



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 074

**4 KILLEEN ROAD
KILLEEN
VICTORIA BRIDGE
COUNTY TYRONE**

LICENCE NO.: AE/06/141

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 4 Killeen Road

Townland: Killeen

SMR No. : TYR 016:033

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: H 3322 8689

County: Tyrone

Excavation Licence No. : AE/06/141

Planning Ref / No. : J/2005/0932/O

Dates of Monitoring: 29th June 2006

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

The archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site immediately south of 4 Killeen Road, Killeen, County Tyrone in response to a planning application for a new dwelling. A standing stone (TYR 016:033) is located within the same field as the application site. The evaluation consisted of four test trenches within the footprint of the proposed dwelling. Disturbance of a modern nature was evident, but there were no remains of great archaeological significance. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Four trenches each approximately 2m wide and ranging in length between 15m and 40m.

Current Land Use: Agricultural

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located immediately to the south of 4 Killeen Road, Killeen, County Tyrone. The site is approximately 2km from the village of Ardstraw (Figure One). The site is situated on the northern edge of the valley of the River Derg and lies at a height of approximately 50m above sea level. Landuse in the immediate area is predominantly agricultural, interspersed with dwelling houses. The application site is located in a field approximately 0.34 hectares in size. The field slopes gently downwards from west to east. To the south of the application area a slight hollow or dip is visible, running north-south (see Trench 2B). The field is bordered by the Killeen Road to the east, the B164 (Castlederg to Ardstraw) road to the south and a private lane to the north. To the west of the field is more agricultural land. The application area is located in the top (northernmost) part of the field and occupies an area of approximately 0.18 hectares (Figure Two).

There is a standing stone (TYR 016:033) within the application area (Plate One). The stone stands close to the north-south field boundary, immediately north of the gateway. It is recorded in the Environment and Heritage Service Sites and Monuments Record that the stone was re-erected at an unspecified point in time and it is not known whether the stone is in its original position. The stone appears undisturbed and stands at a height of 2.10m. It is sub-rectangular in cross-section (maximum dimensions 0.35m by 0.50m).

The evaluation took place in response to a planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Edith Gowdy: Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage.

Excavation

The original research design requested the supervision of three mechanically excavated trenches each approximately 2m wide and 40m in length. The research design was revised in the field (Figure Three) as the application area was found to contain trees (Plate Two) in the area of one of the trenches (Trench Two). Trench Two was excavated as two separate trenches, Trench 2A and Trench 2B, on either side of the trees. Trench 2A was on the eastern side of the trees and was approximately 15m by 2m. Trench 2B was on the western side of the trees and was approximately 25m by 2m. There was a gap of approximately 2m between the trenches. Context numbers in these trenches were suffixed with 'a' and 'b' accordingly. Trenches One and Three were 40m in length, and 2m wide as originally intended.

Trench One

Trench One was situated in the northern part of the field and ran roughly parallel to the east-west field boundary. It was approximately 40m (east-west) by 2m in size (Plate Three). The eastern end of the trench was approximately 1.3m from the field boundary while the western end was approximately 11.0m from it. The eastern end of the trench was approximately 8.0m north-west of the standing stone. The

trench was excavated to the natural subsoil which was 0.39m deep (Plate Four). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of a loose, greyish brown, sandy loam. The topsoil contained frequent sub-angular stones which had an average size of 45x25x15mm. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was around 0.11m thick. Below the sod and topsoil (Context No. 101) was layer of loose sandy clay loam (Context No. 102) which was mid brown in colour and contained a large percentage of stone rubble. The stones were sub-angular and were, on average, 35x25x15mm in size. The sandy clay loam (Context No. 102) was 0.28m thick and finds from the layer included modern glass. Following the removal of the sandy clay loam (Context No. 102), two spreads or dumps of stone (Context Nos. 103 and 105) overlying the topsoil (Context No. 107) were visible (Plate Five)¹. The larger spread (Context No. 103) was located in the eastern end of the trench, approximately 2m from the eastern limit of excavation. The spread of stone (Context No. 103) was approximately 3.0m wide (north-south), at least 2.0m long and around 0.2m deep. It consisted angular stones (average size: 250x200x100mm) surrounded by a matrix of loose, mid to dark brown sandy loam. The smaller spread of stone (Context No. 105) was situated beside the eastern limit of excavation and consisted of angular stones (average size: 250x200x100mm) within a mortar-rich sandy loam. The stone spread was approximately 1.0m wide, at least 2.0m long and approximately 0.2m in depth. Although clearly artificial in character, there was no indication that the spread contained survivals of structural remains. None of the stone within the spreads appeared to be dressed and neither spread comprised the fill of a cut. There were no finds associated with either stone spread. The earliest edition of the Ordnance Survey map of the area (1833) shows two buildings in the area of the application site (Figure Four). The standing stone is not marked and the area in which it stands appears to have been an open courtyard. On the second edition map (1907) a single building is marked next to the 'site of' the standing stone. The building is shown as a white square which indicates that it was derelict by this date. Trenches One and Two A were in the area of the larger building shown on the first edition map. However, there were no archaeological remains in either trench to suggest the presence of buried foundations or other intact structural remains associated with the buildings on the map. The stone spreads were probably the remains of demolition deposits, perhaps associated with clearance of the buildings marked on the Ordnance Survey maps.

