



Archaeological Evaluation Report No. 216

**Site between 33-37 Sheepwalk Road,
Ballynadolly,
Lisburn,
Co. Antrim
BT28 3XA**

AE/10/203E

S/2010/0931/F

RUAIRÍ Ó BAOILL

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Site between 33-37 Sheepwalk Road, Ballynadolly, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, BT28 3XA

Townland: Ballynadolly

SMR No. : SM 11/1 Ant 063: 092

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: IJ 2061968887 *County:* Antrim

Excavation Licence No: AE/10/203E

Planning Ref / No.: S/2010/0931/F

Dates of Evaluation: Thursday 13th January 2011

Archaeologist Present: Ruairí Ó Baoill

Brief Summary:

Test trenching took place at the proposed development site, currently a green field, on Thursday 13th January 2011. The proposed development involves the construction of a two-storey dwelling with an attached garage to the rear along with a septic tank and run-off. The proposed development area contains part of an archaeological site (NISMR: Ant 063: 092) that has been identified by aerial photographs. The cropmark is described in the NISMR as circular and is shown by the discolouration of surface vegetation that indicated sub-surface activity or archaeological remains. Above ground traces of this site have been removed due to modern development and agricultural practices. The archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site (Planning reference number (S/2010/0931/F) was required to assist NIEA make an informed response to Planning Service.

No archaeological strata, features, artefacts or masonry were observed the two machine-excavated trenches. The evaluation at the proposed development site revealed nothing of archaeological significance and no further archaeological work is recommended at this development site.

Type of monitoring: Mechanical test trenching in the area of the proposed dwelling and garage and along the line of the proposed septic tank and run off.

Size of area opened: Two trenches were mechanically excavated, using a flat-bottomed (sheugh) bucket, under strict archaeological supervision. The first trench, 9m long, was excavated along the rear of the proposed dwelling and garage. The second trench, 21m long, was excavated along the line of the proposed septic tank and run-off.

Current Land Use: Green field.

Intended Land Use: Dwelling, garage, septic tank and run-off.

Brief account of the archaeological evaluation

Introduction

The application site is a green field between 33-37 Sheepwalk Road, Ballynadolly, Lisburn, County Antrim (Figs 1-3; Plate 1). The proposed dwelling is located in the middle of the field. The ground on the eastern three quarters of the site is heavily overgrown with grass, rushes and furze bushes. It is very boggy in places. This part of the site is also slightly higher than that in the west, the result of soil being dumped in the field when the house in the adjacent property (No. 33 Sheepwalk Road) was constructed in recent years. A wire and post fence, not on current maps, separates the eastern portion of the site from the western quarter. The western portion of the development site is currently used as a rough lane way, consisting of large gravel stones, that leads to a field gate and gives access into the field immediately to the south. It is in this area that the proposed septic tank and run are to be located.

The archaeological evaluation took place on Thursday 13th January 2011 as part of the planning application for the construction of a dwelling, garage and septic tank with run-off. The evaluation, which took the form of two machine excavated trenches under strict archaeological supervision, was requested by Gina Baban: Caseworker with Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It was requested because the proposed development area contains part of an archaeological site (NISMR: Ant 063: 092) that has been identified by aerial photographs.

Account of the excavation

Stratigraphy across the proposed development site varied from the west to the east. The eastern portion of the site consists of grass, reeds, furze bushes and some small trees. In some places it is also very boggy. The western portion had been made level and is used as a rough laneway leading from Sheepwalk Road to a field gate giving access to a the field immediately beyond (south) of the development site. The lane consisted of large gravel stones. Two trenches were excavated to investigate whether remains of the archaeological site (NISMR: Ant 063: 092) recorded on an aerial photograph lay within the proposed development area.

Trench 1 (Fig 3; Plate 2)

Trench 1 was excavated across the rear of the proposed house and garage. The trench was 9m long and 1.50m wide. There was a maximum depth of 0.70m of stratigraphy within the trench, above compact yellow subsoil clay.

Stratigraphy consisted of a sod layer (Context 1) 0.10m deep that took the form of grass, rushes and furze. This was directly over a layer of dark brown organic loose top soil (Context 2) with many roots. It was 0.20m deep. This, in turn, lay over a layer of grey-brown silty plough soil (Context 3), containing roots and small stones that was 0.25m deep. Below this was a layer of sterile grey clay, approximately 0.15m deep, which lay directly on the yellow subsoil clay.

No archaeological features whatsoever were observed in the trench. The only artefacts uncovered, from Trench 1, were a modern milk bottle and a piece of plastic that came out of the topsoil (Context 2).

Trench 2 (Fig 3; Plate 3)

Trench 2 was excavated along the line of the proposed septic tank and run off. It was 21m long and 1.70m wide. There was a maximum of 0.50m of stratigraphy in this trench. The sod layer (Context 101), 0.10m deep, was on top of a grey- brown silty soil with roots and small stones (Context 102) that was 0.30-0.40m deep. This layer was very similar to Context 3 in Trench 1. Context 102 sat directly over the yellow clay subsoil. No archaeological features were uncovered in the trench and no artefacts were recovered from it.

