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Introduction

Background

- 12.1 This Chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), commissioned by SLR Consulting Ireland on behalf of Roadstone Limited addresses the impacts on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the application site and the surrounding area of a proposed development, which will consist of:
- Permission for continued use of the existing quarry development currently permitted by P. Ref. 04/1479 and ABP PL20.215417 for a further period of 25 years, within an application area of c. 66.3 hectares, with an extraction area of c. 17.1 hectares and permanent overburden storage area of c. 3.9 hectares;
 - Permission for continued use of the permitted facilities consisting of: ESB substation (26m²), portacabin office facilities including canteen and washroom facilities (91m²), bunded fuel storage, vehicle circulation/access including wheelwash and weighbridge, settlement tanks/hydrocarbon interceptors for treatment of water, construction of overburden and screening mounds, all other associated site works and ancillary activities;
 - Permission for continued extraction of limestone using conventional blasting techniques and processing of rock using crushing and screening plant;
 - Upgrade of the existing WWTS and percolation area to new Secondary WWTS and constructed soil polishing filter area;
 - Provision of the permitted concrete block making facility and concrete batching plant, truck washdown facility with wash water recycled via a closed settlement tank system, the storage of aggregates; and workshop including storage room, canteen and washroom facilities (485m²); and
 - Restoration of the overall application site to a natural habitat including a permanent waterbody.
- 12.2 The proposed development is located in the townlands of Curry and Cloonacaltry, in Brideswell, Co. Roscommon, with the site location and study area indicated in **Figure 12-1**. The existing site, operations and the full details of the proposed development are described further in Chapters 1 and 2 of this EIAR.

Scope of Work / Methodology

- 12.3 This study, which complies with the requirements of Directive EIA 2014/52/EU is an assessment of the known or potential cultural heritage resource within a specified area and includes the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment. It consists of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely context, character, significance and sensitivity of the known or potential cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects using an appropriate methodology (EPA 2002, 2003 and 2022).
- 12.4 It consists of the following study stages:
- Baseline Studies; and

- Assessment of the proposed development area.
- 12.5 The baseline study involved detailed investigation of the archaeological and historical background of the development site, the landholding and the surrounding area extending 1km from the development boundary (**Figure 12-1**). This area was examined using information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Roscommon, the Sites and Monuments Record, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, Roscommon County Development Plan, lists of excavations and cartographic and documentary sources. A field inspection and test excavation was previously carried out in 2004 during preparation of the original planning application, to identify and assess any known archaeological sites and previously unrecorded features and possible finds within the area of the landholding. As the footprint of the proposed development has already been archaeologically assessed no further assessment is required.
- 12.6 The criteria and definitions for describing effects set out below is drawn from the 2022 EPA Guidelines.

Table 12-1: 2022 EPA Guidelines

Criteria	Definitions
Quality of Effects	Positive A change which improves the quality of the environment.
	Neutral No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds or variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
	Negative/adverse Effects A change which reduces the quality of the environment.
Significance of effects	Imperceptible An effect capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
	Not significant An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without noticeable consequences.
	Slight effects An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
	Moderate effects An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging trends.
	Significant effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Very Significant effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters the majority of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Profound effects An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics
Describing extent and context of effects	Extent Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of population affected by an effect.
	Context Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions.
Describing probability of effects	Likely effects The effects can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.

Criteria	Definitions
Describing duration & frequency of effects	Unlikely effects The effects can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	Momentary effects Effects lasting from seconds to minutes.
	Brief effects Effects lasting less than a day.
	Temporary effects Effects lasting less than a year.
	Short-term effects Effects lasting one to seven years.
	Medium-term effects Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.
	Long term-term effects Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
	Permanent effects Effects lasting over sixty years.
	Reversible effects Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration.
	Frequency of effects Describe how the effect will occur.
Describing types of effects	Indirect effects Impacts on the environment which are directly result of the project.
	Cumulative effects The addition of minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create a larger more significant effect.
	'Do-Nothing Effects' The environment as it would be in the future should the project not go ahead.
	'Worst case' effects The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Indeterminable effects When full consequences of change in the environment cannot be described.
	Irreversible effects When the character distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	Residual effects The degree of environmental change that will, occur after the proposed mitigation measures take effect.
	Synergistic effects Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents.

- 12.7 An impact assessment and mitigation strategy have been prepared. An impact assessment is undertaken to outline potential adverse impacts that the proposed development may have on the cultural resource, while a mitigation strategy is designed to avoid, reduce or offset such adverse impacts.
- 12.8 The application area is located in the townlands Curry and Cloonacaltry, Co. Roscommon, on OS Six Inch sheet No. 97, c.4km west the village of Brideswell and just to the south of the R363 Athlone to Mount Bellew road.

- 12.9 Extracts from the Record of Monuments and Places for Counties Roscommon are presented on a map of the local area around the site in **Figure 12-1**. RMP sites included on the Records of Monuments and Places statutory mapping are identified by black circles. The application area is shown in red.

Consultations / Consultees

- 12.10 In preparing this Environmental Impact Assessment Report a pre-planning consultation meeting was held between officials of Roscommon County Council, SLR and the Applicant on 16 June 2025. The field boundary system covering a large part of the quarry area, designated as RMP archaeological site RO048-097 was discussed, and the proposal to omit the southern area of the previously permitted extraction site was welcomed as an opportunity to retain some of this feature.
- 12.11 In addition, a pre-planning consultation document was issued to statutory consultees. Details of those consulted and feedback obtained is contained in Chapter 1 of this EIAR. Feedback of most relevance to the assessment of cultural heritage was received from the Development Applications Unit (DAU) at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht who also raised the presence of the RMP field system, bisected by another Recorded Monument RO048-098, which is a linear earthwork. The potential for subsurface archaeological assets to remain in undeveloped parts of the site, and the need to investigate and provide protective measures was highlighted. The DAU also requested that the EIAR provide evidence of the fulfilment of appropriate mitigation measures that were attached to Condition 21 of ABP PL20.215417, and an assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development at restoration stage.

Contributors / Author(s)

- 12.12 The assessment was prepared by Dr. Charles Mount who is a Member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and has more than thirty years of cultural heritage assessment experience. He holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in archaeology as well as a professional diploma in EIA and SEA Management.

Limitations / Difficulties Encountered

- 12.13 No difficulties were encountered during the desktop study, field survey or in the preparation of this report.

Regulatory Background

- 12.14 The following paragraphs set out the regulatory background regarding cultural impact assessments in Ireland in general and the site-specific planning background relevant to this cultural impact assessment.

Legislation

- 12.15 No specific Irish legislation exists governing cultural heritage assessments.

Planning Policy and Development Control

- 12.16 The Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 (RCDP) is the statutory plan detailing the development objectives/policies of the local authority. The plan includes objectives and policies, relevant to this assessment, i.e., with regard to archaeological and cultural heritage. Chapter 9 of the Roscommon County Development Plan sets out the policies on built & archaeological heritage within the county (see below).

The Council's Archaeological Heritage policies and objectives are:

BH 9.1 Ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Roscommon through the compilation of a Record of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas, the safeguarding of historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements that contribute positively to the vernacular and industrial heritage of the county.

BH 9.2 Protect all structures included on the Record of Protected Structures and their settings, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.

BH 9.3 Encourage the sympathetic re-use and secure the long-term viability of Protected Structures without detracting from their special interest and character.

BH 9.4 Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and make additions and deletions as appropriate.

BH 9.5 Ensure that new developments within or adjacent to an ACA respects the context of the area and contribute positively to the ACA in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes.

BH 9.6 Protect existing buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and features such as street furniture, which are considered to be intrinsic elements of the special character of the ACA, from demolition or removal and nonsympathetic alterations.

BH 9.7 Ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities to buildings within an ACA are designed, constructed and located in a manner that is complementary to the character of the ACA.

BH 9.8 Undertake an assessment to inform the potential ACA designation of special character areas considered by the Planning Authority to be worthy of such protection in County Roscommon.

BH 9.9 Encourage the retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the vernacular heritage of County Roscommon. Discourage the replacement of good quality vernacular buildings with modern structures and by protecting vernacular buildings where they contribute to the character of an area or town and/or where they are rare examples of a structure type.

BH 9.10 Support proposals to refurbish vernacular structures that are in a run-down or derelict condition, provided that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.

BH 9.11 Encourage appropriate changes of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not adversely impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.

BH 9.12 Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.

BH 9.13 Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In securing such preservation Roscommon County Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

BH 9.14 To support the Rathcroghan Archaeological Complex, as a historic landscape with viable land-use practices and a viable population, by continuing to support initiatives such as the Farming Rathcroghan European Innovation Partnership and the Royal Sites of Ireland application to Ireland's World Heritage Tentative List and progression to designation of the Royal Sites of Ireland as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Guidelines

- 12.17 The report format and some of the descriptions of effects are based on the **Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports**, published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2022.

Significant Risks

- 12.18 There are no known significant risks to human health or environmental effects, which may occur in relation to this cultural heritage assessment.

Receiving Environment

Study Area

- 12.19 The overall study area extends 1km from the application area in all directions and is shown in **Figure 12-1**.

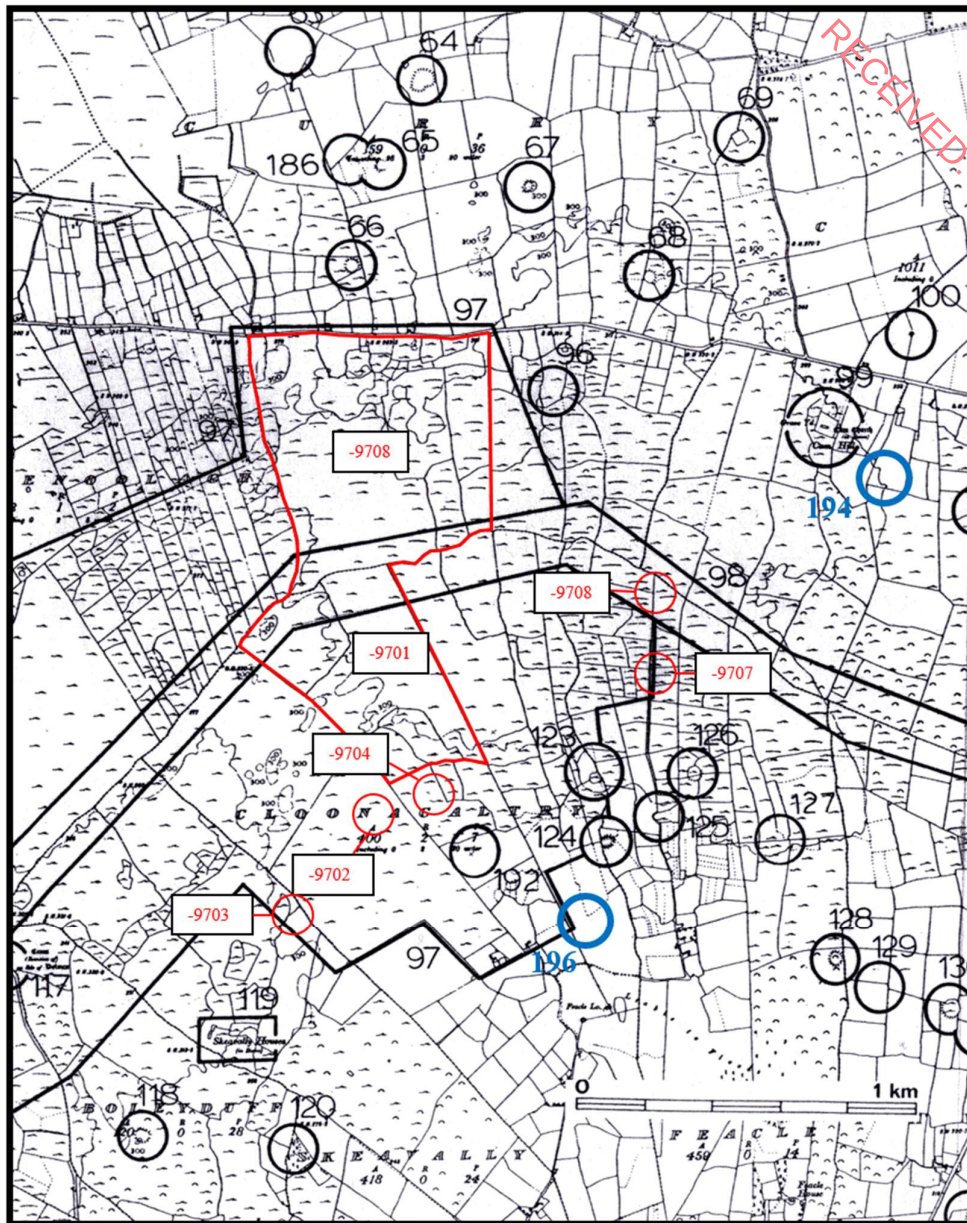


Figure 12-1 Study Area

Above, the study area is superimposed on the Sites and Monuments Record. The application is indicated with the red line. RMP sites are indicated with black circles and SMRs with blue circles.

Baseline Study Methodology

12.20 Research has been undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection and archaeological test excavation of the proposed development area.

Paper Study

12.21 This is a document search. The following sources were examined and a list of sites and areas of archaeological potential compiled:

- Record of Monuments and Places
- The Sites and Monuments Record
- Available aerial photography
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area
- Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028
- The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

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The Record of Monuments and Places

12.22 This was established under section 12 (1) of the 1994 National Monuments (Amendment) Act and provides that the Minister shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes there are monuments, such record to be comprised of a list of monuments and relevant places and a map or maps showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the State. The associated files contain information of documentary sources and field inspections where these have taken place. All available information on these sites is provided in **Appendix 12-1**. Note, although the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was signed into law by the President on October 13, 2023, the part of the act superseding the Record of Monuments with the Register of Monuments had not been commenced at the time this assessment was prepared. This assessment uses the Record of Monuments and Places, which were still in force at the time the assessment was completed.

