degenerated state and were largely recorded on plan. The main lane-way from the gate tower to the courtyard was also located c.28.00m south of the corner of the exposed section of manor house wall **F10**. This was set on natural sandy clay and consisted of a gravel path at least 2.50m in width.

4.27 **Area 2: The Enclosure** (Fig. 3)

Much of the area of the enclosure within the proposed LRT alignment had been excavated by Stout in 1982 (see 3.5 above). These excavations removed both the topsoil and a clay mantle which covered the in-filled ditch. This provided Stout with an opportunity to trace a significant portion of the enclosure ditch within the area proposed for the western parkway. This investigation provided several profiles of the ditch and uncovered evidence for a buried sod, suggesting that the ditch may originally have had an external earthen or sod bank. The excavation by Stout also uncovered several pits and post-holes within the area enclosed by the ditch (Fig. 4). Because the 1982 study had excavated to the top of the enclosure ditch an area approximately 106m NW-SE by 15m SW-NE was cleared of overburden and stripped of topsoil **202** by mechanical excavator. Isolated spreads of the yellow clay mantle **203** (equates with Stout's layer F) which sealed the ditch were uncovered. This deposit contained occasional fragments of animal bone and charcoal as well as two sherds of 13th century Dublin type ware (Fig 17, 97E316:203:1). Two cuttings were excavated by hand across the line of the ditch, cutting 1 towards the northern end of the excavation area and cutting 2 through a significant portion of the ditch along its southern return (representing the stretch of ditch located between Stout's Trenches 1 and 3).

4.28 **Cutting 2** (Fig. 11 Section N-O)

This cutting bisected the northern portion of the enclosure ditch revealing a roughly flat bottomed ditch cut into natural blue-yellow boulder clay **211**. The ditch measured 2.45m wide at the top (62.31m OD), 1.30m wide at its base and 1.30m deep (60.98m OD).

Three main episodes of infilling were discerned. The primary fill consisted of two layers, first a deposit of grey-brown mixed silt **210** at most 0.20m deep, containing angular and rounded stones and pebbles, with fragments of animal bone, shell and charcoal. The second deposit consisted of a grey-brown silt **209**, between 0.10m-0.20m deep, containing larger angular stones and occasional fragments of animal bone and charcoal flecks. The secondary fill consisted of a deposit of mixed yellow clay and grey-blue loam **208** up to 0.60m deep. This deposit contained occasional fist sized stones, large boulders and charcoal fragments. A final sequence of fill deposits was placed into a cut in the secondary fill measuring 1.65m N-S and 0.46m deep. The first consisted of a yellow blue clay loam **206** measuring 0.73m wide (N-S) and 0.19m deep, containing occasional small angular stones, bone and charcoal fragments. The second deposit consisted of orange, burnt clay **207** measuring 0.65m wide (N-S) and 0.12m deep which contained charcoal fragments, mainly concentrated towards the base of the deposit. Two subsequent deposits **205** and **204** filled the remainder of the cut feature. The former consisted of a dark brown clay loam 1.60m wide (N-S) and 0.15m deep containing numerous fragments of charcoal and small angular fist sized stones and the latter consisted of a brown clay loam 1.65m wide (N-S) and 0.15m deep containing angular (split) stones and fist sized pebbles.

4.29 **Cutting 3** (Fig. 12 Section P-Q)

A section of the ditch was excavated from the western limit of the alignment corridor northwards to the back-filled section of ditch excavated by Stout in Trench 1. In profile the excavation revealed a steep-sided flat-bottomed ditch measuring 3.10m wide at the top (62.55m OD), 1.10m wide at its base and 1.50m deep (61.07m OD). Excavation revealed the ditch had been cut into a mixed yellow-grey, sandy clay **307**, containing numerous angular earth-fast boulders, which lay below a deposit of mottled yellow clay **306** on its inner face. The sequence of fills differed significantly from that of cutting 2. The primary fill consisted of dark grey-brown silt **305** measuring 0.55m deep. This deposit contained numerous large angular and sub-angular boulders and stones and may represent the collapse and slump of the outer face of the ditch. This was followed by a similar episode of weathering, then collapse of the upper portion of the inner face of the ditch represented by **304**, a slumped deposit of yellow clay containing small angular

stones, most likely derived from deposit **306**. Three further layers filled the ditch, **303** a grey-brown clay 0.50m deep, **302** a yellow-brown clay 0.30m deep and **301** a grey-brown loam 0.40m deep. Each of these deposits contained numerous angular stones and boulders and quantities of animal bone and charcoal fragments.

5 Discussion

5.1 Area 1

Excavations within Area 1 centered mainly on the eastern section of the rectangular building (RB2). Limited excavation was undertaken within the interior of this structure in 1982, revealing a cobbled floor of nineteenth century date (Stout, forthcoming). The present investigation sought to examine the structure more fully. It also sought to establish the significance of the building and the sequence of activity associated with it. A large portion of the structure lies within the proposed LRT corridor and some fabric may have to be removed.

The 1997 evaluation revealed the southwest corner of the seventeenth century manor house and the eastern section of the rectangular building (RB2) which lies immediately west of the vaulted room which forms the eastern boundary for the LRT alignment through the manor complex. A significant portion of the eastern side of RB2 was found to have been removed and disturbed by the insertion of a sewer pipe. However, a section of the structure was found to lie intact within the western side of the proposed corridor. Part of the floor of this structure had been uncovered by Stout in 1982 where she identified mainly nineteenth century activity. The present excavation removed a succession of cobbled floors of post-medieval date to reveal a soil horizon which appeared to date from the late twelfth to fourteenth centuries. The full extent of this level was not exposed. However, several features including a lime kiln (disturbed by the sewer trench) and finds of early medieval pottery would suggest that this horizon is a continuation of the occupation phase (ii) uncovered by Stout to the west of the present excavation area. At least three stretches of the walls uncovered in the excavation may be of seventeenth-century date and may therefore be contemporary with the earliest development of the complex. The wall forming the northern flank of RB2 appeared to join with a protruding section of wall at the southwest corner of the vaulted chamber or room. Significantly, this building was apparently constructed after the manor had been burnt around or after 1646. It is possible that this wall line reflected the position of the northern section of the manor's courtyard wall, later re-used to form the northern wall of two nineteenth century farm buildings. The second wall of probable seventeenth century date was located along the southern wall line of RB2. It underlay and had a slightly different orientation to the W-E wall forming the southern flank of RB2. The full extent of this wall was not determined within the excavation area. A further stretch of possible seventeenth century wall was located to the south east of F6 and the two may have been conjoined. It seems likely that these walls are related to the stretches of walls uncovered by Stout to the southwest of the excavation area.

5.2 Three main phases of activity were revealed in Area 1. The first phase provided evidence for medieval activity on the site, datable on artifact types to between the twelfth to fourteenth centuries. The excavated physical remains were not substantial, in part due to the limited area investigated below the building. However, when viewed in conjunction with the Early Christian and Medieval features revealed by Stout in an area immediately south west of RB2 (see 3.5 above), it was apparent that the manor site contained a significant horizon of early medieval activity.

5.3 Phase 1 Twelfth to Fourteenth Century (Fig. 6 & Fig. 15)

Evidence for this phase was represented by a lime kiln **F18** and associated cobbled surface **F17**, a post-hole or pit **F11**, a narrow gully **F16** and several soil deposits which contained medieval artifacts, **118** & **121**. The full extent of these remains within the excavated area remains unresolved, however, these deposits and features can be directly connected to features and soils uncovered by Stout to the south west of the excavation

area. No evidence for an Early Christian horizon was uncovered within the excavated area but this does not exclude its possible survival beneath RB2. Further excavation would be necessary to resolve this premise.

- 5.4 The most significant medieval feature uncovered was the remains of a lime kiln **F18**, set into a deep pit. In general lime kilns were used to provide fine powdered lime for masonry construction and are a diverse group of structures, ranging in size and construction type. The dating of **F18** was based solely on the finds of three body sherds of Dublin type ware of 13th century date and one sherd of Leinster Cooking ware of 12th to 14th century date from its in-fill deposits. While no definite walls from this period were uncovered within the excavated area, there is a strong possibility that remnants of some medieval masonry walls do survive on the site. The solitary pit **F11** within medieval horizon **121**, possibly represented a post-pit and as such it is unlikely that it was an isolated feature. Further excavation below the floor of RB2 would be required to place it in a broader context and assess its relationship to other features. A cluster of pits of similar date were uncovered by Stout (1982, forthcoming) in an area west of the present excavation. Layer **121** appeared to be a largely undisturbed medieval horizon extending beneath RB2. It produced many sherds of medieval pottery and an unusual pendant. Deposit **118**, located along the northern line of RB2, was similar to, if not the same deposit as **121** and may have represented the remnants of a medieval horizon truncated by the construction of the northern wall of RB2. In summary, the medieval horizon below RB2 equates with that uncovered in trench 6 from the '82 excavation.

5.5 **Phase 2 Seventeenth Century**

The construction and subsequent destruction of the Manor at Ballymount is fully recorded (see section 2 of main report). From an archaeological viewpoint, only traces of the original manor survive. The present investigation uncovered the *insitu* remains of the south west corner of the manor building (previously uncovered by Stout in 1982). Traces of the northern end of the manor house can still be seen as scar walls within the southern flank of the vaulted chamber or room lying immediately east of the proposed LRT corridor. The manor house was burnt around 1646 and shortly after, during reconstruction, the vaulted chamber/room was added on to the northern end of the house to strengthen the structure. Other walls of probable seventeenth century origin within the excavation area included portions of the north wall of RB2 (**F1**, **F2**, **F9**) which may have served originally as the northern courtyard wall, and wall **F6** which underlies the present south wall of RB2. It is possible that **F6** was originally connected to **F5**, however the linkage between the two walls may have been removed with the insertion of a later outhouse (**F4**). It also seems likely that walls **F5** and **F6** were from the same period as two walls excavated by Stout to the southwest of RB2 and therefore represent ancillary buildings of a date similar to that of the manor house. It is likely that the barrel vaulted building was added onto the manor house after it was burnt down by the Irish in 1646. Stout also suggests that it may have been built to support the manor house which contained a fireplace with a large brick chimney (Stout, forthcoming).

