



Monitoring Report No. 41

**Arvalee Road
Cloghfin
Co. Tyrone**

AE/06/05

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Arvalee Road

Townland: Cloghfin

SMR No.s: Located close to TYR 035:008

Grid Ref: 251915 372495

County: Tyrone

Excavation License No: AE/06/05

Planning Ref / No.: K/2005/0952/F

Date of Monitoring: 14th February 2006

Archaeologist Present: Kara Ward

Brief Summary:

Three test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of three test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision

Size of area opened: One trench measuring 30m by 1m and two trenches measuring 25m by 1m.

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site is located c.40m north-west of a possible crannog (TYR:035:008) which was marked on the 1857 6" Ordnance Survey maps as a rectangular enclosure. The shape of the enclosure would argue against it being a crannog but the location within a wet inter-drumlin hollow would be suited to such a site. The proposed development site is situated in a flat low-lying marshy field which drains into the Camowen River in the townland of Cloghfin.

An archaeological evaluation was requested by EHS: Protecting Historic Monuments to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Evaluation by test-trench excavation took place on 14th February 2006. Three test trenches were excavated as requested by the PHM Casework Officer, Liam Mc Quillan (Fig. 2). Trench A measured 30m by 1m and Trenches B and C measured 25m by 1m each. The trenches could not be excavated to the subsoil along their entire length for safety and practical reasons; the site was on peat with a depth of up to 1.65m. It was decided, in consultation with Liam McQuillan, to excavate the trenches to at least 0.5m along the entire length and to excavate down to subsoil at intervals. Stone filled drains were found to cut north to south through the site at regular intervals; the trench was not excavated through these to avoid flooding the site.

The stratigraphy of the test trenches is described below.

In Trench A the sod (C101) was approximately 0.24m deep and proved to be a consistent grey silty clay across the site. Underlying this was a horizon of black peat (C102) at between 0.24m and 0.39m below normal ground level. C102 overlay mid-brown coloured peat (C103) with inclusions of twigs and roots and lenses of grey silt and clay. It was present between 0.39m and 1.6m below normal ground level and directly overlay the subsoil (C104). The subsoil (C104) was a light white grey silty clay. The excavation of the trench is described from east to west:

Distance from eastern end of trench	Excavated depth
0.0 - 1.8m	excavated to a depth of 0.6m within C103
1.8 - 3.3m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C104) at a depth of 1.5m
3.3 - 6.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.8m within C103
6.0 - 7.5m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C104) at a depth of 1.6m
7.5 - 15.8m	excavated to a depth of 0.9m within C103, a stone filled drain was located at 8.6m within C103 and at a depth of 0.6m
15.8 - 19.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C103, a stone filled drain was located at 17.6m within C103 and at a depth of 0.5m
19.0 - 20.5m	excavated to subsoil at a depth of 1.6m
20.5 - 28.2m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m, a stone filled drain was located at 24.5m within C103 and at a depth of 0.5m
28.2 - 30m	excavated to subsoil at a depth of 1.6m

Trench B was located 10m east of Trench A. The sod (C101) had a depth of up to 0.23m, with a black peat horizon (C102) at a depth of between 0.23m and 0.36m below present ground level. Underlying this was a deep mid-brown coloured deposit of peat (C103) present between 0.36m and the surface of the subsoil (C104) which was located at a maximum depth of 1.6m. The excavation of the trench is described from east to west:

Distance from eastern end of trench	Excavated depth
0.0 – 1.4m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C104) at a depth of 1.3m
1.4 – 10.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.7m within C103 A stone filled drain was located at 6.7m within C103 and at a depth of 0.6m
10.0 – 11.2m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C104) at a depth of 1.6m
11.2 – 24.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C103 A stone filled drain was located at 14.5m within C103 and at a depth of 0.5m
24.0 – 26.6m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C104) at a depth of 1.6m

Trench C was located 15m east of Trench B. The sod layer (C101) in Trench C had a maximum depth of 0.26m and overlay a black peat deposit (C102) which was at a depth of between 0.26m and 0.39m below normal ground level. A mid-brown coloured peat deposit (C103) was present at a depth of between 0.39m and 1.65m and directly overlay the subsoil (C104). The excavation of the trench is described from east to west:

