

## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Oxigen Environmental Ltd requested that Ellen O Carroll, Archaeological Consultancy, conduct a walkover assessment on part of Corranure Landfill, Co. Cavan in order to assess the impact of the proposed development plans on the receiving archaeological and cultural heritage environment. This report also proposes ameliorative measures to safeguard any monuments, features, finds of antiquity or features of cultural heritage merit.*

*Development plans include the operation of Cell 3 together with the development of Cell 4, proposed development of a Materials Recovery facility and a Biological Waste Treatment Centre.*

*Two Environmental Impact Statements and two archaeological monitoring reports were previously carried out in 1998/2003 and 2001/2005 respectively by Margaret Gowen & Company for Cavan County Council, which failed to identify anything of archaeological interest within the proposed development. A desk-based assessment was also carried out, looking at documentary and cartographic sources for information on the history of the site. Maps dating back to the first edition of the Ordnance Survey of 1837 were consulted as part of this study. Nothing of an archaeological or historical nature were noted in the areas proposed for development on the cartographic records.*

*A walkover survey undertaken by Ellen O Carroll did not uncover any unknown archaeological monuments or sites of archaeological potential within the proposed development area.*

*A ringfort (RMP CN021:063) is located 60 metres north east of the proposed development area in Lismagratty townland. Within a 700m radius of the site boundary, another two ringforts and one possible moated site occur. There will be no direct physical impact upon the ringfort. The area proposed for development which is in close proximity to the ringfort has previously been excavated and disturbed by Cavan County Council. Notwithstanding the above facts one small portion of greenfield lies in the proposed development area and it is recommended that this area is archaeologically monitored or tested during topsoil stripping for the proposed Material Recovery facility and Biological Waste Treatment Centre. Cell 3 and 4 have been archaeologically monitored previously therefore there are no recommendations regarding these areas.*

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This report assesses the archaeological and historical importance of the land under consideration for the proposed development to Corranure Landfill with regards to Cells 3 and 4 and the proposed Materials Recovery facility and Biological Waste Treatment Centre, Lismagratty townland, Co. Cavan. This report also proposes ameliorative measures to safeguard any monuments, features, finds of antiquity or features of cultural heritage merit.
- 1.2. In topographical terms, the existing landfill and proposed development area lie in a sheltered valley bounded by drumlin hills on all sides. These hills were settled in the Early Medieval period as evidenced by ringforts in Lismagratty (CN021:063), Corranure (CN021:018), Drumbo (CN020:027) and Cross (CN020:007), located approximately 60m, 520m, 200m and 700m respectively from the proposed landfill.
- 1.3. The walkover assessment was carried out in conjunction with the consultation of aerial photographs (Figure 2) supplied by the client as well as historical Ordnance Survey maps, dating from 1836, 1912 and 1950. These maps depict changes in land use and settlement now largely invisible at ground level.

## **2. Development History**

- 2.1. This walkover assessment report is to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and Waste Licence Application for the present landfill completed in 1998 & 2003 (Reilly 1998 & Sutton 2003), and on the results of archaeological monitoring subsequently carried out during expansion within the landfill in August 2001 (O'Meara 2001) and August 2005 (Lohan 2005).

Current development plans include the operation of Cell 3 together with the development of Cell 4, proposed development of a C & D Waste Recovery facility and a Biological Waste Treatment Centre. Two EIS reports (1998, 2003) and archaeological monitoring reports (2001 & 2005) were previously carried out by Margaret Gowen & Company for

Cavan County Council. One small burnt spread was recorded during monitoring in 2001 by O Meara but further work failed to identify anything of archaeological interest within the proposed development.

### **3 Archaeological and Historical Background (after Sutton 2005)**

#### *3.1 Archaeological Heritage*

Until the construction of the Cavan bypass in the late 1990s the archaeological record in the townlands surrounding Lismagraty was dominated by Early Medieval settlement (c. AD 500–1100), represented in two site types that show the juxtaposition of Anglo-Norman and Gaelic settlement at this time. The site types are the ringfort, a typical Gaelic form of settlement, and the moated site, common in the Anglo-Norman period. The catalogue of ringforts include CN021:063 in Lismagraty, CN020:027 in Drumbo, CN021:018 in Corranure and CN020:007 in Cross. A rectangular enclosure, CN021:039 in Fartan Lower, may be a possible moated site (Fig. 1).

Ringforts are the most common and widely distributed of Irish monument types. They are known by a variety of names including *rath*, *caiseal*, *lios*, *cathair* and *dún* – terms which are incorporated into a variety of placenames. The name Lismagraty is probably derived from ringfort CN021:063, which overlooks the proposed landfill extension area approx. 60m northeast of the area for development (Plate 1). The placename has been variously translated as *Lios Mhic Ghreachtaigh*, meaning Mc Gratty's fort (Ó Ceallaigh, no date) and *Lios na gCrataigh*, the fort of the rafters (*Ballyhaise and Castletara, Past and Present*, no date).

A ringfort comprises a circular, oval or D-shaped raised area, usually measuring between 20 and 50m in diameter. It is usually enclosed by one or more banks constructed of earth and stone excavated from a concentric external fosse or fosses (a rath), or by a wall or walls of drystone masonry (a cashel) (Stout 1997). They were not 'forts' in the military sense but rather served as defended farmsteads, affording both the human and

animal inhabitants a certain amount of protection from wild animals and raiders.

Despite the fact that ringforts are the most numerous Irish monument type, very few have been excavated. Those that have suggest that most date to the Early Medieval Period (c. 500-1100AD). However, some are known to date to the Iron Age and others to the Late Medieval period. The ringfort in Lismagratty (CN021:063), for example, is described in the RMP file and Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan as a raised circular area enclosed by two substantial external banks with outer fosses. Within the context of the existing landscape it is possible that the site could be early in date, and may be prehistoric in origin.

Most of the ringforts in Co. Cavan are found on or close to, the highest point on a drumlin hill or ridge, as in the case of the ringforts in Lismagratty, Drumbo, Corranure and Cross. The general environment of Co. Cavan accounts for the high rate of preservation of these sites. Most of the land is used for pasture and, therefore, the rate of denudation is much reduced.

A rectangular enclosure, CN021:039 in Fartan Lower, lacks the necessary evidence to be conclusively classified as a moated site. However, the site has been classed as a possible moated site. Moated sites are a form of medieval settlement commonly found in those areas once controlled by the Normans and Anglo-Normans in northwestern Europe, including Britain and parts of the south and east of Ireland. Essentially, they were isolated, well-defended farmsteads. A typical moated site comprises a rectangular area enclosed by a wide, water-filled moat or fosse with internal bank. A wooden palisade was often constructed on the bank (O'Donovan 1995).

Development led archaeological investigations in the townlands surrounding Lismagratty, in particular those undertaken during the

construction of the Cavan bypass in neighbouring Drumbo have added in recent years to the archaeological record of the area. Two new sites (Sites 1 and 2) were identified in Drumbo during monitoring of topsoil stripping on the bypass in 1998; both have been classed as a *fulacht fiadh*, which is a cooking site that generally dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300–500 BC). This site type consists of a trough in which heated stones were used to boil water. The stones, when fire-cracked beyond use, were discarded and often formed a kidney-shaped mound around the trough. No trough was found at Site 1, which was situated close to a stream; a subrectangular wooden trough was recorded at Site 2 (Murphy 2000).

A very small area of burnt material was also recorded during archaeological monitoring at the northwest end of the present landfill during expansion in 2001 (O'Meara 2001). The burnt spread, which was situated on the edge of a wetland area, presently characterised by a prolific growth of reeds, and indicated as such on the revised 1912 edition OS six-inch map, presented itself as a small spread of fire-cracked and blackened stone measuring a maximum of 2.8m long and 1.9m wide, and no more than 5cm deep.

The burnt spread and *fulacht fiadh* in Drumbo confirm the presence of prehistoric settlers in Lismagraty and surrounding townlands, well in advance of the Early Medieval activity connected with the ringforts in Lismagraty and surrounding townlands.

#### **4 Results of walkover survey**

- 4.1 The proposed development site of the C & D Waste Recovery system (Area A) and the Biological Waste Treatment facility (Area B) is presently sub-divided into two areas by a hedgerow and ditch. The proposed treatment centres are to be located on the eastern side of the landfill site *ca* 60 metres south west of the ringfort RMP CN021:063. The area for the C & D waste system is located on the southern side of the hedgerow (Plate 2) while the area for the

Biological Waste Treatment facility is on the northern portion (Plate 3 & 4).

- 4.2 Cell 3 and Cell 4 are situated on the western side of the landfill site (Plate 1). There is no topsoil and very little subsoils present in these areas. Previous archaeological monitoring was carried out for the development of the original landfill site and Cell 4 (O Meara, 2001 & Lohan, 2005). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the monitoring of Cell 4 while a small burnt spread was uncovered during earlier monitoring phases by O Meara in 2001.
- 4.3 Area A – This is the area where the shed for the proposed MRF will be erected (Figure 3 & Plate 2). The area is defined by a hedgerow on the northern edges and green marshy fields on the western and southern edges. The western edge of this development area abuts a small roadway leading into the landfill site. The proposed development area has been largely modified and excavated out on the past. The ground levels have been reduced and the area has been paved with gravel. A small area of greenfield remains unmodified at the eastern end of the development site and this area should be archaeologically resolved prior to any development occurring.
- 4.4 Area B The location for the Biological Waste Treatment facility (Figure 3 & Plate 3 & 4). It consists of a large sub-rectangular area and is subdivided from area A by a bank and hedgerow on its southern side. The area is delineated by substantially excavated ground on the northern and eastern edges and a roadway on the western edges. A small lane also runs alongside the southern boundaries. All topsoil and substantial quantities of subsoil have been removed from the development site. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the area proposed for development in areas A or B.
- 4.5 The ringfort (CN0021-63) located close to the development site was also examined (Plate 5). It is a bivallete ditched enclosure and is presently covered totally in hazel coppice wood and other scrub

vegetation. It is difficult to access the interior of the ringfort. It was noted that the excavated area associated with the extraction of cover material for the landfill site is currently right up to the corner of the southwestern edge of the ringfort.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The walkover assessment has indicated that the two zones (Area A & B) proposed for development have been largely modified and excavated to natural subsoils during the lifetime of Corranure landfill. The excavation of Cells 3 and 4 have had various levels of archaeological monitoring completed in association with their development in the recent past. A small burnt spread was the only archaeological feature uncovered during these monitoring phases. There is one small area of marshy greenfield located at the western portion of Area A (site of C & D waste facility). This area should be archaeologically monitored or tested prior to any development work being carried out in the area.

