



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 171

**26 Cornavarrow Road
Drumquin
County Tyrone**

LICENCE NO.: AE/09/02

Dr Henry Welsh

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 26 Cavancarrow Road, Drumquin, Co. Tyrone

Townland: Legphressy

SMR No. : TYR 033:015

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: H 3373 7029

County: Tyrone

Excavation Licence No. : AE/09/02

Planning Ref / No. : K/2008/0748RM

Date of Monitoring: 21 January 2009

Archaeologist present: Dr Henry Welsh

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site in the townland of Legphressy, Drumquin, Co. Tyrone as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. The application site lies to the north-west of an enclosure, which was identified through aerial photography. A total of four trenches were mechanically excavated to assess the presence of archaeological remains. The trenches contained some evidence of agricultural activity (modern plough furrows, field drain and redundant field boundary), but nothing of archaeological significance. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of four test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Three trenches across application site, measuring approximately 16m, 9m and 6m in length and one trench along the access route, measuring approximately 25m in length. All trenches approximately 2m in width and ranging from 0.2m to 0.35m in depth.

Current Land Use: Agricultural

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring/evaluation

Introduction

The application site is located in the townland of Legphressy, Drumquin, Co. Tyrone. The site is 4km to the south of Drumquin on the eastern slope of the Drumquin River valley, lying at a height of approximately 140m above sea level (Figure 1). The application site is situated in a roughly trapezoidal-shaped field, adjoined by a triangular field, which contains the proposed access laneway and the enclosure TYR 033:015. The fields both slope steeply towards the south and all boundaries are delineated by mature trees and bushes.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for the construction of a new dwelling and was requested by Paul Devlin: Caseworker with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit. It was requested due to the proximity of the application site to the enclosure (TYR 033:015) (Figure 2) and the possibility that there may be previously unrecorded remains associated with this site.

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of the archaeological supervision of four mechanically-excavated test trenches. The trenches varied between 8-25m in length by 2m in width and their positions are illustrated in Figure Three. All four test trenches were excavated to the subsoil which consisted of an orangey-yellow gravelly boulder clay.

Trench One

Trench One was located at the north-eastern boundary of the application site, where the proposed laneway meets the Cavancarrow Road. Trench One measured 25m by 2m, was aligned approximately south-west/north-east and was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Plate 1).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of mid to dark brown, silty clay loam. The layer contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20 x 20 x 10mm). The layer was around 0.15m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was a compact, mid to dark brown, sandy loam cultivation soil (Context No. 102) which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 40 x 30 x 20mm).

The cultivation soil in Trench One (Context No. 102) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 103). This was an orangey-yellow gravelly clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones (average size 50mm x 30mm x 10mm) as well as larger angular stones (average size 100mm x 80mm x 50mm) and was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m.

The truncated remains of a modern field drain (Context No. 104) were encountered at subsoil level, aligned approximately north-south (Plate 2). This drain was approximately 0.3m in width and 23.7m in length (Figure 4) and contained frequent angular stones (average size 15 x 10 x 5mm).

Trench Two

Trench Two was positioned approximately 25m to the west of Trench One at the location of the proposed dwelling. Trench Two was aligned east-west (Figure 5), was 16m long and 2m wide and was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Plate 3).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of mid to dark brown, silty clay loam. The layer contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20 x 20 x 10mm). The layer was around 0.2m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) was a compact, mid to dark brown, sandy loam cultivation soil (Context No. 202) which was 0.15m thick. The cultivation soil contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 40 x 30 x 20mm).

The cultivation soil in Trench Two (Context No. 202) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 203). The subsoil in Trench Two (Context No. 203) was an orangey-yellow gravelly clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones (average size 50mm x 30mm x 10mm) as well as larger angular stones (average size 100mm x 80mm x 50mm), and was encountered at an average depth of 0.35m.

Trench Three

Trench Three was positioned centrally and at right angles across Trench Two and measured 9m in length by 2m in width (Figure 5). The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Plate 4).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of mid brown, silty clay loam. The layer contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20 x 20 x 10mm). The layer was approximately 0.1m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was a compact, mid to dark brown, sandy loam cultivation soil (Context No. 302) which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 40 x 30 x 20mm).