Distance from eastern end of trench	Excavated depth
0.0 – 1.3m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C104) at a depth of 1.5m
1.3 – 7.5m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C103 A stone filled drain was located at 5m within C103 and at a depth of 0.5m
7.5 - 8.6m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C104) at a depth of 1.4m
8.6 – 15.2m	excavated to a depth of 0.6m within C103
15.2 – 16.3m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C104) at a depth of 1.65m
16.3 - 23.3m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C103
23.3 – 25m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C104) at a depth of 1.6m

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered in any of the trenches.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 34 digital images, held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

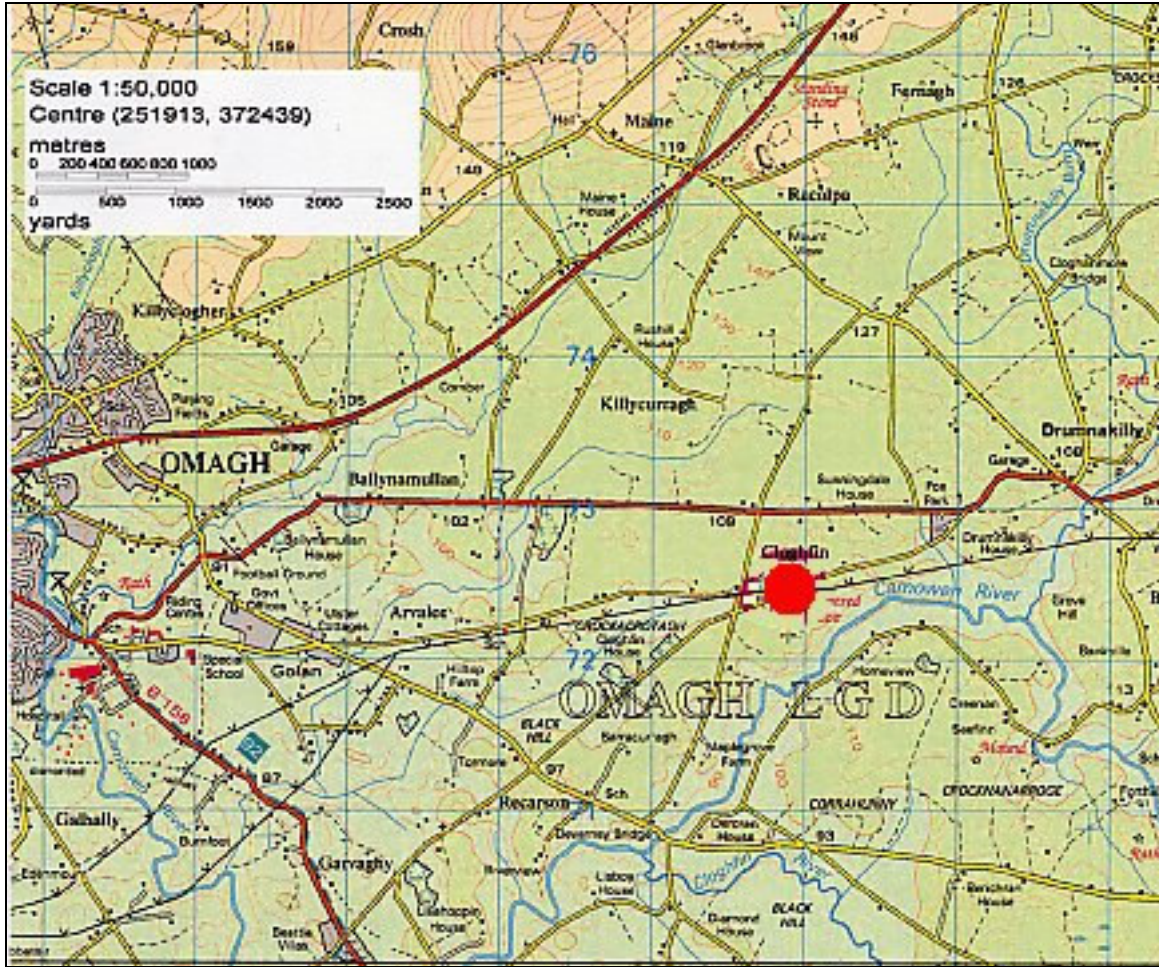


Fig. 1: 1:50,000 Map showing location of site (red circle).

