



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 176

**RODGERS ROAD
DRUMHARIFF
CAMLOUGH
COUNTY ARMAGH**

LICENCE NO.: AE/09/91

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Location: 110m west of Rodgers Road, Tullywinney Road, Camlough, Co. Armagh

Townland: Drumharriff

SMR No. : ARM 025:004

State Care Scheduled Other ✓ [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 0067 2934

County: Armagh

Excavation Licence No. : AE/09/91

Planning Ref / No. : P/2006/0397/F

Dates of Monitoring: 2nd June 2009

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 110m west of Rodgers Road, Drumharriff, Co. Armagh, as part of the planning application for a replacement dwelling and garage. Drumharriff rath and souterrain are situated adjacent to the site (ARM 025:004). The site is partially on the footprint of the remains and there is potential for the discovery of the continuation of the bank or ditch of the rath. Three trenches were excavated on the site. Within the two trenches in the area adjacent to the rath an organic deposit was uncovered which may to be associated with cultivation to the rear of the ruined dwelling house. There were no remains of archaeological significance in the third trench in the area the landowner proposes to build the replacement dwelling. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

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 approximately 1m wide and 25m long

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located 4km north-west of the village of Camlough and 3km south-east of Whitecross (Figure One). The site occupies a sub-rectangular-shaped field approximately 1 hectare in size, located to the west of Rodgers Road, Drumharriff (Figure Two). It is a secluded site up a lane with good views to the south and west. There is a ruined dwelling house and associated outbuildings in the north-eastern corner of the site. Through a small gap to the south is a large grassy field bordered with mature trees and hawthorn hedges. The field slopes down to the south-west and is bordered to the south and east by a laneway (Plate One). It is here that the landowner proposes to build the replacement dwelling (Figure Three).

In the north-western corner of the site are the remains of Drumharriff rath (ARM 025:004). The rath exists as a low, grassy bank which survives to a height of around 1m in parts (Plate Two). Only the western and northern sides of the rath remain; to the south and east the rath appears to have been truncated by later field boundaries. The current landowner says that his father (born in 1900) remembers it always being as it is today (Mr McKeown *pers. comm.*). It is unclear what has happened to the remains of the rath but there is potential for the continuation of the bank and/or ditch in the area to the west of the ruined dwelling house.

The evaluation was requested by Gail Howell: Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) in response to a planning application for a proposed new dwelling.

Excavation

Three test trenches were excavated in the area of the proposed development. They were located in the positions shown in Figure Three. The trenches were each approximately 1m wide and 25m long. All were excavated to the surface of the boulder clay subsoil.

In the initial remit NIEA requested the excavation of three trenches in the positions shown on Figure Four. However, the methodology was altered in the field and one trench was positioned in the area to the south where the landowner proposes to build the replacement dwelling. It was not possible to position a trench to the east of the ruined dwelling house due to the presence of fencing and farm machinery (Plate Three).

Trench One

Trench One ran parallel with the ruined dwelling house at a distance of 3.5m to the west and was 1m by 25m in size. The trench was aligned north/south (Plate Four). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of dark brown silty clay which was 0.10m thick. It contained

small, sub-rounded stones (average size: 15x20x10mm). Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation layer (Context No. 102) of mid-brown silty clay and also containing small sub-rounded stones (average size: 15x20x10mm). The cultivation layer was around 0.2-0.3m thick. At the southern end of the trench, approximately 2m from the southern limit of excavation was a dark brown organic layer (Context No. 103: Plate Five). The organic layer was at least 1m wide (east/west) and 1m long (north-south). It was 0.2m thick. Below the organic layer was a layer of greyish-brown silty clay (Context No. 104: Plate Five) approximately also at least 1m wide (east/west), 1m long (north/south) and 0.1m thick. There was no evidence of a cut to contain these layers. A manure heap which the landowner remembers roughly corresponds with the position of the layers. The greyish-brown silty clay lay above the subsoil (Context No. 105) which consisted of orange boulder clay, the surface of which rose from 0.7m deep at the southern end of the trench to 0.5m at the northern end.

