



**MONITORING REPORT: No. 286**

**Adjacent to 171 Carrickmannon Road**

**Raffrey**

**Co. Down**

**AE/14/175E**

**Dermot Redmond**

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* Adjacent to 171 Carrickmannon Road, Crossgar, Co. Down

*Townland:* Raffrey

*SMR No. :* DOW 023:010

*State Care*                      *Scheduled*                      *Other*                      [delete as applicable]

*Grid Ref.:* 3456918357920

*County:* Down

*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/14/175E

*Planning Ref / No. :* R/2014/0250/F

*Dates of Monitoring:* 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014

*Archaeologist(s) Present:* Dermot Redmond

### *Brief Summary:*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site adjacent to 171 Carrickmannon Road, Crossgar, Co. Down, in the townland of Raffrey. The work was requested in response to a planning application for a new dwelling. The proposed development site is adjacent to the site of an enclosure (NISMR no. DOW 023:010). Three trenches were excavated during the course of the evaluation, measuring 20-25m in length and 2m wide. No finds or features of archaeological interest were found in any of the trenches and it is not recommended that any further archaeological mitigation is needed.

### *Type of monitoring:*

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

### *Size of area opened:*

Three trenches each 2m wide and ranging 20-25m long, 130m<sup>2</sup> in total were investigated

*Current Land Use:* Greenfield

*Intended Land Use:* Residential

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

The application site for the proposed new dwelling is located adjacent to 171 Carrickmannon Road, Crossgar, Co. Down (Figures 1 and 2). The site is located in the south-east corner of the field, which is currently being used for agricultural purposes. The field is bounded on the south by agricultural buildings, and on the west, north and east by mature hedgerows.

The enclosure (DOW 023:010) lies to the south of the site. It is shown the first edition Ordnance Survey Six Inch map of 1834. The description in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) notes that the enclosure was completely destroyed by the construction of a barn and silo pit on the site. It was shown on the 1834 map as an undesignated fort convention, changing to undesignated circular enclosure on the 1860 revision. It is not marked on any subsequent editions.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. It was requested by Gina Baban of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit.

### *Excavation*

Three test trenches, each measuring 2m wide and 20-25m long were excavated at the site in the positions shown on Figure 3. The trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at depths of between 0.30-0.60m.

#### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was located over the access lane for the proposed dwelling. It was orientated north to south, and was 2m wide and 25m long (Plate 1).

The uppermost deposit in this trench was the sod layer (c100), which overlay a light brown clay loam topsoil (c101). The sod layer was on average 0.1m thick and the topsoil ranged in depth from 0.2-0.5m, being thickest at the southern end of the trench.

Beneath the topsoil (c101) was the natural subsoil (c102), an orange-brown clay, which was encountered at a depth between 0.3-0.6m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance within this trench.

#### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 was located within the footprint of the proposed dwelling, and was orientated north-east to south-west (Plate 2). It was 2m wide and 20m long.

The uppermost layer within this trench was the sod layer (c200), which was 0.1m thick, and it overlay the topsoil (c201), a 0.2m thick layer of light brown clay loam.

Beneath the topsoil (c201), there was a linear cut into the natural subsoil (c204). This linear (Plate 3) was running north-south across the trench, and was located 16.2m from the north-east end of the trench. On investigation, this feature was identified as a linear cut (c203), 0.3m wide and v shaped. It had a single fill (c202), which was a light brown clay loam with frequent inclusions of small stones, and 0.14m in depth. No finds were recovered from the section excavated through this feature. This linear is most likely a field drain. It is of unknown date due to the lack of artefactual evidence, but unlikely to be of much

antiquity. Apart from this linear, there were no finds or features of archaeological significance found within this trench.

### *Trench 3*

Trench 2 was located within the footprint of the proposed dwelling, and was orientated north-east to south-west (Plate 4), parallel to Trench 2. It was 2m wide and 20m long.

The uppermost layer within this trench was the sod layer (c300), which was 0.1m thick, and it overlay the topsoil (c301), a 0.2m thick layer of light brown clay loam.

Beneath the topsoil (c301), there was a linear cut into the natural subsoil (c304). This linear (Plate 5) was running north-south across the trench, and was located 12.4m from the north-east end of the trench. On investigation, this feature was identified as a linear cut (c303), 0.3-0.35m wide and v shaped. It had a single fill (c302), which was a light brown clay loam with frequent inclusions of small stones, and 0.12m in depth. No finds were recovered from the section excavated through this feature. This linear is the same feature as was found within Trench 2. Apart from this linear, there were no finds or features of archaeological significance found within this trench.

