

Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork

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Excavations at Drumreagh, Bendooragh, Co. Antrim

CAF Data Structure Report No. 102



**Data Structure Report: Drumreagh, Bendooragh, Co. Antrim**

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## Introduction

The Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork was asked by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to investigate a small building located in the townland of Drumreagh, just outside the village of Bendooragh, Co. Antrim. Paul Logue of the NIEA had noticed, when passing through the village, that the building was constructed from bricks which were unusually small and of a type which was in use in Ulster in the later 17<sup>th</sup> century through to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

An area around the house measuring 25m by 30m was stripped of the hard core which had been put down by the neighbouring Presbyterian Church when it was made into a makeshift carpark. This external area was initially divided into two areas called Trench 1 and Trench 2 although it was later merged into one trench, Trench 1. This area had previously been stripped of topsoil and only a few discrete, subsoil cutting, features were uncovered. Just to the south of the house a probable late 19<sup>th</sup> century drain was uncovered running approximately east-west. Farther to the south a second more modern drain with a ceramic pipe within it was found running in roughly the same direction. To the east of the house a slightly curving drain was found running into the late 19<sup>th</sup> century drain. Two of what could be the truncated bases of rubbish pits were uncovered containing very late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century artefacts south of the house. Also found was a linear gully, 2m long and 0.20m deep of uncertain function. During the later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century there seems to have been an annex attached to the west of the building with access through a door in the west gable wall. Remains of the concrete floor, an earlier clay floor and some brick footings of this annex survived, they were not excavated.

Two trenches, Trench 3 and Trench 4 were excavated within the house. They evidenced a complex sequence of construction and repair and modification. They revealed what was probably initially a three bay house, with a direct entry into the kitchen, clay floors and a central hearth. After an uncertain period of time the house became a four roomed house with the partition of the eastern bay and subsequently this additional room (Room 3, see Figure 2), at the south east of the building, and the westernmost room (Room 4) had their clay floors replaced with wooden floors. The central hearth was re-worked on a number of occasions and a fireplace was constructed against the east gable. This probably happened during one of the earlier episodes of renovation of the building although our inability to dig under this fireplace, for fear of undermining the gable, made it impossible for us to be certain of this. Towards the end of the life of the building the east fireplace was relocated approximately 0.5m south and the internal partition in the east end of the building removed.

An examination of the buildings interior reveals that much of the weight of the roof is borne on four pillars constructed from concrete blocks at the approximate dividing lines of each bay. It seems very likely that these concrete pillars are the modern replacements of crucks which supported the original roof. Judging from the concrete blocks used this replacement is likely to have happened in the 1970's to the 1990's. There was also evidence from an examination of the brickwork in the interior of the gables that the height of the house had been raised by approximately 0.5m. The position and colour of the whitewash and the window in the east gable implies that the house was at some stages of its history a two storey dwelling, however it seems unlikely that it was a two storey dwelling at first construction,

although the existence of a loft over one or other end of the building cannot be ruled out. What modification would have been needed to a cruck roof to accommodate a heightening of the building is uncertain. It is presumed that the earliest roofing material for the house was thatch. The finding of a number of fragments of slate in several late contexts of the excavation may suggest that it was slated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Location**

This small red brick house (SMR ANT 17:063) is located in the townland of Drumreagh, on the outskirts of the village of Bendooragh, Co. Antrim (Figure 1). It is situated 1.2km east of the River Bann, Irish Grid Ref C9235222923, at an altitude of 29.2m OD. The current land use around the site is mainly pasture. Beneath the loam topsoil the subsoil is a heavy clay, relatively impervious to water.

## **Description of the Building**

### *Exterior*

The building at Bendooragh sits at the north of what was a large field, now a carpark belonging to Drumreagh Presbyterian Church, 100m long north-south and 66m wide east-west at its widest point. The building is 5m south of the perimeter fence delimiting the house plot from the B66, Bann Road, and its associated footpath and margin. The building is currently owned by the church and used as a store. The position of the building, its primary entrance and windows suggest that the building was deliberately placed to look out onto the Bann Road.

The building, as it currently stands, measures, 10m east-west and 5.2m north south. It is two stories high and is constructed almost entirely from red brick. The red brick is footed upon two courses of stone cobbles. Most of the exterior of the house is rendered in grey pebble dash which has fallen in several areas to reveal the brick underneath. The house currently has two windows on its north facing wall (Photo 1), each approximately 0.8m wide. It has three windows, two large (0.8m and 0.7m wide), one small (0.5m wide), on its south facing wall (Photo 2) and a second storey window on the south side of the east facing gable approximately 0.5m wide (Photo 3). The house has a large entrance, measuring 2.8m wide, with a sliding, garage type, door on the north side. The collapse of render from the north wall has revealed the presence of an area of contrasting brickwork to the east of the centre of the wall, only a few centimetres west of the easterly window in this face of the building. It is too close to this window for both features to be original to the house, one or other must be an alteration / adaptation. Collapse of render from the south wall has also revealed the relatively recent infilling, with modern concrete brick, of an entrance through this wall, slightly to the west of its centre. Other interruptions to the brickwork fabric of this wall are also apparent, possibly suggesting that this entrance is an insertion rather than an original feature of the house and possibly also that it had cut through a, now filled in, small window. On the west gable collapsed render has revealed a doorway, 1.0m wide and 1.31m in high, in-filled with brick of more recent type than that used to construct the building, through the centre of the gable, which presumably led to the annex attached to the house (Photo 4). Also apparent is a rather unusual square opening through the gable close to the northwest corner of the house, 1.2m wide. It is of unusual proportions for a window, but does not continue to floor level, ruling out a doorway. As with the other opening in this gable it is in-filled with

relatively modern red brick. The line of the roof of the annex, visible on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps and later, can be seen on this gable.

One of the interesting aspects of this building is the unusual brickwork. Rural vernacular houses which are built entirely or predominantly of brick are unusual (McCourt 1965, 43), typically vernacular buildings have walls made from mud or stone. The bricks used in the primary construction of the building are small typically 22cm by 10cm by 5.5cm, and variously oxidised (red) or reduced (black), which is usually understood as evidence of variable or uncontrolled firing, although it can also be the result of varying oxygen content in the clay used to manufacture the brick or other ceramics (Livingstone-Smith 2001).

### *Interior*

The interior of the building, as it currently stands, has a concrete floor. Four paired concrete block pillars, one set 2.8m from the west gable of the house and a second set 3.45m from the east gable (Figure 2), appear to bear most of the weight of the roof. The current roof is made from modern timbers supporting slate. While this roof and the concrete piers which support it are of very recent construction, it may have fossilised aspects of the earlier roof structure. As already mentioned the four concrete pillars along the side walls of the house effectively seem to have replaced wooden crucks. These concrete cruck replacements seem to be the primary supports of a modern variant of a traditional Collar-beam truss roof as defined by (McCourt 1972, 126-7). The two side purlins, supported by the gables are not made from a single piece of wood but are made from two separate pieces of timber jointed at the point where the collar beam tied the more westerly pair of concrete cruck replacements.

It is evident from an examination of the interior of the west gable that the house has been heightened at some stage. Whitewash which has collapsed from this gable shows the original brickwork having been augmented to heighten the house, the outline of the original roof height and (false)chimney visible thanks to the differential brickwork (Photo 5). The east gable still has intact whitewash in place over most of its surface obscuring similar changes and alterations there (Photo 6). How this was reflected in adaptations to the cruck supported roof is now unclear, the current concrete pillars are certainly much more recent than the heightening of the roof, were the original crucks replaced with longer ones or was the roof adapted in another way? That the building was used, at some stage, as a two story house can be evidenced by the differentially coloured whitewash applied to the walls. The east gable and easterly room has blue whitewash at ground floor level, a clear band of plain uncoloured whitewash indicates the position of the ground floor ceiling / floor of the upper storey and the first floor level is differentiated by red whitewash (Photo 6). At the western end of the building the whitewash is aquamarine at ground floor level, with only patchy evidence for uncoloured whitewash above this level (Photo 5).

The eastern end of the building has a fireplace constructed from red brick against the interior gable. This fireplace measures 1.4m wide from the outside of one jamb to the other, the jambs being 45cm wide with a gap for the hearth of 54cm between them (Photo 6). The flu leans slightly to the right.

*Evidence obtained from a former resident of the house*

During the excavation we were privileged to speak to Mrs Maureen Thompson (nee Caulfield) who had lived in the house as a young girl during the war years. She noted that the house, while she lived there, had an upper storey at the east end and a stairway at the south wall in the southwest corner of the kitchen. She also noted that the front of the house originally had three windows at the front and a well to the rear. She noted that the previous residents of the house, before her family, had been called Mitchell.



## Historical background

The earliest map reference to the townland of Drumreagh is from the Down Survey Map's made by William Petty between 1655 and 1659 (Figure 3). This map depicts Drumreagh using its modern spelling and with its modern boundaries. Unfortunately this map does not give any indication of any buildings within the townland.

The Hearth Money Rolls (PRONI MST 307a) were lists of heads of households compiled for reasons of taxation. The earliest Hearth Money Rolls were compiled in 1662. The 1662 roll for the "Qr of Drimirigh", the modern Drumreagh Townland, contained records of six individuals

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Barony</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Townland (as spelt in Hearth Money Rolls)</b>
Agnew	Ninian	Dunluce Upper	Ballymoney	1 Qr of Drimirigh
Lowdane	Thomas	Dunluce Upper	Ballymoney	1 Qr of Drimirigh
McPersone	Daniell	Dunluce Upper	Ballymoney	1 Qr of Drimirigh
Morris	James	Dunluce Upper	Ballymoney	1 Qr of Drimirigh
McMurchie	Archbold	Dunluce Upper	Ballymoney	1 Qr of Drimirigh
Wallace	Robert	Dunluce Upper	Ballymoney	1 Qr of Drimirigh

A building is depicted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4), in the same location as the house we excavated. It appears however from the map to be slightly smaller than our structure (both slightly shorter and narrower), this may simply be the result of map makers inaccuracy, alternatively it could indicate that the existing structure is a later building or an extended version of an earlier building, neither of which possibilities seem to be supported by the results of the excavation.

The second edition Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 5), depicts a slightly larger structure with a hint of an annex at the west end. To the east and west of this structure there are two small rectangular enclosures which contain trees, broad leaf, in contrast to the conifer trees depicted in the newly constructed Presbyterian Meeting House and Grave Yard nearby. These may be orchards. The Second Edition maps were revised versions of the First Edition maps with more detail added, produced in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area around Bendooragh.

The Griffith Valuation (<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml>) and accompanying map of 1868 (Figure 6a and 6b) identifies this house (a) in land plot 11a as having been occupied by Sarah Grey. Ms Grey held plot 11a and all accompanying buildings off Thomas Bennett, who held the land In Fee Simple. Ms Grey sub-let three

houses (b), (c) and (d) to Mary McGonigle, William Hyndman and Mary Pollock respectively.

#### *1901 and 1911 Census Records*

The Census records for 1901 and 1911 ([www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)) contain records of not just who lived in each townlands but the nature of the buildings they used and inhabited. The Household Returns for these censuses detail the house number, the type of walls, roof, number of rooms and front windows. Maureen Thompson who used to live in the house has informed us that the house had three front windows. Of the 17 houses in Drumreagh only nos 1, 3, 7, 9, 16 and 17 had three front windows. The house also had variously three or four downstairs rooms and in its later incarnations an upstairs room at the east end, making by the time of the censuses four or five rooms. All of the above mentioned houses had similar numbers of rooms. One of the houses however, no 7, is listed beside the Presbyterian Church in the 1911 census and is also the property of the Rev Stephen Bennett, who it seems reasonable to suppose is a descendant of Thomas Bennett who owned the excavated house in 1868 when it was occupied by Sarah Grey. The household return for this house, House 7, states that it was a private dwelling with two out-offices, non-perishable walls, a slate roof, four rooms and three front windows.

## Description of the Excavation

### *Exterior*

#### *Trench 1*

An area measuring 23m north-south by 28m east west was excavated at the side and rear of the house (Figure 2). The area had until recently been a hard-cored temporary parking place for the nearby church and had been stripped of topsoil in advance of construction of this temporary parking place. The area was re-stripped under archaeological supervision during the excavation. A number of features were uncovered.

A large drain (1003) was found running approximately east-west across the site (Photo 7). It was approximately 1m wide and 0.5m deep. It was filled by a stone and brick fragment layer (1004) which was capped by a dark grey loam/clay (1005). This cut ran close to and almost, but not quite, parallel to the north side of the house. It was perilously close to the southeast corner of the house, practically undermining it. The lower fill of this feature contained exclusively 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, brick and glass.

Cut into the top of the large drain (1003) was a later, slightly narrower drain (1001). It was largely filled by stone and brick, to facilitate the passage of water, with a little clay (1002).

A large gully (1012) (Photo 8) was detected running east-west some 8m south of the large drain (1003). It was initially believed to be a similar feature but when excavated was found to contain beneath an upper dark loam fill (1013) a ceramic sewer pipe of 20<sup>th</sup> century manufacture.

In between the parallel drain and sewer there were three other features. A sub-circular depression, (1006) with a diameter of approximately 1.2m and a depth of 0.15m was discovered 5m from the south of the western corner of the house. It was filled by a gritty loam (1007) and had 19<sup>th</sup> century finds within it (Photo 9). A linear gully (1010) was found approximately 4m east of the depression (1006) It was 2m long, 0.2m wide and 0.2m deep. It was filled by a dark grey loam with lots of slate (1011). The function of this pit was uncertain (Photo 10). An oval depression, possibly a truncated pit (1008) was uncovered. It measured 1.5 by 1m and was approximately 0.10m deep. It was filled by a dark grey gritty loam fill (1009) which contained 19<sup>th</sup> century finds.