5.6 **Phase 3 Eighteenth to Nineteenth Century**

This phase was represented by the construction of a series of rectangular buildings along the northern section of the courtyard, west of the vaulted chamber/room. The northern courtyard wall was utilized as the north wall for two rectangular buildings (RB1 & RB2), and the south wall of RB2 was built over the remains of walls of earlier manor buildings (**F6**). At least two building phases (represented by a series of cobbled floors) were recognized for RB2. It is unlikely that either RB1 or RB2 served a domestic function being used, more probably, as general farm buildings, housing cattle and provisions. The latest masonry addition to the complex would appear to have been an out-house which cut

the southeast corner of RB2. Other remains uncovered consisted of the southeastern pathway into the complex from the gate tower. The path, though much disturbed by later activities, consisted of a deposit of fine gravel. Directly north of RB2, the remains of at least two further pathways, one of cobbled stones, were revealed. These may have been 'garden features' connecting the manor with the tiered mount and gazebo within the enclosure (Area 2).

A water system consisting of underground passages or vaulted drains was constructed to the west of the main cluster of Manor buildings and west of the LRT corridor, and appeared to have been built to take surface water away from that complex (Stout 1983).

5.7 Area 2

The proposed LRT alignment crossed the eastern edge of the enclosure ditch. This area was also the focus of the 1982 evaluation and, as a consequence, the entire area within the proposed alignment corridor had previously been excavated down to at least the top of the ditch. Further sections were excavated through the ditch fill to provide levels OD for its base and also to assess the level of archaeological preservation within the fill. While the 1982 excavation recovered several metal objects from both the top and basal fill of the ditch, the present excavation retrieved only butchered animal bone from within its fill. Several sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the deposit sealing the ditch, which must certainly have been re-deposited as this area had been excavated previously in 1982. There appeared to be limited potential for the survival of remains (features & deposits) within Area 2. However, it seems likely that further animal bones and possibly metal artifacts may be recovered from the unexcavated portions of ditch within this area.

5.8 No direct evidence was found for a buried or fossil soil around the upper edge of the ditch, similar to the grey-brown clay loam (layer E) uncovered by Stout (Trench 3). However, primary ditch fill deposits **209**, **210** and **211** in cutting 2 may have represented similarly derived soil, though whether they actually represented material formerly used in an external bank remained unclear. The same line of inquiry may be proposed for deposit **208** in cutting 2 and **304** in cutting 3, perhaps indicating that an internal bank, composed of the up-cast from the initial ditch excavation, may have been positioned along the inner edge of the ditch. This premise can be further enhanced by Stout's observation that the upper fill of the ditch in Trench 2, a sterile yellow clay (layer H), represented the remains of a bank 'consciously pushed into the fosse' (Stout 1982). The clay mantle removed by Stout (layer F) to trace the line of the ditch on plan, was also viewed as a deliberate attempt to level what remained of the bank material (Stout 1982).

5.9 There were no clear indications that the ditch had been re-cut and this in itself was significant when attempting to postulate on its origin and associations. The finding of a horse skull and several iron objects at the base of the ditch in 1982 would discount the theory that the site was originally derived from a Late Neolithic 'henge' monument. Furthermore, the exact relationship between the enclosure and the tiered mound has not been fully established and in the light of this, it would be presumptuous to assume that both are contemporary.

5.10 The only finds recovered from excavations in Area 2 were animal bones, most of which were butchered (report in progress). Two sherds of medieval pottery of thirteenth century date were also retrieved. The lack of datable finds from secured contexts within the enclosure ditch means that the 1997 investigation was unable to provide any further definition or variation on the terminus post quem date of c.900 AD for the construction of the enclosure proposed by Stout. This was suggested on the basis of the recovery of a bronze stick pin from a layer sealing the ditch in Trench 2. This 10th century date remains

the only firm dating evidence until a radio-carbon determination can be sought from either charcoal or bone from the primary ditch fill.

- 5.11 No features, soils or artifacts of archaeological significance were located within the area enclosed by the ditch. This means that no further deductions can be made in respect of activities associated with the enclosure. Therefore, aside from the remains of animal bones, the features and artifacts recovered by Stout provide the only physical indicators of associated activities.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 Within Area 1, excavations recorded and resolved a sequence of archaeological activities beginning during the early medieval period and ending with the present. There is a strong possibility that further early medieval features and soils may be encountered during ground works for the LRT track within this area and as no clear construction foundation level was determined in advance of this report's conclusions. Further, limited excavation may be necessary to resolve the earliest phase of activity identified for the manor complex prior to construction, if this lowest level of features will be adversely affected by construction.
- 6.2 An obvious concern for the positioning of the LRT alignment within the corridor defined by the break in standing remains is the position of the sewer pipe along the eastern side of the corridor.
- 6.3 Consolidation of the standing remains on either side of the alignment corridor (RB2 and the vaulted building) may be necessary to protect these remains. Measures will have to be taken to ensure that no damage occurs during construction and the possible impact of vibration may have to be considered in the long term. The buildings also pose a public safety issue for the scheme and access to the upper level of the interior will have to be controlled.
- 6.4 Excavation Area 2 has been fully resolved. While further features are not expected to arise within the area to the south of the culvert some archaeological monitoring is advised if foundation levels encroach upon the basal levels of the enclosure ditch. There also remains a strong possibility that further features and soils of archaeological significance survive to the west of the area tested. Monitoring of soil stripping will be required in this area.

Malachy Conway
June 24, 1998

| | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| 9 | 1 neck sherd of English stoneware jar | Post-medieval |
| 10-13 | 3 sherds of Blackware, 1 brown mottled ware | Post-medieval |
| 14 | Fragment of handmade red earthenware brick | Post-medieval |
| 15 | Fragment of mortar | Post-medieval |
| 16 | Unglazed red earthenware tile | Post-medieval |
| 17-18 | 2 clay pipe stems | 18 th to 19 th century |
| 19 | 1 piece of North Devon Gravel Tempered ware | late 17 th to 18 th century |
| 20 | Blackware handle | 18 th century |
| 21 | Glazed red earthenware sherd | Post-medieval |
| 22 | Piece of quartz stone | uncertain |
| 23 | Fragment of dark brown translucent glass | Post-medieval |
| 24-25 | Glass fragments | Post-medieval |
| 26 | Translucent colourless glass perfume bottle | Post-medieval |
| 27-28 | Clay pipe fragments | 18 th to 19 th century |
| 29 | 1 fragment of glazed Dublin type ware | 13 th century |
| 30 | North Devon Gravel Tempered ware tile | late 17 th to 18 th century |
| 31-33 | Blackware sherds | 18 th century |
| 34 | Red glazed earthenware | Post-medieval |
| 35 | Iron nail stem, 39mm long | Post-medieval |
| 36 | Iron nail stem, rectangular section, 39mm long | Post-medieval |
| 37-40 | 4 sherds North Devon Gravel Tempered ware | late 17 th to 18 th century |
| 41-50 | 10 fragments of unglazed red earthenware | Post-medieval |

(all above Post-medieval material have a broad date range of late 17th to 19th century)

97E316:121:

| | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| 1-2 | 2 sherds Leinster cooking ware | late 12 th to 14 th century |
| 3-12 | 10 sherds Dublin type and Dublin fine type wares | 13 th to 14 th century |
| 13-19 | 7 sherds Leinster cooking ware | late 12 th to 14 th century |
| 20 | Dublin type ware fragment | 13 th to 14 th century |
| 21-22 | 2 sherds Leinster cooking ware | late 12 th to 14 th century |
| 23-28 | 6 sherds Dublin type and Dublin fine type wares | 13 th to 14 th century |
| 29-33 | Fragments of baked clay | |
| 34-37 | 4 sherds Leinster cooking ware | late 12 th to 14 th century |
| 38 | Rim sherd of Dublin type ware | 13 th to 14 th century |
| 39-42 | 4 sherds leinster cooking ware | late 12 th to 14 th century |
| 43-47 | 5 sherds Dublin type ware | 13 th to 14 th century |
| 48-49 | 2 sherds Leinster cooking ware | late 12 th to 14 th century |
| 50-51 | 2 sherds Dublin type ware | 13 th to 14 th century |
| 52-57 | 2 sherds & 4 fragments Leinster cooking ware | late 12 th to 14 th century |
| 58 | Small piece of (iron ?) slag | |
| 59-62 | 4 fragments of flint & chert | |
| 63 | Rim sherd of Leinster cooking ware | late 12 th to 14 th century |
| 64 | Mis-shaped piece of iron, L. 35mm | |
| 65-66 | 2 sherds Dublin type ware (1=handle) | 13 th to 14 th century |

97E316:122:

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Blackware sherd | late 17 th to 18 th century |
| 2 | Pantile sherd | late 17 th to 18 th century |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 3 | Iron nail, sub-circular head & rectangular shank | late 17 th to 18 th century |
| 97E316:123: | | |
| 1 | Blackware rim sherd | late 17 th to 18 th century |
| 2 | Pantile sherd | late 17 th to 18 th century |
| 3 | Fragment of mortar | |
| 4 | Fragment of Dublin cooking ware | late 12 th to 13 th century |
| 97E316:126: | | |
| 1 | 1 sherd Leinster cooking ware | Late 12 th to 14 th century |
| 2-3 | 2 sherds Dublin type ware | 13 th century |
| 97E316:127: | | |
| 1 | 1 sherd Dublin type ware | 13 th century |
| 97E316:128: | | |
| 1-2 | 2 sherds Dublin type ware | 13 th century |
| 97E316:203: | | |
| 1-2 | 2 sherds Dublin type ware | 13 th century |

