



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 260

**SITE ADJACENT TO 56 DRUMBOLG ROAD
DUNGLADY
MAGHERA
COUNTY LONDONDERRY**

LICENCE NO.: AE/13/73E

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: site adjacent to 56 Drumbolg Road, Dunglady, Maghera, Co. Londonderry

Townland: Dunglady

SMR No. : LDY 033:003

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: C 89732 04170

County: Londonderry

Excavation Licence No. : AE/13/73E

Planning Ref / No. : H/2013/0004/O

Dates of Monitoring: 26th March 2013

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site adjacent to 56 Drumbolg Road, Dunglady, Maghera, Co. Londonderry, in response to a planning application for a new farm dwelling. The site is around 40m to the north of Dunlgady Fort, a multi-vallate ringfort (NISMR LDY 033:003). Five test trenches were excavated at the site, each 1.8m wide and ranging in length 20.0-55.0m. No finds or features of archaeological interest were uncovered during the evaluation. It is therefore recommended that there is no need for any further archaeological mitigation at the site.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of five test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Five trenches each approximately 1.8m wide and 20.0-55.0m long.

Current Land Use: Agricultural

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a proposed new farm dwelling is located in the Upperlands area, approximately 5km north-east of Maghera (Figure 1). The site lies at a height of approximately 60m above sea level with panoramic views. The proposed development site is adjacent to and to the north of a scheduled multi-vallate rath called Dunglady Fort (NISMR LDY 033:003: Plate 1). The rath is well-preserved and consists of an oval area enclosed by at least three ditches and four banks. The total diameter of the monument is approximately 100m. There is an entrance passage to the south which allows access through to the centre of the monument. The rath was inhabited during the Plantation when three houses were built within it and during the 18th and 19th centuries it was used as a Quaker graveyard. The monument is now overgrown with trees but it is possible to see the substantial banks and ditches, the latter (Plates 2-4).

The site is located along a track to the west of a cluster of dwelling houses and farm outbuildings and occupies the north-western corner of a field approximately 0.65 hectares in size (Plates 5 and 6). The site itself is around 0.15 hectares with a proposed access route running from its north-eastern corner. The site is bordered to the north and west by a post and wire fence and hawthorn hedge. Beyond this, to the north, is a laneway. In the north-western corner is a farm outbuilding which is due to be replaced as part of the proposed development. The application site is currently used for the grazing of sheep and cattle.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and garage and was requested by Paul Logue of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit.

Excavation

The original research design proposed the excavation of five test trenches ranging from 15.0-35.0m in length. Given the topography of the site and the location of the proposed new dwelling and access way, the trench layout was revised to comprise 1 x 55.0m long trench and 3 x 20.0m long trenches (Figure 3). All trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.45m.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the area of the proposed access way and extended into the site. The trench was 10.0m south of the northernmost field boundary and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.8m wide and 55.0m long (Plates 7 and 8). The uppermost layer in Trench 1 was the sod and topsoil layer (C101) which consisted of dark brown loamy clay containing 10mm long sub-rounded stones. It was 0.1m thick and overlay a cultivation layer (C102) of dark brown loamy clay sand. This layer was

0.15-0.30m thick and contained sub-angular stones up to 30mm long including quartz. Brick and sherds of blackware were found within the cultivation layer.

Following the removal of the cultivation layer two linear features were visible cut into the subsoil of Trench 1. The larger feature (C103/104: Plate 9) ran alongside the northern limit of excavation for much of the length of Trench 1. A small investigative section into the feature showed that the feature was 0.6m wide and less than 0.05m deep (Plate 10). It had steep sides and a flat base and was filled with compact dark brown sandy clay containing sub-angular stones 10mm long. The feature contained no finds and it is probable that it is a trace of ridge and furrow cultivation. The second subsoil-cut feature (C105/106: Plate 11) was a field drain beside the southern limit of excavation 11.6m from the eastern end of the trench. This feature was cut at an oblique angle by the trench but found to be at least 0.4m wide and 3.0m long. It was filled with angular stones ranging in length 0.05-0.20m in a brown clay matrix.

