



## **Monitoring Report No. 101**

**29 Sentry Box Road, Annaclone, Banbridge  
Ballynafoy  
Co. Down**

**AE/06/261**

Ruth Logue

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* 29 Sentry Box Road, Annaclone, Banbridge

*Townland:* Ballynafoy

*SMR No (if applicable):* rath - DOW 034:060

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other

*Grid Ref:* J16214074

*County:* Down

*Excavation Licence Number:* AE/06/261

*Planning Reference Number:* Q/2005/1049/O

*Date of Monitoring:* 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006

*Archaeologist Present:* Ruth Logue

### *Brief Summary:*

Monitoring of three test trenches excavated to subsoil to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any previously unrecorded below-ground remains. Nothing of archaeological significance found.

*Type of monitoring:* Mechanical back-acting digger

*Size of area opened:* Three trenches: 21m x 2m, 18.5m x 2m, 15.5m x 2m

*Current Land Use:* Garden area of disused house

*Intended Land Use:* Replacement dwelling and garage

## **Account of the monitoring**

The proposed development site is located in the garden area adjacent to a derelict house at 29 Sentry Box Road in Ballynafoy townland outside Banbridge, County Down. A rath, (DOW 034:060), is situated to the rear of the development area in an area of rough grazing. The rath is preserved as a curve in the hedge boundary (Figure 2 and Plate 3) and appears on the 1859 OS 6 inch map, marked as a semi-circular platform.

As the rath site is immediately adjacent to the development area to its south-west an archaeological evaluation was requested to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains.

Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006. A small garden wall immediately to the north-east of the derelict house had to be knocked down to allow the digger access to the development area and as the area was overgrown with bushes and small trees it had to be cleared of vegetation before the trial trenching could begin.

Three test trenches were excavated (Figure 2) in the area requested by the Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Neil Yeaman. Due to the presence of dense vegetation and a number of mature trees at the south-west edge of the site, the trenches were sited so that this area did not have to be excavated (Plate 2).

The topsoil was uniform in all three trenches, a loose mid-brown sandy loam with a couple of centimeters of leaf-litter on top. The topsoil lay above the subsoil, a yellowey-grey sandy clay with stone inclusions. All three trenches were aligned north-east to south-west. The site sloped gently upwards from north-east to south-west and the topsoil in all three trenches was deeper at their north-eastern ends.

Trench 1 was 21m long and 2m wide (Plate 4). Topsoil (Context 100) went from 0.30m deep at the north-east end to 0.15m deep at the opposite end. A black glazed earthen ware rim sherd was found in Context 100. Topsoil sat on top of subsoil (Context 101).

Trench 2 was 18.5m long and 2m wide (Plate 5). The topsoil (Context 200) went from 0.40m deep to 0.15m deep. Topsoil sat on subsoil (Context 201).

Trench 3 was 15.5m long and 2m wide (Plate 6). The topsoil (Context 300) went from 0.30m deep to 0.15m deep. A rim and a base sherd of black glazed earthen ware were found in Context 300. Topsoil sat on subsoil (Context 301).

No features of archaeological significance were found in any of the test trenches.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* 3 sherds of black glazed earthen ware, held in Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork offices

*Photographs:* 8 digital photos, held in Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork offices