Appendix 2**List of Contexts**

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Phase</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| 101 | 3 | mixed rubble overburden |
| 102 | 3 | brown soil containing stones, brick and mortar |
| 103 | 3 | dark brown clay loam containing stones |
| 104 | 3 | cobble surface south of RB2 |
| 105 | 3 | upper cobble within RB2 |
| 106 | 3 | mixed mortar deposit (similar to 102) |
| 107 | 3 | 'fused' cinder deposit, fill of F13 |
| 108 | 3 | as above, fill of F14 |
| 109 | 3 | as above, fill of F15 |
| 110 | 3 | mixed mortar deposit, foundation for 105 |
| 111 | 3 | mixed yellow-brown clay with stones (backfill of sewer trench) |
| 112 | 3 | black cinder rich deposit containing mortar fragments |
| 113 | 3 | gravel path deposit |
| 114 | 3 | lower cobble within RB2 |
| 115 | 3 | mixed mortar deposit lying north of wall F1 (RB2) |
| 116 | 3 | black humic soil deposit below 115 |
| 117 | 3 | small area of cobbles north of F8 (RB2) |
| 118 | 2 | dark brown clay loam containing small stones |
| 119 | 3 | olive brown mixed deposit north of RB2 |
| 120 | 2 | mixed grey-brown clay containing small stones and cinder |
| 121 | 1 | compact brown clay containing bone, chcl & shell |
| 122 | 3 | pit cutting 114 |
| 123 | 3 | dark brown loam with small stones and bone, fill of F12 |
| 124 | 1 | orange-brown clay beneath F6 |
| 125 | - | natural sandy subsoil |
| 126 | 1 | upper boulder fill of F18 |
| 127 | 1 | olive-brown loam, lower fill of F18 |
| 128 | 1 | deposit of lime mortar, lining base & sides of F18 |
| 201 | - | dark brown sod |
| 202 | - | mixed dark brown loam (disturbed topsoil) |
| 203 | - | yellow clay ('mantle') |
| 204 | - | dark brown clay loam (ditch fill) |
| 205 | - | as above but with much charcoal flecking (ditch fill) |
| 206 | - | yellow-blue clay (re-deposited natural ?) |
| 207 | - | 'burnt' orange clay containing a lens of ash & charcoal |
| 208 | - | yellow-blue clay with occasional charcoal flecks |
| 209 | - | grey-brown clay (silt like in texture) |
| 210 | - | grey-brown silt (coarse texture) |
| 211 | - | yellow-blue clay subsoil |

Appendix 3**List of Features**

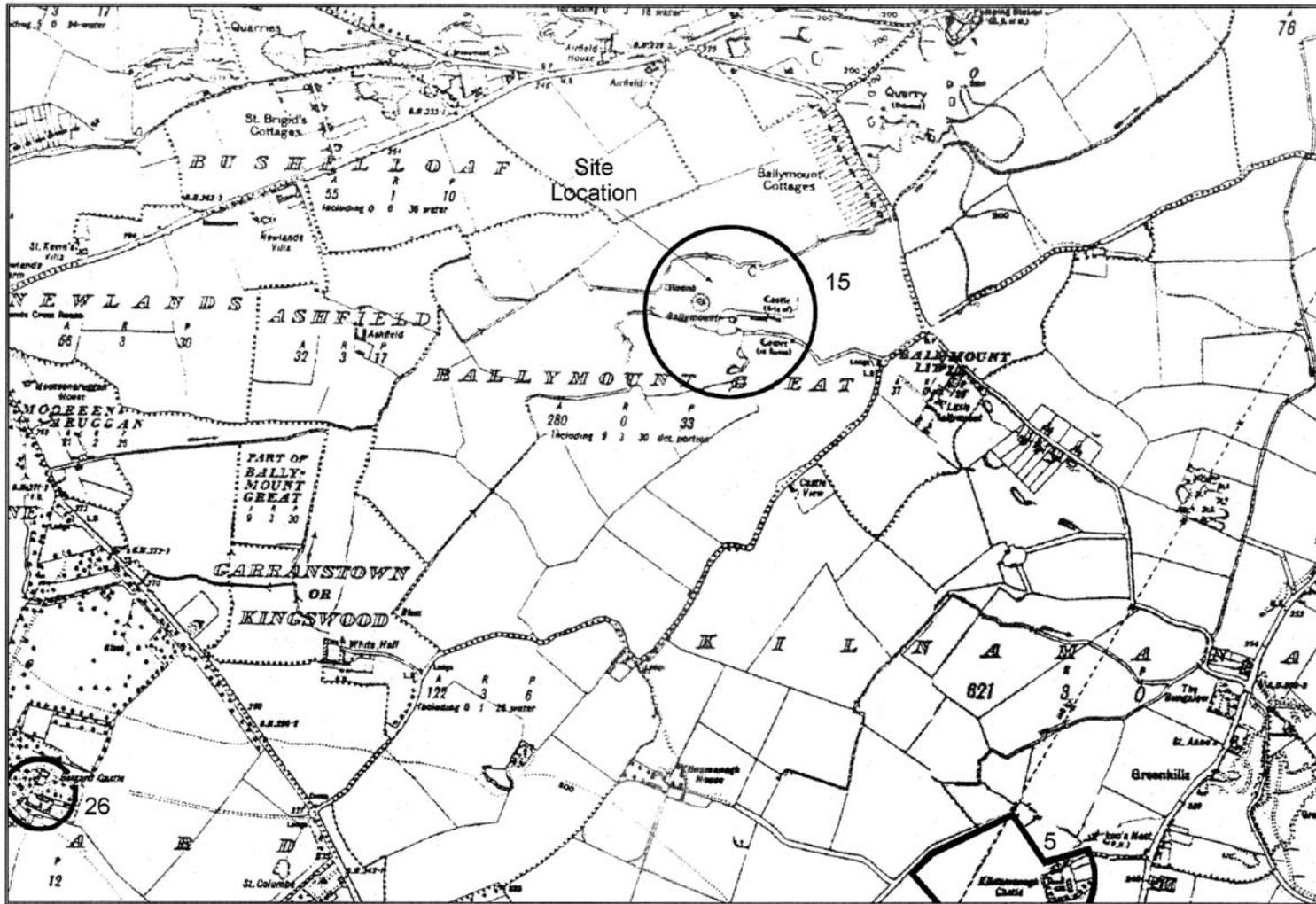
| <i>Feature</i> | <i>Phase</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|----------------|--------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | W-E limestone wall, north wall of RB2 |
| 2 | 2 | W-E limestone wall, part of vaulted building & RB2 north wall |
| 3 | 3 | W-E limestone wall, south wall of RB2 |
| 4 | 3 | corner section of outbuilding, cutting F3 & F |
| 5 | 2? | N-S limestone wall, cut by F4 & possibly linked with F6 |
| 6 | 2 | W-E limestone wall, lying below F3 |
| 7 | 3 | N-S limestone partition wall, north end of RB2 |
| 8 | 3 | small & depleted section of limestone wall foundation |
| 9 | 2/3 | W-E limestone wall, north wall of RB2 |
| 10 | 2 | south-west corner of manor house wall |
| 11 | 1 | stone lined pit cut into 121 |
| 12 | 3 | stone lined pit filled by 123, cuts 114 |
| 13 | - | stone lined pit with cushion stone, fill 107 |
| 14 | - | stone lined pit with cushion stone, fill 108 |
| 15 | - | stone lined pit with cushion stone, fill 109 |
| 16 | 1 | narrow gulley cut into 125 |
| 17 | 1 | fine cobble and limestone slab surface below 121 |
| 18 | 1 | stone lined lime kiln |

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the excavation team for their assistance; Avril Purcell (supervisor), Eleanor Cleary, Chris Conway, Stuart Elder, John Fletcher and Danny O'Brien. The site plans and small finds illustrations were prepared and drafted by Avril Purcell and the finished text illustrations were prepared by Shirely Markley, (Nina Koeberl drew 121:66 for Fig 17). Cathy Johnson examined the small finds and provided an inventory. Kieron Goucher and Derek Copeland undertook the initial site survey using an EDM total station instrument and generated the site location plan on AutoCad. Thanks are extended to CIE/LRT for providing the AutoCad data which formed the basis for site survey. Thanks are also extended to Margaret Gowen and Joyce Hickey for their editorial advice and general comments and to Geraldine Stout for providing a text of her most recent report in advance of publication.

