



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 288

92 Lisboy Road
Knockaholet
County Antrim

Licence No: AE/14/206

Stuart Alexander

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 92 Lisboy Road

Townland: Knockaholet

SMR No: ANT 018:020 (S)

State Care ~~*Scheduled*~~ *Other* (*delete as applicable*)

Grid Reference : D0403 2276

County: Antrim

Excavation License No: AE/14/206

Planning Ref No: D/2014/0139/F

Date of Monitoring: 9th December 2014

Archaeologist Present: Stuart Alexander

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 92 Lisboy Road, Knockaholet, Co Antrim in response to a planning application for a replacement dwelling. The proposed development area is close to the remains of a raised rath (ANT: 018:020) that has been heavily landscaped by ploughing. Six 2 metre wide trenches were opened across the footprint of the dwelling and garage, ranging in length from 4.5 metres – 18.5 metres. No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological mitigation is undertaken.

Type of Monitoring:

Excavation of six test trenches by a mechanical excavator, equipped with a 'sheugh' (smooth edged) bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of Area Opened:

Six test trenches all 2.0 metres wide ranging between 4.5 metres and 18.5 metres long. A total of 111 square metres.

Current Land Use: Greenfield

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief Account of the Monitoring

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 92 Lisboy Road, Knockaholet, Co Antrim (Fig 1-4). The application site, lies atop a small hill and is accessed by a steep narrow lane off the Lisboy Road. The development area is 300 feet above sea level with good views in all directions. Site is a small green paddock bordered by hedges and trees approximately 50 metres north / south by 52m east / west. In the north west corner of the plot there are the ruined remains of 19th century farm buildings.

The archaeological monitoring was requested due to the sites proximity to the remains of a ploughed out raised rath (ANT 018:020) which lies immediately to the south / west of the evaluation area (Plate 1). The rath is set on a steep south facing hill, with excellent views in all directions except to the north. The monument has been extensively landscaped by ploughing and survives as a low circular mound measuring 25 metres north / south by 24 metres east / west. There are traces of the outer ditch but, there is no evidence of the original entrance. However, a small mound adjoining the base could be the remains of a causeway. (Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record, SM7 File, ANT: 018:020)

The evaluation was requested by Dr Vicky Ginn of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit, as part of a planning application for a replacement dwelling and associated garage (Planning Ref: D/2014/0139/F)

Excavation

Six 2 metre wide trenches were opened across the footprint of the development area ranging in length from 4.5 metres – 18.5 metres (Fig 4). Four trenches were opened across the dwelling approximately 5 metres apart and two across the garage, 2 metres apart. All the trenches were aligned north west / south east and were excavated to the natural glacial subsoil. This was encountered at depths between 0.12m 0.37m from the modern ground surface.

Trench One

Trench one (Plates 2 and 9) was the longest trench on site measuring 2.0 metres by 18.5 metres. It was positioned so that it would evaluate the area between the front and the rearmost part of the dwelling. This trench had two contexts, topsoil (c.101) and subsoil (c.102). The topsoil was a grey brown friable clay loam, with some charcoal flecking and small sub rounded stones between 0.02m and 0.15m in size. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.12m at the northern end of the trench

tapering to the depth of 0.25m at the south end. This deposit came off onto the natural glacial subsoil which was a compact orange stony boulder clay.

Trench Two

Trench two (Plates 3 and 9) measured 2 metres by 10 metres, this trench like trench one had similar strata. The only deposits encountered were topsoil (c.201) and subsoil (c.202). The topsoil soil was a dark grey brown friable clay loam with some charcoal flecking and sub rounded stones between 0.02m and 0.15m in size. Two small pieces of cream ware pottery were recovered from this deposit. The topsoil was a universal depth across this trench at 0.22 metres. The subsoil in this trench was again a compact orange stony boulder clay.

Trench Three

Trench three (Plate 4) measured 2 metres by 9 metres, again similar strata was encountered. The topsoil (c.301) was a grey brown friable clay loam with charcoal flecking and sub rounded stones between 0.05 metres and 0.18 metres. This deposit was between 0.31 metres and 0.36 metres in depth. The only thing of note in this trench was that this deposit had a lot of root action at the southern end of trench. This is unsurprising as the trench was close the hedge and tree field boundary. The subsoil (c.302) was once more a compact orange stony boulder clay.

Trench Four

Trench four (Plate 5) was the last trench to be placed over the dwelling. It measured 2 metres by 9 metres. Nothing unusual was encountered in this trench. The topsoil (c.401) was a grey brown friable clay loam, containing charcoal flecking and small sub rounded stones between 0.03 metres and 0.17 metres in size. The depth of this deposit ranged from 0.35 metres and 0.37 metres. This deposit again came off onto the compact orange stony boulder clay (c.402).

