



Monitoring Report No. 45

**Enniskillen Castle Barracks
Enniskillen
Co. Fermanagh**

AE/05/112

Dr Colm Donnelly

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Enniskillen Castle Barracks, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh

Town: Enniskillen

SMR No.: FER 211:039

State Care *Scheduled* *Other*

Grid Ref: H 2315 4422

County: Fermanagh

Excavation Licence No: AE/05/112

Planning Ref / No.: n/a

Date of Monitoring: 31st August 2005 to 1st September 2005

Archaeologist Present: Dr Colm Donnelly

Brief Summary:

Type of monitoring:

Excavation and recording of one test trench excavated by hand (Trench A), the monitoring and recording of two small openings (Trenches B and D) and the recording of the location of a borehole (Trench C).

Size of area opened: (see Figure 1)

- Trench A: 1m (north to south) by 1.5m (east to west) test trench opened to the exterior of the building's south wall
- Trench B: 60cm X 60cm opening to expose eastern wall footing in interior of building
- Trench C: Borehole cut through concrete floor in the interior of the building at its western end
- Trench D: 60cm X 60cm opening through concrete floor in the central interior of the building

Account of the evaluation

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage from 31st August to 1st September 2005 at the Barrack Coach House within Enniskillen Castle Barracks. The Professional Services Division of the Central Procurement Directorate were in the process of drawing up designs for the refurbishment and reuse of the building and required information relating to the existing floors and their foundations. Since this work would be intrusive it was agreed that it should be supervised by an archaeologist.

The history of the Barrack Coach House has recently been summarised by Gormley (2004, 14). Located in the north-east corner of the castle complex, the building was constructed in 1881 (over an area that had hitherto been used as a ball-court), and a western extension had been added by 1905. During this time it operated as an equipment store, but by 1922 it was being used as a garage for motorised vehicles. The building was refurbished as office space in 1965 and housed the Western Health and Social Services Board until 1999. Since 1999 it has been vacant, although a programme of external repairs was undertaken by the Environment and Heritage Service in 2002.

The investigation concentrated on four areas, denoted as Trenches A, B, C and D on Figure 1, with Trench A located to the exterior south wall of the building, and Trenches B and D located within the building's interior; the recording of a borehole (Trench C) within the interior of the building was also undertaken. The excavations were undertaken by hand and the context record for the site was created using the standard context recording method. Individual features and deposits were photographed and a series of overall plans (Scale 1:20) and section drawings (Scale 1:10) were prepared throughout the course of the excavation. Following the completion of the site recording, the principal excavation trench (Trench A) was left open and not backfilled, thereby enabling the engineering team to revisit the site should they wish to do so.

Trench A was 1m (north to south) by 1.5m (east to west) in dimension and was located along the pathway next the external southern façade of the building's extension, constructed by 1905 (see Figure 1). The ground floor of the extension area was once open-plan with the first floor level supported on three rows of cast-iron pillars, each of which was surrounded by a cast-iron vehicle kerb embedded in concrete; these vehicle

kerbs were presumably added to provide protection to the pillars when the extension area was in use as a garage. The openings between the pillars had been closed up during the 1965 refurbishment of the building, when the ground floor area was redesigned as office space. The excavation centred on the area surrounding Pillar 1(iv), set along the external southern façade (see Figures 1, 2 and 3).

The uppermost layer encountered was of concrete (C6), 15cm to 25 cm in thickness and positioned underneath the pathway's concrete flagstones (C5). Underlying the concrete deposit was a thick mortar-rich layer of brown clay (C9), between 30cm to 35cm in thickness, and containing concrete pieces and a modern metal scaffolding brace (Small Find No.2); it can be suggested that these layers were deposited during the refurbishment of the building in 1965. Underlying C9 was a friable brown clay layer (C11), with a maximum depth of 20cm, which contained fragments of red brick and covered a ceramic sewage pipe (C12), running from east to west and set in a bed of concrete (C13), that occupied the southern half of the trench. The northern half of the trench contained a thin, 5cm thick layer of brown clay (C14) and, when removed, this revealed layer of rotted lime mortar (C15) that covered a cobbled surface (C16). The cobbled surface lay at a depth of 85cm, and the excavation was terminated at this level. It is probable that this surface represents either the 18th-century barrack yard or the ball-court over which the building's extension had been constructed by 1905.