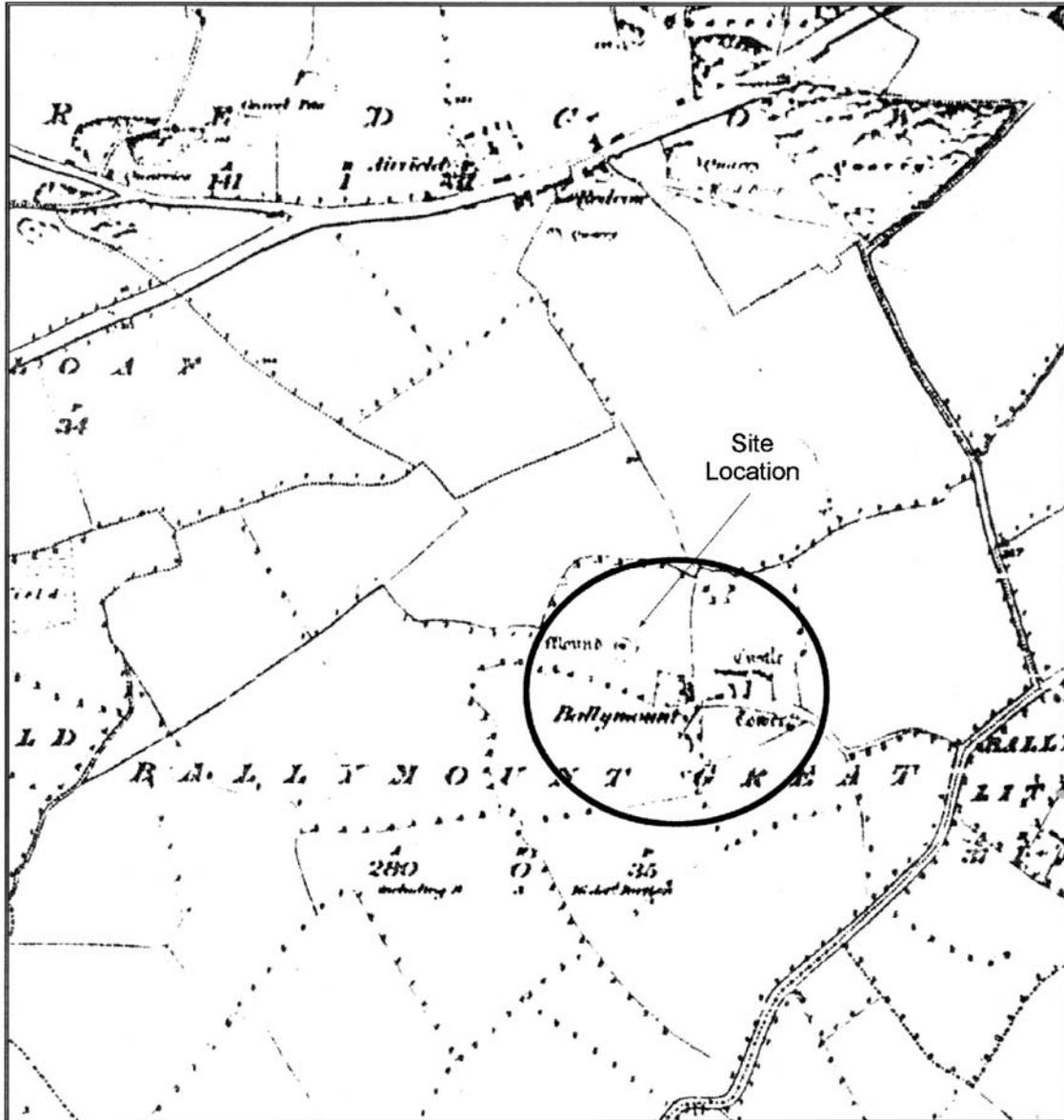
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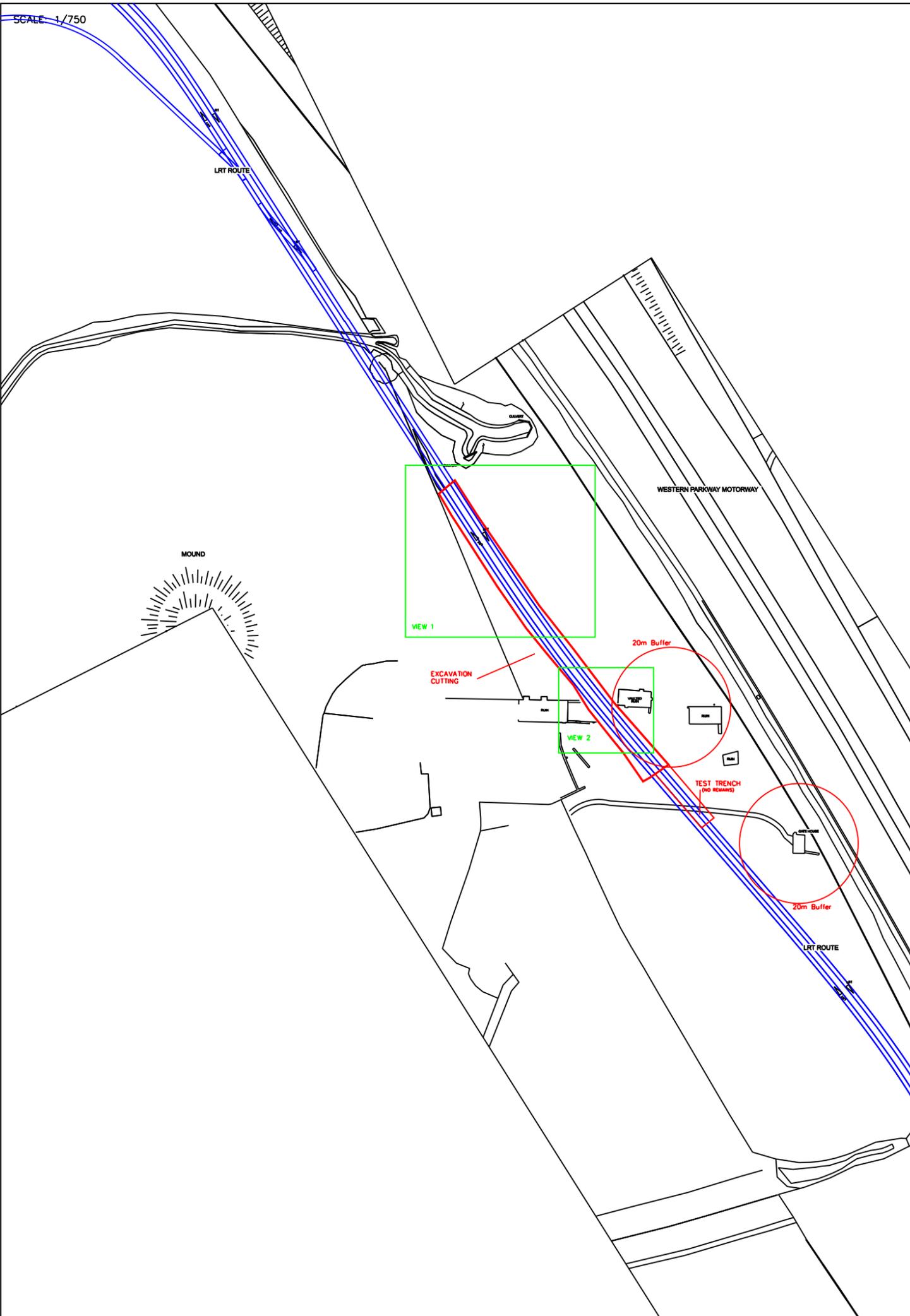
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 Fig. 1 SMR Site Location



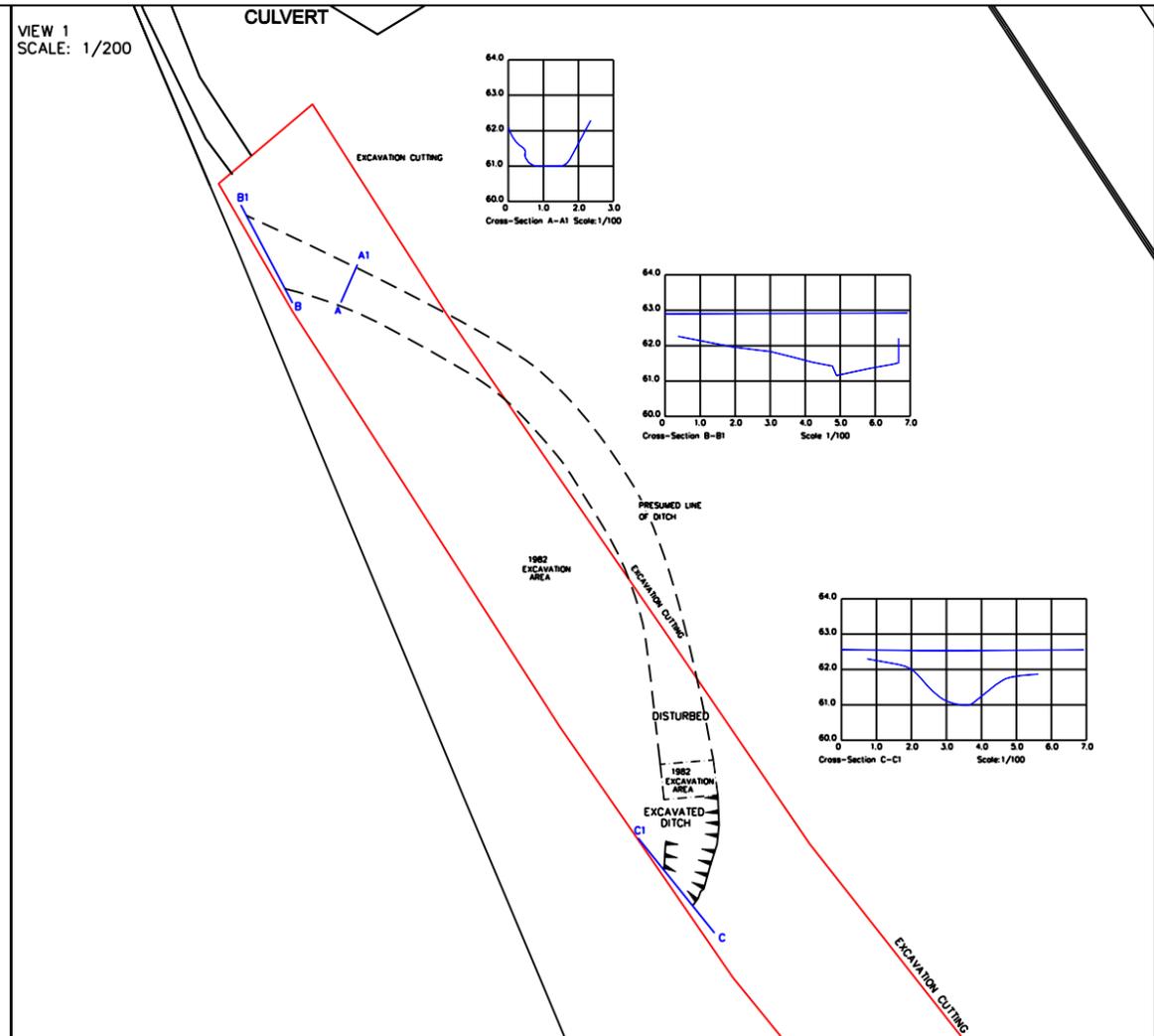
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| Fig. 2 | 1 st edition Ordnance Survey (1837) |

