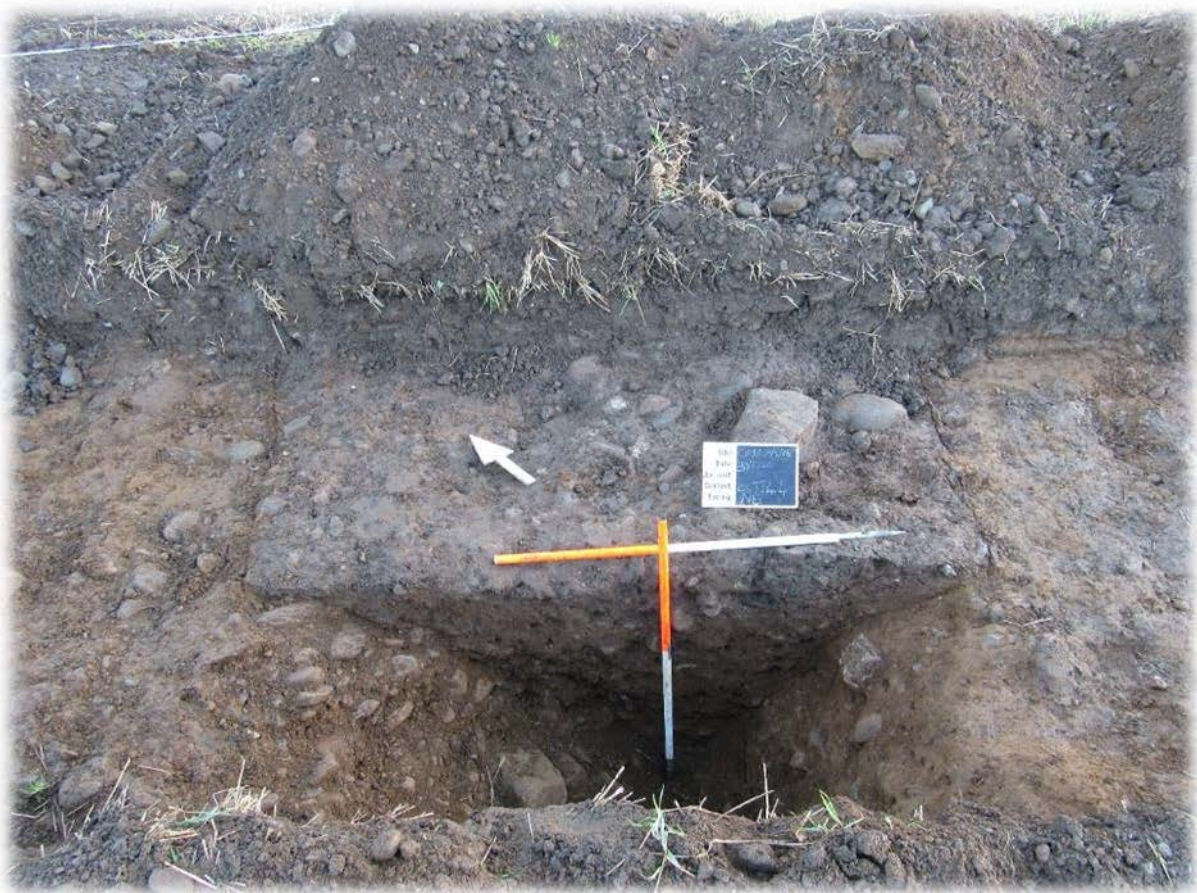


# Appendix C17.06e

## Archaeological Investigations (Testing) Programme Results

### TA5 Curraghalane Stage (i)a Test Excavation and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Report

# Archaeological Consultancy Service Contract: Stage (i): TEN-T Priority Route Improvement: TA5 Curraghalane Updated Stage (i)a Test Excavation and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Report



Prepared for Donegal County Council  
By Denis Shine and James McKee

Licence Nos.: 20E0503 and 20R0185

Updated July 2022

## TITLE PAGE

**AMS Job No.** J2077

**Project Name:** TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project: Stage (I), Co. Donegal

**Licence Nos.** 20E0503 and 20R0185

**Townland:** Curraghane

**Site Type:** Early medieval enclosure (enclosing souterrain DG070-082) and prehistoric settlement

**ITM:** 632261, 897210 and 632302, 897155

**Archaeological Consultant:** Archaeological Management Solutions Ltd,  
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## Executive Summary

This updated report describes the results of Stage (i)a Standard Test Excavations and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Surveys in the townland of Curragehalane as part of the Archaeological Consultancy Services Contract of the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project. This road scheme is covered by the Code of Practice agreed between the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (now the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (TII 2017). TII nominated Orlaith Egan as Project Archaeologist with responsibility for the management of all archaeological aspects of the project.

The TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project is part of the Trans-European Transport Network and comprises the construction of three sections of new road: Section 1: N15/N13 Ballybofey/Stranorlar Urban Region; Section 2: N56/N30 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham; and Section 3: N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford/Strabane/A5 link. Curragehalane, in Section 3, is one of five Testing Areas (TAs) along the preferred route of the TEN-T project which require Stage (i)a Test Excavations and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Services. The results of works at the other TAs will be reported in separate reports, with works in each location being undertaken under different licence numbers.

The total Stage (i)a testing linear metres excavated at Curragehalane was 3,764m, representing a >12% sample of the greenfield area available for test excavations. During the Stage (i)a testing at Curragehalane, two sites of archaeological significance were found, comprising a likely early medieval enclosure (Curragehalane 1), containing at least one previously known souterrain (DG070-082) (with a possible second example), and a small settlement likely to be prehistoric in date (Curragehalane 2). A post-medieval/modern radiocarbon date was obtained for the upper fill of the putative early medieval enclosure (cal. AD 1669–1947) while a pit at Curragehalane 2 was dated to the early–middle Neolithic (3643–3528 cal. BC). As a result of the test excavation process four early Neolithic pottery sherds, and a quartzite flake were recovered and subsequently identified to type where possible. A further two metal objects were recovered as a result of the Stage (i)h Metal Detection Surveys (a coin and a copper alloy mount).

A number of satellite features to the main prehistoric site at Curragehalane will be adversely impacted upon by the proposed route corridor for the TEN-T road scheme, resulting in the removal of these features. As such, these features (C.47–C.49 and C.51–53), as defined by the Stage (i)a testing, are recommended for full excavation and ‘preservation by record’ if they cannot be avoided by the development.

The main density of probable prehistoric features (Curragehalane 2) and the enclosure site (Curragehalane 1) are directly west, and outside, of the current proposed route corridor for the TEN-T road scheme. However, should proposed access/side roads associated with the tie between the proposed new road and the N14/N15 to A5 Link Road extend into the field where these sites are located, they are also recommended for full excavation and ‘preservation by record’ if they cannot be avoided and preserved *in situ*.

## Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS) Ltd on behalf of Donegal County Council.

All archaeological excavations and surveys and other relevant archaeological works required were carried out under a licence issued by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (formerly the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht), in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

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## Disclaimer

The results, conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information available at the time of its preparation. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that all relevant data has been collated, the authors and AMS accept no responsibility for omissions and/or inconsistencies that may result from information becoming available subsequent to the report's completion.

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## Abbreviations and Definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
<b>AMS</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions Ltd
<b>EIAR</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>ITM</b>	Irish Transverse Mercator
<b>NMI</b>	National Museum of Ireland
<b>NMS</b>	National Monuments Service
<b>OD</b>	Ordnance Datum
<b>OS</b>	Ordnance Survey
<b>QUB</b>	Queens University Belfast
<b>RMP</b>	Record of Monuments and Places
<b>SMR</b>	Sites and Monuments Record
<b>TA</b>	Testing Area
<b>TII</b>	Transport Infrastructure Ireland

## Coordinate System

All coordinates are in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM)

## 1 Introduction

This report describes the results of Stage (i)a Test Excavations and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Services in the townland of Curragehalane as part of the Archaeological Consultancy Services Contract of the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project (Figures 1–13).

This road scheme is covered by the Code of Practice agreed between the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (now the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (TII 2017). TII nominated Orlaith Egan as Project Archaeologist with responsibility for the management of all archaeological aspects of the project.

### 1.1 Brief Description of the Approved Scheme

The TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project is part of the Trans-European Transport Network and comprises the construction of three sections of new road: Section 1: N15/N13 Ballybofey/Stranorlar Urban Region; Section 2: N56/N30 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham; and Section 3: N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford/Strabane/A5 link. Curragehalane, in Section 3, is one of five TAs along the preferred route of the TEN-T project which require Stage (i)a Test Excavations and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Services. The results of works at the other TAs will be reported in separate reports, with works in each location being undertaken under different licence numbers.

**Table 1: Names of townlands which contain Testing Areas**

Testing Area	Townland	Civil Parish	ITM	Licence Nos.
TA1	Drumboe Lower	Stranorlar	613410, 895454	20E0455 and 20R0167
TA2	Trimragh and Drumgreggan	Leck	621237, 911224	20E0501 and 20R0183
TA3	Carnshannagh	Drumcliffe	628587, 904423	20E0502 and 20R0184
TA4	Murlough	Drumcliffe	631615, 899290	20E0487 and 20R0182
TA5	Curragehalane	Drumcliffe	632263, 897206	20E0503 and 20R0185

### 1.2 Planning Background

Stage (i)a Test Excavations and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Services in the townland of Curragehalane were undertaken to provide further information as part of the design and environmental evaluation phase of the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Co. Donegal.

The investigations described herein are at one of five areas along the preferred route of the TEN-T project and include the areas as listed in Table 1 above.

### 1.3 Statutory Approvals

The test excavations detailed in this report were carried out under Licence No. 20E0503 (Test Excavations). The metal detection survey was undertaken under Licence No. 20R0185. Permits were issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (now Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

### 1.4 Previous Assessments and Documented Archaeological Sites

There have been no previous intrusive archaeological investigations for the TEN-T project. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is currently being prepared by Kate Robb of John Cronin and Associates but was not available at the time of writing. Geophysical and LIDAR assessments undertaken in 2020 are described in further detail below.

A total of five documented archaeological sites were subject to Stage (i)a Standard Test Excavation Services, as listed in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Documented archaeological sites subject to Stage (i)a Standard Test Excavations**

TA No.	Townland	RMP No	ITM	Classification
TA1	Drumboe Lower	DG078-005	613410, 895454	Site of Church
TA2	Trimragh and Drumgreggan	DG53-028 and DG053-28001	621237, 911224	Site of Church and Graveyard
TA3	Carnshannagh	DG062-024	628587, 904423	Site of Enclosure
TA4	Murlough	DG070-048	631615, 899290	Site of Standing Stone
TA5	Curraghane	DG070-082	632263, 897206	Souterrain

### 1.5 Archaeological and Environmental Context

The site is located within the townland of Curraghane, c.1km southeast of Lifford and 350m north of the River Bann. The site is currently used for pasture and tillage and consists of two large modern fields bounded by hedgerows (Figures 2–4). The indicative route of the proposed new road passes directly west of the site of a souterrain (DG078-082) which is located c.85m south of the N15 road. No other monuments are recorded within 500m of the site (Table 3).

The online Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) records the following for souterrain DG070-082:

*In a tillage field, located on a low elevation in hilly terrain. This souterrain was discovered in April 2019 when a stone roof lintel was dislodged during ploughing. The surface opening (1.7m [sic] NW-SE; 1m NE-SW), created by the collapse of the roof lintel, revealed a roughly circular chamber (diam. 3m; H 2.5-3m), constructed of a well-built drystone wall comprising small to medium-sized stones. The chamber walls are corbelled, giving the chamber a bee-hive shape in profile. Due to safety concerns, it was not possible to enter the chamber, but a small lintelled opening was visible in the wall at N; this may be a*

*recess/cupboard or it may mark a very small creepway-type entrance to a passage. The displaced lintel was visible lying on the floor of the chamber. The surface open to the chamber has been covered and sealed to protect the souterrain.*

The monument was only discovered during ploughing in 2019, after which a monument inspection report on the souterrain, based on a site visit on 11 April 2019, was completed by Patrick O'Donovan (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and Caroline Carr (Donegal County Museum). The information from this inspection is largely presented in the SMR record for the site.

During fieldwork, the landowner indicated the site of the souterrain on the ground and confirmed the site had been found during ploughing. The landowner backfilled the site shortly before Stage (i)a Test Excavations, with these excavations indicating that there is no longer an intact chamber present at the site.

On the first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1836), the site (which is not marked) is contained in three square fields, with a set of farm buildings/homestead 85m to the northwest and a trackway, dissecting the area of investigation, 50m east of the souterrain. A second trackway is also located in the western limits of the western field, evidence of which was found during testing. Many of the fields shown on the first-edition six-inch OS map have been sub-divided since that time (Figure 3).

The 25-inch OS map surveyed 1900–05 (Figure 4) shows that the 'modern' field system had been established around the site by this time, with the addition of several field boundaries. Some of these field boundaries have since been removed, including several in the large arable field containing the souterrain; one of these removed boundaries was also uncovered during testing.

**Table 3: Recorded archaeological monuments within a 0.5km radius of TA5, Curragehalane**

SMR No.	Townland	Classification	ITM
DG078-082	Curragehalane	Souterrain	632263, 897206

## 2 Methods

### 2.1 Aims and Scope of Stage (i) Test Excavations

The overall aim of Stage (i)a Test Excavations was to ascertain the location, nature, date, character, extent and significance of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present in the areas assigned for testing. In this way, the horizontal extent of all archaeological sites/features/deposits and the vertical extent of archaeological stratigraphy could be established and a preliminary report on the findings produced.

Stage (i)a Test Excavation Services were carried out across a minimum of 12% of the testable greenfield areas and also targeted anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey undertaken between May and October in 2020 (Gimson 2020).

### 2.2 Survey and Excavation Methods

The Stage (i)a Test Excavations undertaken within the footprint of the Testing Area were carried out by a single team, utilising one mechanical excavator, working under the direction of James McKee and Denis Shine. Apart from the directors, the team consisted of a supervisor and two to four site assistants. Survey services were provided by Daniel Keane. The Senior Archaeologist on the project was Denis Shine.

The Stage (i)a Test Excavations took place at Curraghane between 27 and 30 October 2020 with (i)h Metal Detection Surveys completed across all TAs the week commencing 14 September 2020. The metal detection surveys were completed by Ed Danaher and Ger Dowling, with additional metal detection undertaken on the trench spoil by the testing team (see below).

The total area available for test excavations at Curraghane was 5.58 greenfield hectares. A proposed (indicative) test trench layout was set out in the testing Method Statement submitted to the National Monuments Service (NMS) on 27 August 2020 (McKee 2020). In general, the test trenching layout followed a standard array consisting of a centreline trench in each field with offset trenches at right-angles, at regular intervals and to the limits of the footprint of the field or testing area. In some places, the layout was adapted to target features identified either through geophysics or during the course of testing and to ensure adequate testing of available lands. The location of each test trench was 'set-out' and re-surveyed after excavation, where required, using GPS equipment by the AMS surveyor (see below).

As part of the investigations, topsoil was removed from the test trenches by a 13-tonne 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket working under the direct and continuous supervision of an Excavation Director. Where archaeologically significant features were

identified, these were cleaned and tested by hand. Context numbers were used sequentially at each site, starting from number 1. A written and photographic record was prepared of identified features, and all trenches and features were surveyed using a Leica Viva GS20 with smart antenna GPS and related to Ordnance Datum (OD) and the Irish Transverse Mercator Grid (ITM).

