



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 255

**HIGH TREES
84A BRYANSFORD ROAD
TOLLYMORE
NEWCASTLE
COUNTY DOWN**

LICENCE NO.: AE/12/162E

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: High Trees, 84a Bryansford Road, Newcastle, Co. Down

Townland: Tollymore

SMR No. : DOW 049:007

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 3686 3192

County: Down

Excavation Licence No. : AE/12/162E

Planning Ref / No. : R/2012/0455/F

Dates of Monitoring: 5th February 2013

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at High Trees, 84a Bryansford Road, Tollymore, Newcastle, Co. Down in response to a planning application for a replacement dwelling and detached garage. The site is around 50m to the east of a scheduled rath known as St Cillan's Fort (NISMR DOW 049:007). Two test trenches were excavated over the footprint of the proposed new garage. The trenches were each 1.5m wide and 10.0m long. No finds or features of archaeological interest were uncovered during the evaluation. It is therefore recommended that there is no need for any further archaeological mitigation at the site.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Two trenches each approximately 1.5m wide and 10.0m long.

Current Land Use: Residential

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a proposed replacement dwelling and detached garage is located on the outskirts of the town of Newcastle, Co. Down (Figure 1). It lies on the edge of the Mourne Mountains, at a height of approximately 50m above sea level and close to Tollymore Forest Park. The site is set in a residential area, within the grounds of an existing chalet bungalow (Plates 1-3). The mature gardens are laid out in lawns with shrubs and trees. The peak of Slieve Donard is visible to the south-west of the house. The replacement dwelling will be constructed within the footprint of the existing house and therefore only the construction of the detached garage required archaeological mitigation.

The site is around 50m to the east of St Cillans Fort (NISMR DOW 049:007: Figure 2 and Plate 4) which is a scheduled rath with substantial remains. According to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) the site is overgrown but it is possible to see a large earthen bank, which is enclosed by a ditch from south to west to north-west. The ditch is absent elsewhere. There is a possible entrance to the north-west. The rath is approximately 50m in diameter with a 9m wide bank which stands 2m high. The ditch is 4m wide and 2m deep. The trees surrounding the rath were visible to the west of the application site.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and garage and was requested by Kevin Maguire of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit.

Excavation

Two test trenches were excavated at the site, each measuring 1.5m by 10.0m (Figure 3). The trenches were both excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at depths of between 0.2-0.3m.

Trench 1

Trench 1 ran roughly parallel to the house and driveway. It was 1.5m wide and 10.0m long (Plate 5). The uppermost layer in the trench (C101) consisted of mid brown loamy clay topsoil. It contained angular stone inclusions around 20mm long. The topsoil directly overlay the subsoil (C102) which was a heterogeneous deposit varying from pale yellowish grey boulder clay to looser orange gravel. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.2-0.3m (Plate 6). There were no finds and features of archaeological interest in Trench 1.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was 2.0m to the west of Trench 1 and ran parallel to it. This trench was 1.5m wide and 10.0m long (Plate 7). The topsoil layer in Trench 2 (C201) consisted of mid brown loamy clay with angular stones 20mm long. It contained tree

roots. Below the topsoil was the subsoil (C202) which varied from compact pale orange boulder clay to loose orange gravel. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.2-0.3m (Plate 8). There were no finds or features of archaeological interest in Trench 2.

No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered within the two trenches excavated at the proposed development site. It is not thought that the proposed development will impinge on any unknown archaeological deposits and therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

Archive:

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: Map showing the location of the site (red dot)



Revision	Description	Date
Client Mr Sean Kelly		
Project Details Replacement dwelling and garage at High Trees. 84a Bryansford Road, Newcastle, BT33 0LE		
Drawing Name Location Map		



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Project Number 2012 / 775	Drawing Number A4 - 01
Revision	

Figure 2: Detailed map showing the location of the site (outlined in red). St Cillian's fort can be seen to the west (circled in blue)