Trench Two

Trench Two was 2m to the west of Trench One and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1m by 25m in size with its long axis aligned north-south (Plate Six). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of dark brown silty clay containing sub-rounded stones (average size: 15x20x10mm). It was approximately 0.2m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation layer (Context No. 202) consisting of mid-brown silty clay with small stone inclusions (average size: 15x20x10mm). This layer was up to 0.5m thick in parts. At the southern end of the trench approximately 2m from the southern limit of excavation equivalent layers (Plate Seven) were uncovered to those excavated in Trench Two (Context Nos. 103 and 104). There was a dark brown organic layer (Context No. 203) which was around 1m long (north/south) and at least 1m wide (east/west). The organic layer was 0.1m thick and contained a single piece of window glass. Below it was a greyish-brown silty clay (Context No. 204) which was around 1m long (north/south) by at least 1m wide (east/west) and 0.3m thick. The greyish-brown silty clay did not contain any finds but was disturbed by modern tree root activity. As in Trench One there was no cut associated with the layers which also correspond with the location of the manure heap. Below the greyish-brown silty clay was the subsoil (Context No. 205) the surface of which was an average of 0.8m deep.

Trench Three

Trench Three was located in the field to the south of the other trenches (see Figure Three). The south-east corner of the trench was 10m from the south-east corner of the field and the southern limit of excavation was 4m from the field's southernmost boundary. The trench was 1m wide by 25m long with its long axis aligned north-south (Plate Eight).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 303) consisted of loose, mid-brown silty clay which was 0.15m thick. It contained small sub-rounded stones (average size: 20x10x10mm). Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (Context No. 302) consisting of quite compact

greyish-brown clay loam. It was 0.25m thick and contained small stone inclusions (average size: 20x10x10mm) and larger sub-rounded pebbles (average size: 35x30x20mm). Below the cultivation soil was the boulder clay subsoil (Context No. 303) the surface of which was 0.4m deep (Plate Nine). There were no features cut into the surface of the subsoil.

The results of the evaluation show that there appear not to be significant archaeological remains present in the evaluated area. However, the relationship of the organic and silty clay layers exposed in both Trenches One and Two to the rath is unclear. As there was no cut associated with the layers and they correspond to a modern manure heap they may be the remnants of lazy beds associated with the ruined dwelling house. If the house is to be located in this area then more archaeological fieldwork may be necessary. No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered in Trench Three and therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out in this area. The results of the evaluation will be published as a brief summary in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

Archive:

Finds:

The artefacts recovered from the evaluation are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Photographs:

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

Plans / Drawings: *N/A*

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Figure One: General location map showing the location of the site (circled in red)