*Trench 2* This trench was incorporated into Trench 1 before recording commenced, it is mentioned to explain why the interior trenches are called Trench 3 and 4

## *Interior*

### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 measured 3.60m north-south by 1.8m east-west. It originally measured 3.6m by 1.0m but was extended. The uppermost layer in the trench was a modern concrete floor (301). It itself was laid upon a brick and rubble rich levelling layer (302) which was found to the north of the trench. Beneath (302), also to the north of the trench, was an earlier mortar floor (303) (Figure 7 and Photo 11) which had the impression of tiles (removed), which lay on top of it. Just to the south of this mortar layer was a berm of earth (304), which appears to have been the remains of an earthen internal wall which would have partitioned the east end of the house into a larger northern room (Room 2) and a smaller southern room (Room 3).

Room 3: To the south side of this partition, there were two further levelling layers (305) and (306) (Figure 7 and Photo 11) below concrete floor (301). Beneath these levelling layers there were two alignments of bricks which seem to have been supports for floor joists in the southern room. This seems to imply that this room had a wooden floor at the same time as its northern counterpart had a mortar and tile floor. The artefacts from the fill layers immediately above this horizon were all later 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting that it is likely that this floor was in place until approximately the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The joist supports (317) in this southern room sat on a very firm clay layer (312) (Figure 8 and Photo 12) which was really just a dirty variant of subsoil.

Room 1: To the north of the partition there was a patch of ash, sitting above the mortar floor (303) which was nicely sandwiched between two brick settings (315) (Figure 9 and Photo 13). One of these brick settings, the more southerly, was visible in the fireplace gap defined by the brick fireplace jambs and chimney breast emerging from the eastern gable wall of the building. The other setting was just to the north of the more northerly fireplace jamb. Together these two (315) settings appear to indicate the location of an earlier fireplace. Located approximately 0.5m to the north of the one currently visible coming out of the gable. When the mortar with tile impressions (303) was removed a heavy clay (318/9) (Photo 14) which was very stained with charcoal in the area of the fire place was uncovered. It was the original clay floor of the building, the same as that found in Trench 4 discussed below and it was pressed right up to the rounded cobble sized stones which made up the footing (313) of the brick wall (314) (Figure 9). Beneath the clay floor was the subsoil but cut into the subsoil at the extreme north end of the trench was a linear depression (320) running east-west (Photo 15), it was filled by the floor clay and could not have functioned as a drain, it's nature is uncertain, but it does not seem to significantly impact on our understanding of the house.

### *Artefacts from Trench 3*

Most of the artefacts from Trench 3 were found from the levelling layers (305) and (306). These artefacts included bottle glass, window glass, fragments of brick and slate and corroded iron. These objects dated to the later 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Similar artefacts were pressed down from the levelling deposits into the top of the subsoil (312)

#### *Trench 4*

Trench 4 initially measured 4m east-west by 1m north-south and was located running perpendicularly out from the centre of the western gable of the house into the middle of the building. It was then extended to make an "L" shaped trench 6m long with a 1m wide offshoot running 3m from the end of the trench in the middle of the room to meet the rear concrete pier supporting the roof on the south side of the building interior (Figure 2). A further 1/2m by 1/2m extension was made to this trench at the point where the two legs of the trench met making a right angle (Photo 16). The archaeological features and strata detected in this trench were very different in the two ends of the trench, separated by one of the primary features in the trench, the cobble footed brick wall (404) (Figure 10). Because of this separation of the archaeology in this trench it is easier to explain the sequence of strata if it is dealt with in reverse order, earliest first. The earliest feature found in this trench was the wall (404). It was composed of a double layer of cobble sized stones upon which the courses of red-brick, the same red brick as used in the exterior walls, were then set (Photo 17 and 18). The beaten clay floor (407) was laid down to the east of this wall, the clay pressed into the cobble base of the wall (Photo 19). There were also traces of this clay floor to the west of this wall although it was badly disturbed by later activity. Although not now visible a cut must have been made into (407) to the trench west of wall (404) to facilitate a new floor, as only a residual amount of (407) is detectable sitting above subsoil in the west of the trench. Two lines of brick were then laid down (412) just to the west of the wall (404) and at the west gable wall of the house located at the end of the trench (Photo 20 and Figure 11). These bricks were the supports of a wooden floor (411), traces of which could still be found sitting above the subsoil and (407) in this trench (Photo 21). A layer of mortar (409) and large stones (410) was uncovered sitting on top of this rotted, fragmented, wooden floor layer (Figure 10 and Photo 19). It had the appearance of rubble from a building and was initially thought to be a collapse layer, however it was different in character from any of the other construction layers uncovered during the excavation and it was reinterpreted as a rubble fill layer, the material derived from elsewhere, used as a levelling layer in advance of the laying of the mortar floor (403), which presumably dates to the same period as the mortar floor found in Trench 3.

The features and strata to the east of the wall (404) were very different from those to the west. The main similarity is the presence of the clay floor layer (407) which is present across most of this half of the trench (Figure 11). It had been deposited directly upon a prepared subsoil surface (Figure 12). Evidence for preparation is shown by the absence of any relic sod layer and also the stone hole (436) which was filled with stones (435) to avoid a depression in the floor (Photo 22 ). There was a second, north-south running, internal wall in Trench 4 (420), which was set onto a cobble setting, like (404) and the external wall (314). Unlike (404) however the floor layer (407) did not run completely up to it. There was a gap (432), which may be a cut, between the clay floor and the wall. This gap was filled by a mottled grey brown clay which contained brick fragments (431).

A probably primary feature of the house which this trench uncovered was a hearth set against this central wall (420). The hearth was reworked several times during the buildings life. The earliest evidence of a hearth (Room 1Hearth 1) was a cut (430) (Figure 13, Photo 23). This cut the clay floor (407) and also chamfered the edges of the lowest course

of brick in a small central portion of wall (420). This pit presumably held the earliest phase of hearth in the building. Its primary fill was a reddish brown cindery loam (434) which was below a mottled orange red ash loam (433).

Onto these fills was set a brick rectangular setting (427) (Room 1 Hearth 2) (Figure 11, Photo 24) around which there was a packing clay (429) which contained fragments of brick. This rectangular brick setting seems to have been a formal fire pit, two rectangular pieces of iron found at the south side of this brick setting may be the remnants of a grate. The void defined by the brick setting (427) was filled with (428) a dark grey gritty loam. The floor layer at the time of the commencement of the first hearth, Room 1 Hearth 1, is likely to have been (407), which in the area around the hearth had a dimpled texture consistent with having been a base for cobbles, later removed. To the west of the hearth a sand layer (426) with a little patch of cobbles (418) above it evidenced a bedding and cobble area which presumably covered all the area immediately around and extending 1.5m to the west of Room 1 Hearth 2.

A late modification to this hearth, which can be shown by artefacts to have happened in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, was the placement of a hearth stone, Room 1 Hearth 3, into / onto the fire pit (427) (Photo 24). This may have been necessitated by the corrosion of the grate to the extent that it was no longer functional. A building debris and clay layer (417/ 424) with some 19<sup>th</sup> century occupation material was found above (426) the bedding layer for the floor in use at the time of Room 1Hearth 2 and probably Room 1 Hearth 3 also. This presumably was debris which was levelled out from an episode of reconstruction of the house interior, probably after Room 1Hearth 3 had fallen from use. Also lying within this 417/424 layer was a length of masonry, bricks and mortar (427), which was initially thought might be an in-situ structural element but which on excavation was demonstrated to be collapse, probably part of a fireplace structure. Above this collapse layer, which was apparently levelled to raise the floor slightly, was a mortar layer (415), which seemed to function as the bedding course for a layer of tiles (414). This may have been the last floor layer to have been laid down for human occupation in the house. Above these tiles there was a pebble bed (402) for a modern concrete floor (401).

#### *Trench 4b*

A very small, 0.5m north south by 0.25m east west, trench was excavated 0.2m north of and 1m east from the west end of Trench 4, just inside the west end of the current doorway, to try and find any evidence for a wall consistent with a hallway in the house, a "lobby entrance" (Gailey 1984, 141). Immediately beneath the concrete floor was a horizon of cobbles and bedding material similar to that found in Trench 4 proper. Excavation was ceased however when the Trench 4 floor material 407 was encountered (Photo 25). This trench was small but it seems to indicate that, in the absence of a lobby or hall wall there was direct entrance from the main door into the central room of the house, although the existence of a small light, unfooted, wall springing off the east wall of the central room can't be entirely ruled out.

#### *Artefacts from Trench 4*

A wider variety of artefacts were uncovered in Trench 4 than in Trench 3. The earthen floor in this trench may have

survived being in-filled, unlike in Trench 3, until more recent times and there was no late 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> century levelling deposit encountered. The early sub-floor levelling of pit 436 by fill 435 contained a sherd of earthenware with a maroon glaze, possibly of late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The primary earthen flood deposit contained an earthenware rim, bottle glass, a clay pipe stem fragment and a white glazed fine pottery, possibly of early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Similar white glazed pottery, and some blue transfer printed pottery sherds were found in the mortar layer (415) which was a bedding layer for the possibly late 19<sup>th</sup> century tiled floor.

The earliest phase of use of the central hearth had a hearth pit which when excavated was found to contain sherds of an unusually fine drinking glass in its lowest fill (434). The last phase of use of the central hearth, when a hearth stone was constructed to replace an earlier brick built hearth, can be dated by the finding of a threepenny bit coin of George VI in the hearth strata (428) immediately beneath it.

## **Discussion**

### *Four Phases of Construction and Renovation*

The excavation of this house has revealed a complex sequence of renovation, restoration and reorganisation of the internal space of the house. The house was divided into four rooms *possibly* from the time of its construction, or shortly after. Room 1 was a central space, the largest space in the house, measuring 3.5m east-west by 4.7m north-south, probably functioning as a general living working and dining area which the main entrance into the house, the front door, opened directly onto. To the east of this room were two further rooms separated from it by a brick internal wall: a room to the northeast (Room 2) measuring 3.4m east-west by 3.2m north-south and a room to the southeast (Room 3) measuring 3.4m east-west by 2m north-south, which themselves were separated by a light internal partition, possibly constructed from sods. The west end of the house also had a small room (Room 4) measuring 2.15m east-west by 4.70m north-south, separated from Room 1 by an internal brick wall.

As detailed above an examination of brickwork on the west gable interior shows that the house has been heightened at some stage during its life. It is likely that initially this building had only a single storey although like many vernacular buildings (O'Reilly 2011, 193), it probably had a loft.

The sequence of construction, reworking, repair and renovation of the interior of this house as revealed by the excavation is complex. The discontinuous nature of the excavation has produced two Harris Matrices which only have certain confirmed points of commonality. Therefore there is a certain ambiguity as to which sub-phase in each matrix correlates to which sub-phase in the other matrix. An example is the construction of the wooden floors in Room 3 and 4 which may have occurred in either the first or second episode of renovations of the building. Also the relative stratigraphic position of the internal sod based wall separating Room 2 and 3 is clear but it is uncertain if it is built as part of the initial construction of the house or a later adaptation of the use of space within the building.

### *Phase 1: Initial construction and use*

The first act in the construction of the house, as can be evidenced by the filling of the void (436) and the absence of a relic topsoil in Trench 4, was an episode of clearing and levelling of the ground surface to provide a clean subsoil layer upon which to build.

The exterior walls were then constructed, first with the deposition of a cobble stone plinth damp proof course (313) and then the brick walls proper (314). At same time the internal brick wall 404, dividing Room 1 from Room 4, was also constructed.

Immediately after the exterior walls were constructed the clay earthen floor (318 /319/ 407) was deposited. This was pressed into the top of the cobble stone plinth (313) around the exterior of the house and the into the cobble base of wall (404).

Approximately midway along the length of the wall (420), running north-south and dividing Room 1 from Room 2 and 3, a hearth pit (430) to accommodate Room 1 Hearth 1 was dug, cutting the floor layer (407 / Room 1 Floor 1), the subsoil and also cutting into the lowest course of bricks in the wall to allow the fire to be set far enough back to encourage good draught. The exact form of the fireplace which utilised this hearth pit is uncertain. The pit which measured approximately 0.9m north-south by 0.4m east-west had a narrow gully running from it to the southwest. It looked like a flue or vent, possibly for bellows?

While this hearth was in use there appears to have been a cobbled area extending approximately 1m north, south and west from the edge of the hearth, evidenced by cobble shaped dimples in the floor clay (407). That the clay beneath these cobbles is as "clean" as the 407 in the rest of the trench demonstrates that this cobbling was laid down before any occupation actually occurred in the house and it was an integral part of Room 1 Floor 1, also suggesting that Room 1 Hearth 1 is a primary feature of the house.

Also set onto the primary clay floor (318/9/ Room 2 Floor 1) in Trench 3, was the berm of earth 304. This is likely to have been the base of an internal partition in the east of the house. The absence of any accumulated artefacts or debris sandwiched between this berm and the underlying floor probably indicates that it was constructed at or soon after the initial construction of the house but it is impossible to be certain that it was not added later. This divided the east of the house into two rooms the larger northern room (Room 2) and the smaller southern room (Room 3). It is likely that the entire building had a clay floor at this stage, with a cobbled patch around the central hearth, although later renovation has removed this clay floor in the southeast corner (Room 3) and west end (Room 4) of the house to allow for the laying of wooden floors in these rooms.

A hearth, Room 2 Hearth 1, uncovered during excavation of Trench 3, was constructed against the east gable. It was



positioned to respect the internal earthen wall separating Room 2 and 3. It was built when the initial clay floor was in use and there is no solid stratigraphical reason to suggest it is not a primary feature of this room. Morphologically it shares more in common with the Phase 2, Room 1Hearth 2, this could be because it is an addition to Room 2 but it is also likely that it was reworked to resemble Room 1 Hearth 2, with a brick lined fire pit, unfortunately because of the positioning of the jamb of Room 2 Hearth 2 we cannot see if this is the case.

The excavation of Trench 4 indicated that the internal wall (420) dividing Room 1,2 and 3 was continuous from the centre of the building to the southern wall. This implies that access from the central room, Room 1, to the east of the house must have been via a door positioned along the line of the wall (420) but between the north wall and where wall 420 was detected at the edge of Trench 4.