The testing areas were assessed and recorded in accordance with the archaeological Method Statement, the contract with Donegal County Council and in a manner consistent with the Code of Practice agreed between TII and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (TII 2017). A full list of features and finds recovered are included in the appendices.

### 2.3 Finds Retrieval and Sampling Methods

Every effort was made to ensure the highest possible level of identification and retrieval of archaeological objects in the course of excavations. Archaeological objects of all periods were retained at each TA, with the exception of obvious 'scrap' or modern metal. Four sherds of early Neolithic carinated bowl, which appear to conjoin, were recovered from Curraghane during archaeological testing, in addition to a single quartzite flake. Whilst a single copper alloy sixpence coin and copper alloy mount were also retrieved during metal detection surveys (see appendices).

The treatment of artefacts complied with the policies of the NMI as set out in *Advice Notes for Excavators* (NMI 2010) and the Code of Conduct for the Treatment of Archaeological Objects ratified by the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI 2006).

None of the finds recovered during the works required immediate conservation; however, provision was made for this during the works, as required and set out in the Method Statement.

Finds were housed temporarily on-site and following this at the AMS Head Office where they are currently stored. The storage of artefacts has been undertaken in accordance with the *Advice Notes for Excavators* (NMI 2010).

### 2.4 Specialist Contributions and/or Consultations

There were no specialist contributions during the Stage(i)a works. Several archaeological artefacts were recovered as a result of the test excavation process. In addition, two metal objects were recovered as a result of the Metal Detection Surveys at TA5 Curraghane (Table 8). The metal objects were assessed and identified to find type by Orla Scully. The prehistoric pottery was assessed and identified to find type by Dr Eoin Grogan, and the lithic was assessed and identified to finds type by Dr Conor Brady. The results of these assessments have been incorporated into this report (Appendix 2).

## 2.5 Radiocarbon Dating

As part of the Stage(i)a works, samples from select contexts at three of the five sites investigated on the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project were forwarded to the <sup>14</sup>CHRONO Centre, Queens University Belfast for priority radiocarbon dating. The nominated sites were Drumboe Lower, Carnshannagh and Curraghane (Table 4).

**Table 4: Samples for priority radiocarbon dating on TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project**

Site name	Site type	Sample No.	Context	Sample type
Drumboe Lower 1	Enclosure	6	C.17: fill of enclosure ditch C.11	Barley ( <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> )
Carnshannagh 1	Settlement, possible	1	C.12: fill of pit C.11	Barley ( <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> )
Curraghane 1 & 2	Enclosure	3	C.6: upper fill of enclosure ditch C.27 (Curraghane 1)	Barley ( <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> )
Curraghane 1 & 2	Settlement, possible	2	C.12: fill of pit C.54 (Curraghane 2)	Hazel ( <i>Corylus</i> )

## 2.6 Conditions

The weather conditions during the Stage (i) works comprised a mixture of dry and wet days, with very heavy rain on one day during archaeological testing.

## 2.7 Constraints on Methods

There were no constraints on Stage (i)a works.

**Table 5: Trenches not completed**

Trenches	Reason not excavated
N/A	All trenches were completed as part of testing, with a number of additional trenches also excavated, namely Trenches 67–73.

### 3 Stage (i)a Test Excavation Results

The total linear metres excavated was 3,764m (Plates 1–15), representing a c.12% sample of the greenfield area available for test excavations. During the Stage (i)a testing, two archaeological sites were identified.

#### 3.1 Curraghalane Results

<u>Site Name</u>	<b>Curraghalane 1</b>
ITM	632261, 897210
Townland	Curraghalane
No. of Trenches	73 (total)
Total Meterage	3,764m

<u>Site Name</u>	<b>Curraghalane 2</b>
ITM	632302, 897155
Townland	Curraghalane
No. of Trenches	73 (total)
Total Meterage	3,764m

##### 3.1.1 Summary

Curraghalane's Testing Area comprised two large fields, one of pastureland and one (at the TA's western limits) which is arable. The fields are bounded by hedgerows with the TA's limits at its northern extent defined by the N15 road. The eastern and western fields are separated by an overgrown laneway, which is depicted on the first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1836). The site is contained off the top of a low ridge in hilly terrain, with the River Bann located 350m to the south. Both fields were fully tested according to the original testing methodology. In total, 73 test trenches were excavated, totalling 3,764 linear metres (Figures 10–13; Plates 1 and 2). The topsoil (C.1) ranged, on average, from 0.30m to 0.50m in depth, being deeper towards the base of slopes. The natural subsoil (C.2) was predominantly a mottled, light orangey-brown gritty clay interspersed with patches of grey gravel and clay.

**Table 6: Test trench detail**

Area	Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Archaeological Features	Non-Archaeological Features
E Field	1	211	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	2	66	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	3	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	4	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	5	64	1.8	N/A	N/A

Area	Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Archaeological Features	Non-Archaeological Features
E Field	6	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	7	26	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	8	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	9	24	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	10	65	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	11	62	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	12	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	13	31	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	14	61	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	15	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	16	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	17	20	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	18	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	19	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	20	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	21	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	22	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	23	63	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	24	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	25	61	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	26	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	27	60	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	28	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	29	21	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	30	10	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	31	44	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	32	64	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	33	45	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	34	64	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	35	162	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	36	51	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	37	69	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	38	59	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	39	69	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	40	59	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	41	24	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	42	64	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	43	59	1.8	N/A	N/A

Area	Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Archaeological Features	Non-Archaeological Features
W Field	44	21	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	45	64	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	46	37	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	47	59	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	48	24	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	49	7	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	50	8	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	51	30	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	52	59	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	53	22	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	54	59	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	55	59	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	56	59	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	57	59	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	58	49	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	59	59	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	60	12	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	61	49	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	62	20	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	63	29	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	64	59	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	65	46	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	66	59	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	67	83	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	68	10	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	69	5	1.8	N/A	N/A
W Field	70	4	1.8	Y	N/A
W Field	71	5	1.8	Y	N/A
E Field	72	38	1.8	N/A	N/A
E Field	73	32	1.8	Y	N/A

### 3.1.2 Geophysical and LiDAR Survey

An initial geophysical survey was carried out at Curragalane by Earthsound Geophysics in 2012 under licence 11R0119 as part of the N14/N15 to A5 Link Road, Lifford. However, furthermore significant surveys were undertaken in September/October 2020 by Heather Gimson (Earthsound Geophysics: licence 20R0078), identifying several anomalies at Curragalane (Figures 7–9); this latter survey was one of a number of geophysical surveys carried out to investigate numerous archaeological areas and potential archaeological areas within and adjacent to the preferred routes of the TEN-T Project.

In order to achieve the best possible results, the geophysical survey at Curraghalane was undertaken using a combination of survey techniques: Earth Resistance (ER) Survey, Magnetic Gradiometer (MG) Survey, and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey. The combined techniques mitigated against magnetic interference due to geological conditions and greatly added to the number of anomalies detected. A total of 78 anomalies were identified at the TA5 site.

Collectively these surveys at Curraghalane identified a possible double ditched enclosure, with suggested internal divisions, zones of compact earth or stone and cut features. The enclosure contains the souterrain (DG070-082) within its southern extent, which geophysics interpreted as containing an eastwards passageway as well as a beehive chamber (this was found not to be the case during Stage i(a) testing). Geophysical survey results also identified ditches of possible archaeological origin, possible pits and hearths and a series of relict field boundaries and trackways, a few of which appear to relate to farm buildings visible on the first-edition six-inch OS map (1836). Of note, a possible pit lined 'enclosure' was also recorded.

A number of features identified through targeted test trenching corresponded with anomalies identified during the geophysical surveys, in some cases from a number of different survey techniques. A large outer enclosure ditch [C.27] was confirmed as corresponding with Anomaly No. 786 and, in some locations, No. 785, which also corresponded with an 'inner' linear ditch [C.28]. Internal 'souterrain features' C.29 and C.30 corresponded with Anomaly Nos. 710 and 747. Finally, a large set of pits, posts and stakeholes in Trenches 59 and 62 corresponded with Anomaly Nos. 761 and 762. The significant anomalies which correspond with revealed features are summarised in Table 7.

An archaeological LiDAR survey was also commissioned for the TEN-T Project by Donegal County Council to capture low- and high-resolution data to assist with the archaeological assessment of the TEN-T study area as part of the Design and Environmental Assessment Phase. The archaeological LiDAR data was captured and provided by BlueSky and subsequently assessed by Dr Richard Clutterbuck of AMS (Clutterbuck 2020). LiDAR results at Curraghalane identified a possible souterrain L362-1 as follows:

*Souterrain (SMR: DG070-082----); low profile circular raised area diameter 35m, 0.2m high, sited on ground sloping to SE, with irregular central low-relief mound diameter c.5m, c.0.2m high.*

The LiDAR feature L362-1, and not the geophysical anomaly interpreted as a souterrain, was subsequently proven to match the site of the souterrain on the ground.

**Table 7: Geophysical Survey Anomalies and Corresponding Features**

Context/ Feature No.	Anomaly Ref	Form of Anomaly	Description	Technique
Pits, posts and stakeholes C.8–C.22, C.34–C.43, C.55 and C.54	762 (and also 761, as a group)	Series of isolated magnetic anomalies	Series of possible pits which are located within the centre of Anomaly 761. The largest of these may be multiple pits in close proximity or a cut feature.	Magnetic Gradiometer
Souterrain (backfill) C.29 (and possibly C.30)	710	Low resistivity anomaly	Zone of lower resistivity which suggests disturbed ground, 10m in diameter. Contained on the northern edge of this zone is a 'Y-shaped' anomaly which appears to represent a cut feature. This anomaly could be archaeological in origin.	Earth Resistance
	747	Series of five isolated ferrous anomalies	These ferrous items are likely to be modern in origin, although an archaeological explanation cannot be ruled out. Their location in linear formation is, however, intriguing. It is likely that the southern of these anomalies represents the sealing material for the souterrain detected in the ground penetrating radar data (Anomaly 787)	Combined Ground Penetrating Radar
Enclosure dich [C.27]	786	Medium depth – two arcing responses	Two sections of enclosure ditch, 36m in length, which run around the western edge of 785. This feature may represent an outer enclosure ditch. The presence of a distinctive break between the two portions of 786 could indicate the presence of a possible entranceway*.	Combined Ground Penetrating Radar
Linear dich [C.28]	785	Medium depth – three arcing responses	Three sections of an inner enclosure ditch measuring 39m in diameter. A further portion of this feature was detected in Anomaly 741. This feature appears to enclose a series of internal archaeological features and roughly corresponds with the limits of Anomalies 708 & 709*.	Combined Ground Penetrating Radar

\* during archaeological testing the enclosure ditch was found to correspond to both Anomaly No. 786 and the southern portion of Anomaly No. 785. At its northern extent Anomaly No. 785 was clarified as a linear ditch, and not an inner enclosure (see also below).

### 3.1.3 SMR Site DG070-082

Testing at Curragalane was conducted over the site of the known souterrain (DG070-082), which is located c.85m south of the N15 road, toward the northwestern limits of the TA.

### 3.1.4 Archaeological Features

Two sites of archaeological significance were encountered at Curragalane (namely Curragalane 1 and 2) as follows (see also Appendix 1):

**Curraghane 1** comprises a likely early medieval enclosure located immediately west of the preferred route corridor, as well as a number of possible associated features, including one razed souterrain (DG072-082), as well as a second large pit, which could represent a second souterrain. The enclosure ditch (ditch [C.27] filled by C.6, C.44 and C.45 in stratigraphic sequence) was partially sectioned in three trenches and the dimensions were recorded as 2.5m wide and at least 1.1m deep in maximum extent. Charred cereal grain (barley) from C.6, the upper fill of enclosure ditch C.27, was forwarded for priority dating and yielded a radiocarbon determination of cal. AD 1679–1941 (UBA-44853). This suggests that the deposit is of post-medieval/modern date and is probably the result of contamination from ploughing or other modern activity. A smaller linear, [C.28], measuring 1.15m wide x 0.65m deep, was also recorded at the monument's northern extent, but did not extend to the enclosure's other cardinal points; this feature contained two fills (C.7 and C.46, from top to base) and was cut by a small pit ([C.26], filled by C.7). The possible souterrain's extent were established in plan, but these features were not excavated. The first, C.29, consisting of grey sand mixed with large stones is the fill of known souterrain DG070-082 after the landowner backfilled it (Plate 9). The second pit-like feature (C.30) is directly northwest of C.29 and of unconfirmed function (Plate 10).

**Curraghane 2** comprises a small prehistoric settlement, including a total of approximately 28 recorded pits, postholes and stakeholes as well as two heterogenous spreads/linears. Four early Neolithic carinated bowl sherds and a quartzite flake were recorded from one of these pits (C.12 in [C.54]). A sample of hazel charcoal sent to the <sup>14</sup>CHRONO Centre (QUB) was radiocarbon dated to 3643–3528 cal. BC (UBA-44854), indicating site activity during the early–middle Neolithic. This set of features, predominantly recorded in plan as fills only, can be listed as follows (see also Appendix 1):

- Posts and possible posts – C.10, C.11, C.13, C.14, C.15, C.16, C.17, C.18, C.19, C.20, C.21, C.34, C.35, C.36, C.37, C.38, C.39 and C.40.
- Stakeholes and possible stakeholes – C.37, C.41, C.42 and C.43
- Pits and possible pits – C.8 (and C.55)), C.9, C.12 (and [C.54]) and C.23
- One linear feature – C.22
- One curvilinear feature – C.24

Four isolated pits/postholes were also recorded in the western field, which could relate to the 'main' cluster in the eastern field, including C.47, C.48, C.49 and C.51 (and [C.52]), as well as a single oval charcoal deposit, C.49.

Finally, two modern/early modern boundaries were recorded in the eastern field – C.4 and C.5 – which do not form a part of either Curraghane 1 or 2; these features correspond to known field boundaries shown on the 25-inch OS map (surveyed 1900–05) and first-edition six-inch OS map (1836) respectively. The boundary surveyed in 1900–05 also corresponded with geophysical survey Anomaly

No. 730, described as a 'pronounced cultivation furrow' running roughly in the direction of a field boundary 'on the historic Cassini and 25-inch OS maps' (Gimson 2020, 54).

Several organic samples were collected from both Curragehalane 1 and Curragehalane 2 during Stage (i)a Test Excavations, with one sample selected and processed from each site for in advance radiocarbon dating (see Appendix 4).

Monument Report Forms relating to the enclosure (Curragehalane 1) and the possible prehistoric settlement (Curragehalane 2) are included as Appendix 5 in the present report.

### ***3.1.5 Non-Archaeological Features***

Modern field drains and drainage pits/sumps were encountered, but none that merited archaeological recording; these were especially prevalent in the eastern field which was extremely wet underfoot.

## 4 Metal Detection Survey

### 4.1 Aims and Scope of the Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Services

Metal detection surveys were completed across four TAs in the week starting Monday 14 September by Ed Danaher and Ger Dowling; Stage(i)h surveys were completed previously at Drumboe Lower, during a programme of site works, from Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September.

### 4.2 Survey Methodology

The metal detection survey employed a metal detector with a penetration depth of 0.5m and was designed to recover from the topsoil all items of metalwork of possible historical or archaeological significance. All finds were recorded using a Leica Viva GS20 with smart antenna GPS and related to Ordnance Datum (OD) and Irish Transverse Mercator Grid (ITM).