Interpretation

No archaeological features were observed during the archaeological evaluation within the area of the proposed development. No evidence for the circular cropmark denoting a possible archaeological site (NISMR Ant 063: 092) was uncovered in either of the evaluation trenches.

Conclusion

No *in situ* deposits of any antiquity were observed during the test trenching of area of the proposed development at 33-37 Sheepwalk Road. It is not, therefore, probable that the development of the dwelling will impact upon previously unrecognized and unrecorded archaeological remains. It is, therefore, recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication of this work is merited save a short summary in *Excavations Bulletin 2011*.

Archive:

Finds: No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Photographs: 85 images (digital files) currently archived with Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast, BT7 1NN

Plans / Drawings: One plan was generated during the evaluation.

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Fig 1. Location map of proposed archaeological evaluation at a site between 33 and 37 Sheepwalk Road, Ballynadolly, Lisburn, County Antrim. Site marked in orange.

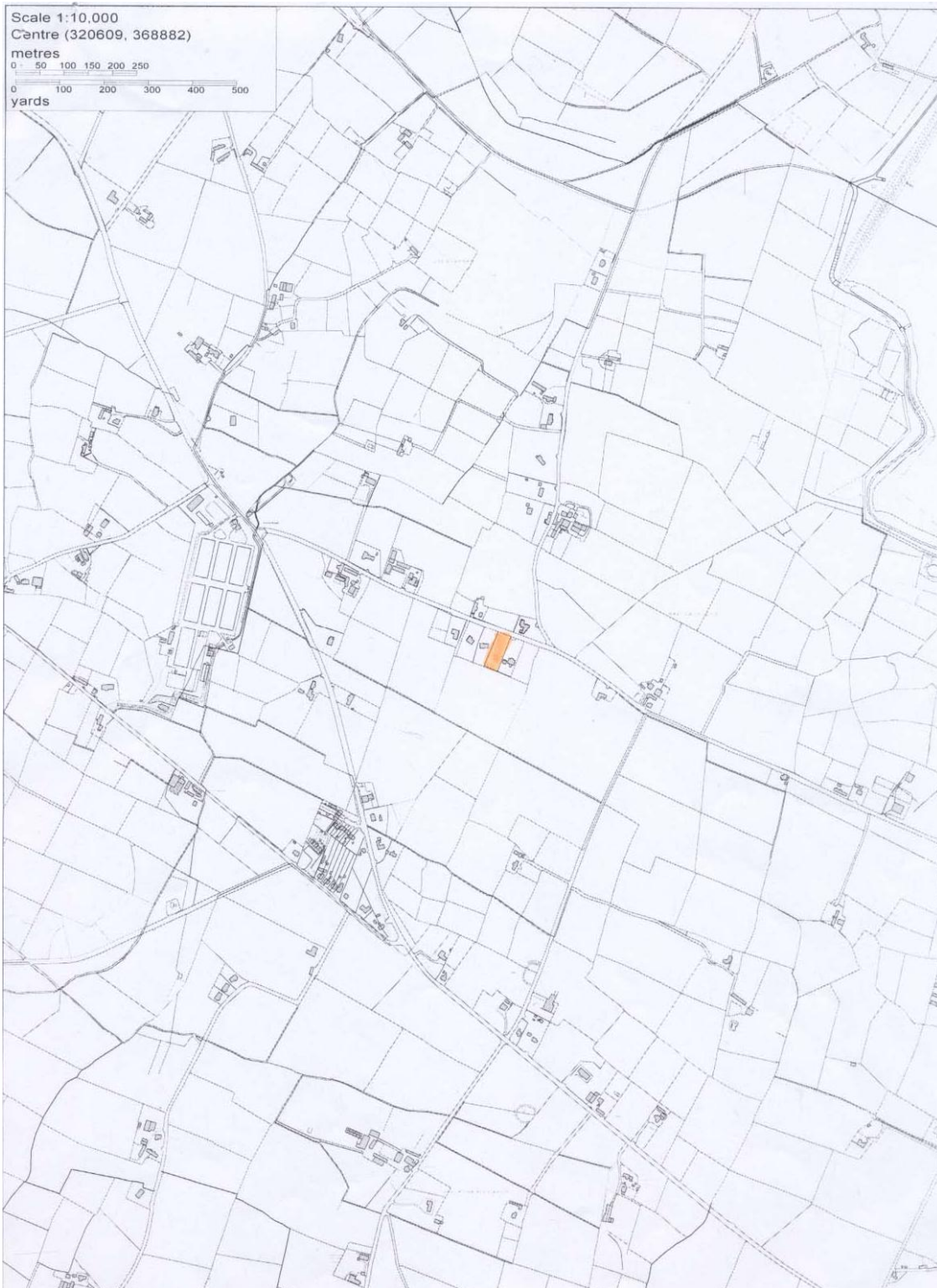


Fig 2. More detailed location map of proposed archaeological evaluation at a site between 33 and 37 Sheepwalk Road, Ballynadolly, Lisburn, County Antrim. Site marked in orange.

