



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 250

**40M SOUTH-WEST OF 68 PHARIS ROAD
PHARIS
BALLYMONEY
COUNTY ANTRIM**

LICENCE NO.: AE/12/101E

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 40m south-west of 68 Pharis Road, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim

Townland: Pharis

SMR No. : ANT 018:071

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: D 0639 2583

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/12/101E

Planning Ref / No. : D/2012/0068/O

Dates of Monitoring: 12th October 2012

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 40m to the south-west of 68 Pharis Road, Pharis, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim in response to a planning application for a farm dwelling and garage. The application site is close to the site of a 19th century graveyard known as the 'graveyard field' (NISMR ANT 018:071). The evaluation consisted of four mechanically-excavated test trenches 1.5m wide and ranging in length 20.0-25.0m. No remains of archaeological significance were uncovered during the course of the evaluation and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out, as the development does not pose a threat to significant archaeological remains.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Eight trenches each 1.5m wide and 20.0-25.0m long

Current Land Use: Agricultural

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a new farm dwelling and garage is located 11.0km east of Ballymoney and 7.5km south of Armoy in Co. Antrim (Figure 1). The site is in the adjacent field to the site of a graveyard (Plate 1) listed in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR). The site is named in the NISMR as the 'graveyard field' (NISMR ANT 018:071). There are no visible remains of the site (Plate 1) and no bones have been found there in recent times- according to the NISMR the last find was around 50 years ago.

The application site covers an area of about 0.25 hectares in the eastern corner of a large field approximately 1.2 hectares in size (Plates 2-4). The site is bounded to the east by a ditch, beyond which is an existing dwelling house. To the south is a fence, beyond which is another dwelling house. The northern and western sides are unenclosed. The field is bounded by post-and-wire fences interspersed with mature trees. It was recently used for growing hay to produce silage.

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

Excavation

The licence application and research design for the site proposed the excavation of five evaluative trenches across the site. On the day of the evaluation, following discussion with the client and his agent, it was decided that four trenches were adequate to cover the area of the house and associated groundworks. These were located in the eastern corner of the site, where the proposed house is to be located. The trenches were each 1.5m wide and 20.0-25.0m long (Figure 3). Each was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at an average depth of 0.35m.

Trench 1

Trench 1 ran parallel with the easternmost site boundary and was 6.0m to the west of it (3.0m to the west of the ditch). The trench was 1.5m wide and 20.0m long (Plates 5 and 6). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench 1 (C101) consisted of mid to dark brown humic clay loam up to 0.20m thick. It contained small rounded grits around 3mm in diameter. Below this was a cultivation soil (C102) consisting of dark brown loamy clay. The layer contained small sub to well-rounded grits around 3mm wide. The layer was up to 0.25m thick and contained no finds. Following the removal of the cultivation soil a linear field drain was visible, cut into the subsoil. The cut of the feature (C103) ran north-west/south-east across the trench (Plate 7). It was 0.30m wide. It was filled with sub-angular and sub-rounded stones which were 150mm long on average (C104). There were no other features visible in the subsoil of Trench 1 (C105) which consisted of brownish orange boulder clay, the surface of which was encountered at a depth of 0.35m.

Trench 2

Trench 2 ran parallel to Trench 1 and was located 5.0m to the west of it. The trench was 1.5m wide and 24.0m long (Plates 8 and 9). The uppermost deposit in Trench 2 consisted of the sod and topsoil layer (C201) which was a dark brown humic loamy clay containing small rounded grits up to 2mm wide. The layer was 0.10m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil consisting of dark brown loamy clay with small sub-rounded inclusions up to 5mm wide. The layer was 0.20m thick. Below the cultivation layer was the subsoil (C203) which in Trench 2 consisted of heterogeneous boulder clay ranging in colour from orange to grey to brown. There were no features in the subsoil which was encountered at a depth of 0.30m.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located 5.0m to the west of Trench 2 and ran parallel to it. The trench was 1.5m wide and 23.0m long (Plates 10 and 11). The uppermost deposit consisted of the sod and topsoil layer (C301) which was a dark brown humic loamy clay. It contained small round inclusions 3mm in diameter. The layer was 0.05-0.10m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (C302) consisting of dark brown loamy clay. It contained small sub-rounded to rounded inclusions around 3mm in diameter. The layer was 0.25m thick and contained some 20th century pottery. Below the cultivation soil was the subsoil (C303) which consisted of heterogeneous boulder clay which varied in colour from orange to brown to grey. There were no finds or features of archaeological interest in Trench 3.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located 5.0m to the west of Trench 3 and ran parallel to it. It was also 1.0m from the southernmost field boundary. The trench was 1.5m wide and 25.0m long (Plates 12 and 13). The sod and topsoil layer (C401) consisted of mid brown humic loamy clay up to 0.10m thick. It contained small rounded inclusions around 2mm diameter. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (C402) consisting of mid brown loamy clay up to 0.25m thick. The layer contained some sherds of 20th century pottery. Below the cultivation layer was the boulder clay subsoil (C403) which, like in the other trenches, was heterogeneous in nature and orangeish grey in colour. There were no features in the subsoil of 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: _____

