



Evaluation/monitoring report No. 170

**Drummenagh Beg/Drummenagh More
Church Hill
Co. Fermanagh**

AE/08/214

Clare McGranaghan

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Church Hill

Townland: Drummenagh Beg & Drummenagh More

SMR No (if applicable): FER 172: 034

State Care Scheduled Other X [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref: IH 1120 5586

County: Fermanagh

Excavation Licence No (if applicable): AE/ 08/ 214

Planning Ref / No. (if applicable): L/2006/2231/F

Dates of Monitoring: 12th January 2009

Archaeologist(s) Present: Clare Mc Granaghan

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out a site in Drummenagh Beg/ Drummenagh More, Church Hill, County Fermanagh (Figure 1 & 2) as part of a planning application for the construction of a residential dwelling. The application site is situated within the historic 17th century settlement of Church Hill (FER 172: 034).

The evaluation consisted of two mechanically excavated test trenches, one measuring 25m by 2m, and another measuring 35m by 2m (Figure 3).

Neither of the two test trenches contained anything of archaeological significance. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of two trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological excavation.

Size of area opened:

One trench approximately 2m wide by 25m in length
One trench approximately 2m wide by 35m in length

Current Land Use: Green field site

Intended Land Use: Construction of a residential dwelling

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located on the border of two town lands, Drummenagh Beg and Dummenagh More, County Fermanagh (Figure 1). The site is located in the north-eastern end of the historic 17th century settlement of Church Hill (Figure 2). The proposed construction is situated to the east of the main road running through Church Hill (Figure 3).

The general area of the application site is on high ground, increasing in gradient towards both the north and the east, at an O.D of 100-120m. The underlying geology is of Carboniferous sandstone, part of the Tyrone Group Sandstone formations. The proposed main site of the dwelling is located in an 'L-shaped' field to the north of the existing access lane; the boundaries of which are defined by wire fencing interspersed with remnants of stone walls and mature trees (Plates 1-3). The western portion and the eastern area of the application site are separated by wire fencing (Figure 3); access between the two is via a steel gate (Plate 3). The evaluation took place as part of a planning application for a new residential dwelling and was requested by Paul Devlin: Caseworker with Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit. It was requested due to the sites location within the historic 17th century settlement of Church Hill (FER 172: 034).

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of the supervision of two mechanically-excavated test trenches. The trenches measured approximately 2m wide by 25m in length, and 2m wide by 35m in length, and their positions are illustrated in Figure 3. Both test trenches were excavated to the natural subsoil which consisted of mottled orange/ grey sandy clay.

Trench One

Trench One was located in the west (lower field) of the application site (Plate 1), to the north of the existing access lane. Trench One was approximately 2m wide and 25m long, and was aligned in a north-south direction (Plate 4).

The sod topsoil layer (C.101) had an approximate depth of 0.02m. Below this layer was a thin cultivation layer (C.102) consisting of a dark brown loam; varying in depth from 0.09m to 0.05m towards the north end of the trench. Following the removal of this cultivation layer the natural subsoil (mottled orange / grey sandy clay, C.103) was exposed.

At the southern end of the trench a cut (C.104) aligned east-west had been made into the subsoil to accommodate a modern drain (Plate 5), the cut measured 0.30m in width and was filled by gravel (C.105). Towards the northern end of the trench another cut (C.106) for a modern drain was exposed (Plate 6), this feature was aligned southwest-northeast, measured 0.30m in width and was filled with gravel (C.107).

No archaeological features were located in this trench and no finds were recovered.

Trench Two

Trench Two was located in the east (upper field) of the application site (Plate 2), to the north of the existing access lane. Trench Two was approximately 2m wide and 35m long, and was aligned in a north-south direction (Plate 7).

The sod (grass and reeds) and topsoil layer (C.201) had an approximate depth of 0.02m. Below this layer was a thin cultivation layer (C.202) consisting of a dark brown loam; varying in depth from 0.06m to 0.03m towards the north end of the trench. Following the removal of this cultivation layer, the natural subsoil (mottled orange / grey sandy clay, C.203) was exposed.

No archaeological features were recovered in this trench and no finds were recovered.