5.2 Area A and B where the Materials Recovery Facility (A) and the Biological Waste Treatment facility (B) is to be located is situated approx 60 metres from an existing ringfort (CN 0021-063). There will be no physical impact on this ringfort. As the surrounding landscape is largely developed, modified and encroached upon in the past there will be a low visual impact upon the ringfort. The ringfort is presently covered in hedgerows and hazel coppice wood and presents itself as a line of trees rather than an archaeological site in the present landscape.

## **6 Recommendations for mitigation\***

6.1 In light of the findings of this walkover assessment, the author recommends the following mitigation measures:

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### **\* Disclaimer**

The recommendations made in this report represent the views of the author, and are subject to the approval of the Heritage and Planning Division of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the National Museum of Ireland, and the Local Authority, who may direct implementation of, or amendments/additions to the above recommendations.



- An appropriate buffer zone to be devoid of any development surrounding Lismagretty ringfort (RMP CN 021-063) and to be agreed with the DoEHLG.
- Archaeological monitoring or testing of the marshy greenfield areas located at the eastern end of Area A.
- It is recommended that an action plan be established to provide appropriate preservation and conservation of Lismagretty ringfort and the surrounding areas. This should be done in association with the Heritage Division of the DoEHLG.

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7 Figure and Plates

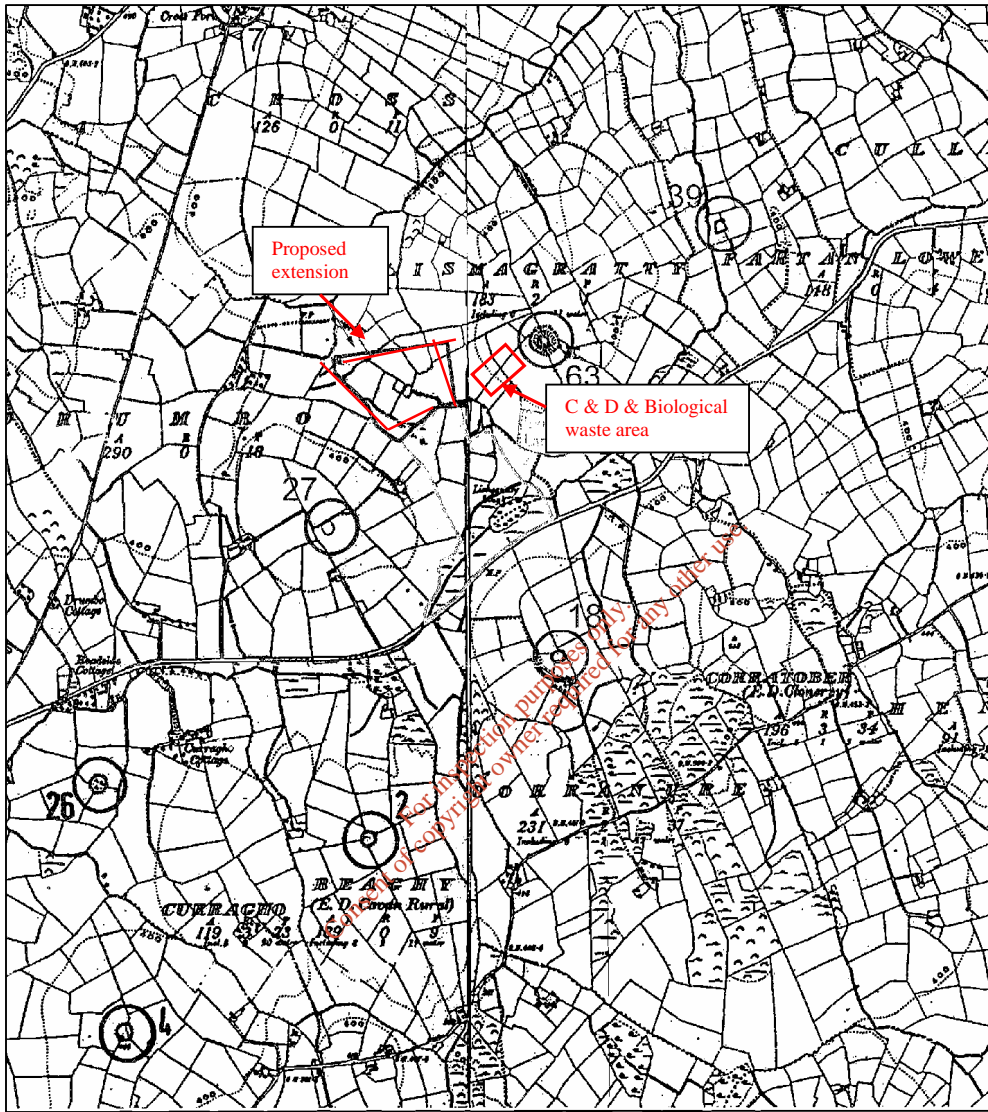


Figure 1: Location of development site on the Record of Monument and Places map.

