Monitoring Report No. 67

Burrenbane
Bryansford
Co. Down

AE/06/113

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Land north of No. 66 The Village Lane, Bryansford

Townland: Burrenbane

SMR No.: near DOW:043:103

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* √

Grid Ref: J3420 3355

County: Down

Excavation Licence No: AE/06/113

Planning Ref / No.: R/2005/1717/F

Date of Monitoring: 31st May 2006

Archaeologist Present: Kara Ward

Brief Summary:
Six test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed development site is located approximately 40m east of a souterrain (DOW:043:103). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in any of the trenches.

Type of monitoring:
Excavation of six test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:
Six trenches; one measuring approximately 60m by 1.5m, one measuring approximately 20m by 1.5m, one measuring approximately 30m by 1.5m and three measuring approximately 40m by 1.5m

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Account of the monitoring

A planning application for a private farm retirement dwelling was made for a site north of No. 66 The Village Lane, Bryansford (Fig. 1). The proposed development site is located approximately 40m east of a souterrain (DOW:043:103) and both the souterrain and development site are situated in Burrenbane townland (Fig. 2). The souterrain was reported by Nick Brannon of the Environment and Heritage Service as being L-shaped in plan, typical of County Down souterrains, with a very tight entrance through a displaced roof lintel. He described one or two chambers with regular sections to the chambers approximately 1m wide and 1.6m high. He noted that there was damage to the western chamber, where it had been pierced by a water main, and there had also been some root damage (Sites and Monument Record, SMR No. DOW:043:103). At the time of the evaluation, the location of the souterrain was completely overgrown, however, the owner of the land where the souterrain is located indicated where it ran underneath an old laneway to the north of the garden and into the adjoining field.

An archaeological evaluation was requested by the Environment and Heritage Service: Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Neil Yeaman, to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 31st May 2006. Six test trenches were excavated (Fig. 3) within the proposed development site boundary. Trench A measured approximately 60m by 1.5m, Trench B measured approximately 20m by 1.5m, Trench C measured approximately 30m by 1.5m, Trench D measured approximately 40m by 1.5m, Trench E measured approximately 40m by 1.5m and Trench F measured approximately 40m by 1.5m. A similar stratigraphic sequence was represented in all of the trenches. The stratigraphy of the test trenches is described below:

The topsoil (C101) in Trench A was a grey brown silty clay with frequent granite inclusions, some of them quite large boulders. It had an average depth of 0.31m and directly overlay the subsoil (C102). The subsoil (C102) was a brownish orange boulder clay with frequent granite inclusions (Plates 1 and 2).

In Trench B the topsoil (C201) was a grey brown silty clay with frequent granite inclusions. It had a depth of up to 0.38m and directly overlay the subsoil (C202), which was a brownish orange boulder clay with frequent granite inclusions (Plates 3 and 4).

The topsoil (C301) in Trench C was a grey brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions. It had a depth of up to 0.32m. Directly underlying this was the subsoil (C302), a brownish orange boulder clay with frequent granite inclusions (Plates 5 and 6). A small extension was cut from the north-western edge of the trench, approximately 7m along from the south-western end. This was to investigate a linear feature which turned out to be a modern plough furrow. The extension measured approximately 1.5m by 2m (Fig. 3).

The topsoil (C401) in Trench D was a grey brown silty clay with frequent granite inclusions. It had a depth of around 0.31m and directly overlay the subsoil (C402). The subsoil (C402) was a brownish orange boulder clay with frequent granite inclusions (Plates 7 and 8).

The topsoil (C501) in Trench E was a grey brown silty clay with frequent granite inclusions. It had a depth of up to 0.37m and directly overlay the subsoil (C502). The subsoil (C502) was a brownish orange boulder clay with frequent granite inclusions (Plates 9 and 10).

The topsoil (C601) in Trench F was a grey brown silty clay with frequent granite inclusions with a depth of up to 0.34m. It directly overlay the subsoil (C602), which was a brownish orange boulder clay with frequent granite inclusions (Plates 11 and 12).

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were apparent in any of the trenches.