### **Conclusions**

No finds or features of archaeological significance were found during the evaluation. The shallow linear discovered appears to be a field drain, and therefore represents a programme of agricultural improvement, though nothing about the feature suggests that it is of much antiquity. 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: General location map with location of the site marked by the red circle

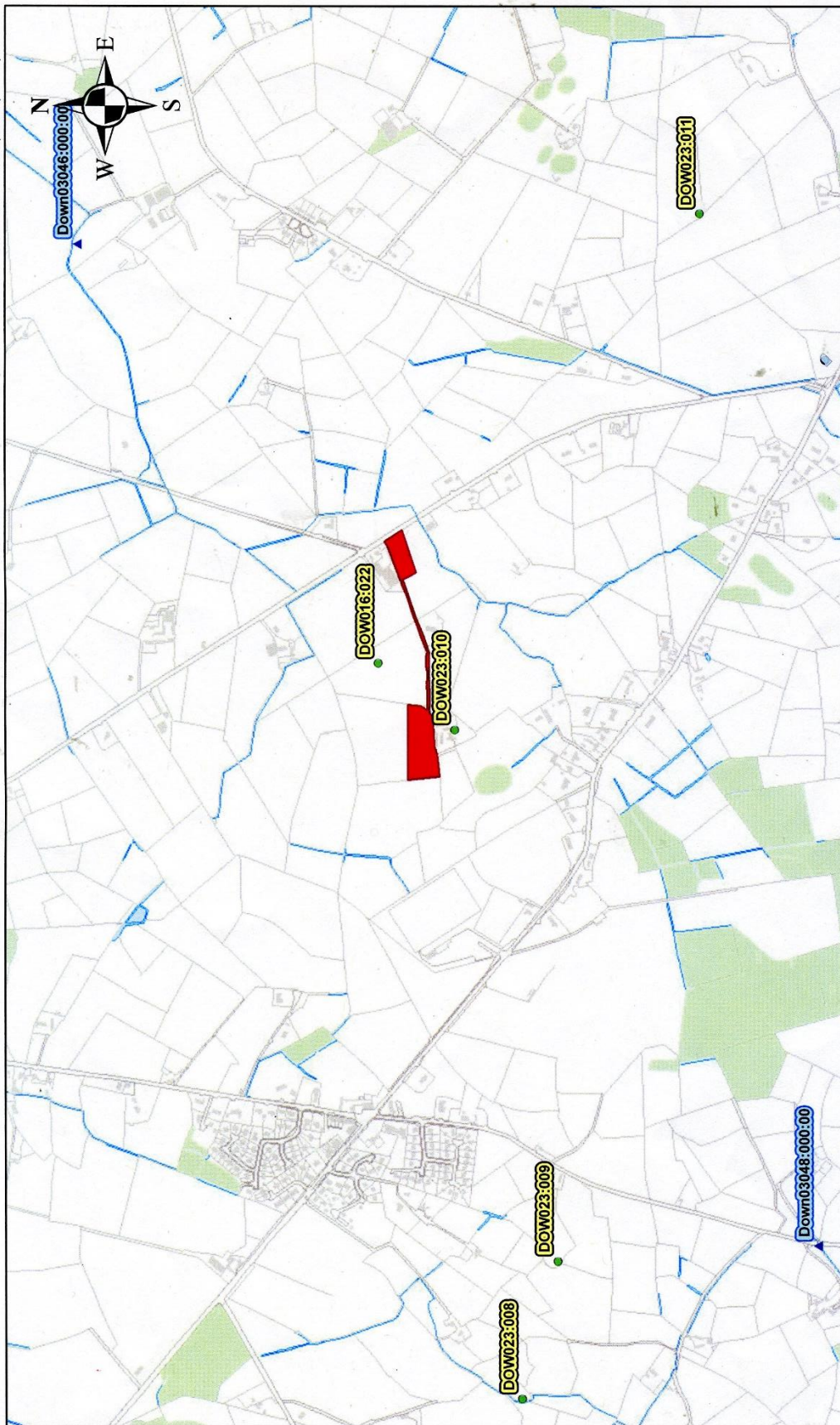


Figure 2: Detailed location map showing location of site (in red)

