



Monitoring Report No. 210

**120m north-east of 16 Barrons Hill,
Eshwary,
Camlough,
Co. Armagh**

AE/10/158E

Brian Sloan

P/2010/0374/F

Site Specific Information

Site Address: 120m north-east of 16 Barrons Hill, Camlough, Co. Armagh

Townland: Eshwary

SMR No.: ARM 026:022

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: IJ 0271628595

Excavation Licence No: AE/10/158E

Planning Ref / No.: P/2010/0374/F

Date of Monitoring: Monday 4th October 2010

Archaeologist Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

Five test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed development of a residential dwelling on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed development site is located adjacent to the remains of a possible court tomb (ARM 026:022). The trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil with nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in either of the trenches.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of five test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-edged 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Five trenches each measuring approximately 18m in length by 2m in width.

Current Land Use: Pastoral agriculture

Intended Land Use: Residential dwelling and garage

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The site of the proposed dwelling is located in the townland of Eshwary, near to Camlough, Co. Armagh (Fig 1). The application site lies to the north-west of the village of Camlough, and the surrounding landscape consists of both pastoral and arable land, interspersed with dwelling houses. The application site is located within a large rectangular field that is delineated by a post and wire fence, as well as a mature hedgerow on all sides. The trenches were positioned to incorporate the footprint of the proposed dwelling (Fig 3) and was requested by Gail Howell (Case Officer Northern Ireland Environment Agency).

The evaluation was requested due to the proximity of the development site to a possible court tomb (ARM 026:022). The evaluation was carried out to assess the presence and survival of any archaeological strata that would be adversely affected by the development.

Excavation

Trench 1 was positioned perpendicular to the western boundary of the application site and measured approximately 18m by 2m. The trench was aligned roughly north-west/south-east and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 102) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench consisting of topsoil (Context No. 101) directly overlying natural subsoil (Context No. 102).

The sod and topsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 101) consisted of a mid to dark brown sandy loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm) and active plant roots were observed within it. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 101) had an average depth of 0.3m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 102).

The natural subsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 102) consisted of yellowish orange gravelly sand. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 2 was positioned approximately 8m to the east of Trench 1. The trench was aligned roughly north-east/south-west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 202) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.4m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 201) consisted of a mid to dark brown clay loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) had an average depth of 0.2m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 202).

The natural subsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 202) consisted of yellowish orange gravelly sand. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 3 was positioned approximately 5m to the south-east of Trench 2. The trench was aligned roughly north-east/south-west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 302) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 3 (Context No. 301) consisted of a mid to dark brown clay loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The sod and topsoil (Context No. 301) had an average depth of 0.3m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 302).

The natural subsoil in Trench 3 (Context No. 302) consisted of yellowish orange gravely sand. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 4 was positioned approximately 4m to the north-east of Trench 3. The trench was aligned roughly north-east/south-west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 402) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.25m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 4 (Context No. 401) consisted of a mid to dark brown clay loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The sod and topsoil (Context No. 401) had an average depth of 0.3m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 402).

The natural subsoil in Trench 4 (Context No. 402) consisted of yellowish orange gravely sand. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 5 was positioned approximately 5m to the south-east of Trench 4. The trench was aligned roughly north-east/south-west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 502) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.4m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 5 (Context No. 501) consisted of a mid to dark brown clay loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The sod and topsoil (Context No. 301) had an average depth of 0.4m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 302).

The natural subsoil in Trench 5 (Context No. 502) consisted of yellowish orange gravely sand. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the evaluation. It is 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 *Excavations Bulletin*.