Archive:

Context register:

Trench One

Context Number	Description
101	Topsoil
102	Cultivation layer
103	Natural subsoil
104	Cut for drain
105	Stone fill of 104
106	Cut for drain
107	Stone fill of 106

Trench Two

Context Number	Description
201	Topsoil
202	Cultivation layer
203	Natural subsoil

Finds:

N/A

Photographs:

The digital images taken during the evaluation are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology, and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings:

N/A

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Figure 1: Location of Church Hill, highlighted in green.

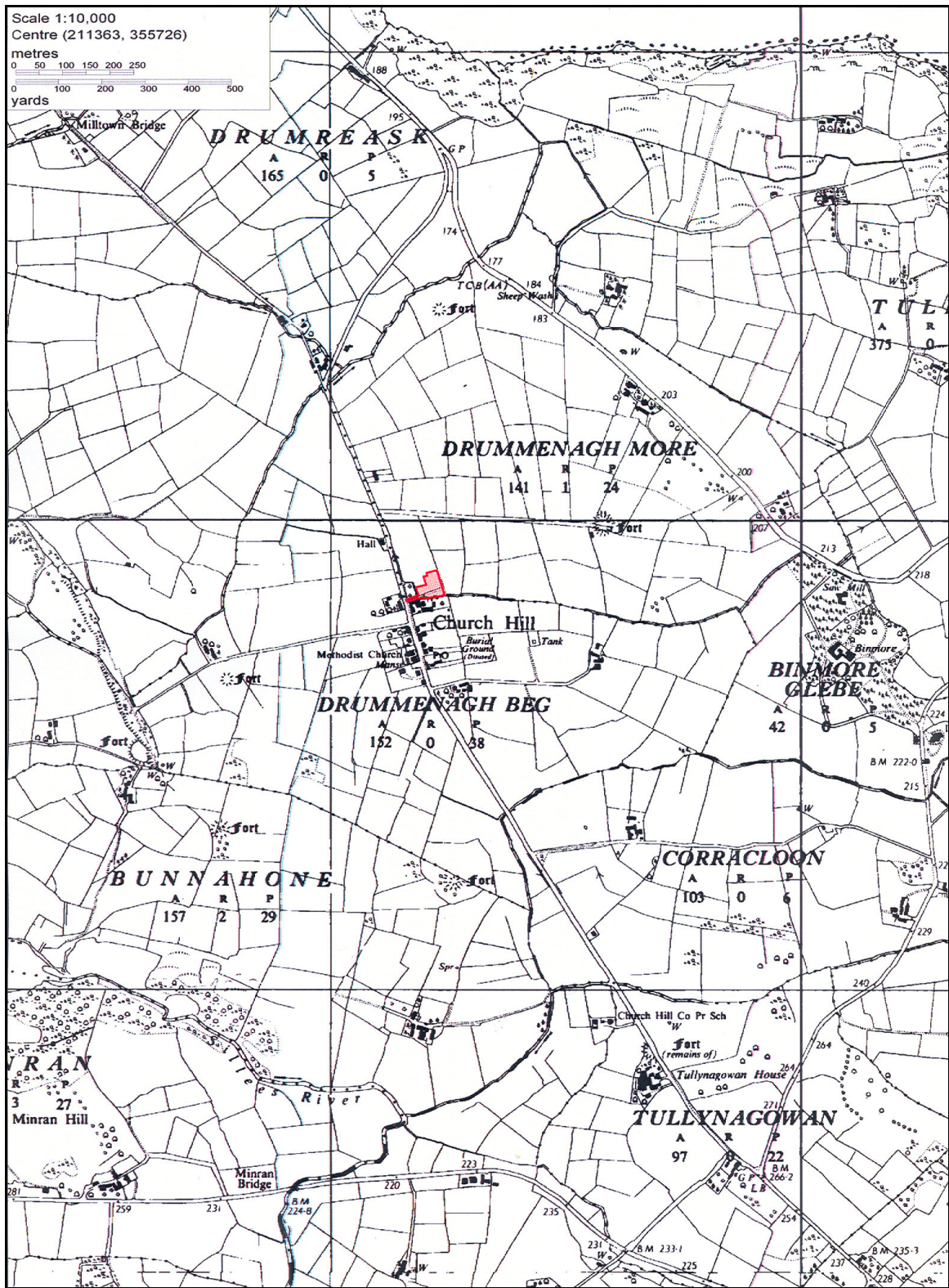


Figure 2: Location of proposed development site, in red.