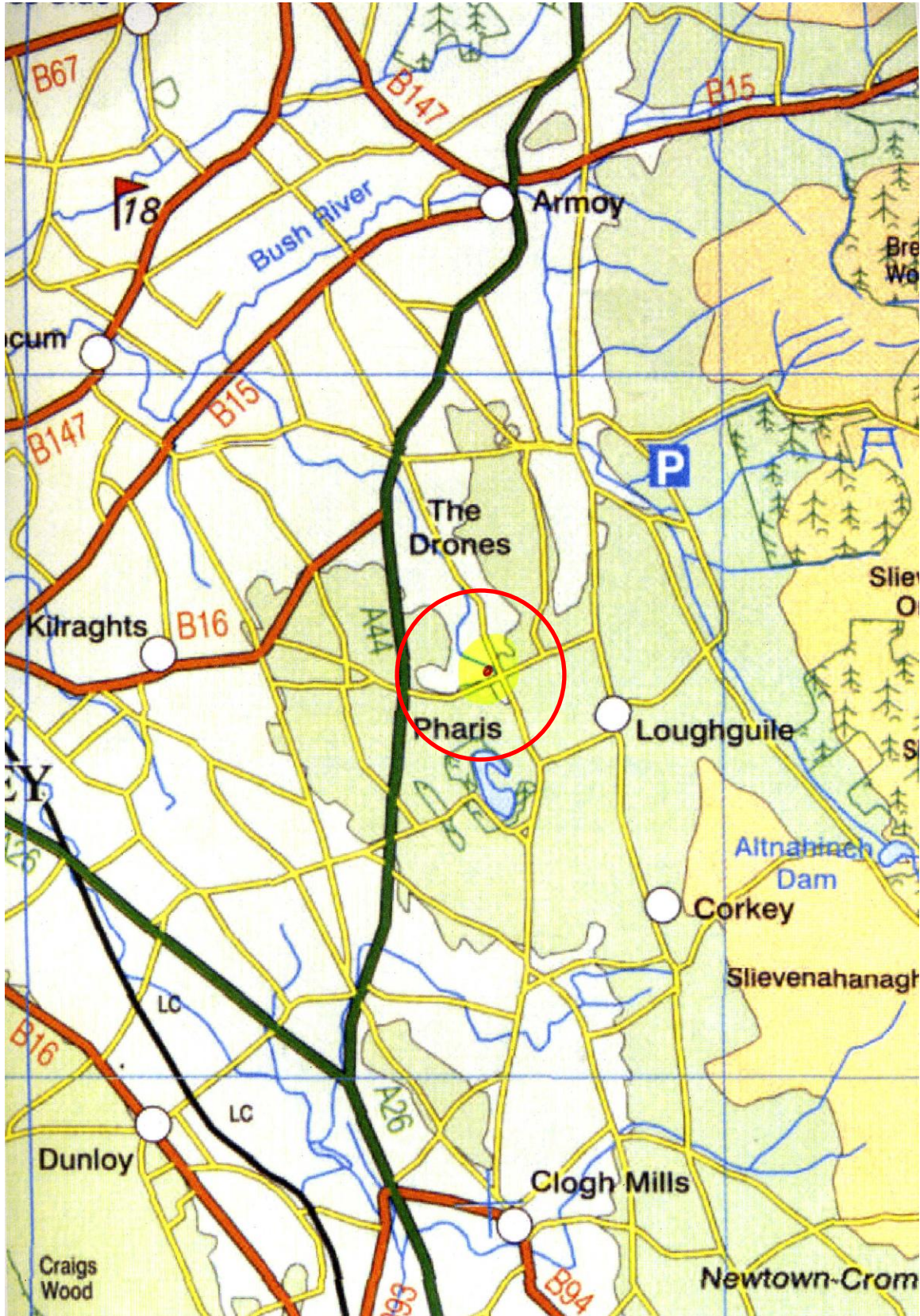


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the site (circled in red)

