



Monitoring Report No. 168

**Loughgall Presbyterian Church
Cloven Eden
Loughgall
County Armagh**

AE/08/203

Nick Beer

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Loughgall Presbyterian Church, 100 Cloven Eden Road, Cloven Eden, Loughgall, County Armagh.

Townland: Cloven Eden

SMR No.: ARM 008:030

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: H 8872 5351

County: Armagh

Excavation Licence No: AE/08/203

Planning Ref / No.: O/2008/0447/F

Date of Monitoring: 16th December 2008

Archaeologist Present: Nick Beer

Brief Summary:

Three test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed cemetery extension on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed cemetery extension is located upon the site of a rath (DOW 008:030). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in any of the three trenches.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of three test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-edged 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Three trenches of differing lengths were excavated as determined by the case worker. Trench one measured approximately 23 m by 2 m, Trench two measured approximately 21 m by 2 m and Trench three measured approximately 26 m by 2 m. The trenches were shorter than those initially proposed by the case worker as half of the field had been converted into a car park

Current Land Use: Green field

Intended Land Use: Cemetery

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The site of the proposed cemetery extension was located at 100 Cloven Eden Road to the west of the Loughgall Presbyterian Church (Fig. 1). The site is situated to the north east of the village of Loughgall, at an approximate height of 40m above sea level (Fig. 1). The church was apparently built upon the site of a rath (DOW 008:030) in 1708 AD. The application site was within the confines of a field currently owned by the church, the southern half of which has been recently converted into additional car parking. The trenches were positioned parallel to the modern grave access path, which were requested by Gail Howell (Case Officer Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage).

Excavation

Trench 1 was positioned to the east of the application site, running parallel to the current grave access path in the cemetery and measured approximately 23m by 2m. The trench was aligned north/south and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 103) (Plate 1) which was encountered at a depth of between 0.7 and 1 m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 101) consisted of a mid brown clay loam. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 101) had an average depth of 0.1 to 0.2 m. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 101) lay directly above an orange-brown clay soil (Context No. 102). This second deposit encountered in Trench 1 (Context No. 102) consisted of an orange-brown, clay loam. This deposit had occasional inclusions of large sub-angular stones (average size: 20 x 30 x 40 cm) and modern material including; ceramic, plastic, metal and brick were encountered. The orange-brown soil deposit extended to a depth of approximately 0.3 to 0.8 m.

The natural subsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 103) consisted of an orange sandy clay and was discovered at a depth of between 0.5 to 1 m. Small patches of grey and green were apparent within the subsoil but these appeared to be the remains of weathered stones. There were no features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 2 was positioned approximately 5 m west of Trench 1 (Fig. 2) and measured approximately 21 by 2 m. The trench was aligned north/south and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 204) (Plate 1) which was encountered at a depth of between 0.7 and 1 m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 201) consisted of a mid brown clay loam. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) had an average depth of 0.1 to 0.2 m. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) lay directly above an orange-brown clay soil (Context No. 202). This second deposit encountered in Trench 2 (Context No. 202) consisted of an orange-brown, clay loam. This deposit had occasional inclusions of large sub-angular stones (average size: 20 x 30 x 40 cm) and numerous modern materials including; ceramic, plastic, metal and brick were encountered. The orange-brown soil deposit extended to a depth of approximately 0.4 to 0.6 m. Below the orange brown clay soil (Context No. 202) was a grey/brown clay loam deposit (Context No. 203), which had no modern material inclusions. The grey/brown clay loam deposit extended to a depth of between 0.7 to 1 m and overlay the subsoil (Context No. 204).

The natural subsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 204) consisted of an orange sandy clay and was encountered at a depth of between 0.7 and 1 m. Small patches of grey and green were apparent within the subsoil but these appeared to be the remains of weathered stones. There were no features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 3 was positioned approximately 5 m west of Trench 2 (Fig. 2) and measured approximately 26 m by 2 m. The trench was aligned north-east/south-west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 305) (Plate 1) which was encountered at an average depth of between 0.5 and 0.7 m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod and topsoil in Trench 3 (Context No. 301) consisted of a mid brown clay loam. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 301) had an average depth of 0.1 to 0.2 m. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 301) lay directly above an orange-brown clay soil (Context No. 302). This second deposit encountered in Trench 3 (Context No. 302) consisted of an orange-brown, clay loam. This deposit had occasional inclusions of large sub-angular stones (average size: 20 x 30 x 40 cm), but no modern materials were encountered within this deposit, unlike trenches 1 and 2. The orange-brown soil deposit extended to a depth of approximately 0.3 to 0.5 m.