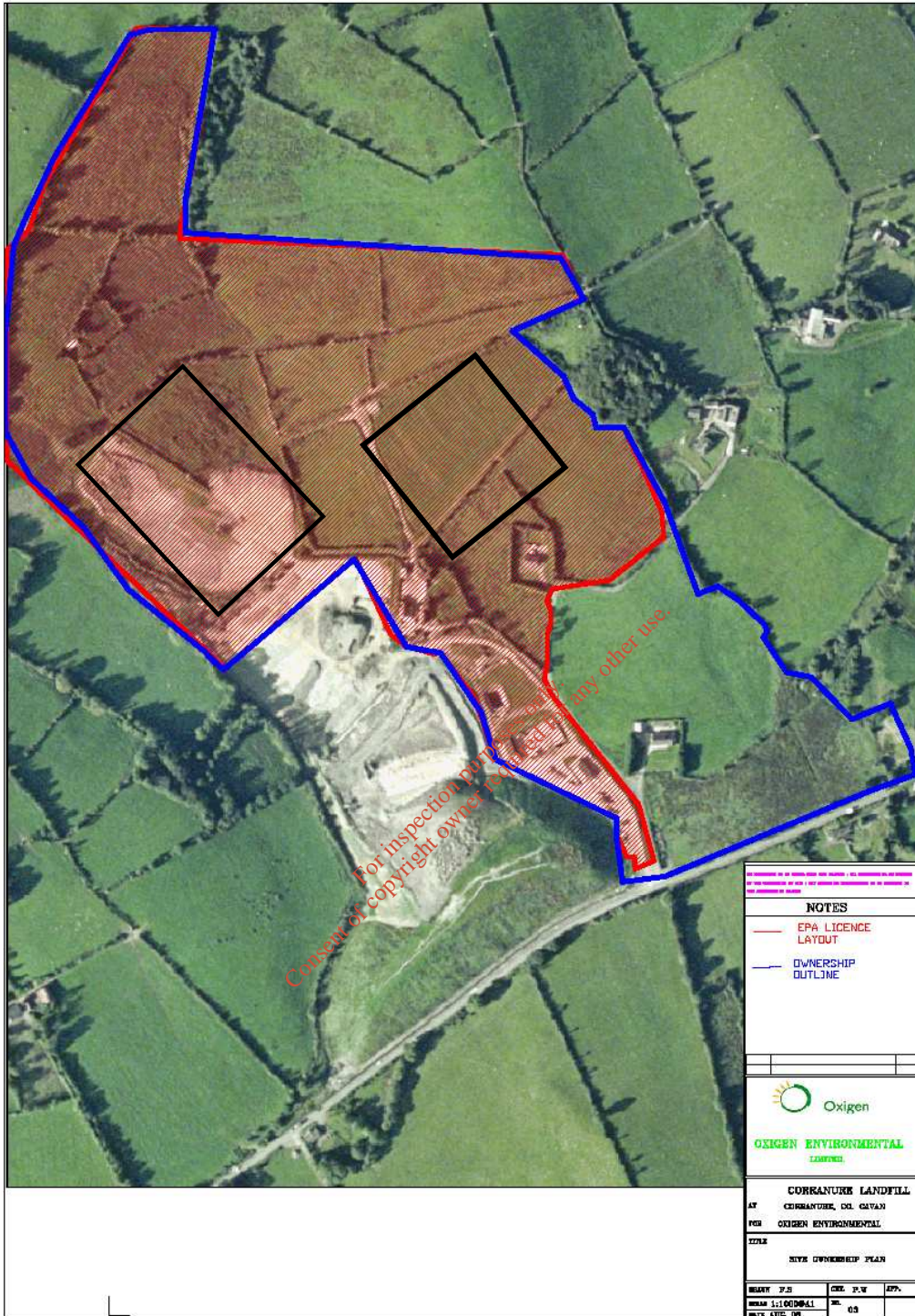


Figure 2: Aerial photograph of landfill site highlighting areas for development

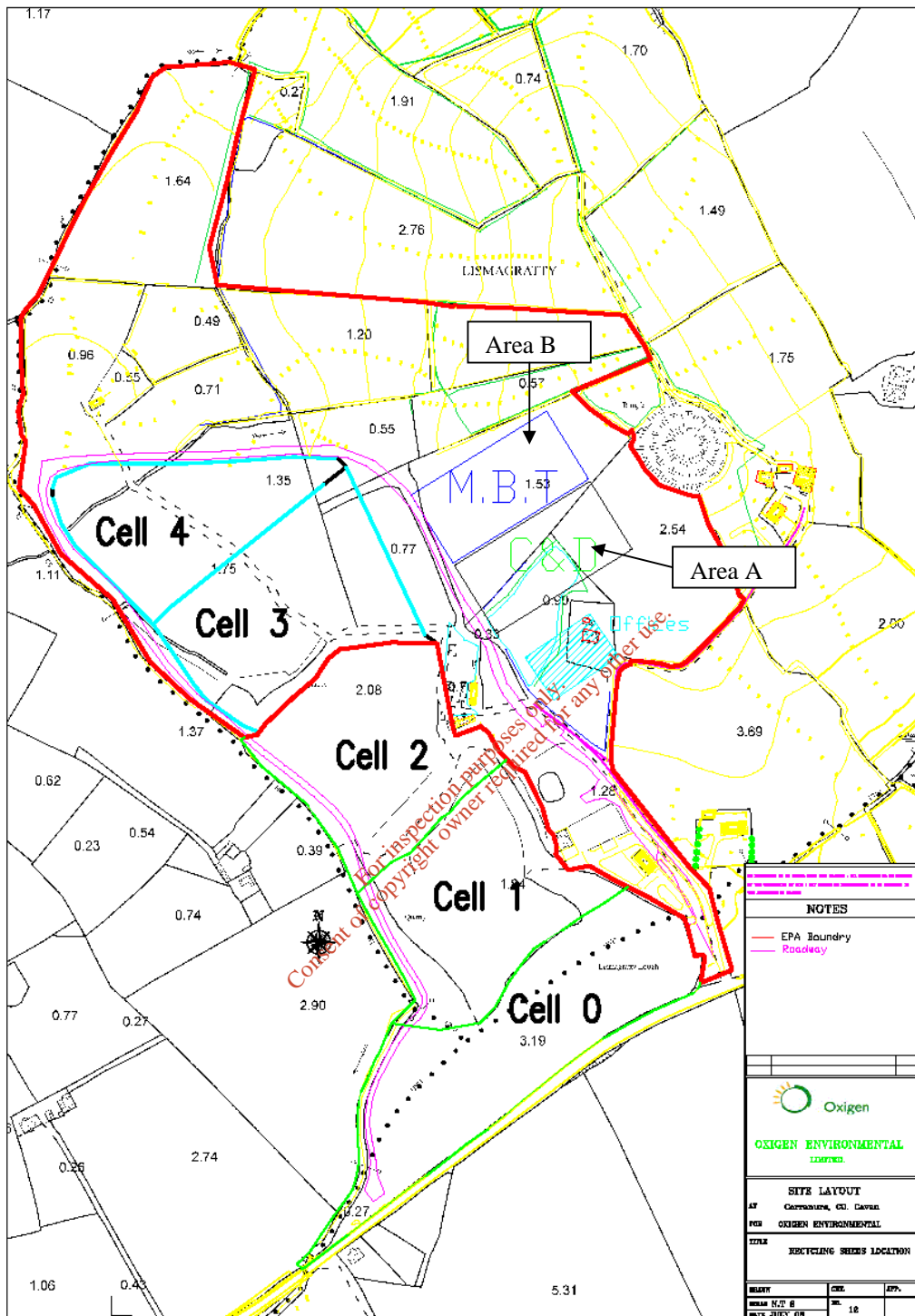


Figure 3: Detailed development plans showing location of C & D waste facility and Biological Treatment Area





Plate 1: Landfill site taken from ringfort (CN 021-063). Cells 3 and 4 are in the background.



Plate 2: Area A. Location of proposed C & D waste facility



Plate 3: Location of Biological Waste treatment plant



Plate 4: Location of Biological waste treatment facility. Note previously disturbed area close to the ringfort





Plate 5: Ringfort as seen from the landfill site

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**Archaeological Heritage  
Architectural Heritage and  
Cultural Heritage**

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

**Corranure Landfill  
Lismagratty  
County Cavan**

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**Marion Sutton  
Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd**

**On behalf of  
M. C. O'Sullivan & Co. Ltd**

**For  
Cavan County Council**

**August 21<sup>st</sup> 2003**

## Illustrations

### Figures

- Figure 1 Site location map (based on the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series; scale 1:50,000)
- Figure 2 First edition map of the Ordnance Survey six-inch series, surveyed in 1835–36, published in 1836
- Figure 3 Revised 1908–11 edition Ordnance Survey six-inch map, published in 1912
- Figure 4 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) constraints map, based on the Ordnance Survey six-inch revision of 1912
- Figure 5 Topographical survey of the proposed landfill extension area showing the locations of former nineteenth century farmsteads

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- Plate 1 Ringfort CN021:063 overlooking the proposed landfill extension area from the east
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- Plate 3 Unutilised farmstead outside the southeastern boundary of the proposed landfill extension area
- Plate 4 Proposed landfill extension area looking from (left-right) the south, through west to north, from the eastern site boundary
- Plate 5 View north of the domed-shaped nature of the proposed landfill extension area and the site of a former nineteenth century farmstead

### Appendices

- Appendix 1 Inventory of recorded archaeological sites (after the files of the RMP and the Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan)
- Appendix 2 Inventory of recorded stray finds in the townlands surrounding Lismagratty (based on the files of the NMI)
- Appendix 3 National Monuments Legislation

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report outlines the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage issues in respect of extension proposals to Corranure Landfill, Lismagratty townland, Co. Cavan (Fig. 1). The report draws on a previous report prepared as part of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and Waste Licence Application for the present landfill in 1998 (Reilly 1998), and on the results of archaeological monitoring subsequently carried out during expansion within the landfill in August 2001 (O'Meara 2001). The present EIS will accompany a Waste Licence Application for an additional c. 4ha extension to the existing landfill. It is carried out for M.C. O'Sullivan Consulting Engineers on behalf of Cavan County Council.
- 1.2 The purpose of the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage section of the EIS is to assess the importance of the receiving archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, to identify the impact of the extension proposals on this environment and to propose measures to ameliorate any perceived impacts.
- 1.3 There are no recorded archaeological sites, i.e. RMP sites, within the footprint of the proposed landfill extension area; the nearest sites, a ringfort in Lismagratty (CN021:063) and a ringfort in Drumbo (CN020:027), overlook the extension area 170m and 200m from the eastern and southwestern boundaries respectively (Fig. 4). Similarly, there are no records of archaeological stray finds within the National Museum of Ireland's (NMI) stray finds archive for Lismagratty townland. However, during archaeological monitoring of ground reduction works within the present landfill in 2001, a spread of burnt material was recorded at the northwest end of the landfill. The burnt spread was encountered at the perimeter of a wetland area that extends northward into the planned extension area. It was concluded that the find could be indicative of prehistoric activity in this area.
- 1.4 No structures or items of architectural heritage are situated within the proposed landfill extension area; the sites architectural and cultural heritage relates largely to the trace remains of former nineteenth century farmstead settlement and its associated field patterns.

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 General

The assessment of archaeology, architecture and cultural heritage was based on a desktop study of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources. The primary sources availed of are outlined in section 2.2 below, while a detailed list of the documentary sources consulted is presented in the bibliography at the end of the report. These sources are augmented by the findings of a non-invasive site inspection of the proposed expansion area.

### 2.2 Desktop Study

#### *Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)*

The primary sources of information on the field archaeology of the Republic of Ireland are the records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. These records document all known archaeological monuments (Fig. 4) whether extant or destroyed and also contain information on possible and potential sites, including sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs.

Lists of known and potential sites for each county were compiled between 1984 and 1992. These lists, known as the *Sites and Monuments Record*, were accompanied by a set of corresponding annotated maps, published at reduced six-inch scale, on which the sites were clearly marked.

Following the passing of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act of 1994 a second list of monuments in the State was compiled. Section 12 (1) of the Act states that the Commissioners of Public Works (who were then responsible for the functions now carried out by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government) shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such places in respect of each county in the State.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act a Record of Monument and Places has been compiled for each county. Section 12 (3) of the 1994 Act provides a measure of protection for the monuments and places included in these lists. It states:

*When the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded...or any person proposed to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners [now the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government] and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.*

The information in the Record of Monument and Places is derived from that used for the earlier and non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record but with the addition of monuments discovered or authenticated in the interval between the two lists. The Record of Monument and Places follows the same format as the Sites and Monuments Record.

#### *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*

The *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan* (O'Donovan, 1995) is the second stage in the preparation of a comprehensive and up to date inventory of archaeological sites in County Cavan. Inventory surveys are intended to build upon the information gathered in the SMR and RMP and include local information and traditions gathered in the course of fieldwork and a recent examination of sites in the field. However, while the inventories identify many previously unrecorded sites discovered during the course of fieldwork, their brief does not include the active search for new sites. Therefore, while the SMR, RMP and inventory surveys represent the most comprehensive national census of archaeological sites, they account only for recorded sites and many remain to be discovered. See Appendix 1 for an inventory of RMP and Inventory sites within 700m of the proposed landfill extension area.