#### *Phase 2 Renovation and reworking*

After an uncertain period Room 1 Hearth 1was reworked. A brick lined fire pit with an iron grate (472), Room 1 Hearth 2, was inserted into the upper fills of the underlying hearth pit. It was accompanied by a new floor, Room 1 Floor 2, comprising the cobbles (418) which were set into the bedding layer (426).

There is no evidence for a re-flooring of Room 2 at this stage. Room 3 may have had a wooden floor put in place at this time, although it is possible that this floor was not laid until Phase 3, there is no linking stratigraphy to indicate the exact sequence, although the presence of more modern brick as joist supports than found in the construction of the house seems to rule out a Phase 1 wooden floor. The westerly Room 4, beyond wall (404) seems to have been re-floored in wood at the same time, using similar bricks to support the joists.

#### *Phase 3 20<sup>th</sup> century repairs*

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the central hearth in Room 1 was again repaired, probably occasioned by the corrosion of the grate, by the placement of a hearth stone into the hearth pit of the Room 1 Hearth 2 structure. This repair must have happened in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century as a threepenny bit coin of George VI was found beneath this stone in the ash of, presumably, the last or one of the last uses of Room 1 Hearth 2. A spread of rubbly soil (417/424) and some collapsed but still intact mortared brickwork (427) may indicate that there was collapse prior to the placement of this hearth stone. Perhaps there was a brick chimney breast or similar which partially collapsed. This rubble deposit would not have functioned as a levelling deposit for the subsequent tiled floor . At about this time or slightly after the central room (Room 1)was re-floored with tiles set into mortar (Room 1 Floor 3). The northern room on the east end (Room 2) was re-floored in a similar way. The presumption must be that the wooden floors in Room 3 and Room 4 were still intact, or alternatively were actually put in place, at this stage.

At this time the wall separating Room 2 and Room 3 seems to have been removed. This can be shown by the repositioning of the fireplace with the construction of Room 2 Hearth 2. This new hearth was positioned right up against the former wall dividing these two rooms. The repositioning of the fireplace only makes sense if the rooms

were amalgamated by removing the wall. It does not seem as if there was any re-flooring at this stage however, presumably, the tile and wooden floors continued in place, possibly a floor covering of, the by then common, linoleum was placed on top of these disparate floors to create a tidy continuous floor for the newly created room.

#### *Phase 4, late 20<sup>th</sup> century re-working as an outbuilding / store*

The use of the house as an outbuilding / store necessitated the removal of the internal dividing walls. Four concrete piers were constructed to support a new roof, probably replacing wooden crucks. A concrete floor was floated across the surface of the pre-existing floors, the, by then rotted, wooden floors levelled up with building rubble from elsewhere.

#### *Drumreagh House as an example of vernacular Irish Architecture*

The house at Drumreagh is a something of a paradox. The bricks are of a size that is very typical of bricks of the later seventeenth to early eighteenth century (Gailey 1984, 60), although he notes some local variation. The artefacts found during the excavation suggest a building that, at its earliest, must be later 18<sup>th</sup> century if not early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This leaves two alternatives, either a later use of bricks of this size in the Bendooragh area, or alternatively that the bricks were reclaimed from an earlier building. There are records of brick built farmhouses in northern parts of Co. Antrim in the 1835 poor survey (Gailey 1984, 60) and mentions of brick farmhouses in this region in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs (*ibid*).

A significant feature of the Drumreagh house is the probable use of crucks to support the roof. The exact form of the cruck roof is impossible to reconstruct, as none of the original roof timbers remain, but the use of modern concrete pillars to support the weight of the roof, coupled with rather flimsy walls, does make it seem likely that the pillars have simply replicated the crucks that were previously there.

A central hearth is typical of many 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses in Ulster. This is a positioning which is most effective at heating the house. Sometimes there would have been two back to back central fireplaces, although we found no evidence of this. There was a second hearth at the east gable. Although it is not certain from the excavated remains it seems that this may have been a primary, or at least an early, feature of the house. There does not appear to have been a hearth at the west end of the house although a dummy chimney can be seen preserved in the brickwork of the west gable, showing that symmetry was important to the builders of Drumreagh, perhaps just a nod to Georgian ascetics. The form of the hearth at Drumreagh is slightly different from what might have been expected at a late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse. The excavation revealed a fireplace with a pit, more normally a hearth constructed directly onto a cobbled surface or similar might have been expected. Gailey (1984, 123) notes however that in Aghadoeey, only a few miles from Drumreagh, houses with fireplace pits and raised hearths became common in the couple of decades before the compilation of the Ordnance Survey field sheets in the 1830's suggesting that it is possible that the fire pit was a primary feature of the Drumreagh house, although the possibility that an earlier hearth was destroyed by the fire pit cannot be discounted.

A partial parallel for the Drumreagh house may be found at Clooney, Magilligan Co. Derry / Londonderry, approximately 17 miles northwest of Drumreagh. It is constructed from bricks and also has a cruck supported roof. Like the Drumreagh house it has stone footings, upon which the bricks rest, although the stones are somewhat larger than the cobbles footing the walls at Drumreagh. Accounts of the construction of the house from the owners family suggest that it was constructed about 1780, which is corroborated by the knowledge that this area of north Derry coast was largely reclaimed in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century (McCourt 1965, 43) possibly making it a near contemporary of the Drumreagh house. The size of the bricks from Clooney is similar to the Drumreagh house. McCourt suggests that there is local production of brick in the Magilligan area, taking advantage of suitable clays in the area (*ibid*). It is not unreasonable, given that brick production is well attested in the lower Bann valley area and that there is widespread availability of suitable clays in the immediate vicinity however thin section analysis of the bricks would be required to ascertain this. The form of the house is otherwise quite different from the Drumreagh house. The Clooney house is a two roomed structure with gable hearths, and a direct entrance into the kitchen.

It seems likely that the Drumreagh house was a three bay structure from it's earliest construction. There is no evidence for the house having been a two roomed house which was extended, the build style being very consistent from one end of the building to the other.

No evidence was found for any kind of screen wall or jamb wall (Gailey 1984, 140) defining a lobby screening the hearth from the entrance and on balance of probability it is likely that the house had a direct entry. It is possible, of course, that the screen wall was not a large, permanent wall but a light structure, resting on, rather than footed in, the floor and has such has left no indication not obliterated by later floor surfaces.

The floors of the earliest phase at Drumreagh were earth with cobbling around the central hearth. This is typical of Irish vernacular houses of the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid*, 125). As discussed above in rooms 3 and 4 it is likely that the wooden floor replaced an earlier earthen floor. Gailey notes the appearance of wooden floors supported by joists on farmhouses from the 1830's onwards but notes that, in Newtownards at least, they were still in only a minority (14.3%) of farmhouses by the 1860's (Gailey 1984, 128). The earthen floors were finally replaced by ceramic tiles, measuring approximately 30cm squared, grouted in mortar, at Drumreagh although the date is uncertain. Gailey(1984, 127) suggests tiled floors, frequently using imported Scottish tiles, were common from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

## Conclusions

The excavations at Drumreagh have shown a three roomed, cruck roofed, brick built house probably dating to the later 18th or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The house appeared to have, initially at least, a central hearth and a direct entrance into the kitchen. The house was renovated and refurbished on several occasions with earthen floors replaced by wood in some rooms, internal partitions to create greater privacy for the users and a east gable hearth. Also the roof of the house was heightened and an upstairs room created over the east end of the house, where possibly a loft had been before.

The use of brick in the house is interesting. The brick is unusually small and is similar in dimensions to late 17<sup>th</sup> century bricks. It is possible that the brick is indeed 17<sup>th</sup> century and that it has been reclaimed from another building. However it is also possible that there may be traditions of building in unusually flat bricks surviving in northern parts of Ulster through to the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century as is shown by the brick built cruck roof building at Magilligan, which has bricks of similar dimensions to those at Drumreagh.

## Recommendations for Further Work

A substantial collection of artefacts were uncovered during the Drumreagh excavation. These artefacts included:

- Iron objects
- Pottery
- Glass
- Clay pipe fragments

**Iron objects:** A number of corroded iron objects were uncovered during the excavation. Many of these were corroded nails but other pieces of apparently structural metalwork were found also. It is suggested that these iron objects are examined by Dr Philip Macdonald of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork

**Pottery:** A substantial amount of glazed fine ware and earthen ware pottery was found during the excavation. It is proposed that this is examined by the author.

**Glass:** A number of fragments of window glass and glass vessels were found during the excavation, it is proposed that this is examined by the author.

**Clay Pipe Fragments:** A few pieces of clay pipe bowl and stem were found during the excavation. It is proposed that these clay pipe fragments are examined and dated by the author.

## Bibliography

- Gailey, A., 1984                      *Rural Houses of the North of Ireland*, John Donald, Edinburgh
- Livingstone-Smith, A., 2001        “Bonfire II: The return of pottery firing temperatures”, *Journal of Archaeological Science*
- McCourt, D., 1965                    “Some Cruck built buildings in Derry and Donegal”, *Ulster folklife*, 11
- McCourt, D., 1972                    “Further Cruck Trusses in East Ulster”, *Ulster folklife*, 19
- O'Reilly B., 2011                    “Hearth and Home: The vernacular house in Ireland from circa 1800”, *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, C, 111

### *Additional Documents*

PRONI MST 307a                    Hearth Money Rolls

1901/1911 Census of Ireland available at Irish National Archives Website        <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

Griffith Valuation available at National Library of Ireland Website        [www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml)

Context No.	Description
301	Concrete floor
302	Sandy mortar floor / subfloor
303	Concrete with tile impressions
304	Berm of Earth, evidence for non load bearing internal wall, possibly of peat
305	Mixed levelling layer 19 <sup>th</sup> century finds
306	Layer of mixed rubble, bricks, slate and fairly modern finds
307	Apparent cut filled by 306
308	
309	
310	
311	Flat stones scatteded above 312
312	Subsoil
313	Cobble footing of exterior wall
314	Wall of house
315	Brick base of earlier fireplace
316	Ash deposit from earlier fireplace, same era as floor 303?
317	Brick footing for floor joists
318	Brown loam silty ash with some charcoal
319	Beaten clay floor, resembles subsoil
320	Gully in north end of trench filled by 319

Context No.	Description
401	Modern concrete floor
402	Stoney, pebbly bed for concrete floor
403	Loamy clay with small cobble sized stones
404	Brick wall
405	Mortar layer beneath 403, and above 407.poss same as 415
406	Very disturbed area to west of 404, Dunnes stores bag!
407	Beaten clay floor similar to 319, beneath 426, dimpled by cobbles, later removed before cobbles 422 laid into sand 426
408	Apparent cut for wall, but wasn't a cut
409	Mortar layer around stones 410

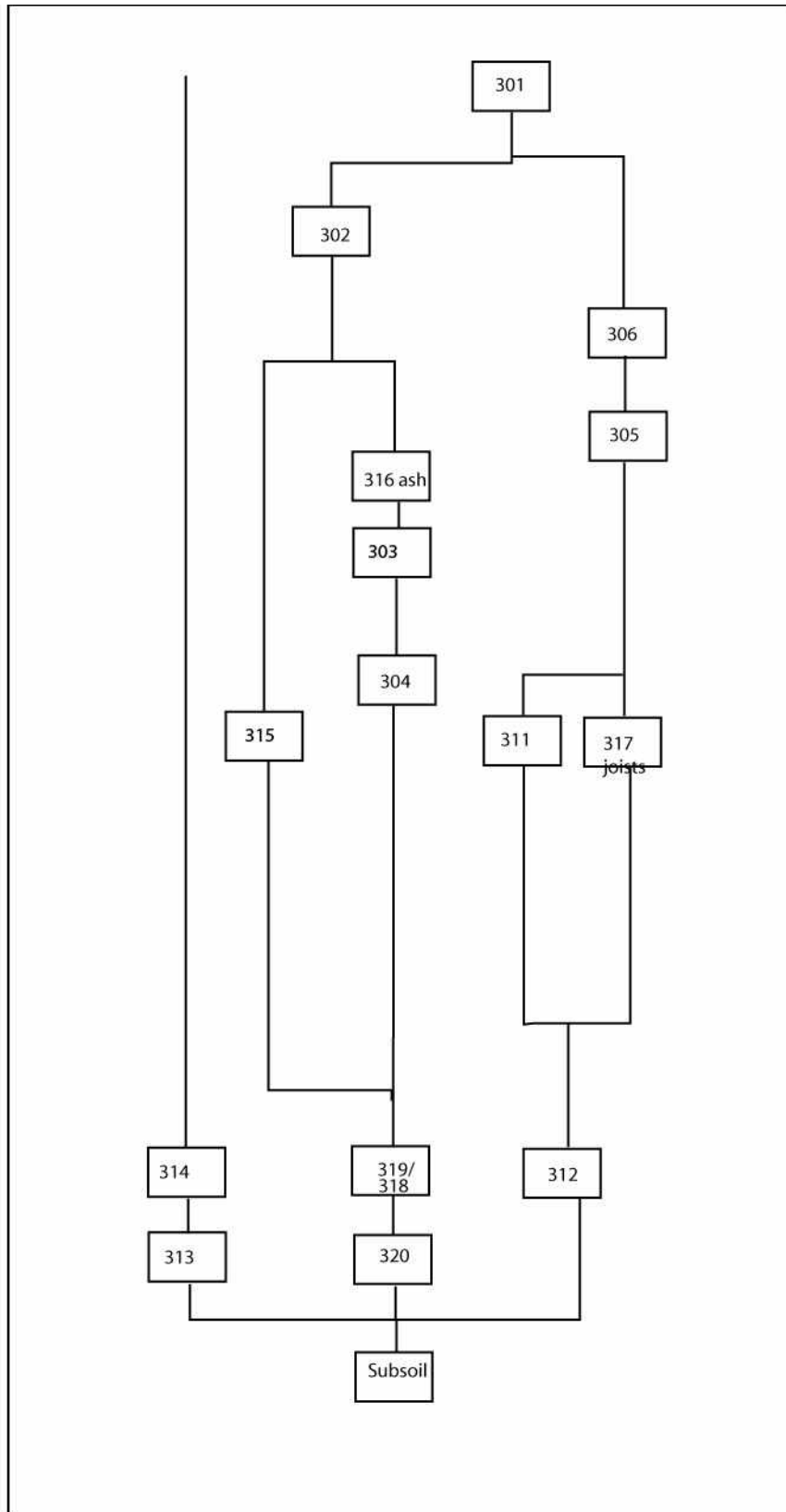
410	Large stones
411	Remains of rotted wooden floor beneath large stones 410
412	Brick supports for floor joists
413	Spread of charcoal and fire reddened sand above beaten floor 407, hearth sweepings.
414	Tiles
415	Concrete bedding layer for tiles, beneath pebble layer 402, prob same as 405
416	Modern levelling deposit
417	Dark grey / brown silty loam, some cinder, charcoal, sitting on 424.
418	Very dark grey loam
419	Fireplace structure composed of bricks, piece of foil beneath one of the stones – 20 <sup>th</sup> C?, above 426
420	Internal wall
421	Collapsed render and slate
422	Patch of cobbles
423	Loam, brick, mortar and slate collapse layer
424	Brick, mortar and small stones collapse layer below 417, bricks still mortared together, collapsed fire surround?
425	Spread of clay to south of hearth, beneath 418?
426	Sand and orange clay to southwest of hearth
427	Brick setting, earlier than 426, relationship to 424 unclear
428	Dark hearth deposit beneath hearth stone, contained thrupenny bit of George VI
429	Levelling layer above 433 the fill of 430 deposited immediately after the insertion of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century brick fireplace 419, to take up gap at the sides of the brick.
430	Cut to accommodate hearth? Filled by 433 and 434
431	Sandy clay with brick fragments filling an apparent cut 342 into 407, to accommodate the wall 420.
432	Gap between beaten earth floor 407 and wall 420, possibly a cut.
433	Brown grey ashy loam fill of 430
434	Cindery loam lower fill of 430
435	Clutch of stones with a gritty loam around them, filling a void 436, probably left by the removal of a stone before laying floor 407. A levelling deposit.

