



## **Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 151**

**Castle Hill (adjacent to Orange Hall car park)  
Drumcoo  
Dungannon  
County Tyrone**

**LICENCE NO. : AE/08/52**

Emily Murray  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008

## Site Specific Information

Site Name : Orange Hall car park, Castle Hill, Dungannon

Townland : Drumcoo

County : Tyrone

Grid Ref. : H 798627

SMR No. : TYR 054:017

State Care : Scheduled  [ X ]  
Other  [ ]

Excavation Licence No : AE/08/52

Planning Ref / No. : N/A

Dates of Monitoring : February 28; March 12-13 2008

Archaeologist Present : Emily Murray

### *Brief Summary:*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in an area of wasteland adjacent to the Orange Hall car park on Castle Hill in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone over three days in February and March, 2008. The evaluation was undertaken in the area designated for the re-location of the telecommunications mast, and associated structures, currently located on the hill's summit (approx. 406m<sup>2</sup>). The archaeological evaluation was requested as the development site is located in close proximity to the Scheduled Monument of Castle Hill (TYR 054:017) and within the historic town core of Dungannon. Two pipes and several land drains were uncovered but no features of potential archaeological interest were encountered.

### *Type of monitoring:*

Three adjacent trenches were opened. Excavation of the trenches was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth edged bucket under archaeological supervision.

### *Area to be developed:*

The area designated for proposed development covers approximately 406m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 3) and stretches from the eastern edge of the Orange Hall car park on Castle Hill

eastwards for 37.5m running alongside the south-eastern perimeter wall of the town's water reservoir. The eastern half of this zone slopes down steeply -approx. 25m east of the car park- and this eastern section was too steep to be topsoil stripped and evaluated.

*Size of area to opened:*

Three adjacent trenches were opened across the western end of the area designated to be developed covering approximately 176.4m<sup>2</sup> in total. The trench dimensions were: Trench 1: 10 x 8.5m; Trench 2: 13 x 3.8m and Trench 3: 10.5 x 4m. A 2m gap was left between the northern edges of Trenches 1 and 2 and the reservoir wall, and a 1m gap between the concrete of the car park and western end of Trench 1, to prevent undercutting or destabilising of both.

*Current Land Use:* wasteland

*Intended Land Use:*

Re-location site of the telecommunications mast and associated structures (port-a-cabins).

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in an area of wasteland adjacent to the Orange Hall car park on Castle Hill in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. The proposed development site is roughly 'L' shaped in plan, of maximum dimensions 37.5m by 15m. Before excavation commenced the site was overgrown and scattered with stones, bricks, concrete and other miscellaneous rubbish (Plate 1).

The evaluation took place over three days in February and March 2008 in advance of the proposed development of the site as a new location for the telecommunications mast, presently located on the hill's summit to the northwest. The evaluation was requested by Paul Logue (Senior Inspector, Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage) to assist EHS to make an informed response to the Planning Service as the site is located within close proximity to the Scheduled Monument of Castle Hill (TYR 054:017) and within the historic town core of Dungannon.

### *Excavation*

The evaluation consisted of the archaeological supervision of three mechanically excavated trenches, approximately 10 x 8.5m (Trench 1), 13 x 3.8m (Trench 2) and 10.5 x 4m (Trench 3) and covering an area of 176m<sup>2</sup> in total. These were confined to the western end of the area zoned for development as the eastern end was steeply sloping and unsuitable for trenching (Figure 3). All three trenches were excavated to

the glacial subsoil level, a bright, orange-brown sandy soil with some stony inclusions (Context 101). The natural subsoil was encountered across the site at a depth of between 1.1m and 1.7m below the modern surface, being shallower at the upslope (car park) end.

#### *Trench 1*

Trench 1, 10m x 8.5m, was excavated running ENE/WSW with the long side (10m) of the trench running roughly parallel and 2m south of the boundary wall demarcating the reservoir. The western edge of the trench ran parallel to the edge of the car park with a gap of approximately 1m left between the two (Figure 3).

The ground was cleared with the mechanical excavator and Trench 1 was opened revealing a significant depth of overburden (1.3-1.5m) stretching across the full extent of the trench. This comprised a relatively shallow (0.3-0.4m) loose dull-brown sandy loam with bricks, stones and other building debris (Context 102) overlying a darker, dark brown/black mixed deposit (Context 103) with slate, stones, charcoal, bits of wood and plastic and other miscellaneous rubbish, including cars and fencing (Plate 2). Context 103 was approximately 1m in depth and directly overlay the subsoil (Context 101) which was encountered at a variable depth of 1.3-1.5m below the modern surface across Trench 1. Within the overburden (Context 103) an orange plastic pipe (Context 108), 0.22m in diameter and aligned roughly north-south, was encountered at a depth of approx. 0.7m below the modern surface (Plate 3). No cut for the pipe was identified and a broken collar revealed the inside of the pipe and showed that it was empty. This exposed section of the pipe was sealed with concrete before the trench was back-filled. In order to work around it, a 1m wide baulk encasing the pipe was left running across Trench 1 (Figure 3).

