



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 267

**SITE AT 48 DRUMGOOLAND ROAD
CLOGHSKELT
COUNTY DOWN**

LICENCE NO.: AE/13/120E

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 48 Drumgooland Road

Townland: Cloghskelt

SMR No. : DOW 035:039

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.:

County: Down

Excavation Licence No. : AE/13/120E

Planning Ref / No. : Q/2013/0054/F

Dates of Monitoring: 27th June 2013

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 48 Drumgooland Road, Cloghskelt, Co. Down in response to a planning application for a replacement dwelling. The proposed development site is close to a Bronze Age cemetery and there is also a standing stone in the area. Three trenches were excavated at the site, ranging in length from 34.0-35.0m. No finds or features of archaeological interest were found in any of the trenches and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological mitigation is undertaken.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of three test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' (toothless) bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Five trenches each 2.0m wide and ranging 34.0-35.0m in length.

Current Land Use: Wasteland

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site in Cloghskelt townland, Co. Down. The application site, for a proposed replacement dwelling, was located 2.5km to the east of Katesbridge. The site lies at a height of around 110m above sea level, with good views to the west and south-west, as far as the Mourne Mountains. It is accessed by a long lane off the Drumgoland Road, being approximately 30m to the west of the road. The site consists of a small meadow, currently waist-high with grass and wild flowers (Plates 1 and 2). There are mature trees and shrubs on the eastern, northern and north-western sides. Along the south-eastern side is a grassed-over spoil heap. To the south is an overgrown laneway leading to a derelict 19th century dwelling house which occupies the south-western corner of the site (Plate 3). The meadow appears to slope gently from east to west, although due to the height of the vegetation this is difficult to see, and the area to the west is waterlogged.

The evaluation was requested due to the site's proximity to a Bronze Age cemetery (NISMR No. DOW 035:039) that was excavated in the early 1970s by Laurence Flanagan of the Ulster Museum. Mr Flanagan noted the existence of 24 graves of several forms, many of which were cist graves. Early Bronze Age pottery including bowls and urns were found during the excavation. The burial site was previously unknown and discovered during ploughing. It was approximately 70m to the north-east of the proposed development site. There is also a standing stone around 180m to the north-east of the site (NISMR No. DOW 035:051). An evaluation carried out by the author in 2006 (CAF MR88) at a site in the same townland, 400m to the north, and also in proximity to a standing stone, found no remains of archaeological significance.

The evaluation was requested by Kevin Maguire of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit, as part of a planning application for a replacement dwelling.

Excavation

Three test trenches were excavated at the site in the approximate positions shown on Figure 3. The trenches were each 2.0m wide and ranged in length 34.0-35.0m. The trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.6m.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located approximately 1.0m from the laneway and 7m from the easternmost field boundary. The trench was 2.0m wide and 34.0m long (Plates 4 and 5). The uppermost layer in Trench 1 was the sod and topsoil layer (C101) which consisted of mid brown clay loam with some small sub-angular stones of around 3mm in length. The layer was a maximum of 0.2m thick. Below the topsoil

was a thin layer of dark brown, humic loam (C102) at the south-eastern end of the trench. This layer probably represented a localized accumulation of relict topsoil. It was 0.05m thick. Below it was a cultivation layer (C103) consisting of mid orange brown silty clay loam. The layer contained angular pieces of fragmented bedrock and was 0.2m thick.

Below the cultivation layer and cut into the subsoil was a possible drain (C104/105) running north-west/south-east along the trench. It was 0.5m wide and filled with large angular stones up to 200mm long. The subsoil (C106) in Trench 1 varied from shattered bedrock to boulder clay. It was relatively shallow- the surface was encountered at an average depth of 0.4m. A large, angular stone set into the subsoil towards the northern end of the trench was further investigated (Plate 6) but found to be non-archaeological in nature and there were no other features of archaeological interest in the trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located 2.0m to the south-west of Trench 1 and 2.0m from the laneway (stepped back due to the presence of existing services). The trench was 2.0m wide and 34.0m long (Plates 7 and 8). The uppermost layer in Trench 2 was the sod and topsoil layer (C201) which consisted of mid brown clay loam with small sub-angular stones of average size 3mm. The layer was up to 0.2m thick. Below the topsoil was a cultivation soil (C202) consisting of mid orange brown silty clay loam. The layer was 0.2m thick and contained fragments of black-glazed earthenware as well as cream ware. The cultivation soil overlay the subsoil (C203) which consisted of boulder clay and shattered bedrock, the surface of which was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.4m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance associated with Trench 2.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located 2.0m to the south-west of Trench 2 and 3.0m from the laneway (again stepped back due to the presence of existing services). The trench was 2.0m wide and 35.0m long (Plates 9 and 10). The uppermost layer in Trench 3 was the sod and topsoil layer (C301) which consisted of mid brown clay loam up to 0.3m thick. Below this was a cultivation layer consisting of mid orange brown silty clay loam (C302) also up to 0.3m thick. The subsoil (C303) in Trench 3 was similar to that in the other trenches, varying from boulder clay to shattered bedrock. The surface of it was encountered at a depth of 0.6m.