Cartographic Sources

12.23 This included seventeenth century mapping as well the 1st and 2nd editions of the Ordnance Survey six-inch maps.

Documentary sources

12.24 Documentary sources provide more general historical and archaeological background.

The County Development Plan

12.25 This notes structures listed for preservation.

Field Inspection

12.26 A field inspection was carried out in 2004 to determine the location, extent and ascertain the significance of any archaeological sites and to identify any previously unrecorded or suspected sites and potable finds.

Receiving Environment, Historical & Archaeological Landscape

The Landscape

12.27 The application site is located in the townland of Curry and Cloonacantray, Co. Roscommon, on OS Six Inch sheet No. 97, c. 3.5 km west of the village of Brideswell and just to the south of the R363 Athlone to Mount Bellew road. The soil of the area is a Rathowen series fine loamy drift with limestones with a substrate of drift with limestones (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php>).

Historical and Archaeological Background

- 12.28 The following is a brief summation of the main types of sites and monuments that are known from the county along with the historical development of the study area. It is intended as a guide to the types of sites and monuments that might be encountered in the study area.
- 12.29 The site is situated in the townlands of Curry and Cloonacaltry, in the parishes of Cam and Taghmaconnell and Barony of Athlone South. Note original spellings of placenames recorded in source material are retained in the text.

The Prehistoric Period

- 12.30 The nature of prehistoric activity in the study area is unclear as there are no prehistoric sites or finds known from the area.

The Early Medieval Period

- 12.31 The study was in the early Christian period part of the territory of the Uí Máine, who were sub-kings of the O'Connor Kings of Connaught. The principle aristocratic families in the area were the Ua Cellaig, the Keoghs and the O Dobhailen. Settlement in this period is indicated by ringforts and cashels to the north of the study area in Curry townland, to the east in Cam, Feacle and Tawnagh and to the south in Boleyduff. However, the distribution of ringforts and cashels does not continue through the development area.
- 12.32 The townland of Cam is mentioned in the Annals of Lough Ce, which note that in "AD 1193 Macbethaidh O Dobhailen, Erenagh (custodian of church lands) of Camma, died on a pilgrimage to Inis Clothrann". Another O Dobhailen, also an Erenagh of Camma, is noted as dieing in AD 1231 in the Annals of the Four Masters. The Coarb (Abbot) of Cam was one of the seven principle Coarbs of the Ui Maine and had a right to the baptismal fees of the entire tribe.

The Later Medieval Period

- 12.33 During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, control of the area was contested between the O'Connor's and the Anglo-Normans. The Barony of Athlone was claimed by the King of England, who ordered the construction of Castles at Athlone, Rindown and Roscommon to secure the area. In 1215 Richard de Burgo was granted Connacht and in 1227 this granted was confirmed. In 1235 de Burgo invaded Connacht, and defeated Felim O'Connor forcing him to pay a rent for the King's lands in Roscommon. Roscommon subsequently became a county in 1247, but the construction of Roscommon Castle was not got underway by the Justiciar Robert de Ufford until 1269 (Otway-Ruthven 1980, 174, 199). The first documented evidence of a Sheriff of Roscommon is not until 1292 (Otway-Ruthven 1980, 203). Anglo-Norman rule was brief, however. After the Scottish Bruce invasion of 1315-18 a settlement was reached. Roscommon and the lands of the Uí Máine were granted in 1318 to Cathal O'Connor, King of Connacht. Later in 1395 King Richard II granted the Royal Castle of Roscommon to the O'Connor Don (Otway-Ruthven 1980, 236, 270).
- 12.34 The presence of a motte and bailey at Ballycreggan (048—11301) to the west of Brideswell, a Moated site at Cuilleenirwan (047-028) to the north-west of the study area, and another at Breedagh (047-059) to the south-west indicates that there was some Anglo-Norman settlement in the area during this period. A Charter survives from 1409 in which Bishop John O Grade of Elphin granted the church lands of Cam to Donald O Doclai, who was probably of the same family O Dobhailen mentioned in the 12th and thirteenth centuries.
- 12.35 The fifteenth century was characterised by the decline of Anglo-Norman power in Ireland which had been ebbing since the early fourteenth century. Part of the response to this was the construction of masonry Tower Houses which sprang up after King Henry VI introduced a building subsidy of £10 in 1429 (Sweetman 1999, 137). Annagh Castle (ME014—02701-),

to the south-west of the application area, is probably the remains of the Tower House that housed the lord of the study area.

The Post-Medieval Period

- 12.36 In the sixteenth century the Tudors adopted a much more interventionist policy in Ireland and sought to impose the protestant reformation on the one hand and new legislation and institutions on the other. This policy brought about the Nine Years war which concluded with the Tudor conquest of Ireland by 1603. Over the quarter century following the war rectangular defended Strong Houses were built by landed families and a number are known from Roscommon (Sweetman 1999, 193-98). The complex at Skeavally presumably dates from this period and may be associated with the seventeenth century reorganisation of the study area. Examples occur in the south of the county but outside the study area at Kellybrook (045-045) Longfield ((045—069), Killiaghan and Gort (045-107), at Eskerbaun (048-188), Cloonbigny (050-01902), DunDonnell (051—04702).
- 12.37 The seventeenth century Stewart policy of plantation was assisted by the earliest accurate mapping of Ireland carried out under the Government of the earl of Stafford for the purpose of a proposed plantation of Connacht which did not take place (Simington 1949). This policy culminated in the rising of 1641 and later the Cromwellian military campaigns of 1649-53. The Cromwellian settlement and policy of land confiscation and transplantation was carried out with the aid of the Civil Survey of 1655-4 (Simington 1949).
- 12.38 The Stafford map of 1636 is a relatively accurate rendering of the townlands and parishes, with records of their seventeenth century names (Fig 12-2). The mapping also records other topographic information such as woodland and bog. Curry townland is called Syvenan. The eastern part of Curry was a separate townland of Shanballythomas which bordered Cam. Cloonacaltry is Coolenecaltra and Feacle was Loughenoboy. The modern townland of Tawnagh in 1636 was four townlands, Gortnevolly, Carrownecaltra, Caldragh and Bunnegarrah. Bunnegarrah is a medieval townland name and is mentioned in the Cam charter of 1409. Skeavally was divided into two townlands, Iskerantagh and Shooghvally. Boleyduff was Shanballyduffe. Cuilleenoolagh was indicated as woodland, and Cuilleenirwan was called Killinnowlagh.
- 12.39 The mapping illustrates the seventeenth century landholding pattern. It was characterised by long narrow strips of land extending generally southward from the parish boundary and converging towards Lough Feacle. These strips had access to a range of resources, woodland and bogland to the north of the parish boundary in modern Milltown, Cuilleenoolagh and Curry townlands. The civil Survey records that both arable and pastureland was available within each strip and in some cases there was access to the seasonal Feacle Lough. As the 1636 mapping pre-dates the plantations, Presumably this reflects the medieval landholding pattern the O'Connors regained control of the study area after 1318 and as Roscommon was not the subject of a plantation.
- 12.40 The Stafford mapping indicates areas of woodland to the north of the parish boundary in modern Cuilleenoolagh townland and to the south in the northern part of modern Cloonacaltry and Feacle townlands. The accuracy of the mapping is backed up by other sources. The Cam charter of 1409 notes the presence of woodland in the south-western part of Cam townland, and this is indicated in the 1636 mapping. The 1651 Civil Survey also makes extensive references to landholders having plots in the woods of Bryall which must be the woodland indicated in the 1636 mapping as stretching through Cuilleenoolagh, Boleyduff, Cloonacaltry, Feacle, cam and Tawnagh townlands. Presumably this woodland was felled in the period 1600-1770 to fulfil the demand for barrel staves and charcoal which decimated the Irish woodlands (Mitchell and Ryan 1997, 322-3).
- 12.41 A detailed examination of the field systems reveals that most of the field patterns in the study area are set within and therefore post-date the parish boundaries which would have been

established by 1152. Overlaying the information from the 1636 mapping on the Record of Monuments map (Fig. 12-3) indicates a complementary distribution between the monuments in the study area and the woodland. All the monuments, apart from 48:117 a roadside cross, respect the woodland. This suggests that the woodland was present during the Early Christian period when the ringforts and cashels were constructed. The implications of this are that the field boundaries located in the part of Cloonacaltry townland in which the woodland was present in 1636 must either post-date the Stafford survey or pre-date the growth of woodland, sometime presumably before the fifth century AD. The form of the fields, strips generally longer than wide, suggests that they post-date 1636.

- 12.42 The Civil Survey of 1641 (Simington 1949). also provides an insight into the patterns of landholding and the general nature of the landscape at that time. The townland of Cam was held by the Bishop of Elphin and was leased to Donnel O Dollan, Shanballyduffe was the property of the Ear of ClanRickard. Landholders in Carrownecaltra, Skevally, Iskerantagh and Shanballyduffe had access to the woods of Bryall which must be the area of woodland directly to the north of the parish boundary marked on the 1636 map. Carrownecaltra was noted arable and pasture. A number of landowners held parcels of land in the woods of Bryall. Coolenecaltra was described as profitable land. Skevally and Iskerantagh were described as having arable and pasture.
- 12.43 The Ordnance Survey Name Books for County Roscommon provide some additional information on the study area from the 1820s. Cloonacaltry is described as one third cultivated the rest limestone rocky sheepwalks. There is no mention of any woods. Cuilleenoolagh, which was described as woodland in 1641 is described as three fifths rock and bog the rest arable and pasture. Again the woodland has been all cleared.

Buildings

Protected Structures

- 12.44 The Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-28 containing the Record of Protected Structures was examined as part of the baseline study for this chapter of the EIAR. The review established that there are no Protected Structures situated within the application area or within the study area.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

- 12.45 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which is maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was examined as part of the baseline study for this chapter of the EIAR on 18 June 2025. The review established that there are no structures included in the NIAH situated within the application area or the study area.

Archaeology

Archaeological Assessment

Recorded Monuments

- 12.46 Examination of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for Co. Roscommon indicated that the entire proposed development is within RMP archaeological site RO048-097--* (Culleenolough and Cloonacaltry townlands) which is an archaeological complex with originally 8 sub-elements. As indicated below, only 5 remain in the RMP.

- RO048-9701 Field system

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- RO048-9702 Field system
- RO048-9703 Road
- RO048-9704 Enclosure (removed, not in RMP)
- RO048-9705 Cashel
- RO048-9706 Enclosure (removed, not in RMP)
- RO048-9707 Enclosure (removed, not in RMP)
- RO048-9708 Fields system

12.47 The complex is situated in the townlands of Cloonacaltry and Curry, in the Barony of Athlone South (see **Figure 12-1** and **Appendix 12-1**).

12.48 RO048-9708 is described in the RMP as:

In an undulating landscape. An area of about 110 acres (c. 45 ha) contains relict field walls of collapsed drystone construction, now partly grass-covered (Wth c. 2-3m; c. H 0.5m) in rough pasture. The fields can be small (dims c. 20m x c. 30m), particularly at its NW end and close to the E-W Athlone to Dysart road. Larger fields (dims c. 100m x up to 500m) exist further from the road. No house sites or lazy-beds were noted. The entire field system was recorded and test-excavated (04E0626), and it is postulated that the fields are 17th century or later in date (Mount 2007) as much of the area is described as woodland on the Strafford map of c. 1636 (Simington 1949, Athlone (172, 174)). (Mount 2004)

12.49 The field system was the subject of archaeological testing in 2004 (Licence No. 04E0626) carried out by this author as part of an archaeological assessment linked to the original planning application for the quarry. The assessment concluded that:

There is no material or historical evidence to date any of the field enclosures before the medieval-post medieval period and no artefactual evidence to date the known archaeological activity in the development area before the reign of Elizabeth 1. The earliest monument from this part of the study area is the sixteenth/seventeenth century rectangular fortified house in Skeavally townland..

12.50 As the field system is of post-medieval date it is not of archaeological significance.

12.51 The closest Recorded Monument to the application area externally is RO048-096---- a Ringfort - cashel in Curry townland. This is described in the RMP as:

*RO048-096---- Curry Ringfort-Cashel
Visible as a circular enclosure (diam. c. 30m) on aerial photographs (GSIAP: M 595-6), and situated on a rise in an undulating landscape. It is not visible at ground level in reclaimed pasture.*

12.52 The monument is situated c. 150 m east of the application area and is considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development. Potential effects on the setting of the monument do not arise as the monument has no surface expression.

12.53 The remaining Recorded Monuments in the study area are situated further from the application area and are considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development.

Sites and Monuments Record

- 12.54 Examination of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which is maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 18 June 2025 indicated that there are no SMRs included within the application area. External to the application area the closest is a RO048-196---- a Barrow – mound in Cloonacaltry townland. This monument is located 0.53 km south of the application area and will not be impacted by the proposal.

Cartographic Sources

- 12.55 The seventeenth century Down Survey mapping, as well as Ordnance Survey 1st and 3rd edition six-inch maps and the first edition 25-inch maps of the area were examined. The analysis did not indicate any previously unrecorded archaeological sites in the application area or vicinity.

Place Name Evidence

- 12.56 The place names were extracted from the cartography in order to facilitate the search for structures and monuments and small finds, to help identify any unrecorded monuments or structures, to search for any published papers and documents related to the study area and to assist in the study of the historical development of the area. The English translations of the townland names of the study presented above below are based on Logainm.ie. The placenames refer entirely to topography and proprietors.