On removal of the overburden a number of linear features were unveiled cutting the subsoil (Context 101). These included two parallel linear features running diagonally from the south-western corner (Plate 4) and traversing the full width of the trench for a length of roughly 10-11m (NNE-SSW). The northernmost of the two (Context 104), was approximately 3.5m wide and filled with a mottled sterile brown clay including lumps of the redeposited natural orange clay within it (Context 105). Excavation by both hand and machine demonstrated that the cut (Context 104) had a sharp, vertical north-western profile and a much gentler sloping south-eastern profile which partly cut the second linear feature, Context 106. The cut was 0.4m at its deepest. Context 106 was U-shaped in profile, 1.3m wide narrowing to 0.66-0.7m, and 0.5m in depth and filled with a loose black humic soil containing twigs and other organic material (Context 107). This fill was waterlogged and produced the occasional fragments of slate, modern glass and ceramics.

East of the baulk a second pipe was uncovered at a depth of approximately 1.5m below the modern surface. The ceramic pipe (Context 109) was 0.26m in diameter and aligned NNE-SSW and lumps of the redeposited natural clay were more heavily concentrated around it. The pipe was disused and discontinuous and ran from the northern edge of the trench for a length of 2.4m before terminating, unsealed with a



broken edge (Plate 4). The trench (Context 104) would therefore appear to have been cut to host the now disused pipe and the shape of the profile would suggest it was cut with a mechanical excavator. According to the Northern Ireland Water (NIW) map (Figure 4) a watermain should be located running across the site on the same alignment and in roughly the same position as the trench (Context 104) and pipe (Context 109) uncovered in the evaluation trench. NIW attempted to locate their pipe remotely which was unsuccessful leading to the suggestion that the pipe must either be plastic or buried at a significant depth. The excavation would suggest that it had instead been removed some time previously.

Just one other feature was encountered in Trench 1; a narrow (approximately 0.3m wide) linear land drain (Context 110) which was cut into the subsoil (Context 101) and filled with loose stones and rubble (Context 111). It was aligned NE-SW and terminated mid-trench (Figure 3).

### *Trenches 2 and 3*

Two parallel trenches were opened immediately west of the western end of Trench 1 with their long sides running parallel to the wall of the reservoir and with a gap of 2-2.4m left between the wall and the northern edge of Trench 2 (Figure 3).

Trenches 2 (13 x 3.8m) and 3 (10.5 x 4m) were opened with the mechanical excavator and as in Trench 1 the overburden (Contexts 102 and 103), was again encountered for a combined depth of between 1.45-1.7m across both trenches. Traversing the two trenches diagonally, running NNW-SSE, was a linear seam of loose hardcore (Context 113), approximately 1.4m wide which was exposed on the first clearing back of the site (Plate 7). Further excavation of this deposit showed that narrowed to 1m and was a fill of a linear cut (Context 112) which cut through the overburden (Contexts 102 and 103) and the underlying natural (Context 101) for a combined depth of at least 1.7m. The hardcore extended for a depth of 0.5-0.55m and it overlay a dark loam with stones (Context 114) with the basal fill made up of a very fine gravel (Context 115). Context 114 was not dissimilar to the overburden, Context 103, and may be re-deposited material (i.e. Contexts 102 and 103). The basal fill was partially excavated by hand to ascertain its depth and to determine the possible presence of a pipe. No pipe was discovered and the trench rapidly filled with water.

The ceramic pipe uncovered in Trench 1 was found to continue for a further 4m in Trench 2 along its north-western corner before curving eastwards and terminating after a length of approximately 1.2m. The only other feature encountered in Trench 2 was a stone and rubble filled drain, approximately 1.2m in width and running on east-west alignment (Figure 3).

No finds were recorded from these trenches, and no features of potential archaeological interest were recorded.

### *Interpretation*

The drains encountered in the three trenches along with the two pipes are all considered to be of relatively modern date and therefore not of archaeological significance. There were also no finds of archaeological interest from any of the three trenches.

### *Recommendations*

It is not considered that the proposed development will impact on previously unrecorded archaeological remains. Consequently, it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site and no further publication is required apart from a short summary in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