### 4.3 Survey Constraints

There were no constraints on Stage (i)h works.

### 4.4 Survey Results

The results of the metal detector surveys are summarised below in Table 8. The Stage (i)h Metal Detection survey in the townland of Curraghane uncovered no archaeologically significant artefacts, with the exception of one copper alloy sixpence coin and a copper alloy mount.

None of the finds recovered during the works required immediate conservation. Finds were housed temporarily on-site and following this at the AMS Strokestown Office. They are currently stored at the permanent and secure AMS Head Office Post-Ex Facility in Kilrush. The storage of artefacts has been undertaken in accordance with the *Advice Notes for Excavators* (NMI 2010).

**Table 8: Artefacts recovered from Metal Detection Surveys**

Testing Area	Description	Licence Number
<b>TA 1 (Drumboe Lower)</b>	Seven objects (three unidentified iron, one iron staple, one iron horseshoe, one tip or sock of plough share and one copper alloy buckle)	20R0167
<b>TA 2 (Trimragh)</b>	One copper alloy halfpenny coin	20R0183
<b>TA 3 (Carnshannagh)</b>	One coin and a single lead waste piece (note: a copper alloy fitting was recovered from spoil during testing)	20R0184
<b>TA 4 (Murlough)</b>	None	20R0182
<b>TA 5 (Curraghane)</b>	One copper alloy sixpence coin and one copper alloy mount	20R0185

## 5 Discussion

During the testing at Curragehalane, two sites of archaeological significance were found, comprising a likely early medieval enclosure with at least one but possibly two souterrains, and a small settlement of prehistoric date. Unfortunately, a post-medieval/modern radiocarbon date was obtained for the upper fill of the enclosure in Curragehalane 1. This dating is clearly at odds with the nature and scale of the enclosure which, given the presence of at least one – and possibly even two – potentially associated souterrain/s, is probably early medieval in date. As such, the dated sample is probably intrusive, and likely the result of contamination from modern ploughing or other activity. Additional evidence will no doubt provide a more accurate dating of the enclosure. A pit at Curragehalane 2 was dated to the early–middle Neolithic.

The sites (designated Curragehalane 1 and 2) are outside the indicative design corridor and should not be directly impacted by the proposed development. An exception to this is a small cluster of five isolated features in the eastern field, which could represent ‘satellite’ activity to the main prehistoric settlement represented by Curragehalane 1. These features will require full excavation and preservation by record if they cannot be preserved *in situ*. See below for further discussion and recommendations.

## 6 Significance of Findings

The following significance criteria have been taken from Appendix 2 of the *Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Schemes* (NRA 2005). They are not presented in any ranking order but can be used to evaluate the significance of an archaeological site, monument or complex. They should not, however, be regarded as definitive; rather they are an indicator which contributes to a wider judgment based on the individual circumstances of each feature.

### Existing Status

The level of protection associated with a monument or complex is an important consideration.

### Condition/Preservation

The survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is an important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features. Well-preserved sites should be highlighted; this assessment can only be based on a field inspection.

### Documentation/Historical Significance

The significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigations or contemporary documentation supported by written evidence or historical maps. Sites with a definite historical association or an example of a notable event or person should be highlighted.

### Group Value

The value of a single monument may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments or with monuments from different periods indicating an extended time presence in any specific area. In some cases, it may be preferable to protect the complete group, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within that group.

### Rarity

The rarity of some monument types can be a central factor affecting response strategies for development, whatever the condition of the individual feature.

### Visibility in the Landscape

It is important to recognise sites that have a limited distribution. Monuments that are highly visible in the landscape have a heightened physical presence. The inter-visibility between monuments may also be explored in this category.

### Fragility/Vulnerability

It is important to assess the level of threat to archaeological monuments from erosion, natural degradation, agricultural activity, land clearance, neglect, careless treatment or development.

The nature of the archaeological evidence cannot always be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons to justify the significance of the feature. This category relates to the probability of monuments producing material of archaeological significance as a result of future investigative work.

### Amenity Value

Regard should be taken of the existing and potential amenity value of a monument.

## 6.1 Curragehalane 1 and 2

**Existing Status:** The souterrain at Curragehalane is listed as SMR DG070-082; the newly discovered enclosure (or associated features) currently has no statutory protection, nor does Curragehalane 2, the prehistoric settlement.

**Condition/Preservation:** This site has no upstanding remains. What has survived of this site are the subsurface remains of a likely early medieval enclosure and souterrain(s?) (Curragehalane 1) and a probable prehistoric settlement (Curragehalane 2). As stated above, test excavations established that the souterrain DG070-082 is no longer intact.

**Documentation/Historical Significance:** No documentation or historical significance.

**Group Value:** No known sites are located within 500m of the TA.

**Rarity:** It is not unusual to find enclosures on linear road schemes, but less common to find them with one, and potentially two souterrains, as well as an adjacent probable prehistoric settlement.

**Visibility in the Landscape:** Not visible.

**Fragility/Vulnerability:** This site should not be impacted under the current road scheme design – this is subject to final design and a decision on slip roads etc.

**Amenity Value:** No amenity value.

**Conclusion:** A multi-period site with considerable and intact subsurface remains. The significance of this site is rated as **medium** and it is considered of **regional** significance.

## 7 Impact Statement & Recommendations

The enclosure site and souterrain(s) (Curragehalane 1) are directly west, and outside, of the proposed route corridor for the TEN-T road scheme. Similarly, the main density of probable prehistoric features (Curragehalane 2) is also outside the proposed road take. As such, both sites should be avoided and preserved *in situ*. However, should proposed access/side roads associated with the tie between the proposed new road and the N14/N15 to A5 Link Road extend into the field where these sites are located, they are recommended for full excavation and 'preservation by record' if they cannot be avoided. 'Fencing off' the sites may also be required dependent on the scheme's final design to prevent accidental traffic or damage to the monuments during construction phase.

A number of possible satellite features (five in total identified during Stage i(a) works) to the main prehistoric site at Curragehalane (Curragehalane 2) will be adversely impacted upon by the proposed route corridor for the TEN-T road scheme, resulting in the removal of these features. As such, these features (C.47–C.49 and C.51–53, and any others identified in possible future Stage ii works) are recommended for full excavation and 'preservation by record' if they cannot be avoided by the development.

## 8 Bibliography

### 8.1 References

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- Gimson, H. 2020. Geophysical Survey Report. TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project (Drumboe lower, Ballynaglack, Ballyraine, Trimragh, Carnshannagh, Murlough & Curraghalane Td's), Co. Donegal (20R0078). Unpublished geophysical survey report prepared for Donegal County Council.
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- TII 2017. Code of Practice for Archaeology agreed between the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (June 2017).

### 8.2 Cartographic Sources

First-edition six-inch OS map 1836

First-edition 25-inch OS map 1900–05

### 8.3 Online and Other Resources

- IAI. 2006. *Code of Conduct for Treatment of Archaeological Objects*. Dublin: Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. [Online]. [Accessed: 18 January 2019]. Available from: <http://www.iai.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/IAI-Code-of-Conduct-for-the-Treatment-of-Archaeological-Objects.pdf>.
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## Appendix 1: List of Contexts

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
<b>C.1</b>	All	All	Number used to record topsoil.	N/A
<b>C.2</b>	All	All	Number used to record subsoil.	N/A
<b>C.3</b>	All	All	Number used to record natural/bedrock.	N/A
<b>C.4</b>	W Field	Several	Number used to record a relict field boundary in Trenches 42, 45, 47, 52, 54, 56, 58 and 60. The boundary appears on the 25-inch OS map, surveyed 1900–05. Feature appears to correspond to geophysical anomaly 730.	N/A
<b>C.5</b>	W Field	Several	Number used to record a relict field boundary in Trenches 42, 45, 47, 52, 54, 56 and 58. The boundary appears on the first-edition six-inch OS map, surveyed 1836.	N/A
<b>C.6</b>	W Field	44, 46 and 51	Upper fill of enclosure ditch [C.27], consisting of a firm dark brown/grey silty clay containing moderate inclusions of stone and charcoal.	1.8 (in TT) x 2.3 x 0.3m
<b>C.7</b>	W Field	44	Upper fill of linear ditch [C.28], consisting of a firm light grey sandy silt containing moderate inclusions of stone and occasional charcoal.	1.80 (in TT) x 1.15 x 0.17m
<b>C.8</b>	W Field	59	Singular fill of pit [C.55], consisting of a loose mid brown silty sand containing occasional inclusions of charcoal. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.7 x 0.6 x 0.1m
<b>C.9</b>	W Field	59	Probable pit fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the	0.32 x 0.20m x not sectioned

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
			western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	
<b>C.10</b>	W Field	59	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.25 x 0.25m x not sectioned
<b>C.11</b>	W Field	59	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.11 x 0.11m x not sectioned
<b>C.12</b>	W Field	59	Pit fill in [C.54], consisting of a loose dark brown/black silty sand, with frequent charcoal and probable prehistoric pottery. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762. <b>(20E0503:12:1-5)</b>	0.20 x 0.20 x 0.10m
<b>C.13</b>	W Field	59	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.20 x 0.20m x not sectioned

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
<b>C.14</b>	W Field	59	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.30 x 0.25m x not sectioned
<b>C.15</b>	W Field	59	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.50 x 0.25m x not sectioned
<b>C.16</b>	W Field	59	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.15 x 0.15m x not sectioned
<b>C.17</b>	W Field	59	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.20 x 0.20m x not sectioned
<b>C.18</b>	W Field	59	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to	0.25 x 0.25m x not sectioned

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
			represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	
<b>C.19</b>	W Field	62	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.17 x 0.17m x not sectioned
<b>C.20</b>	W Field	62	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown/grey silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.20 x 0.20m x not sectioned
<b>C.21</b>	W Field	62	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.20 x 0.20m x not sectioned
<b>C.22</b>	W Field	62	Probable linear fill, consisting of a loose brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	1.75 (in TT) x 1.00 x not sectioned

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
<b>C.23</b>	W Field	62	Probable pit fill, consisting of a loose brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.50 x 0.30m x not sectioned
<b>C.24</b>	W Field	62	Probable curvilinear fill, consisting of a loose brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	2.90 x 0.75 x 0.05m
<b>C.25</b>	W Field	44	Pit fill in [C.26], consisting of a loose dark brown/black sandy clay, with frequent charcoal and small stones.	0.40 x 0.45 x 0.13m
<b>C.26</b>	W Field	44	Pit cut containing C.25, through C.7 the upper fill of linear [C.28]. The cut is circular with straight sides and a sharp break of slope at the top and base, which is uneven.	0.40 x 0.45 x 0.13m
<b>C.27</b>	W Field	44, 46 and 51	Enclosure ditch cut containing C.6, C.44 and C.45. The cut is circular in shape with sides that vary from sloping to near vertical and a generally gradual break of slope at the top and base, which is concave. The cut was assessed by excavating three sections in Trenches 44, 46 and 51. Feature appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 785 and 786.	1.8 (in TT) x 2.5 x 1.1m
<b>C.28</b>	W Field	44	Linear ditch cut containing C.7 and C.46. The cut is linear in shape with near vertical sides and a sharp break of slope at the top and base, which is flat. Feature appears to correspond to geophysical anomaly 785.	1.80 (in TT) x 1.15 x 0.65m
<b>C.29</b>	W Field	60, 70 and 71	Souterrain 'fill' which the landowner used to backfill the souterrain, consisting of a loose grey sand mixed with large	4.0 x 4.80m x not sectioned

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
			stones (c.0.3m <sup>3</sup> ). Feature (with F30) appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 710 and 787.	
<b>C.30</b>	W Field	46, 68 and 69	Possible tertiary souterrain 'fill, consisting of a compact grey clay, with occasional stone and charcoal flecks. Possibly a second chamber or crawl to confirmed souterrain C.29. Feature (with F29) appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 710 and 787.	2.8 x 2.0m x not sectioned
<b>C.31</b>	N/A	N/A	Resolved as non-archaeological	N/A
<b>C.32</b>	N/A	N/A	Resolved as non-archaeological	N/A
<b>C.33</b>	W Field	58	Same as C.8	N/A
<b>C.34</b>	W Field	62	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown/grey silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.2 x 0.2m x not sectioned
<b>C.35</b>	W Field	62	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown/orange silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.35 x 0.35m x not sectioned
<b>C.36</b>	W Field	62	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose light brown/orange silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.30 x 0.30m x not sectioned

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
<b>C.37</b>	W Field	62	Probable stakehole fill, consisting of a loose light brown/orange silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.1 x 0.1m x not sectioned
<b>C.38</b>	W Field	62	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose brown silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.28 x 0.15m x not sectioned
<b>C.39</b>	W Field	62	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose brown/pink silty sand. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.25 x 0.25m x not sectioned
<b>C.40</b>	W Field	62	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose brown silty sand, with occasional charcoal inclusions. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.25 x 0.25m x not sectioned
<b>C.41</b>	W Field	62	Probable stakehole fill, consisting of a loose brown silty sand, with occasional charcoal inclusions. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the	0.1 x 0.1m x not sectioned

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
			eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	
<b>C.42</b>	W Field	62	Probable stakehole fill, consisting of a loose brown silty sand, with occasional charcoal inclusions. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.08 x 0.08m x not sectioned
<b>C.43</b>	W Field	62	Probable stakehole fill, consisting of a loose brown silty sand, with occasional charcoal inclusions. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.1 x 0.1m x not sectioned
<b>C.44</b>	W Field	44, 46 and 51	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch [C.27], consisting of a firm dark brown silty clay containing moderate inclusions of medium to large stone.	1.8 (in TT) x 2.3 x 0.6m
<b>C.45</b>	W Field	44, 46 and 51	Primary fill of enclosure ditch [C.27], consisting of a moderately compact light brown sandy silt containing occasional inclusions of stone and charcoal.	1.8 (in TT) x 1.6 x 0.6m
<b>C.46</b>	W Field	44	Primary fill of linear ditch [C.28], consisting of a moderately compact mid brown sandy silt containing occasional inclusions of stone.	1.8 (in TT) x 1.1 x 0.5m
<b>C.47</b>	E Field	73	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose brown clayey silt. Associated with a smaller cluster of pits/posts in Trenches 34 and 73 and possibly a larger series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (in the western field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement.	0.2 x 0.2m x not sectioned

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
<b>C.48</b>	E Field	73	Probable posthole fill, consisting of a loose brown clayey silt. Associated with a smaller cluster of pits/posts in Trenches 34 and 73 and possibly a larger series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (in the western field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement.	0.27 x 0.27m x not sectioned
<b>C.49</b>	E Field	73	Charcoal deposit, consisting of a small oval loose black clay/charcoal deposit, truncated by modern drain C.50. Associated with a smaller cluster of pits/posts in Trenches 34 and 73 and possibly a larger series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (in the western field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement.	0.40 x 0.30m x not sectioned
<b>C.50</b>	E Field	73	Modern drainage feature truncating C.49.	2.0 x 0.15m (exposed) x not sectioned
<b>C.51</b>	E Field	34	Posthole/pit fill in [C.52], consisting of a loose dark brown clayey silt, with stone and charcoal inclusions. Associated with a smaller cluster of pits/posts in Trenches 34 and 73 and possibly a larger series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (in the western field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement.	0.60 x 0.45 x 0.08m
<b>C.52</b>	E Field	34	Posthole/pit cut containing C.51. The cut is circular with sloping sides and a gradual break of slope at the top and imperceptible break of slope at the base, which is concave. Associated with a smaller cluster of pits/posts in Trenches 34 and 73 and possibly a larger series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (in the western field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement.	0.60 x 0.45 x 0.08m
<b>C.53</b>	E Field	34	Probable posthole/pit fill, consisting of an oval shaped loose grey clayey silt. Associated with a smaller cluster of pits/posts in Trenches 34 and 73 and possibly a larger series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (in the western field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement.	0.40 x 0.20m x not sectioned