Table 12-2 Place Names in the Study Area

Placename	Translation
Curry	a marsh. In 1636 Syvenan (place of sallows?) and Shanballythomas (Old Thomas town).
Cam	a marsh. In 1636 Syvenan (place of sallows?) and Shanballythomas (Old Thomas town).
Cuilleenirwan	Irwan's little wood. In 1636 was Killinnowlagh (church of the apple trees). Today the church is just outside the townland in Commeen.
Cuilleenoolagh	Proud little wood. In 1651 appears to have been Bryall wood.
Cloonacaltry	meadow of the burial ground. In 1636 Coolenecaltra The corner or angle of the burial ground). The townland probably derives its name from the enclosed burial ground (48-192) in its southern part.
Milltown	town of the mill
Bolyduff:	a black milking place. In 1636 Shanballyduffe (the old black milking place).
Skeavally	white thorns of the town. In 1636 two townlands of Shooghvally and Iskerantagh (hermitage of antagh).
Feacle	a tooth. In 1636 Loughenoboy (Lake of the field or yellow lake).
Tawnagh	a green field. In 1636 Gortnevolly (field of the town), Carrownecaltra (Quarter of the burial ground), Caldragh (an old burying ground) and Bunnegarrah (the mouth of the river Gara? or garden?).

Archaeological Investigations in the Application Area

- 12.57 The application area was the subject of archaeological testing in 2004 (Licence No. 04E0626) carried out by this author as part of an archaeological assessment assessment linked to the original planning application for the quarry.

County Development Plan

- 12.58 No sites of archaeological importance, National Monuments, or protected structures listed in the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 are located within the proposed development area.

Aerial Photographs

- 12.59 Examination of the Ordnance Survey 1995, 1996-2000, 2001-2005, 2006-12, 2011-13 and 2013-18 aerial imagery as well as Google earth imagery from 2006, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2024 and a specially commissioned aerial survey carried out by Markus Casey in 2004 did not indicate any additional cultural heritage sites in the application area.

National Museum of Ireland

- 12.60 Examination of the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland for the townlands in the study area, revealed a coin hoard was found in the neighbouring townland of Cuilleenoolagh while planting turnips in 1944. The hoard consisted of 58 coins. 5 shillings of Philip and Mary 5 shillings of Elizabeth 48 sixpences of Elizabeth. It represents the earliest dated find from the area.

Other sources

- 12.61 Examination of archaeological corpus works on prehistoric artefacts (Harbison 1969, Eogan 1983, 2000, Kavanagh 1991, Simpson 1990), and pottery (O'Ríordáin and Waddell 1993) and Iron Age material (Raftery 1984) did not reveal any additional material in the study area.

Field inspection

- 12.62 The application area was the subject of archaeological testing in 2004 (Licence No. 04E0626) carried out by this author as part of an archaeological assessment linked to the original planning application for the quarry.
- 12.63 Appendix 12-3 provides the archaeological assessment report that was produced following testing undertaken at the application site in.

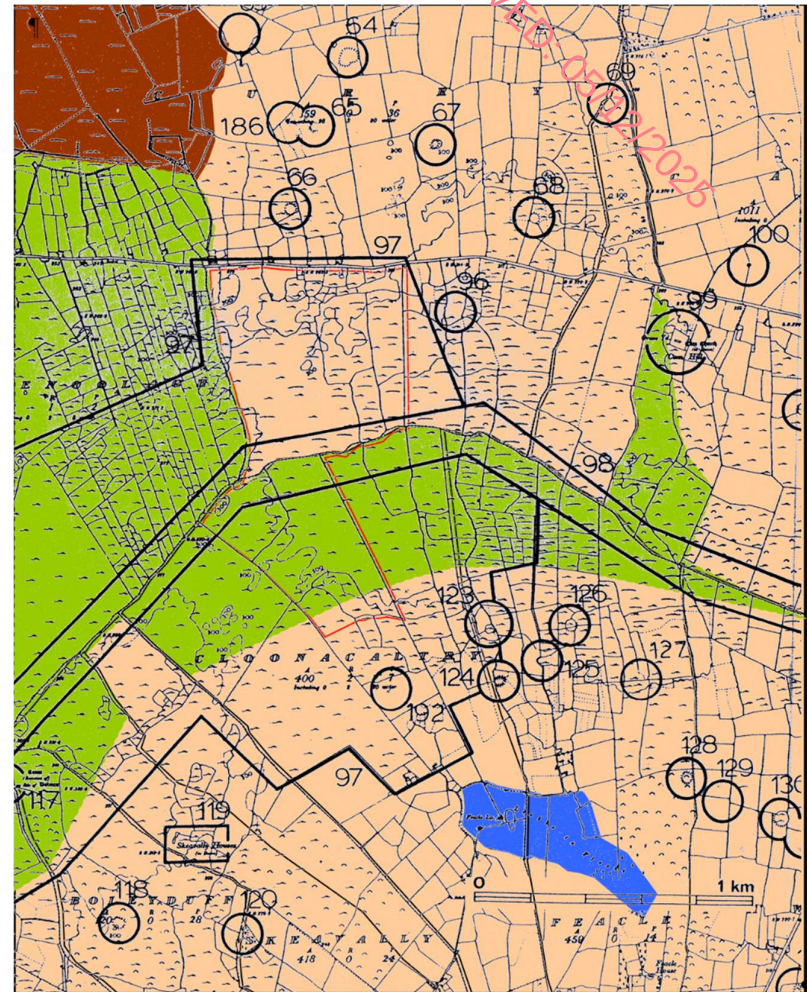


Figure 12-2 Map of Athlone Barony from the Civil Survey

12.64 The area of the development has been roughly indicated in **Figure 12-2** above. Much of the development area coincides with the area noted as “wood” on the map.



Figure 12-3 Aerial image of the application area, outlined in red, from Google earth

Assessment Of Potential Impacts

Direct Impacts

- 12.65 There will be no direct effects on any known significant items of archaeology, cultural heritage or buildings of special architectural significance in the application area or the vicinity. As described in Chapter 2 of this EIAR, the proposed area of excavation will be reduced by c. 6.6 hectares in the southern area of the previously permitted quarry, therefore there will be less potential for impact on any unknown features.

Indirect Impacts

- 12.66 There will be no indirect effects on any known significant items of archaeology, cultural heritage or buildings of special architectural significance in the application area or the vicinity.

Interactions with Other Impacts

- 12.67 No interaction with other effects has been identified.

Do Nothing Impacts

- 12.68 If the proposed development were not to proceed there would be no negative effect on the cultural heritage.

Worst Case Impact

- 12.69 In the worst case the proposal might affect previously unknown archaeological heritage without preservation by record taking place.

Cumulative Impacts

- 12.70 There will be no cumulative impact upon any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites in combination with other plans or projects.

Restoration

- 12.71 There will be no impact upon any archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites in the application area as a result of the restoration of the site.

Recommendations / Proposed Mitigation Measures

Direct Impacts

- 12.72 Due to the possibility of the survival of previously unknown sub-surface archaeological deposits or finds within the application area, all topsoil-stripping in this area will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist under licence from the National Monuments Service. This will be done as standard practice and has been carried out in accordance with Condition 21 of ABP PL 20.215417 to date.

Indirect Impacts

- 12.73 No indirect impacts warranting specific mitigation were identified during the cultural heritage assessment.

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Appendices

Appendix 12-1

Sites in the Record of Monuments and Places

47:085 Milltown/Skeavally Road

Old roadway that provided access to the area from Taghmaconnell. Remains no longer survive in Milltown townland where field has been reclaimed.

In Skeavally townland roadway is wide (8.7-9.5m) E side is formed by a well built drystone wall, W side by a low collapsed drystone wall.

48:063 CurryEarthwork (S) Possible

Noted on Aerial Photograph GSI M 595-6.
Nothing visible on ground.

48:064 CurryRingfort

Large sub-circular ringfort diameter 57.9m by 50.9m. Domed interior enclosed by earthen bank. Perimeter has been quarried between S and SE.

48:06501 Curry Ringfort

Diameter 28.4m by 25.7m with level interior enclosed by flat-topped earthen bank.

48:06502 Curry Enclosure Site

Changed to 48:186

48:066 CurryCashel

Roughly circular area, Diameter 33.4 m by 35 m enclosed by grass and moss covered stone wall which now appears as a bank.

48:067 CurryRingfort

Subcircular area, diameter 24.1m by 26.1m enclosed by a narrow flat-topped inner bank and a second outer bank.

48:068 CurryCashel

Diameter 32.3m by 31.1m now evident as a grassed-over platform. Very little of interior facing of enclosing wall evident. Some of original outer wall facing visible.

48:06901 CAM rectangular field

Rectangular area 37.7m by 36.4m enclosed by a drystone wall. NNW side forms part of townland boundary. No internal features.

48:06902 Cam Mass rock

Local tradition states that this is the site of a mass rock.

48:96 CurryEnclosure Site

Site noted on Aerial Photo GSI M 595-6. The site has been cleared for land reclamation.

48:97

RO048-9701 Field system
RO048-9702 Field system
RO048-9703 Road
RO048-9704 Enclosure (removed, not in RMP)
RO048-9705 Cashel
RO048-9706 Enclosure (removed, not in RMP)
RO048-9707 Enclosure (removed, not in RMP)
RO048-9708 Fields system

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48:98 Wall

48:99 Cam Ecclesiastical Remains

The ecclesiastical site of Cam consists of (09901) a Church 22.7m by 7.3m built of limestone and a (09902) Graveyard. Site is situated within a circular enclosure (09903) enclosed by a bank and external ditch.

48:100 Cam Well Site

Site now filled in.

48:117 Skeavally Wayside Cross

Limestone cross. Said to commemorate Thady Keogh d.1734 from Skeavally townland. Top of cross broken from shaft and lying on ground.

48:118 Boleyduff Cashel

Sub-circular area diameter 32.5m by 29.7m enclosed by a collapsed stone wall with a more recent wall built over part of it.

48:11901 Skeavally House

16/17th century rectangular fortified house 19.8m by 7.52m built of mortared limestone with gun loops at ground floor.

48:11902 Skeavally Bawn Possible

Buildings appear to be enclosed by a possible bawn

48:11903 Skeavally Rectangular Enclosure

No information

48:11904 Skeavally Sweathouse

Possible sweathouse.

48:11905 Skeavally House

Rectangular house 18.45m by 7m, similar construction, no gun loops, fireplaces.

48:11906 Skeavally House

At NNE end of 11905 is a third rectangular building with very low walls.

48:11907 Skeavally House

No information

48:11908 Skeavally (Blank)

No information

48:11909 Skeavally Field banks (S)

No information

48:120 Skeavally/Boleyduff Earthwork Site

No visible trace on ground.

48:123 Cloonacaltry Earthwork Site

Site has been cleared in land reclamation. Possibly a cashel was present.

48:124 Feacle/Cloonacaltry Cashel

Circular area diameter 32.5m by 32.8m, enclosed by a drystone wall.

48:125 Feacle Cashel Site

The original western part of this site has been incorporated into a stone field wall. None of the eastern part survives.

48:126 Feacle Enclosure Site

Possible enclosure removed by land reclamation in 1950s.

48:127 Feacle Enclosure site possible

Site removed by land reclamation.

48:128 Feacle Earthwork Site

Site removed by land reclamation.

48:129 Tawnagh Earthwork Site

No evidence of site survives on the ground.

48:130 Tawnagh Cashel

Oval area diameter 55m by 47.5m enclosed by a collapsed stone wall with a later wall built over it.

48:192 Cloonacaltry Cashel/ Children's burial ground

Sub-circular area diameter 32.2m by 28.2m enclosed by stone wall with inner and outer faces surviving up to 1.9-2m wide. Said to be a children's burial ground with last burial c. 1935.

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Appendix 12-2

Sites in the Sites and Monuments Record

RO048-194001- : Enclosure : CAM

On an E-facing slope of Cam Hill. Rectangular grass-covered area (int. dims. 26.6m E-W; 23.2m N-S) defined by an earthen bank (Wth 3.5-5m; int. H 0.2m; ext. H 0.1-0.3m) on all sides except the W where there is a scarp (H 0.4m) down to the interior. There is an entrance (Wth 4m) at the N end of the E side, and inside there are two short banks (L 11m; Wth 2m; H 0.2m) 4.5m apart attached to the perimeter at W which may be a house (RO048-194002-). Enclosure (RO048-194003-) is attached to the S, and Cam church (RO048-099001-) is c. 190m to the NW.

RO048-194002- : House - indeterminate date : CAM

On an E-facing slope of Cam Hill. Inside the perimeter of rectangular enclosure (RO048-194001-) at W there are two short banks (L 11m; Wth 2m; H 0.2m) 4.5m apart which may be a house.

RO048-194003- : Enclosure : CAM

On an E-facing slope of Cam Hill. Rectangular grass-covered area (int. dims 28m E-W; 24.5m) defined by earthen banks (Wth 3.5-6m; int. H 0.1-0.3m; ext. H 0.2m) on all sides except the W where there is a scarp down to the interior (H 0.4m). There is no identifiable original entrance, but a rectangular house site (RO048-194004-) (int. dims 6m E-W; 3.6m N-S) defined by a low bank (Wth 1.5-2m; H 0.1m) with an entrance (Wth 1.5m) at N is at the SE angle of the interior. Enclosure (RO048-194001-) is attached to the N, and Cam church (RO048-099001-) is c. 200m to the NW.

RO048-194004- : House - indeterminate date : CAM

On an E-facing slope of Cam Hill. The rectangular house site (int. dims 6m E-W; 3.6m N-S) defined by low bank (Wth 1.5-2m; H 0.1m) with an entrance (Wth 1.5m) at N is in the SE angle of rectangular enclosure (RO048-194003-).