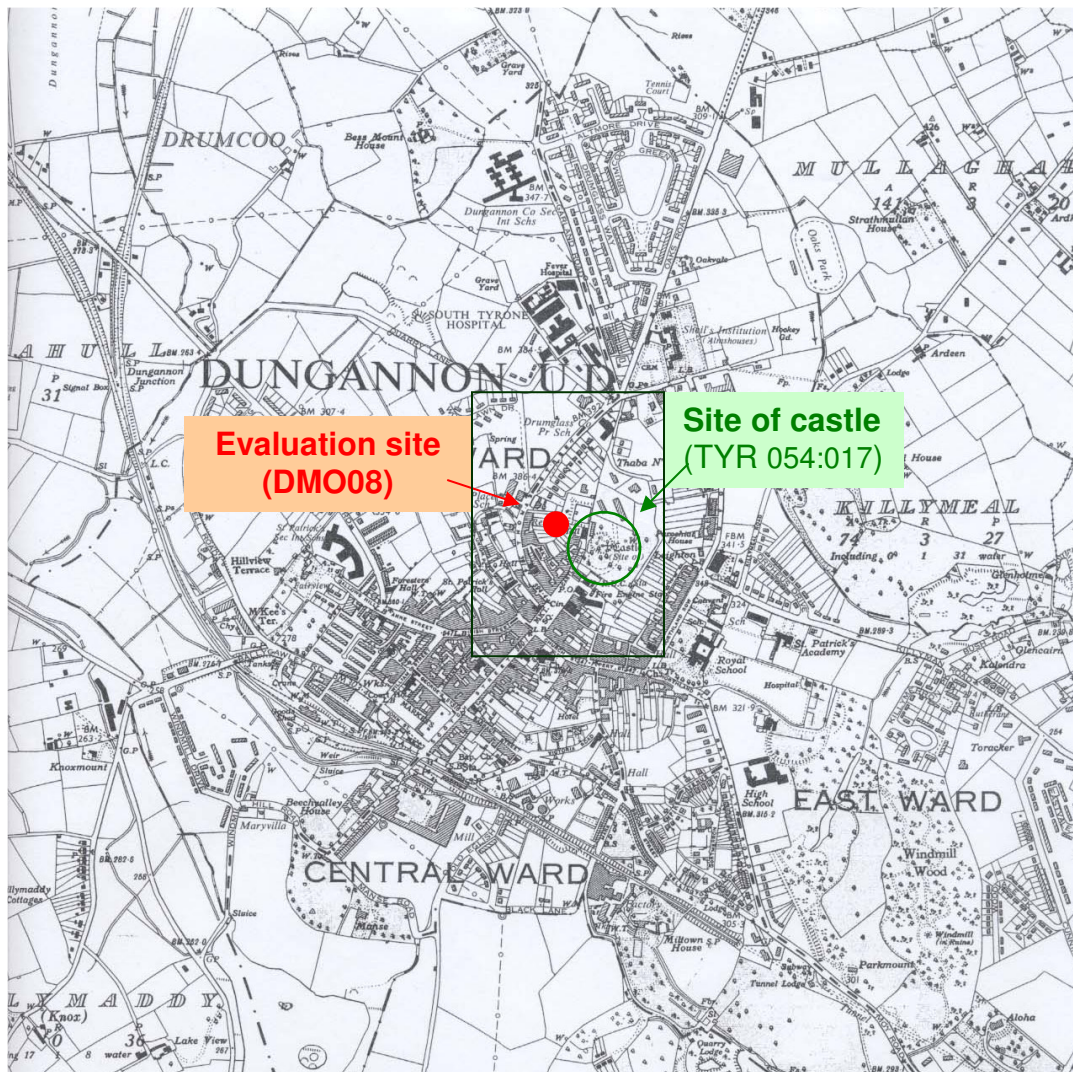
### *References*

Donnelly, C., Murray, E. and Logue, P. 2007 Excavating with Time Team at Castle Hill, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, *Archaeology Ireland* **21(4)**, 16-19.

Context	Type	Trench	Description
101	subsoil	all	bright, orange-brown compact sandy clay; occasional small stones and gravel
102	deposit	all	mottled dull-brown loose sandy loam with bricks, stones, slate, nails and other building debris , 0.25-0.4m deep
103	deposit	all	brownish-black humic sandy loam with bricks, stone, concrete and modern rubbish (wood, cars, fencing, old pipes etc.) ; rubbish concentrated in upper levels; 1-1.4m deep
104	cut	1	sharp-edged linear cut, 3.5m wide and 0.42 deep; cuts C.101 and C.106; cut for pipe C.109
105	fill	1	mottled compact brown clay with stones and lumps of redeposited natural, C.101; fill of C.104
106	cut	1	linear U-shaped cut 1.3m wide narrowing to 0.7m; 0.5m deep; cuts C.101
107	fill	1	black organic-rich, loose soil with lots of twigs and occasional stones, glass, and bits of slate; waterlogged and foul-smelling; fill of C.106
108	pipe	1	plastic pipe, 0.22m in diameter; encountered 0.7m below the modern surface within C.103; cut for pipe not identified
109	pipe	1 & 2	ceramic pipe (discontinuous and disused) 0.26m in diameter
110	cut	1	narrow linear land drain cutting C.101; 0.3m wide, running for a length of 2.4m and encountered 1.4-1.5m below modern land surface
111	fill	1	loose mixed stone and rubble fill of C.110
112	cut	2 & 3	Linear cut 1.6m wide narrowing to 1m; cuts C.102, C.103 & C.101; min. depth 1.7m
113	fill	2 & 3	hardcore, 0.55m deep; upper fill of C.112
114	fill	2 & 3	Dark loamy fill of C.112, possibly redeposited C102 + C.103; under C.113 and over C.115
115	fill	2 & 3	fine gravel; basal fill of C.112; waterlogged
116	cut	2	linear cut, 1-1.1m wide; cuts C.101; depth of cut not established
117	fill	2	mixed stone and rubble fill of C.116
118	cut	3	linear cut 0.5m wide; depth not established; cuts C.101
119	fill	3	dark brown loam; fill of C.118

