



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 120

**SITE 100M NORTH OF 117 BANN ROAD
MAGHERAMAYO
CASTLEWELLAN
CO. DOWN**

LICENCE NO.: AE/07/54

Brian Sloan

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 100m north of 117 Bann Road, Magheramayo, Castlewellan

Townland: Magheramayo

SMR No. : DOW 042:067

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 2898 3728

County: Down

Excavation Licence No. : AE/07/54

Planning Ref / No. : Q/2006/0064/F

Dates of Monitoring: 11th July 2007

Archaeologist(s) Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 100m north of 117 Bann Road, Magheramayo, Castlewellan, Co. Down as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. The application site is adjacent to an enclosure (DOW 042:067), recorded on the 1st and 2nd editions Ordnance Survey maps. It is the proximity of this site to the application site that prompted the evaluation. The evaluation consisted of the mechanical excavation of three trenches which ranged in size from 15m to 20m in length. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in the evaluation. 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 2m wide and ranging in length from 15m to 20m in length.

Current Land Use: Agricultural pastoral

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located 100m north of 117 Bann Road, Magheramayo, Castletwellan, Co. Down. The site is just outside the town of Castletwellan, lying approximately 5km north-west of its centre (Figure One). The general area of the application site is on relatively high ground overlooking other drumlins in the area. The application site is located in an irregularly shaped field, which gently slopes to the north (Figure Two). The boundaries of the field in which the application site is situated consist of post and wire fences and mature trees and hedgerows. A small stream is located in the north and north-west of the application site. The surrounding landscape consists mainly of agricultural land interspersed with residential dwellings.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Neil Yeaman: Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. It was requested due to the proximity of the application site to the enclosure (DOW 042:067) recorded in the first and second editions of the Ordnance Survey maps.

Excavation

The original research design for this evaluation stipulated the excavation of three test trenches measuring between 30m and 20m in length in the area of the proposed development. However, the excavated trenches measured between 15m and 20m due to the presence of a large field clearance cairn in the northern area of the application site (Figure Three). All three test trenches were excavated to the subsoil which consisted of an orange glacially derived sandy clay. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at a depth of around 0.3m.

Trench One

Trench One was located parallel to the southern boundary of the application site. Trench One was approximately 2m wide and 20m long and was aligned approximately north-west/south-east (Plate One). The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of loose, light to mid brown, sandy loam. The layer contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20 x 20 x 10mm). The layer was around 0.1m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was a compact, mid to dark brown, sandy loam cultivation soil (Context No. 102) which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 40 x 30 x 20mm). There were no finds recovered from this trench. The cultivation soil (Context No. 102) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 103) (Plate Two).

The subsoil in Trench One (Context No. 103) was an orange sandy boulder clay with occasional inclusions of medium to large angular stones and large boulders, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.3m.

Trench Two

Trench Two was positioned perpendicular to the south-eastern end of Trench One. The trench was aligned roughly east/west. The trench was 2m wide and 17m long and was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Plate Three).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of a loose to slightly compact, light to mid brown, sandy loam. The layer contained infrequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). This layer was on average 0.13m thick.

Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) was a cultivation soil of compact, mid brown, sandy loam (Context No. 202) that contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm) and which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil (Context No. 202) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 203) (Plate Four).

The subsoil in Trench Two (Context No. 203) was an orange compact boulder clay with occasional inclusions of medium to large angular stone, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.33m.

Trench Three

Trench Three was positioned parallel to and approximately 3m to the south-east of Trench Two. The trench was 2m wide and 15m long and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Plate Five).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of a loose to slightly compact, light to mid brown, sandy loam. The layer contained infrequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). This layer was on average 0.15m thick.

Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was a cultivation soil of compact, mid brown, sandy loam (Context No. 302) that contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm) and which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil (Context No. 302) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 303) (Plate Six).

The subsoil in Trench Three (Context No. 303) was an orange compact boulder clay with occasional inclusions of medium to large angular stone, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.35m.