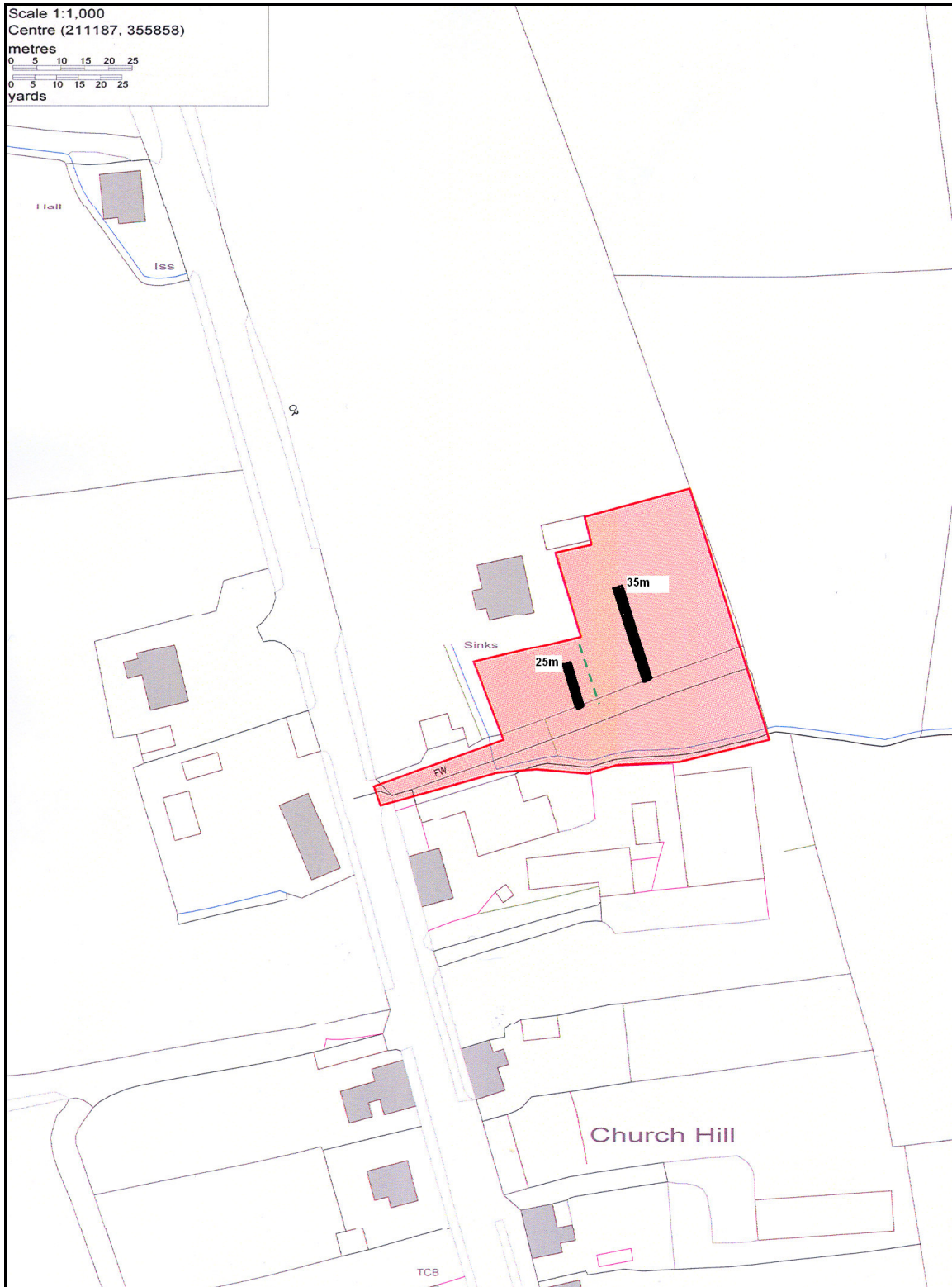


Figure 3: Location of evaluation trenches. Dashed green line represents wire fencing dividing east and west areas of the field.



Plate 1: General overview of application area, lower field (Trench One), looking north.



Plate 2: General overview of application area, upper field (Trench Two), looking north.



Plate 3: General overview of application area, looking north-east.



Plate 4: Trench One, looking north.



Plate 5: C.104 & 105, looking south.



Plate 6: C.106 & 107, looking north-west.



Plate 7: Trench Two, looking north.