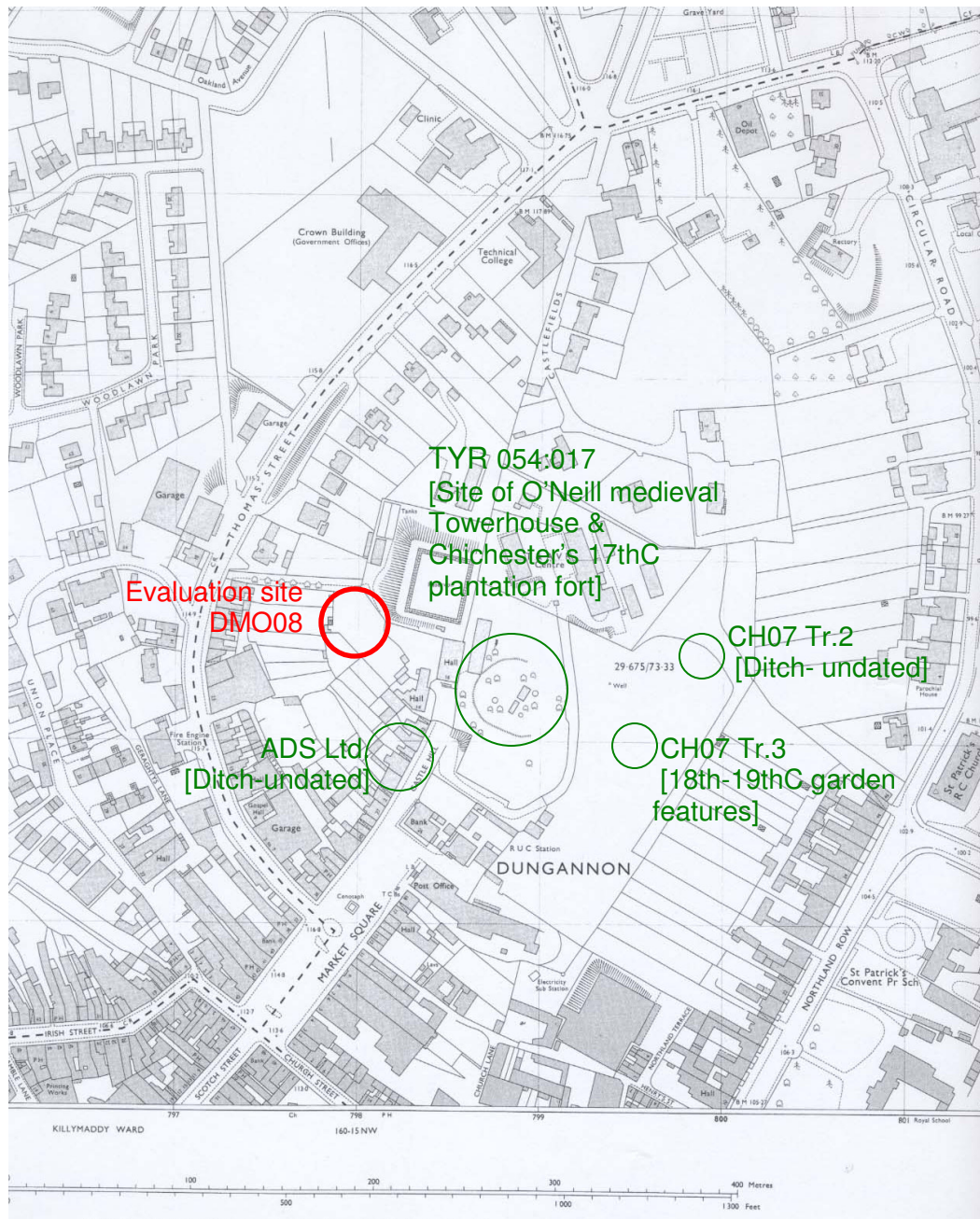
**Table 1** Context register for evaluation trenches on Castle Hill, Dungannon (DMO08).

