



## **Monitoring Report No. 214**

**Upperlands Road  
Swatragh townland  
County Derry**

**AE/10/200E**

Ruth Logue

## Site Specific Information

*Site location:* Lands north-west of 35 Upperlands Road, Swatragh

*Townland:* Swatragh

*SMR number:* LDY 032:083

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other

*Grid reference:* C96707652

*County:* Derry

*Excavation licence number:* AE/10/200E

*Planning reference number:* H/2009/0504/O

*Date of monitoring:* 22 December 2010

*Archaeologist present:* Ruth Logue

### *Brief summary:*

Monitoring of five test trenches excavated to subsoil to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any previously unrecorded below-ground remains. Nothing of archaeological significance found.

*Type of monitoring:* Mechanical back-acting digger

*Size of area opened:* Trench A: 15m by 2m  
Trench B: 21m by 2m  
Trench C: 17m by 2m  
Trench D: 9m by 2m  
Trench E: 12m by 2m

*Current land use:* Unimproved grassland

*Intended land use:* New housing development of 10 units

## **Account of the monitoring**

The application site was located in lands north-west of 35 Upperlands Road, in Swatragh, County Derry. The development was for a proposed new housing development, comprising 10 units with gardens and an access road. The application site contained a mound which was considered by the NIEA as possibly having been attractive to human settlement in the past. This mound was not on the SMR, but a similar mound (LDY 032:083) located to the north of the application site is thought to be archaeological in nature. The mound was in the south-east end of the site and adjacent to the Upperlands Road. There were some large boulders around the base of the mound (though the extent of these was not possible to ascertain on the day of the evaluation due to the depth of snow cover), which along with the slope's steepness prevented the digger from gaining access to the mound. In the vicinity of the application site there was also an unlocated cairn and cist burial (LDY 032:046) and an unlocated burial (LDY 032:066). (Figure 1)

An archaeological evaluation was requested to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains; there was the potential that the ground-works for this development could have been informative as to the nature of the mound. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 22 December 2010. Five test trenches (A, B, C, D, E) were excavated in the area requested by the Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker, Neil Yeaman. (Figure 2)

The topsoil was uniform in all five trenches, a dark brown clay-loam; it averaged 0.35m throughout the trenches, and contained numerous large stones. The topsoil lay directly above the subsoil, a dark orange loamy clay, also with a high large stone content. All trenches were excavated with a smooth edged, 2m wide bucket.

Trench A was 15m long, Trench B was 21m long and Trench C was 17m long, all three were aligned roughly north/south. Trench D was 9m long and Trench E was 12m long, both were aligned roughly north-west/south-east. Trenches A, B, C and E were located in the flat part of the site, Trench D was at the foot of the mound. (Plates 1-5)

No features or finds of archaeological significance were found in any of the test trenches.