*The National Museum of Ireland, Topographical Files*

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) archive identify recorded stray finds that have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation. Within the archive finds are provenanced to townland, and in the majority of cases files include details on the location of and nature of the find, often obtained via correspondence between NMI staff and finders of archaeological objects. Where applicable, files also include early twentieth century reports of excavations undertaken by NMI archaeologists subsequent to the find. See Appendix 2 for an inventory of recorded stray finds in the townlands surrounding Lismagraty.

*Excavations Bulletins and Excavations Database*

‘Excavations’ is an annual bulletin that contains summary accounts of all excavations carried out annually in Ireland. The bulletins range from 1969 to 2000, and can be accessed on the web at [www.Excavations.ie](http://www.Excavations.ie). Compiled from the published excavation bulletins the database contains summary accounts of all excavations carried out from 1985 to 2000. The bulletins and database were consulted to establish the results of excavations previously undertaken at sites or as a consequence of development in the vicinity of the proposed landfill extension area.

*Cavan County Development Plan*

The Cavan County Development Plan 1996 and draft County Development Plan 2002 were consulted for schedules of buildings and items of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest that are listed for protection.

The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999, which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000, provides for the inclusion of protected structures into the planning authorities’ development plans and sets out statutory regulations regarding works affecting such structures, thereby giving greater statutory protection to buildings. All structures are now referred to as *Protected Structures* and enjoy equal statutory protection. Under the 1999 Act the entire structure is protected, including a structures interior, exterior, the land lying within the curtilage of the protected structure and other structures within that curtilage. This Act was subsequently

repealed and replaced by the Planning and Development Act, 2000, where the conditions relating to the protection of architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the Act.

A *protected structure* is defined as any structure or specified part of a structure, which is included in the planning authorities' Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Section 57 (1) of the 2000 Act states that *...the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of—*

*(a) the structure, or*

*(b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.*

#### *Cartographic Sources*

The following historical map sources were consulted:

The first edition map of the Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch series, surveyed in 1835–36, published in 1836 (Fig. 2)

The revised 1908–11 edition OS six-inch map, published in 1912 (Fig. 3)

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) constraints map, which is based on the OS six-inch revision of 1912 (Fig. 4)

Maps were variously sourced in the map library of Trinity College, Dublin 2 and the Archaeological Survey at 51 St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2.

#### *Aerial photograph*

Hard-copy and digital aerial photographs supplied by MCOS Consulting Engineers were examined for possible previously undetected archaeological sites surviving either as low-visibility sites, kinks in field boundaries or as cropmarks (visible as subtle changes in vegetation height or colour). No features of potential archaeological interest could be determined within the proposed landfill extension area from the examination.

### *Cavan County Library*

The local studies collection at the County Library, Farnham Street, Cavan contains the counties main collection of books, journals, local histories, maps, manuscripts, photographs, newspaper cuttings etc. relating to the history, antiquities and society of Cavan town and county. The books, journals and local histories consulted are listed in the bibliography at the end of the report

### 2.3 *Site inspection*

Two archaeologists carried out a non-invasive inspection of the proposed expansion area on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2003. The purpose of the inspection was to assess current land use, local topography and any environmental or folkloric information relevant to the assessment of the extension proposals.

Site inspection is concerned primarily with identifying potential low-visibility archaeological and/or historical features that have not been previously recorded, along with the structures and buildings that make up an areas built fabric that might be subject to impact as a result of development. Site inspection also seeks to address landscape potential by examining the possibility of interactions between a particular landscape type and past human activity, while considering the localities existing archaeological record. The inspection also considers interactions between existing monuments or sites.



### 3 Existing Environment

#### 3.1 Archaeological Heritage

Until the construction of the Cavan bypass in the late 1990s the archaeological record in the townlands surrounding Lismagratty was dominated by Early Medieval settlement (c. AD 500–1100), represented in two site types that show the juxtaposition of Anglo-Norman and Gaelic settlement at this time. The site types are the ringfort, a typical Gaelic form of settlement, and the moated site, common in the Anglo-Norman period. The catalogue of ringforts include CN021:063 in Lismagratty, CN020:027 in Drumbo, CN021:018 in Corranure and CN020:007 in Cross. A rectangular enclosure, CN021:039 in Fartan Lower, may be a possible moated site (Fig. 4).

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In essence a ringfort comprises a circular, oval or D-shaped raised area, usually measuring between 20 and 50m in diameter. It is usually enclosed by one or more banks constructed of earth and stone excavated from a concentric external fosse or fosses (a rath), or by a wall or walls of drystone masonry (a cashel) (Stout 1997).

They were not 'forts' in the military sense but rather served as defended farmsteads, affording both the human and animal inhabitants a certain amount of protection from wild animals and raiders.

Despite the fact that ringforts are the most numerous Irish monument type, very few have been excavated. Those that have suggest that most date to the Early Medieval Period (c. 500-1100AD). However, some are known to date to the Iron Age and others to the Late Medieval period. The ringfort in Lismagratty (CN021:063), for example, is described in the RMP file and Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan as a raised circular area enclosed by two substantial external banks with outer fosses. Within the context of the existing landscape it is possible that the site could be early in date, and may be prehistoric in origin.

Most of the ringforts in Co. Cavan are found on, or close to, the highest point on a drumlin hill or ridge, as in the case of the ringforts in Lismagratty, Drumbo, Corranure and Cross. The general environment of Co. Cavan accounts for the high rate of preservation of these sites. Most of the land is used for pasture and, therefore, the rate of denudation is much reduced.

A rectangular enclosure, CN021:039 in Fartan Lower, lacks the necessary evidence to be conclusively classified as a moated site. However, the site has been classed as a possible moated site. Moated sites are a form of medieval settlement commonly found in those areas once controlled by the Normans and Anglo-Normans in northwestern Europe, including Britain and parts of the south and east of Ireland. Essentially, they were isolated, well-defended farmsteads. A typical moated site comprises a rectangular area enclosed by a wide, water-filled moat or fosse with internal bank. A wooden palisade was often constructed on the bank (O'Donovan 1995).

Development led archaeological investigations in the townlands surrounding Lismagratty, in particular those undertaken during the construction of the Cavan bypass in neighbouring Drumbo have added in recent years to the archaeological record of the area. Two new sites (Sites 1 and 2) were identified in Drumbo during monitoring of topsoil stripping on the bypass in 1998; both have been classed as a fulacht fiadh, which is a cooking site that generally dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300–500 BC). This site type consists of a trough in which heated stones were used to boil water. The stones, when fire-cracked beyond use, were discarded and often formed a kidney-shaped mound around the trough. No trough was found at Site 1, which was

situated close to a stream; a subrectangular wooden trough was recorded at Site 2 (Murphy 2000).

A very small area of burnt material was also recorded during archaeological monitoring at the northwest end of the present landfill during expansion in 2001 (O'Meara 2001). The burnt spread, which was situated on the edge of a wetland area, presently characterised by a prolific growth of reeds, and indicated as such on the revised 1912 edition OS six-inch map (Fig. 3), presented itself as a small spread of fire-cracked and blackened stone measuring a maximum of 2.8m long and 1.9m wide, and no more than 5cm deep.

The burnt spread and fulachta fiadh in Drumbo confirm the presence of prehistoric settlers in Lismagraty and surrounding townlands, well in advance of the Early Medieval activity connected with the ringforts in Lismagraty and surrounding townlands.

### 3.2 *Architectural Heritage*

The rural nature of the proposed landfill extension area ensures that the architectural heritage is characterised by structures that serve primarily domestic and agricultural purposes. As evidenced by the 1836 (Fig. 2) and 1912 (Fig. 3) edition maps of the OS six-inch series the area was settled throughout the nineteenth, and much of the twentieth century, when one farmstead occupied the proposed extension footprint, and three additional farmsteads occupied the land outside the footprint to the north and southeast (Fig. 5). These farmsteads are likely to have originated with the expansions of agriculture and population in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, which led to the construction of the familiar 'cottage' in farmyards throughout the countryside (McCullough & Mulvin 1987)—what is now commonly referred to as vernacular architecture.

The proposed landfill extension area is now uninhabited, and no above ground structural remnants of the farmstead shown on the 1836 (Fig. 2) and 1912 (Fig. 3) OS six-inch maps survive within the proposed extension footprint. Two conifer trees, in

poor condition, and a metalled access lane, comprise the remaining surface indicators that bear testimony to the farmstead.

A single structure located c. 15m from the northeastern boundary is the sole remnant of a second nineteenth century farmstead, which is accessed from the aforementioned metalled access lane (Fig. 5). The structure (Plate 2) is now a dilapidated single-storey stone outbuilding that remains in use as an animal shelter. A number of timber beams have been erected to provide a frame to support the existing corrugated roof. The building is constructed of uncoursed rubble stone with evidence of red brick replacements in recent repairs. The buildings northeast gable wall has been intentionally removed, but the surviving corners are characterised by roughly cut stone quoins. A blocked up window with a timber frame and stone sill also survives in the southwest gable wall.

The structure was previously a longer building that has been reduced in width with the removal of its northeast gable end. It is likely to be the remains of a linear building indicated on the site on the revised 1912 edition OS six-inch map (Fig. 3). Two smaller structures are shown perpendicular to the main building on this map, enclosing a small square-shaped yard; a footpath is indicated leading from the northwest corner of the yard in a westerly direction. The building, in its turn may have incorporated or adapted a pre-existing building shown on the site on the 1836 edition OS six-inch map (Fig. 2).