A further three intrusive investigations were monitoring within the interior of the building. Trench B (see Figures 1 and 5) was a small 60cm by 60cm opening located midway along the interior east gable wall to the front of an inserted red brick insulating wall (C205), probably constructed during the 1965 refurbishment of the building. The excavation cut through a 10cm thick layer of cement (C201) and a layer of concrete (C202) approximately 15cm thick, to reveal a 10cm thick foundation raft of stones and brown clay (C203), which was positioned over a second, more heavily compacted, foundation raft of stones (C204) embedded in a matrix of brown clay containing rotted mortar and fragments of red brick (including Small Find No.5). The upper surface of a large boulder (C206) was revealed within this foundation raft. The excavation of C204 terminated at a depth of 5cm and it can be suggested that both C203 and C204 were deposited to provide foundation for a concrete floor (C202) inserted in 1965.

At Trench C a core-sample of concrete was bored from the modern floor (see Figure 1), while Trench D was positioned to the western side of Pillar 2(v) (C307) and represented a rough-cut hole, some 60cm by 60cm in dimension, cut through the concrete floor (see Figures 1 and 4) next to a cast-iron vehicle kerb (C306), similar to the example encountered in Trench A. There was a cement skim (C301), 2cm thick, overlying a thin layer of cement (C302), 3 cm thick, that was positioned over a 17cm thick layer of gravel concrete (C303). Underlying C303 was a second concrete layer (C304), approximately 15cm thick and containing less gravel, that was set over a foundation raft of rubble (C305). The excavation of C305 terminated at a depth of 15cm. As is the situation regarding the foundation rafts encountered in Trench B, it can be suggested that this raft of rubble was set down in 1965 to provide a foundation for the concrete floor inserted into the building during the refurbishment programme undertaken at that time. During this process the cast-iron vehicle kerb (C306) surrounding the cast-iron pillar (C307) was encased and covered in concrete. The vehicle kerb was presumably set in place around the pillar in the early 20th century when the extension was in use as a garage.

Acknowledgements

Assistance during the course of the investigation was kindly provided by Billy Silcock and Nigel Elliot (EHS: Built Heritage). The illustrations were prepared by Ruth Logue (CAF).

Bibliography

Gormley, M., 2004: *Enniskillen Castle Conservation Statement, incorporating a Management Statement*, unpublished report prepared on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service.

