



Monitoring Report No. 198

**120m NE of junction with Carrive Road
Silverbridge
Co. Armagh**

AE/10/32

Brian Sloan

P/2006/1436/O

Site Specific Information

Site Address: 120m NE of junction with Carrive Road, Silverbridge Co. Armagh

Townland: Carrigans

SMR No.: ARM 028:029

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: IH 9694217861

County: Armagh

Excavation Licence No: AE/10/32

Planning Ref / No.: P/2006/1436/O

Date of Monitoring: 4th March 2010

Archaeologist Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

Four test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed development of a residential dwelling on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed development site is located adjacent to an Early Christian Cashel (ARM 028:029). The trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil with nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in any of the trenches.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Four trenches each measuring approximately 15m in length by 2m in width.

Current Land Use: Pastoral agriculture

Intended Land Use: Residential dwelling

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The site of the proposed dwelling is located 120m NE of the junction with Carrive Road, Silverbridge, Co. Armagh (Fig 1). The application site is located close to the village of Silverbridge, lying approximately 1km north-east of its centre. The site is positioned at the south-west end of a roughly rectangular field, at an approximate height of 150m above sea level. The surrounding landscape consists of both pastoral and arable land, interspersed with dwelling houses. The site is located close to an Early Christian Cashel (ARM 028:029) although no remains of this monument are now visible having been destroyed during the construction of farm buildings in the 1970s (Teresa Murphy pers comm.).

The trenches were positioned to incorporate the footprint of the proposed dwelling (Fig 3) and was requested by Gail Howell (Case Officer Northern Ireland Environment Agency). The evaluation was requested to assess the presence and survival of archaeological remains that may be adversely affected due to the proposed development.

Excavation

Trench 1 was positioned parallel to the south-western boundary of the application site and measured approximately 15m by 2m. The trench was aligned roughly north-west/south-east and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 102) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench consisting of topsoil (Context No. 101) directly overlying natural subsoil (Context No. 102).

The sod and topsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 101) consisted of a mid to dark brown sandy loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The sod and topsoil (Context No. 101) had an average depth of 0.3m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 102).

The natural subsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 102) consisted of yellowish orange stony clay. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 2 was positioned approximately 4m to the north-east of, and perpendicular to, Trench 1. The trench was aligned roughly north-east/south-west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 202) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.25m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 201) consisted of a mid to dark brown clay loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) had an average depth of 0.25m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 202).

The natural subsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 202) consisted of yellowish orange stony clay. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 3 was positioned approximately 2m to the east of, and parallel to, Trench 2. The trench was aligned roughly north-east/south-west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 302) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.20m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 3 (Context No. 301) consisted of a mid to dark brown clay loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The sod and topsoil (Context No. 301) had an average depth of 0.20m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 302).

The natural subsoil in Trench 3 (Context No. 302) consisted of yellowish orange stony clay. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 4 was positioned approximately 1.5m to the east of, and parallel to, Trench 3. The trench was aligned roughly north-east/south-west and was excavated to the

surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 402) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.35m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 4 (Context No. 401) consisted of a mid to dark brown clay loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The sod and topsoil (Context No. 401) had an average depth of 0.20m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 402).

The natural subsoil in Trench 4 (Context No. 402) consisted of yellowish orange stony clay. Numerous large boulders were observed protruding from the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 402), the applicant informed the author that this was common in this area and a lot of this rock had been quarried by the applicant's father in recent years (Teresa Murphy pers comm.). There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the evaluation. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication is required, apart from a short summary in the annual *Excavations Bulletin*.

