



Monitoring Report No. 275

“On-A-Hill”

36 the Brook

Enniskillen

County Fermanagh

Licence No. AE/13/213

Stuart Alexander

Site Specific Information

Site Address: "On-A-Hill" 36 the Brook, Enniskillen, BT74 7EU
Townland: Derrychera
SMR NO: FER 211:055
Grid Reference: H2292044340
County: Fermanagah
Excavation Licence No: AE/13/213
Planning Reference No: L/2013/0220/F
Date of Monitoring: 2-12-13 to 3-12-13
Archaeologist Present: Stuart Alexander

Brief Summary:

Archaeological monitoring of foundation trenches for a replacement dwelling was requested due to the development areas proximity to a 17th century artillery fort (FER 211:055). Excavation showed the ground to have been previously disturbed due to the foundations of the previous building. A simple stratigraphic sequence was uncovered and nothing of archaeological significance was found.

Type of Monitoring:

Excavation of foundation trenches by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision.

Size of Area Opened:

Foundation trenches are within an area of approximately 17m (east/west) by 13m (north/south)

Current Land Use: Dwelling

Intended Land Use: Replacement Dwelling

Account of Monitoring

Introduction

The application site (L/2013/0220/F) is located at 36 the Brook, Enniskillen, BT74 7EU. The site is situated on a hill close to the centre of Enniskillen and overlooking Lough Erne (Figure 1 and 2). A building stood on the application site and was demolished prior to the monitoring work being carried out. The proposed development area is approximately 100m to the north of “The Redoubt, West Fort” (FER 211:055) (Figure 3) (Plate 1) a 17th century artillery fortification listed on the Sites and Monuments Record. The fort is a square shaped earthwork reputedly constructed in 1689 during the Williamite War in Ireland. In later years during the Napoleonic era a military hospital was built in the interior of the earthwork.

Archaeological monitoring took place as part of a planning application for a replacement dwelling. The work was requested by Adrian McAleenan a caseworker with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Due to the developments proximity to “the Redoubt, West Fort” an archaeologist was requested to be present during the excavation of the new foundations; as previously undisturbed archaeological material may have been uncovered.

Excavation

The programme of works involved archaeological supervision during the mechanical excavation of foundation trenches for the replacement dwelling. The foundations were dug using a 1m wide toothed bucket attached to a back acting mechanical excavator. The area encompassed by the excavation measured approximately 17m (east/west) x 13m (north/south) (Plate 2) Due to the site being located on the side of a hill the foundations were excavated to varying depths ranging from 0.8m to 2.4m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered during the course of the work.

The stratigraphy of the site consisted of three deposits C101 (disturbed ground containing building rubble), C102 (original concrete foundations) and C103 (natural subsoil). The stratigraphically latest deposit was a light grey brown clay (C101) containing a copious amount of building rubble (red brick, large stones, fragments of concrete, pieces of drainage pipe (plastic and ceramic), metal and modern ceramics) (Plate 3 and 4). This disturbed ground ranged in depth from 0.2m to 1.5m. Beneath this deposit lay the foundations of the original building (C102) (Plate 3 and 4). This consisted of concrete varying in thickness from 0.3m to 0.75m. In places the concrete is visible on the surface (Plate 5) but

in others is at a depth of 1.5m beneath the surface. Beneath this was the natural subsoil, a mid-dark grey boulder clay into which the original foundations had been cut (Plate 4).

The excavation of the foundation trenches at the application site found that nothing of archaeological significance was present within the tested area. It is not thought that the development will impact upon previously unrecorded archaeological remains. It is therefore recommend 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: 59 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast

Drawings: N/A



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Center Point (222958, 344348)