Context No.	Description
1000	Topsoil
1001	Modern cut filled by 1002
1002	Clay stone and modern brick fill of 1002
1003	Drain running parallel to and almost beside the house filled by 1004
1004	Stone and brick primary fill of 1003
1005	Dark grey loam upper fill of 1003

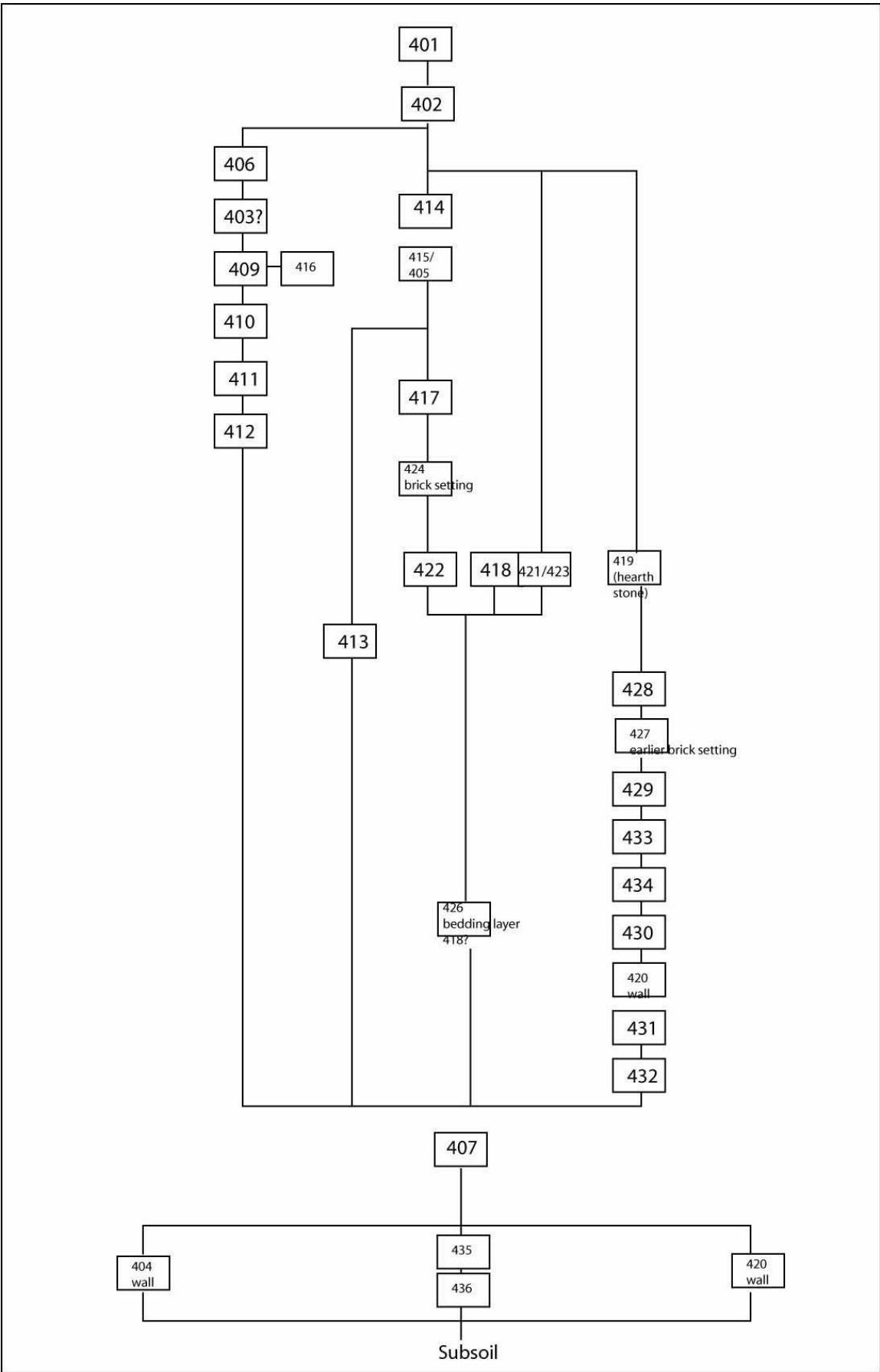


1006	Depression / shallow pit
1007	Dark grey loam fill of depression 1006
1008	Depression / shallow pit
1009	Dark grey silty loam fill of depression / pit 1008
1010	Linear gully 0.2m deep
1011	Dark grey loam with slate fill of gully 1010
1012	Cut for sewer pipe
1013	Fill of sewer pipe cut 1012.

Appendix 2: Harris Matrices



Trench 3 Matrix



Trench 4 Matrix

Appendix 3: Photo Log

Photo Number	Photo description
1 (IMG 7313)	Southwest of house exterior during stripping
2 (IMG 7314)	Southwest of house exterior during stripping
3 (IMG 7315)	Southwest of house exterior during stripping
4 (IMG 7316)	Southwest of house exterior during stripping
5 (IMG 7317)	Southwest of house exterior during stripping
6 (IMG 7318)	North of house exterior prior to stripping
7 (IMG 7319)	Emergence of drain ( ) to the south of the house
8 (IMG 7320)	Emergence of drain ( ) to the south of the house
9 (IMG 7321)	Emergence of drain ( ) to the south of the house
10 (IMG 7322)	Emergence of drain ( ) to the south of the house
11 (IMG 7323)	Fragment of blackware beneath brick wall footing
12 (IMG 7324)	Brick wall footing
13 (IMG 7325)	Fragment of blackware beneath brick wall footing
14 (IMG 7326)	Emergence of drain ( ) to the south of the house
15 (IMG 7327)	Emergence of drain ( ) to the south of the house
16 (IMG 7328)	Superficial feature to northeast of house
17 (IMG 7329)	Superficial feature to northeast of house
18 (IMG 7330)	Trench 3 upon removal of concrete, from north
19 (IMG 7331)	Trench 3 upon removal of concrete, from west
20 (IMG 7332)	Trench 3 upon removal of concrete, from southwest
21 (IMG 7333)	Trench 3 upon removal of concrete, from northwest
22 (IMG 7334)	Trench 3 upon removal of concrete, from northwest
23 (IMG 7335)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
24 (IMG 7336)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
25 (IMG 7337)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
26 (IMG 7338)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
27 (IMG 7339)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
28 (IMG 7340)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
29 (IMG 7341)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
30 (IMG 7342)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
31 (IMG 7343)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
32 (IMG 7344)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)

33 (IMG 7345)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
34 (IMG 7346)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
35 (IMG 7347)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing course of foundation cobbles emerging
36 (IMG 7348)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
37 (IMG 7349)	DELETED
38 (IMG 7350)	Deleted
39 (IMG 7351)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
40 (IMG 7352)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
41 (IMG 7353)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete showing base of sod wall (104)
42 (IMG 7354)	Trench 3 view of late 19 <sup>th</sup> century rubble rich fill layers (305) and (306) under excavation
43 (IMG 7355)	First view of hearth (315)/ (316) after removal of (303)
44 (IMG 7356)	First view of hearth (315)/ (316) after removal of (303)
45 (IMG 7357)	First view of hearth (315)/ (316) after removal of (303)
46 (IMG 7358)	View of cobble wall footing (313)
47 (IMG 7359)	View of wall footing (313) and brick floor joist supports (317)
48 (IMG 7421)	Cut through rubble levelling layer (306) to reveal subsoil (312)
49 (IMG 7422)	View of beaten clay floor (319)
50 (IMG 7423)	View of beaten clay floor (319)
51 (IMG 7424)	View of beaten clay floor (319)
52 (IMG 7425)	View of beaten clay floor (319)
53 (IMG 7426)	View of beaten clay floor (319), good view of hearth features (315) and (316)
54 (IMG 7427)	View of beaten clay floor (319), good view of hearth features (315) and (316)
55 (IMG 7428)	View of beaten clay floor (319), good view of hearth features (315) and (316)
56 (IMG 7429)	View of beaten clay floor (319), good view of hearth features (315) and (316)
57 (IMG 7430)	Good view of hearth features (315) and (316)
58 (IMG 7431)	Good view of hearth features (315) and (316)
59 (IMG 7432)	Good view of hearth features (315) and (316)
60 (IMG 7433)	View of subsoil (312), cobble footing of wall (313) and brick floor joist supports (317)
61 (IMG 7434)	View of subsoil (312), cobble footing of wall (313) and brick floor joist supports (317)

62 (IMG 7435)	View of entire Trench 3 showing clay floor (319) fireplace elements (315) and (316), subsoil (312), cobble footing of wall (313) and brick floor joist supports (317)
63 (IMG 7436)	View of subsoil (312), cobble footing of wall (313) and brick floor joist supports (317)
64 (IMG 7437)	Deleted
65 (IMG 7438)	Clay floor (319) and hearth (315)/ (316)
66 (IMG 7439)	Unused
67 (IMG 7440)	Unused
68 (IMG 7441)	Unused
69 (IMG 7442)	Hearth (315)/ (316)
70 (IMG 7443)	Clay floor (319) and hearth (315)/ (316)
71 (IMG 7444)	Trench 4 after removal of concrete
72 (IMG 7445)	Trench 4 after removal of concrete
73 (IMG 7446)	West end of Trench 4 after removal of concrete
74 (IMG 7447)	East end of Trench 4 after removal of concrete showing internal wall (404)
75 (IMG 7448)	North section of Trench 3
76 (IMG 7449)	North section of Trench 3
77 (IMG 7450)	North section of Trench 3
78 (IMG 7451)	View of north of Trench 3 showing gully (320)
79 (IMG 7452)	Gully (320) and fireplace elements (315)
80 (IMG 7453)	Gully (320) and fireplace elements (315)
81 (IMG 7454)	Detail of cobble footing (313) of wall.
82 (IMG 7455)	Detail of cobble footing (313) of wall.
83 (IMG 7456)	Detail of cobble footing (313) of wall in fireplace
84 (IMG 7457)	Detail of cobble footing (313) of wall in fireplace
85 (IMG 7458)	Trench 3 after removal of concrete (401) and bedding (402) showing concrete tile bedding layer (405/415) and large stone rubble and mortar deposit (409/410)
86 (IMG 7459)	Large stones (410)
87 (IMG 7460)	Large stones (410)
88 (IMG 7461)	View of (437) the clay layer beneath stones (410), some remnant stones (410) and brick floor joist support (413)
89 (IMG 7462)	Trace of wood still adhering to mortar on joist support (413)
90 (IMG 7463)	Trace of wood still adhering to mortar on joist support (413)

91 (IMG 7464)	Trace of wood still adhering to mortar on joist support (413)
92 (IMG 7487)	View of Trench 4 showing joist supports (406) and (413) , clay subfloor (?) (437) and wall (404).
93 (IMG 7488)	West end of Trench 4 showing joist support (413) and rotted wood
94 (IMG 7489)	West end of Trench 4 showing clay (437)
95 (IMG 7490)	West end of Trench 4 showing joist supports (406) and (413), clay layer (437) and rotted wood
96 (IMG 7491)	West end of Trench 4 north section
97 (IMG 7492)	West end of Trench 4 showing joist support (413) and clay (437)
98 (IMG 7493)	Trench 4 showing clay (437) and joist (413)
99 (IMG 7494)	Trench 4 showing joist (413)
100 (IMG 7495)	Trench 4 showing joist (413)
101 (IMG 7496)	Trench 4 showing joist (406)
102 (IMG 7497)	Trench 4 showing joist (406) and wall (404)
103 (IMG 7498)	Trench 4 showing wall (404)
104 (IMG 7499)	Trench 4 showing joist (406) and wall (404)
105 (IMG 7500)	Trench 4 showing footing of wall (404)
106 (IMG 7501)	Trench 4 showing footing of wall (404)
107 (IMG 7502)	Trench 4 showing footing of wall (404)
108 (IMG 7503)	Trench 4 showing footing of wall (404)
109 (IMG 7504)	Trench 4 showing footing of wall (404)
110 (IMG 7505)	Trench 4 eastward extension before excavation
111 (IMG 7506)	View of tiles (414) before removal.
112 (IMG 7507)	View of tiles (414) before removal.
113 (IMG 7508)	View of top of (415) mortar bedding layer for tiles
114 (IMG 7509)	View of top of (415) mortar bedding layer for tiles
115 (IMG 7510)	View of top of (415) mortar bedding layer for tiles
116 (IMG 7511)	View of reddish sandy clay (413) beneath concrete bedding layer (415) for tiles (414)
120 (IMG 7512)	View of reddish sandy clay (413) beneath concrete bedding layer (415) for tiles (414)
121 (IMG 7513)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles and tile bedding concrete.
122 (IMG 7514)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and

	reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles and tile bedding concrete.
123 (IMG 7515)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles and tile bedding concrete.
124 (IMG 7516)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles and tile bedding concrete.
125 (IMG 7517)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles and tile bedding concrete.
126 (IMG 7518)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles tile bedding concrete, and internal wall (420).
127 (IMG 7519)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles tile bedding concrete, and internal wall (420).
128 (IMG 7520)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles tile bedding concrete, and internal wall (420).
129 (IMG 7521)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles tile bedding concrete, and internal wall (420).
130 (IMG 7522)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles tile bedding concrete, and internal wall (420).
131 (IMG 7523)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles tile bedding concrete, and internal wall (420).
132 (IMG 7524)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles tile bedding concrete, and internal wall (420).
133 (IMG 7525)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles tile bedding concrete, and internal wall (420).
134 (IMG 7526)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) just below tiles tile bedding concrete, and internal wall (420).
135 (IMG 7527)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417).



