



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 245

**60M NW OF 60 TULLYWIGGAN ROAD
BALLYMULLY GLEBE
TULLAHOGUE
COOKSTOWN
COUNTY TYRONE**

LICENCE NO.: AE/12/97E

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: site 60m north-west of 60 Tullywiggan Road, Ballymully Glebe, Tullahogue, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone

Townland: Ballymully Glebe

SMR No. : TYR 038:016

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: H8235 7412

County: Tyrone

Excavation Licence No. : AE/12/97E

Planning Ref / No. : I/2012/0006/F

Dates of Monitoring: 13th August 2012

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 60m north-west of 60 Tullywiggan Road, Ballymully Glebe, Tullahogue, Co. Tyrone in response to a planning application for a new dwelling and double garage. The development site is adjacent to Tullahogue Fort (NISMR TYR 038:016), a hilltop enclosure site in State Care. The evaluation consisted of seven mechanically-excavated test trenches each 30.0m long and 1.5m wide. No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered during the course of the evaluation and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out, as the development does not pose a threat to significant archaeological remains.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Four trenches each approximately 1.5m wide and 30.0m long.

Current Land Use: Pastoral

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a proposed new dwelling and double garage is located on the outskirts of the village of Tullahogue, around 4km south of Cookstown (Figures 1 and 2). The site is adjacent to Tullahogue Fort (TYR 038:016) which is traditionally held to have been the inauguration site of the O'Neills as well as the capital of Tyrone until the 14th century. It was later utilized during the Plantation as a fort and is shown on contemporary maps of the period. The fort crowns a prominent hill and consists of two banks which enclose an area similar to that of a rath. There is a wide, flattish area between the two banks which may represent a shallow ditch.

The application site is located in the south-western corner of a large field which is approximately 0.6 hectares in size. The area where the proposed new dwelling is to be constructed is approximately 0.1 hectares in size (Plate 1). It occupies a flattish area with good views all around except to the north where the ground rises up fairly steeply to the crest of a drumlin (Plates 2 and 3). Across the valley to the west the graveyard of Donaghrisk is visible (TYR 038:015). The field is bounded by post and wire fences interspersed with mature trees. A laneway curves around the western and southern sides of the site, continuing into Tullahogue village. The field is currently used for the grazing of cattle and land-use in the surrounding area is also predominantly pastoral.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and garage and was requested by Adrian McAleenan of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit.

Excavation

The evaluation request allowed for the excavation of trial trenches, the proposed location of which was indicated in the original research design. A total of seven test trenches were excavated in the application area (Figure 3).

The trenches were 1.5m wide and 30m long. The trenches were all excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at a depth of around 0.3m.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 4 and 5). It was 10.0m to the east of the westernmost field boundary and ran roughly parallel to it. The trench was 5.0m from the southernmost field boundary. The exposed stratigraphy in Trench 1 was relatively shallow, with the surface of the natural subsoil encountered at a maximum depth of 0.28m. The uppermost layer in Trench 1 was the sod and topsoil layer (C101) which consisted of reddish brown sandy clay containing some angular stones around 50mm long. The sod and topsoil layer was up to 0.28m thick and directly overlay the red boulder clay subsoil (C102). No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed within Trench 1.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located 3.0m to the east of Trench 1 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 6 and 7). The uppermost layer consisted of the sod and topsoil layer (C201) which consisted of reddish brown sandy clay containing angular stones around 50mm long. The sod and topsoil layer was up to 0.3m thick and directly overlay the red boulder clay subsoil (C202). No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered in Trench 2.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located 3.0m to the east of Trench 2 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 8 and 9). The sod and topsoil layer (C301) consisted of reddish brown sandy clay which was up to 0.28m thick. There were some patches of charcoal indicating burning within the topsoil and it also contained angular stones up to 50mm long. The topsoil directly overlay the red boulder clay subsoil (C302), the surface of which was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.28m. No finds or features were found within Trench 3.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located 3.0m to the east of Trench 3 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 10 and 11). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench 4 consisted of reddish brown sandy clay (C401) which was up to 0.4m thick at the northern end of the trench due to hill-wash at the base of the slope. The topsoil layer directly overlay the red boulder clay subsoil (C402). No finds or features of archaeological importance were encountered during the excavation of Trench 4.

Trench 5

Trench 5 ran parallel to Trench 4 and was located 3.0m to the east of it. The trench was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 12 and 13). The uppermost layer in Trench 5 consisted of the sod and topsoil layer (C501) which was a reddish brown sandy clay containing some angular stones approximately 50mm in length. The sod and topsoil layer directly overlay the subsoil (C502) which consisted of red clay. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.4m. No finds or features of archaeological significance found during the excavation of Trench 5.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was located 3.0m to the east of Trench 5 and ran parallel to it. It was 1.5m wide by 30.0m long (Plates 14 and 15). The sod and topsoil layer (C601) in Trench 6 consisted of reddish brown sandy clay which was up to 0.3m thick and overlay the red boulder clay topsoil (C602). The sod and topsoil layer was deeper towards the northern end of the trench where hill-wash was present at the base of the slope. No finds or features were encountered during the excavation of Trench 6.