Context	Area	Trench	Description	Dimensions (m)
<b>C.54</b>	W Field	59	Pit cut containing C.12. The cut is circular with near vertical sides and a sharp break of slope at the top and gradual break of slope at the base, which is concave. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.2 x 0.2 x 0.1m
<b>C.55</b>	W Field	59	Pit cut containing C.8. The cut is sub-rectangular with near vertical sides and a sharp break of slope at the top and gradual break of slope at the base, which is sloping. Associated with a series of pits, postholes and spreads in Trenches 59 and 62 (and possibly a smaller cluster in Trenches 34 and 73 in the eastern field) which appear to represent a prehistoric settlement. Set of features in the western field appears to correspond to geophysical anomalies 761 and 762.	0.7 x 0.6 x 0.1m

## Appendix 2: List of Finds

Find number	Field	Trench	Context	Full Name	Description	Dimensions in cm
<b>20E0503:12:1</b>	W Field	59	C.12	Early Neolithic carinated bowl rim sherd	One small neck sherd and two bodysherds. Along with body sherds 20E0503:12:2–4 they form part of an early Neolithic carinated bowl dating to c. 3700–3600 BC. Only limited quantities of this material have been recorded from County Donegal.	(L)3.64 x (W)2.61 x (T)0.79
<b>20E0503:12:2</b>	W Field	59	C.12	Early Neolithic carinated bowl body sherd	Body sherd from of an early Neolithic carinated bowl dating to c. 3700–3600 BC. Only limited quantities of this material have been recorded from County Donegal. 20E0503:12:1 and 20E0503:12:3–4 are part of the same vessel.	(L)1.52 x (W)1.49 x (T)0.61
<b>20E0503:12:3</b>	W Field	59	C.12	Early Neolithic carinated bowl body sherd	Body sherd from of an early Neolithic carinated bowl dating to c. 3700–3600 BC. Only limited quantities of this material have been recorded from County Donegal. 20E0503:12:1 and 20E0503:12:1 and 20E0503:12:4 are part of the same vessel.	(L)1.7 x (W)1.2 x (T)0.63
<b>20E0503:12:4</b>	W Field	59	C.12	Early Neolithic carinated bowl body sherd	Body sherd from of an early Neolithic carinated bowl dating to c. 3700–3600 BC. Only limited quantities of this material have been recorded from County Donegal. 20E0503:12:1 and 20E0503:12:2 & 20E0503:12:3 are part of the same vessel.	(L)2.05 x (W)0.89 x (T)0.75
<b>20E0503:12:5</b>	W Field	59	C.12	Quartzite flake	An incomplete quartzite utilised flake. Feathered cutting edge along	(L)3.50 x (W)1.60 x (T)0.50

Find number	Field	Trench	Context	Full Name	Description	Dimensions in cm
					one side. Some possible damage at one end. Weight 5.3 g.	
<b>20E0503:1:1</b>	N/A	N/A	C.1	Copper alloy six pence coin	Copper alloy coin, very worn, no detail discernible but diameter is equivalent to an English sixpence as its weight which is nearer 2gm than the 4gm of an Irish sixpence. The English sixpence changed from silver to cupronickel after 1947. Tiny specks of silver colour can be seen on the surface.	(D)2.00 x (T)0.13
<b>20E0503:1:2</b>	N/A	N/A	C.1	Copper alloy mount	Copper alloy flat circular mount with a smaller flat disc reveted to the centre. The central rivet hole penetrates both discs. The perimeter of the backing disc has 4 punched rivet holes (2.5mm), one of which still retains the sheared head of the minute rivet.	(D)3.91 x (T)0.50

*Note: Finds 20E0503:1:1–2 were all recovered from Stage(i)h Metal Detection Survey (20R0185).*

### Appendix 3: List of Samples

Sample	Context	Feature	Sample type	Vol./ Weight	Process	Flot weight/ Retent weight (g)
1	C.25	Fill of pit C.26	Soil	5L	Retained	N/A
2	C.12	Fill of posthole C.54	Soil	2L	Flotation	2.09/19.86
3	C.6	Fill of enclosure ditch C.27	Soil	10L	Flotation	116.01/2395.2
4	C.7	Fill of linear ditch C.28	Soil	10L	Retained	N/A
5	C.51	Fill of posthole C.52	Soil	5L	Retained	N/A
6	C.1	Sample from directly over 'modern' souterrain infill C.29.	Slag	389.24g	Retained	N/A

## Appendix 4: Radiocarbon Dating

Radiocarbon dating was conducted by the <sup>14</sup>CHRONO Centre, Queens University Belfast

Lab. Code	Sample No.	Sample Weight	Material	Context	Years BP	pMC <sup>1</sup>	68.3% calibration	95.4% calibration	Calibration dataset
UBA-44853	3	0.03g	Barley ( <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> )	C.6: upper fill of enclosure ditch C.27 (Curragehalane 1)	148±23	98.18±0.28	cal. AD 1679–1941	cal. AD 1669–1947	Incal20.14c Reimer <i>et al.</i> 2020
UBA-44854	2	0.03g	Hazel ( <i>Corylus</i> ) charcoal	C.12: fill of pit C.54 (Curragehalane 2)	4808±33	98.18±0.28	3640–3532 cal. BC	3643–3528 cal. BC	Incal20.14c Reimer <i>et al.</i> 2020

<sup>1</sup> The 'percent Modern Carbon' (pMC) value is obtained by multiplying by 100 the 'Fraction Modern Carbon' (F14C) figure supplied by the <sup>14</sup>CHRONO Centre.

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<sup>14</sup>CHRONO  
Centre  
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University  
Belfast  
42 Fitzwilliam  
Street  
Belfast BT9  
6AX  
Northern  
Ireland

### Radiocarbon Date Certificate

Laboratory Identification: UBA-44853  
Date of Measurement: 2021-06-04  
Site: Curraghallane  
Sample ID: Ten-T\_20E0503\_S3\_C6  
Material Dated: charred seed or nutshell  
Pretreatment: AAA  
mg Graphite: 0.952  
Submitted by: Louise Nugent AMS

Conventional <sup>14</sup> C Age:	148±23 BP
Fraction corrected	using AMS $\delta^{13}\text{C}$

#### RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION PROGRAM\* CALIB REV8.2

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\*To be used in conjunction with:  
Stuiver, M., and Reimer, P.J., 1993, Radiocarbon, 35, 215-230.

UBA-44853 44853		
Radiocarbon Age BP	148 +/- 23	
Calibration data set:	intcal20.14c	# Reimer et al. 2020
% area enclosed	cal AD age ranges	relative area under probability distribution
68.3 (1 sigma)	cal AD 1679- 1696	0.143
	1724- 1741	0.148
	1752- 1764	0.094
	1799- 1812	0.109
	1837- 1879	0.285
	1915- 1941	0.220
95.4 (2 sigma)	cal AD 1669- 1710	0.167
	1719- 1781	0.273
	1797- 1822	0.102
	1832- 1892	0.255
	1905- 1947	0.203
Median Probability:	1808	

#### References for calibration datasets:

Reimer P, Austin WEN, Bard E, Bayliss A, Blackwell PG, Bronk Ramsey C, Butzin M  
Edwards RL, Friedrich M, Grootes PM, Guilderson TP, Hajdas I, Heaton TJ, Hogg A  
Kromer B, Manning SW, Muscheler R, Palmer JG, Pearson C, van der Plicht J, Reim  
Richards DA, Scott EM, Southon JR, Turney CSM, Wacker L, Adolphi F, BÄntgen U,  
Fahrni S, Fogtmann-Schulz A, Friedrich R, KÄhler P, Kudsk S, Miyake F, Olsen J  
Sakamoto M, Sookdeo A, Talamo S. 2020.  
The IntCal20 Northern Hemisphere radiocarbon age calibration curve (0-55 cal kB  
Radiocarbon 62. doi: 10.1017/RDC.2020.41.

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## Radiocarbon Date Certificate

Laboratory Identification: UBA-44854  
Date of Measurement: 2021-06-10  
Site: Curragalane  
Sample ID: Ten-T\_20E0503\_S2\_C12  
Material Dated: charcoal  
Pretreatment: AAA  
mg Graphite: 1.200  
Submitted by: Louise Nugent AMS

Conventional <sup>14</sup> C Age:	4808±33 BP
Fraction corrected	using AMS $\delta^{13}\text{C}$

### RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION PROGRAM\* CALIB REV8.2

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\*To be used in conjunction with:

Stuiver, M., and Reimer, P.J., 1993, Radiocarbon, 35, 215-230.

UBA-44854 44854		
Radiocarbon Age BP	4808 +/- 33	
Calibration data set:	intcal20.14c	# Reimer et al. 2020
% area enclosed	cal AD age ranges	relative area under probability distribution
68.3 (1 sigma)	cal BC 3640- 3624 3579- 3532	0.257 0.743
95.4 (2 sigma)	cal BC 3643- 3528	1.000
Median Probability:	-3573	

#### References for calibration datasets:

Reimer P, Austin WEN, Bard E, Bayliss A, Blackwell PG, Bronk Ramsey C, Butzin M  
Edwards RL, Friedrich M, Grootes PM, Guilderson TP, Hajdas I, Heaton TJ, Hogg A  
Kromer B, Manning SW, Muscheler R, Palmer JG, Pearson C, van der Plicht J, Reim  
Richards DA, Scott EM, Southon JR, Turney CSM, Wacker L, Adolphi F, BÄntgen U,  
Fahrni S, Fogtmann-Schulz A, Friedrich R, KÄhler P, Kudsk S, Miyake F, Olsen J  
Sakamoto M, Sookdeo A, Talamo S. 2020.  
The IntCal20 Northern Hemisphere radiocarbon age calibration curve (0-55 cal kB  
Radiocarbon 62. doi: 10.1017/RDC.2020.41.

## Appendix 5: Excavation Bulletin

Bulletin Field	Bulletin Detail
Excavation Completion Date	30 October 2020
Year	2020
County	Donegal
Author	James McKee
Author's Address	c/o Archaeological Management Solutions Ltd, Fahy's Road, Kilrush, Co. Clare
Site Number	To be assigned by excavations.ie
Site Name	Curraghane 1 and 2
Site Type	Early medieval enclosure and prehistoric settlement
ITM Coordinates	632261, 897210 and 632302, 897155
Site and Monuments Record No.	DG070-082
Excavation Licence No.	20E0503 (and 20R0185)
Description	<p>James McKee of Archaeological Management Solutions Ltd undertook Stage (i)a Standard Test Excavations and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Surveys in the townland of Curraghane as part of the Archaeological Consultancy Services Contract of the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project in Donegal.</p> <p>The TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project is part of the Trans-European Transport Network and comprises the construction of three sections of new road: Section 1: N15/N13 Ballybofey/Stranorlar Urban Region; Section 2: N56/N30 Letterkenny to Manorcunningham; and Section 3: N14 Manorcunningham to Lifford/Strabane/A5 link. Curraghane, in Section 3, is one of five Testing Areas (TAs) along the preferred route of the TEN-T project which require Stage (i)a Test Excavations and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Services.</p> <p>The total Stage (i)a testing linear metres excavated at Curraghane was 3,764m, representing a &gt;12% sample of the greenfield area available for test excavations. These excavations targeted anomalies identified through previous geophysical and LiDAR surveys at the site; these surveys were themselves undertaken to assess SMR site (DG070-082), one of five known monuments which could be impacted by the scheme.</p> <p>During the Stage (i)a testing at Curraghane, two sites of archaeological significance were found, namely Curraghane 1 and Curraghane 2.</p> <p>Curraghane 1 comprises a likely early medieval enclosure as well as a number of possible associated features, including one razed souterrain (DG072-082), as well as a second large pit, which could represent a second souterrain. The enclosure ditch was partially sectioned in three trenches and the dimensions were recorded as 2.5m wide and at least 1.1m deep in maximum extent. The possible souterrains' extent were established in plan, but these features were not excavated. The first souterrain, consisting of grey sand mixed with large stones, is the fill of known souterrain DG070-082 after the landowner backfilled it. The second pit-like feature is directly northwest of DG070-082 and of unconfirmed function. A post-medieval/modern radiocarbon date was obtained for the upper fill of the putative early medieval enclosure.</p>

Bulletin Field	Bulletin Detail
	<p data-bbox="467 241 1396 539">Curragehalane 2 comprises a small prehistoric settlement, including a total of c. 28 recorded pits, postholes and stakeholes as well as two heterogeneous spreads/linears. Four sherds of early Neolithic pottery were recorded from one of the pits, which was radiocarbon dated to 3643–3528 cal. BC. Four isolated pits/postholes were also recorded in the field west of the prehistoric site, which could relate to the ‘main’ cluster in the eastern field. In addition to the four early Neolithic carinated bowl sherds and quartzite flake, one copper alloy sixpence coin and a single copper alloy mount were recovered during Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey.</p> <p data-bbox="467 577 1396 772">The two sites at Curragehalane are located directly east of, and outside, the limits of the proposed road take and should not be adversely impacted by the development, although this is contingent on the scheme’s final design. The four ‘satellite’ features to the main prehistoric site at Curragehalane will be adversely impacted upon by the current proposed route corridor for the TEN-T road scheme and were recommended for full excavation and preservation by record if they cannot be avoided.</p>

## Appendix 5: Monument Report Forms

### Curraghalane 1: Enclosure



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

**NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE**

#### Monument Report Form

The following report form has been designed to assist persons who may wish to supply information on newly discovered monuments. The current operational policy of the National Monuments Service is primarily to record monuments dating from the pre-AD 1700 period. Please check the records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland on the National Monuments Service website [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) before sending in a report to ensure that the monument has not already been recorded. This Monument Report Form will form part of the Sites and Monuments Record.

**County:** Donegal

**Townland(s):** Curraghalane

**Classification** (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound): Enclosure

**Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates:** E: 

6	3	2	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N: 

8	9	7	1	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---

**Irish Grid co-ordinates:** E: 

2	3	2	3	1	9
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N: 

3	9	7	2	2	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

**Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy):** 30/ 10/ 2020

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland uses mapping provided by OSI: this utilises the Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) co-ordinate system. This replaces the former Irish Grid referenced mapping. If possible, please supply ITM co-ordinates. These should be determined using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit that is enabled for the ITM co-ordinate system. A twelve-figure reference should be determined at the centre of the monument (six for easting and six for northing). Alternatively, users may derive the ITM co-ordinates from the mapping component of the National Monuments Service website ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

**Source of co-ordinates (please fill one):** GPS  Website

**Name of person compiling report (Block Capitals):** JAMES MCKEE

**Address:** C/o Archaeological Management Solutions Ltd,

Fahy's Road, Kilrush,

Co. Clare V15 C780

**Phone no.:** 0044 7922 382955

**Email address:** jamesmckee1645@gmail.com

**Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument**

Yes  No

**Setting of monument** (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.):

The monument lies in the northeastern corner of a large tillage field close to the existing N15 road.

**Condition of monument:** (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

The monument displays no visible surface trace and was initially identified through geophysical survey.