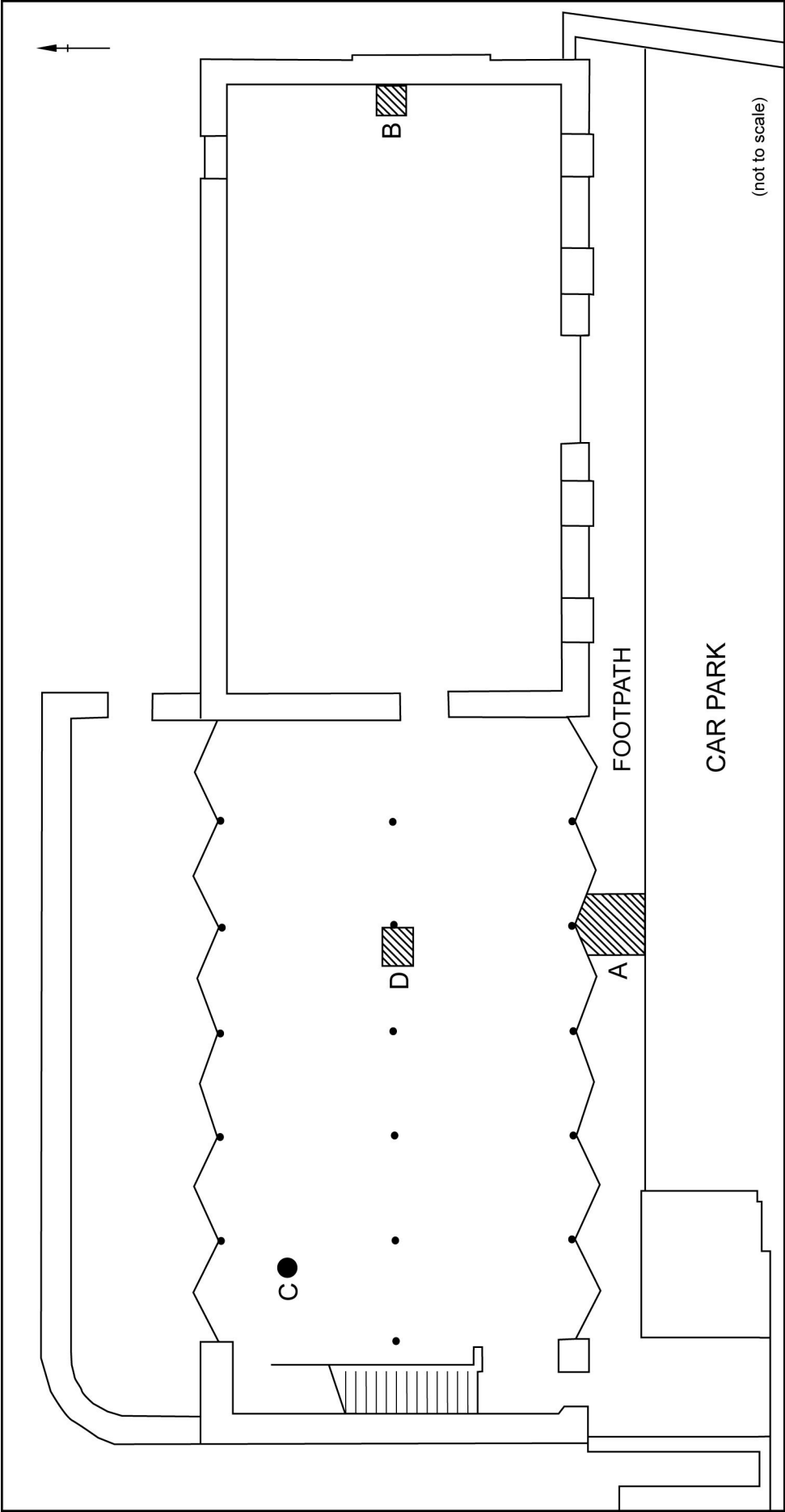


Figure 1: Barrack Coach House, ground floor plan, showing locations of excavation trenches and borehole.