A much more recently abandoned farmyard abuts the southeast boundary of the proposed landfill extension area; this farmyard also abuts the eastern boundary of the existing landfill (Plate 3). The yard comprises a whitewashed, single-storey, three bay outbuilding with a corrugated roof and later extension added to the west gable. This outbuilding is the oldest building within the farmyard, and is likely to be the remains of a building indicated on the site on the 1836 edition OS six-inch map (Fig. 2). The yard also comprises a two-storey, two bay, gable ended building with a corrugated roof and single brick chimneystack on the north gable end; the upper storey is accessed by a flight of steps on the front elevation and served as a loft storey. The loft storey of the façade is ruled and lined to imitate blockwork, while the ground floor façade has a smooth render finish. A single-storey, one bay, gable ended outbuilding

with a small lean-to is attached to the north gable. The building does not appear to correspond in plan to any of the structures shown on the site on the revised 1912 edition OS six-inch map (Fig. 3). The presence of the brick chimneystack suggests that the building may have originally have been used for domestic purposes and may have since been adapted for outbuilding purposes. Remaining buildings are late twentieth century in origin, and include a dilapidated corrugated hay-shed and a small slatted unit.

### 3.3 *Cultural Heritage*

The history of Co. Cavan is bound up in the county's environmental legacy, with its drumlin hills, impeded drainage and lakelands. The political boundaries of the Gaelic territories of South Ulster with the midland regions of Ireland coincide remarkably with the serried ranks of drumlins, separated by scrubland and wet bottom lands, which made movement by military groups particularly difficult (Duffy 1995).

The region known as East Breifne presented challenges not only to the Anglo-Norman government in Dublin but also to the local Gaelic and Anglo-Norman lords attempting to consolidate their agriculturally poor territories in the medieval period (Reilly 1998). Alliances formed prior to the Anglo-Norman invasion in the twelfth century between the O'Reillys of East Breifne and their Gaelic neighbours, the O'Rourkes, O'Farrells and MacMahons, as well as with the influential O'Neill and O'Donnell overlordships of Donegal and Tyrone, affected the way the Anglo-Norman administration operated in the area. East Breifne effectively remained under Gaelic rule until the sixteenth century.

Cavan town, from the Irish *Cabhan*, meaning a hollow place, developed in the shadow of the drumlin hills. The town originated as the seat of the O'Reillys in East Breifne and grew around a Franciscan friary that was erected there in 1300. The county took on its present borders in 1579.

The region was strategically located. Bordered by the three provinces of Ulster, Leinster and Connacht, the O'Reillys had a choice of political advocates. Also, positioned as it was between the English of the Pale and the Gaelic lordships of the

north and northwest, the ruling families of East Breifne often became embroiled in political disputes that did not directly concern them (Cunningham 1995).

For a time during the Williamite wars (1689–90), over 4,000 Jacobite troops were based in Cavan town, under pressure from Williamite forces based in Enniskillen. Both sides suffered defeats, but it was at Bloody Pass on the Cavan–Fermanagh border that James II's troops, under Viscount Mountcashel, fell. Wolsley, who went on to burn Cavan town, led the Williamite force. The Jacobite commander, Patrick Sarsfield, eventually abandoned the town. It is said that by the end of the Williamite war, Cavan was 'a barren no-man's-land' (Local Ireland website).

The region recovered through the eighteenth century, and, by the nineteenth century, the countryside was prospering, as a result of the planting of flax and the growth of the linen industry. In 1841, the population of the county was documented at nearly a quarter of a million (Cavan Tourism website).

Lismagratty townland lies approximately 3km northeast of Cavan town, in Castletara parish, on the R188 or Cavan to Cootehill road. The parish, described by the Ordnance Survey in 1835, comprised a total of 9980 acres, including 151<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres under water; this estimate would have included Lismagratty Lough, shown on the 1836 (Fig. 2) and 1912 (Fig. 3) editions of the OS six-inch maps. The Lough has since been incorporated into the footprint of the existing landfill. An additional 900 acres were woodland, mountain or bog; the remainder was arable or pasture. A survey of Co. Cavan made during the commonwealth in 1622 lists Lismagratty, spelt 'Lismagraghty', and a May Humphery Perrott as owner/occupier. A major landholder within the townland during Griffith's Valuation in 1856 was a Samuel More.

### 3.4 *Site inspection*

The proposed landfill extension area largely encompasses three poorly drained pasture fields that are characterised by a prolific growth of reeds close to watercourses (Plate 4). The fields are delimited by drainage ditches, which all display evidence of having been deepened and cleared of vegetation during agricultural

management, and more recently with the provision of a drainage network in the fields on the extension areas eastern boundary (Fig. 5). [Many of these drains, which changed the nature of the area's field pattern, were created in the nineteenth century, and their development can be traced on the 1836 (Fig. 2) and 1912 (Fig. 3) OS maps]. Natural watercourses (as shown on the 1836 edition OS map, Fig. 2 and highlighted on Fig. 5) intersect the extension area at its northern and western boundaries, and have been managed in a similar manner as all field drains on site.

The most significant aspect of the proposed landfill extension area is its surrounding and local topography. The site is situated in a low-lying valley (orientated north-south) that is sheltered by surrounding drumlin hills (Plate 4). Within the site the land is undulating, and features a domed mound that became the focus of a nineteenth century farmstead (Plate 5). The domed mound, one of a series aligned in a roughly north-south direction, is evident on the topographic survey drawing accompanying the report (Fig. 5). This landscape typifies the low-lying, sheltered and poorly drained areas that would have been attractive to settlers in the prehistoric period.

No features of possible archaeological interest were identified on the field surfaces, or along watercourses and/or drains, during the course of the site inspection. In terms of architectural heritage, only trace remains exist as indicators of a farmstead that was formerly sited on the aforementioned mound. The remains include a grass covered metalled access lane and two conifer trees that were originally planted in connection with the former settlement (Fig. 5).

## 4 Potential Impacts

- 4.1 In topographical terms, the existing landfill and proposed extension area lie in a sheltered valley bounded by drumlin hills on all sides. These hills were settled in the Early Medieval period as evidenced by ringforts in Lismagratty (CN021:063), Corranure (CN021:018), Drumbo (CN020:027) and Cross (CN020:007), located approximately 170m, 520m, 200m and 700m respectively from the proposed landfill extension boundary (Fig. 4). Settlement continued into the nineteenth century as evidenced by a number of farmsteads shown both within, and surrounding the proposed extension area on the 1836 edition OS six-inch map (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 The low-lying and sheltered nature of the proposed extension area, with its natural watercourses and poorly drained pasture is typical of landscapes in which fulachta fiadh have been previously encountered. The record of a burnt spread within the existing landfill confirms prehistoric activity in the area. There is also a possibility that the ringfort in Lismagratty (CN021:063) could be prehistoric in origin. These facts suggest that further prehistoric deposits or remains will likely be encountered within the proposed landfill extension area.
- 4.3 Prehistoric activity may have been focussed on a natural watercourse that intersects the proposed extension area in a northeast–southwest direction at its northern boundary; a second watercourse forms the extension areas western boundary (Fig. 5). These watercourses will be subject to impact within the proposed landfill extension area.
- 4.4 The characteristic domed mound may also have served as a focus of settlement related activity. It, and surrounding mounds were attractive to settlement in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when they became the selected locations of farmsteads. Three farmsteads are shown within, and surrounding the proposed extension area on the 1836 edition OS six-inch map (Fig. 2); the farmsteads were steadily abandoned from the late nineteenth and during the twentieth centuries. There is a possibility that material remains associated with nineteenth century settlement will be encountered during development within the proposed landfill extension area.



- 4.5 Trace elements of recent settlement, including a grass covered metalled access lane survive within the proposed extension area (Fig. 5). This settlement related evidence will be subject to impact within the footprint of the proposed landfill extension area.

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## 5 Mitigation Measures

- 5.1 The topography and existing archaeological record of Lismagratty and surrounding townlands suggests that the proposed landfill extension area has archaeological potential. For this reason it is proposed that topsoil stripping or site preparatory works within the proposed extension area be monitored by an archaeologist, under licence to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Museum of Ireland. Monitoring will ensure that any archaeological soils, features, finds and deposits that may be disturbed below the ground surface will be identified, excavated and recorded. Topsoil stripping should be undertaken in advance of the landfills development to facilitate archaeological excavation in the event that features are revealed during topsoil removal.
- 5.2 The natural watercourses that intersect the site have been previously dredged during agricultural management practices. The watercourses were assessed during the course of the site inspection, but it is recommended that an archaeologist monitor any potential regrading or stream realignments during the course of development.
- 5.3 Surviving elements of nineteenth and twentieth century farmstead settlement, including a grass covered metalled access lane have been recorded on the existing engineering site survey (Fig. 5). All further features, finds and deposits associated with nineteenth and twentieth century settlement will be identified and recorded during the course of archaeological monitoring.
- 5.4 The developer's attention is drawn to the relevant portion of the National Monuments legislation summarised in Appendix 3. This states that in the event of the discovery of archaeological finds or remains the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Museum of Ireland should be notified. In the event that the proposed landfill extension proceeds, the developer should make provision to allow for and to fund whatever archaeological works may be needed on the site if any remains should be noted during topsoil removal.

- 5.5 In the event that archaeological remains are noted during topsoil removal, all construction work in the find area must cease. The area subsequently will need to be investigated and possibly fenced off, allowing no further development to take place in that area until the site is fully resolved by excavation under licence.
- 5.6 All recommendations in this report are subject to discussion with and approval from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, which will advise on any further remedial action that it may consider necessary.