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs: 9 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed: _____ Date: _____

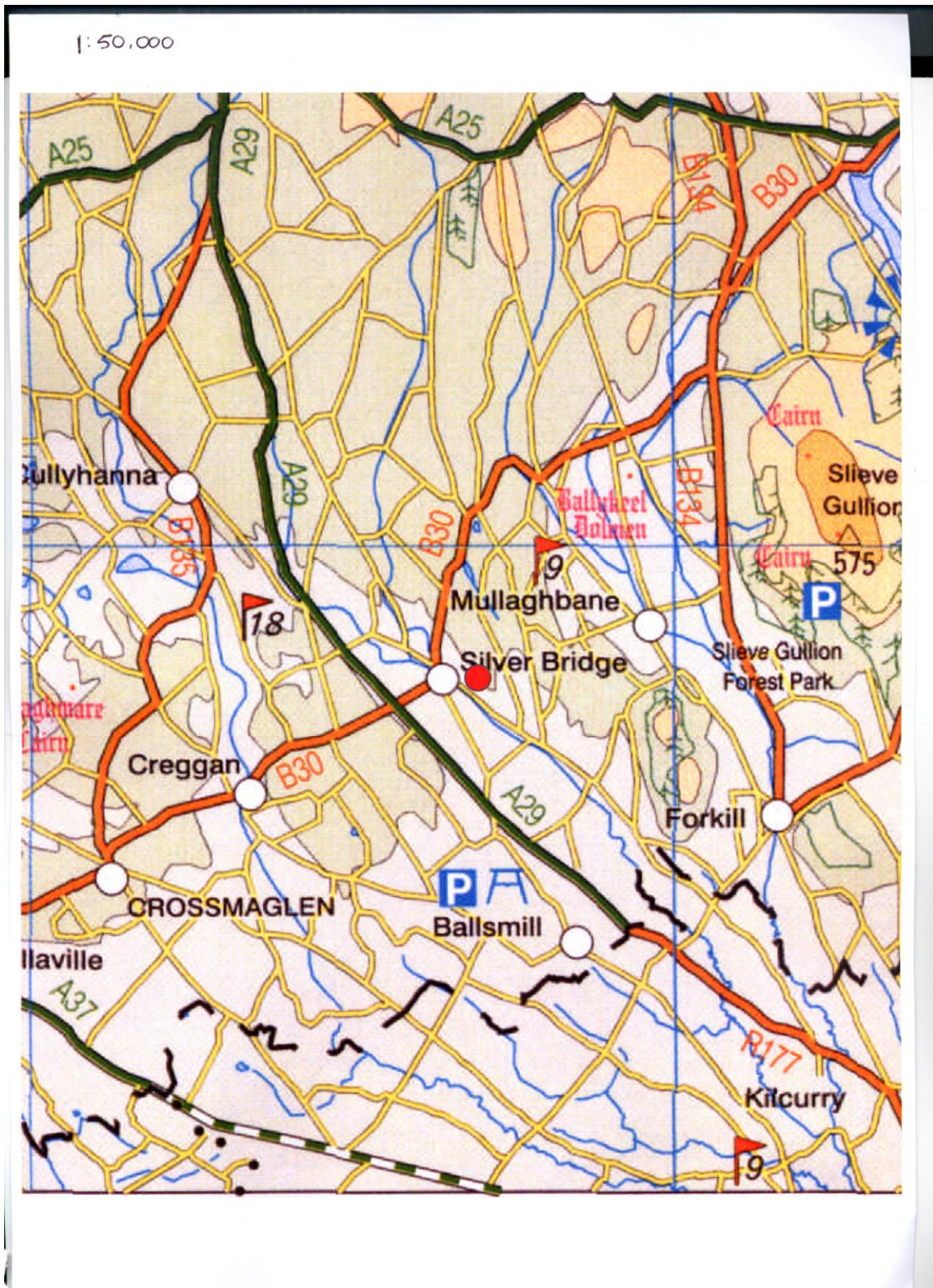


Fig. 1: General location map showing location of application site (red circle).