136 (IMG 7528)	Further extension of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417).
137 (IMG 7529)	General view of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417) and clay layer (413).
138 (IMG 7530)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417).
139 (IMG 7531)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417).
140 (IMG 7532)	General view of Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and reddened charcoal rich earth (417), collapse layer (424) and clay layer (413).
141 (IMG 7533)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and collapse layer (424) .
142 (IMG 7534)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), clay (413) and collapse layer (424) .
143 (IMG 7535)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), clay (413) and collapse layer (424) .
144 (IMG 7536)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419) and collapse layer (424) .
145 (IMG 7537)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), clay (413) and collapse layer (424) .
146 (IMG 7538)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), clay (413) and collapse layer (424) .
147 (IMG 7539)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), clay (413), (charcoal 417), brick setting (427) and collapse layer (424) .
148 (IMG 7540)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), clay (413), (charcoal 417), brick setting (427) and collapse layer (424) .
149 (IMG 7541)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), (charcoal 417), brick setting (427) and collapse layer (424) .
150 (IMG 7542)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), (charcoal 417), brick setting (427), internal wall (420) and collapse layer (424) .
151 (IMG 7543)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), (charcoal 417), brick setting (427), internal wall (420) and collapse layer (424) .
152 (IMG 7544)	Trench 4 eastwards showing hearth stone (419), (charcoal 417), brick setting (427), internal wall (420) and collapse layer (424) .
153 (IMG 7545)	Collapsed brick setting (427) and some stones of hearth (419)
154 (IMG 7546)	Cobble bedding layer (426) beside hearth stone (419) and associated brickwork
155 (IMG 7547)	Cobble bedding layer (426), hearth stone (419), (charcoal 417), brick setting (427),

	internal wall (420) and collapse layer (424)
156 (IMG 7548)	Cobble bedding layer (426), hearth stone (419), (charcoal 417), brick setting (427), internal wall (420) and collapse layer (424)
157 (IMG 7549)	Cobble bedding layer (426), hearth stone (419), (charcoal 417), brick setting (427), internal wall (420) and collapse layer (424)
158 (IMG 7569)	Hearth after removal of Hearth stone (419) showing floor (407)
159 (IMG 7570)	Detail hearth (419) showing rotted grate stubs
160 (IMG 7571)	Detail hearth (419) showing rotted grate stubs
161 (IMG 7572)	Hearth (419) and floor (407)
162 (IMG 7573)	Hearth (419) and floor (407) and wall (420)
163 (IMG 7574)	Hearth (419) and floor (407) and wall (420)
164 (IMG 7575)	Hearth (419) and floor (407) and wall (420)
165 (IMG 7576)	Hearth (419) and wall (420) showing chamfered bricks in wall and stone back of hearth made from wall footing
166 (IMG 7577)	Hearth (419) and wall (420) showing chamfered bricks in wall and stone back of hearth made from wall footing
167 (IMG 7578)	Hearth (419) and wall (420) showing chamfered bricks in wall and stone back of hearth made from wall footing - flash
168 (IMG 7579)	Hearth (419) and wall (420) showing chamfered bricks in wall and stone back of hearth made from wall footing - flash
169 (IMG 7580)	Hearth (419) and wall (420) showing chamfered bricks in wall and stone back of hearth made from wall footing
170 (IMG 7581)	Hearth (419) and wall (420) showing chamfered bricks in wall and stone back of hearth made from wall footing
171 (IMG 7582)	Hearth (419) and wall (420) showing chamfered bricks in wall and stone back of hearth made from wall footing
172 (IMG 7583)	Hearth (419) and wall (420) showing chamfered bricks in wall and stone back of hearth made from wall footing
173 (IMG 7584)	Slight extension to east of Trench 4 lowered to level of joist supports
174 (IMG 7585)	Slight extension to east of Trench 4 lowered to level of joist supports
175 (IMG 7586)	Slight extension to east of Trench 4 lowered to level of joist supports
176 (IMG 7587)	Wall (420) and hearth (419)
177 (IMG 7588)	Detail of footing of wall (420)
178 (IMG 7589)	Hearth cut (430) and wall (420)
179 (IMG 7590)	Hearth cut (430) and wall (420)

180 (IMG 7591)	Deleted
181 (IMG 7592)	Small trial trench to north of Trench 4 looking for evidence of lobby- traces of late cobbling then onto (407) no sign of hall wall.
182 (IMG 7593)	Small trial trench to north of Trench 4 looking for evidence of lobby- traces of late cobbling then onto (407) no sign of hall wall.
183 (IMG 7594)	General View Trench 4 from east
184 (IMG 7595)	General View Trench 4 from east
185 (IMG 7596)	General View Trench 4 from east
186 (IMG 7597)	East end Trench 4 showing subsoil
187 (IMG 7598)	West end Trench 4 showing subsoil
188 (IMG 7599)	East end Trench 4 showing subsoil
189 (IMG 7600)	West end Trench 4 showing subsoil
190 (IMG 7601)	North section Trench 4 – part of
191 (IMG 7602)	North section Trench 4 – part of
192 (IMG 7603)	North section Trench 4 – part of
193 (IMG 7604)	North section Trench 4 – part of
194 (IMG 7605)	North section Trench 4 – part of
195 (IMG 7606)	North section Trench 4 – part of
196 (IMG 7607)	North section Trench 4 – part of
197 (IMG 7608)	East section Trench 4- part of
198 (IMG 7609)	East section of Trench 4 – part of
199 (IMG 7610)	Concrete plinth base- detail
200 (IMG 7611)	East section Trench 4- part of
201 (IMG 7612)	South section Trench 4 – part of
202 (IMG 7612)	South section Trench 4 – part of
203 (IMG 7613)	South section Trench 4 – part of
204 IMG (7614)	South section Trench 4 – part of
205 IMG (7615)	General overview Trench 4
206 IMG (7616)	View of Trench 4 and west gable prior to backfilling
207 IMG (7617)	View of Trench 4 and west gable prior to backfilling
208 IMG (7618)	View of Trench 4 and west gable prior to backfilling
209 IMG (7619)	View of Trench 4 showing levelling of subsoil depression prior to laying floor
210 IMG (7620)	West end of Trench 4

211 IMG (7621)	Central area of Trench 4
212 IMG (7622)	East end of Trench 4
213 IMG (7623)	East end of Trench 4 and wall (420) and footing
214 IMG (7624)	East end of Trench 4 and wall (420) and footing
215 IMG (7625)	East end of Trench 4 and wall (420) and footing
216 IMG (7626)	East end of Trench 4 and wall (420) footing, floor joist supports
217 IMG (7627)	East end of Trench 4 and wall (420) and footing
218 IMG (7628)	East end of Trench 4 and wall (420) and footing
219 IMG (7629)	East end of Trench 4 showing infill of subsoil depression
220 IMG (7630)	East end of Trench 4 showing subsoil depression
221 IMG (7631)	East end of Trench 4 showing subsoil depression
222 IMG (7632)	Patch of earth and 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery exterior to house
223 IMG (7633)	Brian and Saph excavate house exterior
224 IMG (7634)	Cut into modern drain (1012)
225 IMG (7635)	Cut into modern drain (1012)
226 IMG (7636)	Cut into modern drain (1012)
227 IMG (7637)	Cut into modern drain (1012)
228 IMG (7638)	Cut into modern drain (1012)
229 IMG (7639)	Cut into modern drain (1012)
230 IMG (7640)	Cut into modern drain (1012)
231 IMG (7641)	Upper fill of (1003)
232 IMG (7642)	Upper fill of (1003)
233 IMG (7643)	Upper fill of (1003)
234 IMG (7644)	Upper fill of (1003)
235 IMG (7645)	Upper fill of (1003)
236 IMG (7646)	Section through (1003)
237 IMG (7647)	Section through (1003)
238 IMG (7648)	Section through (1003)
239 IMG (7649)	Section through (1003)
240 IMG (7650)	Section through (1003)
241 IMG (7651)	Section through depression (1006)
242 IMG (7652)	Section through depression (1006)
243 IMG (7653)	West gable of house
244 IMG (7654)	West gable of house

245 IMG (7655)	West gable of house
246 IMG (7656)	West gable of house
247 IMG (7657)	West gable of house
248 IMG (7658)	West gable of house
249 IMG (7659)	West gable of house
250 IMG (7660)	West gable of house
251 IMG (7661)	West gable of house
252 IMG (7662)	West gable of house
253 IMG (7663)	West gable of house
254 IMG (7664)	South wall of house
255 IMG (7665)	South wall of house
256 IMG (7666)	South wall of house
257 IMG (7667)	South wall of house
258 IMG (7668)	South wall of house
259 IMG (7669)	South wall of house
260 IMG (7670)	South wall of house
261 IMG (7671)	South wall of house
262 IMG (7672)	South wall of house
263 IMG (7673)	South wall of house
264 IMG (7674)	Linear gully (1010)
265 IMG (7675)	Linear gully (1010)
266 IMG (7676)	East gable of house
267 IMG (7677)	East gable of house
268 IMG (7678)	North wall of house
269 IMG (7679)	North wall of house
270 IMG (7680)	North wall of house

Appendix 4: Drawing Log

<b>Drawing No.</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>
1		Plan of house
2	3	Plan of trench after removal of concrete
3	3	To north of trench mortar floor 303, sod wall base 304, to south subsoil 312, brick joist supports 317 and hearth components 315 and 316
4	3	North of trench showing sod wall base 304, and hearth components 35 and clay floor 318
5	3	Section
6	4	After removal of concrete C. 403, 404, 405 and 406
7	4	Rubble levelling layers 409 / 410, wall 404, void 406 and clay floor 407
8	3	Clay floor 318/9
9	3	Subsoil cutting gully 320
10	4	Wall 404, wood floor remnant 411 and brick joist supports 412
11	4	Room 1Hearth 3
12	4	Room 1Hearth 3 brickwork 419, collapsed brickwork 424 and mortar floor 405
13	4	Room 1Hearth 2, 407, 429, 430
14	4	Room 1Hearth 1, Fire pit 430
15	4	Subsoil and fire pit cut
16	4	Sections
17	1,2,3 & 4	Plan of house and external excavations

Appendix 5: Finds Register List

Trench	Context	Description	
1	101 BG 1	Stoneware, creamware, 1 iron lock plate	
	101 BG 2	2 Very heavy iron nails / structural pins	
	101 BG 3	Stoneware, brick, iron nails, copper alloy jar screw lid (early 20 <sup>th</sup> C), Sponge ware	
	102	Large Blackware rim	
	104	Iron door hinge	
	107 BG 1	3 large brick fragments, 3 small brick fragments, 1 piece of creamware	
	107 BG 2	1 large brick fragment	
	107 BG 3	Creamware x 3 sherds, white stoneware x 14, some blue underglaze painted creamware, some transfer print decorated creamware type.	
	107 BG 4	1 floor tile fragment	
3	305 bg1	2 sherds green bottle glass, 2 sherds clear glass, 1 fragment render, 2 corroded iron nails, 1 corroded fragment iron	
	305 bg2	2 clear glass sherds, 1 brick fragment	
	305 bg3	1 very large iron nail / structural pin	
	305 bg4	2 brick fragments, 1 slate fragment	
	306 bg1	1 large slate, 4 iron nails, 1 tin mug, very corroded, 6 sherds clear bottle glass, 5 sherds dark green bottle glass.	
	306 bg2	1 iron nail, 1 glass candlestick base	
	306 bg 3	1 Broken square sectioned green bottle base and body	
	306 bg 4	1 slate fragment (large)	
	310	3 glass fragments, 3 fragments brick, 1 piece corroded iron	
	312	5 sherds dark green bottle glass, 2 iron nails, 1 badly corroded iron object	
	4	407 bg 1	1 large earthenware rim, clay pipe stem, glass, white glazed pottery type
		407 bg 2	Brick fragments, severall pieces white glazed pot.
		415	1 iron nail, three pieces of white glazed pottery, two pieces blue transfer printed white glaze pottery
417		Earthenware sherd brown to maroon glaze	
417		Blue painted decoration creamware	
418		Corroded iron	
418		Corroded iron nail, fragment window glass, two clay marbles	
421		Red hand and heart clay pipe bowl	
423		Window glass	
426		White glazed pot	
428		Silver foil and a threepenny bit coin of George VI	

	434	Fragment of drinking glass
	435	Earthenware with brown / maroon glaze
Unstratified	Topsoil to rear of stripped area	Fragment of a thin smallish clay pipe bowl, fragment of a fragment of a clay pipe at the join of the stem and bowl base, fluted with a foot.