There were no further features in Trench 1. The orange boulder clay subsoil (C107) was encountered at a depth of up to 0.4m.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located 4.8m to the south of Trench 1 and ran parallel to it. It was 11.0m to the east of the westernmost site boundary. The trench was 1.8m wide and 20.0m long (Plates 12 and 13). The stratigraphically most recent layer in Trench 2 was the sod and topsoil layer (C201) which consisted of dark brown sandy loamy clay with angular stones up to 30mm long. The layer was 0.15m thick. Below it was a cultivation layer (C202) consisting of dark brown loamy sandy clay which was 0.2m thick. The layer contained sub-angular stones 30mm long.

Once the cultivation layer was removed a linear feature (C203/204: Plate 14) was visible cut into the subsoil of Trench 2. The feature was 11.0m from the western end of Trench 2 and ran east/west for at least 8.0m. The feature was 0.50m wide and less than 0.05m deep. It had steep sides to the south which petered out to the north and a flat base (Plate 15). The linear feature was filled with mid brown sandy clay containing numerous sub-rounded to sub-angular stones ranging 5-40mm in length. It contained no finds and has been interpreted as a cultivation furrow like that uncovered in Trench 1 (C103/104).

The subsoil (C205) in Trench 2 consisted of stony orange brown boulder clay, the surface of which was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.35m. There were no other subsoil-cut features in the trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located 5.1m to the south of Trench 2 and 9.2m to the east of the westernmost field boundary. It ran parallel to Trench 2 and was the closest trench to the path. Trench 3 was 1.8m wide and 20.0m long (Plates 16 and 17). The uppermost layer in Trench 3 was the sod and topsoil layer (C301) comprising dark brown loamy clay with a spongy consistence. It contained some sub-rounded stones around 20mm diameter and was 0.15m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation layer (C302) consisting of dark brown sandy clay up to 0.3m thick. It contained sub-rounded to sub-angular stones up to 30mm long. Below the cultivation layer was the boulder clay subsoil (C303) which was orangeish brown in colour and was encountered at a

maximum depth of 0.35m. There were no finds or features of archaeological interest in Trench 3.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was positioned on the northern side of Trench 1, between it and the northernmost field boundary. It was 2.0m to the north of Trench 1 and 5.0m from the field boundary. The trench was also 11.0m from the farm outbuilding in the north-western corner of the site. Trench 4 was 1.8m wide and 20.0m long (Plates 18 and 19). The uppermost layer in Trench 4 was the sod and topsoil layer (C401) which consisted of spongy dark brown loamy clay containing some small sub-angular inclusions 20mm long. The layer was 0.15m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation layer (C402) consisting of mid to dark brown sandy clay with some sub-angular to sub-rounded stones up to 30mm long. The cultivation layer was up to 0.3m thick. The cultivation layer overlay the boulder clay subsoil (C403) which was brownish orange in colour and encountered at a depth of 0.45m. There were no finds or features of archaeological interest in Trench 4.

No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered within the four trenches excavated at the proposed development site. It is not thought that the proposed development will impinge on any unknown archaeological deposits and therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