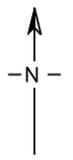
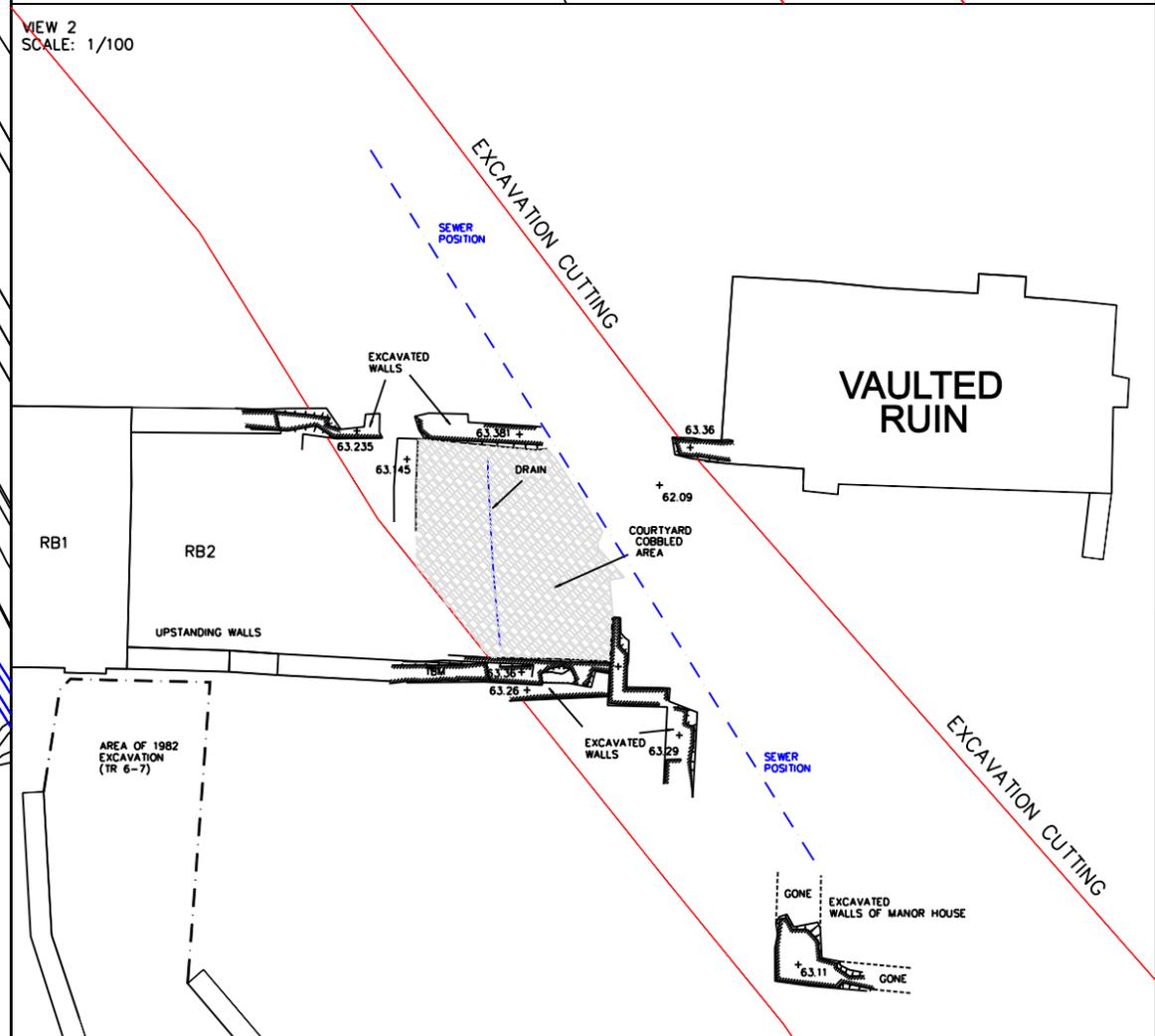
SCALE 1/750



VIEW 1
SCALE: 1/200



VIEW 2
SCALE: 1/100



| REVISIONS | BY | DATE | REV |
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| 20m Buffer zones | RB | 13/1/01 | A |

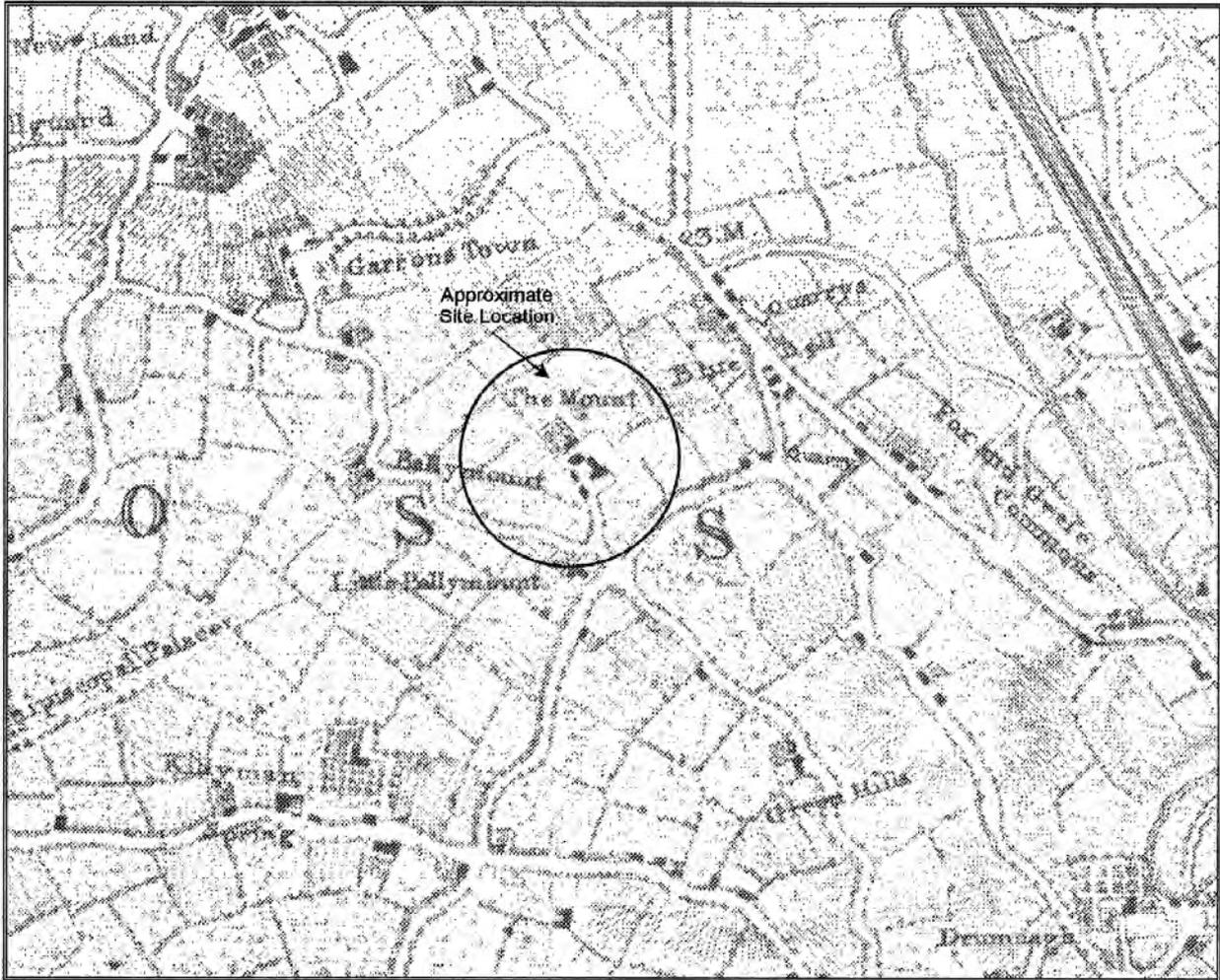
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Rathmichael,
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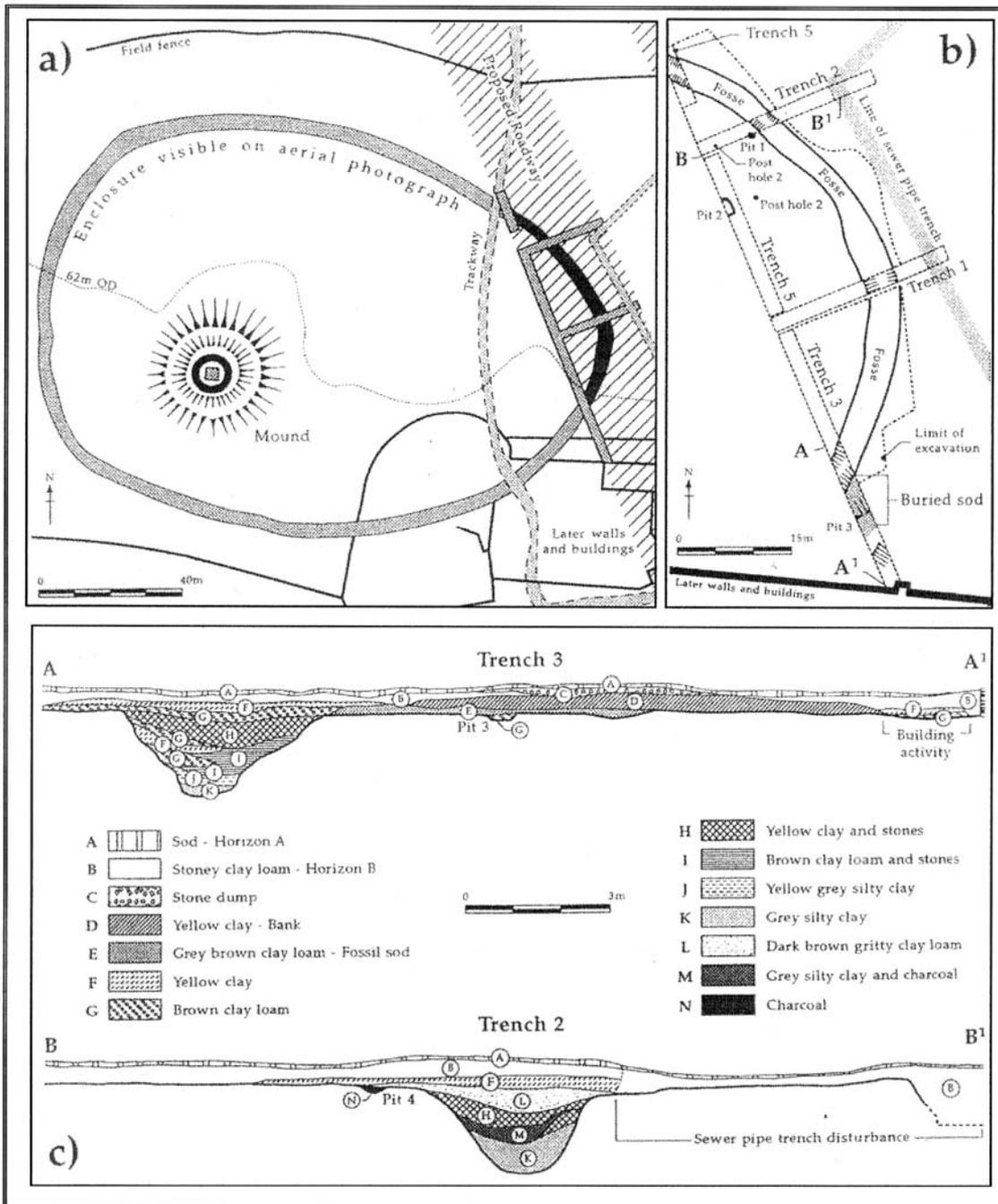
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Fax: 01-2827182