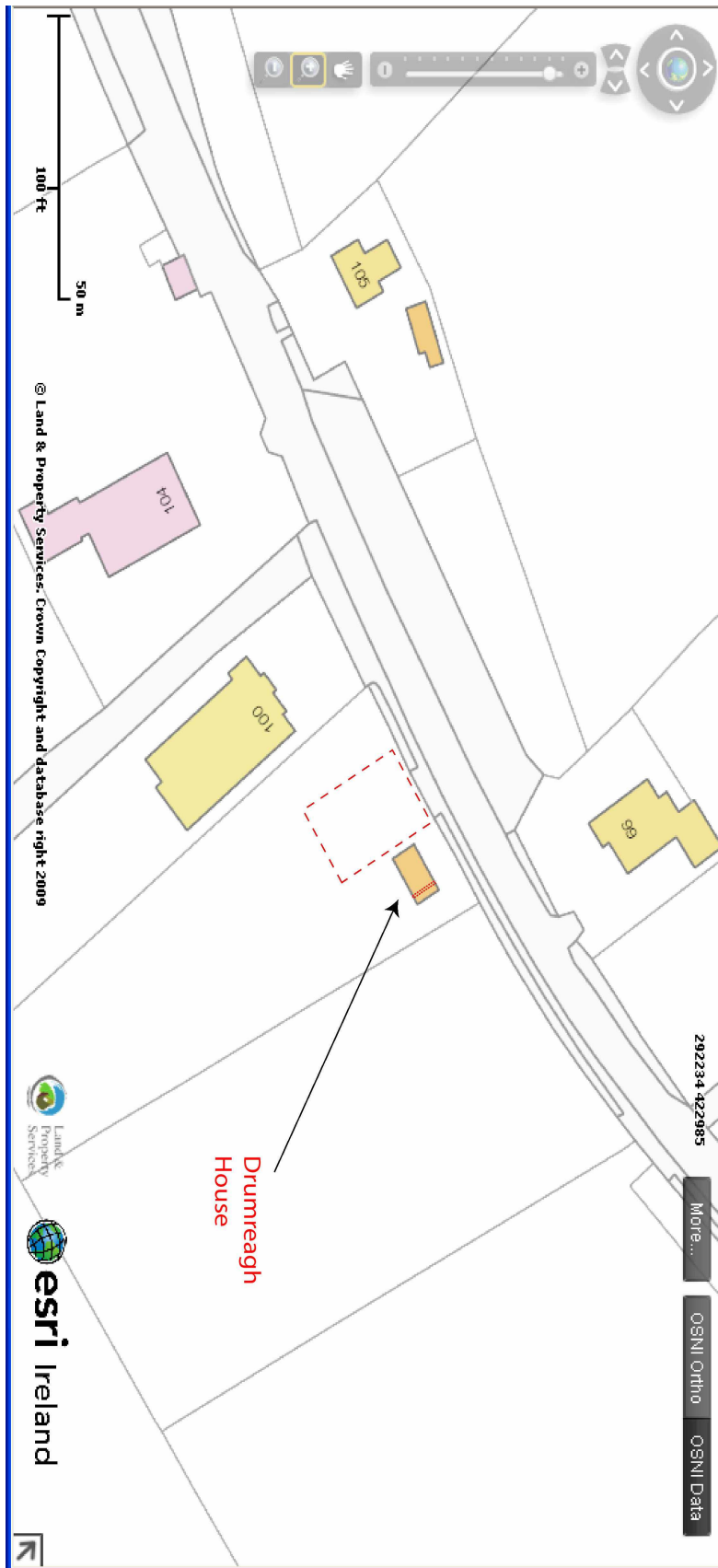


Figure 1: General Location Map

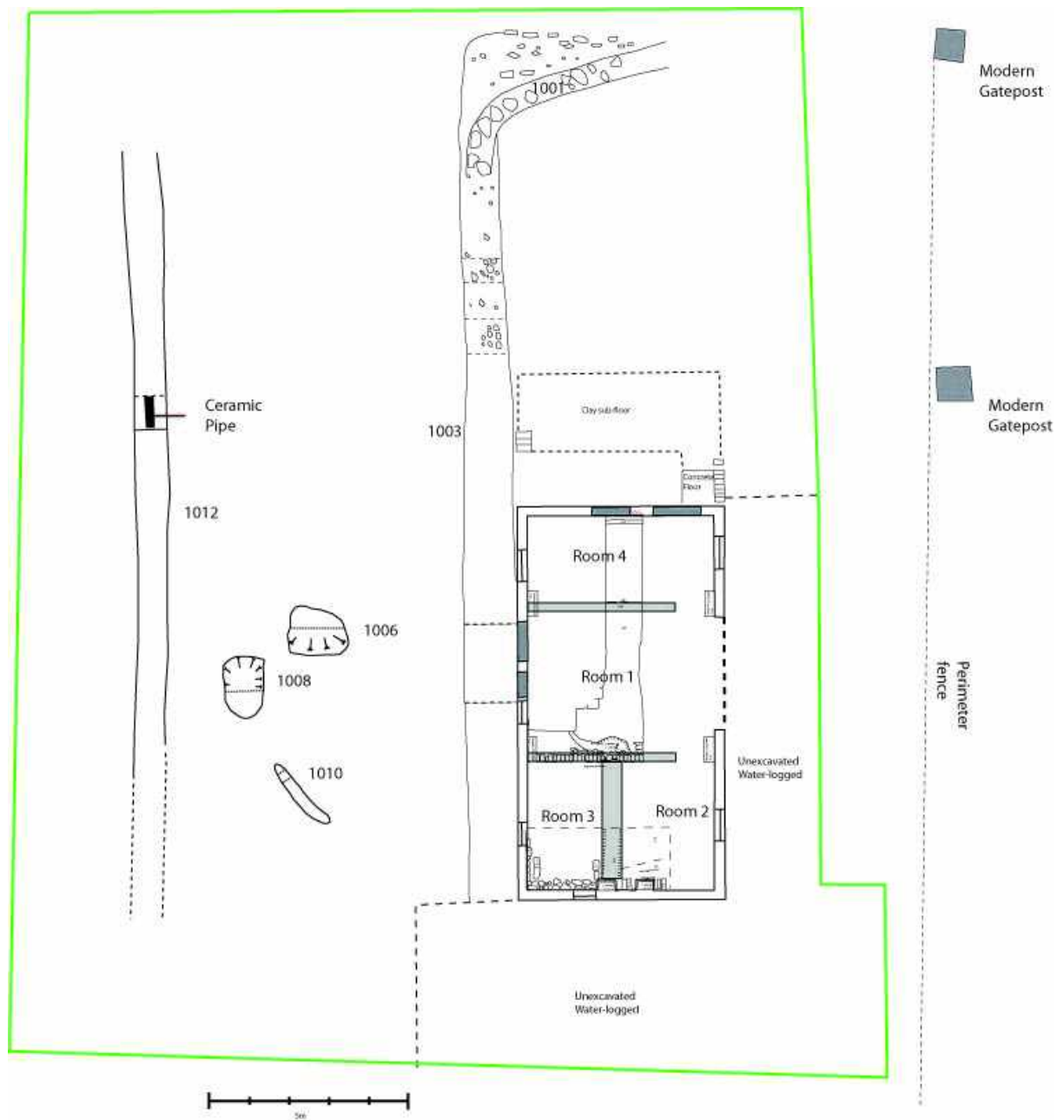


Figure 2 Detailed Location, general plan of excavation and external trenches

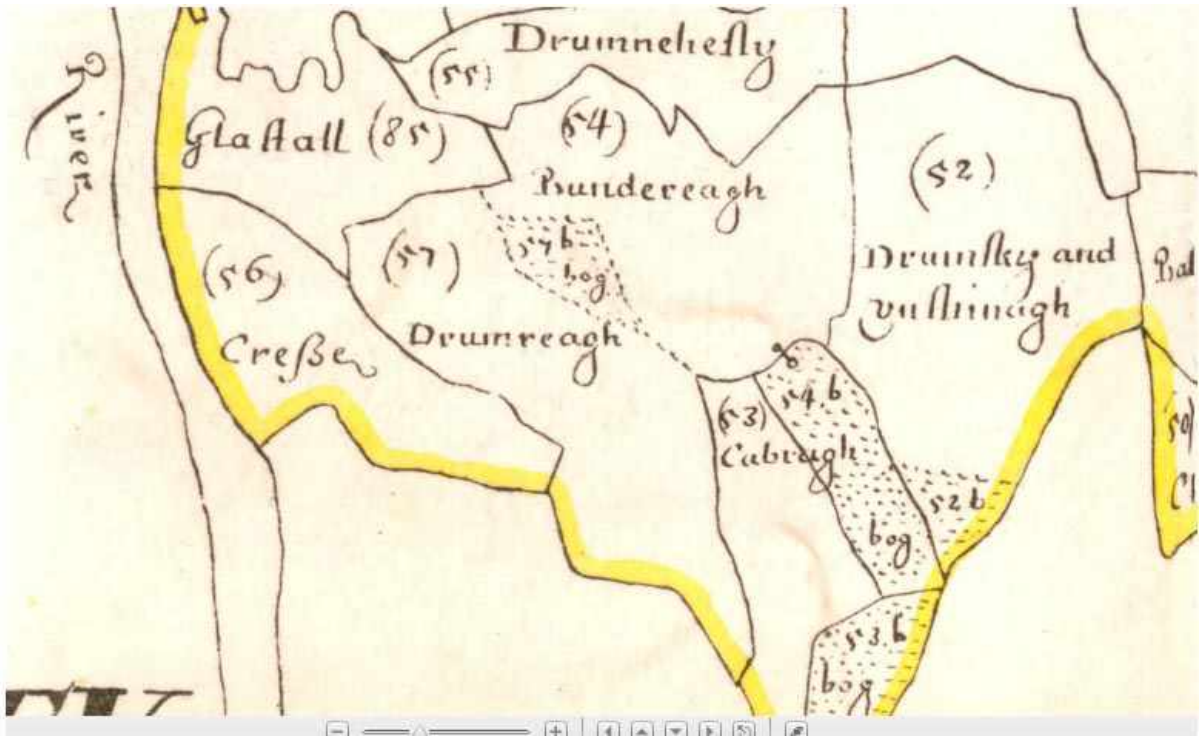


Figure 3: William Petty's map of Drumreagh

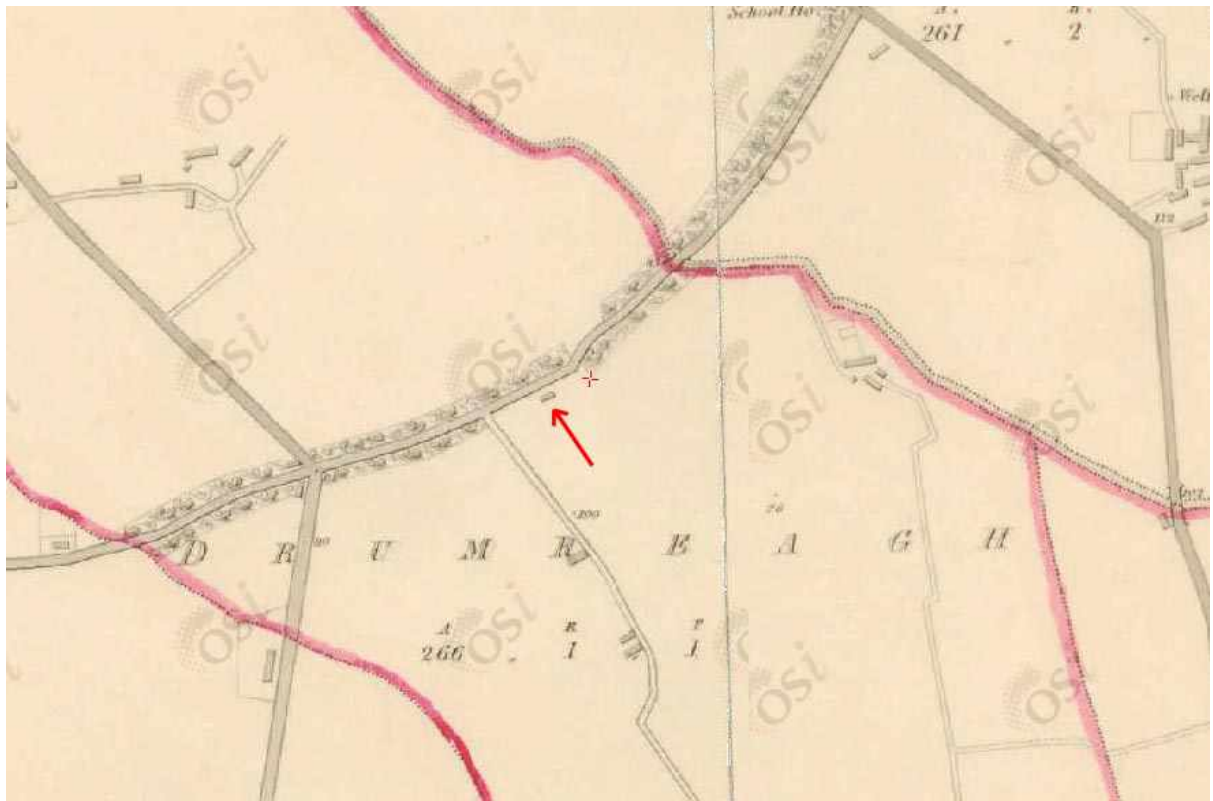


Figure 4: First edition Ordnance Survey Map of Drumreagh showing house- arrowed.



Figure 5: Second edition Ordnance Survey Map of Drumreagh showing with garden plots to east and west and possible annex.