The three test trenches excavated at the application site contained nothing of archaeological significance. It is not thought that the development will impact upon previously unrecorded archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. No publication is required save for a short summary in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs:

The digital images taken during the evaluation (15 in total) are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

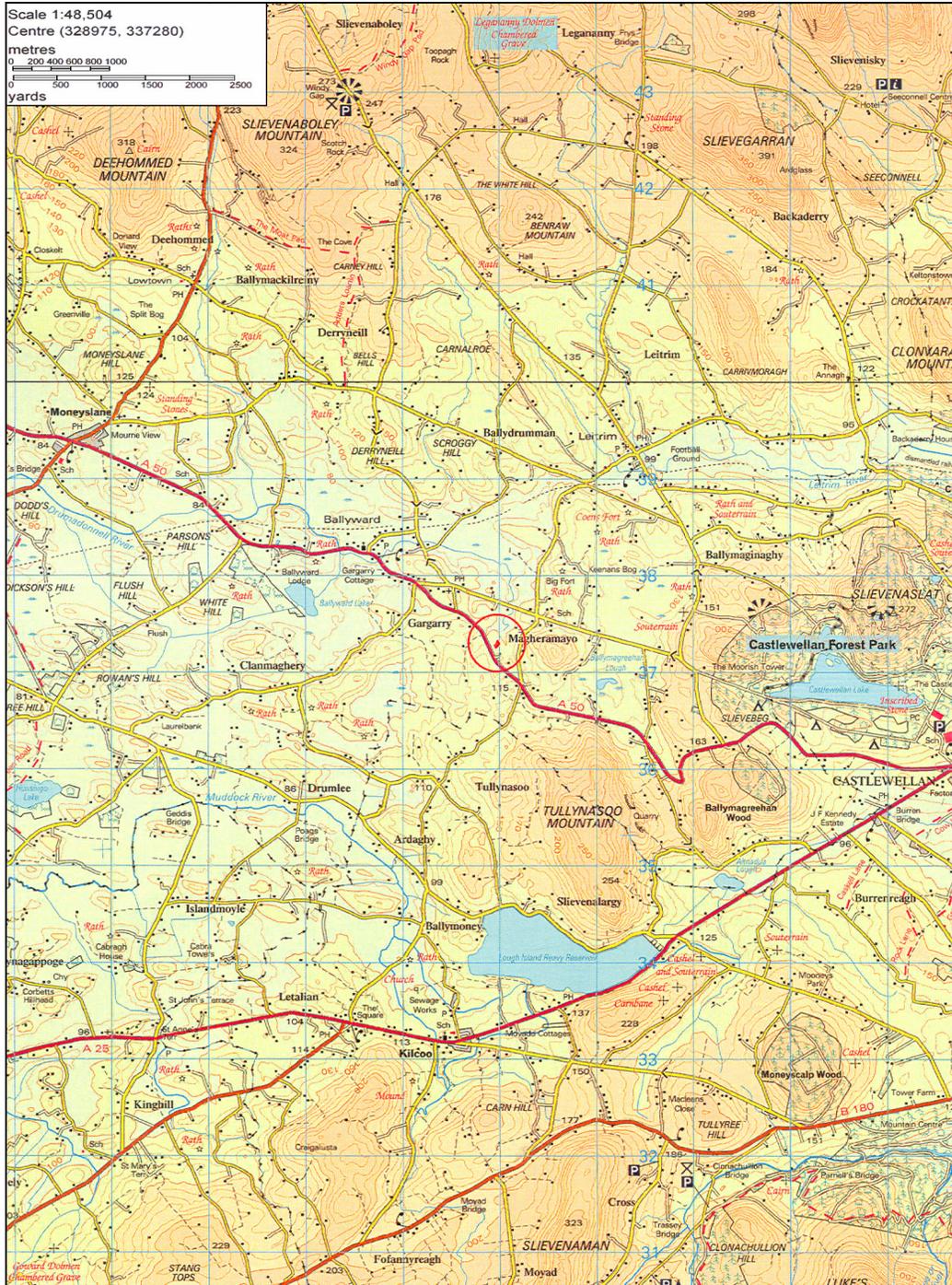


Figure One: General location map showing application site (circled in red).