RO048-196---- : Barrow - mound barrow : CLOONACALTRY

On the summit of a NNW-SSE esker ridge. Circular grass-covered mound (diam. 5.9m WNW-ESE; 5.6m NNE-SSW; H 0.1-0.3m) surrounded by a berm (Wth 1-2.3m) defined by the edges of the esker NNW-E and SSW-W, a low scarp (H 0.3m) E-SSW, and a scarp down to the mound (H 0.4m) W-NNW where the esker ridge is higher.

Appendix 12-3 Test Excavation

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Report on Archaeological Assessment at a proposed quarry development in Curry and Cloonacaltry Townlands, Nr. Brideswell, Co. Roscommon

Site name: Curry and Cloonacaltry, Co. Roscommon

RMP No.: RO048-97---

Type of report: Archaeological Assessment. Preliminary and Final Report

Planning reference number: --

Excavation (or geophysics) licence number: 04E0626

Name of author and consultancy: Charles Mount, Project Archaeologist, Irish Concrete Federation

Commissioning company: Roadstone Provinces Ltd.

Location and National Grid Reference of site: Curry and Cloonacaltry townlands, Co. Roscommon, NGR 19062/24518

Date of project: 4-7 May 2004

Date of report: 29 July 2004

Report on Archaeological Assessment at a proposed quarry development in Curry and Cloonacaltry Townlands, Nr. Brideswell, Co. Roscommon

Charles Mount
Project Archaeologist, Irish Concrete Federation

Summary

Archaeological assessment was carried in Curry and Cloonacaltry townlands, Co. Roscommon, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment of a proposed quarry development by Roadstone Provinces Ltd. The purpose of the work was to test the preliminary dating of a complex of disused field boundaries. Historical, cartographic and artefact research combined with aerial photographic survey allowed the development of a working hypothesis that:

1. There were no prehistoric remains present
2. Most walls are medieval or later
3. The majority of these walls are seventeenth century or later
4. The walls in Cloonacaltry townland affected by development post-date seventeenth century woodland clearance.

The evidence allowed the field boundaries present in the study area to be assigned to five broad phases;

1. Early Christian (not affected by development)
2. Post AD 1152
3. Post AD 1152 and pre AD 1636
4. Post 1636
5. Date not known (see Fig. 9).

An archaeological testing programme was formulated with the objectives of:

1. Retrieving dating evidence to test the preliminary phasing
2. Retrieving evidence to date field walls which could not be dated using cartographic or historical sources.

Fifteen trenches representing a total area investigated of 225 square metres and length of wall of 95.5m were excavated at various points to investigate wall sections, wall junctions, and a number of field enclosures of varying sizes.

The testing uncovered no archaeological features, apart from the walls themselves, and no artefactual material of any kind or any date. The sole find was a fragment of animal bone from a field enclosure.

The original hypothesis, based on historical and cartographic evidence, has not been falsified. There is no material or historical evidence to date the field enclosures before the

medieval-post medieval period and no artefactual evidence to date the known archaeological activity in the development area before the reign of Elizabeth 1. The earliest monument from this part of the study area is the sixteenth/seventeenth century rectangular fortified house in Skeavally townland.

As the testing revealed no significant archaeological remains and no finds were uncovered this represents the preliminary and final report on the excavations.

1 Background

The archaeological assessment was prepared on behalf of Roadstone Provinces Ltd., as part of an EIS, to assess the impacts, if any, on archaeology by the development of stone quarrying on 68 hectares of land in the townlands of Curry and Cloonacaltry, near Brideswell, Co. Roscommon.

1.1 Site location and grid reference

The development is situated in the townlands of Cloonacaltry and Curry, in the Barony of Athlone South in south Roscommon, 13 Miles west of Athlone and Near Brideswell along the R363 Athlone to Tuam road, on OS six inch sheet No. 48 and at NGR 19062/24518 (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Topographical situation of site

The ground in the study area is slightly elevated and gently undulating. The lands comprise unimproved pasture, scrub and boulder strewn land with numerous disused field boundaries. The site of the proposed quarry has an elevation of between 80m AOD and 110m AOD.

1.3 Areas investigated

Fifteen areas were investigated, designated Trenches 1-13 on Figs 10, 11, 26 and 29.

1.4 Description of the development and reasons for the assessment

Roadstone Provinces Ltd is proposing to develop a quarry on lands at Cam, Brideswell, Co. Roscommon. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to be submitted in support of the application. The proposed development is for extraction of limestone using conventional blasting techniques and processing of rock using mobile crushing and screening plant. The proposal also includes for provision of a concrete batching plant and block making facility. Ancillary facilities such as canteen, office, garage and washroom facilities will also be provided.

The work was carried out to assess the archaeological significance of a complex of stone field boundaries located in the townlands.

2 Paper survey

2.1 RMP information

The entire proposed development is within RMP archaeological site RO048-097--* (Culleenolough and Cloonacaltry townlands) which is an archaeological complex with originally 8 sub-elements (see Fig. 2). Only 5 remain in the RMP

RO048-9701 Field system

RO048-9702 Field system

RO048-9703 Road. This site is also included in RMP as 47:085 (see above).

RO048-9704 Enclosure (removed, not in RMP)

RO048-9705 Cashel (This site is included in RMP twice, as 48:192 and 048-9705 see below)

RO048-9706 Enclosure (removed, not in RMP)

RO048-9707 Enclosure (removed, not in RMP)

RO048-9708 Field system

2.2 Historical Background

The site is situated in the townlands of Cloonacaltry and Curry, in the Barony of Athlone South (see Fig. 2). The site falls into two ecclesiastical dioceses, Elphin and Clonfert. This division is marked by a stonewall site RMP site 048-098. Like most dioceses Clonfert and Elphin had their origins in the Synod of Rathbreasail in 1110, reaching their final form at the Synod of Kells in 1152. Territorially, the modern diocese of Clonfert occupies the ancient territory of Uí Máine, the largest petty-kingdom in the country, as it existed when the diocese was formed. Ballyforan and Kiltoom and Cam are both part of the Diocese of Elphin. The study area is also divided into the civil parishes of Taghmaconnell and Cam and the catholic parishes of Taghmaconnell and Ballybay. Cloonacaltry is in Taghmaconnell and Curry is in Cam/Ballybay. The division line between the two parishes is represented by the stone wall, RMP site 048:098. The wall also forms the boundary of the civil parish of Dysart.

(a) Prehistoric Period

Co. Roscommon is not particularly well known for its prehistoric archaeology, apart from the complex of monuments at Rathcroghan, near Tulsk. There are Megalithic tombs known from the county (some Passage Tombs and Court Tombs, a single Portal Tomb and a handful of Wedge Tombs), but, apart from the Portal Tomb at Mihanboy (051-045) none are found this far south in the county. There are no prehistoric sites or monuments recorded in the study area. Prehistoric monuments on Ordnance Survey six inch sheet 48 consist of a pair of barrows in Derryglad (048:079-080), a tumulus in Lissygreaghan (048:093) a cairn in Eskerbaun (048:10801) and a barrow in Brideswell (048:-109) all of unknown date and a fulact fiadh site in Liscam (048:181). There are only a handful of Bronze Age (2500-500 BC) burials in cists, mounds and cairns known from Roscommon, the closest is from Kilkenny (051-010) just south of the study area (Waddell 1990, 130-31). There are no prehistoric finds known from the study area (Harbison 1969, Eogan 1983, 2000, Kavanagh 1991, O'Flaherty 1995, Raftery 1984).

(b) Early Christian and Medieval Period

In the Early Christian period the study area formed part of the territory of the Uí Máine, who were sub-kings of the O'Connor Kings of Connacht. The principle aristocratic families in the area were the Ua Cellaig, the Keoghs and the O'Dobhailen. Settlement in this period is indicated by ringforts and cashels to the north of the study area in Curry townland, to the east in Cam, Feacle and Tawnagh and to the south in Boleyduff. However, the distribution of ringforts and cashels does not continue through the development area.

The ecclesiastical site at Cam is mentioned in the Annals of Lough Ce, which note that in "AD 1193 Macbethaidh O'Dobhailen, Erenagh (custodian of church lands) of Camma, died on a pilgrimage to Inis Clothrann". Another O'Dobhailen, also an Erenagh of Camma, is noted as dieing in AD 1231 in the Annals of the Four Masters. The Coarb (Abbot) of Cam was one of the seven principle Coarbs of the Uí Máine and had a right to the baptismal fees of the entire tribe.

During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries control of the area was contested between the O'Connor's and the Anglo-Normans. The Barony of Athlone was claimed by the King of England, who ordered the construction of Castles at Athlone, Rindown and Roscommon to secure the area. In 1215 Richard de Burgo was granted Connacht and in 1227 this grant was confirmed. In 1235 de Burgo invaded Connacht, and defeated Felim O'Connor forcing him to pay a rent for the King's lands in Roscommon. Roscommon subsequently became a county in 1247, but the construction of Roscommon Castle was not got underway by the Justiciar Robert de Ufford until 1269 (Otway-Ruthven 1980, 174, 199). The first documented evidence of a Sheriff of Roscommon is not until 1292 (Otway-Ruthven 1980, 203). Anglo-Norman rule was brief however. After the Scottish Bruce invasion of 1315-18 a settlement was reached. Roscommon and the lands of the Uí Máine were granted in 1318 to Cathal O'Connor, King of Connacht. Later in 1395 King Richard II granted the Royal Castle of Roscommon to the O'Connor Don (Otway-Ruthven 1980, 236, 270).

The presence of a motte and bailey at Ballycreggan (RMP 048—11301) to the west of Brideswell, a Moated site at Cuilleenirwan (RMP 047-028) to the north-west of the study area, and another at Breedagh (RMP 047-059) to the south-west indicates that there was some Anglo-Norman settlement in the area during this period.

A Charter survives from 1409 in which Bishop John O'Grade of Elphin granted the church lands of Cam to Donald O'Doclai, who was probably of the same family O'Dobhailen mentioned in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

The fifteenth century is characterised by the construction of masonry tower houses which sprang up after King Henry VI introduced a building subsidy of £10 in 1429 (Sweetman 1999, 137). There are a small number of Tower Houses in Roscommon, including three in the south of the county at Cloghan (RMP 44-055), an example to the west of the study area at Moyvannan (RMP 048—048), Cloonbigny (RMP 050-01901). These defended houses would have been the residences of the principal families of the area.

(c) The Post-Medieval Period

In the sixteenth century the Tudors adopted a much more interventionist policy in Ireland and sought to impose the protestant reformation on the one hand and new legislation and institutions on the other. This policy brought about the Nine Years war which concluded with the Tudor conquest of Ireland by 1603. Over the quarter century following the war rectangular defended Strong Houses were built by landed families and a number are known from Roscommon (Sweetman 1999, 193-98). The complex at Skevally presumably dates from this period and may be associated with the seventeenth century reorganisation of the study area. Examples occur in the south of the county but outside the study area at Kellybrook (RMP 045-045) Longfield (RMP 045—069), Killiaghan and Gort (RMP 045-107), at Eskerbaun (RMP 048-188), Cloonbigny (RMP 050-01902), DunDonnell (RMP 051—04702).

The seventeenth century Stewart policy of plantation, was assisted by the earliest accurate mapping of Ireland carried out under the Government of the Earl of Stafford for the purpose of a proposed plantation of Connacht which did not take place (Simington 1949). This policy culminated in the rising of 1641 and later the Cromwellian military campaigns of 1649-53. The Cromwellian settlement and policy of land confiscation and transplantation was carried out with the aid of the Civil Survey of 1655-4 (Simington 1949).

The mapping illustrates the seventeenth century landholding pattern (Fig. 3). It was characterised by long narrow strips of land extending generally southward from the parish boundary and converging towards Lough Feacle. These strips had access to a range of resources, woodland and bogland to the north of the parish boundary in modern Milltown, Cuilleenoolagh and Curry townlands (Fig. 4). The civil Survey records that both arable and pasture land was available within each strip and in some cases there was access to the seasonal Feacle Lough

The Stafford mapping indicates areas of woodland to the north of the parish boundary in modern Cuilleenoolagh townland and to the south in the northern part of modern Cloonacaltry and Feacle townlands. The accuracy of the mapping is backed up by other sources. The Cam charter of 1409 notes the presence of woodland in the south-western part of Cam townland, and this is indicated in the 1636 mapping. The 1651 Civil Survey also makes extensive references to landholders having plots in the woods of Bryall which must be the woodland indicated in the 1636 mapping as stretching through Cuilleenoolagh, Boleyduff, Cloonacaltry, Feacle, Cam and Tawnagh townlands. Presumably this woodland was felled in the period 1600-1770 to fulfil the demand for timber which decimated the Irish woodlands (Mitchell and Ryan 1997, 322-3).

A detailed examination of the field systems reveals that most of the field patterns in the study area are set within and therefore post-date the parish boundaries which would have been established by 1152. Overlaying the information from the 1636 mapping on the Record of Monuments map (Fig. 5) indicates a complementary distribution between the monuments in the study area and the woodland. All the monuments, apart from RMP

048:117 an eighteenth roadside cross, are situated outside the areas of seventeenth century woodland. This complementary distribution pattern suggests that the woodland was present, and probably more extensive, during the Early Christian period when the ringforts and cashels were constructed around its edges. Therefore the field boundaries situated in the originally wooded part of Cloonacaltry townland probably post-date the 1636 Stafford survey.