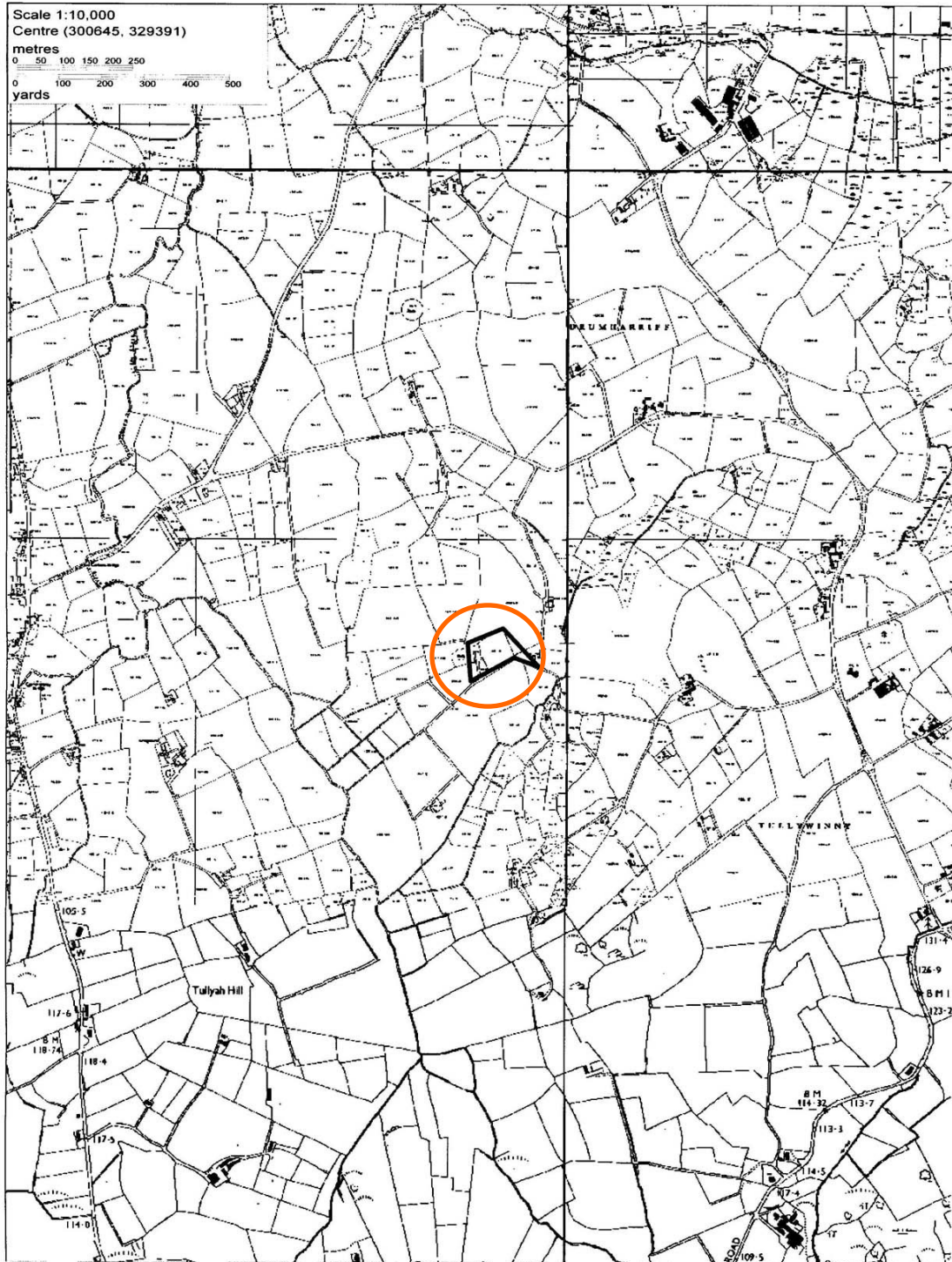


Figure Two: Detailed location map showing site outline (circled in red)