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## 6 Residual Impacts

- 6.1 No residual impacts are envisaged, as all archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage issues will be resolved at the pre-development and development stages of the proposed landfill extension.

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## Appendix 1

### Inventory of recorded archaeological sites (based on the files of the RMP and the Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan)

The following information was obtained from the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) constraint maps, manuals and files held by the Archaeological Survey of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and the Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan. The sites, which are invaluable indicators of settlement activity in the immediate vicinity of the existing landfill and proposed extension area, are listed by RMP and inventory numbers, by townland, by site type and by national grid reference (presented as a ten-figure co-ordinate that indicates the position or siting of each monument). The RMP number consists of two parts: the number of the six-inch sheet on which the site is located and the number of the individual monument. For example, RMP site 63 on OS six-inch sheet 21 is listed as 021:063. The RMP sheets relevant to the present proposal are sheets 20 and 21 of the OS six-inch series for Cavan. A county code, such as CN for Cavan, is included. The sites included in the inventory are all located within 700m of the proposed extension area boundary. The distances given relate to the proximity of the planned development proposals to the edge of the *zone of archaeological potential* around the recorded sites as recommended on the RMP constraints maps (Fig. 4).

<b>RMP No</b>	CN021:063	<b>Inventory No</b>	923
<b>Townland</b>	Lismagratty	<b>NGR</b>	24447/30815
<b>Site Type</b>	Ringfort		
<b>Distance</b>	170m E		
<b>Description</b>	The ringfort is situated on a drumlin hilltop in fertile pastureland. It comprises a raised circular area (internal dims. 31.5m NNE-SSW; 33.5m WNW-ESE) enclosed by two substantial earthen banks with outer fosses. The original entrance is located at the E of the site, and is represented by corresponding breaks in the banks, with accompanying causeways. The internal area is completely overgrown with vegetation.		

<b>RMP No</b>	CN020:027	<b>Inventory No</b>	569
<b>Townland</b>	Drumbo	<b>NGR</b>	24395/30772
<b>Site Type</b>	Ringfort		
<b>Distance</b>	200m SW		

**Description** The ringfort is situated on a drumlin hilltop in fertile pastureland affording excellent views. The site comprises a raised area, roughly circular in plan (25.5m in diam.) enclosed by a fosse and bank. The fosse has been largely levelled in but its outline can still be distinguished running outside of the bank. As indicated on OS maps, the bank at the NW end has been incorporated into a field boundary. A modern bank also encloses the site at the S and WSW. At the SE the bank measures 1.10m wide and rises to 0.80m above the (now levelled in) fosse. It is steep-sided and round-topped in profile and rises to 0.50m above the internal area. In morphology it is similar to that of the field boundaries in the area and it is likely that it was modified to make this so.

<b>RMP No</b>	CN020:007	<b>Inventory No</b>	476
<b>Townland</b>	Cross	<b>NGR</b>	24373/30895
<b>Site Type</b>	Ringfort		
<b>Distance</b>	700m NW		

**Description** The ringfort, indicated as 'Cross Forts' on the 1836 and 1912 edition OS six-inch maps, comprises a large raised circular area (int. diam. c. 61.1m) enclosed by a substantial earthen bank. The bank has been modified and incorporated into the surrounding system of field boundaries. Modern narrow roads, bordered by earthen banks, divide the site into four quadrants. The original entrance is not recognised. A slight curving bank downslope of the ringfort to the SE is visible in pasture from the proposed landfill extension footprint in Lismagratty.

<b>RMP No</b>	CN021:039	<b>Inventory No</b>	1784
<b>Townland</b>	Fartan Lower	<b>NGR</b>	24489/30843
<b>Site Type</b>	Rectangular enclosure		
<b>Distance</b>	600m NE		

**Description** The enclosure is situated on a natural terrace on the slope of a high hill, in average pastureland, falling NE-SW to a stream 20m away. The site is trapezoidal in shape (internal dims. c. 28m N-S; 27.5m on its broader side E-W, 14.4m on its shorter side E-W). It is enclosed by a bank 3.50m wide, rising to 1.20m above the field to the west, and by a low earthen bank and well-defined, partly waterlogged fosse elsewhere. The original entrance is not recognisable.

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<b>RMP No</b>	CN021:018	<b>Inventory No</b>	442
<b>Townland</b>	Corranure	<b>NGR</b>	24450/30740
<b>Site Type</b>	Ringfort		
<b>Distance</b>	520m SE		
<b>Description</b>	The ringfort is situated on a very high drumlin affording extensive views over the surrounding countryside. The site comprises a raised circular area (internal dims. 33m NNW-SSE; 32m NNE-SSW) enclosed by substantial earthen banks and the remains of an almost completely infilled fosse. The bank rises steeply to 2.20m above the fosse. It is 6.50m wide and rises to 0.60m above the internal area. It is round topped. The original entrance at the ESE is now blocked by a modern field boundary. The internal area is overgrown with scrub.		

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**Appendix 2****Inventory of recorded stray finds in the townlands surrounding Lismagratty (based on the files of the NMI)**

**Townland** Corratober  
**County** Cavan  
**Reg. No.** 1934:5605  
**Find (s)** Fragment of a leather cloak  
**Acquisitions** Presented by Mr. Thomas O'Reilly, Loughdavan, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan  
**Description** Fragment of a leather cloak containing a seam, found in 1933.

**Townland** Cullies  
**County** Cavan  
**Reg. No.** 1945:28  
**Find (s)** Flint arrowhead  
**Acquisitions** Purchased from Mr. James Gibson, Drumbilla, Shercock, Co. Cavan  
**Description** Found c.7ft deep in bog at Cullies, near Barnagrove Lake, in 1943.

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## Appendix 3

### National Monuments Legislation

All archaeological sites have the full protection of the national monuments legislation (Principal Act 1930; Amendments 1954, 1987 and 1994).

In the 1987 Amendment of Section 2 of the Principal Act (1930), the definition of a national monument is specified as:

any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections,

any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position,

any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient

(i) tomb, grave or burial deposit, or

(ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site,

and

any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site...

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930),

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites (Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954) as follows:

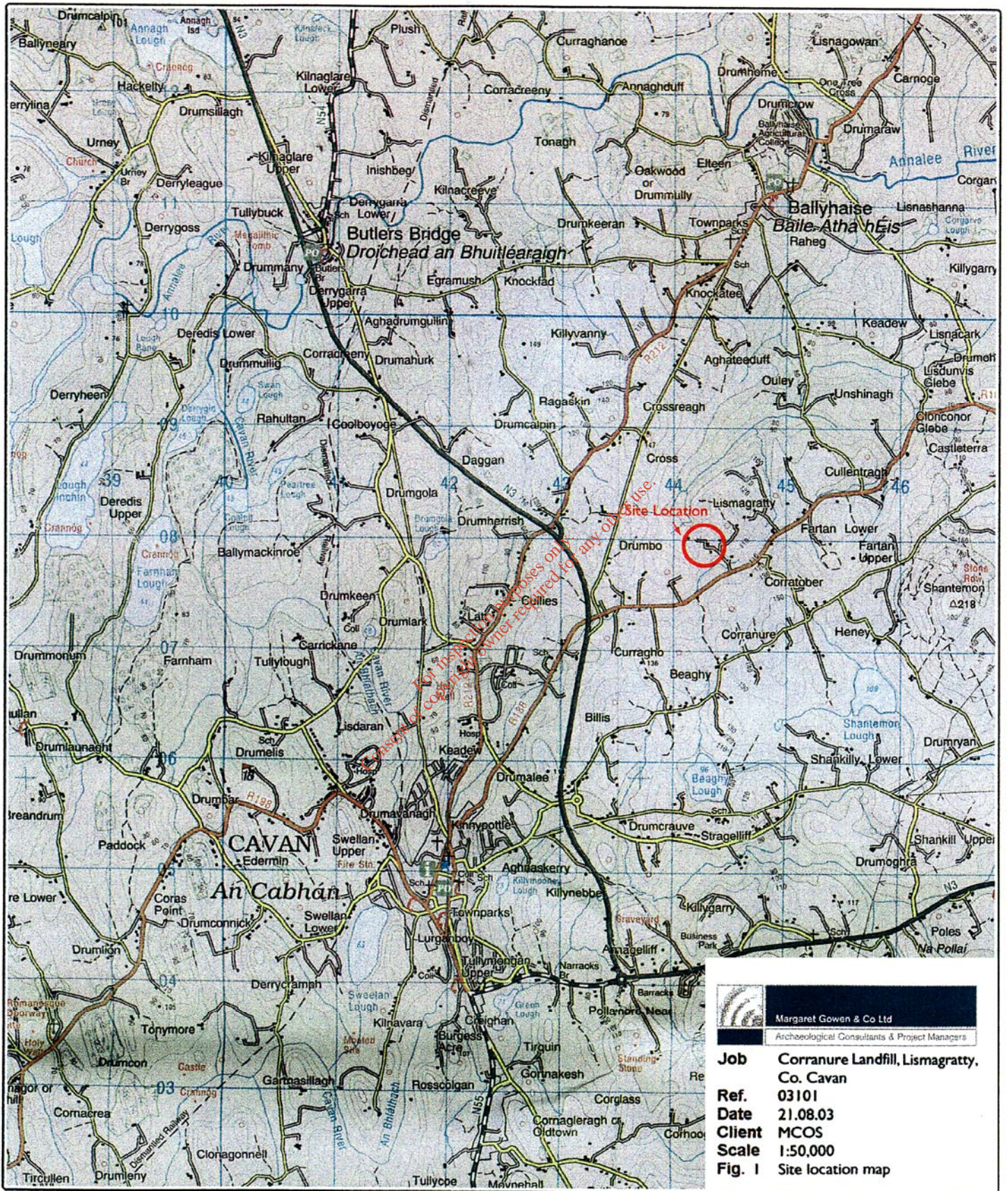
The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