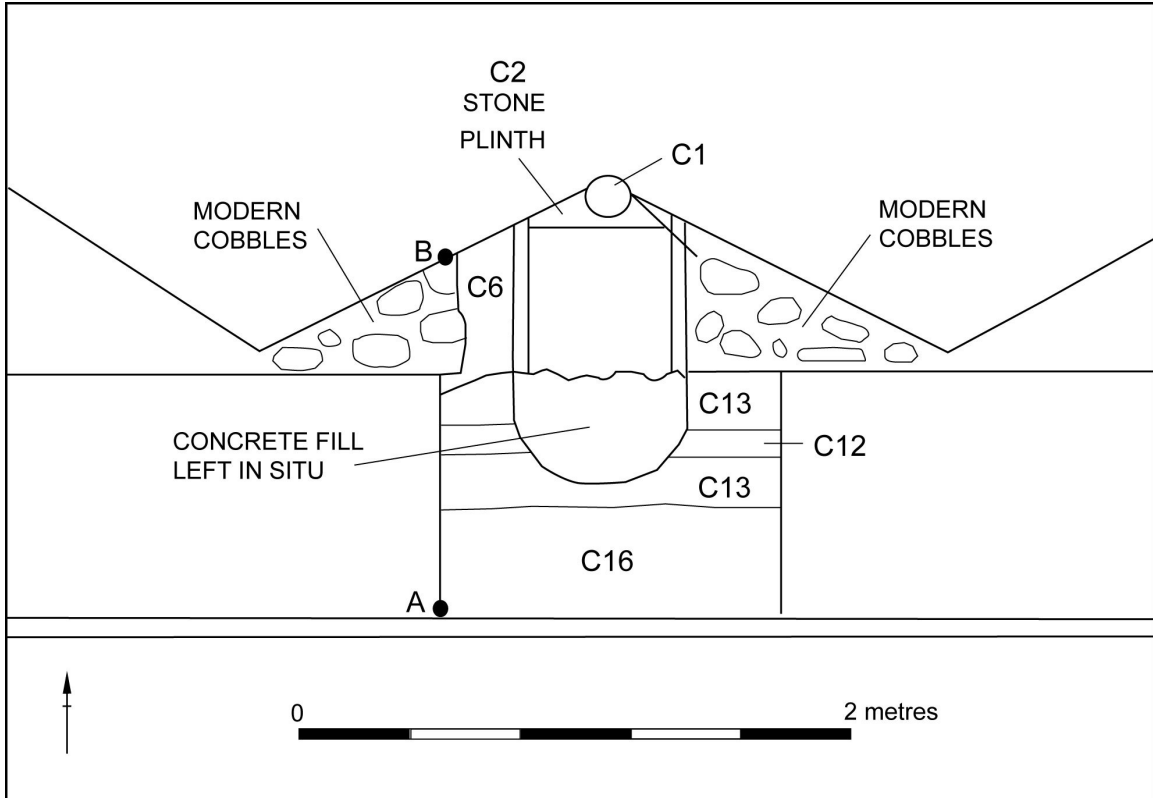


Figure 2: Barrack Coach House, Trench A.

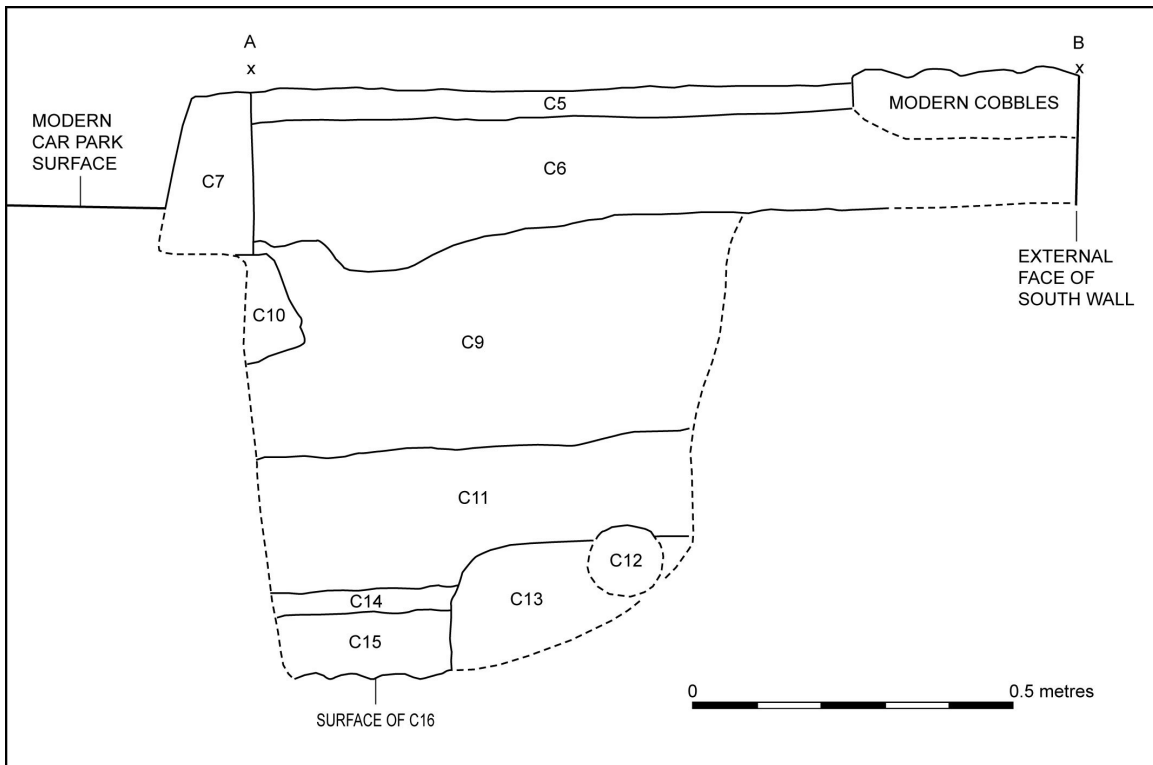


Figure 3: Barrack Coach House, Trench A.