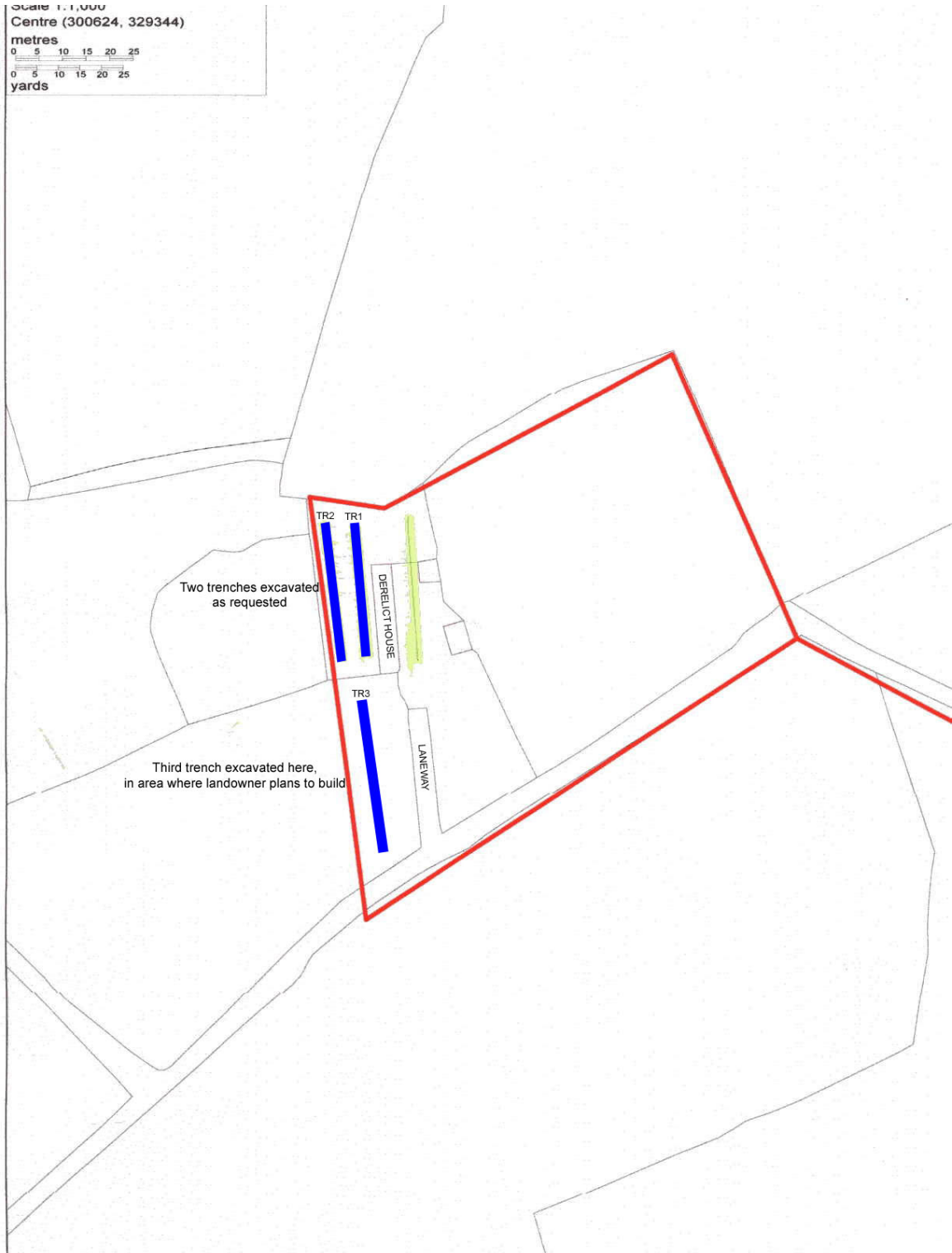


Figure Three: Site plan showing location of test trenches (in blue) and extent of evaluation site (highlighted red)



Figure Four: Site plan showing requested location of test trenches (in green)



Plate One: General view of the site, looking south-west



Plate Two: General view of the application site prior to the excavation of test trenches, looking north-west

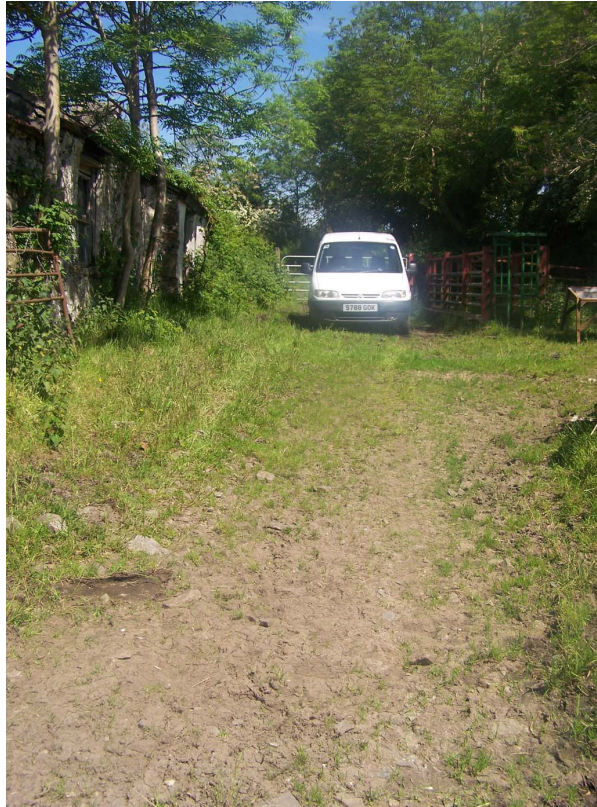


Plate Three: Area to the east of the ruined dwelling house



Plate Four: Trench One, looking south



Plate Five: West-facing section of Trench One showing organic layer (Context No. 103) and silty clay (Context No. 104), looking east



Plate Six: Trench Two, looking north



Plate Seven: West-facing section of Trench Two showing organic layer (Context No. 203) and silty clay (Context No. 204), looking east



Plate Eight: Trench Three, looking north



Plate Nine: West-facing section of Trench Three, looking east