**Local information:** (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

No local Information

**References (where relevant):** (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Gimson, H. 2020. Geophysical Survey Report. TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project (Drumboe lower, Ballynaglack, Ballyrairie, Trimragh, Carnshannagh, Murlough & Curragalane Td's), Co. Donegal (20R0078). Unpublished geophysical survey report prepared for Donegal County Council.

Shine, D. and McKee, J. 2021. Archaeological Consultancy Service Contract: Stage (i): TEN-T Priority Route Improvement: TA5 Curragalane Updated Stage (i)a Test Excavation and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Report. Unpublished report prepared for Donegal County Council.

**Other notes:** *For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.*

The monument displays no visible surface trace and was initially identified through geophysical survey undertaken by Earthsound Geophysics in September/October 2020 under licence 20R0078. Follow up investigations at the site were conducted by Archaeological Management Solutions in October 2020 as part of Stage (i)a Standard Test Excavations (licence 20E0503) and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Surveys (licence 20R0185) for the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project.

**Summary description of monument:** (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

The monument is defined by a circular ditch, measuring approximately 40m in overall diameter. The ditch, which encloses a souterrain (DG070-082) within its southern extent, was partially sectioned in three trenches and shown to have maximum dimensions of about 2.5m in width and 1.1m in depth. Three ditch fills were encountered, the lowest of which contained occasional flecks of charcoal and stone.

**Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings?** Yes **X**

(see present report)

**Report accompanied by a photograph(s):** Yes **X**

(see present report)

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

**Report accompanied by a copy of OS map** Yes **X** **and/or aerial photo:** Yes

(see present report)

*It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.*

**Checked against National Monuments Service website,** Yes **X**  
[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie):

**Signed:**



**Date:** 14 October 2021

## Curraghane 2: Prehistoric settlement



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

### Monument Report Form

The following report form has been designed to assist persons who may wish to supply information on newly discovered monuments. The current operational policy of the National Monuments Service is primarily to record monuments dating from the pre-AD 1700 period. Please check the records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland on the National Monuments Service website [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) before sending in a report to ensure that the monument has not already been recorded. This Monument Report Form will form part of the Sites and Monuments Record.

**County:** Donegal

**Townland(s):** Curraghane

**Classification** (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound): Prehistoric settlement

**Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates:** E: 

6	3	2	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N: 

8	9	7	1	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---

**Irish Grid co-ordinates:** E: 

2	3	2	3	5	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N: 

3	9	7	1	6	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

**Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy):**

02/ 10/ 2020

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland uses mapping provided by OSI: this utilises the Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) co-ordinate system. This replaces the former Irish Grid referenced mapping. If possible, please supply ITM co-ordinates. These should be determined using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit that is enabled for the ITM co-ordinate system. A twelve-figure reference should be determined at the centre of the monument (six for easting and six for northing). Alternatively, users may derive the ITM co-ordinates from the mapping component of the National Monuments Service website ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

**Source of co-ordinates (please fill one):** GPS  Website

**Name of person compiling report (Block Capitals):** JAMES MCKEE

**Address:** C/o Archaeological Management Solutions Ltd,

Fahy's Road, Kilrush,

Co. Clare V15 C780

**Phone no.:** 0044 7922 382955

**Email address:** jamesmckee1645@gmail.com

**Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument**

Yes  No

**Setting of monument** (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.):

The monument lies in the southeastern corner end of large tillage field close to the existing N15 road.

**Condition of monument:** (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

The monument displays no visible surface trace and was initially identified through test investigations.

**Local information:** (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

No local Information

**References (where relevant):** (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Shine, D. and McKee, J. 2021. Archaeological Consultancy Service Contract: Stage (i): TEN-T Priority Route Improvement: TA5 Curraghalane Updated Stage (i)a Test Excavation and Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey Report. Unpublished report prepared for Donegal County Council.

**Other notes:** *For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.*

The monument displays no visible surface trace and was initially identified through Stage (i)a Standard Test Excavations (licence 20E0503) carried out by Archaeological Management Solutions in October 2020 as part of the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project. A Stage (i)h Metal Detection Survey (licence 20R0185) was also undertaken at this time.

**Summary description of monument:** (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

The monument comprises a small prehistoric settlement defined by a total of approximately 28 pits, postholes and stakeholes as well as two spreads/linears. Pottery was found in one of the pits (C.12 in [C.54]). A sample of hazel charcoal sent to the <sup>14</sup>CHRONO Centre (QUB) is radiocarbon dated to 3643–3528 cal. BC (UBA-44854), indicating site activity during the early–middle Neolithic.

**Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings?** Yes

(see present report)

**Report accompanied by a photograph(s):**

Yes **X**

(see present report)

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

**Report accompanied by a copy of OS map**

Yes **X**

**and/or aerial photo:**

Yes

(see present report)

*It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.*

**Checked against National Monuments Service website,**  
[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie):

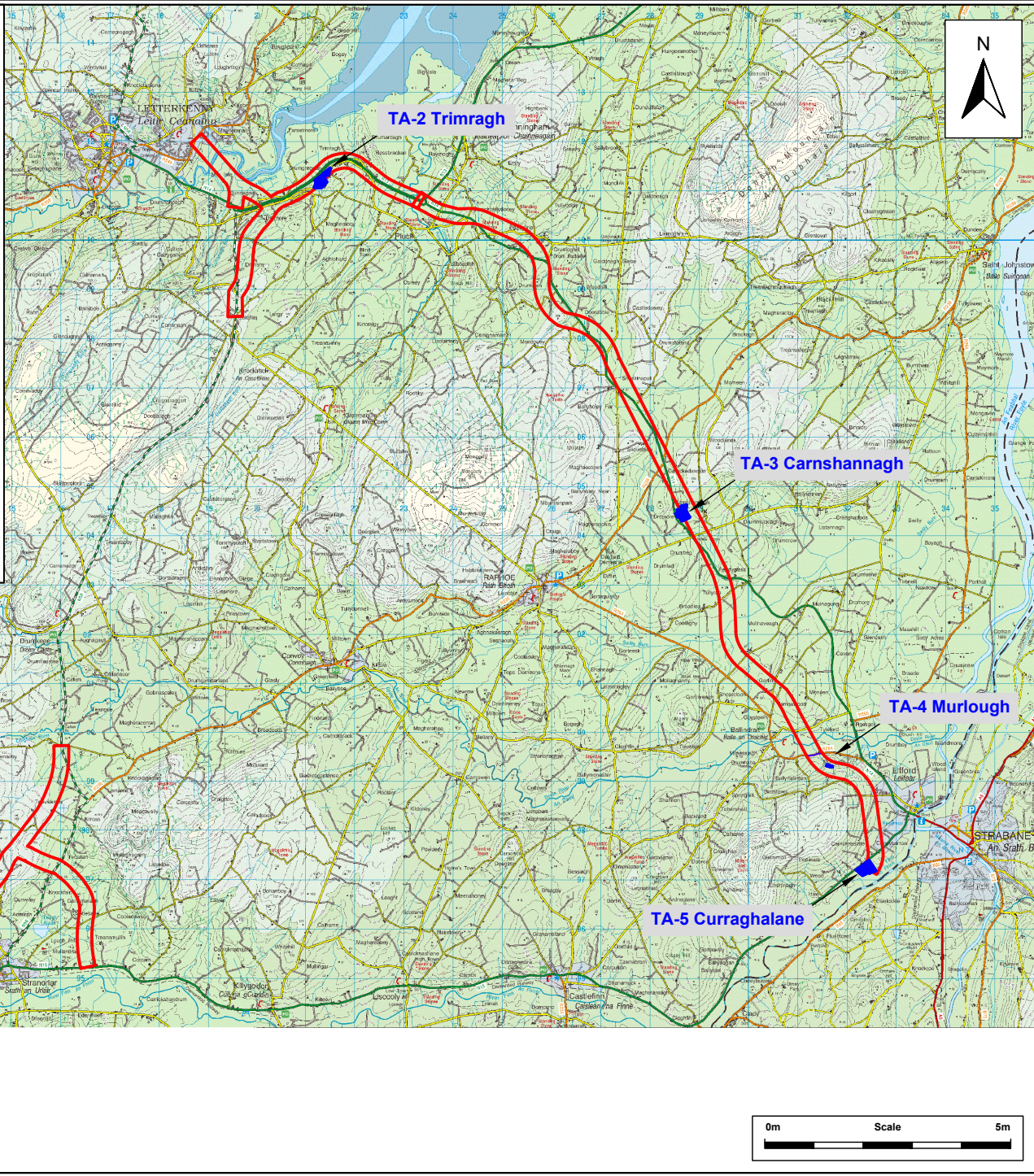
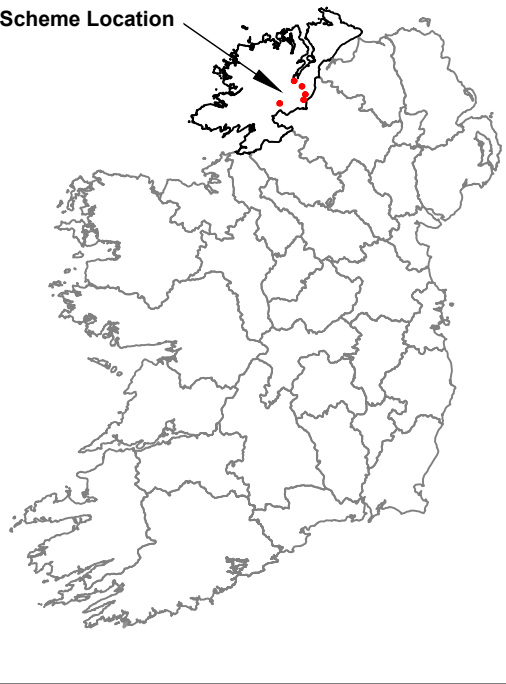
Yes **X**

**Signed:**



**Date:** 14 October 2021

**Scheme Location**



**Figure No. 1**

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

**Location of the Testing Areas on the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project**

**Legend**

- Scheme Corridor
- ▭ Stage (i) Testing Area

Scale  
1:125000@A4

Date  
12 01 21

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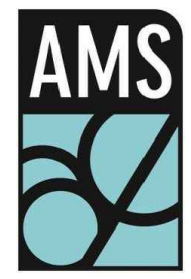
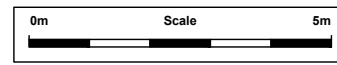





Figure No. 2

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

TA-5 Curraghane (Testing Area 5) location, showing impacted and surrounding SMR sites

Legend

-  Scheme Corridor
-  Stage (i) Testing Area
-  Recorded Monument and Zone of Notification

Scale 1:10000@A4

Date 12 01 21

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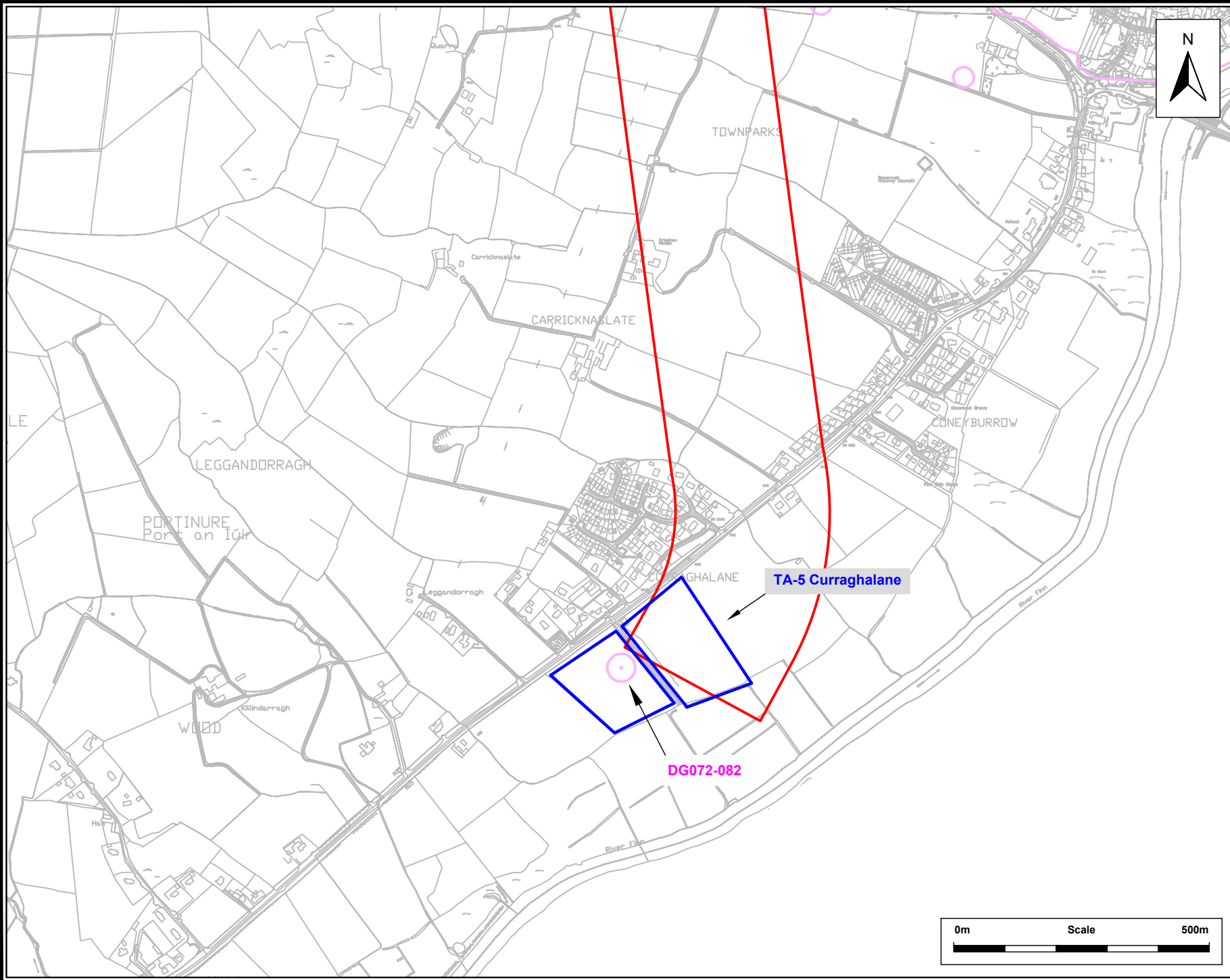
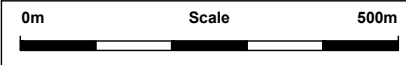







Figure No. 3

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

TA-5 Curraghane  
Trenching layout overlaid on  
1st edition 6-inch OS map

Legend

-  Scheme Corridor
-  Stage (I) Testing Area
-  Recorded Monument and Zone of Notification
-  Stage (I)a test trenches
-  Manually excavated test trenches