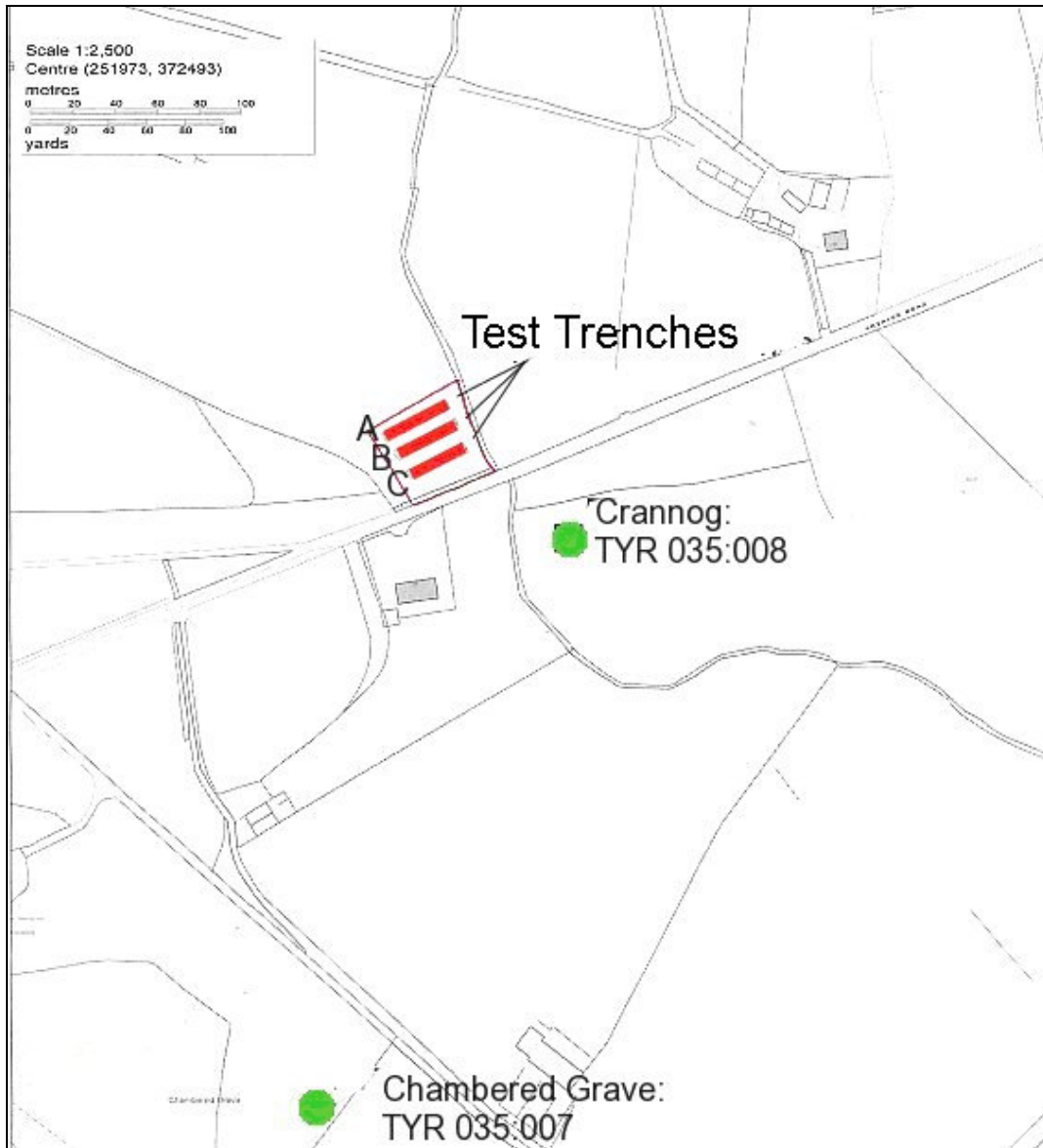


Fig. 2: Location of test trenches and archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity.



Plate 1: Overall view of site from north-west.



Plate 2: View of
Trench A from east,
after excavation.



Plate 3: View of section in Trench A, showing C103 and surface of the subsoil (C104).



Plate 4: View of
Trench B from east,
after excavation.



Plate 5: View of section in Trench B, showing C103 and surface of subsoil (C104).



Plate 6: View of Trench C from west after excavation.



Plate 7: View of section in Trench C, showing C103 and surface of subsoil (C104).