No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded during the course of the evaluation at Cloghskeit. It is therefore recommended that no further work is carried out at the site. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual 'Excavations' bulletin.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

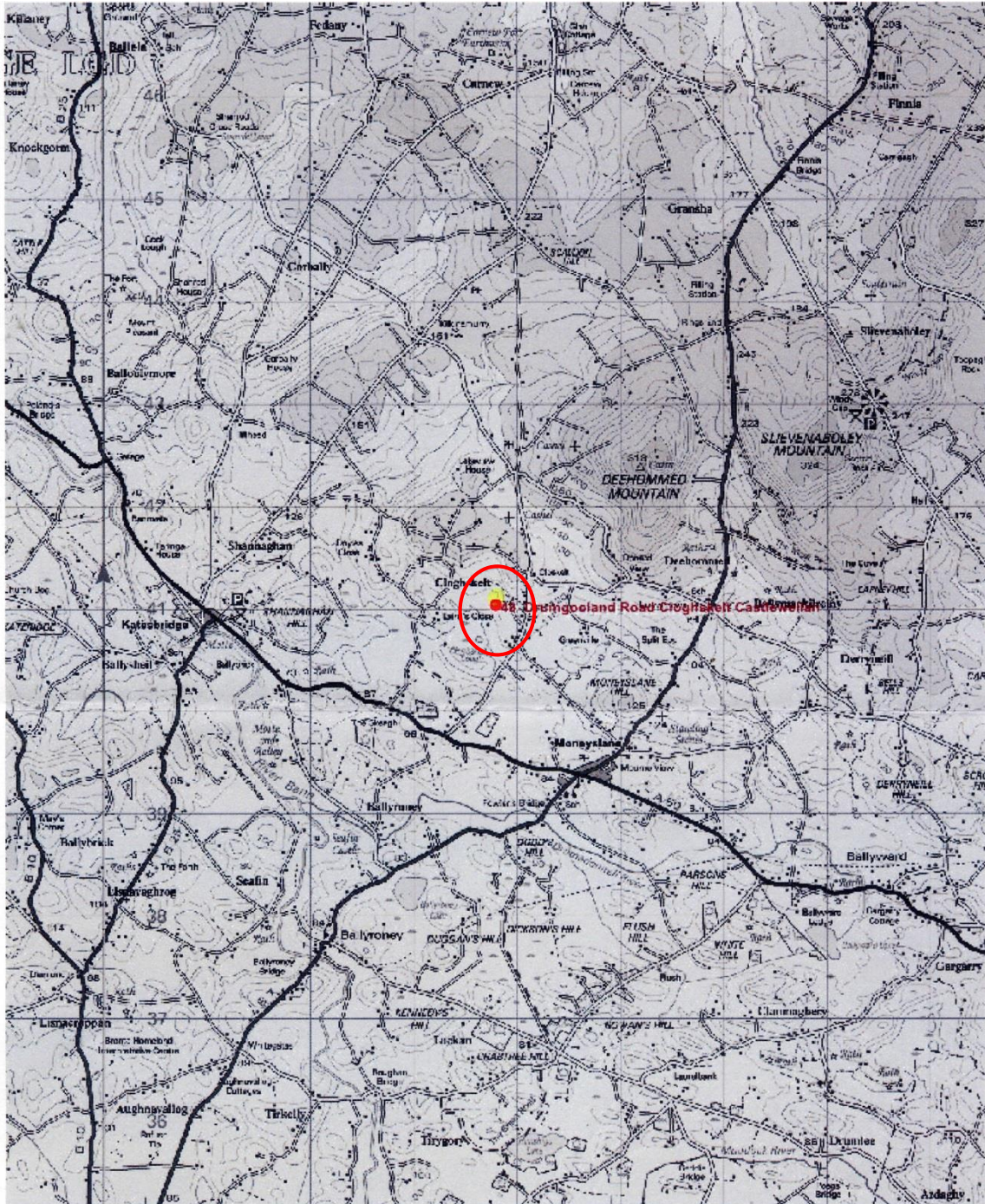
Photographs:

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

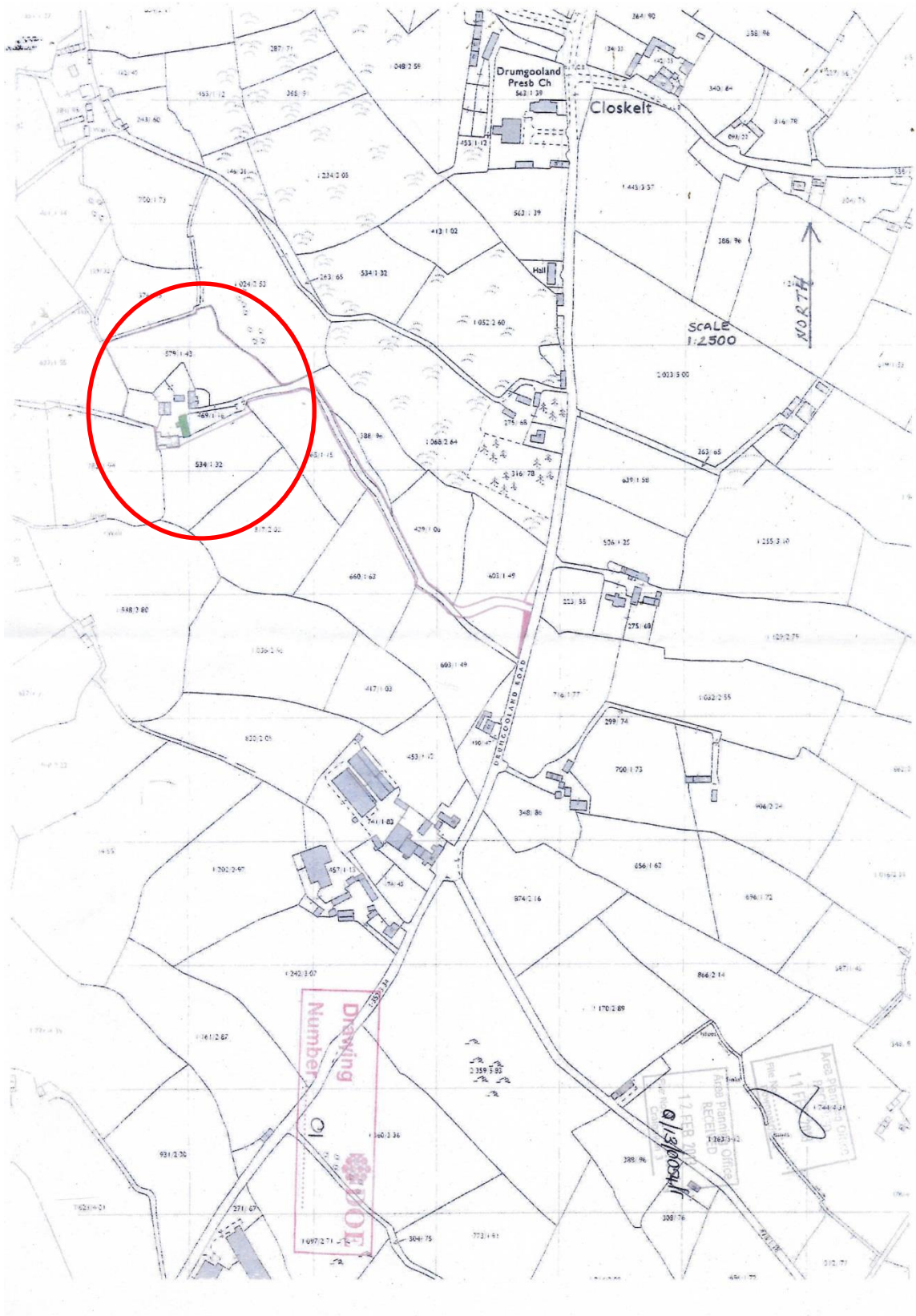


Figure 2: Detailed map showing the location of the site (circled in red)



Figure 3: Site plan showing approximate location of test trenches



Figure 4: Architect's plan showing proposed site layout



Plate 1: General view of the site prior to evaluation, looking east



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



Plate 3: The dwelling due to be replaced, looking west



Plate 4: Trench 1 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 5: West-facing section of Trench 1 (part of), looking east



Plate 6: Angular stone in Trench 1, looking south



Plate 7: Trench 2 following excavation to subsoil level, looking north



Plate 8: West-facing section in Trench 2 (part of), looking east



Plate 9: Trench 3 following excavation to subsoil level, looking south



Plate 10: West-facing section in Trench 3 (part of), looking east