Scale  
1:2500@A4

Date  
12 01 21

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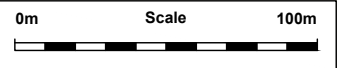
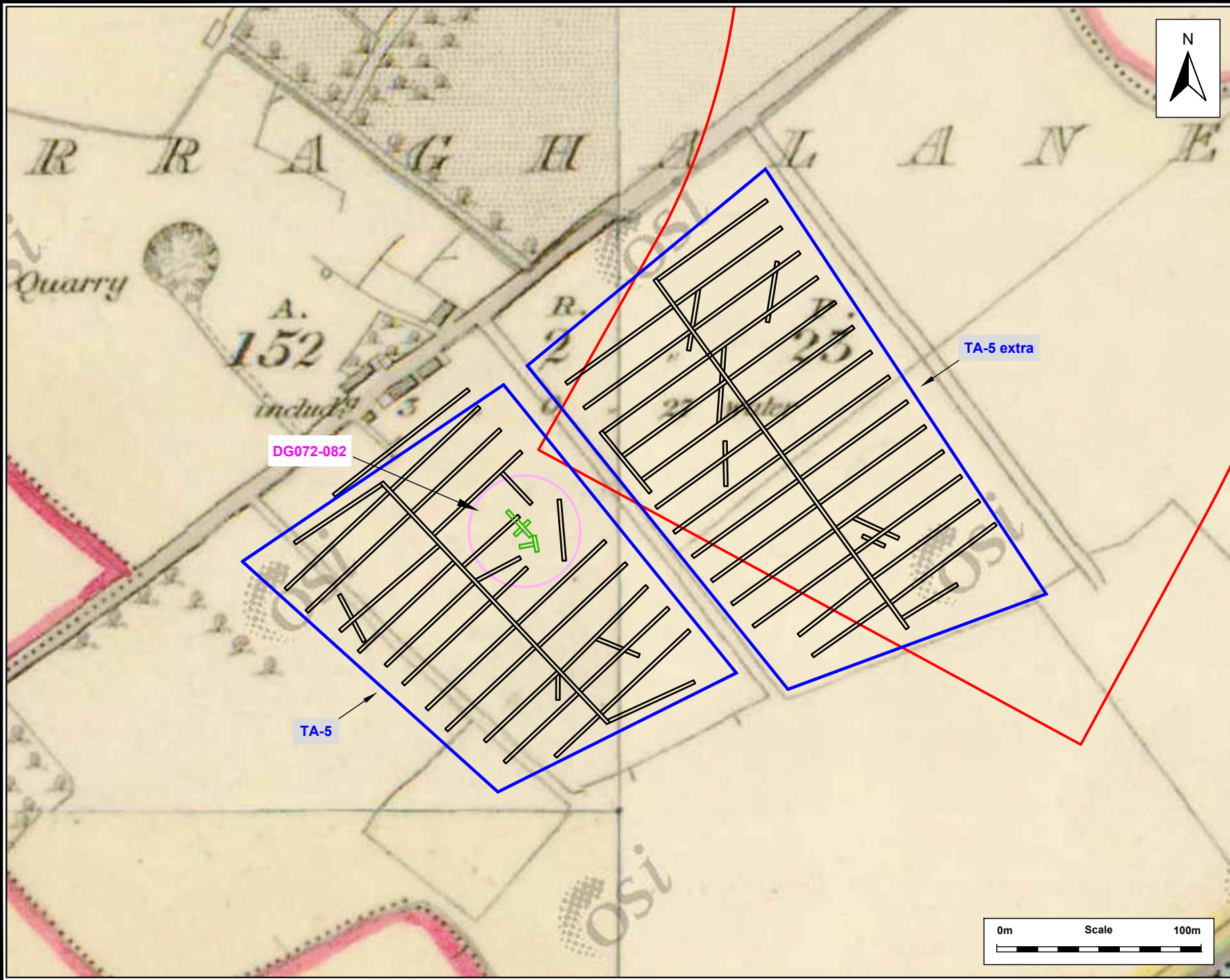







Figure No. 4

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

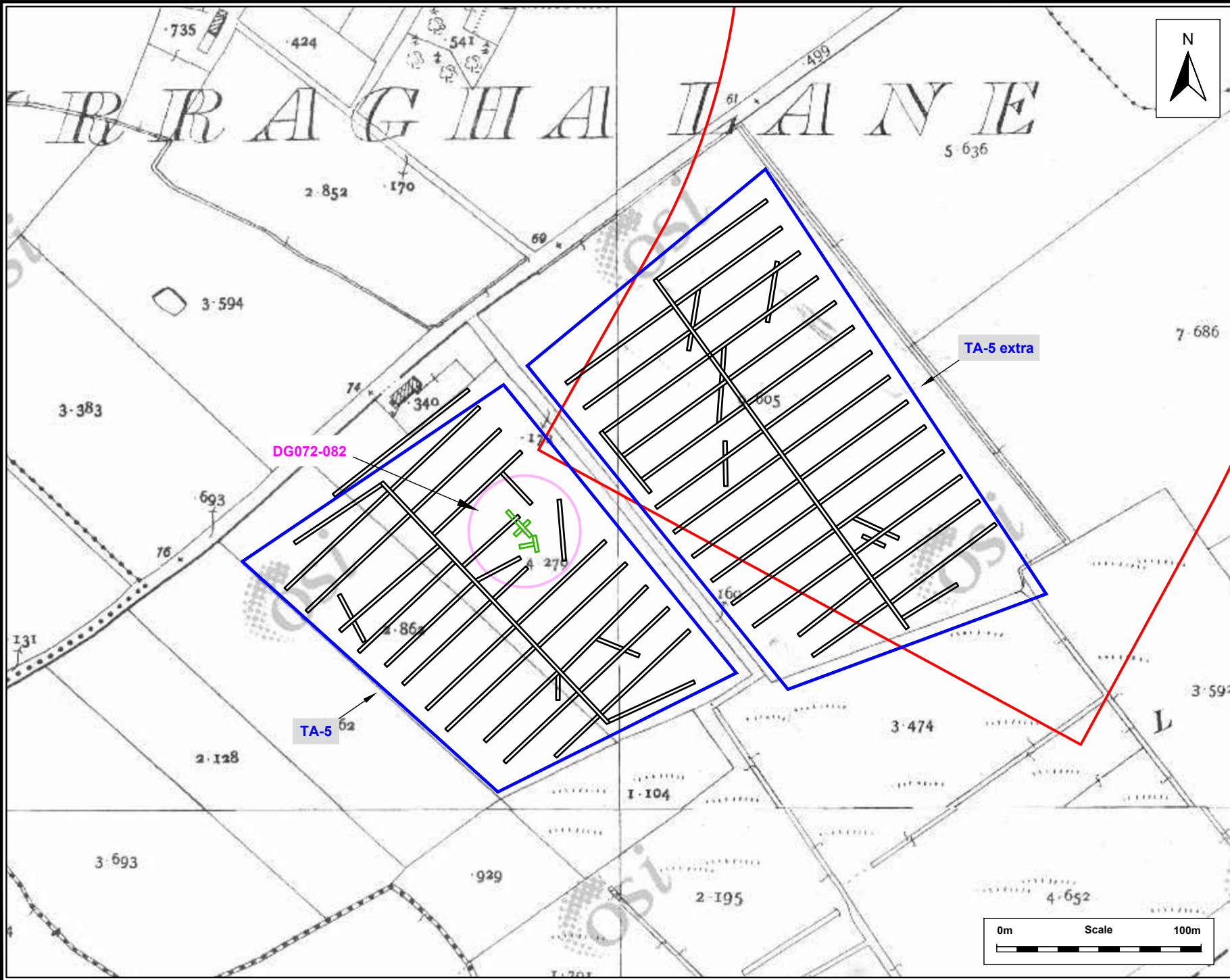
TA-5 Curraghalane  
Trenching layout overlaid on 25-inch OS map

Legend

-  Scheme Corridor
-  Stage (I) Testing Area
-  Recorded Monument and Zone of Notification
-  Stage (I)a test trenches
-  Manually excavated test trenches

Scale 1:2500@A4	Date 12 01 21
--------------------	------------------

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**Figure No. 5**

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

**TA-5 Curraghane**  
Trenching layout overlaid on modern aerial photography

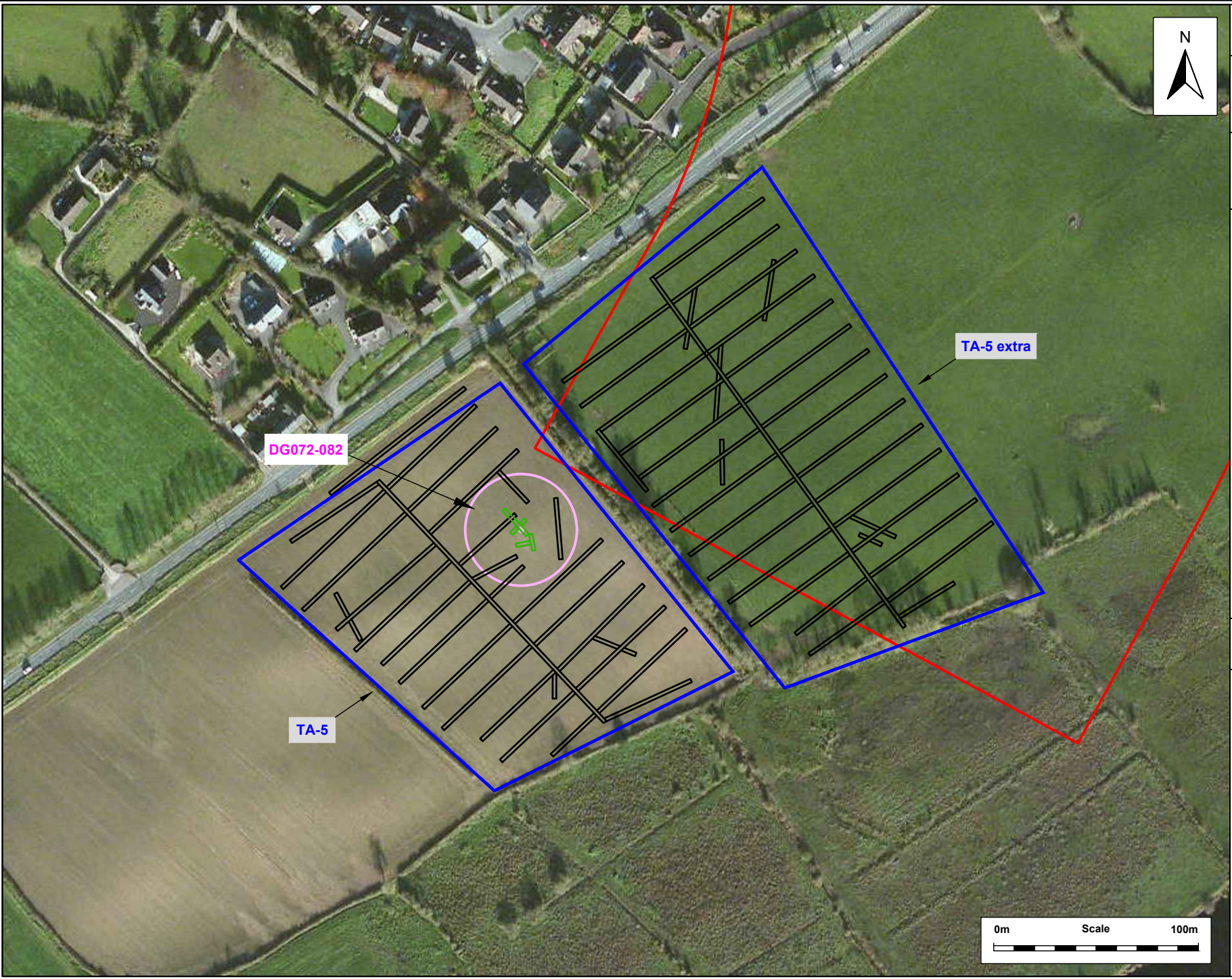
**Legend**

-  Scheme Corridor
-  Stage (I) Testing Area
-  Recorded Monument and Zone of Notification
-  Stage (I)a test trenches
-  Manually excavated test trenches

Scale  
1:2500@A4

Date  
12 01 21

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DG072-082

TA-5 extra

TA-5

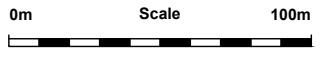







Figure No. 6

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

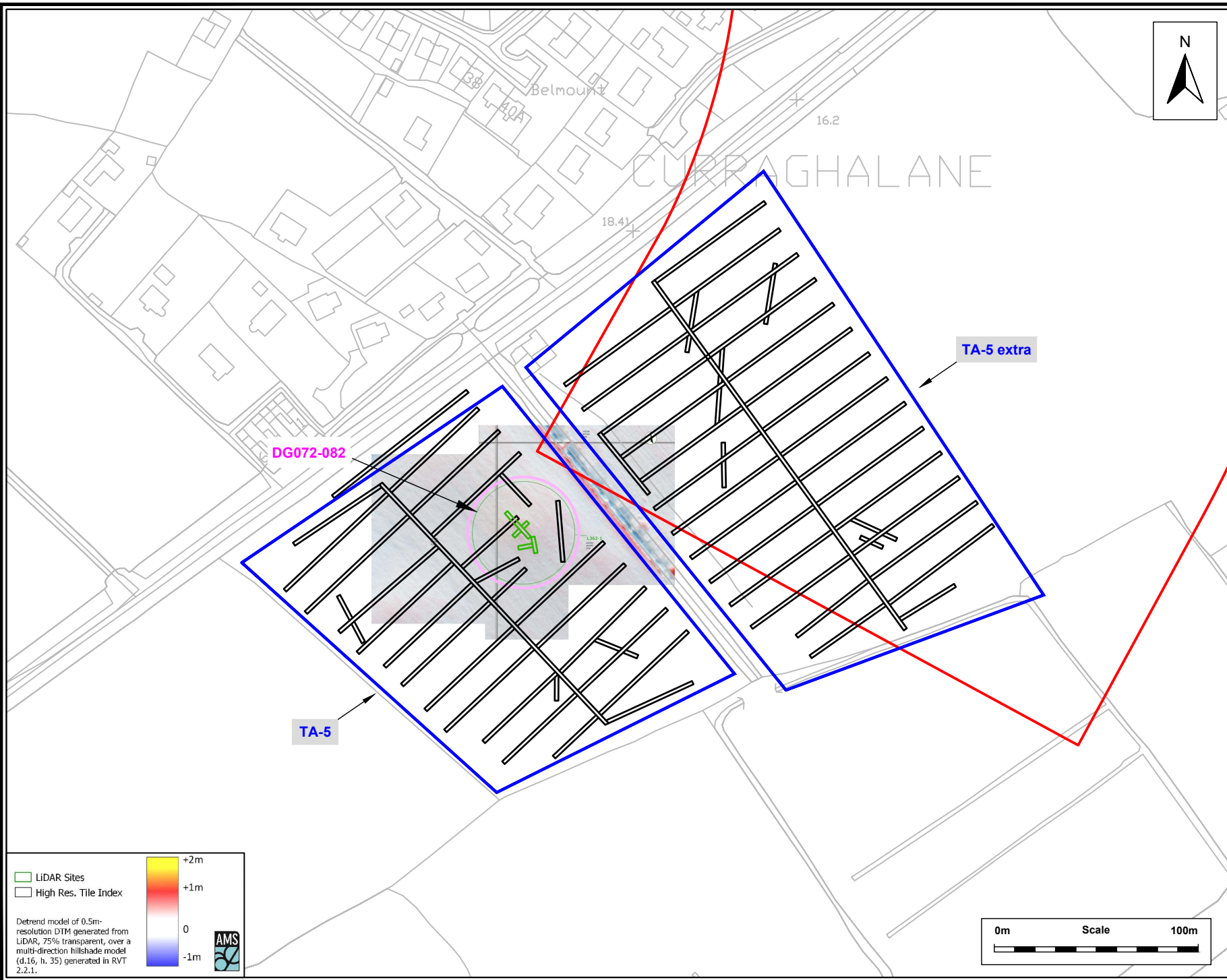
TA-5 Curraghane  
Trenching layout overlaid on LiDAR survey



Legend

-  Scheme Corridor
-  Stage (i) Testing Area
-  Recorded Monument and Zone of Notification
-  Stage (i)a test trenches
-  Manually excavated test trenches

Scale 1:2500@A4	Date 12 01 21
--------------------	------------------

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 LiDAR Sites  
 High Res. Tile Index

Detrended model of 0.5m-resolution DTM generated from LiDAR, 75% transparent, over a multi-direction hillshade model (d.16, h. 35) generated in RVT 2.2.1.