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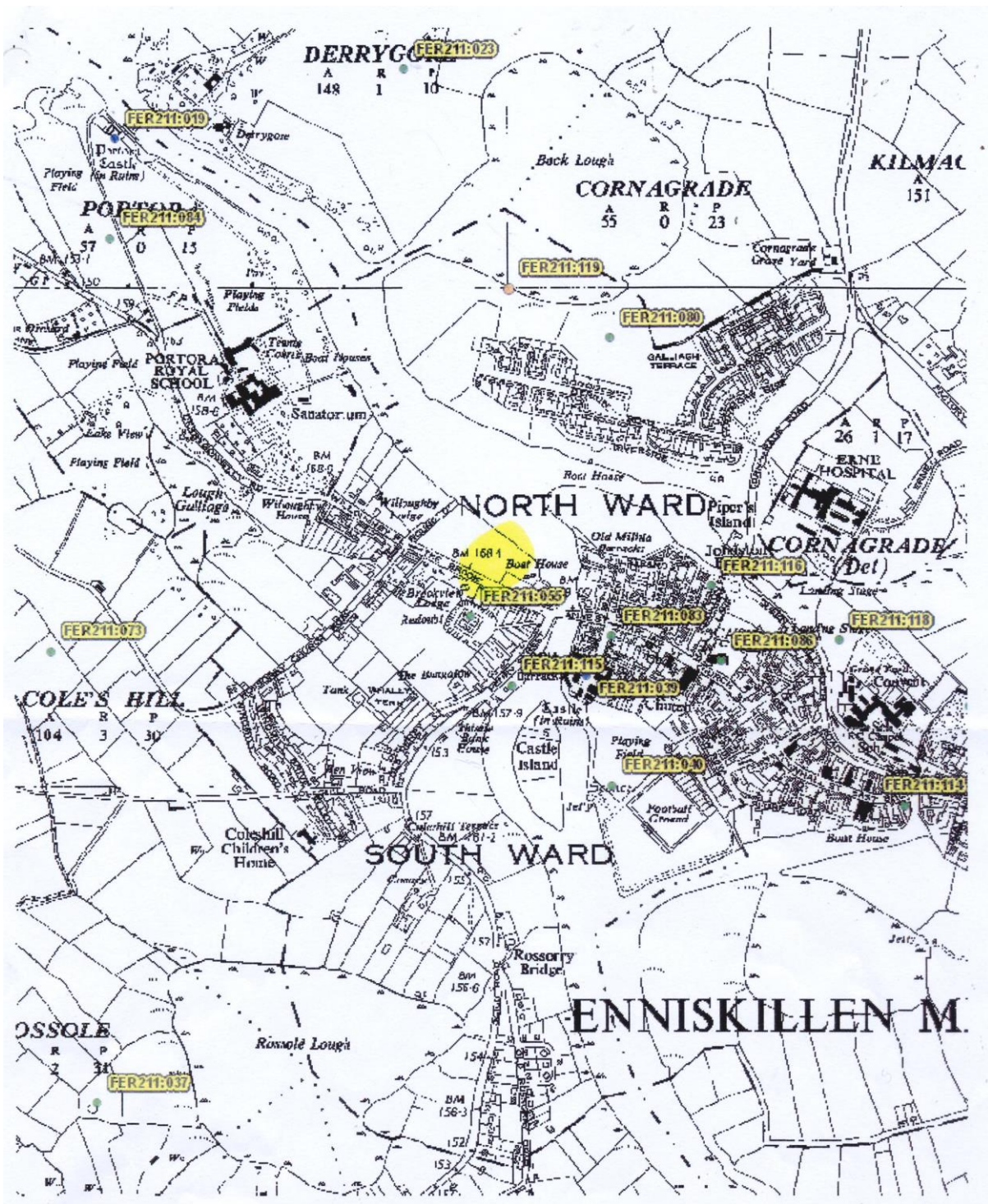
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Figure 1 – General Location Map



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Figure 2 – Detailed Location Map



Figure 3 – Development Area in relation to the Redoubt, West Fort



Plate 1 – The Redoubt, West Fort (looking north west)



Plate 2 – Site following excavation of foundations (looking south east)