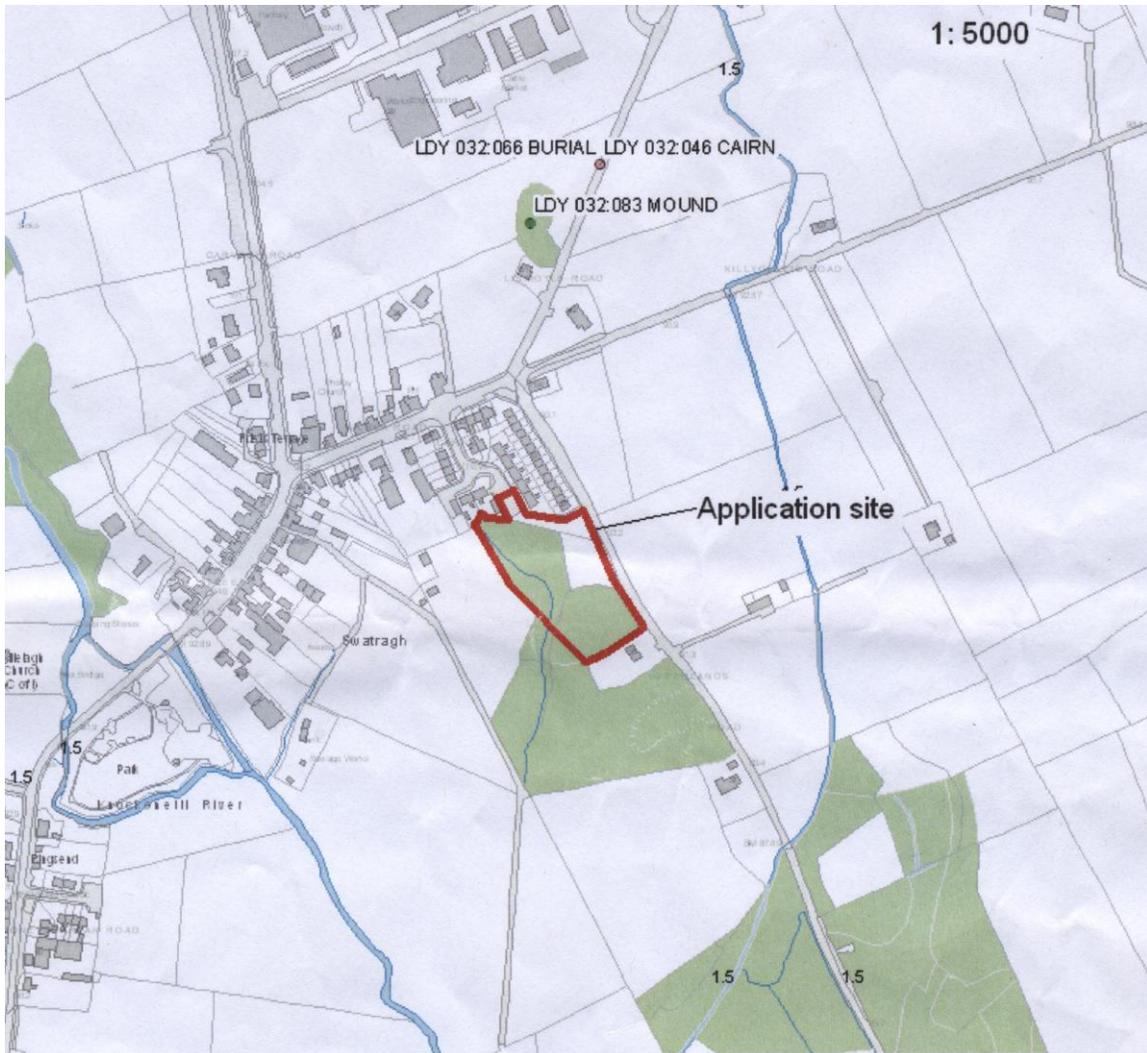


Figure 1: 1:5000 map showing Swatragh, location of applicaton site and surrounding area.

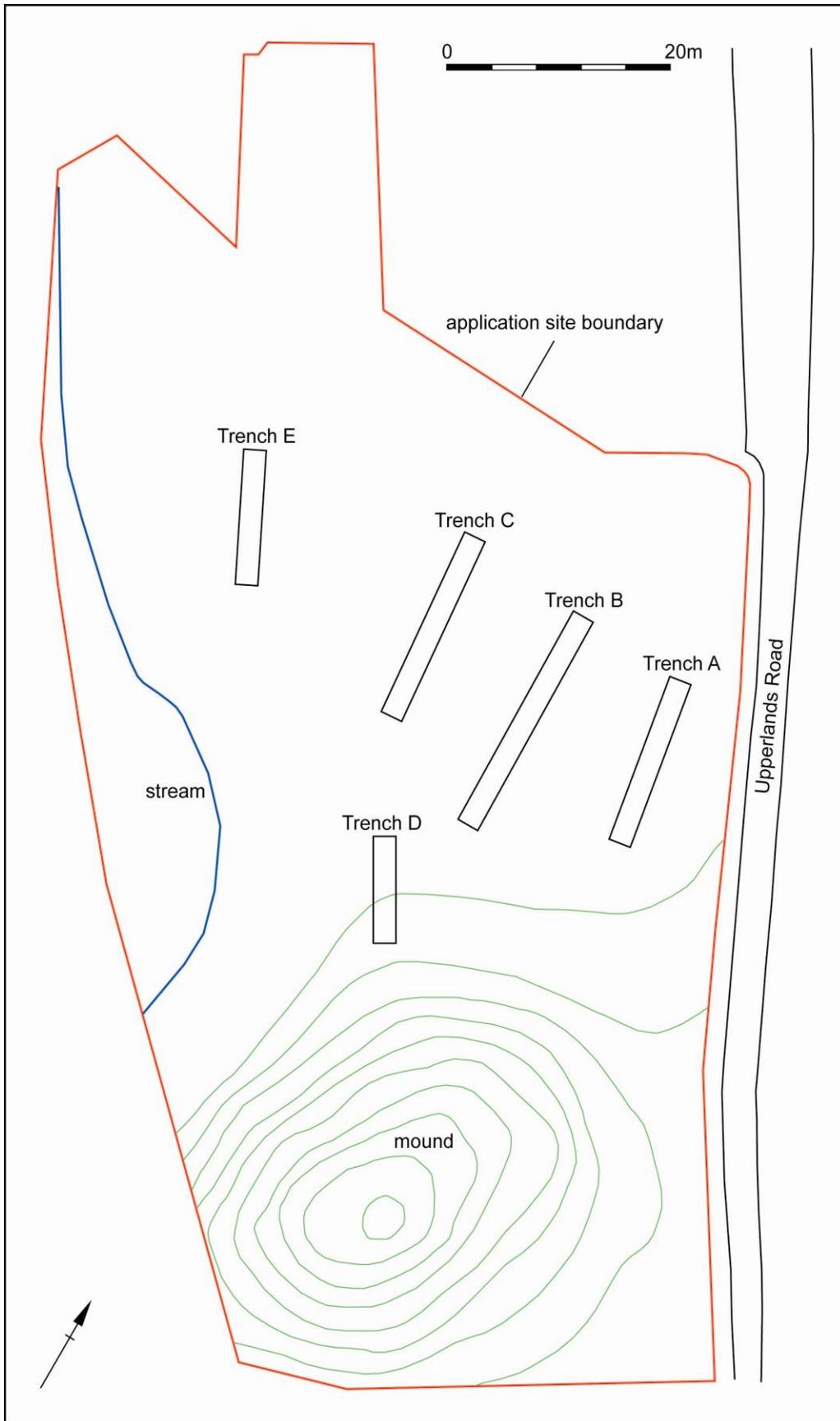


Figure 2: Plan showing application site and test trenches.



Plate 1: Trench A, looking north.



Plate 2: Trench B, looking north.



Plate 3: Trench C, looking south.



Plate 4: Trench D, looking south-east.



Plate 5: Trench E, looking south-east.



Plate 6: Mound, looking south-west from Upperlands Road.



Plate 7: Mound and stream, looking south-east.