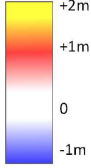

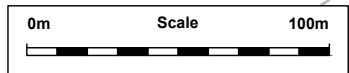




Figure No. 7

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

**TA-5 Curraghane**  
Trenching layout overlaid on resistivity geophysical survey

**Legend**

- Scheme Corridor
- Stage (i) Testing Area
- Recorded Monument and Zone of Notification
- Stage (i)a test trenches
- Manually excavated test trenches
- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Low Resistance Anomaly
- High Resistance Anomaly
- Cultivation
- Feature on Historic OS

Scale 1:2500@A4	Date 12 01 21
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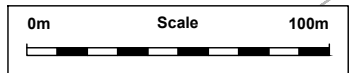
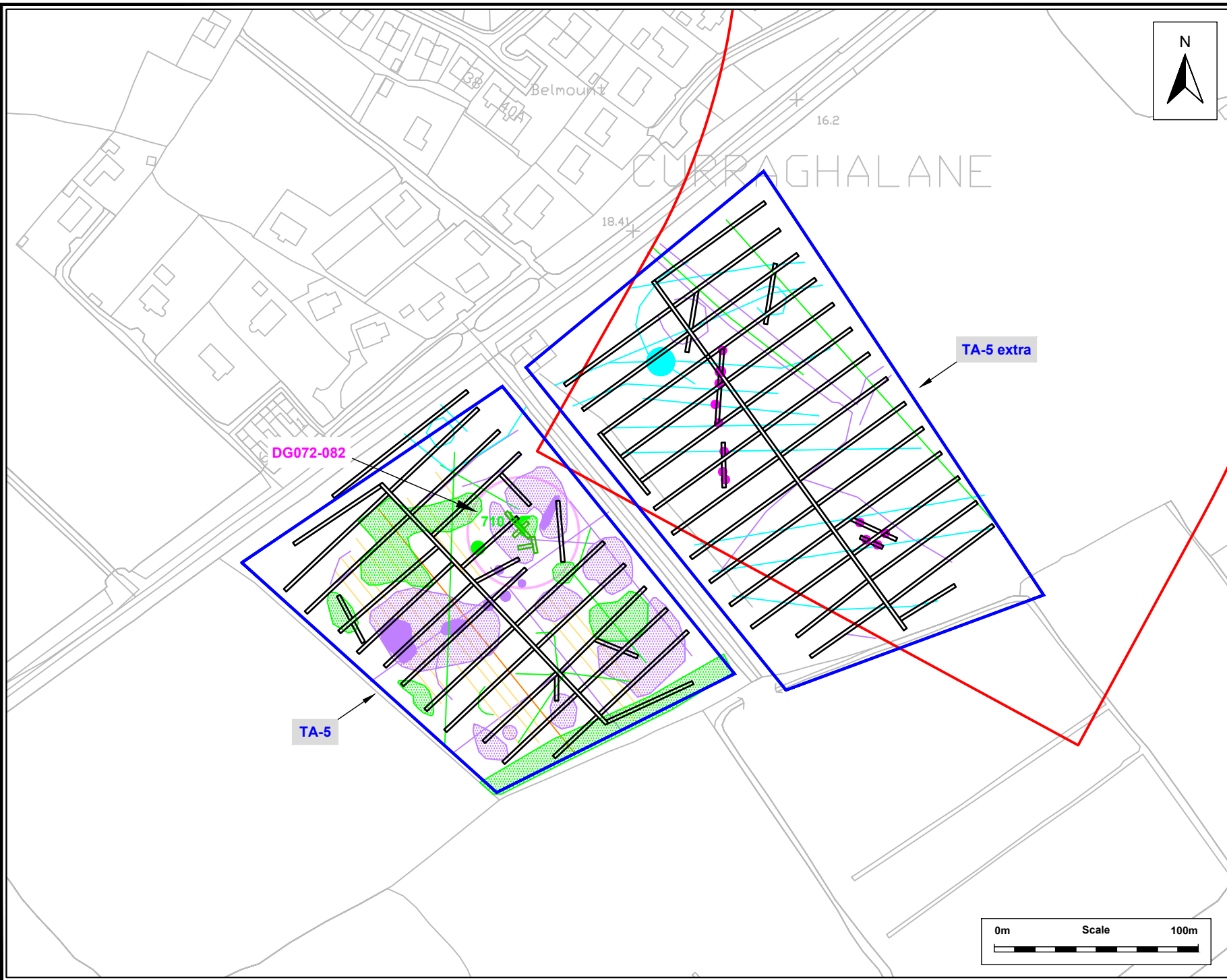


Figure No. 8

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

TA-5 Curraghane  
Trenching layout overlaid on magnetometry geophysical survey

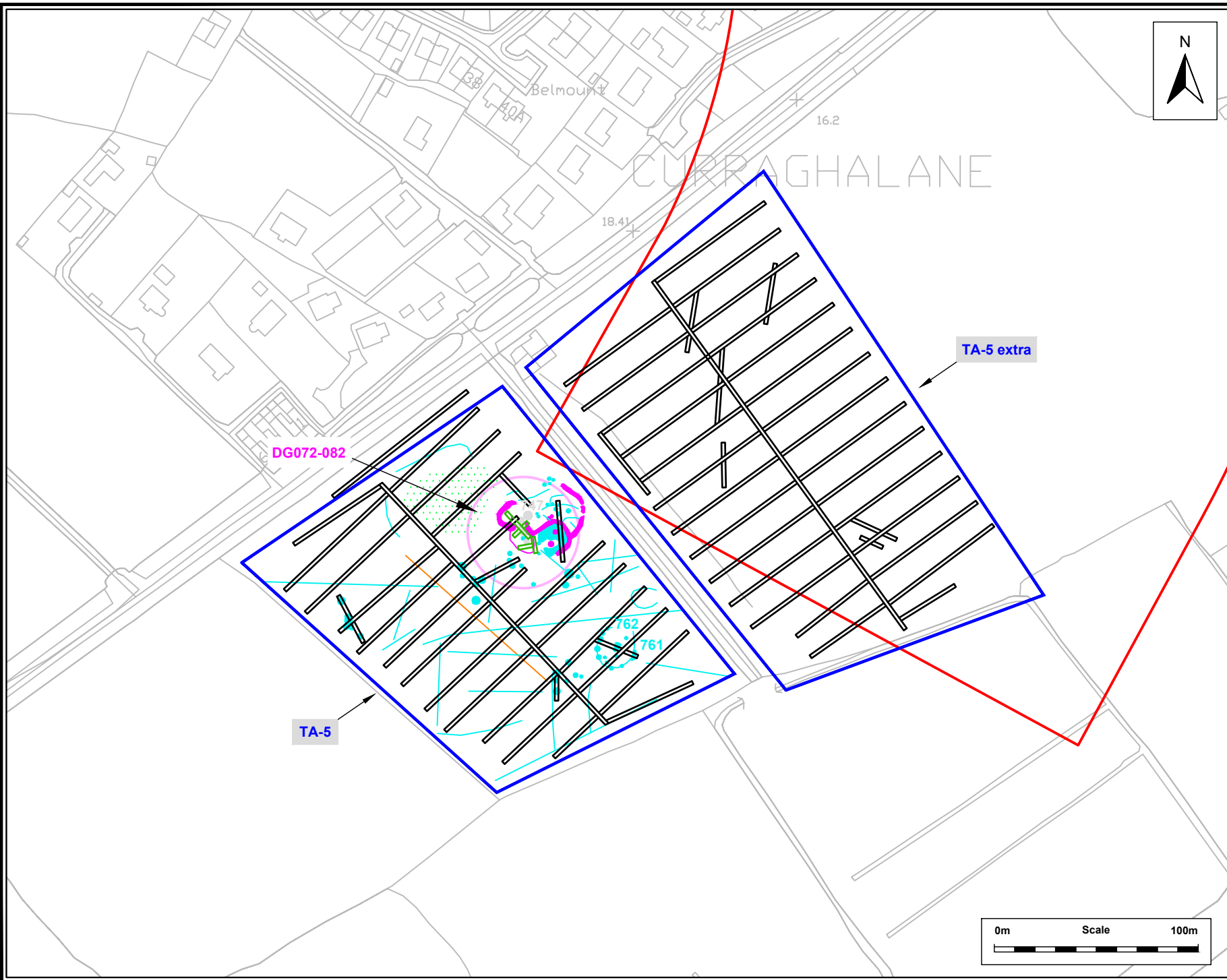
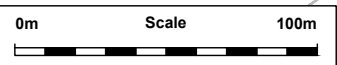
Legend

-  Scheme Corridor
-  Stage (I) Testing Area
-  Recorded Monument and Zone of Notification
-  Stage (I)a test trenches
-  Manually excavated test trenches
-  Archaeology
-  Possible Archaeology
-  Geology
-  Modern Disturbance
-  Feature on Historic OS

Scale  
1:2500@A4

Date  
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DG072-082

TA-5 extra

TA-5

CURRAGHALANE

Belmounty

16.2

18.41

762

761

Figure No. 9

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

TA-5 Curraghalane  
Trenching layout overlaid on ground penetrating radar geophysical survey

Legend

- Scheme Corridor
- Stage (i) Testing Area
- Recorded Monument and Zone of Notification
- Stage (i)a test trenches
- Manually excavated test trenches
- Possible Archaeology
- Ditch
- Compact Feature
- Disturbed Ground
- Possible Archaeology Zone

Scale 1:2500@A4	Date 12 01 21
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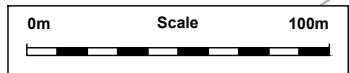
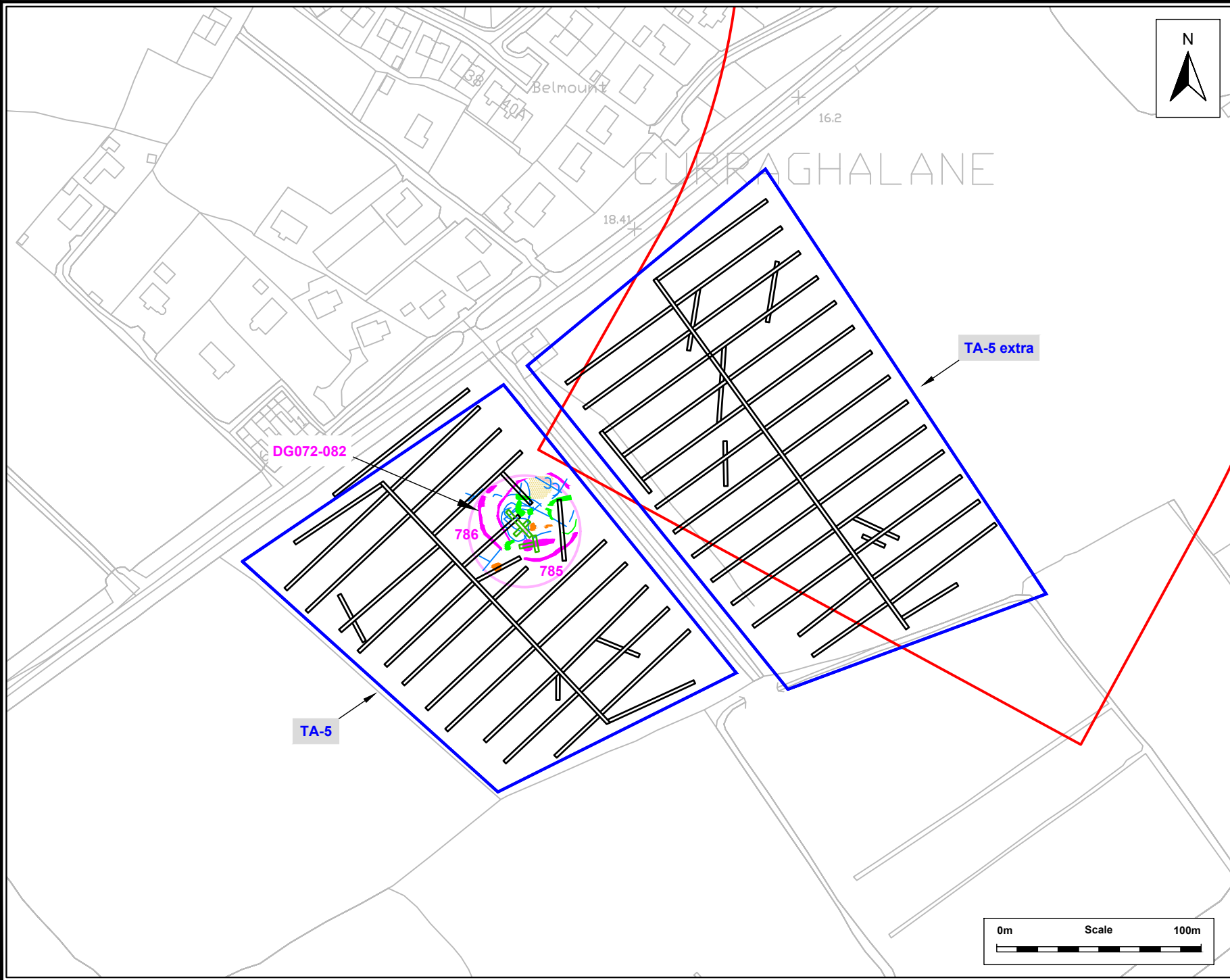