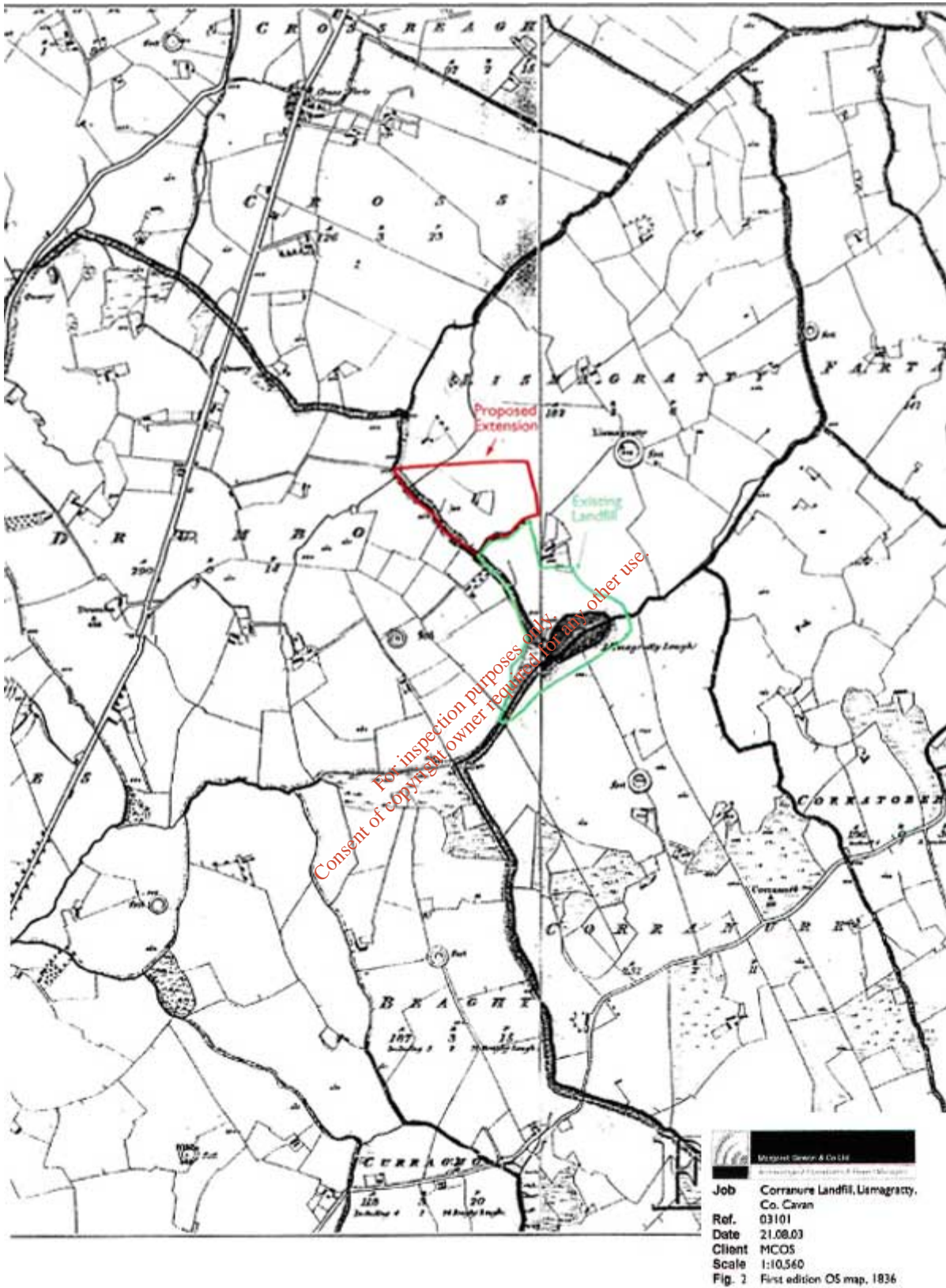
In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

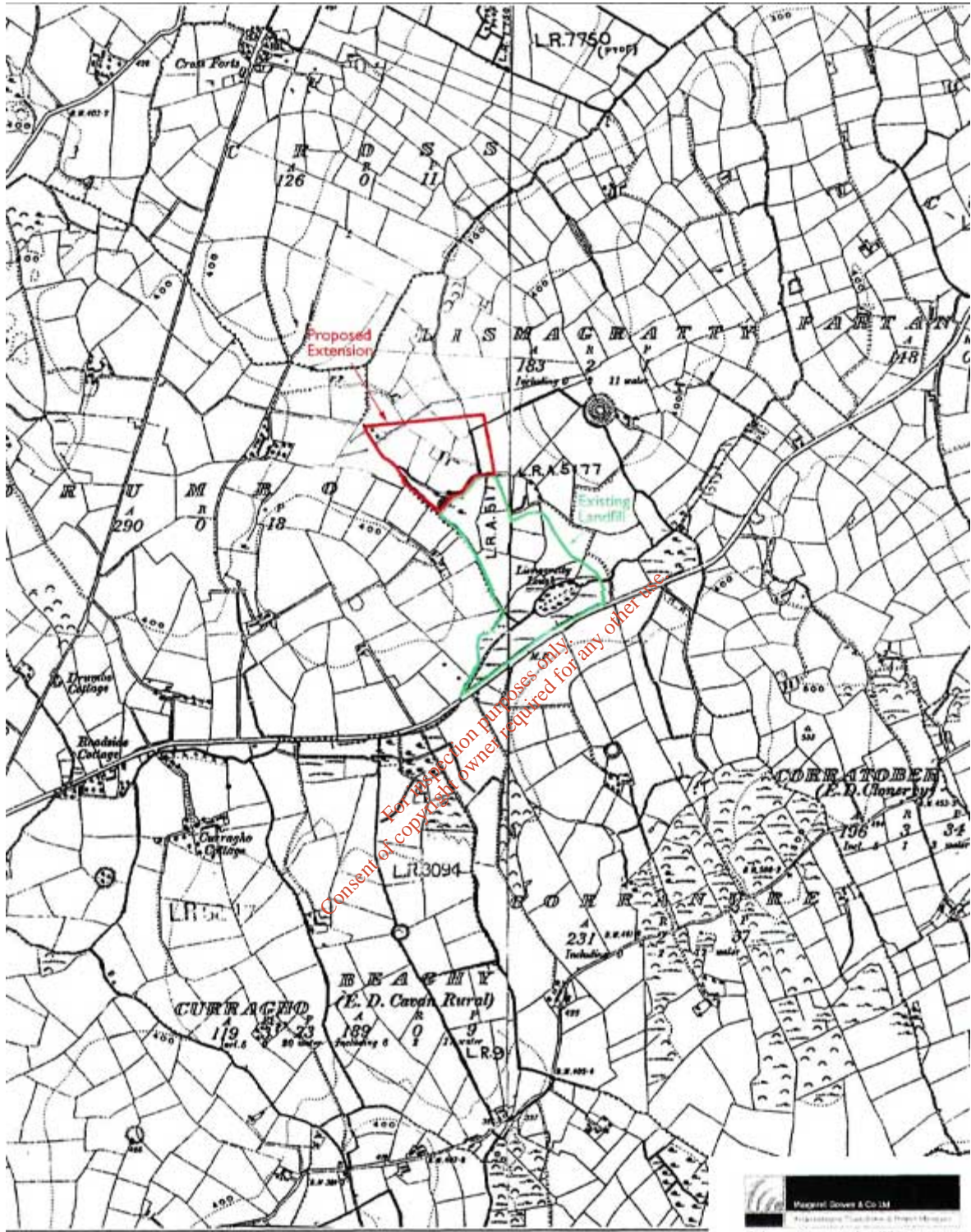
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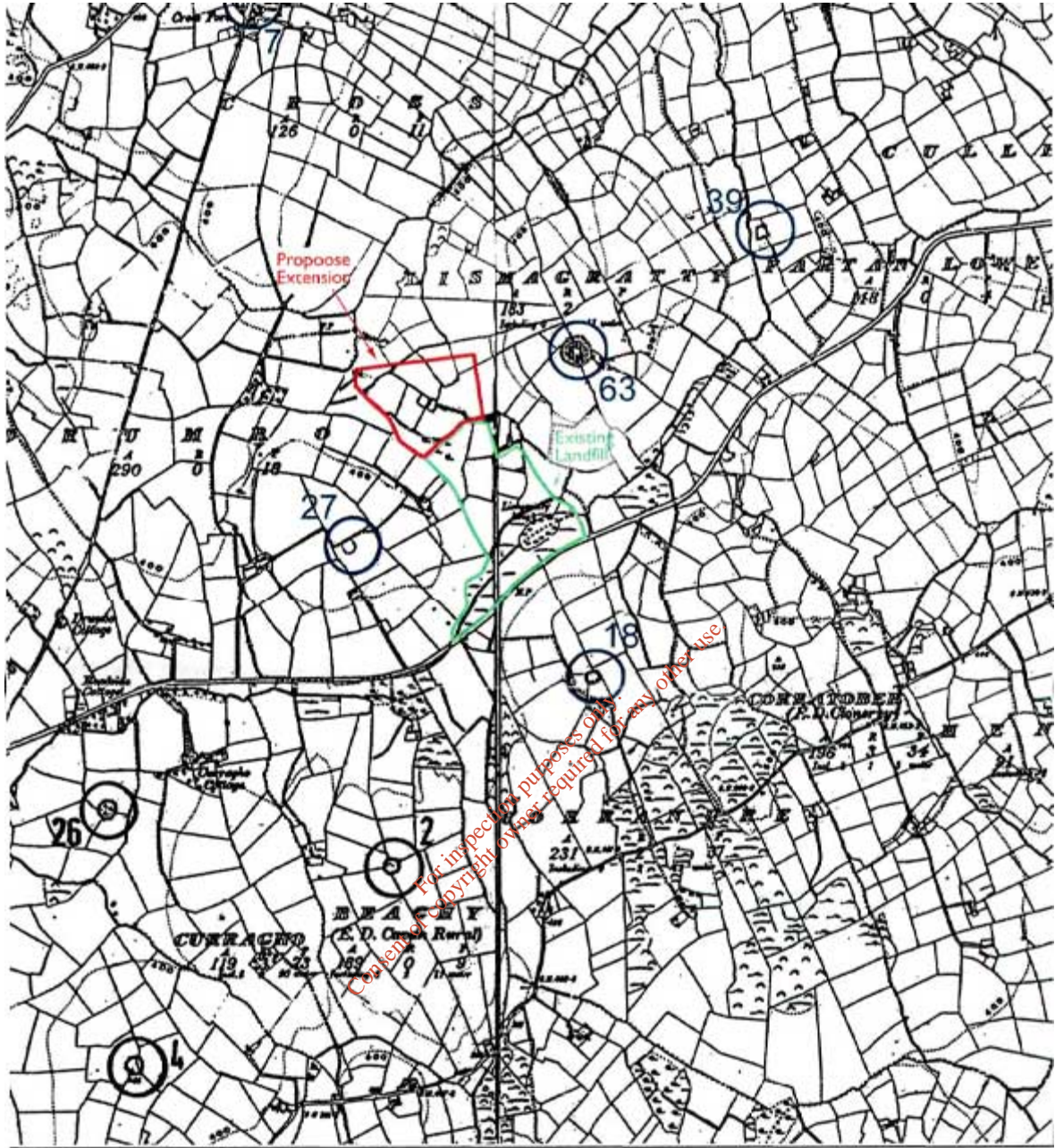







 Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.  
 Project: Corranure Landfill Waste Licence Review  
**Job** Corranure Landfill, Lismagraty,  
 Co. Cavan  
**Ref.** 03101  
**Date** 21.08.03  
**Client** MCOS  
**Scale** 1:10,560  
**Fig. 3** Ordnance Survey map, 1912

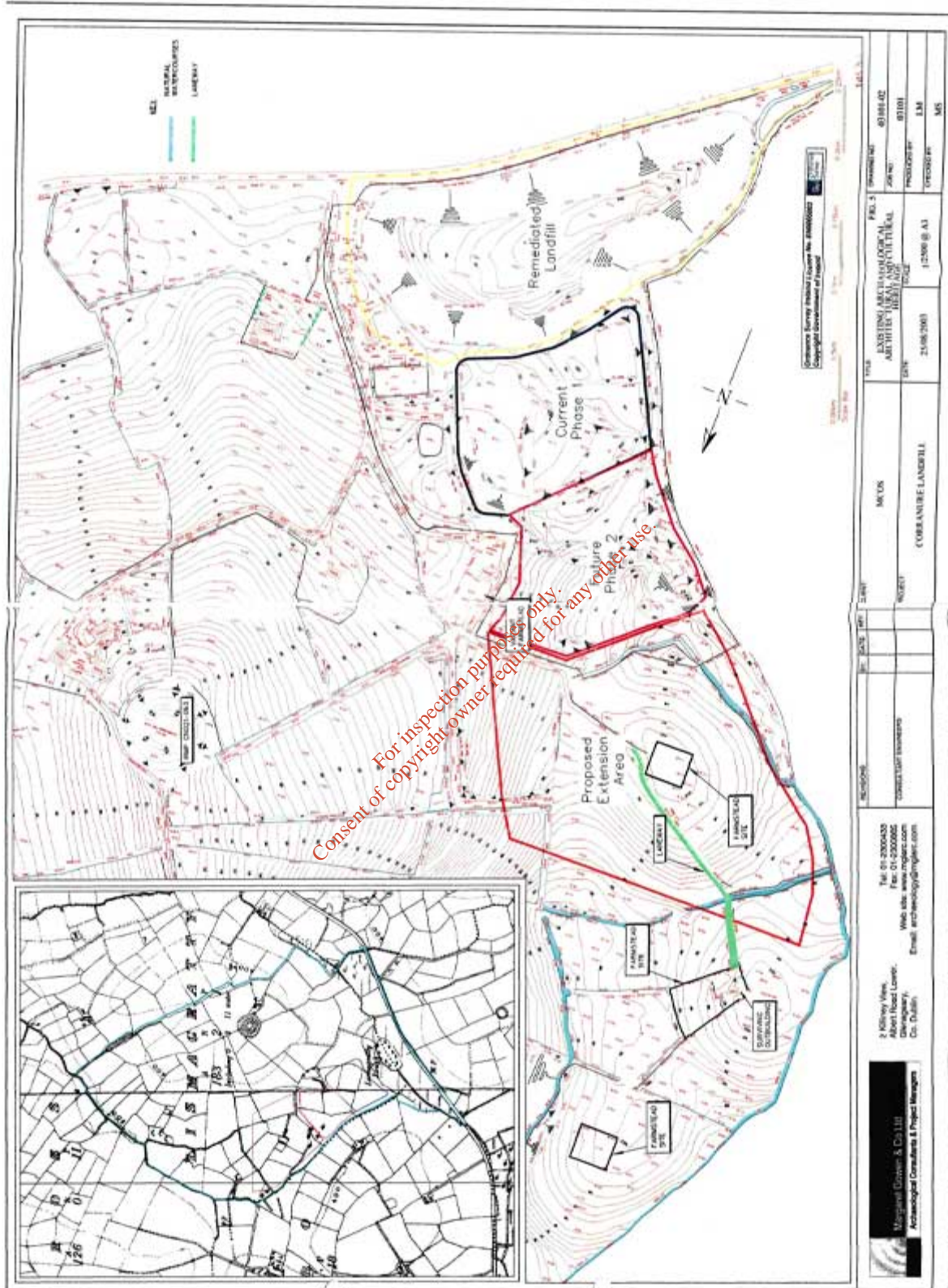




 Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.  
Environmental Consultants & Surveyors

Job	Corranure Landfill, Lismagraty, Co. Cavan
Ref.	03101
Date	21.08.03
Client	MCOS
Scale	Not applicable









**Plate 3** Unutilised farmstead outside the southeastern boundary of the proposed landfill extension area



Plate 5 View north of the domed-shaped nature of the proposed landfill extension area and the site of a former nineteenth-century farmstead





Plate 1 Ringfort CN021:063 overlooking the proposed landfill extension area from the east

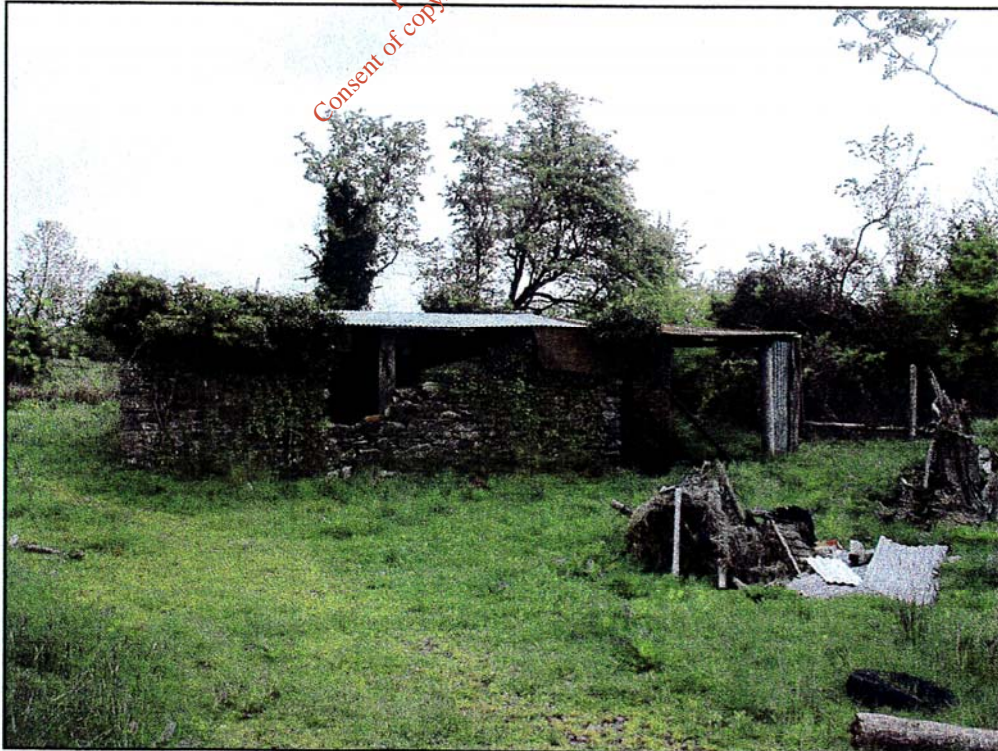


Plate 2 Surviving stone outbuilding outside the northern boundary of the proposed landfill extension area



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**Project: EIS  
Job No: 03101  
Licence:  
Planning Reference:**

<b>Report Title</b>	Archaeological Heritage, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Corranure Landfill, Lismagraty, County Cavan
<b>Writer(s)</b>	Marion Sutton

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