The Civil Survey of 1641 (Simington 1949) also provides an insight into the patterns of landholding and the general nature of the landscape at that time. The townland of Cam was held by the Bishop of Elphin and was leased to Donnel O'Dollan, Shanballyduffe was the property of the Earl of Clanrickard. Landholders in Carrownecaltra, Skevally, Iskerantagh and Shanballyduffe had access to the woods of Bryall which must be the area of woodland directly to the north of the parish boundary marked on the 1636 map. Carrownecaltra was noted as arable and pasture and a number of landowners held parcels of land in the woods of Bryall. Coolenecaltra was described as profitable land. Skevally and Iskerantagh were described as having arable and pasture.

The Ordnance Survey Name Books for County Roscommon provide some additional information on the study area from the 1820s. Cloonacaltry is described as one third cultivated the rest limestone rocky sheepwalks. There is no mention of any woods. Cuilleenoolagh, which was described as woodland in 1641 is described as three fifths rock and bog the rest arable and pasture. Again the woodland has been all cleared. It appears that the woodland in the study area was mainly cleared between 1636 and 1820 and the field systems laid out in their current form.

2.3 Aerial Photographs

The GSI vertical 1:30,000 overlapping air photos (GSI- 1- IRL 1/300 15.4.74-4750m M 595) were examined and a low altitude oblique aerial photographic survey was commissioned and carried out by Markus Casey for the purposes of the study (Figs. 6 and 10). These revealed a number of stone boundaries not represented on the cartographic coverage. These were plotted and are represented as Fig. 5.9.9.

2.4 National Museum of Ireland

Examination of the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland for the townlands in the study area, revealed a coin which hoard was found in the neighbouring townland of Cuilleenoolagh while planting turnips in 1944. The hoard consists of 55 coins and included 5 shillings of Philip II and Mary, 5 shillings of Elizabeth I and 48 pences of Elizabeth I. It represents the earliest dated find from the study area.

2.5 Conclusion

The research detailed above allows the field walls to be assigned to five broad phases; Early Christian (not affected by development), post AD 1152, post AD 1152 and pre AD 1636, post 1636 and date not known (see Fig. 9). On the basis of the seventeenth century cartographic evidence most of Cloonacaltry townland affected by the development appears to have been woodland and the fields probably post-date the seventeenth century. An archaeological testing programme was formulated with the objectives of:

3. Retrieving dating evidence to test and refine the preliminary phasing
4. Retrieving evidence to date field walls which could not be dated using cartographic or historical sources.

3 Fieldwork

3.1 Report on archaeological testing

Cutting 1

Cutting 1 was situated in the north-western part of the site close to the road. It was excavated to examine the relationship between a field and a wall extending from it to the north-east. It measured 7.7m by 2.5m and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m.

Stratigraphy

The field boundary was generally low and conical in section and consisted mainly of a pile of earth with some stones up to a maximum of 0.50m high and 1.70m wide at the base. This overlay a layer of brown soil up to 0.40m deep overlaying boulders and gravel.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cuttings 2a and b

Cuttings 2a and b were situated in the north-west part of the site. They were excavated to investigate the relationship between a main north-south running wall and east-west running wall. Cutting 2a measured 2m by 6m and 2b measured 4.5m by 2m and both were excavated to a depth of 0.4m.

Stratigraphy

The north-south boundary in cutting 2a was low and triangular in section and consisted mainly of earth with some stone. The boundary was a maximum of 0.70m high and 1.10m wide at the base. It overlay brown soil up to 0.30m deep overlaying tan/grey gravel.

The east-west boundary in cutting 2b was generally low, flat-topped and slab-sided in section and consisted mainly of a pile of stone-free brown earth revetted on each face by a single course of stones up to 0.30m high. The boundary was a maximum of 0.43m high and 0.95m wide at the base. This overlay a layer of brown soil up to 0.30m deep overlaying tan/grey gravel to the base of the excavation.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cutting 3

Cutting 3 was situated within a sub-rectangular field aligned north-north-west by south-south-east and situated in the north-western part of the site. The cutting measured 24m by

1m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.51m. The trench was excavated to investigate spade cultivation within the field.

Stratigraphy

A deep layer of a light brown cultivation soil with some sand extended to a maximum depth of 0.50m. This overlay tan/grey coloured gravel with boulders to the base of the excavation.

Finds

The only find was a single fragmentary animal bone which occurred near the base of the cultivation horizon. This was not associated with any structural element.

Cutting 4

Cutting 4 was situated in the north-western part of the site. It was excavated to examine the interior of a small rectangular enclosure which measured 8.8m by 6.9m internally and was enclosed by a wall of single width boulders 0.50m wide and up to 0.90m high. The cutting measured 6.9m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m.

Stratigraphy

This consisted of a thin layer of dark brown sandy soil up to 0.30m deep overlaying grey/light brown gravel to the base of the excavation.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cutting 5

Cutting 5 was situated in the north-western part of the site. It was excavated to examine the intersection of a main north-south and an east-west running wall. The cutting measured 8m east-west by 4m north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.64m.

Stratigraphy

The north-south walls survived to a maximum height of 0.95m above the ground surface and was a maximum of 0.50-0.6m wide at the base. It consisted of a layer of smaller stones sitting on the topsoil with two courses of larger stones above this. The east-west running wall was lower, just 0.4-0.5m high above the ground and consisted of a layer of small stones at the base c. 0.5m wide and one to two courses of larger stones above this. Both wall sections overlay a thin layer of dark brown sandy soil up to 0.28m deep that overlay light brown clay with boulders to the base of the excavation.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cutting 6

Cutting 6 was situated in the north-west part of the site along the east-west wall investigated in cutting 5. It was excavated to examine a small rectangular area defined by

a low stretch of wall to the south of the main east-west wall. The rectangular area was 2.8m north-south by 9.30m east-west internally. The southern stretch of walling was low, poorly preserved and mostly grass covered. The cutting was 2.8m long and just 1m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.58m.

Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy consisted of dark brown soil to 0.28m overlaying light brown soil with sand to the base of the cutting.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cutting 7

Cutting 7 was situated in the north-western part of the site. It was excavated to examine the intersection of a main north-west to south-east running wall and a north-south running wall which runs off it at this point. The two walls form the northern and western sides of a sub-rectangular field enclosure. The cutting measured 3m by 7m and was excavated to a depth of 0.48m.

Stratigraphy

The walls survived to a maximum height of 0.95m and were up to 0.8m wide at the base. They consisted of a poorly built heaped stones. The northern section of the north-east to south-west running section was mostly overgrown. Beneath the walls was a layer of dark brown sandy soil up to 0.30m deep overlaying a light brown to grey clay with gravel and stone to the base of the excavation.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cutting 8

Cutting 8 was situated in the north-eastern part of the site. It was excavated to examine the intersection of a main east-west running wall and a north-south running field wall. The cutting measured 2m east-west by 8m north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.38m.

Stratigraphy

The wall survived to a max height of 0.80m and was about 0.5m wide at the base. It was constructed of two main courses of large blocks with smaller stones heaped above this. It overlay a thin layer of dark brown sandy soil up to 0.28m deep and beneath this was an orange to brown clay with stones to the base of the excavation.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cutting 9

Cutting 9 was situated in the north-eastern part of the site to the east of cutting 8 and along the same east-west running boundary. It was excavated to examine a longer length of this main east-west running cross wall. It measured 15m by 1.5m and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m.

Stratigraphy

The wall section survived to a maximum of 0.75m high and 0.40-0.50m wide and consisted of a single width of stone placed on the ground with some smaller stones placed above. This overlay a thin layer of brown soil up to 0.25m deep which in turn overlaying orange/brown clay with stones to the base of the excavation.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cutting 10

Cutting 10 was situated in the north-western part of the site. It was excavated to examine an area of overgrowth, which could have indicated activity. It measured 7m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 0.3m.

Stratigraphy

A thin layer of brown soil with copious roots and large stones up to 0.37m overlay brown/grey gravel to the base of the excavation.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cutting 11

Cutting 11 was situated in the south-western part of the site. It was excavated to examine a main wall enclosing a large sub-rectangular field. It measured 13m by 1.5m and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m.

Stratigraphy

The wall consisted essentially of a single line of boulders and large stones laid side by side on the ground, this was a maximum of 0.50m high and up to 1m wide (the width of the larger boulders). This overlay dark brown soil to 0.37m and light brown coloured stony subsoil to the base of the cutting.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cutting 12

Cutting 12 was situated in the south-western part of the site. It was excavated to examine a main north-east to south-west running wall. It measured 9m by 1.5m and was excavated to a depth of 0.20m.

Stratigraphy

The wall consisted of a single width of multiple courses of heaped stones up to a maximum height of 1m and up to 0.5m wide at the base. This overlay a thin dark brown soil to 0.19m and light brown coloured stony subsoil to the base of the cutting.

Finds

There were no finds from this cutting.

Cuttings 13a and b

These cuttings were situated in the south-western part of the site. 13a was excavated to investigate the wall enclosing a sub-rectangular field enclosure; it measured 8m by 1.5m and was excavated to 0.24m deep. 13b was excavated to investigate the cultivation soil within the enclosure and measured 8m by 1m and was excavated to 0.34m deep.

Stratigraphy

The enclosing wall (in cutting 13a) was low and grass covered a maximum of 0.5m high and up to 0.7m wide at the base. It was constructed with 2-3 stones set side by side at the base and a second narrower course above this. It overlay a dark brown soil to 0.20m and orange clay with stones below this to the base of the cutting.

In cutting 13b a dark brown cultivated soil extended to 0.25m depth and overlay orange clay with stones to the base of the cutting.

3.2 The number of staff employed

The work was carried out by Charles Mount assisted by Mal Donnelly.

4 Conclusion and recommendations

4.1 Discussion of the archaeology and its significance

A full plan of the fields present in the study area has been prepared using historical, cartographic and aerial photographic resources. The available evidence suggests that the field boundaries at the site are Medieval to Post-medieval in date. No associated habitation remains have been identified and no artefactual evidence has been uncovered in the fifteen trenches excavated. Apart from their plan the ability of these fields to provide detailed information in relation to agriculture settlement in the medieval-post-medieval period appears limited.

4.2 The impact of the development on any archaeology

The development will result in the removal of the field boundaries in Curry townland and partial removal in Cloonacaltry. The remaining boundaries in Cloonacaltry townland will be preserved under stored topsoil.

4.3 Recommendations on how to mitigate the impact of the development

The full extent of the field boundaries have been recorded using aerial photography. Due to the possibility of the survival of sub-surface archaeological deposits or finds within the

development area, it is recommended that topsoil stripping, the dismantling of stone walls and the construction of haulage roads within the development area be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Having completed the work, the archaeologist shall submit a written report describing the results of the work to the planning authority and the national Monuments Section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

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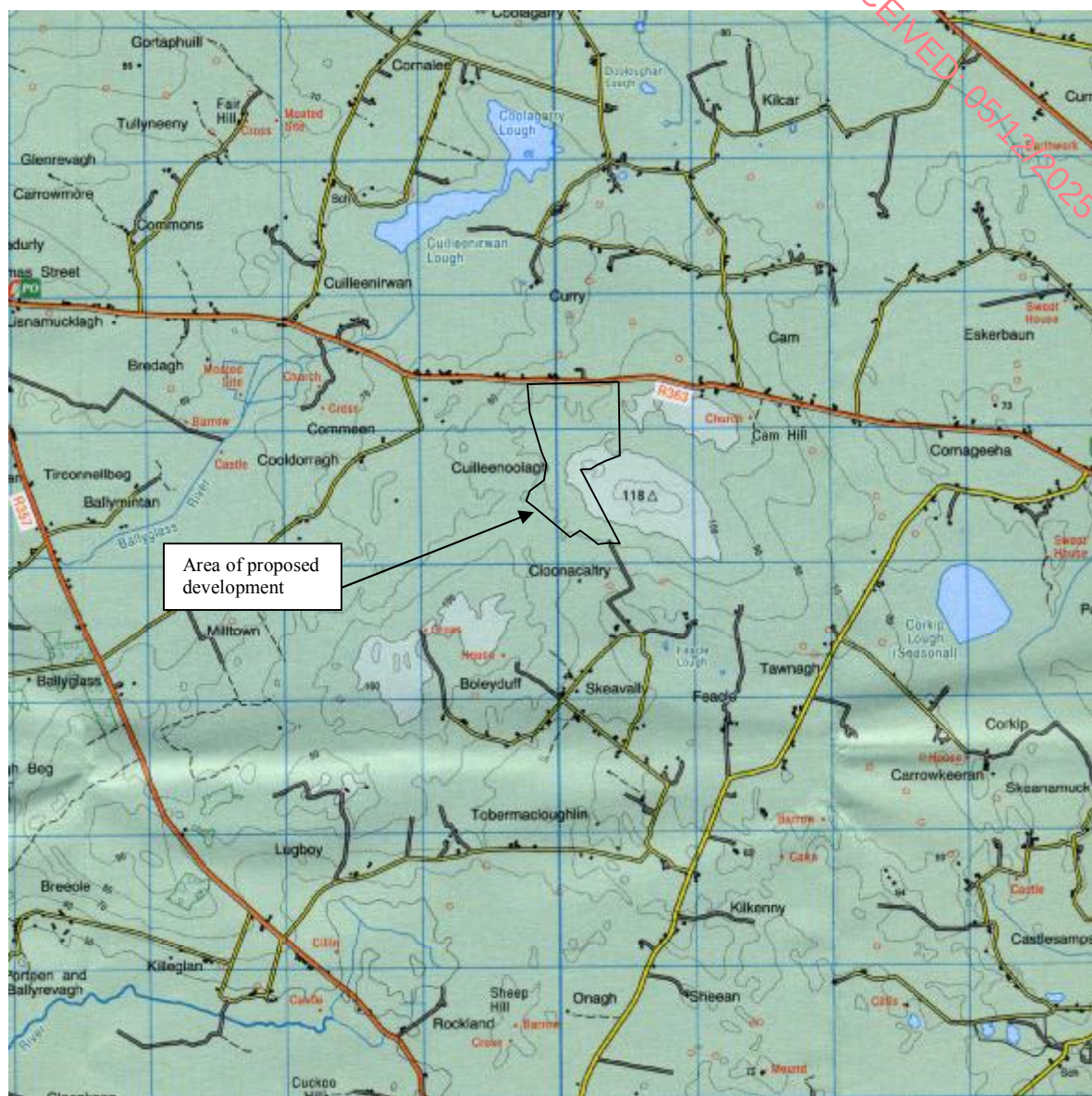


Fig. 1. General location of the development.