*Plans / Drawings:* N/A

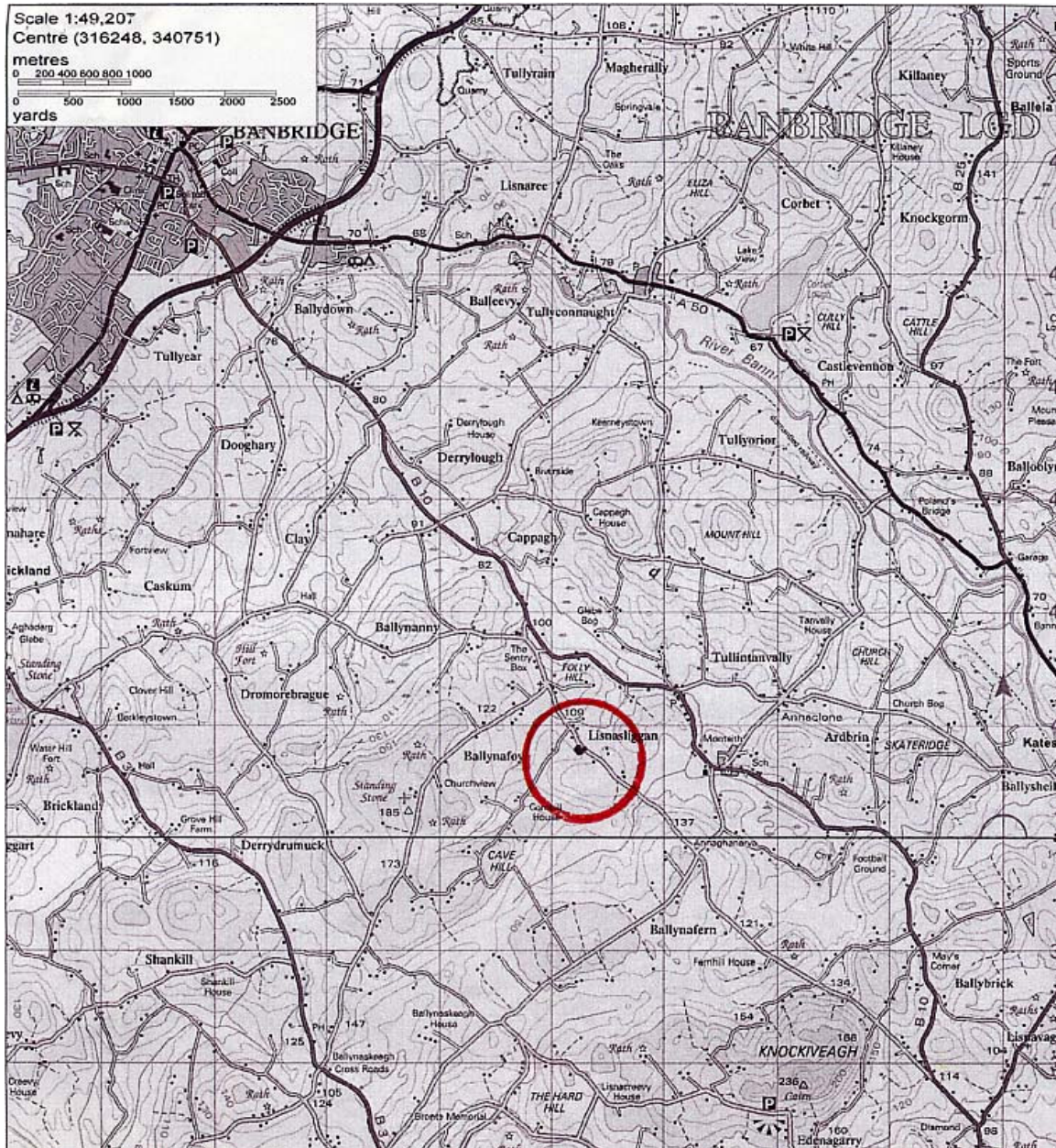


Figure 1: 1:49,207 map of area showing location of application site (circled in red).



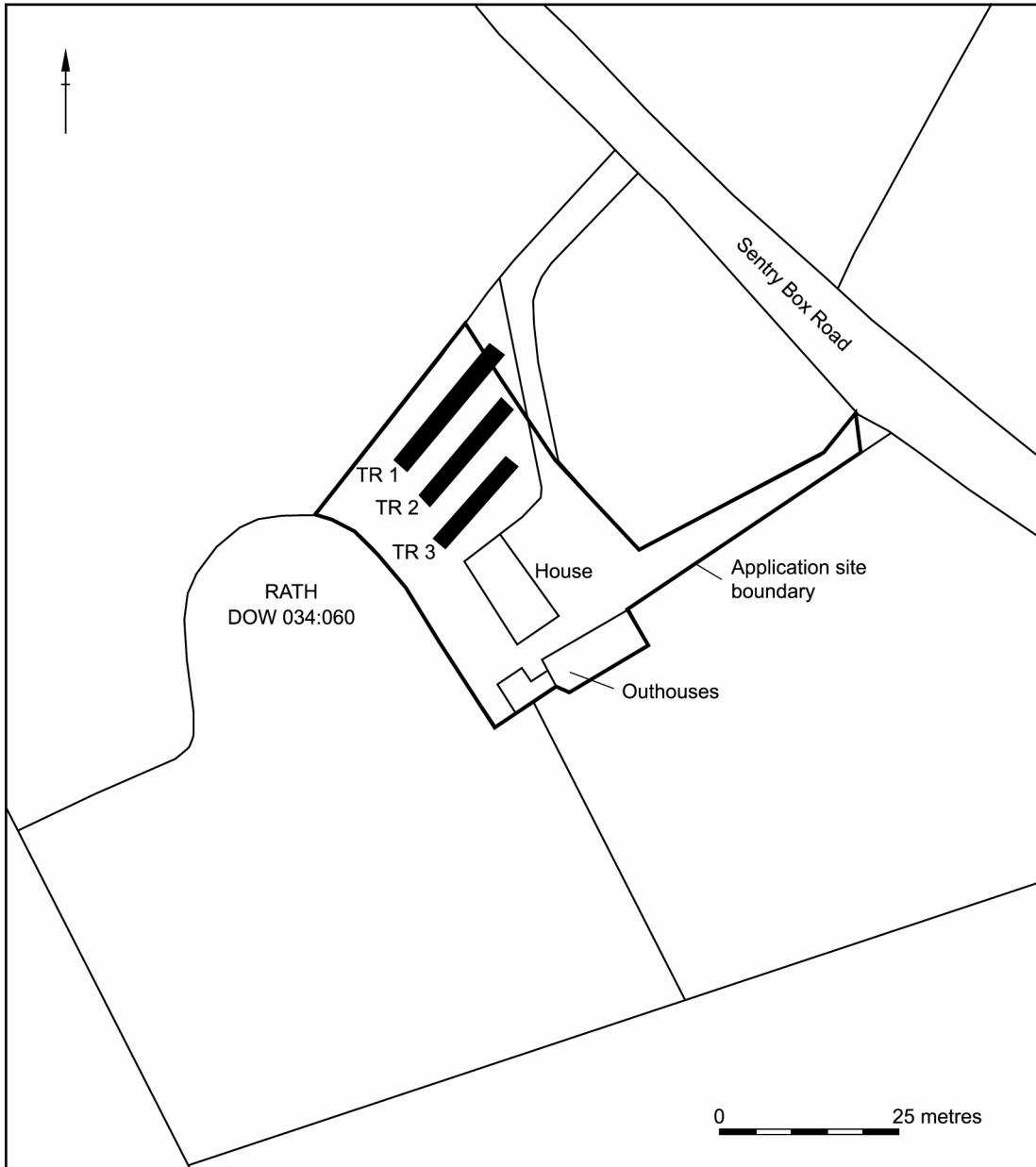


Figure 2: Plan of application site showing location of trenches.



Plate 1: View of site with derelict dwelling, looking north-west.



Plate 2: Unexcavated area along south-west edge of site.





Plate 3: Rath preserved as curve in hedge boundary, looking north-north-east.



Plate 4: Trench 1, looking north-east.





Plate 5: Trench 2, looking north-east.



Plate 6: Trench 3, looking north-east.