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs: 9 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed: _____ Date: _____

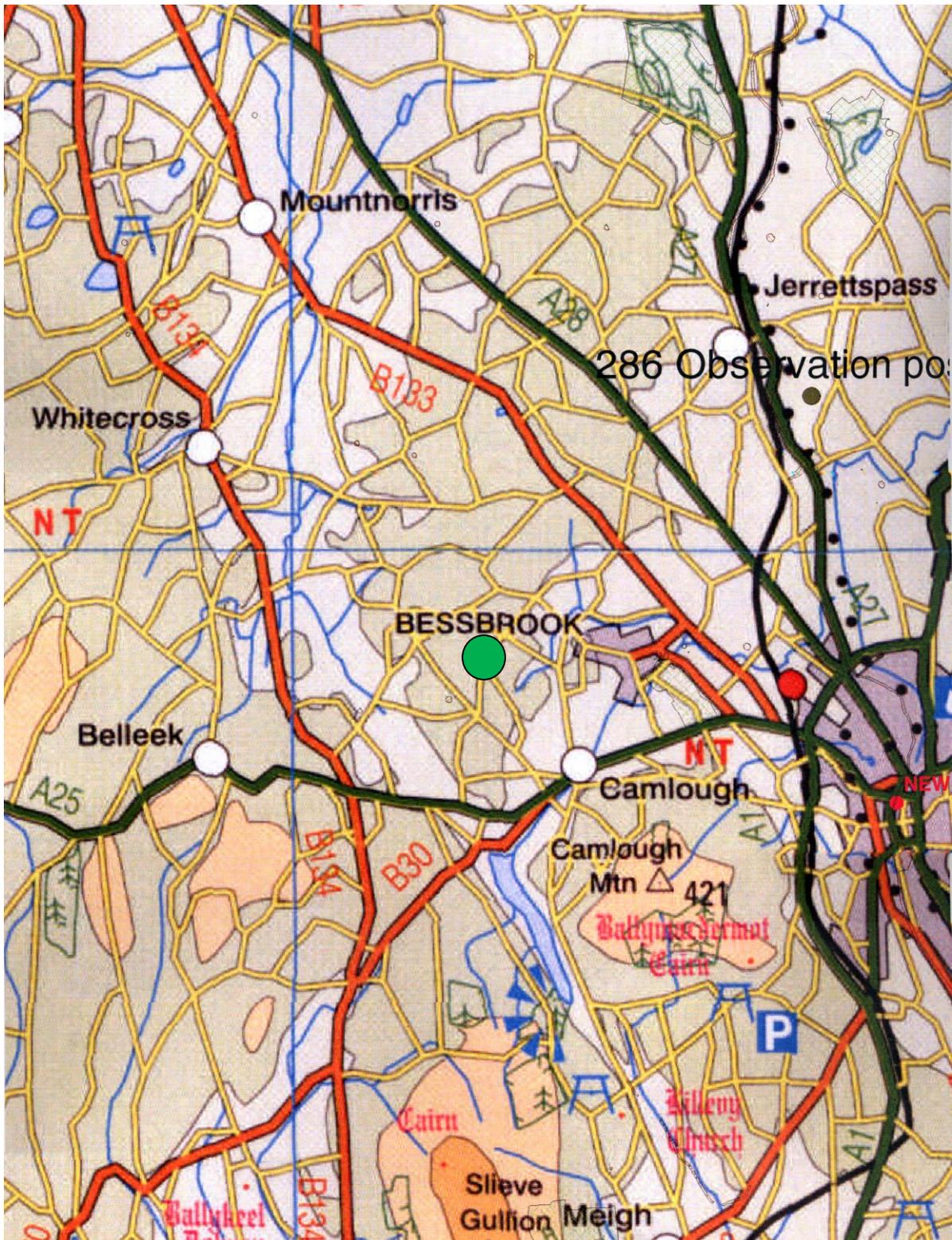


Figure 1: general map showing location of development site (in green).