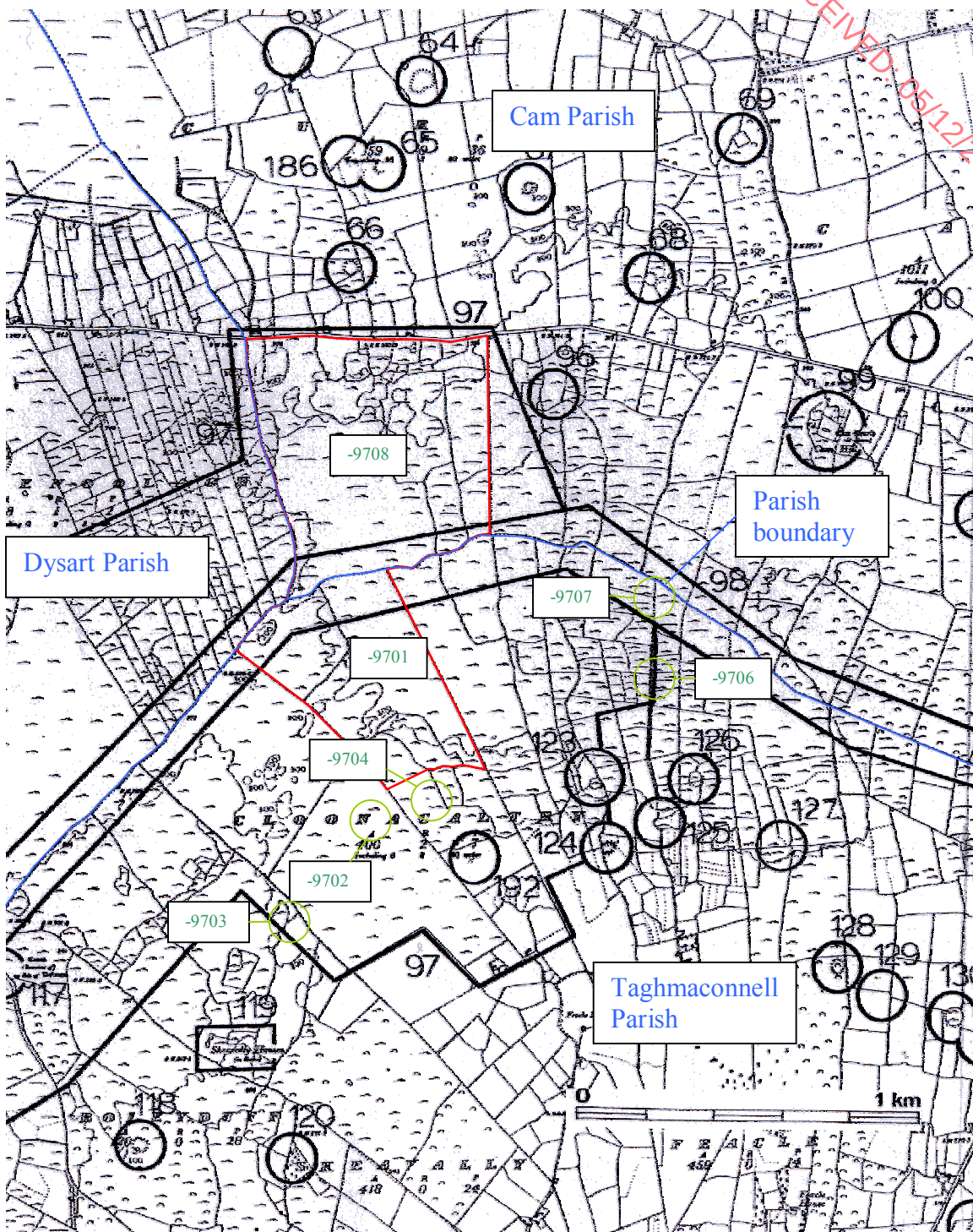


Fig. 2. The study area overlying the Record of Monuments map. The sub-elements of RMP site 048:097 have been identified thus -9704. Sites 048-9701, -9702 and -9708 are field systems and cover extensive areas. Sites 048-0794, -9706 and -9707 no longer exist and have been removed from the RMP.



Fig. 3. Map of Athlone Barony from the 1636 Stafford Survey. The area of the development has been roughly indicated. Much of the development area coincides with the area noted as “wood” on the map.

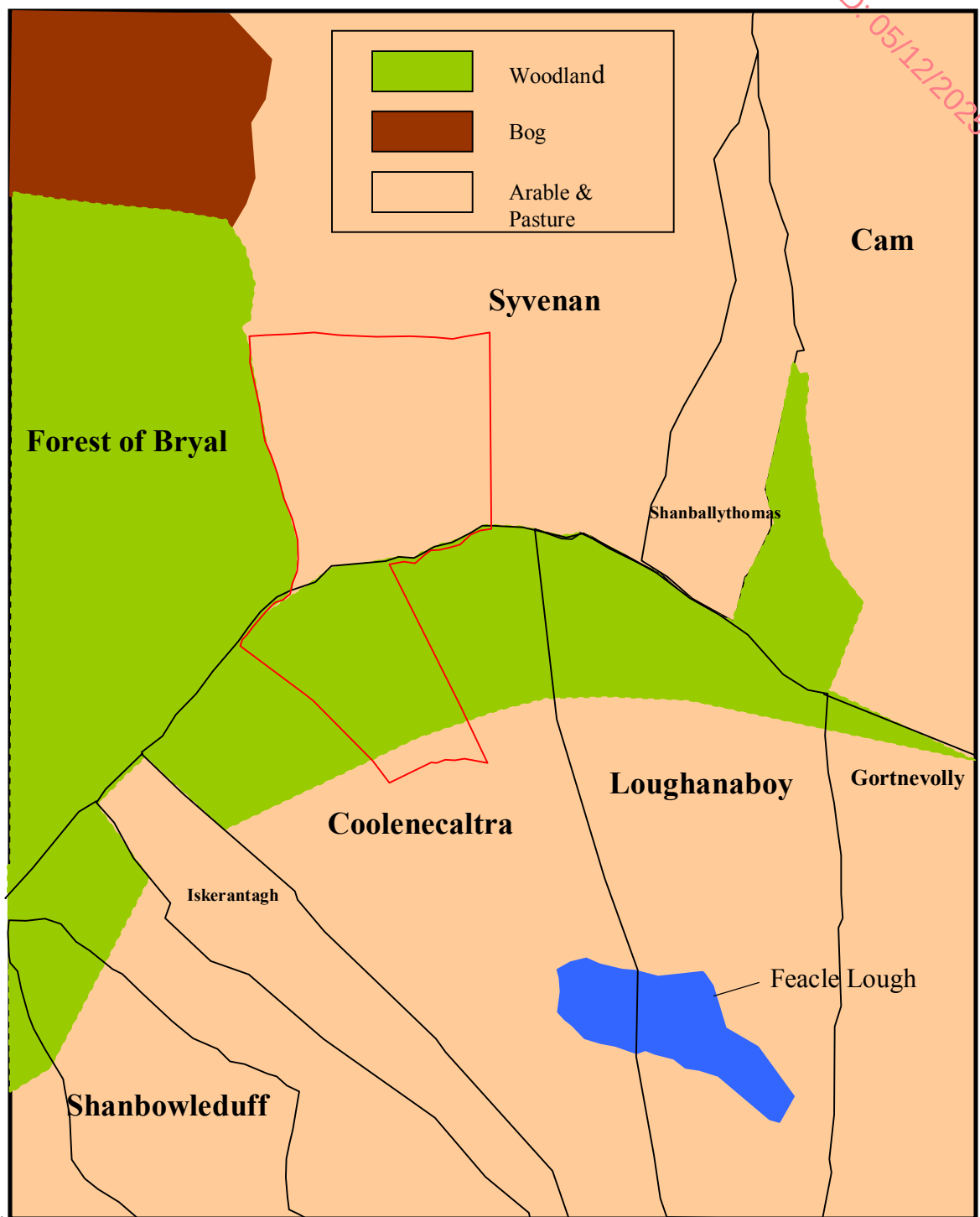


Fig. 4. Reconstruction of 1636 landscape and landholdings based on Stafford's map. The development area is indicated in red.

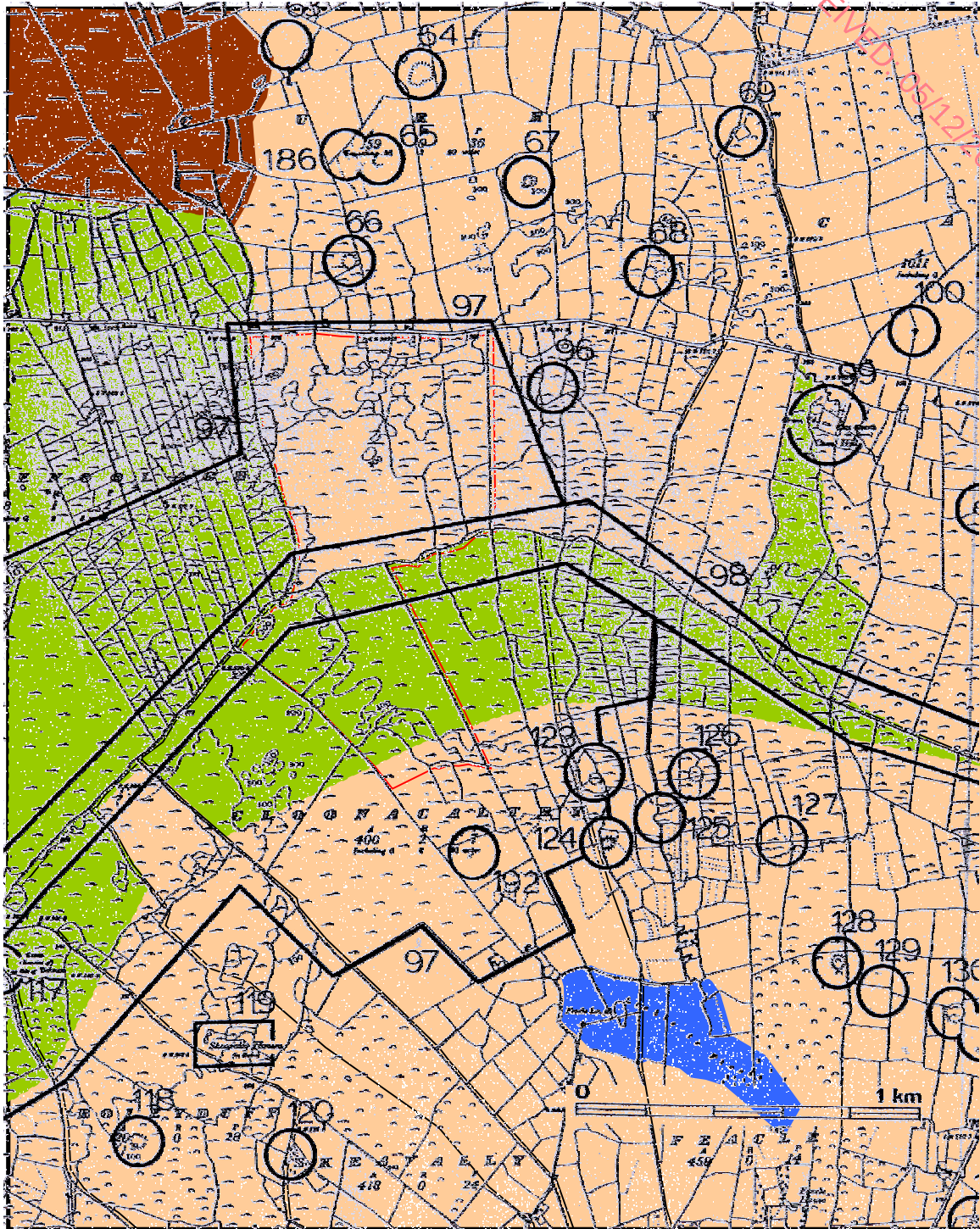


Fig. 5. 1636 landscape reconstruction overlying RMP map for study area. Note that all the RMP sites are situated outside the areas of woodland mapped in 1636. Site 117 (lower left) is an eighteenth century wayside cross.