The subsoil (Context No. 107) in Trench One was highly variable in texture and consistency. It consisted of boulder clay which was extremely heterogeneous and contained lenses of sand and gravel. At the western end of the trench the subsoil appeared to have been disturbed slightly, although no features were discernable. The landowner noted that there had been a line of trees marking a former field boundary in this part of the site. Trees and also a former field boundary may also be seen on the first edition map (Figure Four).

Trench Two A

Trench Two A was located parallel to, and approximately 4.8m to the south of, Trench One. It was approximately 2m wide by 15m long. The eastern end of the trench was approximately 1.6m south-west of the standing stone. The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201a) consisted of a greyish brown sandy loam which was loose and contained frequent stone inclusions. The stones were sub-

¹Context Nos. 104 and 106 were not used during the excavation

angular and most were around 35x30x20mm in size. Finds from the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201a) included an iron hoop and a horseshoe. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201a) was around 0.2m in depth. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201a) was a deposit of loose sandy loam (Context No. 202a). The sandy loam was greyish brown in colour and was similar to the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201a) in composition. It contained stones with an average size of 170x160x50mm, along with occasional pieces of brick and patches of mortar. The sandy loam (Context No. 202a) was approximately 0.1m thick. At the eastern end of the trench the sandy loam overlay a spread of stones (Context No. 203a) which, in turn, overlay the subsoil (Context No. 204a: Plate Six). The stone spread consisted mainly of medium to large stones, ranging in size from 100x150x100mm to 400x350x200mm. Mixed in with the stones was a loose, greyish brown loam. There were no finds, but it is likely that the stone spread (Context No. 203a) was of a similar nature to the stone spreads in Trench One (Context Nos. 103 and 105) and was related to demolition. Below the stone spread (Context No. 203a) was the subsoil (Context No. 204a) which occurred at a depth of between 0.1 and 0.3m (Plate Seven). It was shallower at the eastern end of the trench below the stone spread (Context No. 203a). The subsoil (Context No. 204a) in Trench Two A varied from orange gravel in the eastern end of the trench to orange sand in the west. There were no features cut into the subsoil.

Trench Two B

Trench Two B ran parallel to, and approximately 11m to the south of, Trench One. It was situated to the west of Trench Two A, on the other side of the trees, and continued along roughly the same alignment. The trench was approximately 2m wide and 25m long (Plate Eight). It terminated 1.5m east of the field's westernmost boundary.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two B (Context No. 201b) consisted of a loose, greyish brown sandy loam and was, on average, 0.16m deep. The topsoil (Context No. 202b) contained frequent sub-angular stones with an average size of 45x25x10mm. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201b) was a layer of loose, greyish brown sandy loam (Context No. 202b). It was similar in composition to the topsoil, but contained larger stones which were sub-angular in shape and around 120x90x80mm in size. The sandy loam (Context No. 202b) contained no finds and was, on average, 0.2m in depth. Below the sandy loam (Context No. 202b) was the subsoil (Context No. 203b) which was present at a depth of 0.36m (Plate Nine). Following removal of the sandy loam (Context No. 202b) it was apparent that the subsoil in Trench Two B was again highly variable. At the eastern end of the trench the subsoil consisted of orange gravel. At the western end of the trench the subsoil consisted of orange gravel which began to change into orange sand towards the east. Approximately halfway along the trench was an abrupt change from orange sand to greenish brown sand (Plate Ten). The change was distinct and the edge was defined by a thin layer of iron pan. Further investigation of this area showed it to be archaeologically sterile. It was probable that the abrupt change was due to a geological process, possibly in the immediate post-glacial period, and that the iron pan originated from iron-rich rocks in the area (Ian Meighan, *pers. comm.*). Across the

field there was a slight dip or hollow in line with the change in the subsoil. There was no evidence of the change in Trench One but it was present in Trench Three (below).