Trench Five

Trench five (Plates 6 and 8) was placed over the location for the garage and was situated down slope on a lower terrace. This trench measured 2 metres by 4.5 metres and again like the previous trenches the strata consisted of two deposits. The topsoil (c.501) in this trench differed slightly from the aforementioned trenches in that it was a light grey loose clay loam, with lots of root action, some charcoal flecking and a number of sub rounded stones between 0.05 metres and 0.12 metres in size. The subsoil (c.502) in this trench varied from the others and was an orange compact clay that was that was less stony that the previous trenches.

Trench Six

Trench six (Plates 7 and 8) was also opened over the garage plot. It measured 2 metres by 4.5 metres and contained similar strata as trench five. The topsoil (c.601) was a light grey loose clay loam with lots of root action, some charcoal flecking and sub rounded stones between 0.05 metres and 0.12 metres in size. This deposit ranged in depth from 0.33m to 0.35 metres and the only find was an intact modern glass bottle. The subsoil (c.602) in this trench was again a compact orange clay that contained very little stone compared to trenches one to four.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded during the excavation at 92 Lisboy Road. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is carried out at the site. A short summary of the excavation will be prepared for inclusion in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

Archive:

Finds:

Two pieces small cream ware pottery from Trench 2, context 201

Intact modern glass bottle from Trench 6, context 602

These are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Photographs:

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

Plans and Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

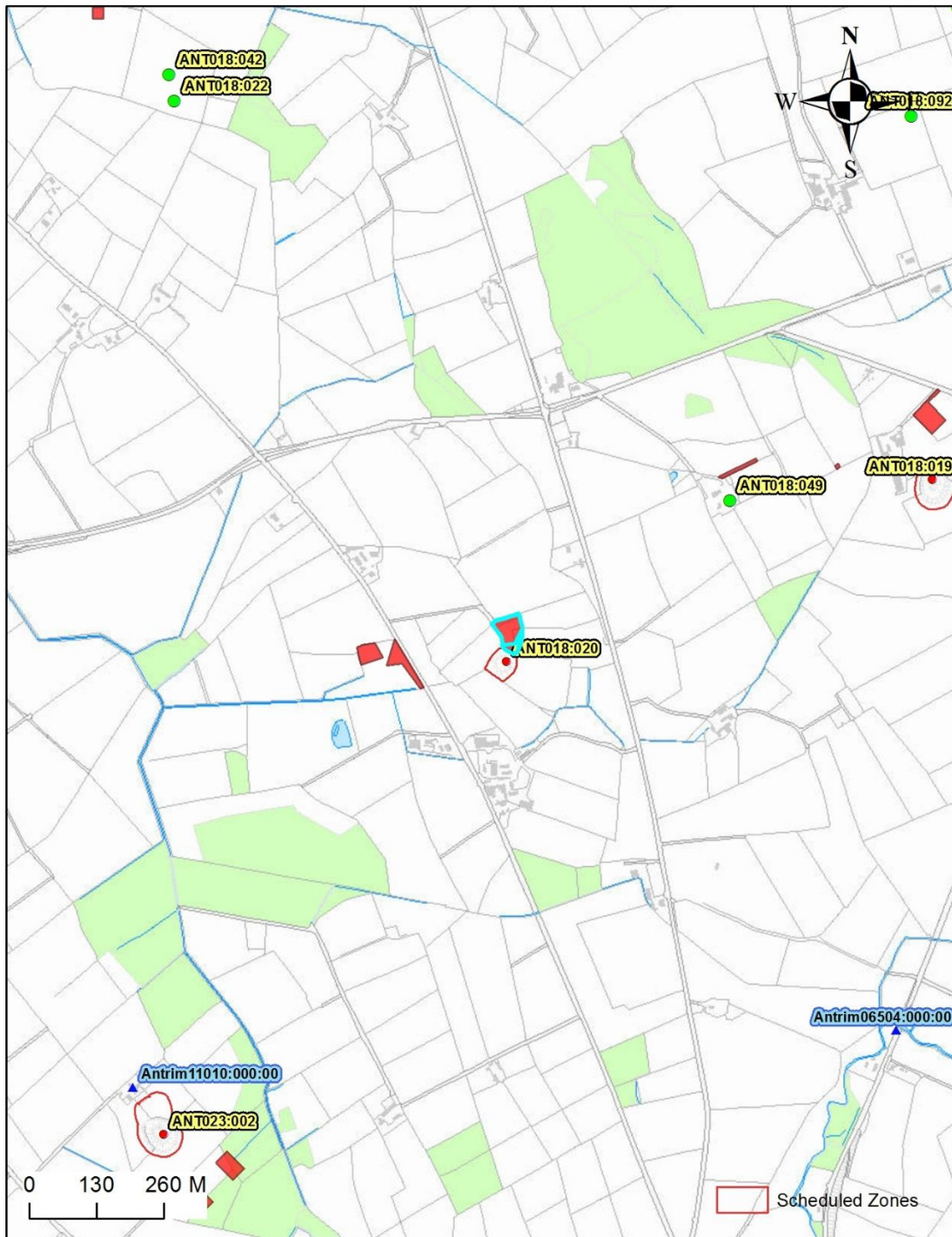


Figure 1 – General Location Map (circled in red)