The cultivation soil in Trench Three (Context No. 302) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 303). The subsoil in Trench Three (Context No. 303) was an orangey yellow gravelly clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones (average size 50mm x 30mm x 10mm) as well as larger angular stones (average size 100mm x 80mm x 50mm), and was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m.

Trench Four

Trench Four was positioned approximately 5m to the south-west of Trench Two, at the location of the proposed garage. It measured 8m in length by 2m in width (Figure 3) and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Plate 5).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Four (Context No. 401) consisted of light to mid-brown, silty loam. The layer contained occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (average size: 20 x 20 x 10mm). The layer was approximately 0.15m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 401) was a compact, mid to dark brown, sandy loam cultivation soil (Context No. 402) which was 0.25m thick. The

cultivation soil contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm).

The cultivation soil in Trench Four (Context No. 402) overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 403). The subsoil in Trench Four (Context No. 403) was an orangey-yellow gravelly clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones (average size 50mm x 30mm x 10mm) and was encountered at an average depth of 0.35m.

The truncated remains of a redundant field boundary (Context No. 404) were encountered at subsoil level, aligned approximately north-south (Plate 6). This field boundary was approximately 0.3m in width and 2m in length (Figure 6) and contained frequent angular stones (average size 15 x 10 x 5mm).

The four test trenches excavated at the application site contained no features or artefacts of archaeological significance. It is not thought that the development will impact upon previously unrecorded archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. No publication is required save for a short summary in the annual 'Excavations' bulletin.

Archive:

Finds: N/A.

Photographs:

The digital images (20 in total) taken during the evaluation are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: Field drawings are currently archived at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