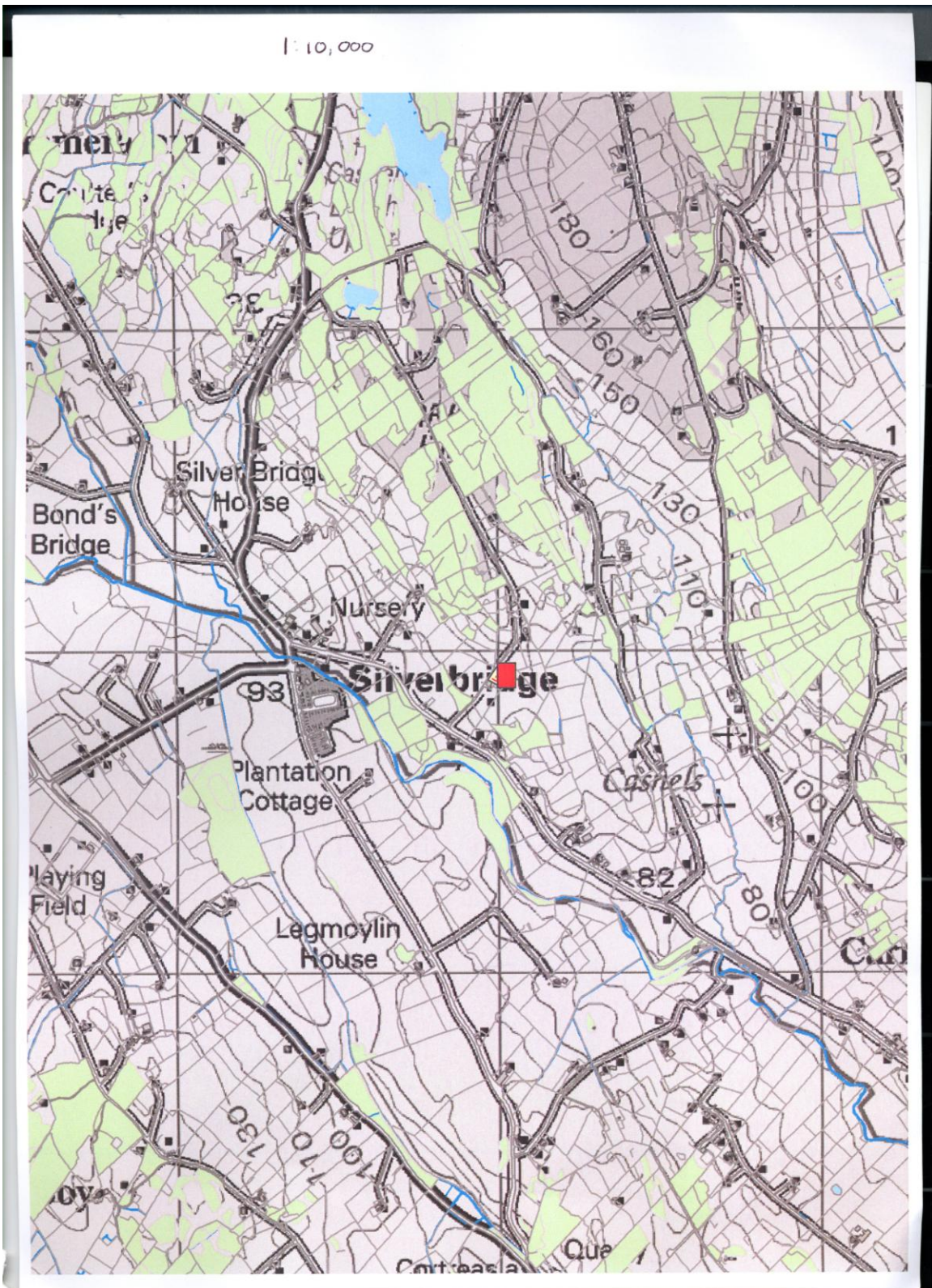


Fig. 2: Detailed location map showing application site (highlighted in red).



Fig. 3: Detailed location map showing application site (shaded yellow) and approximate location of test trenches .



Plate 1: Application site before the evaluation commenced, looking south. The farm buildings in the background of the picture were constructed, and consequentially destroyed the Cashel (ARM 028:029).



Plate 2: Mid excavation shot showing the excavation of Trench One to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 102), looking north-west.



Plate 3: Post-excavation shot following the evaluation, prior to the back filling of the trenches, looking south.