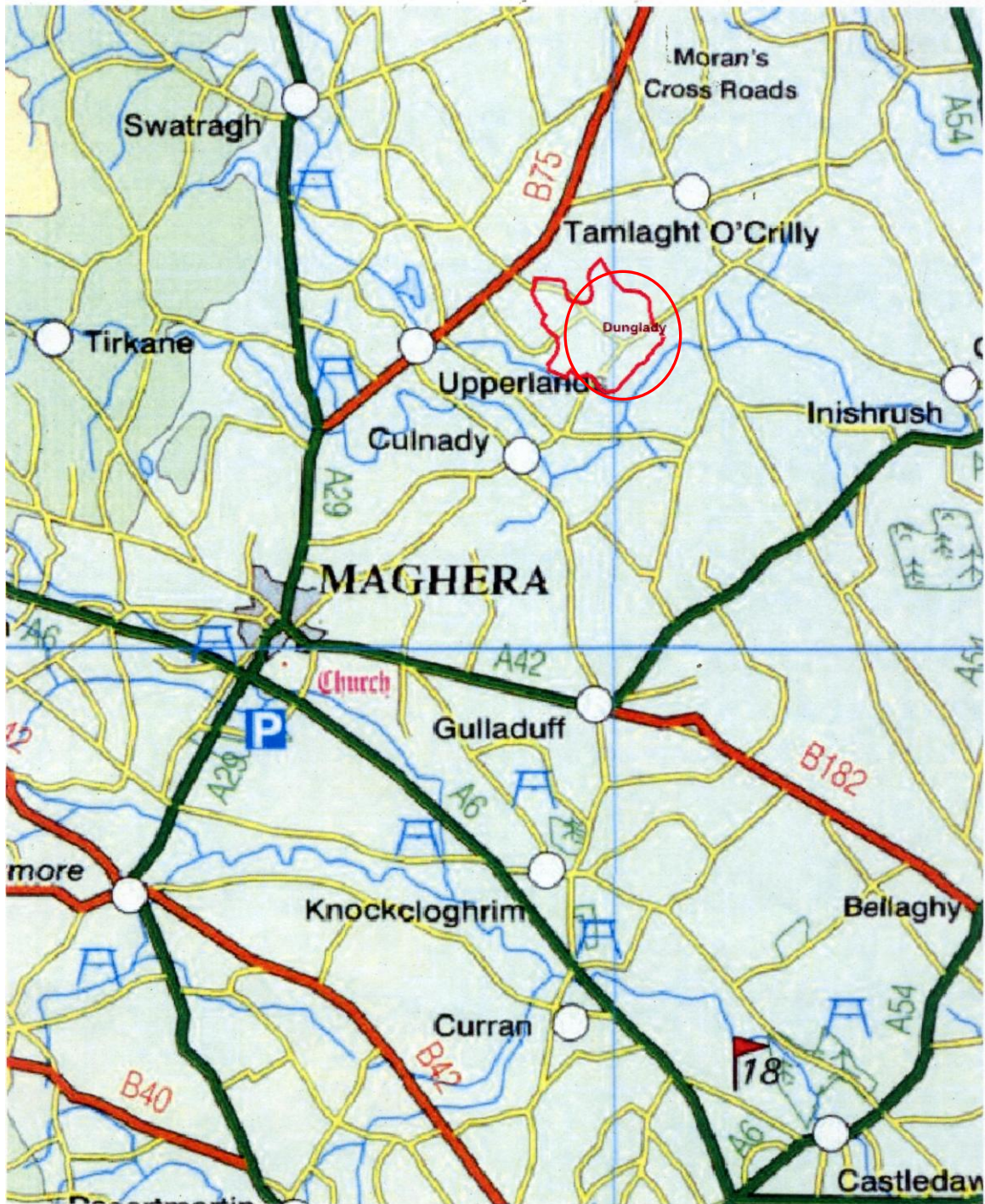
Photographs:

The digital images taken during the evaluation are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____



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Center Point (288419, 400558)



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Figure 1: Map showing the location of the site (circled in red)