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs:. 15 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed:_____ Date:_____

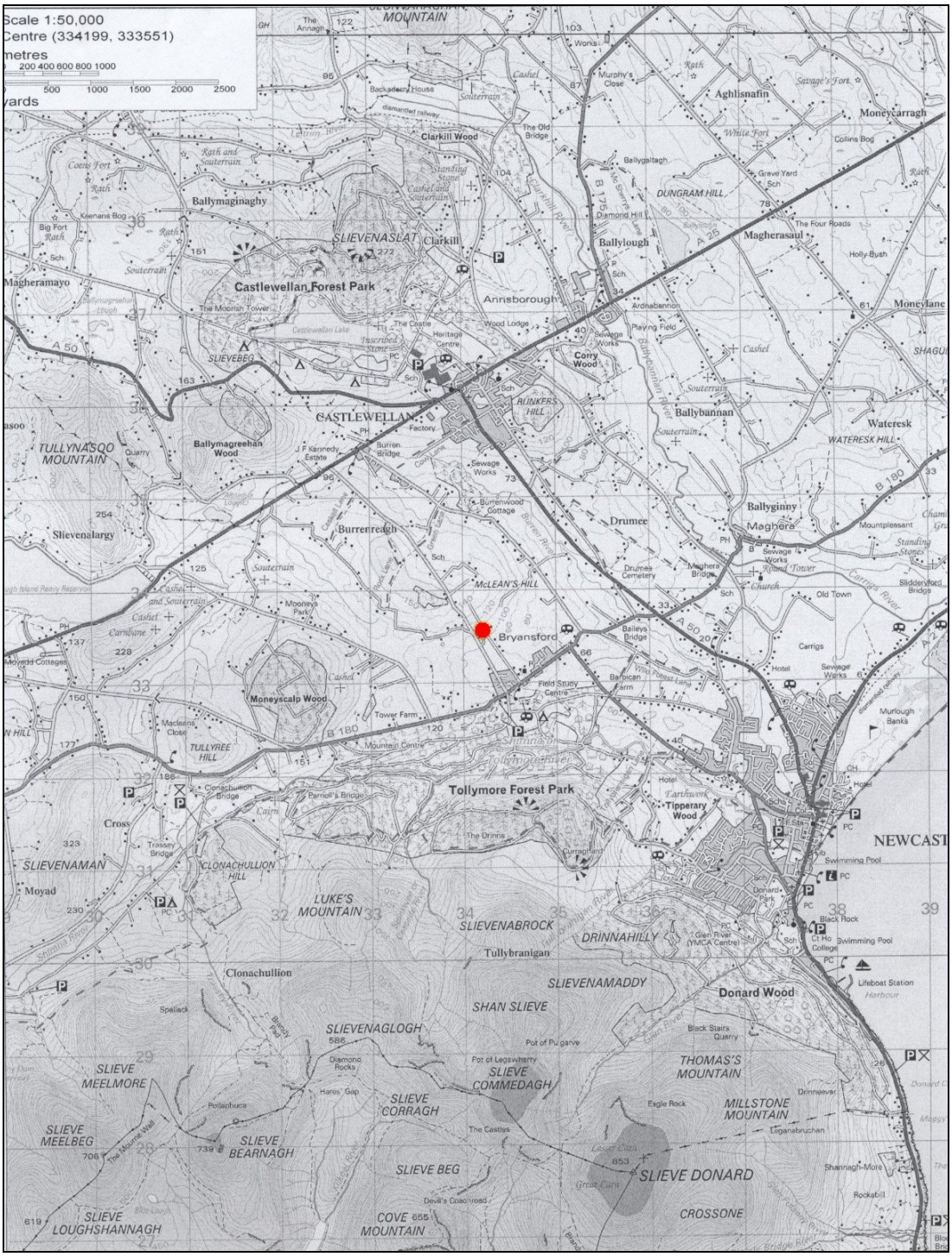

Fig. 1: Map showing location of site (red).