Figure 2 – General Location Map (circled in red)

Coordinates: 304,031 , 422,775



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Agency
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Title: D-2014-0139-F

Scale: 1:10,000

Drawn by: 2337818

Date: 06 October 2014

Description:

Map showing application area highlighted
in blue

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Figure 3 – Detailed Location Map (application area highlighted in blue)

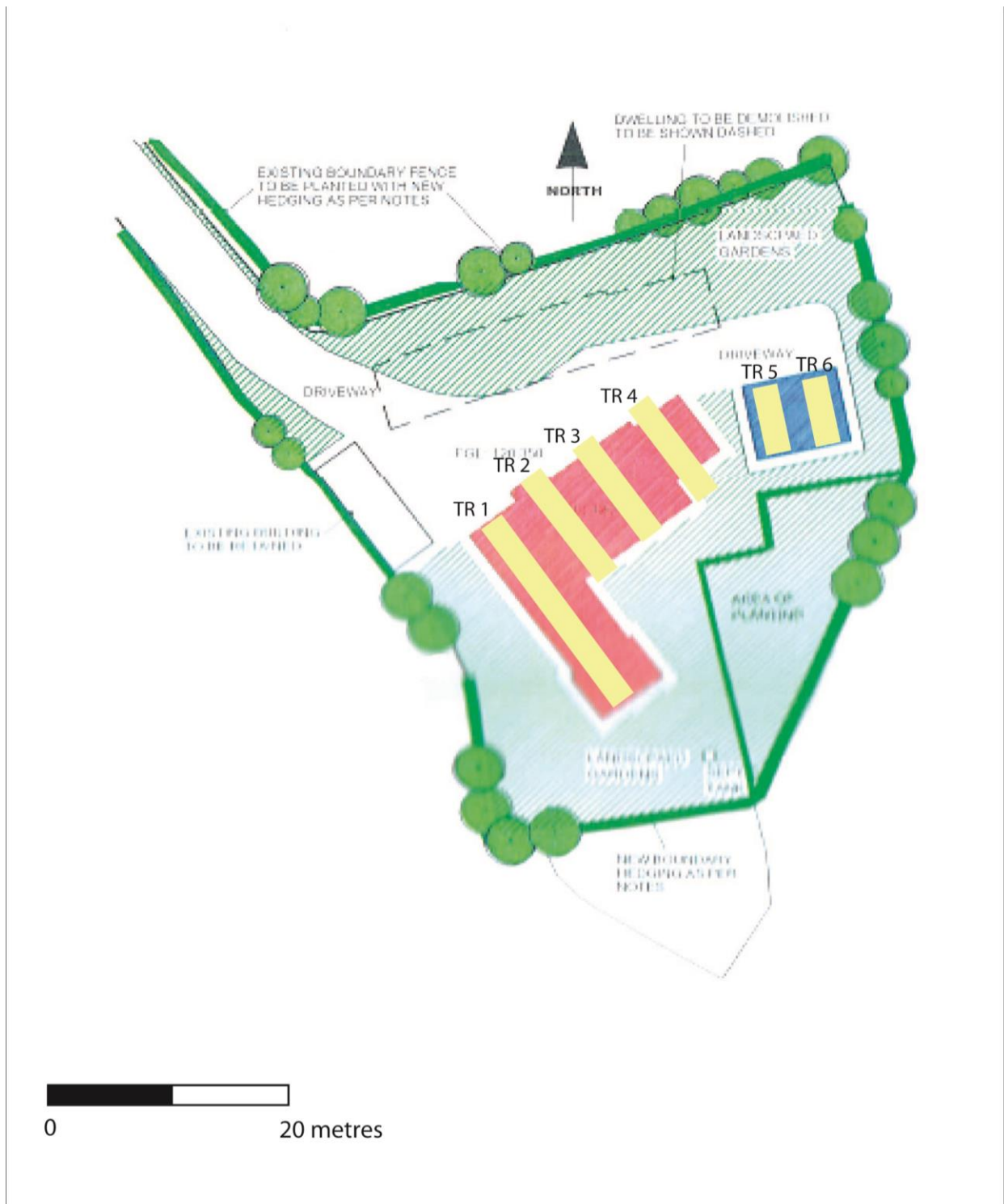


Figure 4 – Detailed site map (Location of dwelling in red, garage plot in blue and trenches excavated in yellow)



Plate 1 – Remains of raised rath adjacent to development site



Plate 2 – Post excavation shot of Trench One, looking north



Plate 3 – Post excavation shot of Trench Two, looking south



Plate 4 – Post excavation shot of Trench Three, looking south



Plate 5 – Post excavation shot of Trench Four, looking south



Plate 6 – Post excavation shot of Trench Five, looking south



Plate 7 – Post excavation shot of Trench Six, looking south



Plate 8 – General post excavation shot of Trenches Five and Six



Plate 9 – General post excavation shot of Trenches One and Two (Trenches Three and Four are obscured by mechanical excavator)