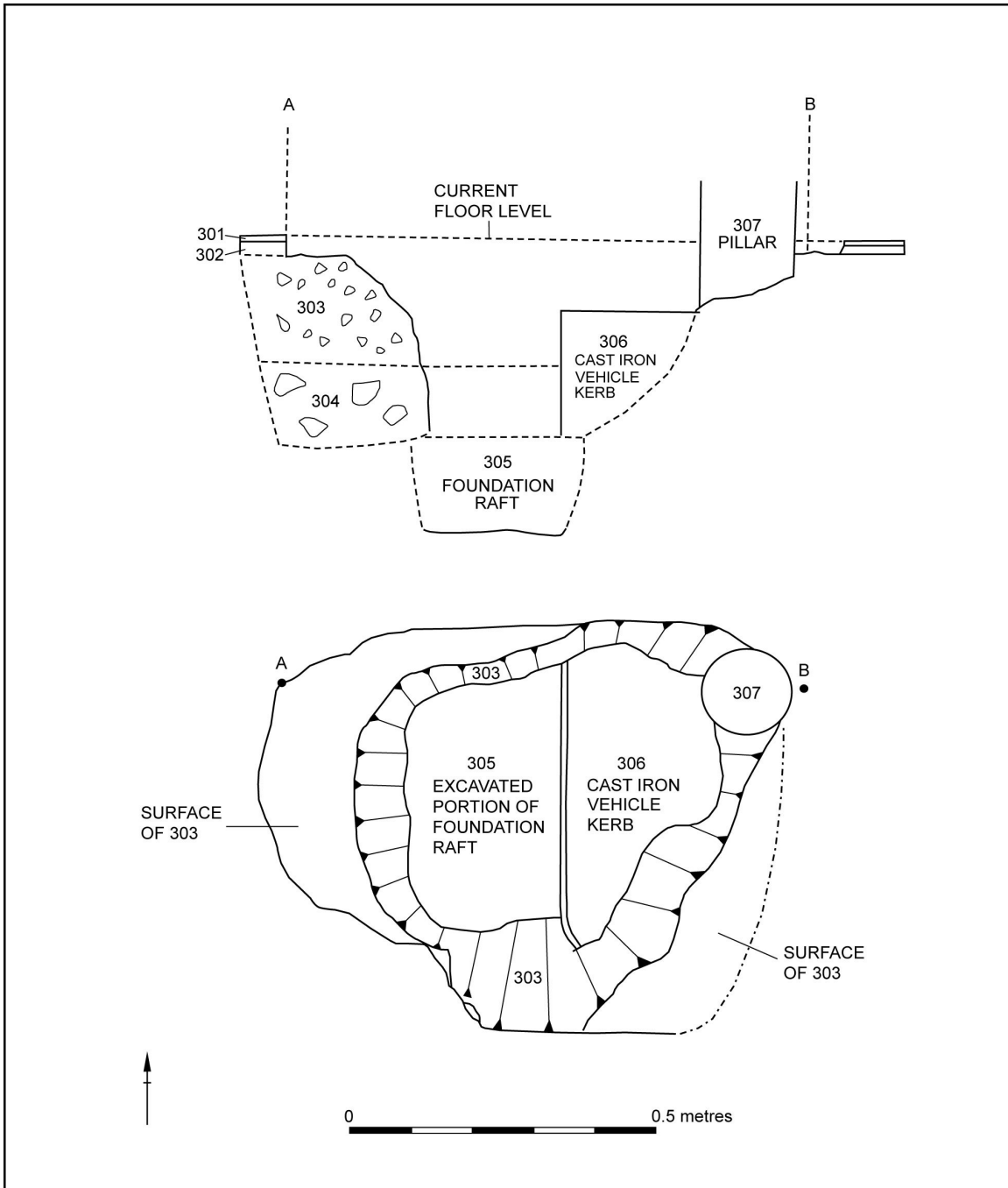


Figure 4: Barrack Coach House, Trench D.