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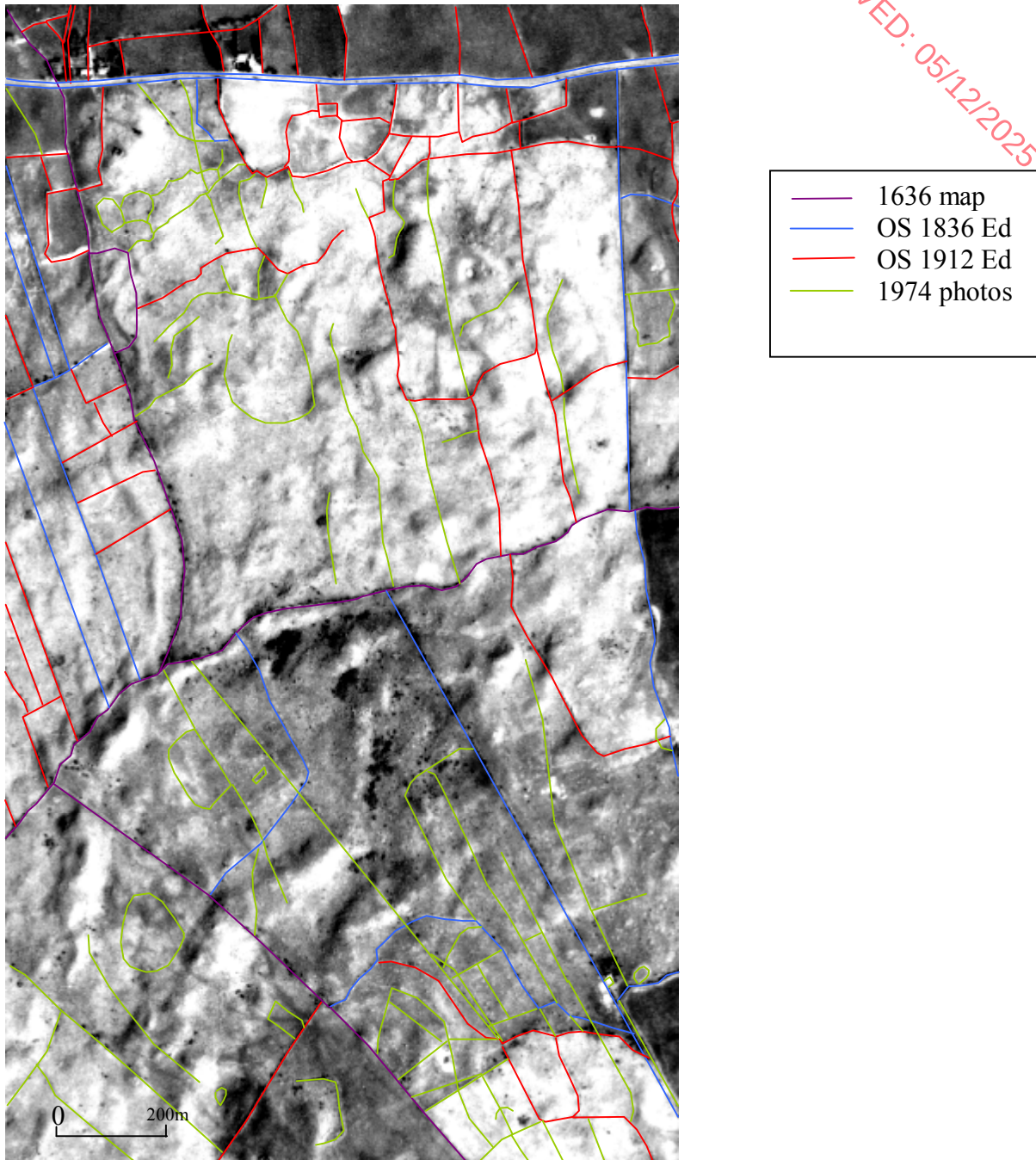


Fig. 6. High level vertical air photo of study area taken in 1974 with drawing of field boundaries taken from cartographic sources and aerial photographs. Note some additional aerial detail has been added in Fig. 10.

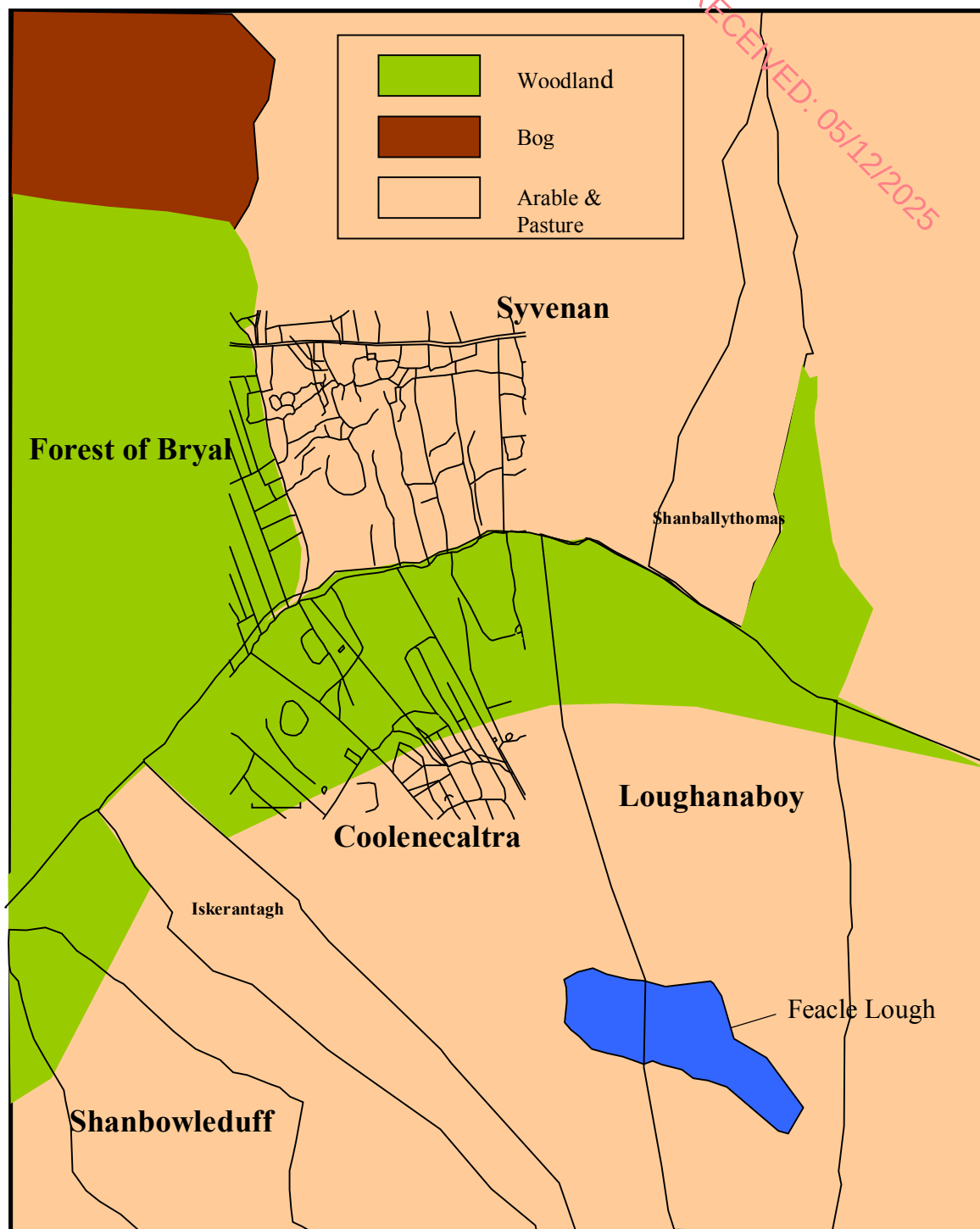


Fig. 7. Study area field systems overlaying detail from the Stafford 1636 mapping.



Fig. 8. Overall aerial view of the development site. Photo Markus Casey.

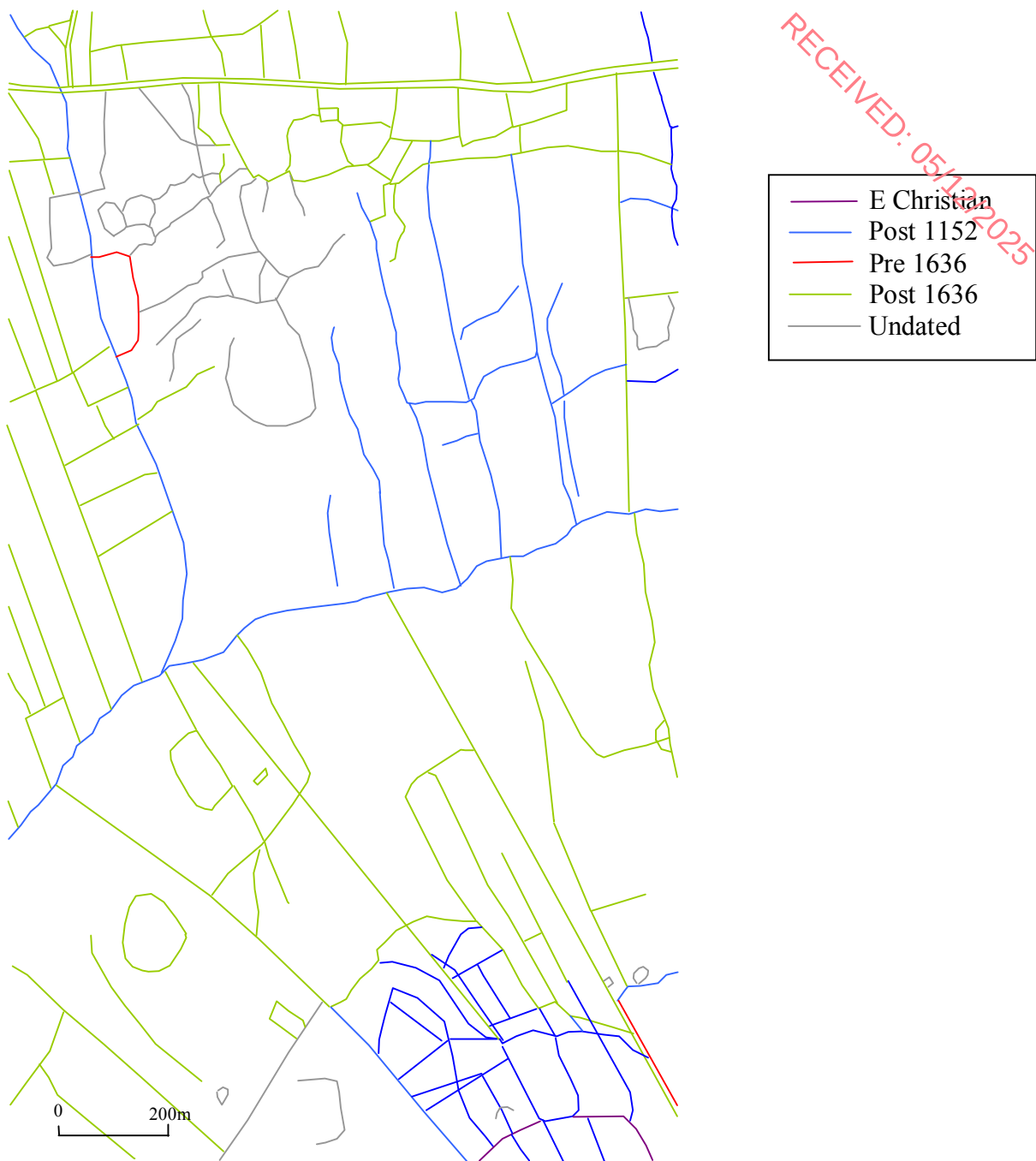


Fig. 9. Phasing of field systems based on cartographic and historical research.

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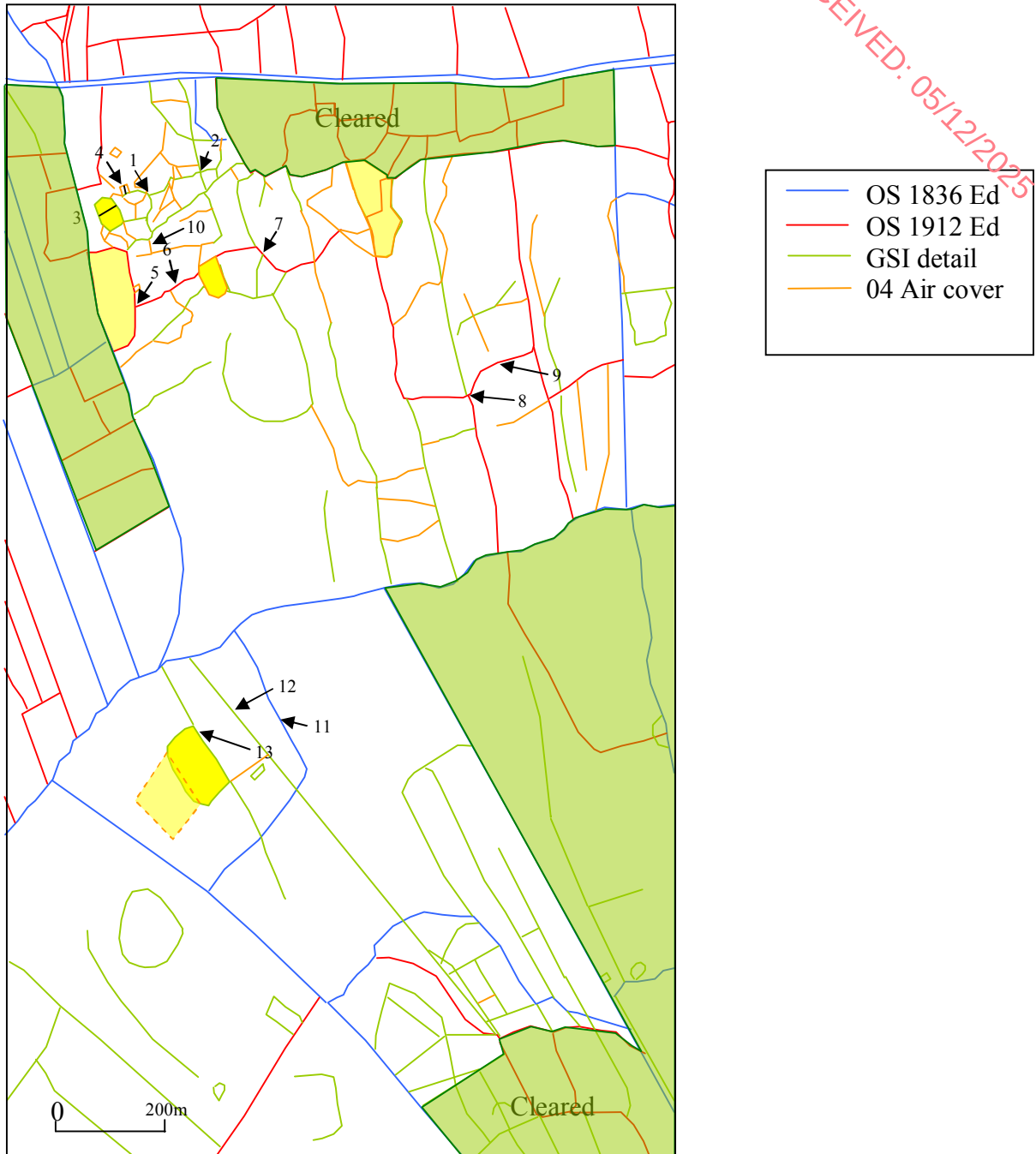


Fig. 10. Overall site layout and location of excavation trenches. Areas in yellow indicate cultivation ridges. Areas in green have been improved and field boundaries removed. Note some additional detail from the 2004 aerial coverage has been added.