Figure 6a: Griffith Valuation map of Drumreagh

6	a	Samuel Jameson,	Thomas Bennett,	House, offices, and land,	8 0 30	6 0 0	0 10 0
7	a	John Henry,	Same,	House, offices, & land,	9 1 22	7 5 0	1 10 0
8	b	Alexander M' Columb,	John Henry,	House,	14 1 15	11 0 0	0 15 0
8	c	Unoccupied,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 15 0
9	a	Thomas Bennett,	In fee,	Plantation,	8 5 0	5 10 0	0 15 0
9	b	Grace M'Donnell,	Thomas Bennett,	House,	—	—	0 15 0
9	c	Andrew Kennedy,	Same,	House, offices, & garden,	0 1 0	0 5 0	3 10 0
10	a	Samuel Laurence,	Same,	House, offices, & land,	2 2 10	1 15 0	—
10	b	Robert Gray,	Samuel Laurence,	House,	24 2 20	10 15 0	1 15 0
10	c	Joseph Hunt,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 15 0
10	d	Presbyterian Meeting house, Sexton's house, and grave-yard,	(See Exemptions.)	House,	—	—	0 15 0
11	a	Sarah Gray,	Thomas Bennett,	House, offices, & land,	11 0 0	9 5 0	1 10 0
11	b	Mary M'Conigle,	Sarah Gray,	House,	3 2 27	2 0 0	—
11	c	William Hyndman,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 10 0
11	d	Mary Pollock,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 10 0
12	a	James M'Vicker,	Thomas Bennett,	House and land,	14 3 20	12 5 0	0 15 0
12	b	Hugh Gohans,	James M'Vicker,	House,	—	—	0 15 0
12	c	James Blake,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 15 0
13	a	Archibald Love,	Thomas Bennett,	Land,	27 3 0	21 10 0	—
13	b	Elizabeth Sherlock,	Archibald Love,	House,	—	—	0 15 0
13	c	Stewart Linn,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 15 0
14	a	Joseph Patterson,	Thomas Bennett,	House, offices, and land,	15 0 30	11 5 0	1 15 0
15	a	James Boyd,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	47 3 30	37 0 0	5 10 0
15	b	James Henry,	James Boyd,	House,	—	—	0 15 0
15	c	William Borland,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 15 0
15	d	John Reid,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 10 0
16	a	Alexander Graham,	Thomas Bennett,	House and land,	2 0 30	1 10 0	0 10 0
17	a	John Graham,	Same,	House, office, and land,	6 1 15	5 10 0	0 15 0
18	a	James Walker,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	16 0 3	14 10 0	1 15 0
18	b	Margaret Dinsmore,	James Walker,	e,	—	—	9 10 0
18	c	John Forgruff,	Same,	e,	—	—	3 10 0
10						208 15 0	37 5 0 2

Figure 6b: Griffith Valuation of Drumreagh, showing Sarah Gray and her sub-tennants.

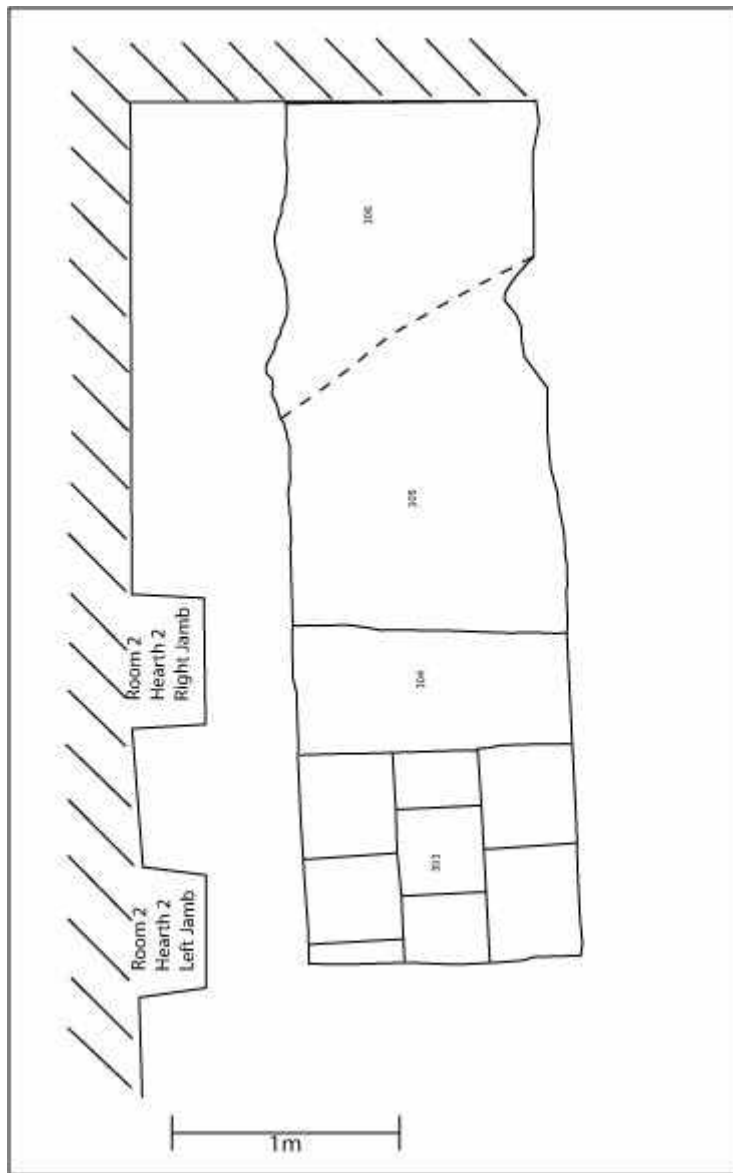


Figure 7: Trench 3 after removal of concrete

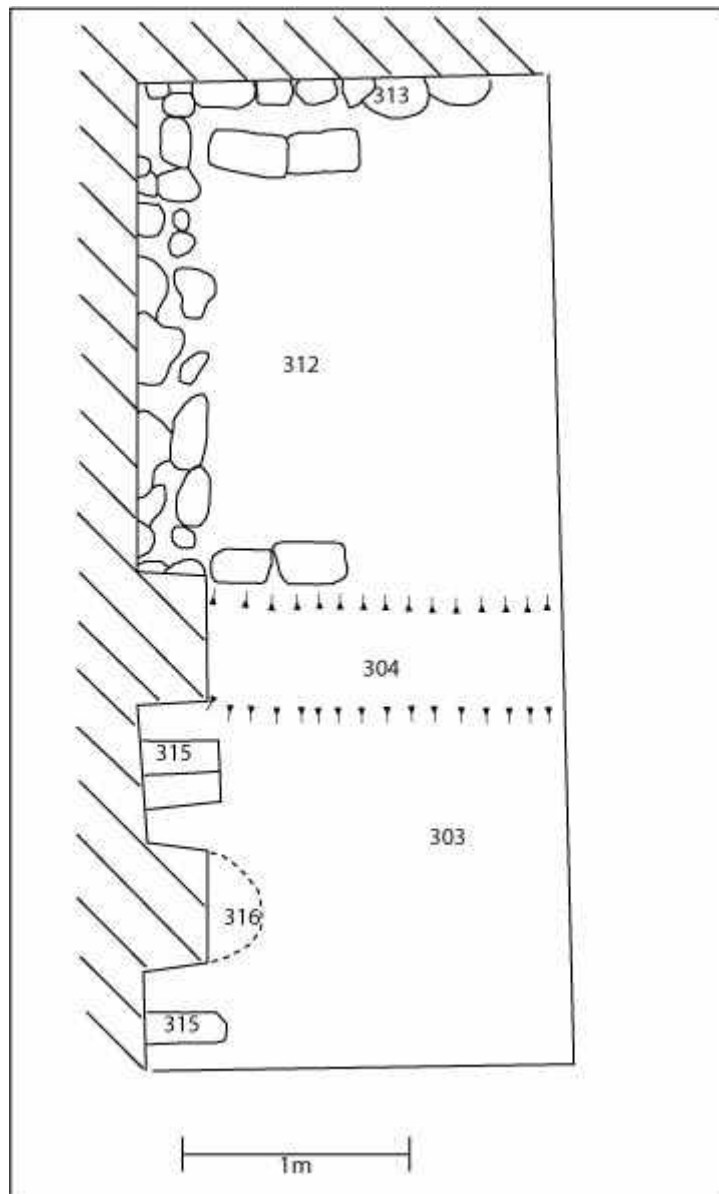


Figure 8: Trench 3 after being extended, showing mortar bedding for tile floor (303), berm of earth (304) possibly supporting internal partition, stone wall footing (313) early fireplace jambs (315) and fireplace derived soot (316) and subsoil (312)



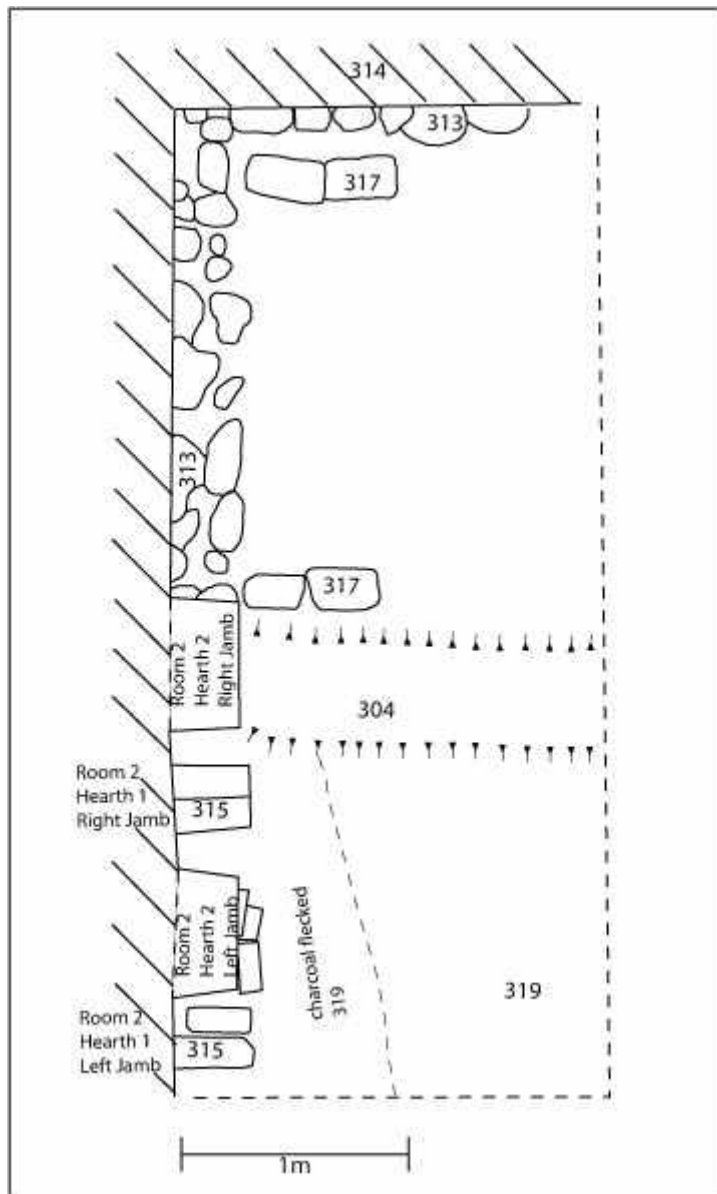


Figure 9: Trench 3 showing joists (317) for support of later wooden floor to south of trench, clay floor (319) in north of trench and brick jamb bases of earlier fireplace (315).

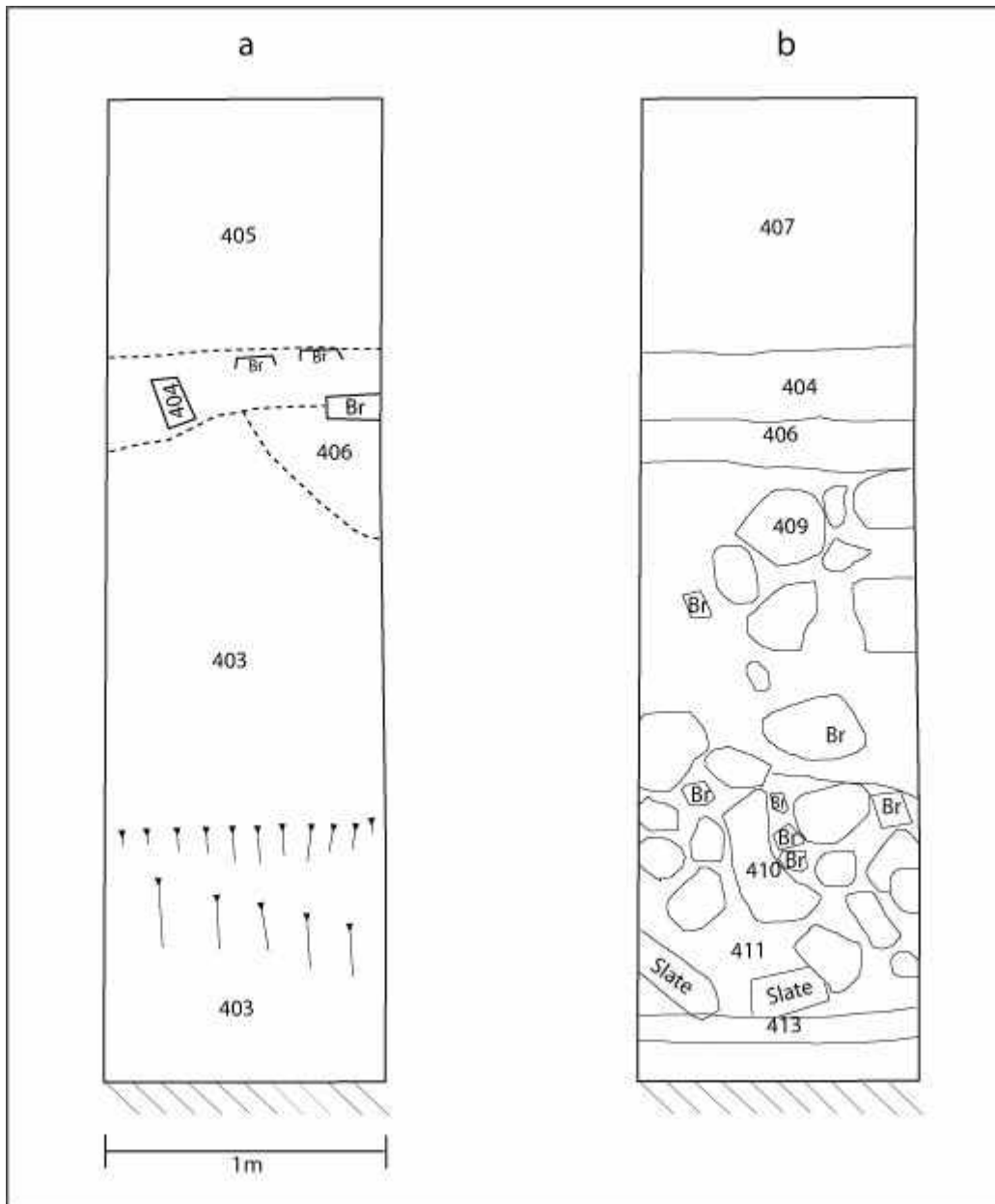


Figure 10a: Plan of initial layout of Trench 4 showing tile bedding mortar (405) and levelling layer (403) as well as top of internal wall (404) and void (406)

Figure 10b: Plan of initial layout of Trench 4 after removal of later levelling and flooring layers showing the beaten clay floor (407), the stones and mortar rubble infill (409 and 410) above the remnants of the wooden floor (411) and the joists supporting this floor (413).