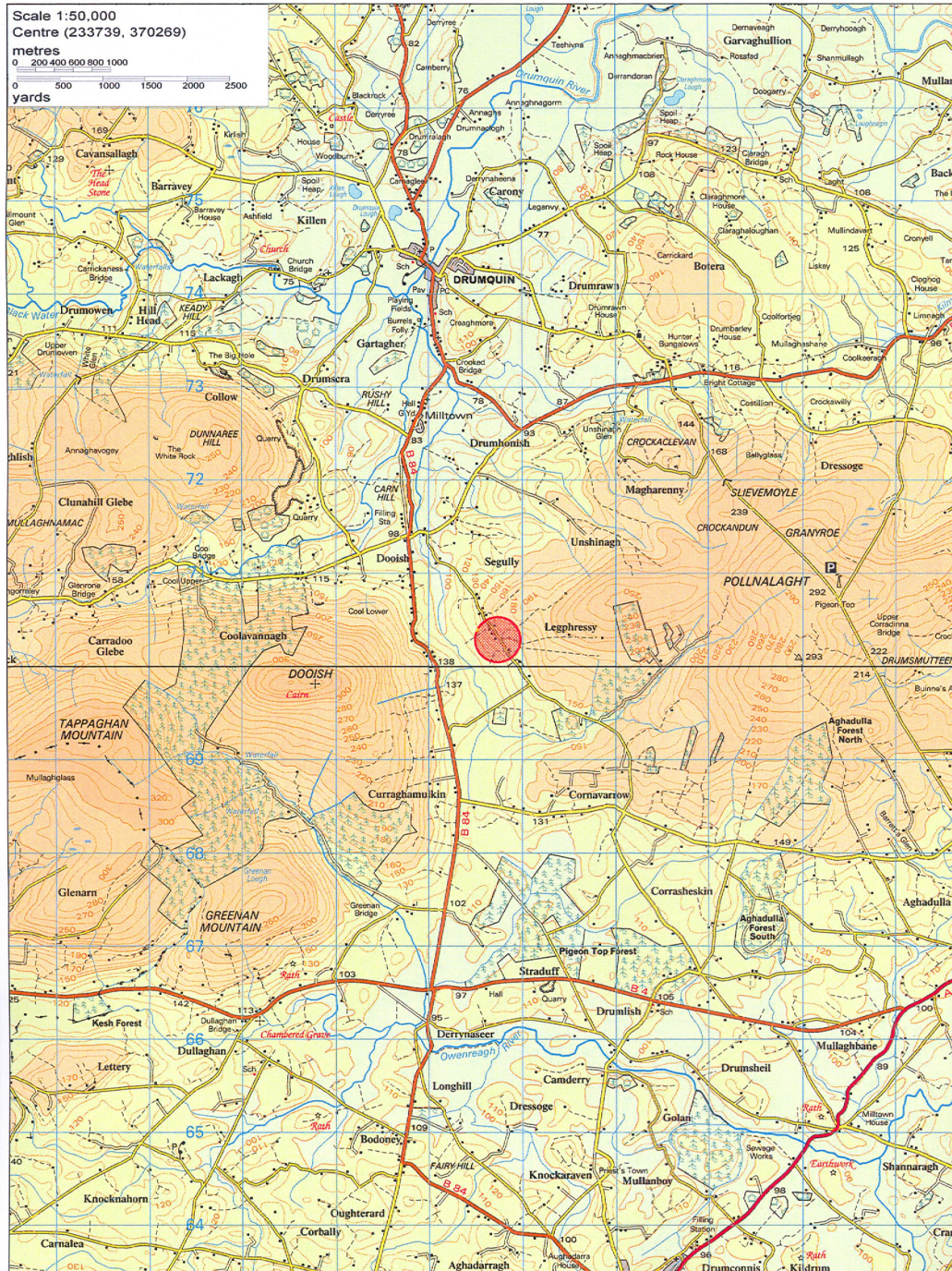


Figure One: 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map showing location of site (within red circle)