Trench Three

Trench Three was located 4.8m to the south of Trench 2A. The trench was approximately 40m (east-west) long by 2m wide (Plate Eleven). The eastern end of Trench Three was located 8.7m south-west of the standing stone. The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of a loose, mid greyish brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular stone inclusions (average size 50x30x10mm). The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was 0.15m deep and contained no finds. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 302) was a layer of loose mid brown sandy clay loam that contained sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions (60x20x20mm in size). There were no finds in the sandy clay loam (Context No. 302), which was 0.24m in depth. Below the sandy clay loam (Context No. 302) was the subsoil (Context No. 303) which in Trench Three consisted of a mixture of gravelly sand and sand. The change in the subsoil uncovered in Trench Two B was also visible in Trench Three although it was not as distinct. The subsoil (Context No. 303) was excavated up to a depth of 0.4m in parts (Plate Twelve). In the western end of the trench there was again possible disturbance caused by tree roots. There were no discernible features in the subsoil.

Cartographic evidence indicated the presence on the site of two buildings in the first half of the nineteenth century. No archaeological evidence, either structural or artefactual, was recovered of the buildings, although deposits of rubble probably associated with their demolition were uncovered in Trenches One and Two A. These suggest that the demolition of the buildings was thorough and that no significant remains have survived in the vicinity of the site. Therefore, it is not thought that development of the site would impact subterranean archaeological remains, particularly as the intended location of the new dwelling is at the western end of the application site. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication is required, apart from a short summary in the annual bulletin of excavations.

Archive:

Finds:

The artefacts found during 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 (red dot shows site location)

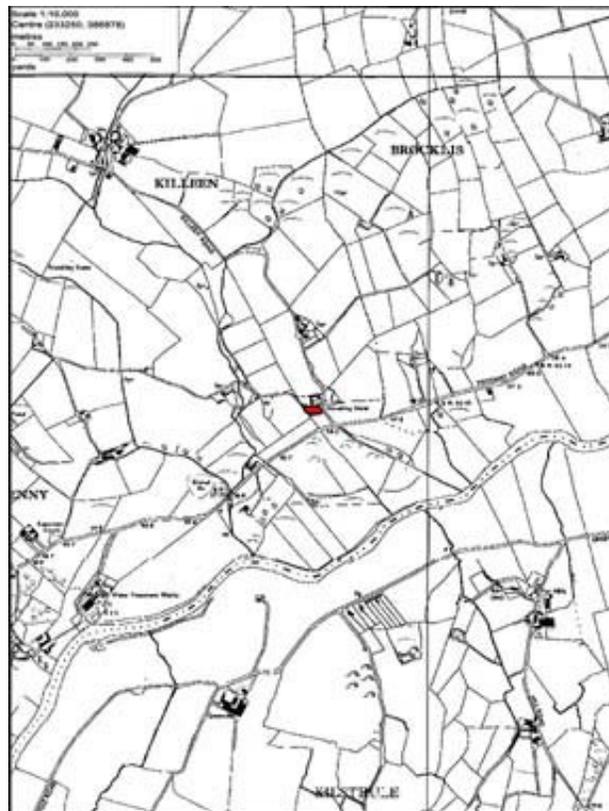


Figure Two: Detailed location map showing application site (highlighted in red)