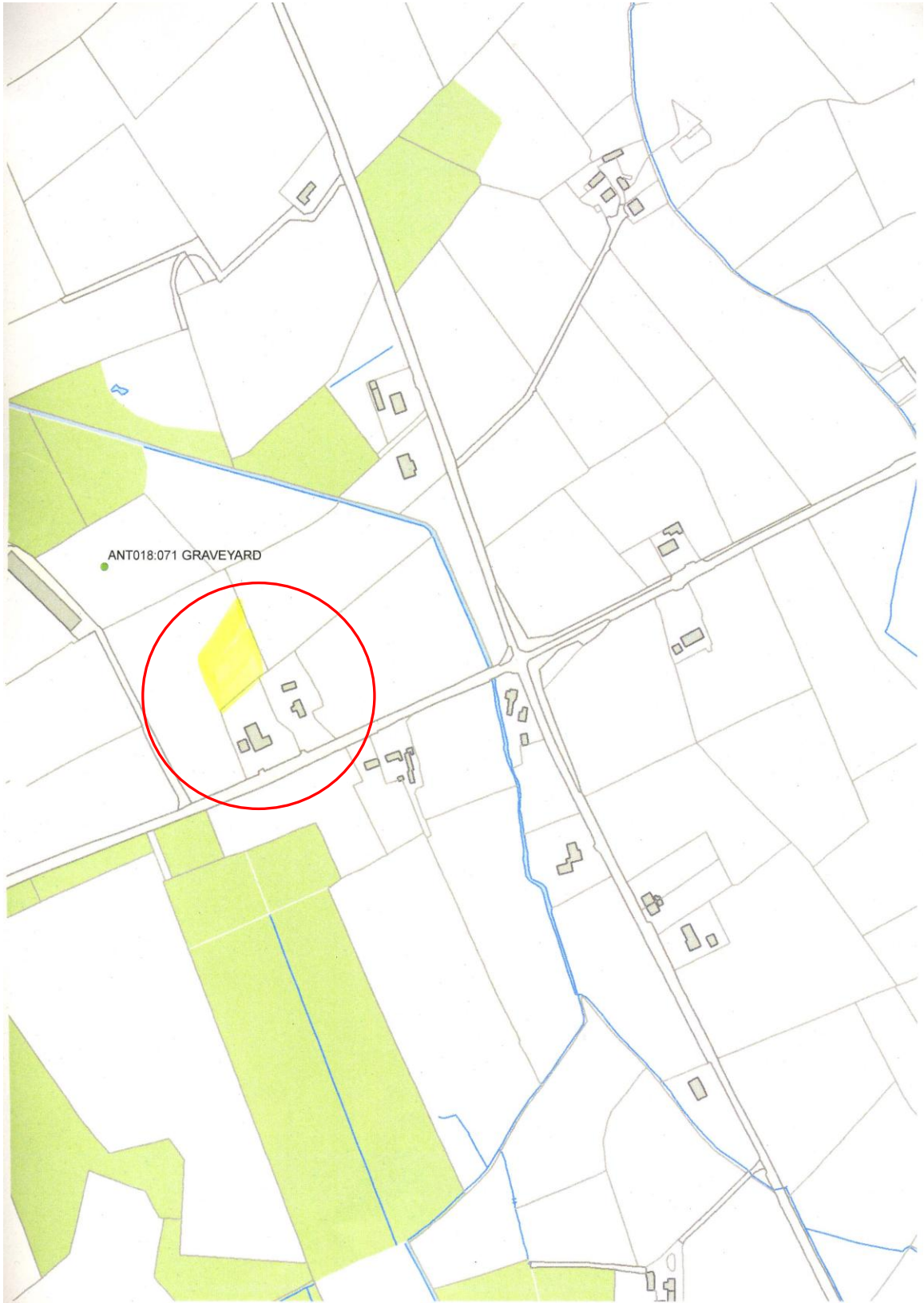


Figure 2: Detailed map showing the location of the site (circled in red) with the graveyard field to the north-west