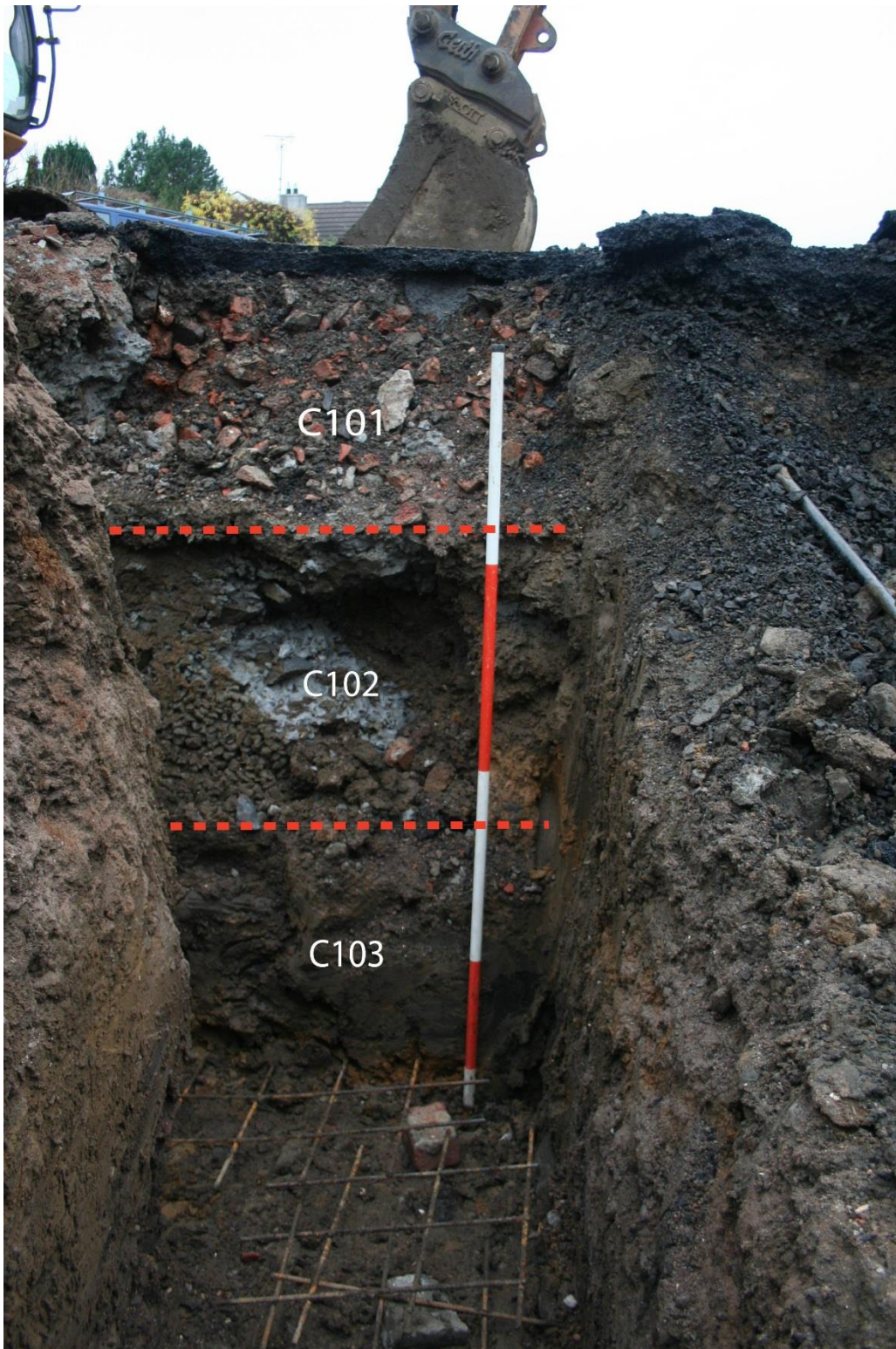


Plate 3 – Deepest foundation cut, illustrating stratigraphic sequence on site (looking west)



Plate 4 – Again illustrating the stratigraphic sequence (looking south east)

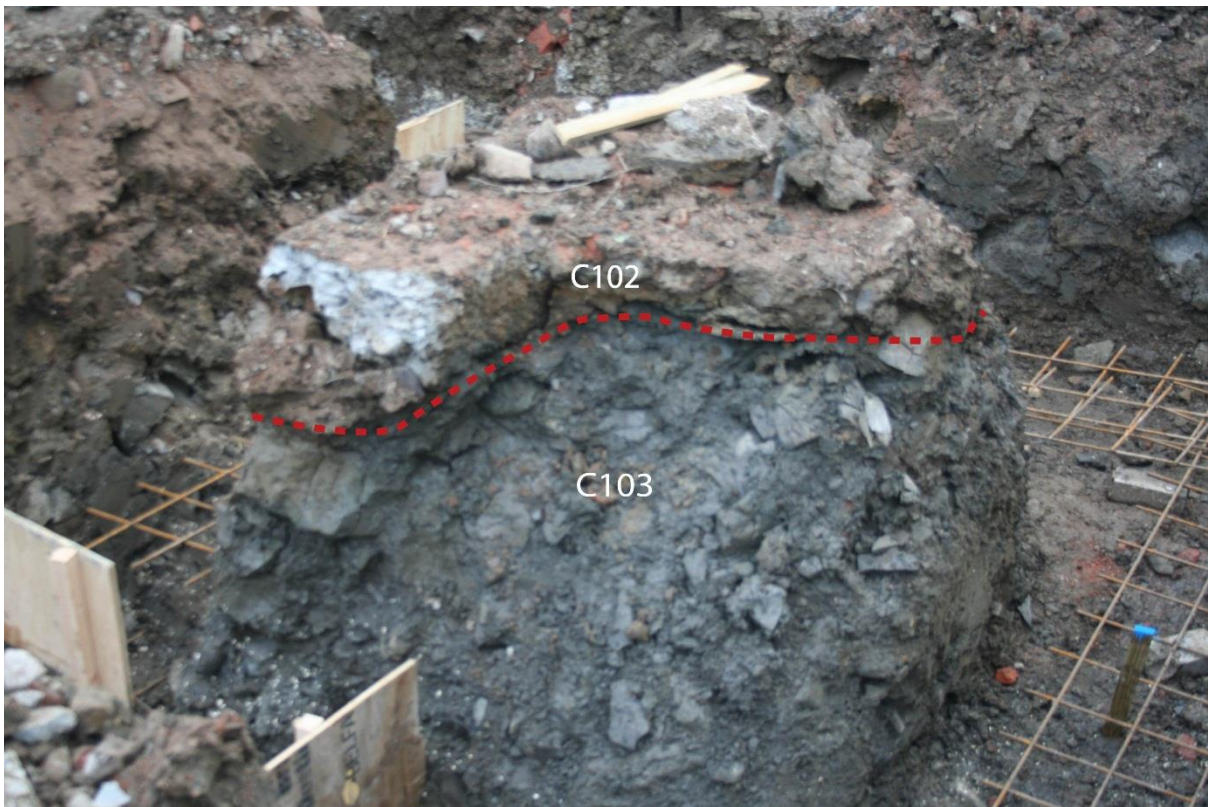


Plate 5 – showing how C102 was visible on the surface in places (looking north east)