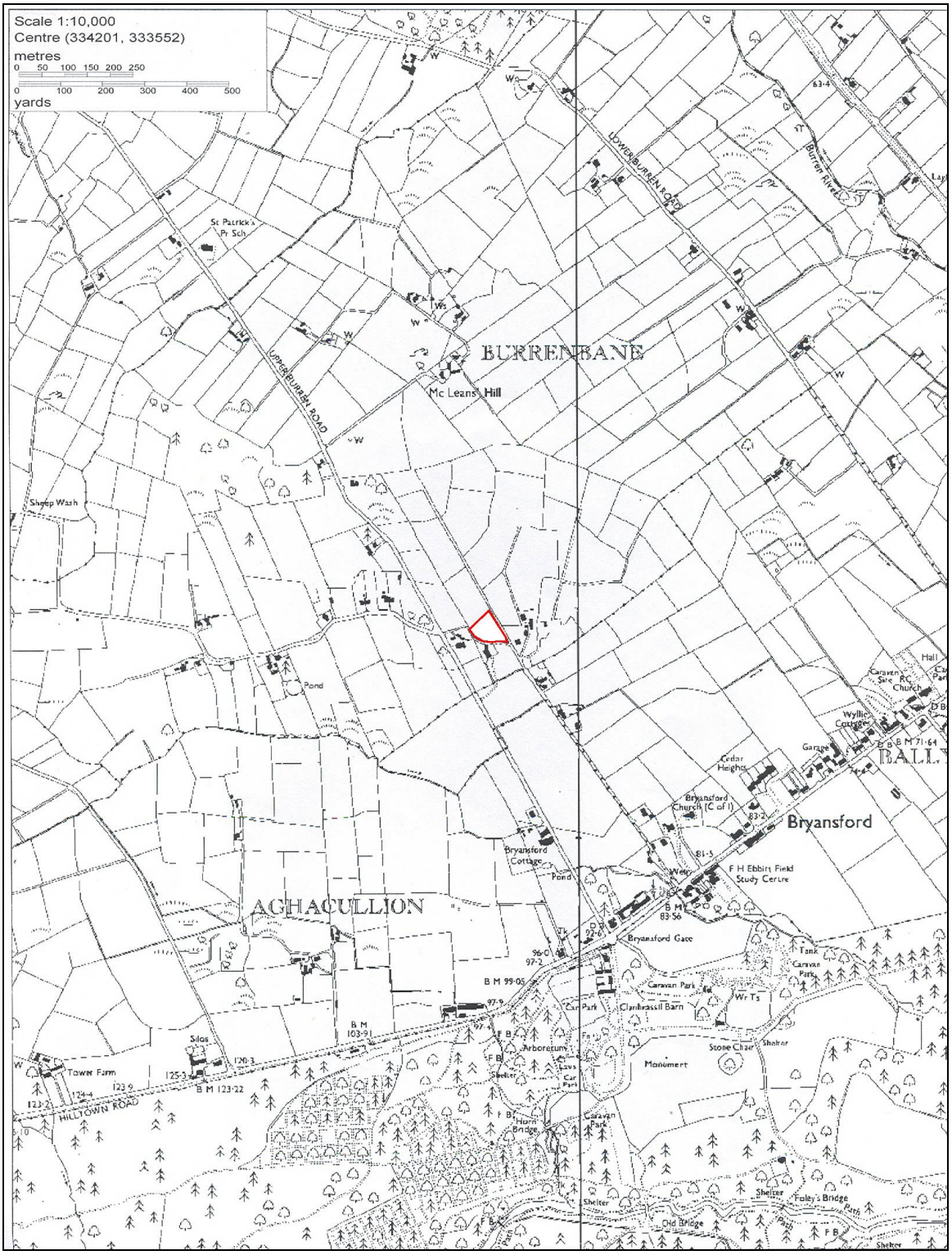

Fig. 2: Location of site (outlined in red).

Fig. 3: Location of test trenches (marked in red).

Plate 1: View of Trench A from south-east, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).

Plate 2: View of southwest-facing section in Trench A, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).

Plate 3: View of Trench B from south-west, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C202).

Plate 4: View of southeast-facing section in Trench B, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C202).

Plate 5: View of Trench C from south-west, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C302).

Plate 6: View of southeast-facing section in Trench C, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C302).

Plate 7: View of Trench D from south-west, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C402).

Plate 8: View of southeast-facing section in Trench D, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C402).

Plate 9: View of Trench E from north-east, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C502).

Plate 10: View of southeast-facing section in Trench E, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C502)

Plate 11: View of Trench F from north-east, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C602).

Plate 12: View of southeast-facing section in Trench F, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C602).