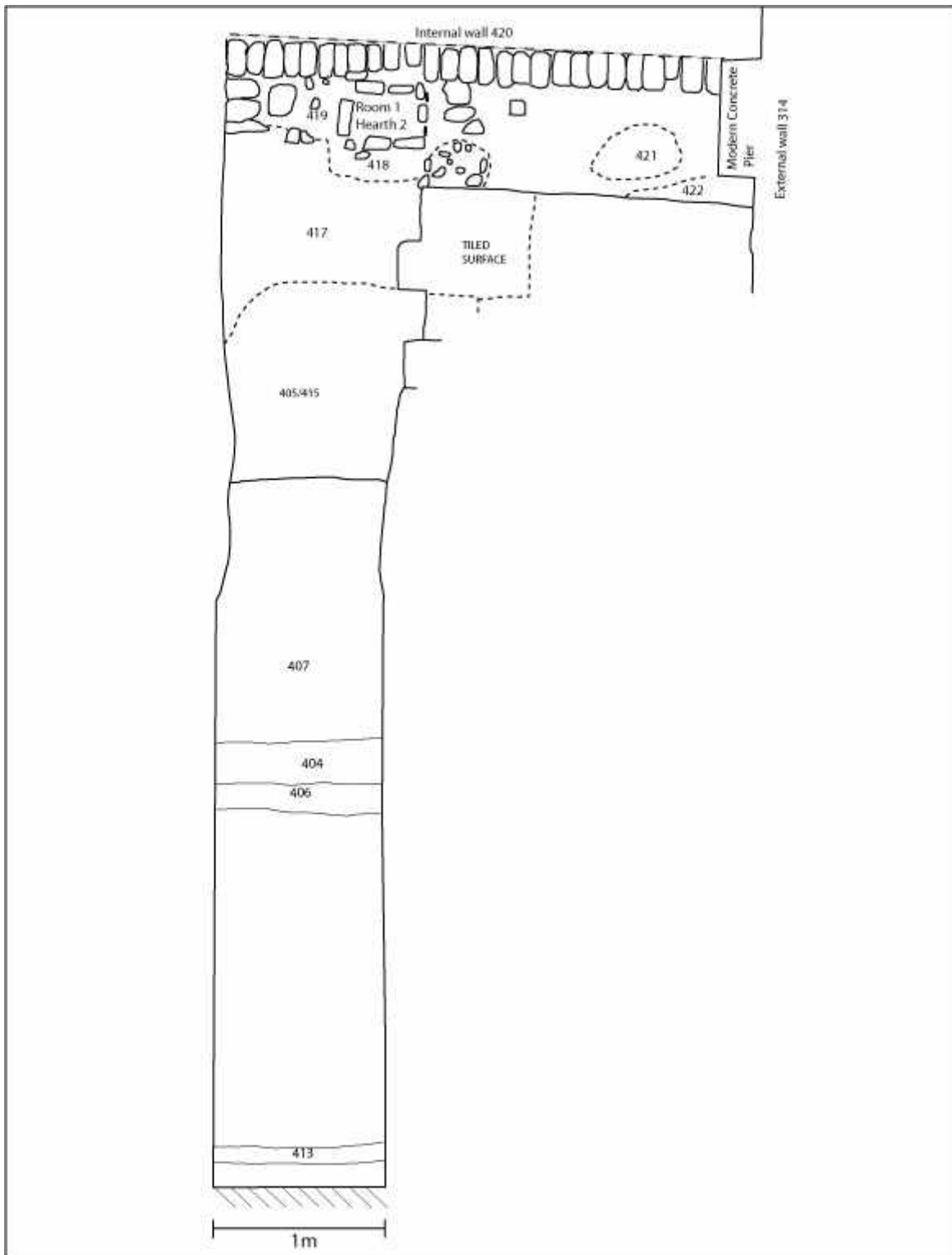


Figure 11: Trench 4 after its extension and removal of rubble from west end.

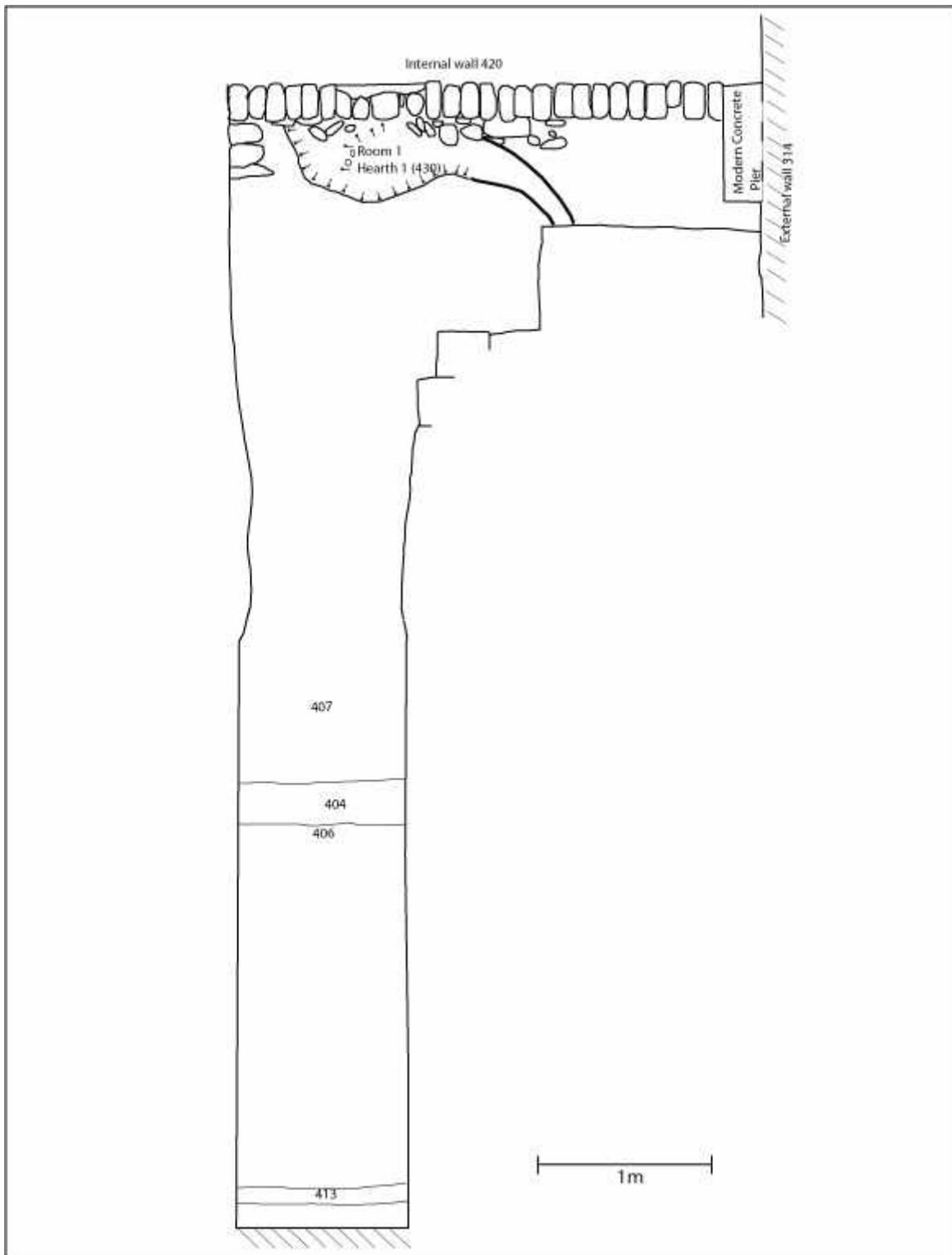


Figure 12: Plan of Trench 4 showing clay floor and hearth pit (420) with unusual curving “flu” possibly to facilitate bellows.



Photo 1: View of north wall of house and west gable (photo courtesy of Paul Logue, NIEA)

Photo 2: South wall of house and excavation of stripped area to south of house.



Photo 3: East Gable (photo courtesy of Paul Logue, NIEA)



Photo 4: West Gable





Photo 5: West gable of house showing Trench 4 after excavation, note concrete roof support pillar at left



Photo 6: East gable and Trench 3 immediately after removal of concrete floor.



Photo 7: Drain 1003



Photo 8: Gully 1008



Photo 9: Photo of shallow pit 1007



Photo 10: Photo of linear gully (1010)



Photo 11: Photo of Trench 3 after removal of the concrete floor showing to the left (north) the mortar tile bedding layer (303), the internal partition base (304) and the mixed fills (305) and (306) above the rotted wooden floor



Photo 12: South side of Trench floor showing subsoil (312) and brick floor joist supports (317)





Photo 13: Brick fireplace jambs (315) and ash rich patch (316) which was sitting on mortar (303)

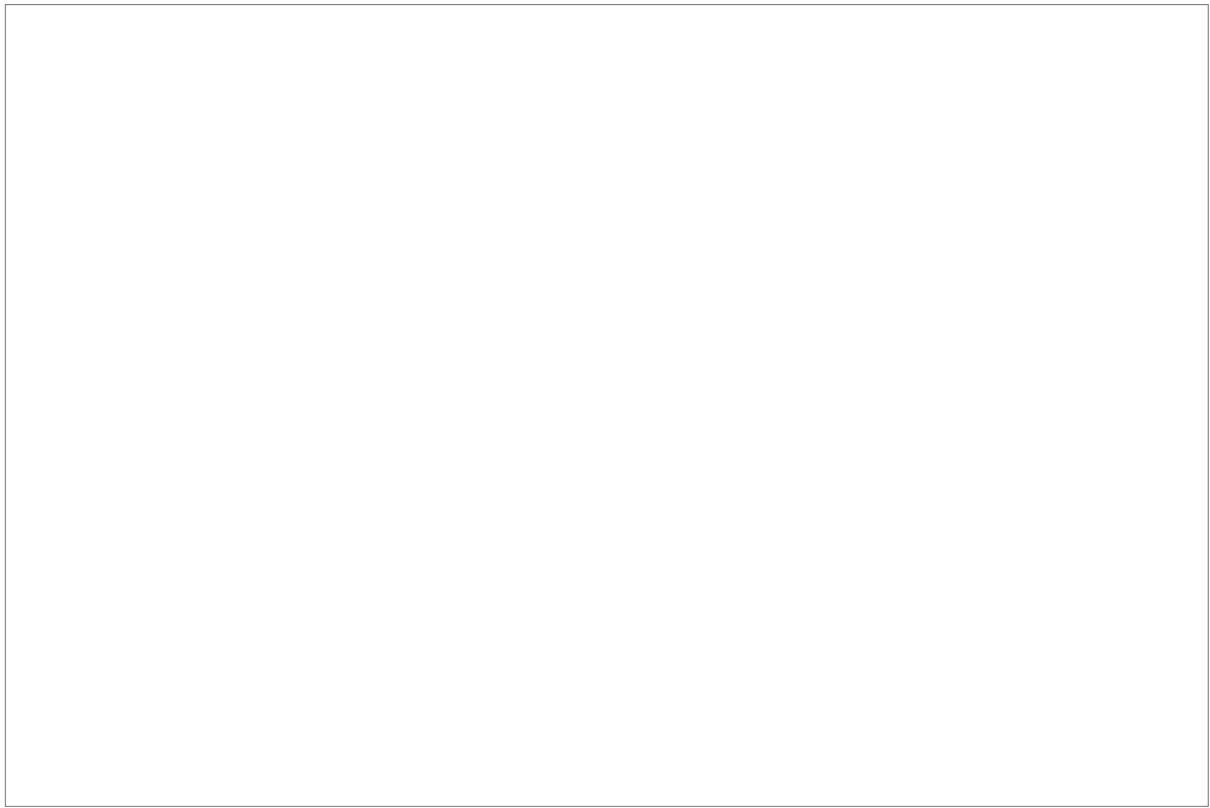


Photo 14: Photo of Trench 4 showing to the left (north) the clay floor (318/319) and to the right (south) the subsoil. Remnants of berm of loam, possible footing of an internal (sod?) wall also visible, partially removed, in the centre of the picture.



Photo 15: View of the subsoil cutting depression (320) which was filled with the floor clay (318/319).



Photo 16: Trench 4 at the end of the excavation



Photo 17: Photo of internal wall (404) showing cobble footing (brick upper courses removed)



Photo 18: Photo of internal wall 404, brick courses still intact



Photo 19: Photo of clay floor (407) to the left (east) of the picture, internal wall (404) in the centre and rubble fill (409/410), above the earlier wooden floor to the right (west).



Photo 20: Photo of joist supports (413) for the wooden floor, in the west of Trench 4.





Photo 21: Remnants of wooden floor adhering to mortar on a brick joist support (413) in the extreme west of Trench 4.



Photo 22: Trench 4 after excavation showing subsoil, pre-floor, surface.



Photo 23: Room 1 Hearth 1



Photo 24: Room 1 Hearth 2/3



Photo 25: Trench 4b showing floor clay (407)