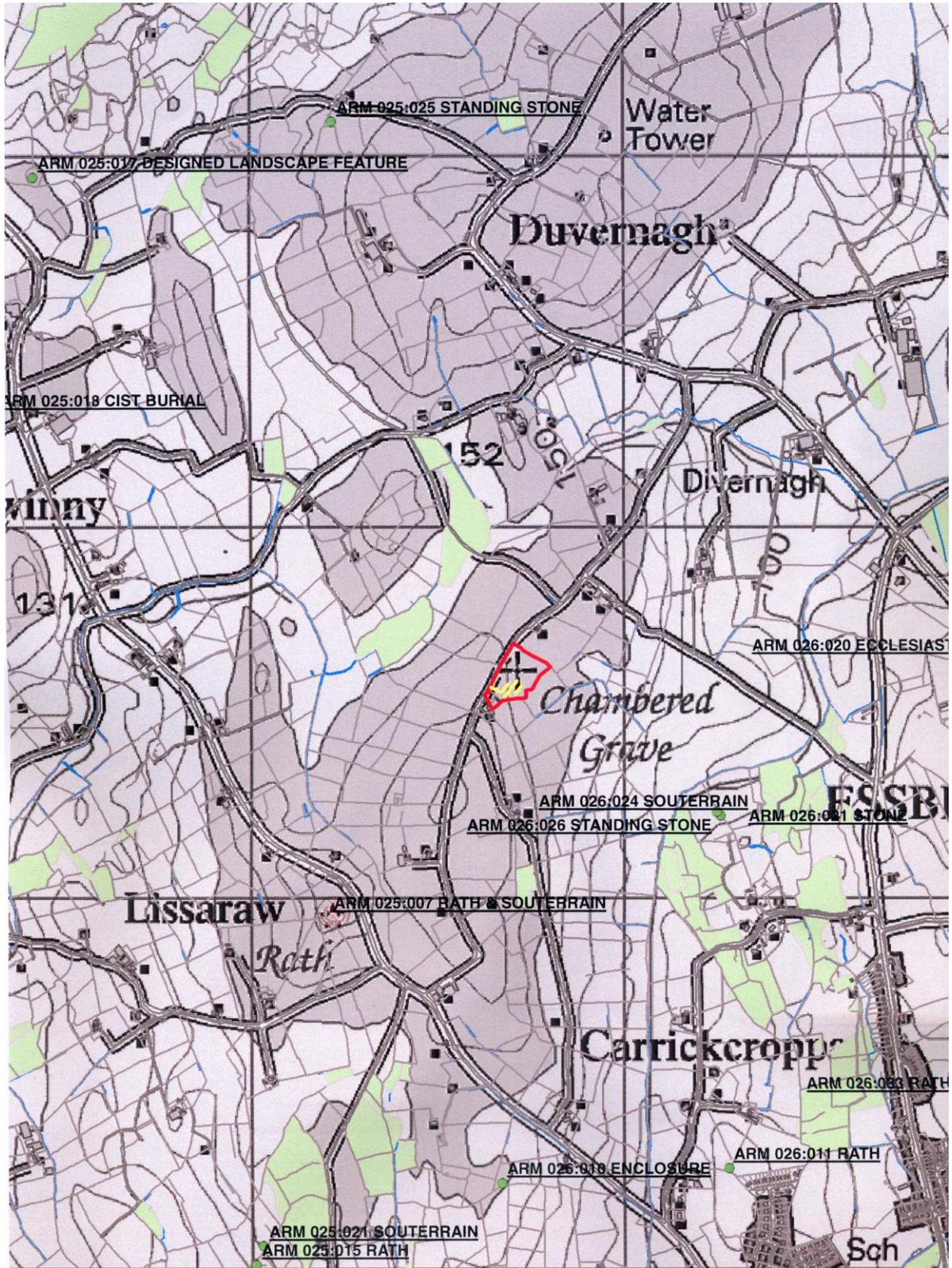


Figure 2: Map showing location of application site (outlined in red) and surrounding archaeological landscape.



Figure 3: Map showing proposed development site in relation to possible court tomb (ARM 026:022).



Plate One: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 202), looking south-west.



Plate Two: Trench Five following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 502), looking north-east.



Plate Three: Trench Five with court tomb (ARM 026:022, arrowed) in the background, looking north.



Plate Four: Remains of the possible court tomb (ARM 026:022), looking north.