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| TITLE: | SITE LAYOUT |
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| DRAWING NO.: | 334-9001 |
| JOB NO.: | 9734 |
| PRODUCED BY: | K. GOUCHER |



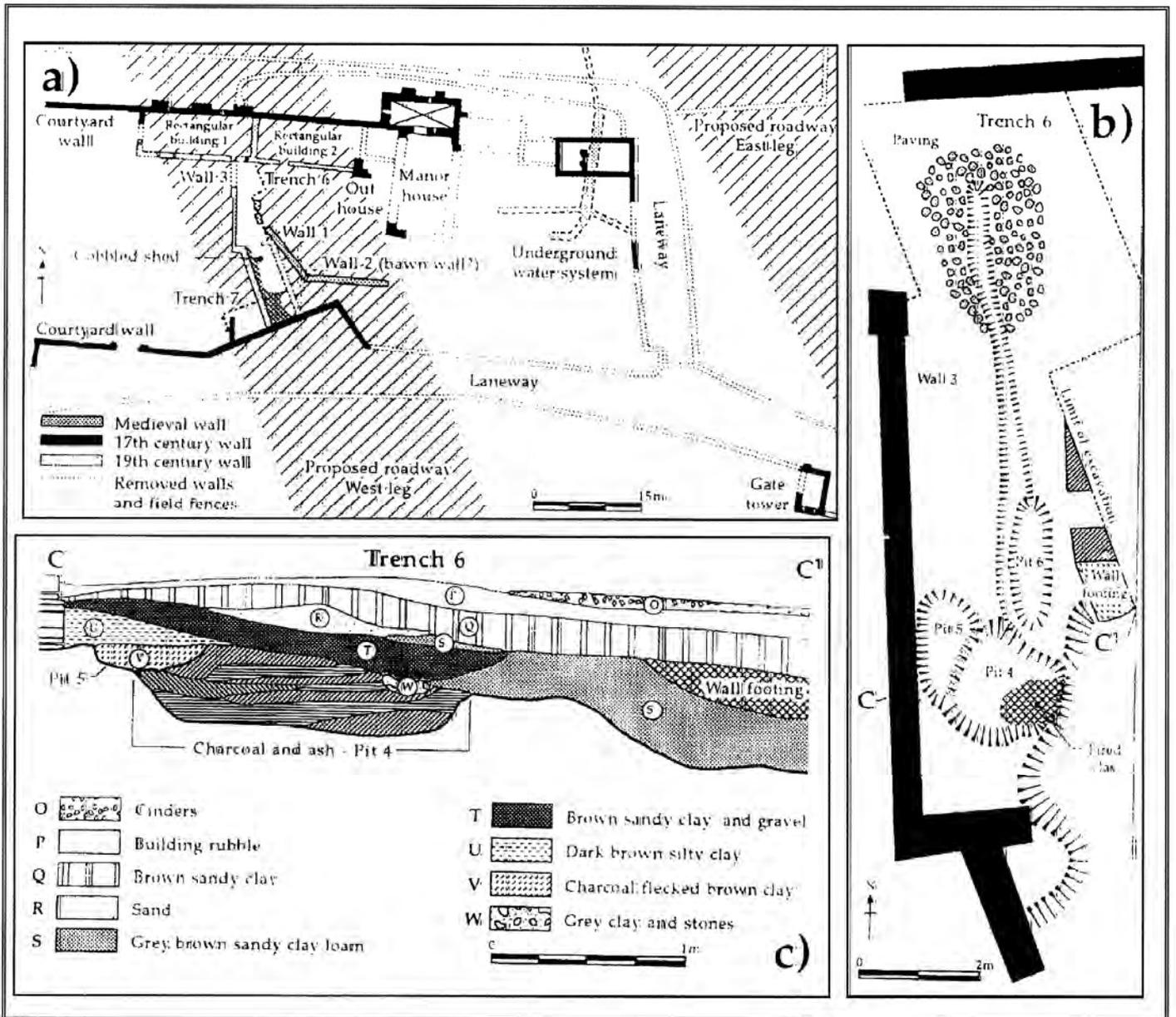
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| Fig. 3A | Rocque (1760) |



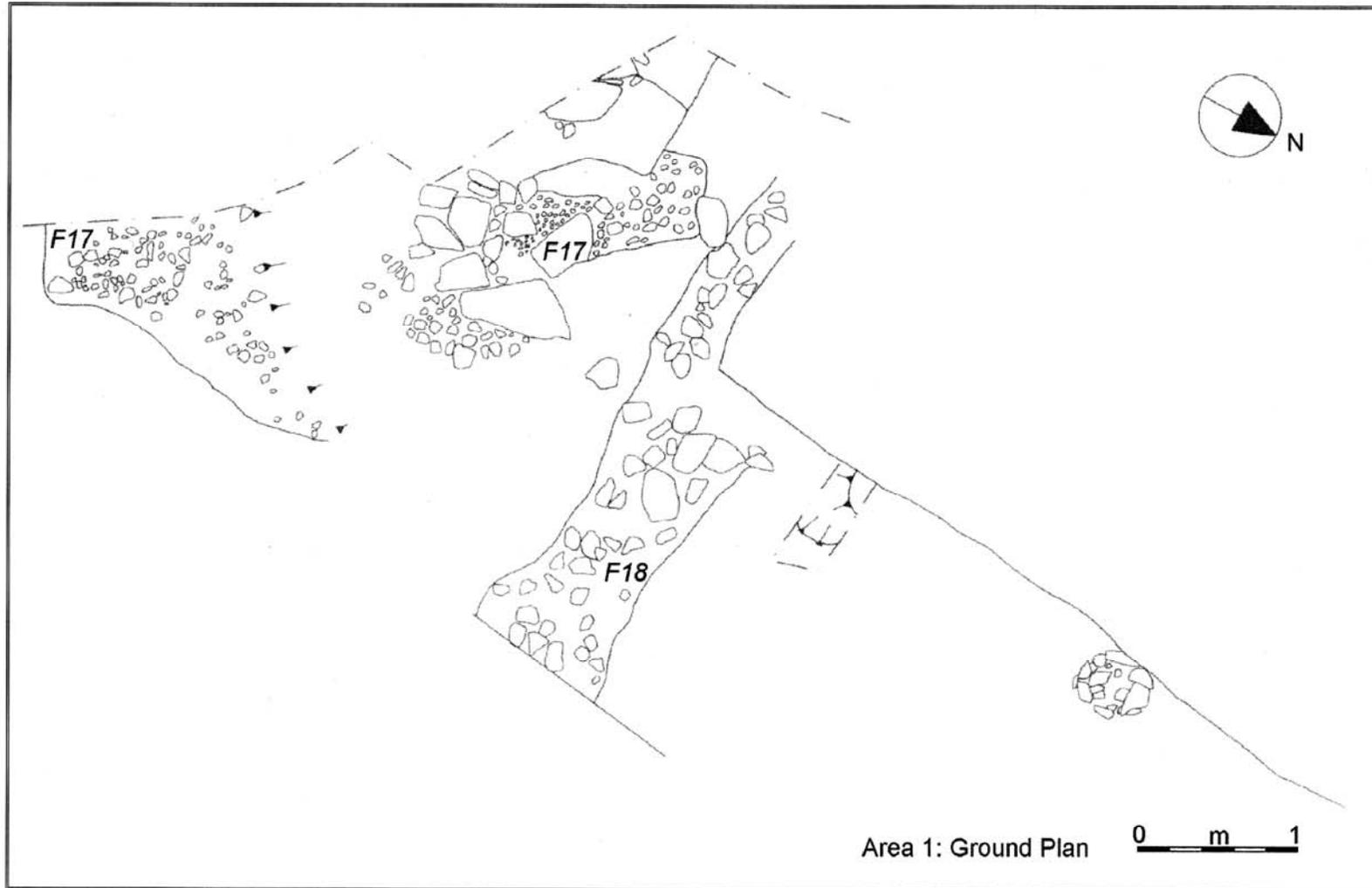
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| Fig. 4 | After Stout (1983) |