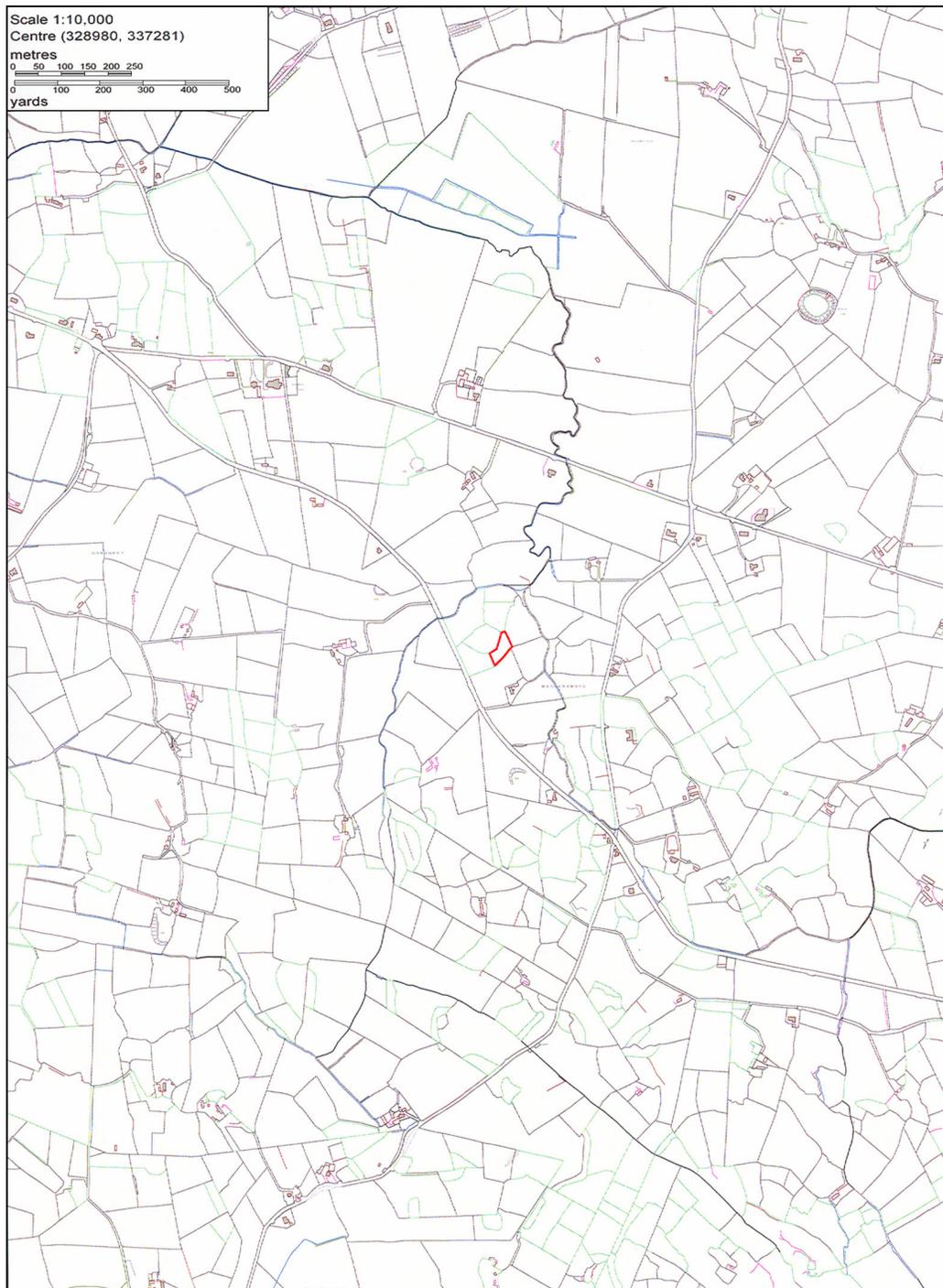


Figure Two: Detailed location map showing application site (outlined in red).



Figure Three: Detailed map showing position of trenches (coloured red) in relation to the enclosure site (DOW 042:067).



Plate One: Trench One following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 103), looking south-east.