## FIGURES

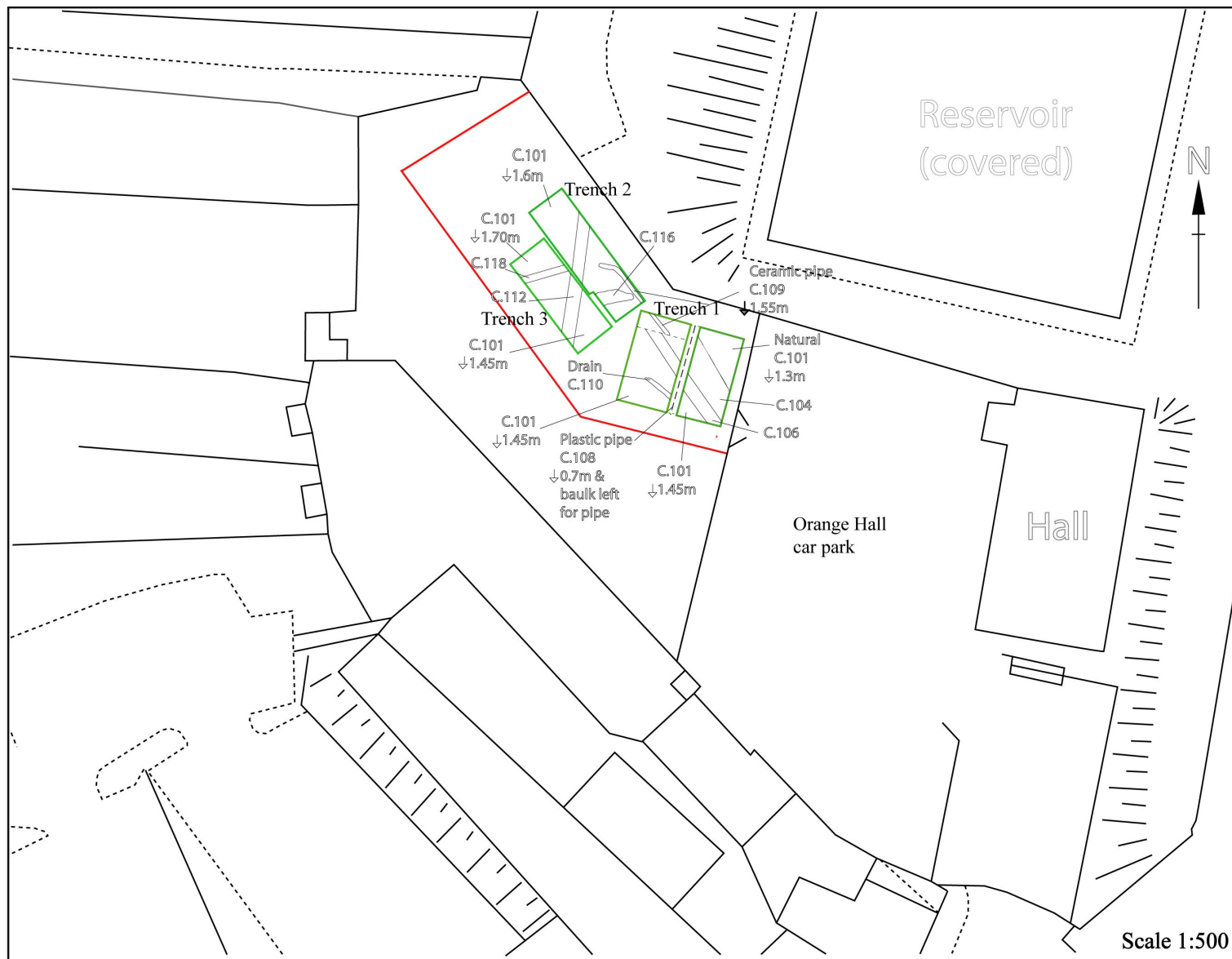


**Figure 1** Excerpt from the revised 1935 OS 1:10,560 map (Sheet 160) showing the town of Dungannon and the location of the evaluation site (red circle) and the adjacent Scheduled Monument, TYR 054:017, site of the O'Neill medieval towerhouse and later 17<sup>th</sup> century plantation fort (green circle). Box outline = location of Figure 2.