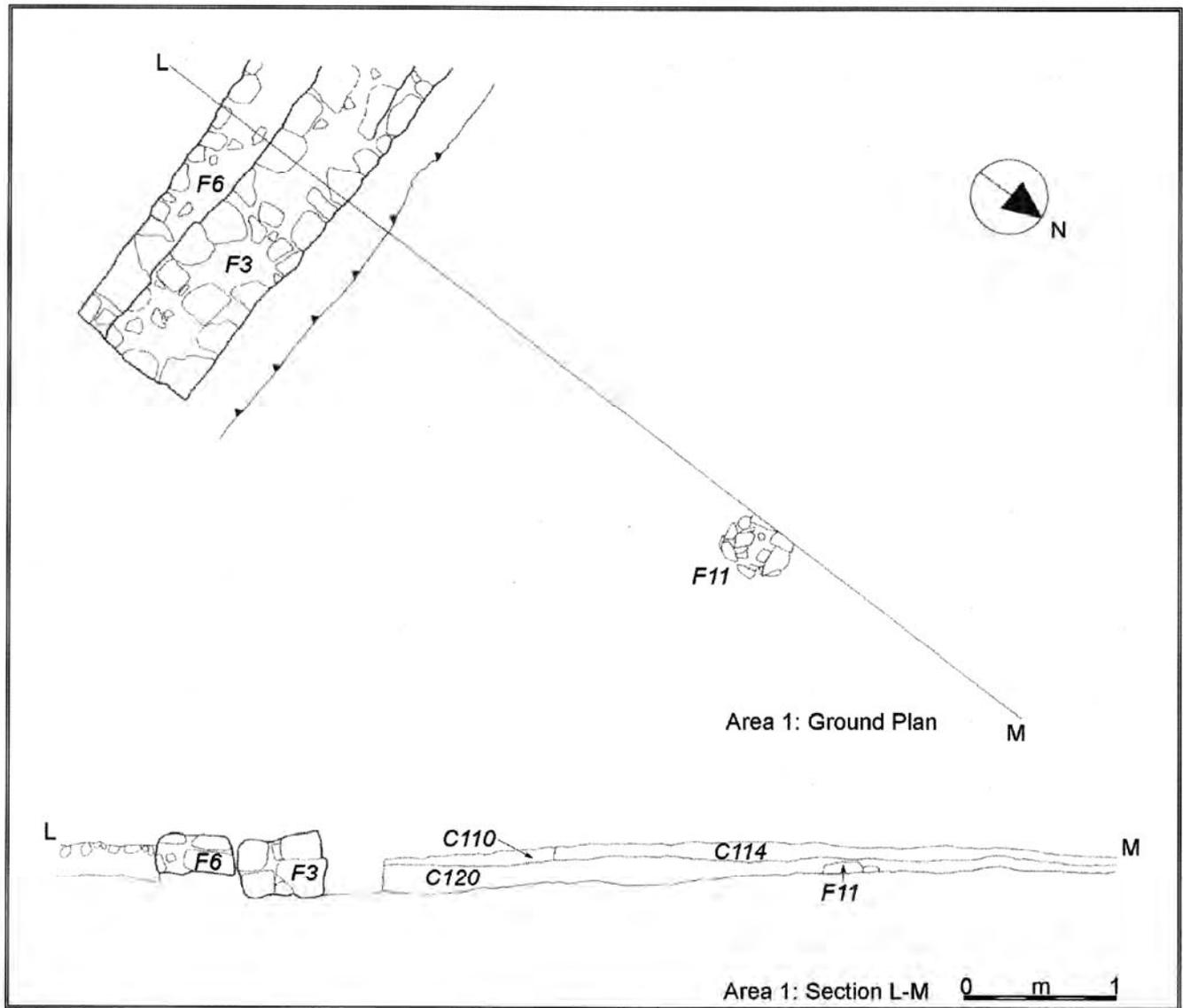
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Date 15.05.98
Client LRT
Scale As Indicated
Fig. 5 After Stout (1983)



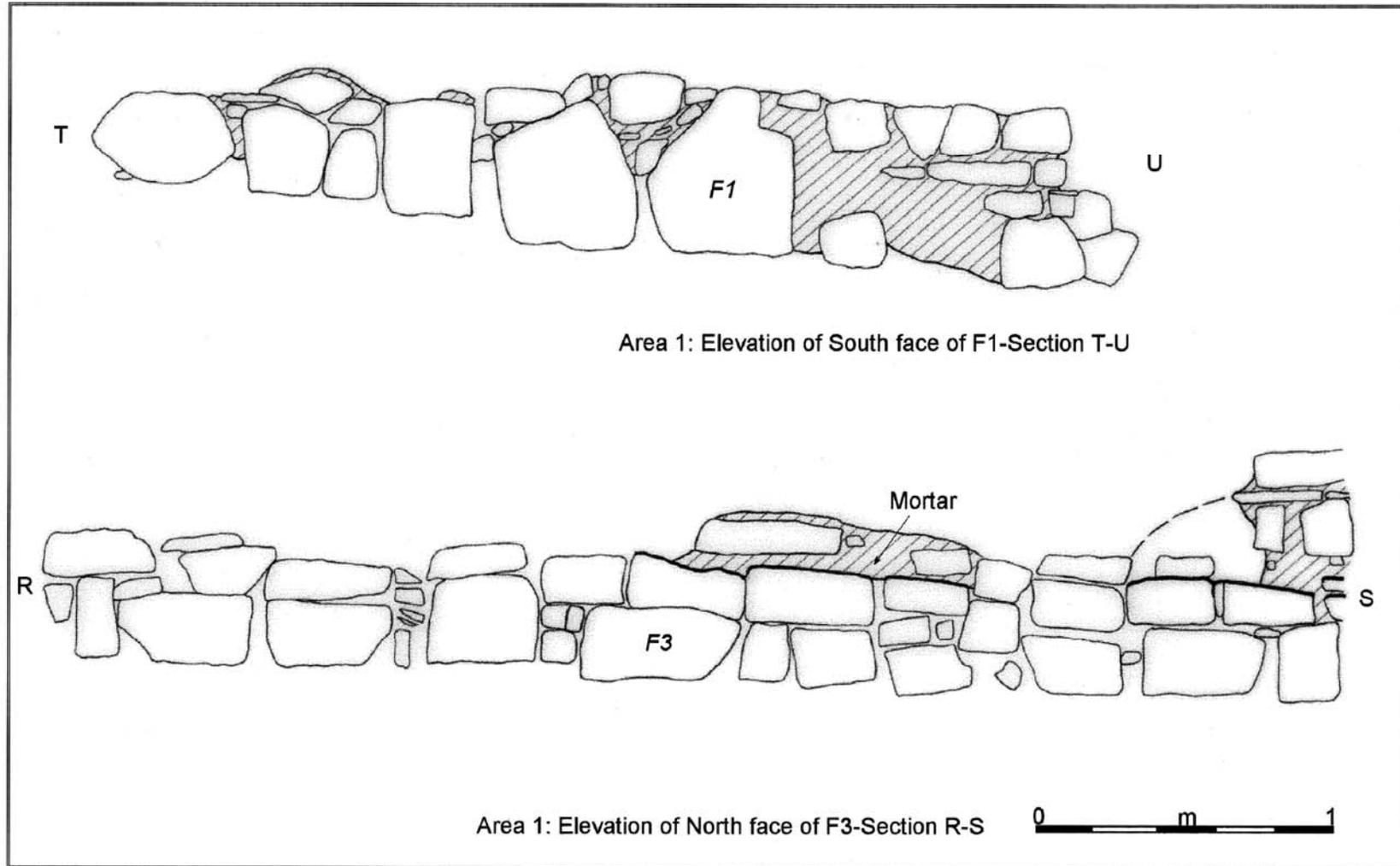
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| Fig. 6 | Area 1: Ground Plan |



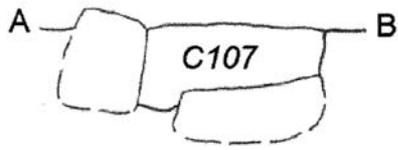
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| Fig. 7 | Area 1: Ground Plan; Section L-M |

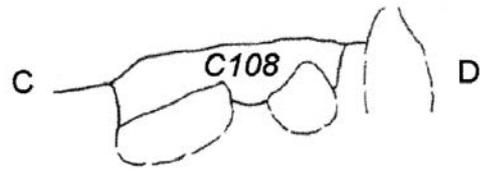


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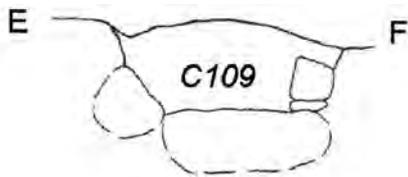
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| Client | LRT |
| Scale | As Indicated |
| Fig. 8 | Area 1: Elevations and Sections |



Section A-B



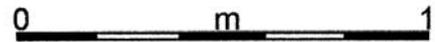
Section C-D



Section E-F



Section G-H



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| Fig. 9 | Sections |

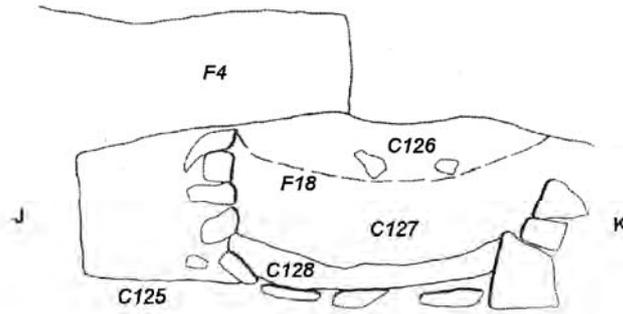


Fig. 10 Area 1: Section J-K

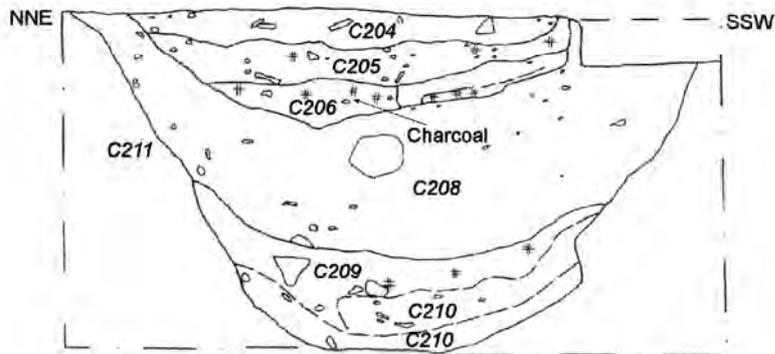


Fig. 11 Area 2: East facing section of Ditch N-O

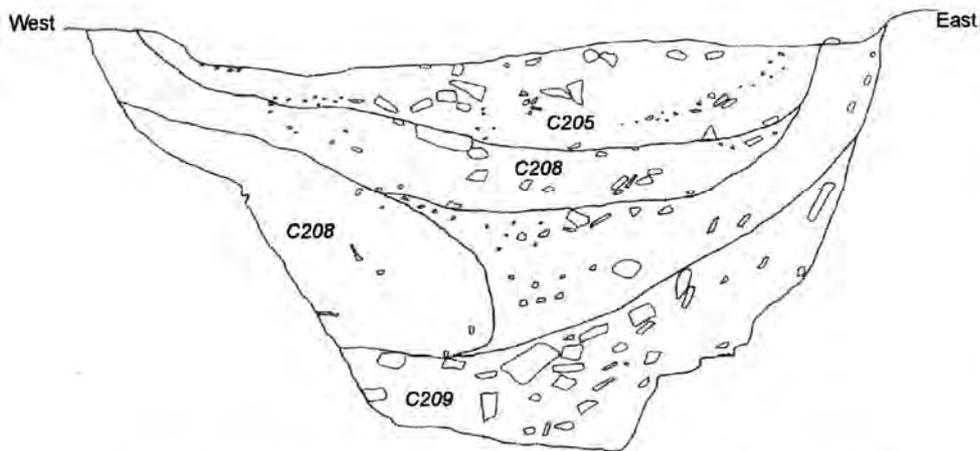
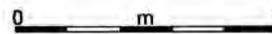


Fig. 12 Area 3: South facing section of Ditch P-Q



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| Figs. 10-12 | Areas 1-3: Sections |



0 m 1
All levels are relative to O.D.