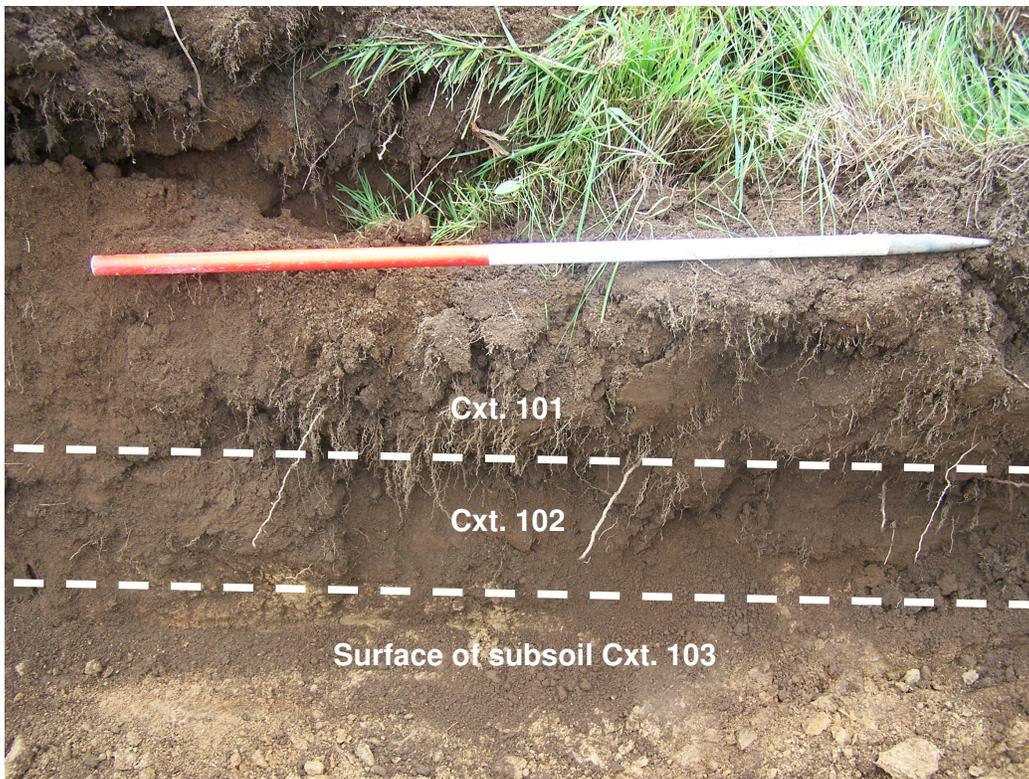


Plate Two: South-west facing section of Trench One.



Plate Three: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 203), looking north-east.

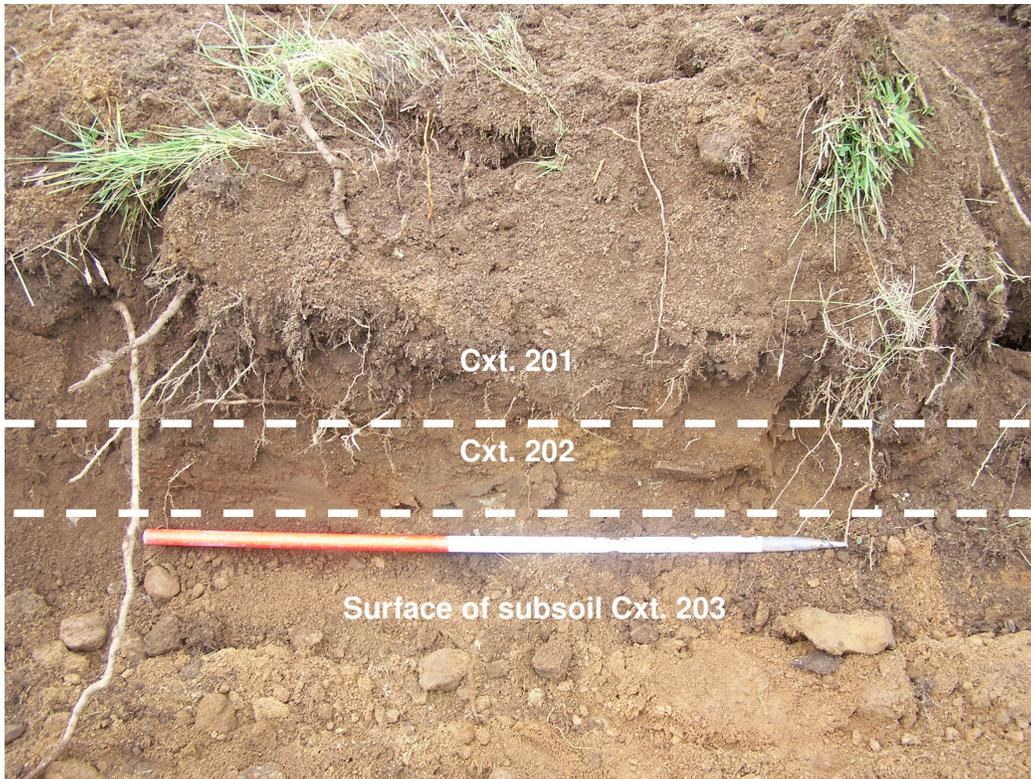


Plate Four: North-west facing section of Trench Two.



Plate Five: Trench Three following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 203), looking north-east.



Plate Six: North-west facing section of Trench Three.