The natural subsoil in Trench 3 (Context No. 303) consisted of an orange sandy clay and was discovered at a depth of between 0.5 to 0.7 m. Small patches of grey and green were apparent within the subsoil but these appeared to be the remains of weathered stones. There were no features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

No features of archaeological significance were noted during the evaluation. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication is required, apart from a short summary in the annual bulletin of excavations.

Archive:

Small Finds:

Photographs:

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

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed: _____ Date: _____

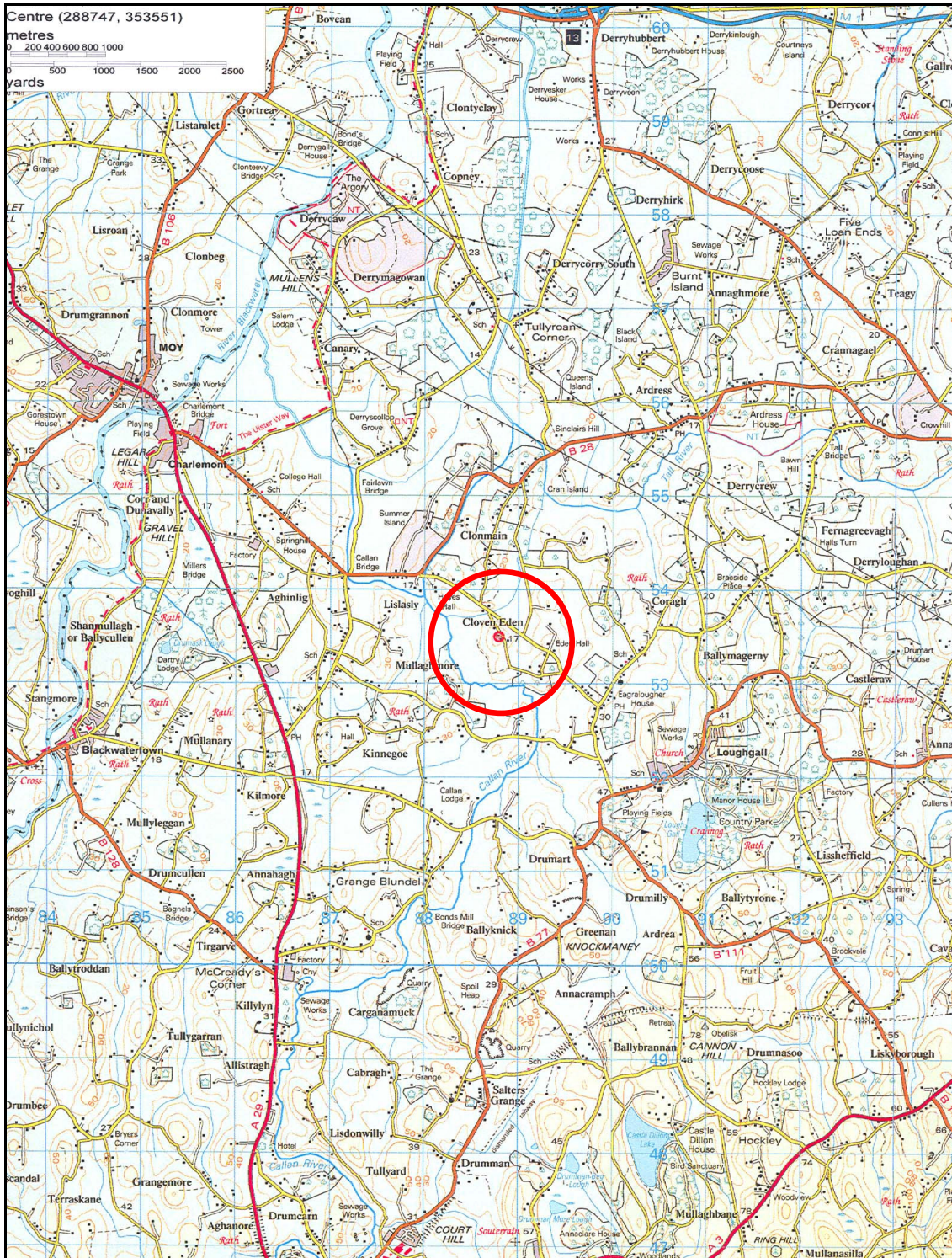


Fig. 1 General location map showing Loughgall Presbyterian church town (circled in red).