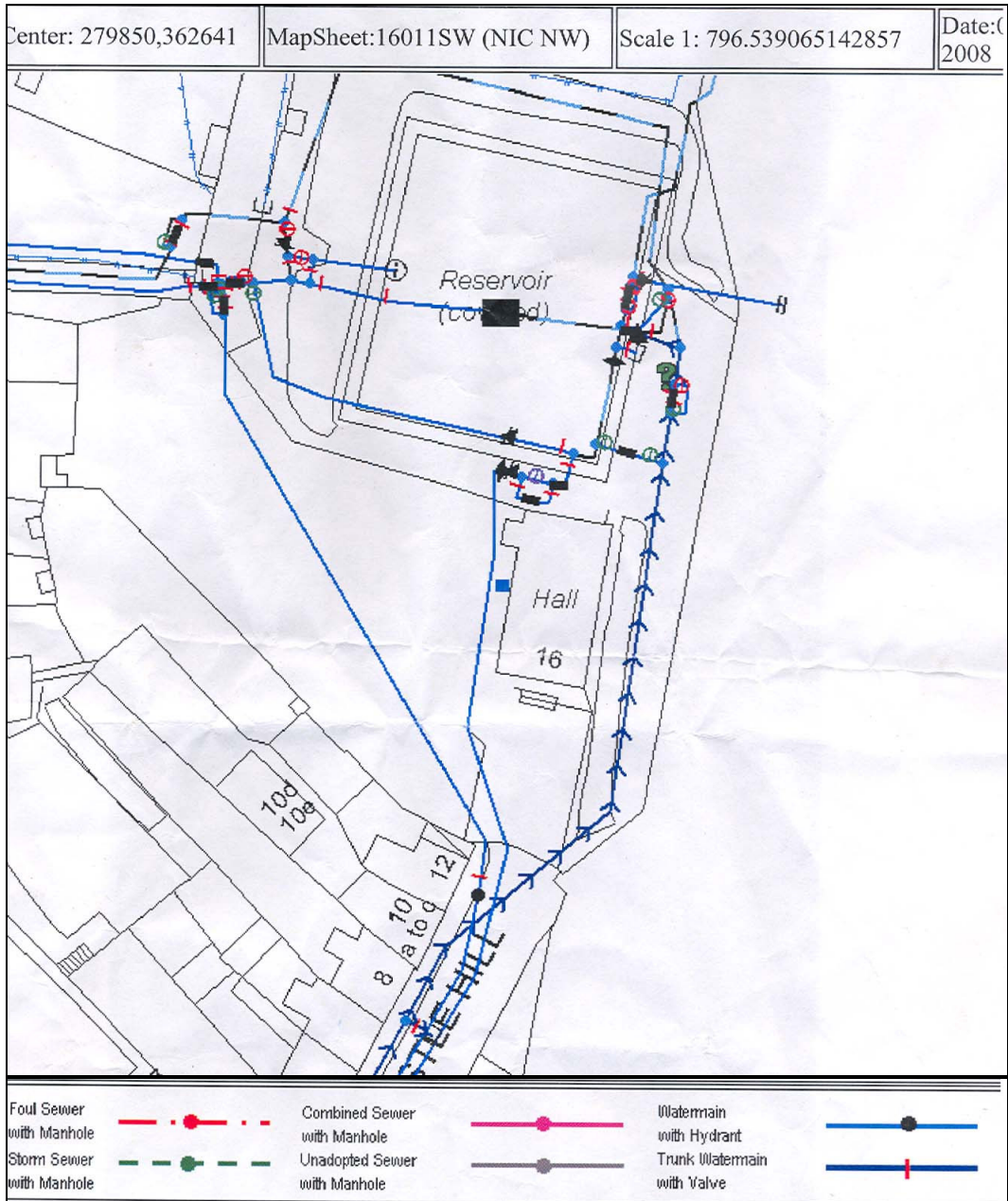




**Figure 2** Extract from the OS 6-inch-to-one-mile map (1974) showing location of the evaluation site (red circle) and archaeological sites (green circles) in the immediate vicinity. The main features uncovered on the archaeological sites are given in parentheses. For details on the Castle Hill excavations ('CH07') see Donnelly *et al* (2007). Information on the ADS excavation was provided by Peter Bowen of ADS (pers. comm.).



**Figure 3** Location map of the development site (highlighted in red) adjacent to the Orange Hall car park on Castle Hill ,  
Dungannon showing the approximate location of the evaluation trenches (in green) and the features encountered within  
them including approximate depths at which the features were encountered below the modern surface level.



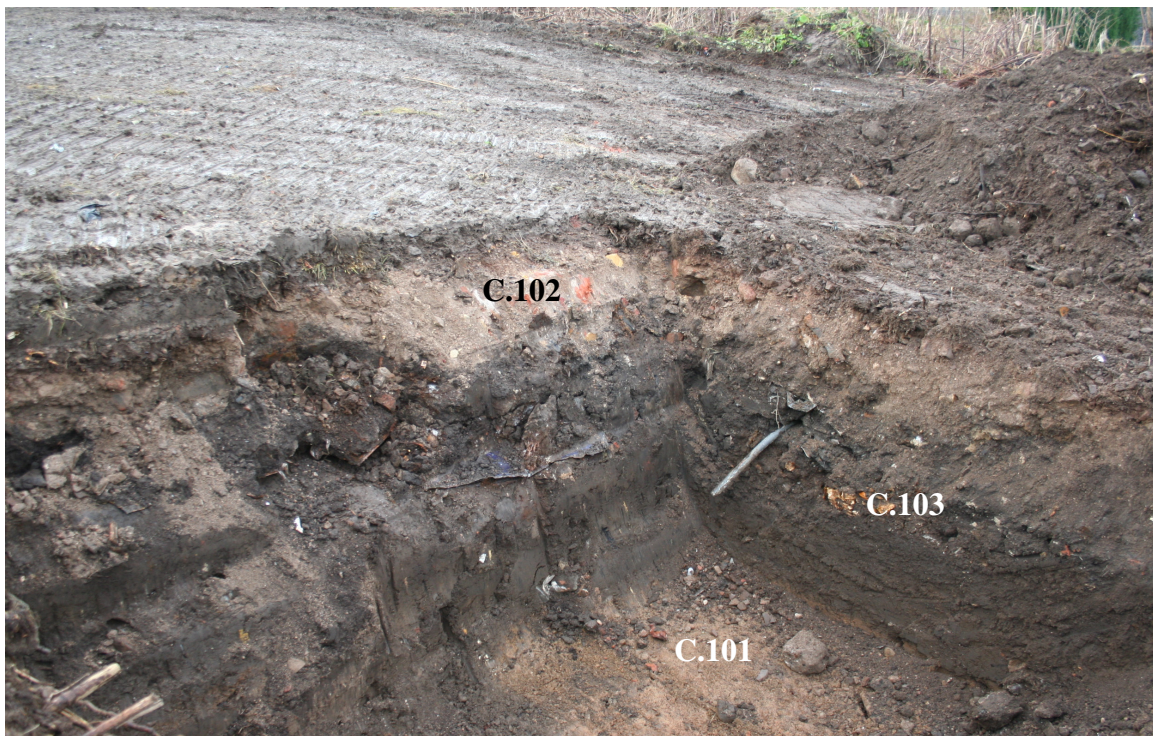
**Figure 4** Map provided by Northern Irish Water (NIW) showing the position and attributes of NIW watermains in the vicinity of the reservoir and proposed development site, east of the Orange Hall ('Hall'), on Castle Hill, Dungannon.