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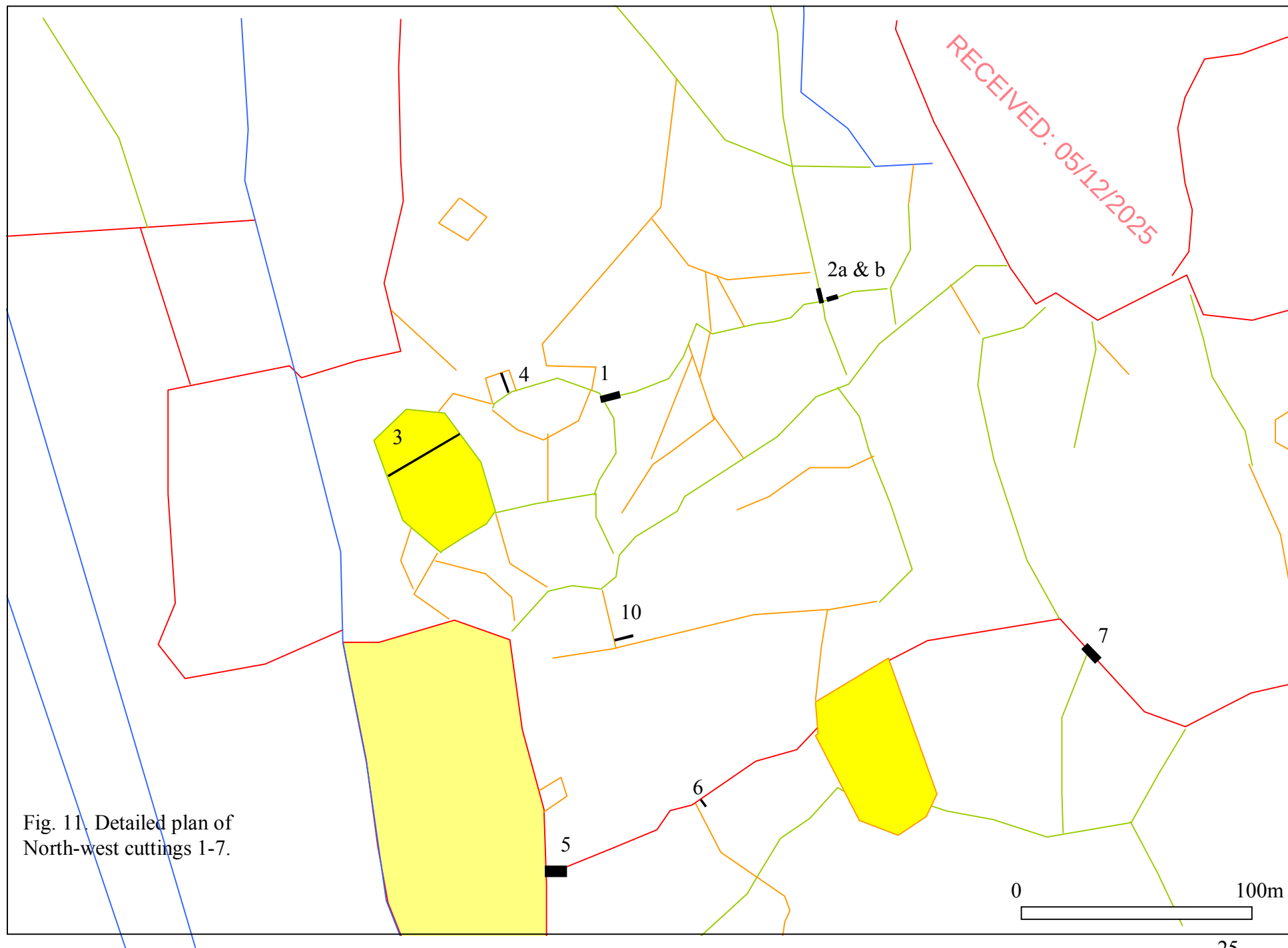


Fig. 11. Detailed plan of North-west cuttings 1-7.



Fig. 12. Section of Field boundary in cutting before excavation, looking north.



Fig. 13. Cutting 1. Section of field boundary looking east.



Fig. 14. Cutting 2a Section of field boundary looking north



Fig. 15. Cutting 2b. Section of field boundary looking east.

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Fig. 16 View of cutting 3 looking east.



Fig. 17. Smaller enclosure before excavation.

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Fig. 18. Cutting 4 looking south.



Fig. 19. Walls in Cutting 5 before excavation looking east.



Fig. 20. Cutting 5, section view of the north-south running wall looking south.



Fig. 21. Cutting 5, section view of the east-west running wall looking east.



Fig. 22. View of walls in cutting 6 before excavation.



Fig. 23. Cutting 7. Wall before excavation.



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Fig. 24. Cutting 7. Wall section looking east.



Fig. 25. Cutting 8. Wall section looking south.

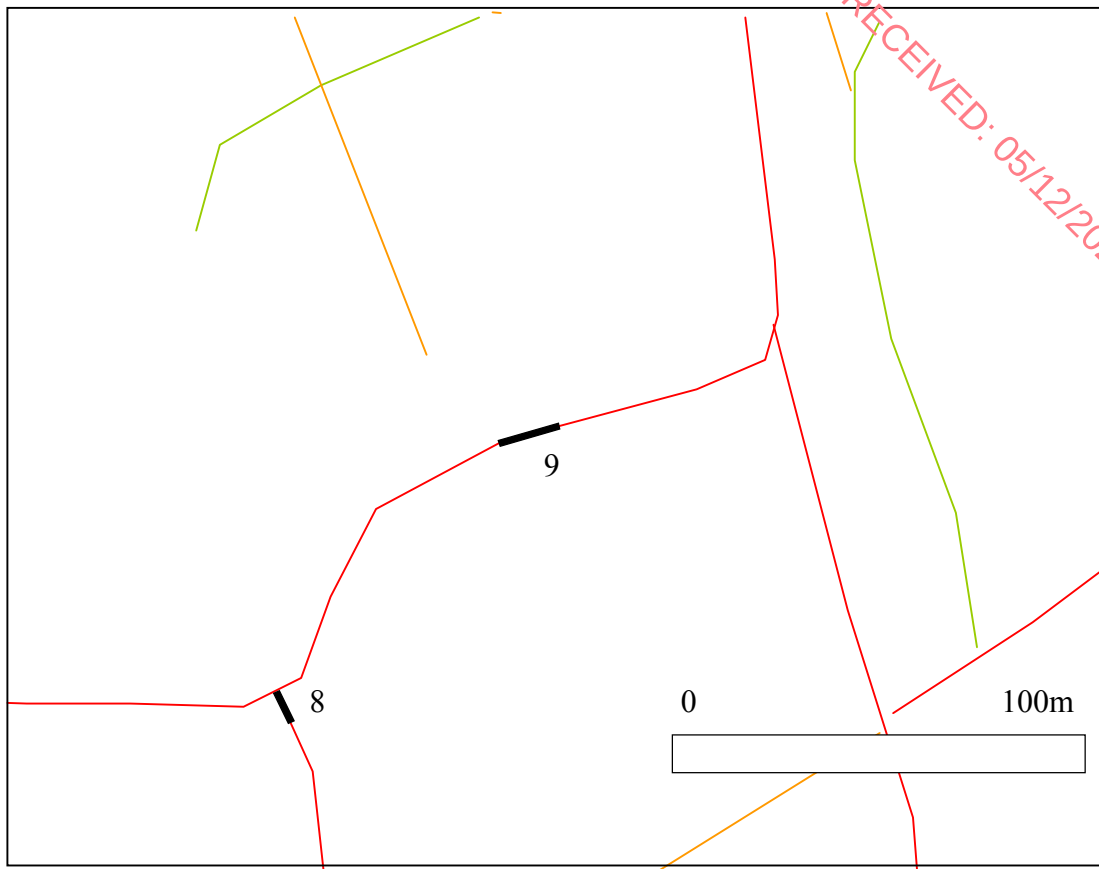


Fig. 26. Detailed plan of North-east cuttings 8-9



Fig. 27. Cutting 9. Wall section looking east.



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Fig. 28. Cutting 11. Wall section looking south.

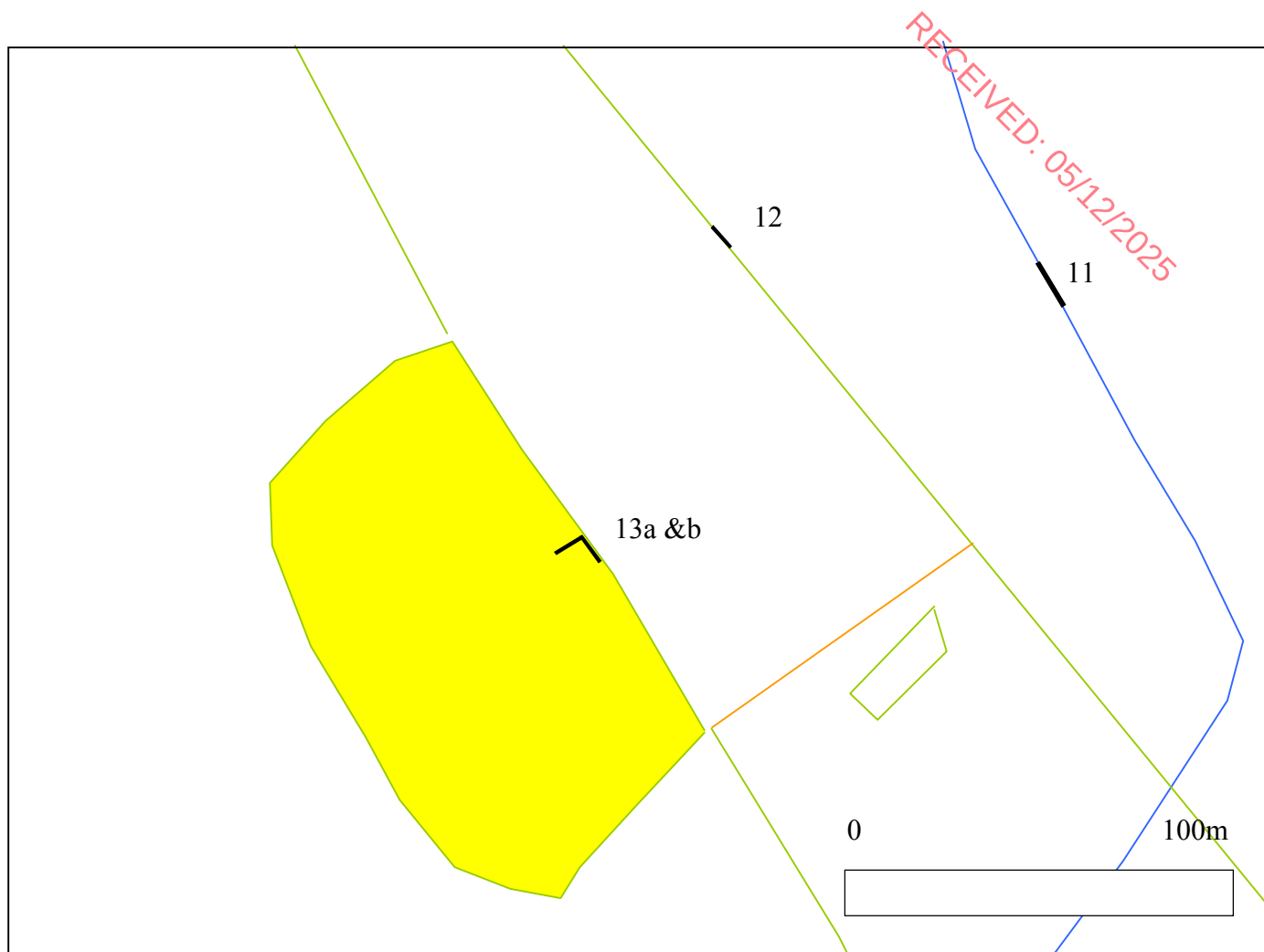


Fig. 29. Detailed plan of south-west cuttings 11-13.



Fig. 30. Cutting 12. Wall before excavation looking west.



Fig. 31. Cutting 12 wall section looking north.



Fig. 32. Cutting 13a, Wall section looking south.



Fig. 33. Cutting 13b, looking south.