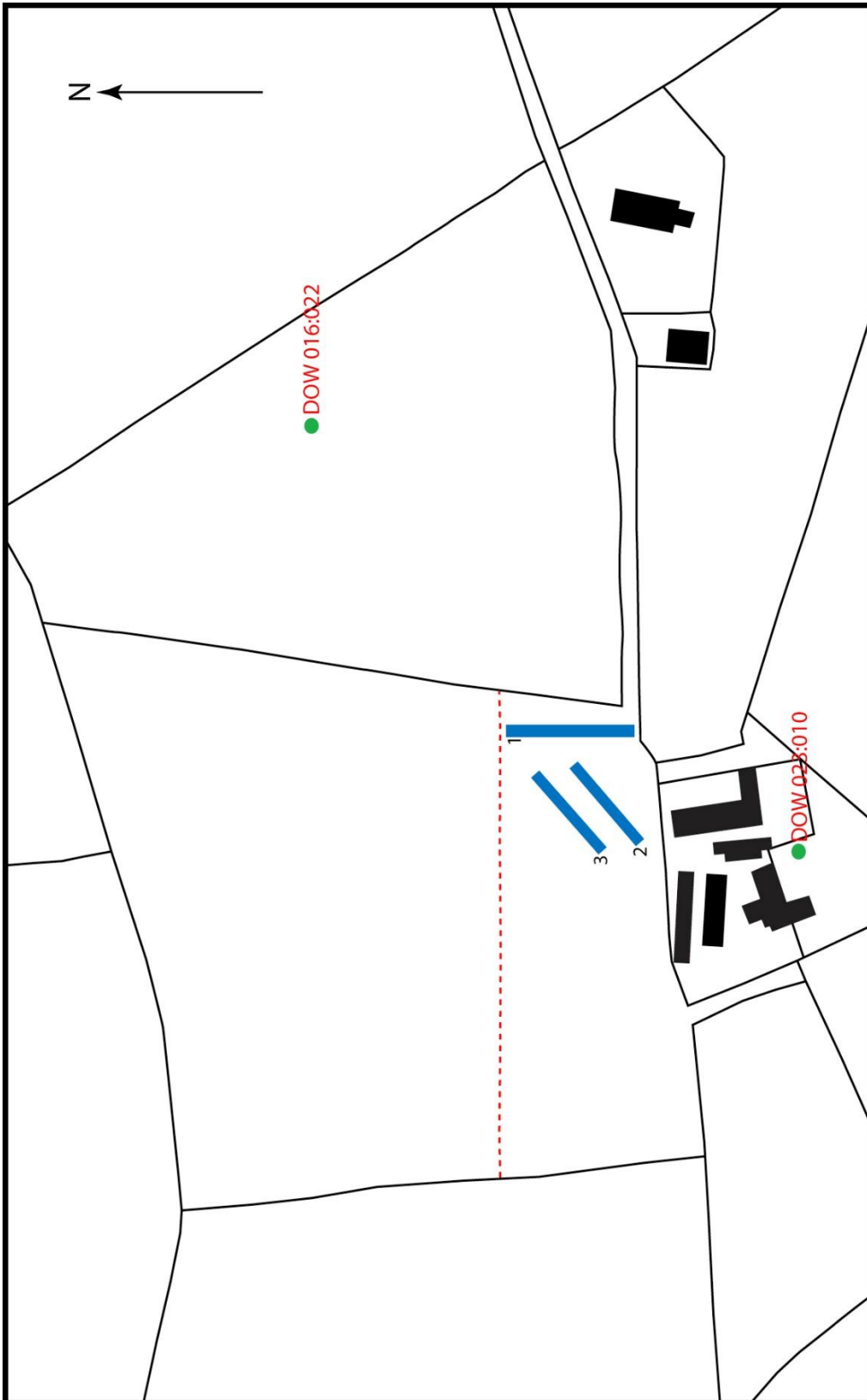


Figure 3 – Site plan showing locations of test trenches (Scale 1:2500)





Plate 1: Trench 1, surface of natural subsoil (c102), looking south



Plate 2: Trench 2, surface of the natural subsoil (c204), looking south-west



Plate 3: Trench 2, cut for linear (c203), looking north



Plate 4: Trench 3, surface of the natural subsoil (c304), looking south-west



Plate 5: Trench 3, cut for linear (c303), looking south