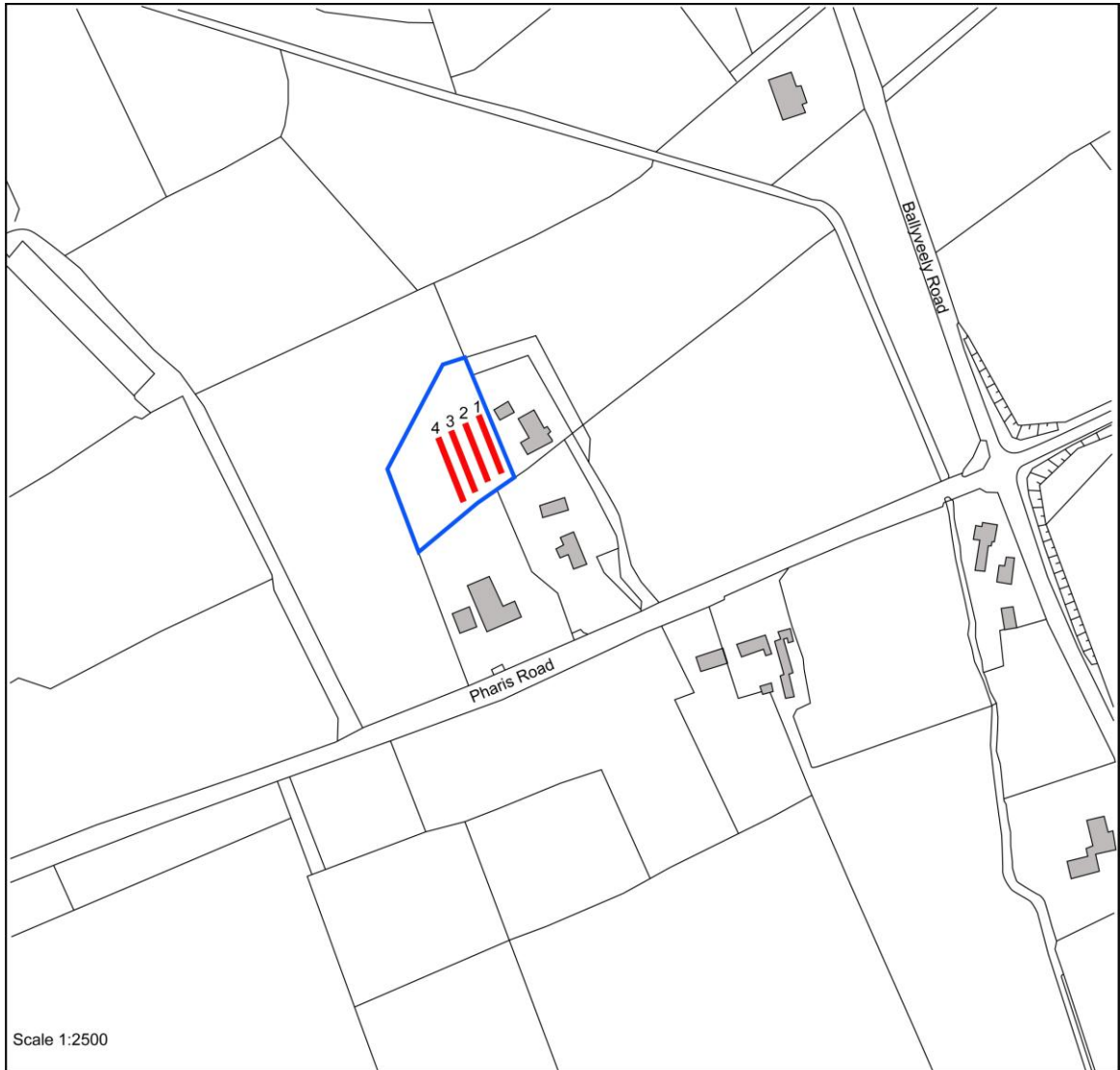


Figure 3: Site plan showing location of test trenches



Plate 1: The 'Graveyard Field' (NISMR ANT 018:071), looking north



Plate 2: General view of site prior to evaluation, looking north



Plate 3: General view of site prior to evaluation, looking north-east



Plate 4: General view of site prior to evaluation, looking south-west



Plate 5: Trench 1, following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 6: East-facing section of Trench 1, looking west



Plate 7: The field drain (C103/104) in Trench 1, looking north



Plate 8: Trench 2, following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 9: East-facing section of Trench 2, looking west



Plate 10: Trench 3, following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 11: East-facing section of Trench 3, looking west



Plate 12: Trench 4, following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 13: West-facing section of Trench 4, looking east