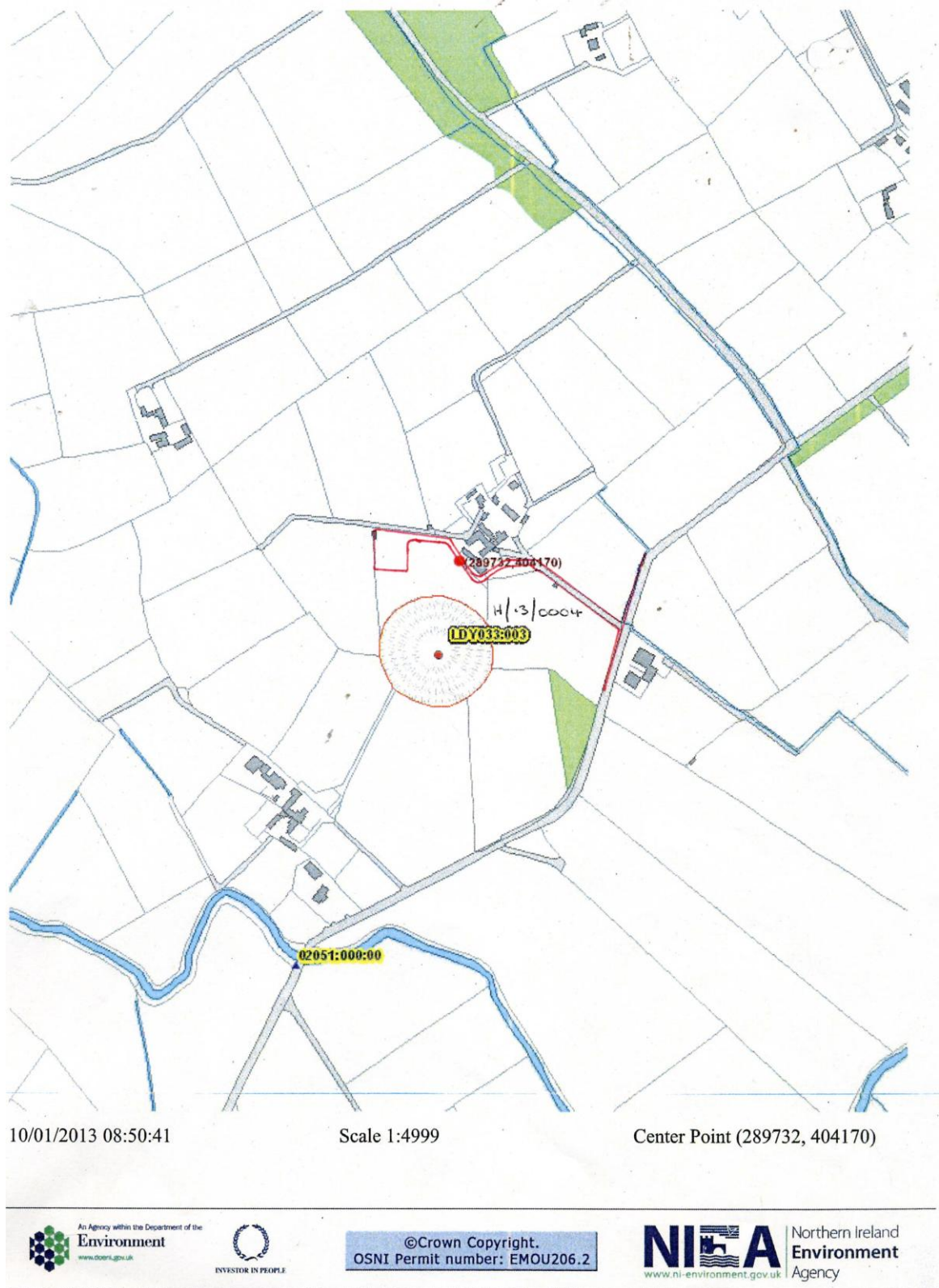


Figure 2: Detailed map showing the location of the site (red outline) with Dunglady Fort to the south (red circle)