Trench 7

Trench 7 ran parallel to Trench 6 and was located 3.0m to the east of it. The trench was 1.5m wide and 30.0m long (Plates 16 and 17). The uppermost layer in the trench consisted of reddish brown sandy clay (C701) which was up to 0.4m thick at the northern end of the trench. Below the sod and topsoil layer was the red boulder clay subsoil (C702). Trench 7 contained no finds or features of archaeological significance.

No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered within the seven trenches excavated at the proposed development site. It is not thought that the proposed development will impinge on any unknown archaeological deposits and therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs:

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

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

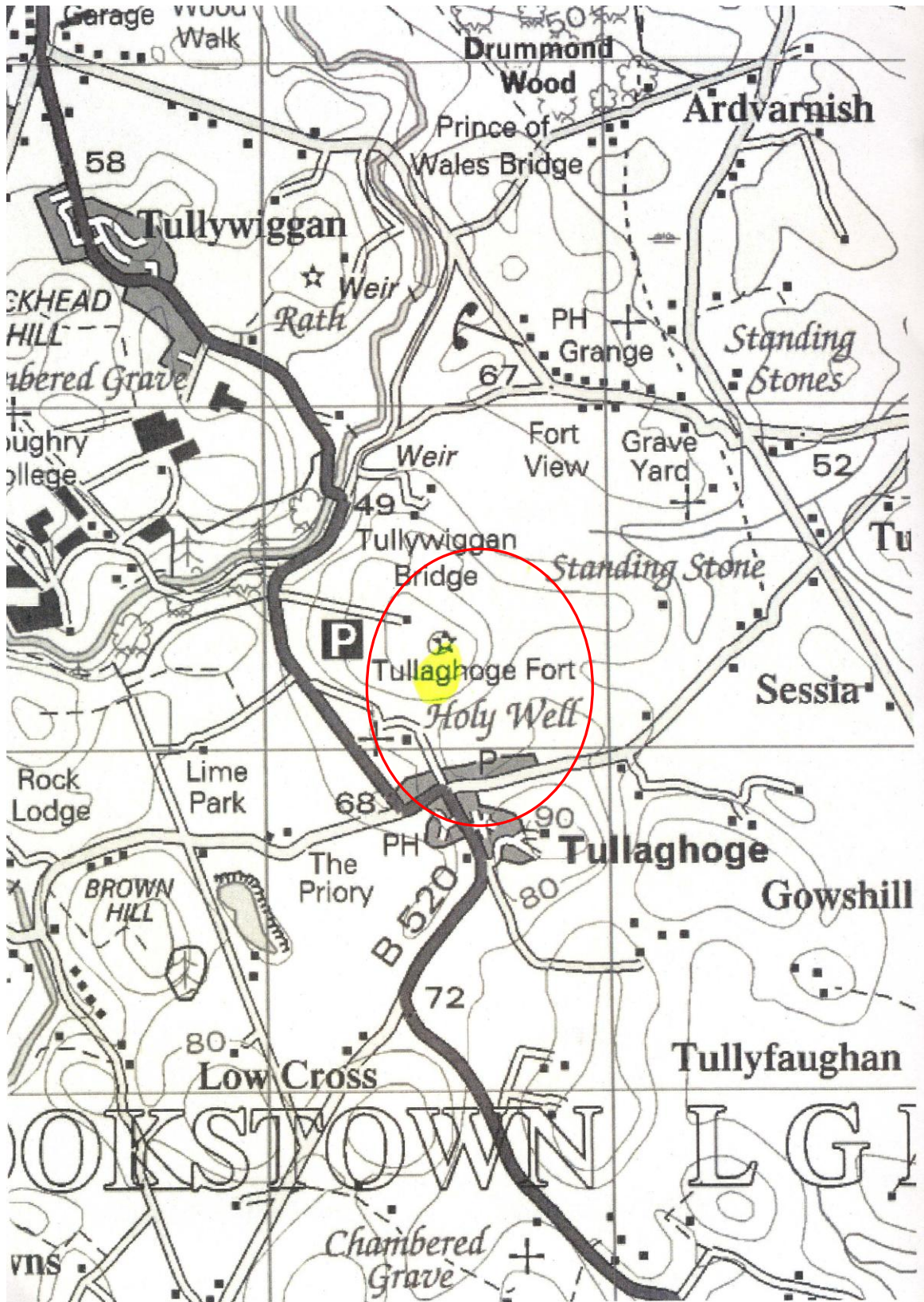


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the site (circled in red)



Figure 2: Detailed map showing the location of the site (circled in red) with Tullaghogue fort to the north



Plate 1: General view of the application site, looking west



Plate 2: General view of the application site, looking north-west



Plate 3: General view of the application site, looking north



Plate 4: Trench 1 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north



Plate 5: East facing section of Trench 1, looking west



Plate 6: Trench 2 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north



Plate 7: West facing section of Trench 2, looking east



Plate 8: Trench 3 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 9: East facing section of Trench 3, looking west



Plate 10: Trench 4 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 11: East facing section of Trench 4, looking west



Plate 12: Trench 5 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 13: East facing section of Trench 5, looking west



Plate 14: Trench 6 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 15: East facing section of Trench 6, looking west



Plate 16: Trench 7 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 17: East facing section of Trench 7, looking west