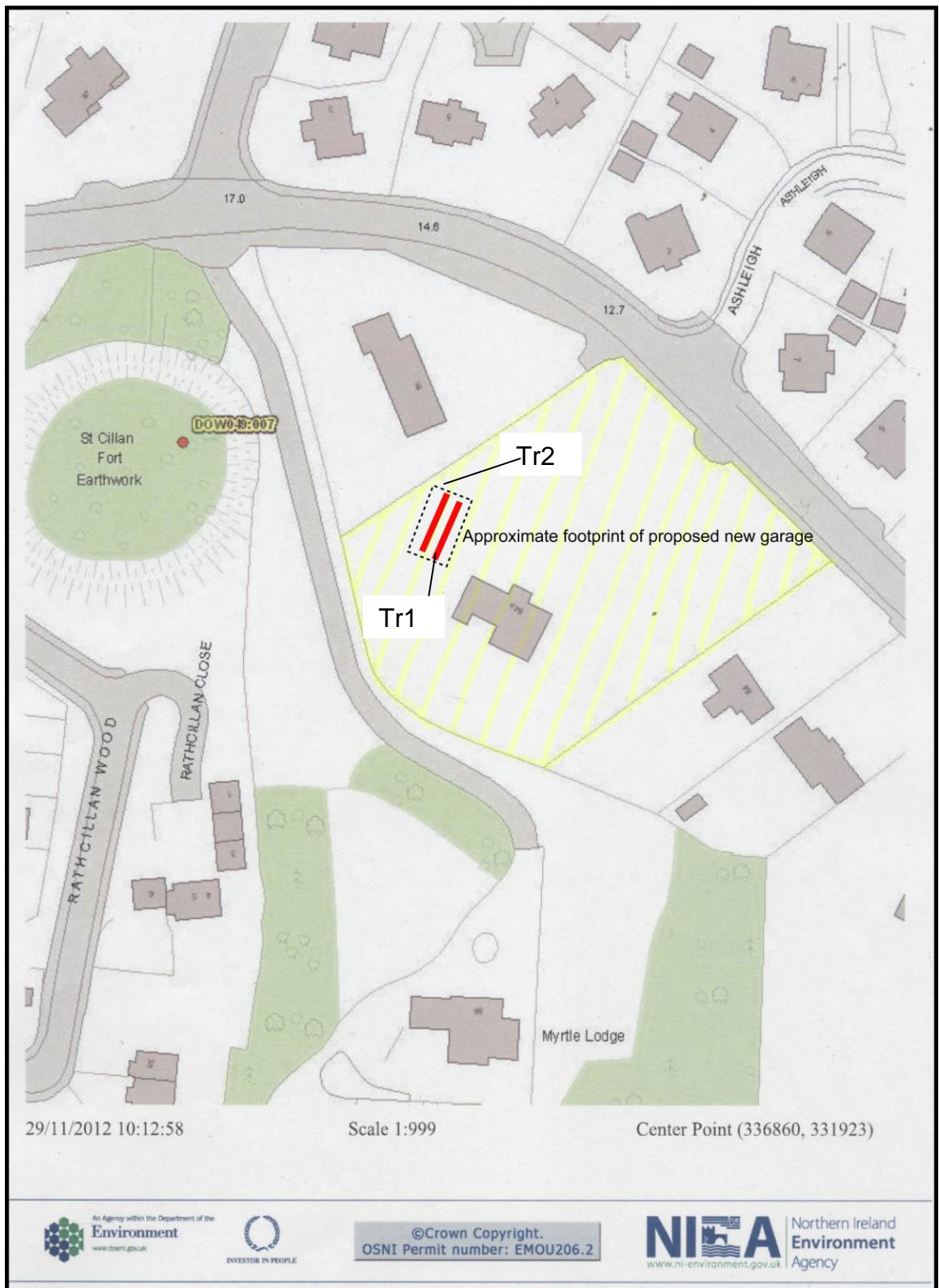


Figure 3: Site plan showing location of test trenches and the fort to the west



Plate 1: General view of the site prior to the evaluation, looking west



Plate 2: General view of the site prior to the evaluation, looking north-west



Plate 3: General view of the site prior to the evaluation, looking north-east towards Bryansford Road



Plate 4: St Cillan's fort, looking east



Plate 5: Trench 1, following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 6: West-facing section of Trench 1, looking east



Plate 7: Trench 2, following excavation to subsoil level, looking north



Plate 8: East-facing section of Trench 2, looking west