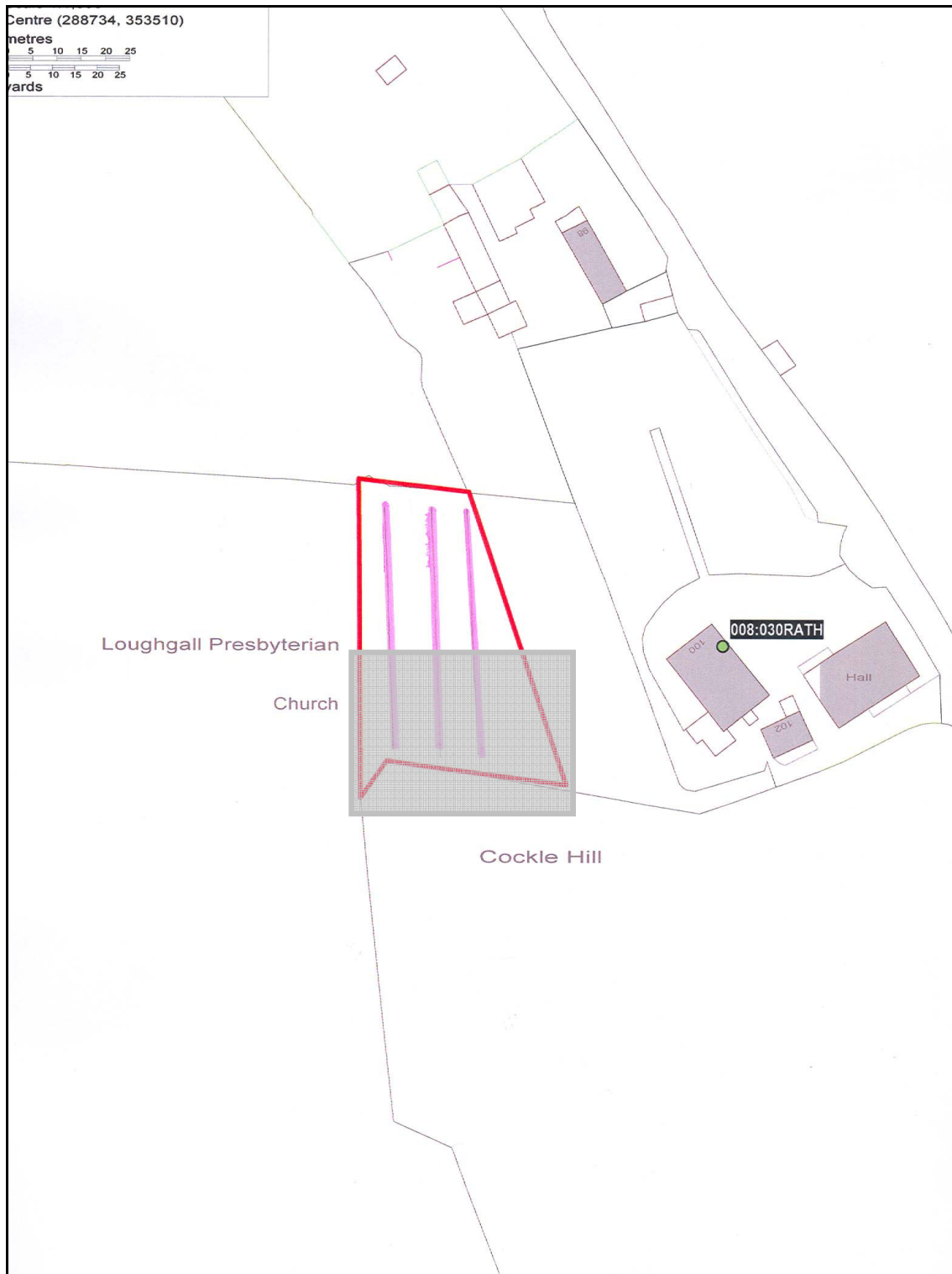


Fig. 2 Detailed location map showing positions of the three trenches (Trench 1; right, Trench 2; middle and Trench 3; left), the grey box indicates car park extension which resulted in shorter trenches than those proposed by the case worker.



Plate 1 Natural subsoil (Context Numbers 103, 204 and 303).