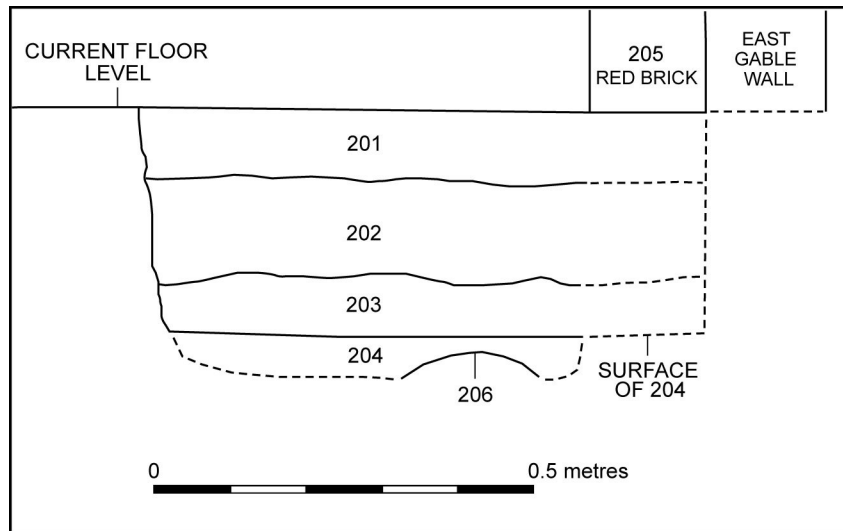


Figure 5: Barrack Coach House, Trench B.

Appendix One: Context list

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
1	A	Cast-iron pillar
2	A	Foundation stone on which cast-iron pillar (C1) is set
3	A	Cast-iron vehicle kerb surrounding pillar (C1)
4	A	Concrete surrounding cast-iron vehicle kerb (C3)
5	A	Pavement flagstones on footpath
6	A	Concrete layer underneath flagstones (C5)
7	A	Car-park kerbstone
8	A	Deposit of friable brown clay lying beneath concrete (C4) surrounding the cast-iron vehicle kerb and containing Small Find No.1
9	A	Foundation raft of smashed rock, concrete pieces and stones in brown clay lying underneath C6. Contained Small Find No.2
10	A	Foundation plinth of concrete for modern car-park kerb (C7)
11	A	A layer of friable brown clay, similar to C8, and containing flecks of rotted mortar and fragments of red brick, including Small Find No.3)
12	A	A ceramic sewage pipe (maker's mark: SK, Ulster Pipeclay Works Limited)
13	A	Concrete matrix holding C12 in position
14	A	Thin layer of brown clay (with Small Find No.4 embedded within its surface)
15	A	Layer of rotted lime mortar covering the surface of C16
16	A	A cobbled surface
201	B	Layer of cement
202	B	Layer of concrete
203	B	Foundation raft of stones and brown clay
204	B	Heavily compacted layer of stones and brown clay, containing rotted mortar and red brick fragments (including Small Find No.5)
205	B	Inserted modern red brick insulating wall on interior of east gable
206	B	Large stone present within C204

301	D	Cement skim
302	D	Thin layer of cement
303	D	Gravel concrete layer
304	D	Concrete layer
305	D	Foundation raft of rubble
306	D	Cast-iron vehicle kerb (= C3 in Trench A)
307	D	Cast-iron pillar (= C1 in Trench A)

Appendix 2: Field Drawing Register

<i>Drawing Nos.</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	
1	1:20	Plan	1/9/05	Trench A	See Figure 2 in this report
2	1:10	Section	1/9/05	Trench A	See Figure 3 in this report
3	1:10	Section	1/9/05	Trench B	See Figure 5 in this report
4	1:10	Section and Plan	1/9/05	Trench D	See Figure 4 in this report

Appendix 3: Small Finds Register

Small Find No.	Description	Trench No.	Context No.
1	Animal bone	A	8
2	Piece of modern metal scaffolding brace	A	9
3	Piece of red brick	A	11
4	Piece of red brick	A	14
5	Piece of red brick	B	204

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs: 14 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: 4 digital plans and section drawings, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast, and included with this report

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Plate 1: Exterior southern façade of the Barrack Coach House, Enniskillen Castle Barracks



Plate 2: View of Trench A area prior to excavation, showing the cast-iron vehicle kerb (C3), filled with concrete, surrounding the cast-iron pillar (C1) at the southern exterior of the Barrack Coach House.



Plate 3: View of ceramic sewage pipe (C12) bedded in concrete matrix (C13) in the northern half of Trench A, with the surface of C14, a thin layer of brown clay, present in the southern sector.



Plate 4: The cobbled surface (C16) located at the base of Trench A at a depth of 85cm below the modern footpath (C5) and its kerb (C7).



Plate 5: Trench D, located within the interior of the Barrack Coach House. The opening was cut through two levels of concrete flooring (C303 and C304) to the immediate west side of the cast-iron vehicle kerb (C306), designed to protect the cast-iron pillar (C307). The underlying foundation raft (C305) can be seen within the opened area.