PLATES

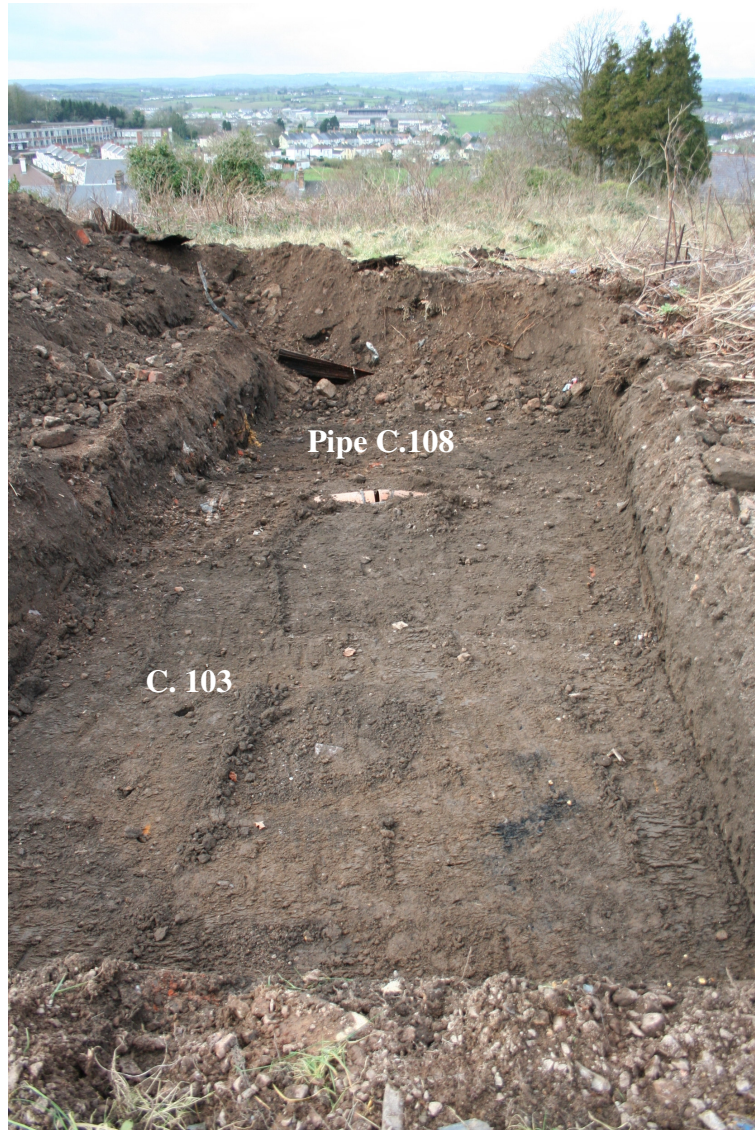


**Plate 1** General shot of the proposed development site (looking north).

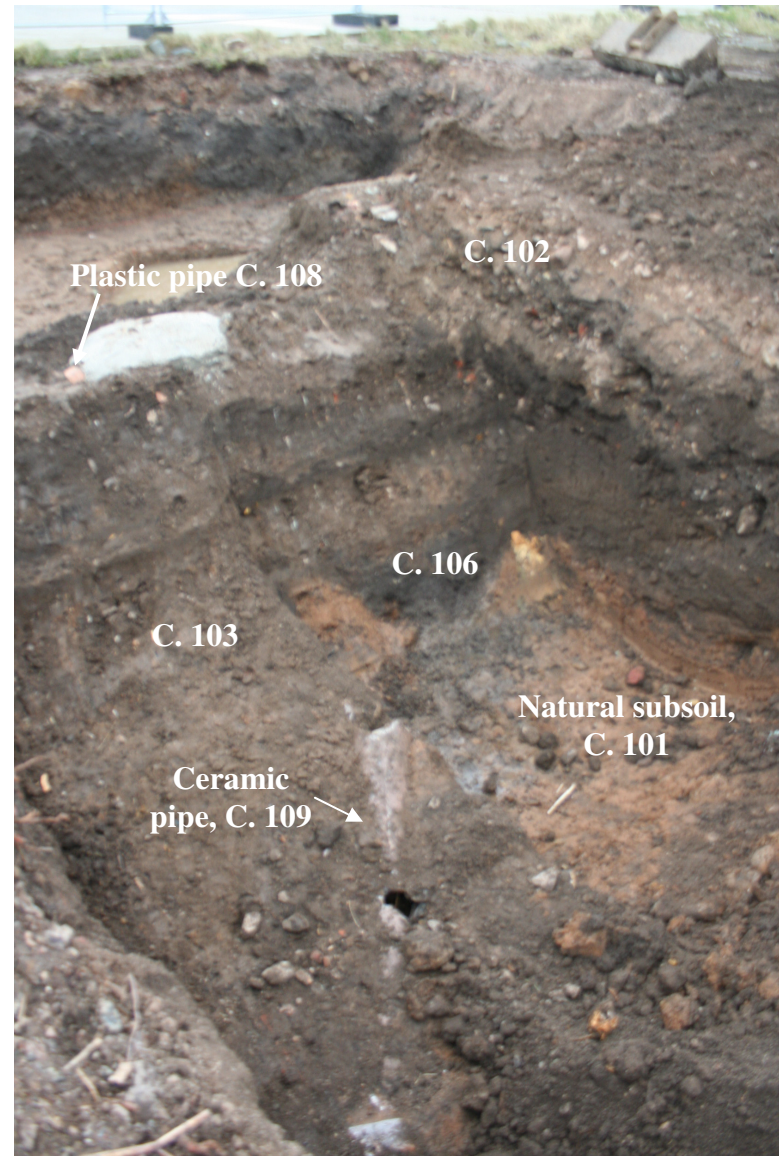


**Plate 2** Trench section-face (Trench 2) showing the basic stratigraphy encountered across all three trenches.





**Plate 3** Trench 1 (facing east): plastic pipe (C.108) within overburden (C.103), approx. 0.7m below modern surface level.

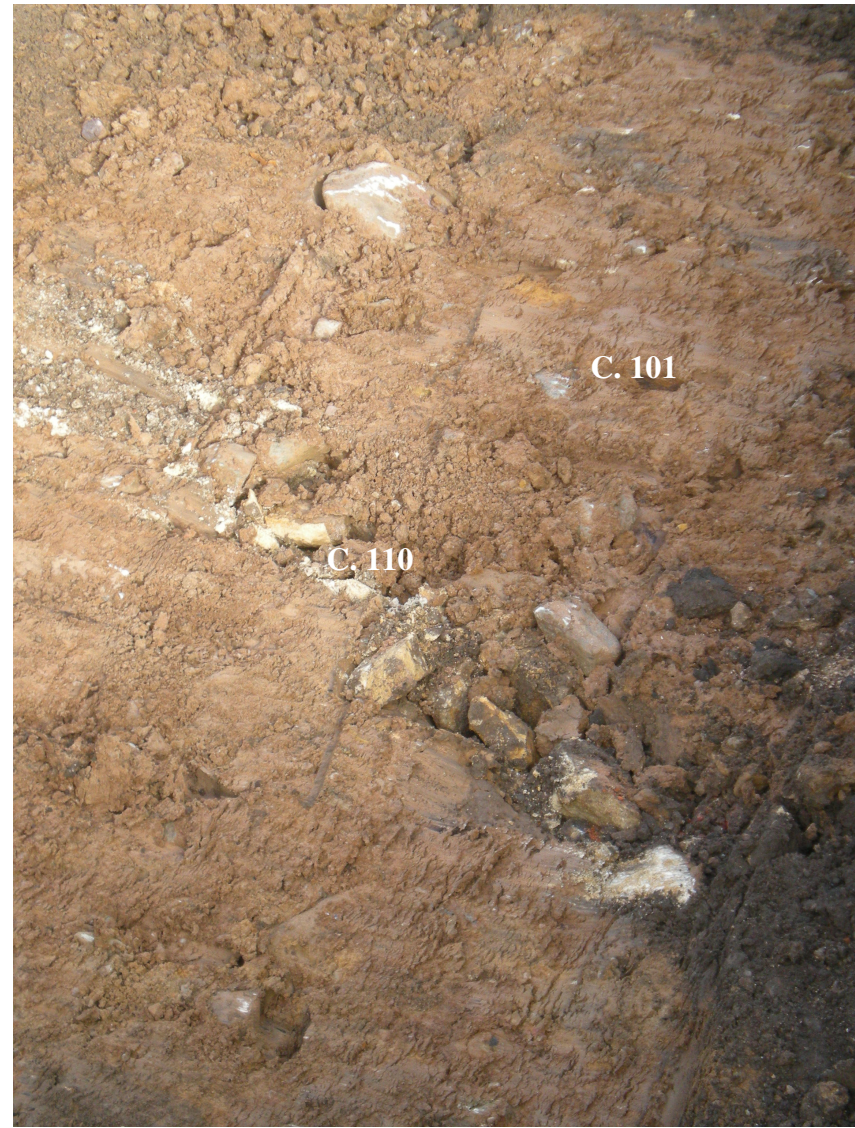


**Plate 4** Trench 1 (facing south) showing the location of pipes C.108 and C.109 and linear cut, C.106.





**Plate 5** Trench 1 (facing south): linear features, C.104 and C.106 cutting the natural subsoil (C.101).



**Plate 6** Trench 1 (facing NW): narrow linear field drain (C.110) cut into the natural subsoil (C.101).





**Plate 7** Trench 2: seam of hardcore (C.113) (facing NW).



**Plate 8** Trench 2: post-excavation shot (facing SW) showing the ceramic pipe (C.109), drain (C.116) and linear feature (C.112).





**Plate 9** Trench 3: post-excavation shot (facing east) showing location of the two linear features.