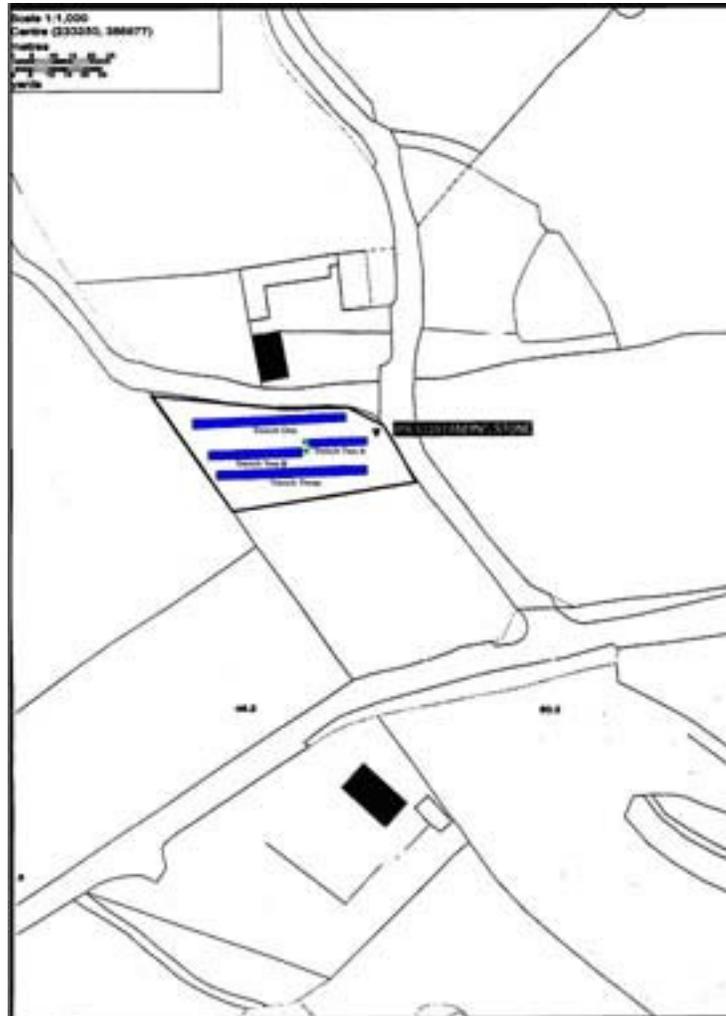


Figure Three: Site plan showing location of application site (outlined in black, test trenches (in blue) and trees (green dots)



Figure Four: Image taken from First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1833), showing buildings in area of application site (red dots)

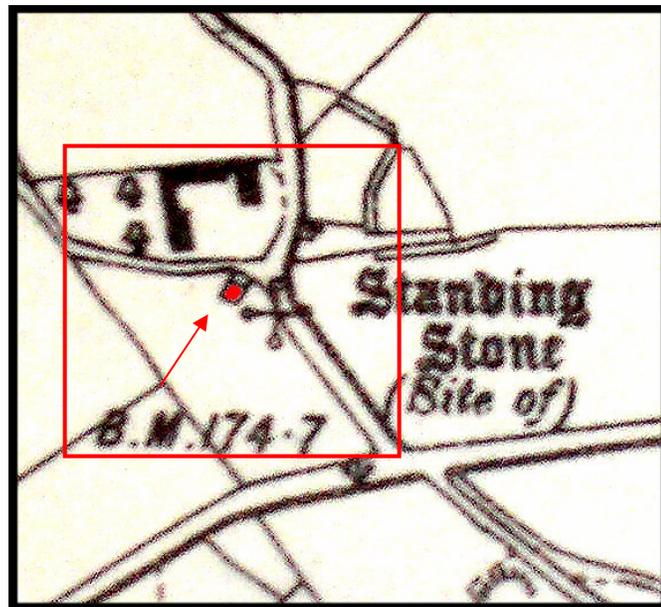


Figure Five: Image taken from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1906), showing probably derelict house in area of application site (red arrow)



Plate One: Standing stone (SMR No. TYR 016:033) in application area (looking east)



Plate Two: Trees in area of Trench Two (looking west)



Plate Three: Trench One following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 107) (looking east)



Sod and topsoil
layer (Context No.
101)

Sandy clay
loam (Context
No. 102)

Boulder clay
subsoil
(Context No.
107)

Plate Four: South-facing section of Trench One (looking north)



Plate Five: Trench One showing stone spreads (Context Nos. 103 and 105) (looking east)



Plate Six: Trench Two A following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 204a), and stone spread (Context No. 203a) (looking east)



Plate Seven: South-facing section of Trench Two A (looking north)



Plate Eight: Trench Two B following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 203b) (looking east)



Plate Nine: East-facing section of Trench Two B (looking west)



Plate Ten: Trench Two B showing abrupt change in subsoil (Context No. 203a) (looking east)



Plate Eleven: Trench Three following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 303) (looking east)



Plate Twelve: North-facing section of Trench Three (looking south)