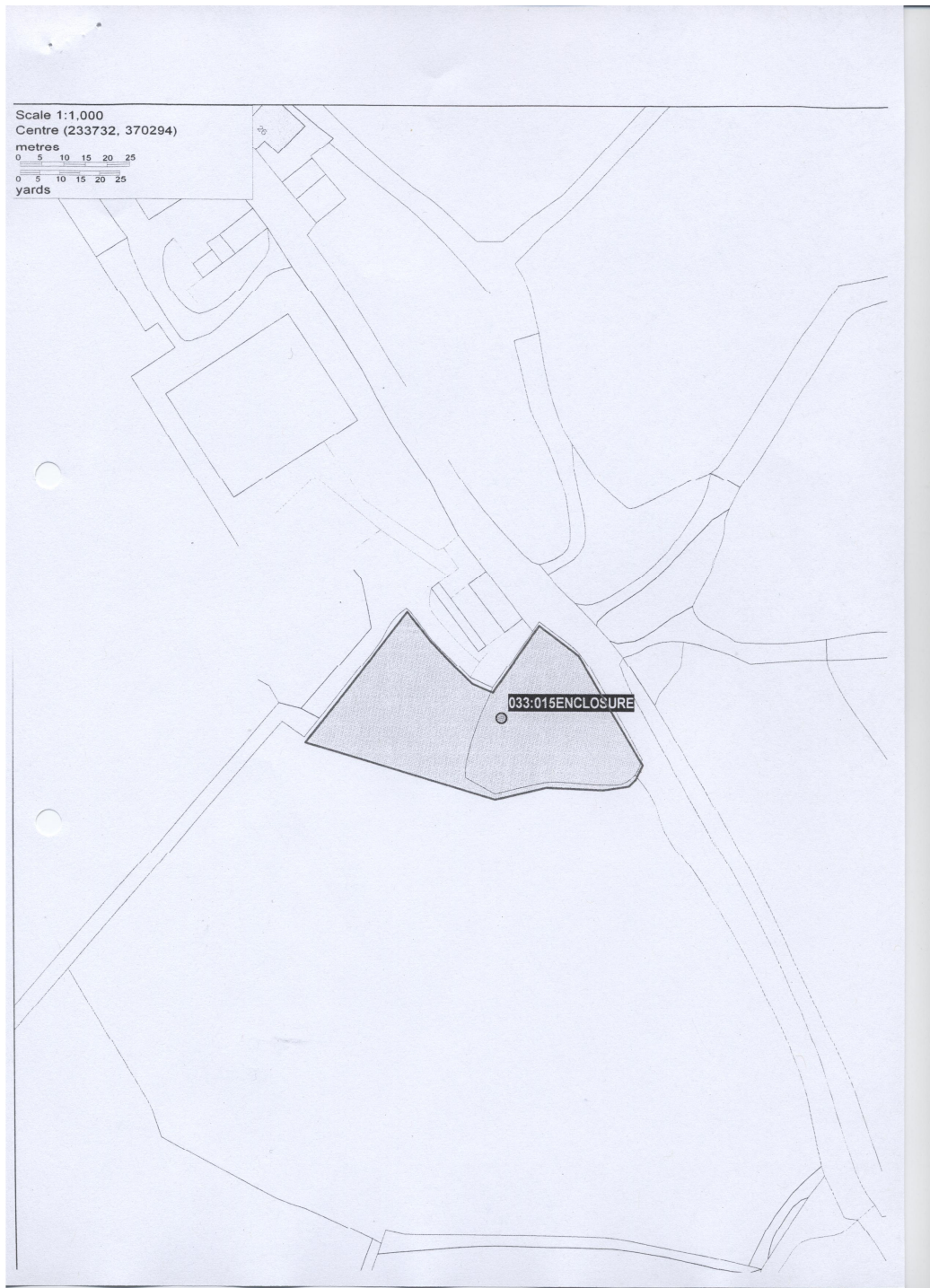


Figure Two: Detailed map of application site

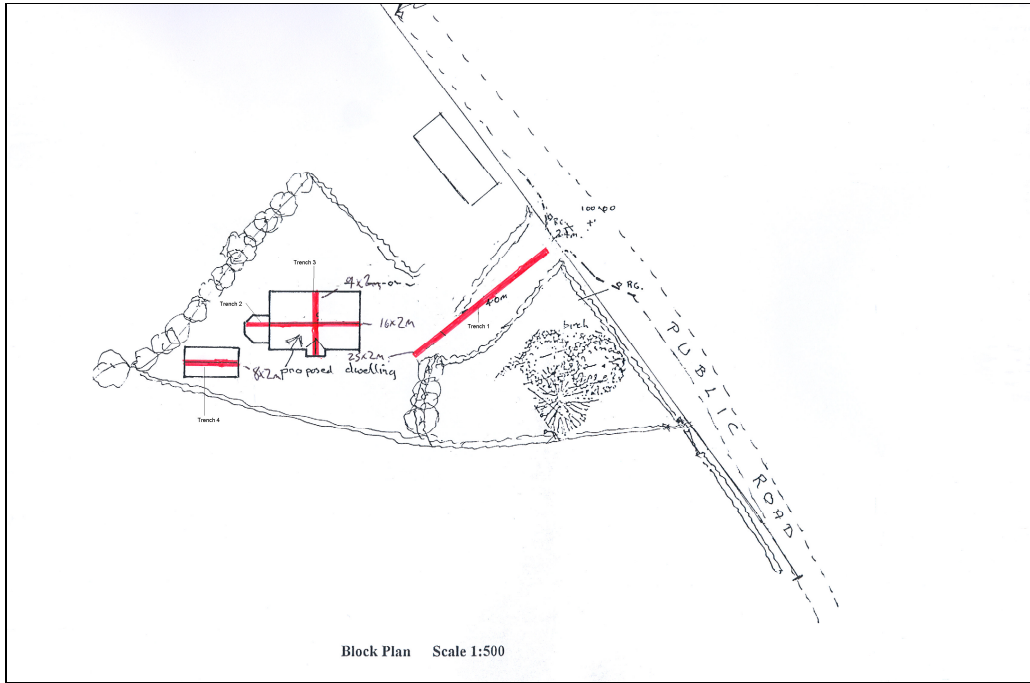


Figure Three: Plan showing location of Trenches

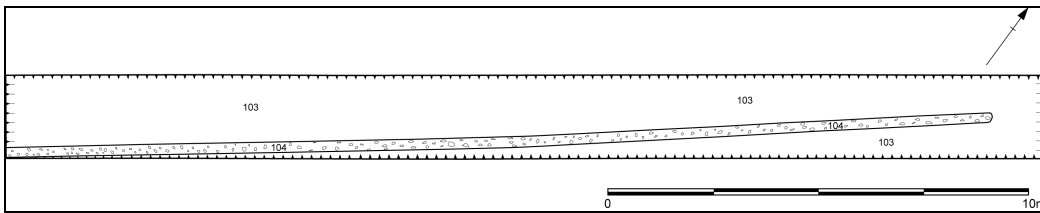


Figure Four: Plan of trench one

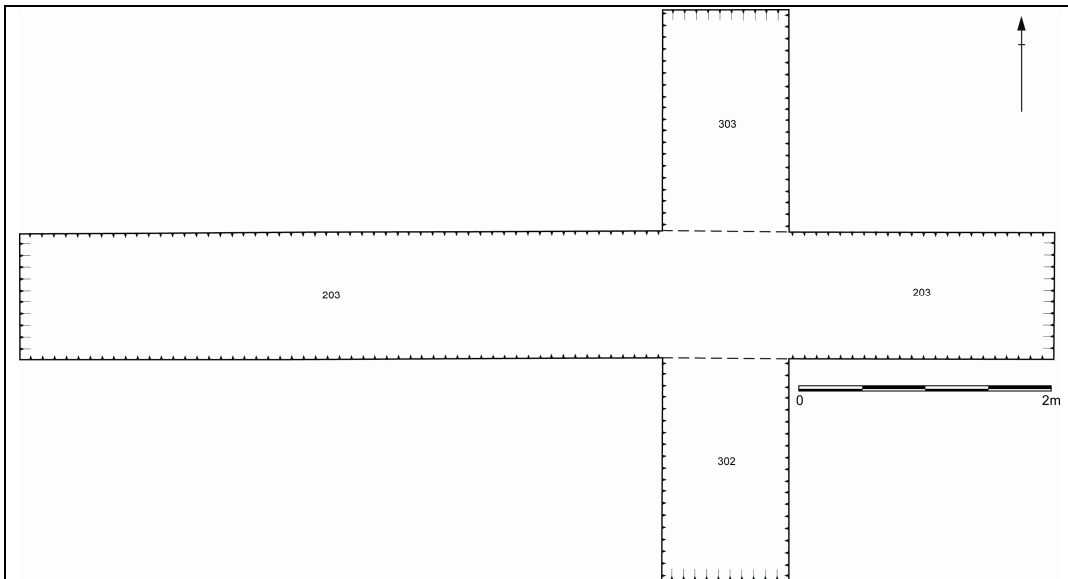


Figure Five: Plan of trenches two and three

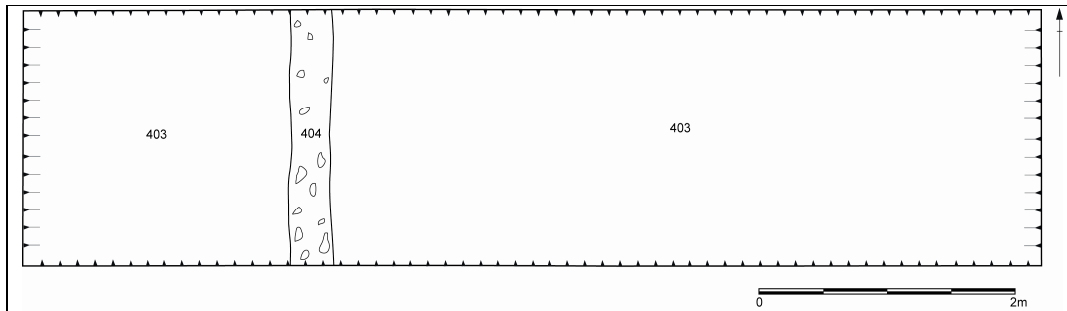


Figure Six: Plan of trench four

Appendix 1: Context List

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
101	1	Sod and topsoil layer
102	1	Dark brown sandy loam
103	1	Orangey-yellow gravelly sub-soil
104	1	Field drain
201	2	Soil and topsoil layer
202	2	Mid to dark brown sandy loam
203	2	Orangey-yellow gravelly sub-soil
301	3	Sod and topsoil layer
302	3	Mid to dark brown sandy loam
303	3	Orangey-yellow gravelly sub-soil
401	4	Sod and topsoil layer
402	4	Mid to dark brown sandy loam
403	4	Orangey-yellow gravelly sub-soil
404	4	Field drain

Appendix 2: Field Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Scale	Type	Date	Description
1	1:20	Plan	20/01/09	Trench 1
2	1:20	Plan	20/01/09	Trench 2 and Trench 3
3	1:20	Plan	20/01/09	Trench 4



Plate 1: Trench One, following excavation to subsoil, looking north-east.



Plate 2, Trench One, field drain C 104, looking north-east



Plate 3: Trench Two, following excavation to subsoil, looking east



Plate 4: Trench Three, following excavation to subsoil, looking south



Plate 5: Trench Four, following excavation to subsoil, looking west.



Plate 6: Trench Four, field boundary C 404, looking west