Figure No. 10

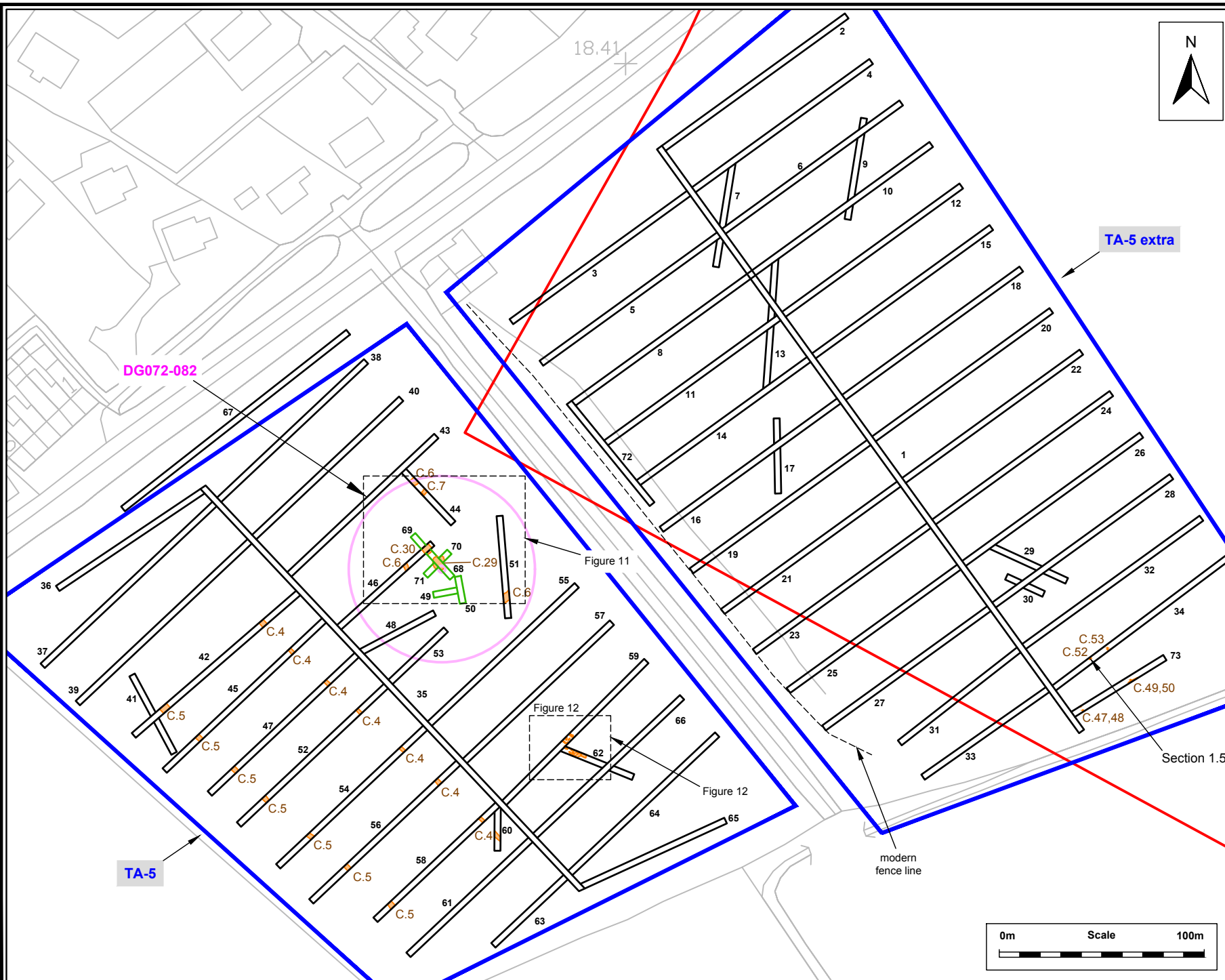
TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

TA-5 Curraghalane  
Completed trench detail  
showing recorded features



Legend

- Scheme Corridor
- Stage (i) Testing Area
- Recorded Monument and Zone of Notification
- Stage (i)a test trenches
- Manually excavated test trenches



Scale 1:2500@A4	Date 12 01 21
--------------------	------------------

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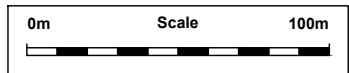
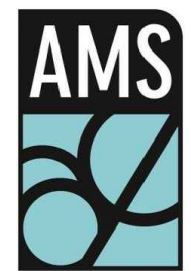








Figure No. 11

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

TA-5 Curraghane Features in Trenches 44, 46, 51 and 68-71



Legend

-  Stage (i)a test trenches
-  Manually excavated test trenches
-  Archaeological Feature
-  Section Point
-  Section Line
-  OD Level

Scale 1:200@A4

Date 12 01 21

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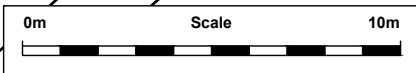
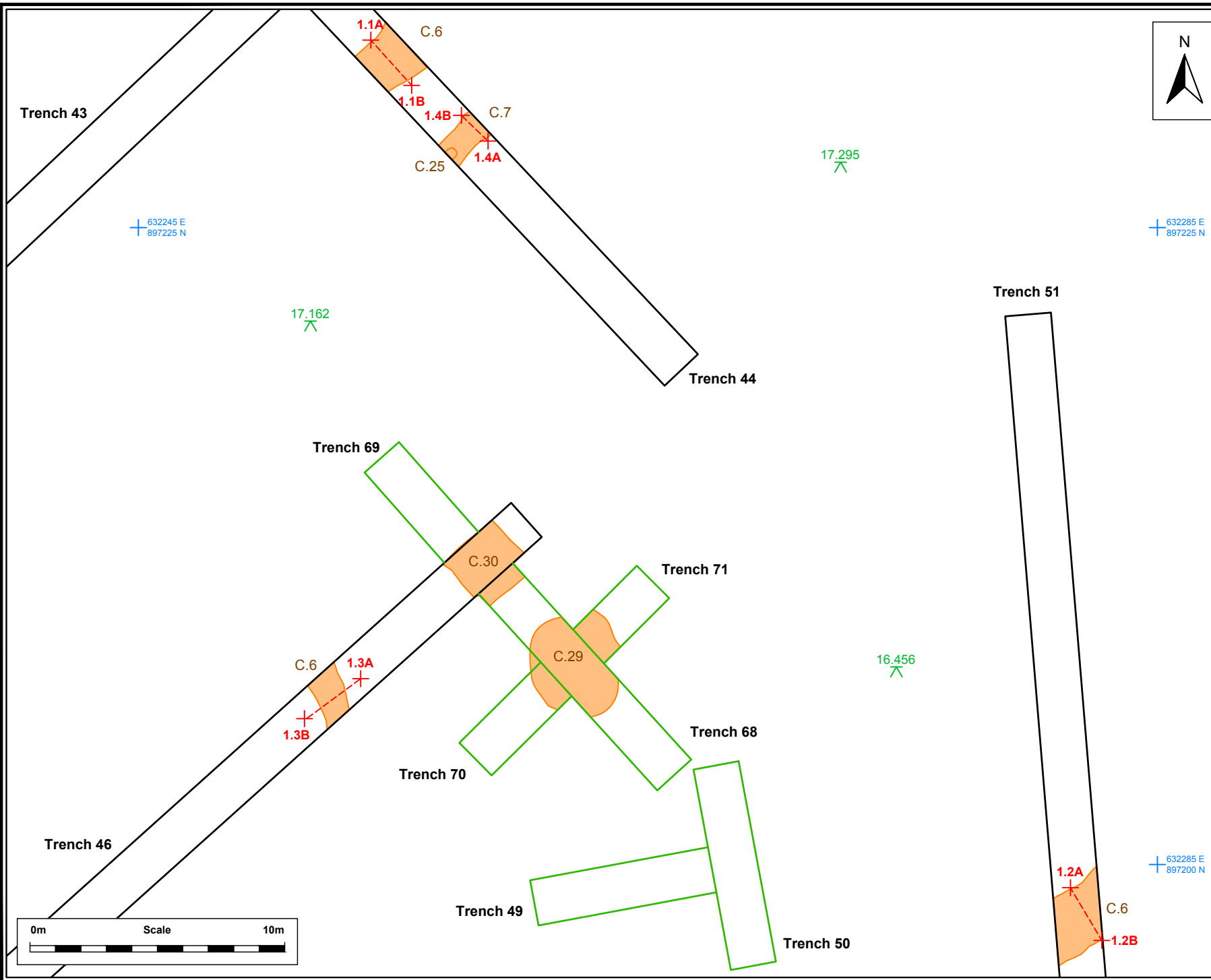
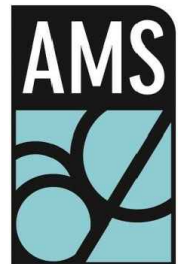


Figure No. 12

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

TA-5 Curraghallane  
Features in Trenches 59 and 62

Legend

- Stage (i)a test trenches
- Archaeological Feature
- Section Point
- Section Line
- OD Level



632290 E  
897160 N

9.402

632310 E  
897160 N

9.339

632290 E  
897150 N

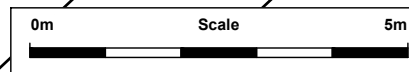
- C.9
- C.8
- C.10
- C.11
- C.12
- C.13
- C.14
- C.15
- C.16
- C.17
- C.18
- C.19
- C.20
- C.21
- C.22
- C.23
- C.24
- C.25
- C.26
- C.27
- C.28
- C.29
- C.30
- C.31
- C.32
- C.33
- C.34
- C.35
- C.36
- C.37
- C.38
- C.39
- C.40
- C.41-43

9.014

Trench 59

Trench 62

Trench 66



Scale  
1:100@A4

Date  
12 01 21

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**Figure No. 13**

TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal

**TA-5 Curraghalane**  
Select section drawings of features from Trenches 34, 44, 46 and 51

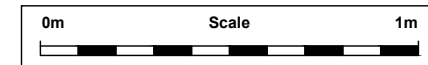
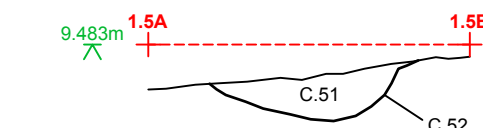
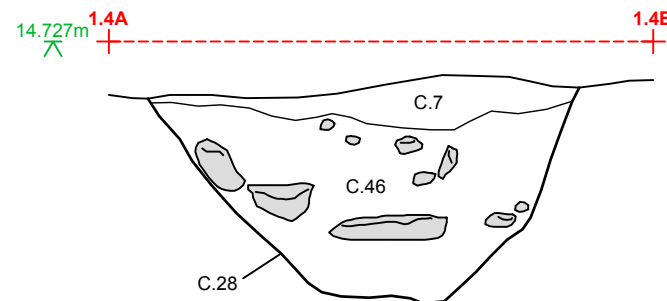
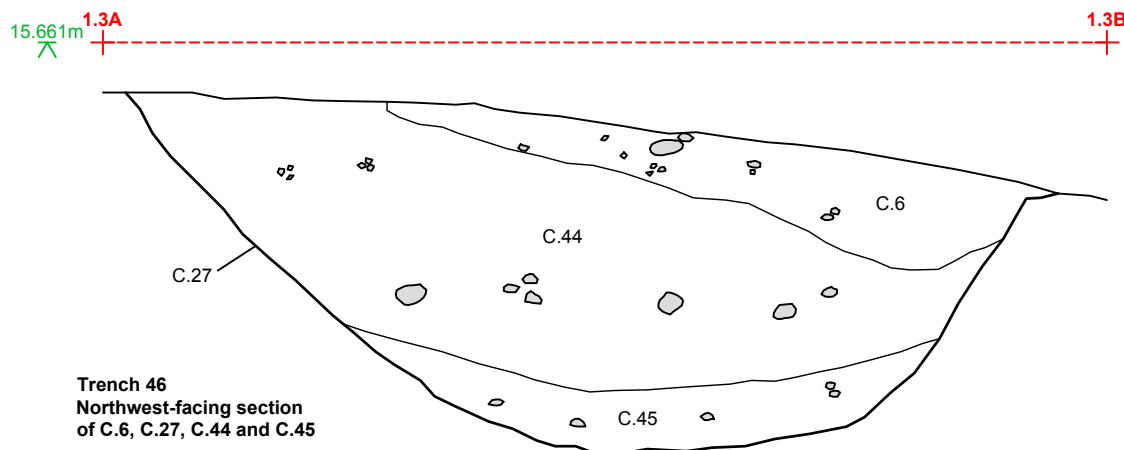
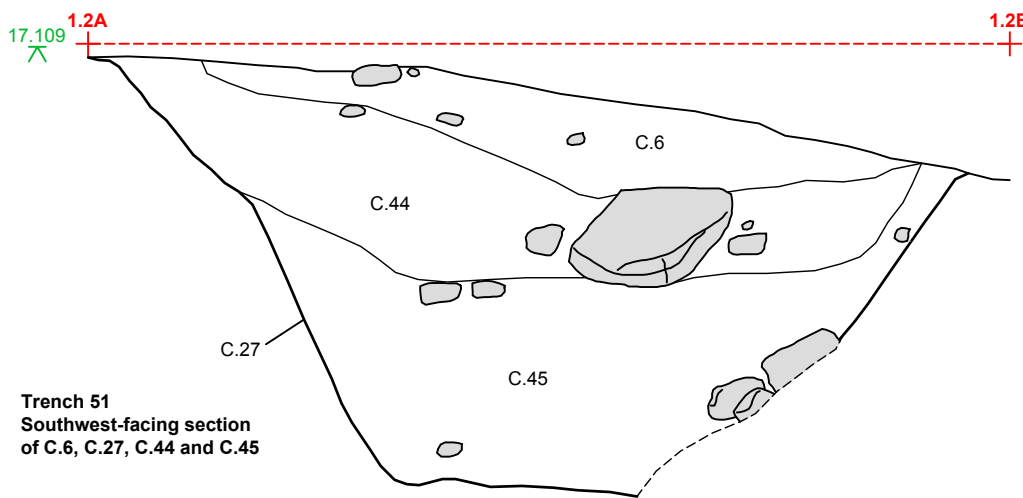
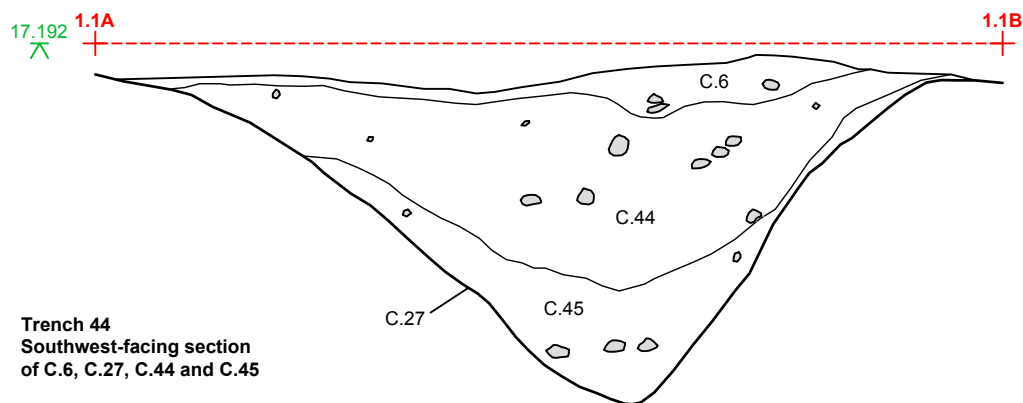
**Legend**

-  Stones
-  Section Point
-  Section Line
-  OD Level

Scale  
1:20@A4

Date  
12 01 21

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## PLATES



Plate 1: Example of trenching in the western field (T47); facing east



Plate 2: Example of trenching in the eastern field (T33); facing southwest



Plate 3: Early modern field boundary (C.4) at Curraghane; facing northwest



Plate 4: Enclosure ditch fill (C.6 in T51) at Curraghane (pre-excitation); facing east



Plate 5: Enclosure ditch ([C.27] in T51) at Curraghallane; facing northwest



Plate 6: Enclosure ditch ([C.27] in T44) at Curraghallane; facing northwest



Plate 7: Linear fill C.7 and pit C.25 (pre-excitation in T44) at Curraghane; facing northeast



Plate 8: Linear [C.28] (T44) at Curraghane; facing southwest



Plate 9: Collapsed souterrain fill C.29 (T68) at Curraghane; facing west



Plate 10: Collapsed souterrain fill C.30 (T46) at Curraghane; facing east



Plate 11: C.8–C.18 (T59) at Curraghane; facing northeast



Plate 12: Pit C.12 (containing pottery) and [C.54] (T59) at Curraghane; facing north



Plate 13: Pit C.8 and [C.55] (T59) at Curraghane; facing southwest



Plate 14: C.51 and [C.52] (T34) at Curraghane; facing west



Plate 15: Backfilling complete at Curraghallane, with re-seeding in progress; facing south