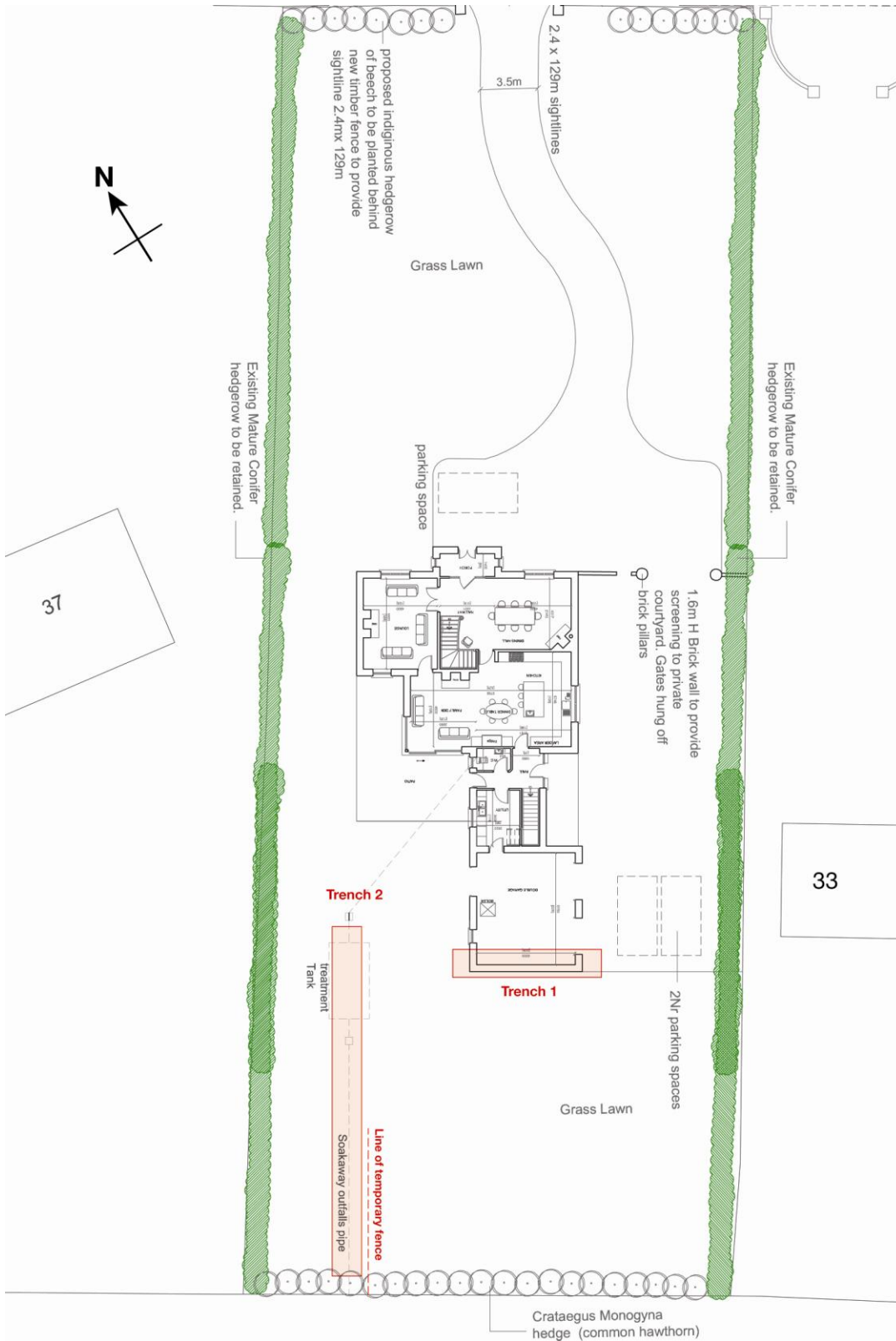


Fig 3. Location map of archaeological trial trenches excavated at a site between 33 and 37 Sheepwalk Road, Ballynadolly, Lisburn, County Antrim.



Plate 1. The proposed development site between 33 and 37 Sheepwalk Road, Ballynadolly, Lisburn, County Antrim. Photograph taken from the north. The house on the left of the shot is No. 33 Sheepwalk Road. The adjacent hedge and wooden fence is the eastern boundary of the proposed development site.



Plate 2. Trench 1. From the south-east.



Plate 3. Trench 2. From north-east. The tree-line on the right of the photograph is the western boundary of the proposed development site. The iron gate is the southern boundary, close to the south-west corner. The wire and post fence on the left of the photograph is a temporary structure, not marked on any of the maps supplied. This temporary fence separates the eastern portion of the site where the proposed dwelling is to be located and the western portion which is currently used as a laneway from Sheepwalk Road through the proposed development site and giving access to the field beyond it.