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Title: Area 1: Ground Plan
Scale: 1:20

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| Initials: | S.M. |
| Date: | 18-05-1998 |
| Fig. no: | 13 |



Note: All levels are relative to 111



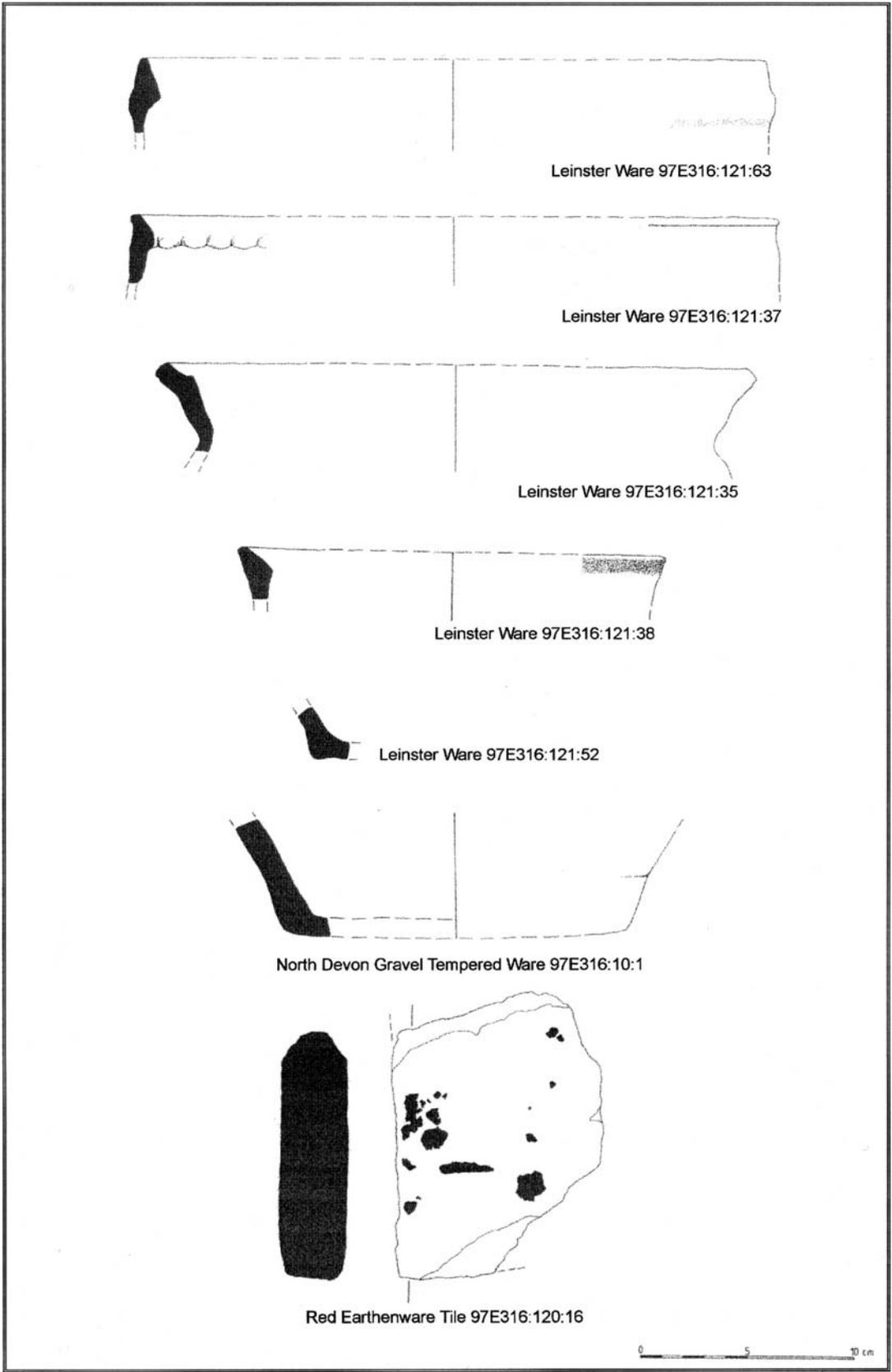
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 Scale: 1:20

Job Ref: 9734
 Licence Ref: 97 E 0316

Initials: S.M.
 Date: 18-05-1998
 Fig. no: 14



Leinster Ware 97E316:121:63

Leinster Ware 97E316:121:37

Leinster Ware 97E316:121:35

Leinster Ware 97E316:121:38

Leinster Ware 97E316:121:52

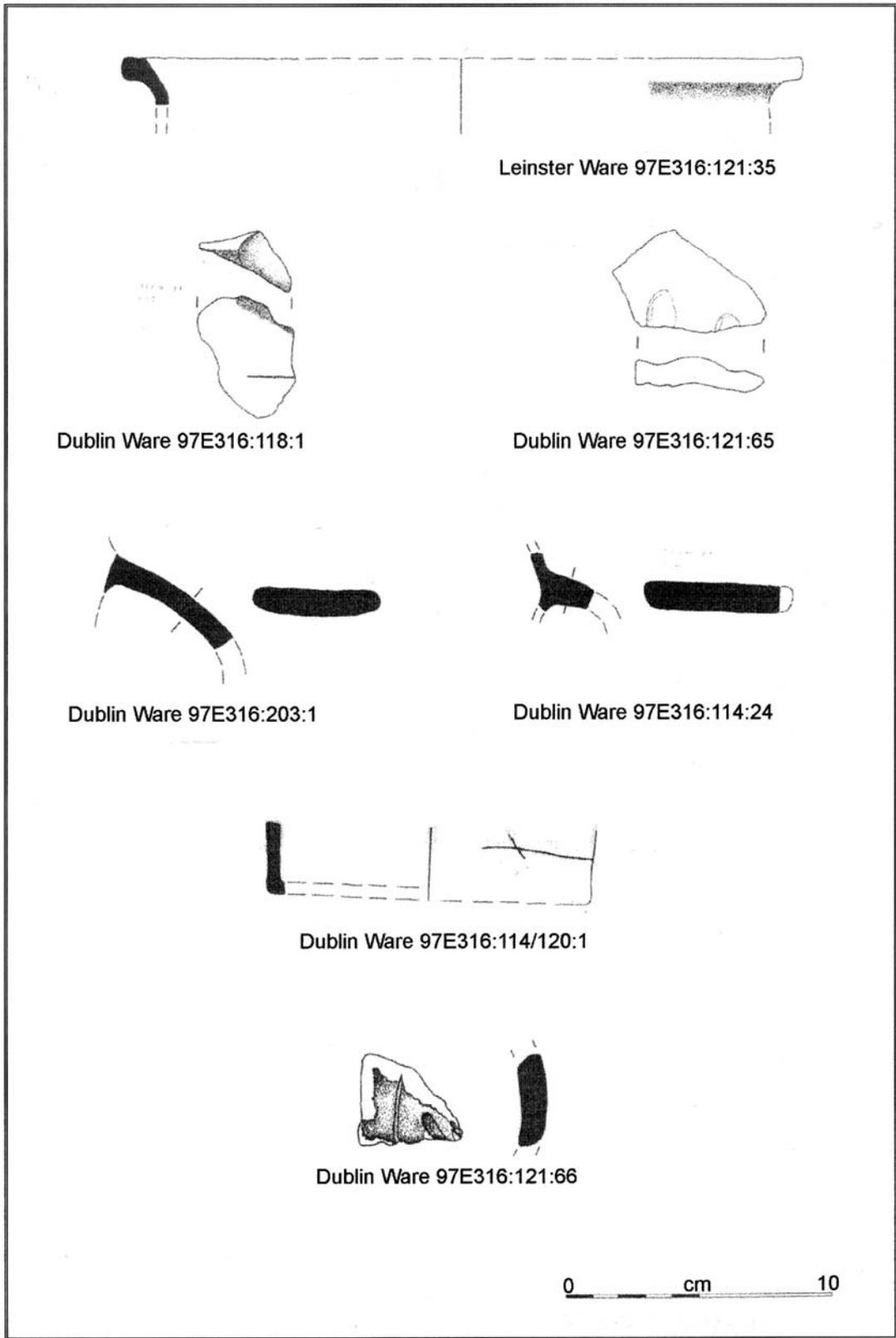
North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware 97E316:10:1

Red Earthenware Tile 97E316:120:16

0 5 10 cm

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| Scale | As Indicated |
| Fig. 16 | Pottery and Tile Finds |



Leinster Ware 97E316:121:35

Dublin Ware 97E316:118:1

Dublin Ware 97E316:121:65

Dublin Ware 97E316:203:1

Dublin Ware 97E316:114:24

Dublin Ware 97E316:114/120:1

Dublin Ware 97E316:121:66

0 cm 10

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| Scale | As Indicated |
| Fig. 17 | Dublin type ware pottery |



Plate 1: Fill, below C:120



Plate 2: South-West corner of manor House (F10)



Plate 3: View of RB2 from east showing cobbles C:105 and backfilled sewer trench C:111



Plate 4: View of RB2 from east showing cobble 114 and internal post-pit alignment



Plate 5: Post-Pit 107 with cushion-stone and vitrified fill in half section



Plate 6: RB2 interior viewed from south showing cobble alignment within C:114



Plate 7: General overview of area to south-east of RB2 showing outhouse F4 and wall F5



Plate 8: View of ditch section in Cutting 3, Area 2