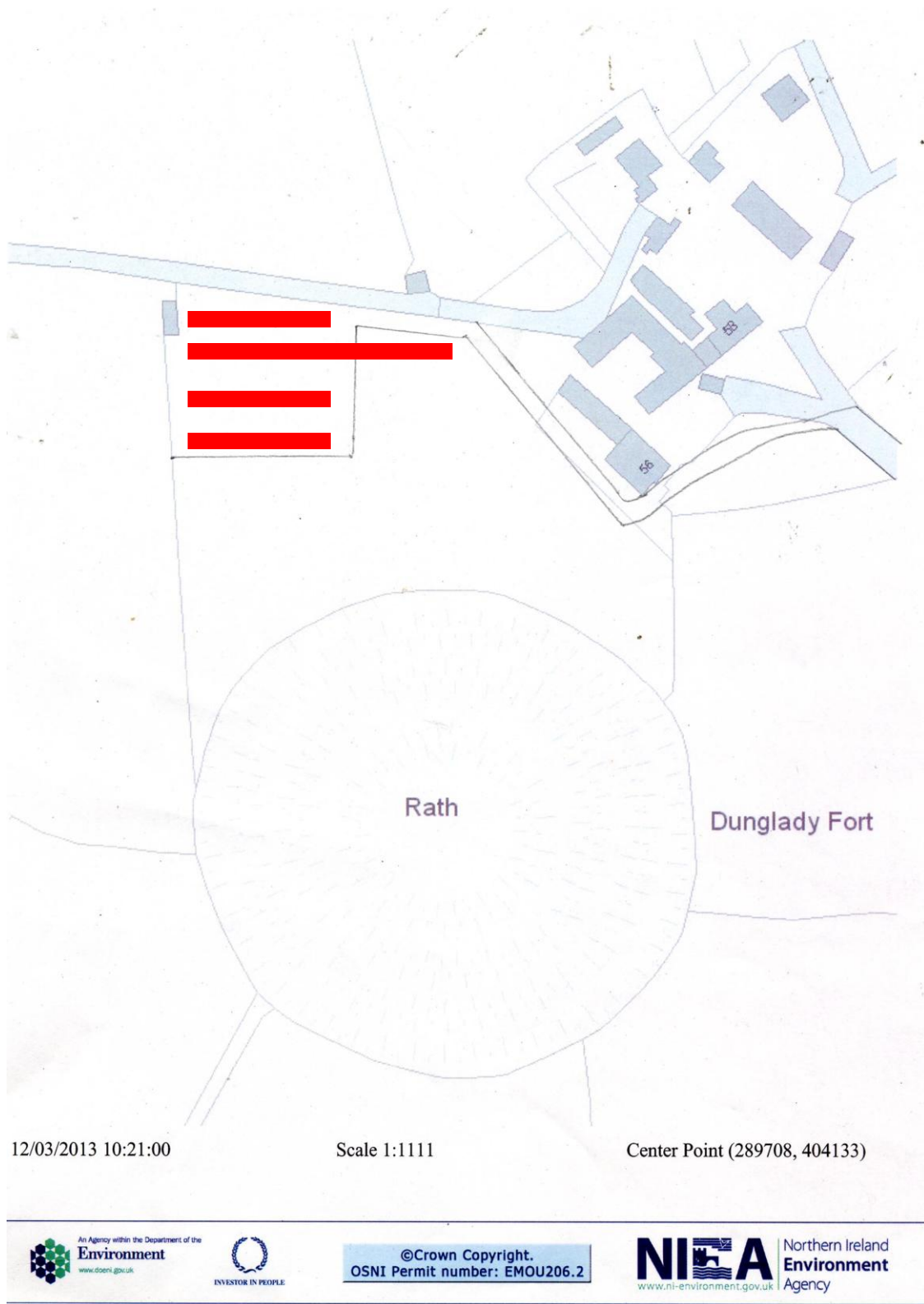


Figure 3: Site plan showing approximate location of test trenches

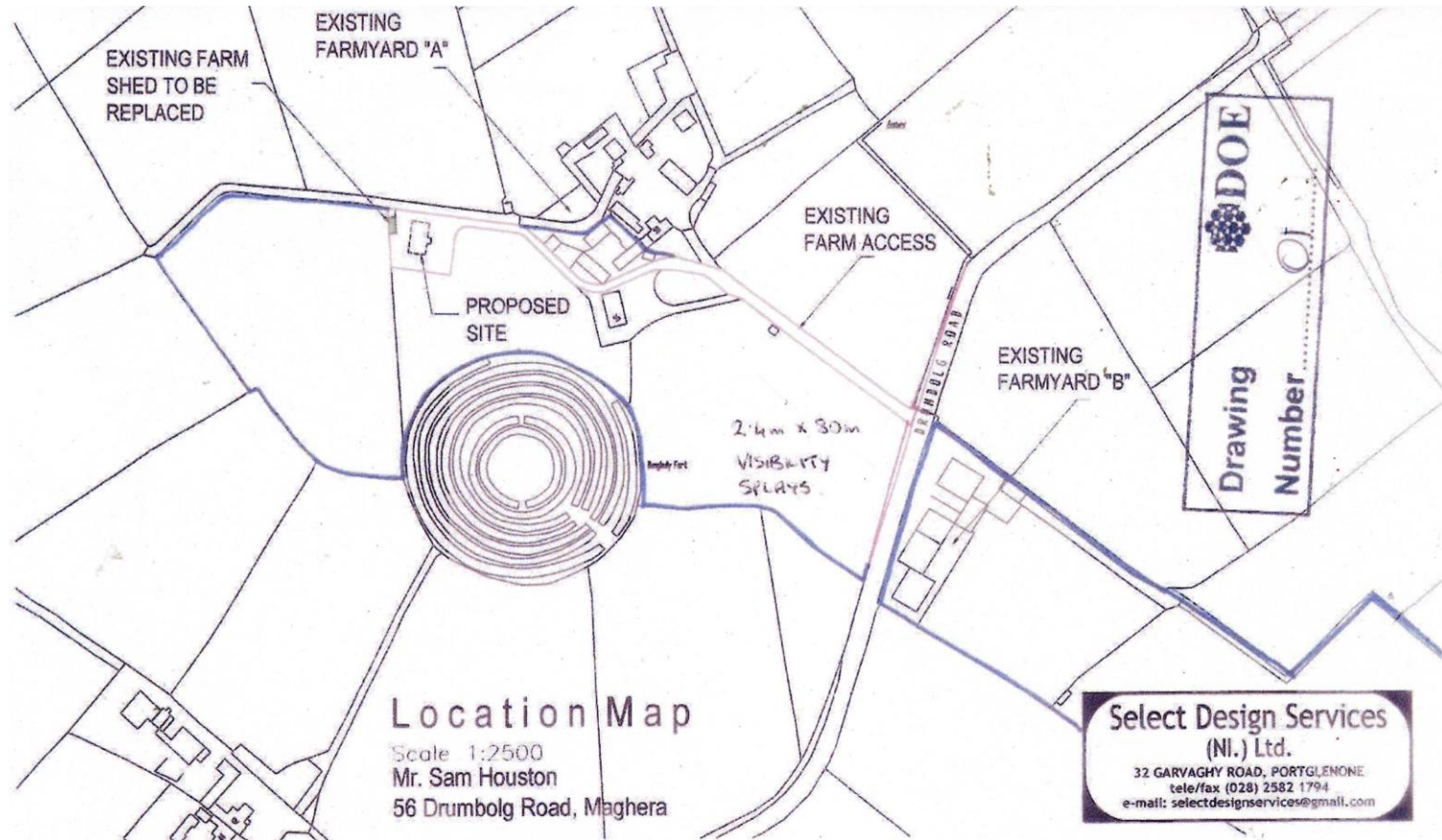


Figure 4: Architect's plan of proposed new dwelling



Plate 1: General view of the application site prior to the evaluation, looking south towards Dunglady Fort



Plate 2: One of the substantial banks within Dunglady Fort, looking south



Plate 3: One of the ditches within Dunlady Fort, looking west



Plate 4: View along one of the inner banks of Dunlady Fort, looking west



Plate 5: General view of the application site prior to the evaluation, looking west



Plate 6: General view of application site prior to the evaluation, looking east



Plate 7: Trench 1 following excavation to subsoil-level, looking west



Plate 8: Part of the north-facing section of Trench 1, looking south



Plate 9: Linear feature (C103/104) in Trench 1, looking west



Plate 10: Investigative section across linear feature (C103/104), looking north



Plate 11: Probable field drain (C105/106) in Trench 1, looking west



Plate 12: Trench 2 following excavation to subsoil level and showing linear feature (C203/204), looking west



Plate 13: North-facing section of Trench 2, looking south



Plate 14: Linear feature (C203/204) in Trench 2, looking west



Plate 15: Investigative section through linear feature (C203/204), looking south



Plate 16: Trench 3 following excavation to subsoil level, looking west



Plate 17: Part of the north-facing section of Trench 3, looking south



Plate 18: Trench 4 following excavation to subsoil level, looking west



Plate 19: Part of the south-facing section of Trench 4, looking north