



**Monitoring Report No. 038**

**DRUMACANVER  
KEADY  
COUNTY ARMAGH**

**LICENCE NO.: AE/05/180**

**NAOMI CARVER**

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* Drumacaver Road

*Townland:* Drumacaver

*SMR No. :* ARM 015:040

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other                       [delete as applicable]

*Grid Ref.:* H 8052 3775

*County:* Armagh

*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/05/180

*Planning Ref / No. :* O/2003/1130/O

*Dates of Monitoring:* 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006

*Archaeologist(s) Present:* Naomi Carver

*Brief Summary:*

The archaeological evaluation was carried out at Drumacaver Road, Keady, County Armagh as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. The application site is located in the vicinity of a possible church site ('Kilnacarrick') discussed by Canon J.B. Leslie in 1911 (SMR No. ARM 015:040). Although no visible remains survive on the ground, the location of a building shown on the 1860 Ordnance Survey map coincides with Leslie's description of the church and graveyard. The evaluation consisted of three test trenches across the proposed footprint of the house. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted and therefore it is recommended that no further work is carried out.

*Type of monitoring:* Mechanical excavator

*Size of area opened:*

Three trenches:      Trench One (2.0m x 28.0m)  
                                    Trench Two (2.0m x 25.0m)  
                                    Trench Three (2.0m x 25.0m)

*Current Land Use:* Agricultural

*Intended Land Use:* Residential

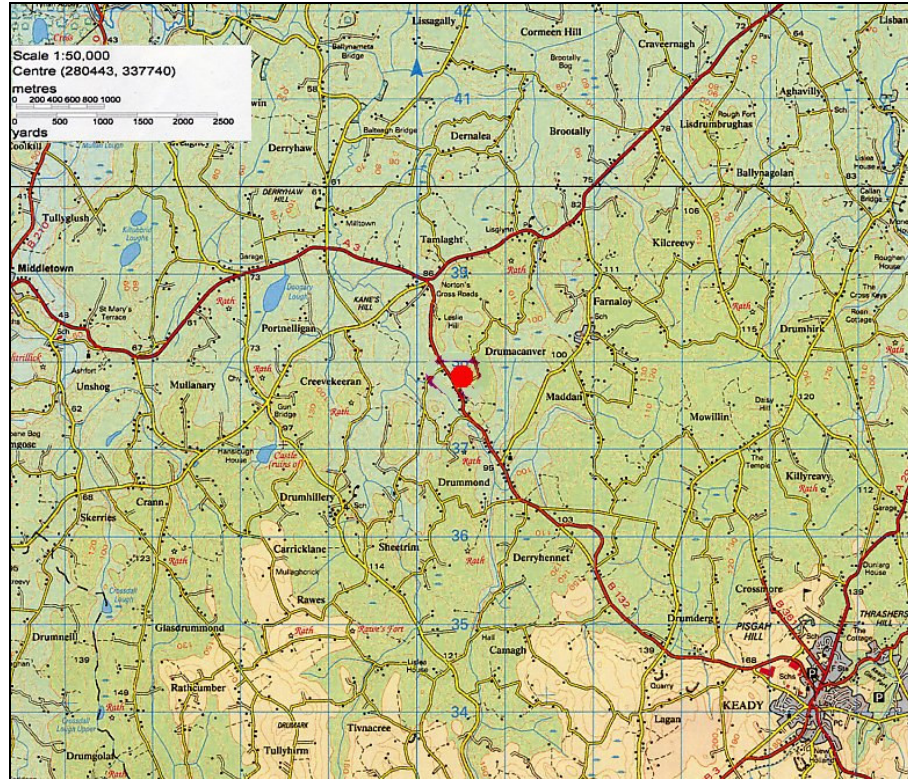


Figure One: Map showing location of site (red dot)

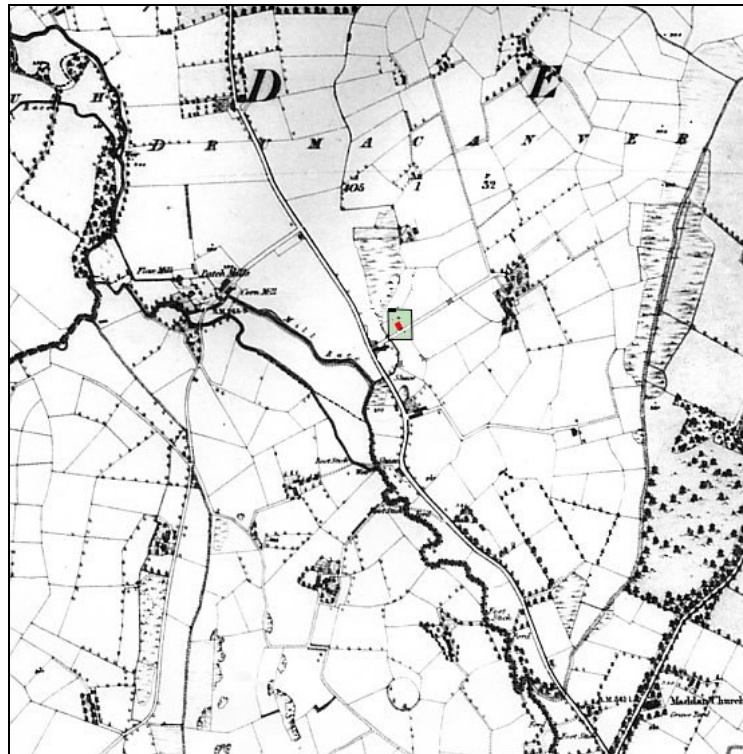


Figure Two: 1860 Ordnance Survey map showing possible church (highlighted)

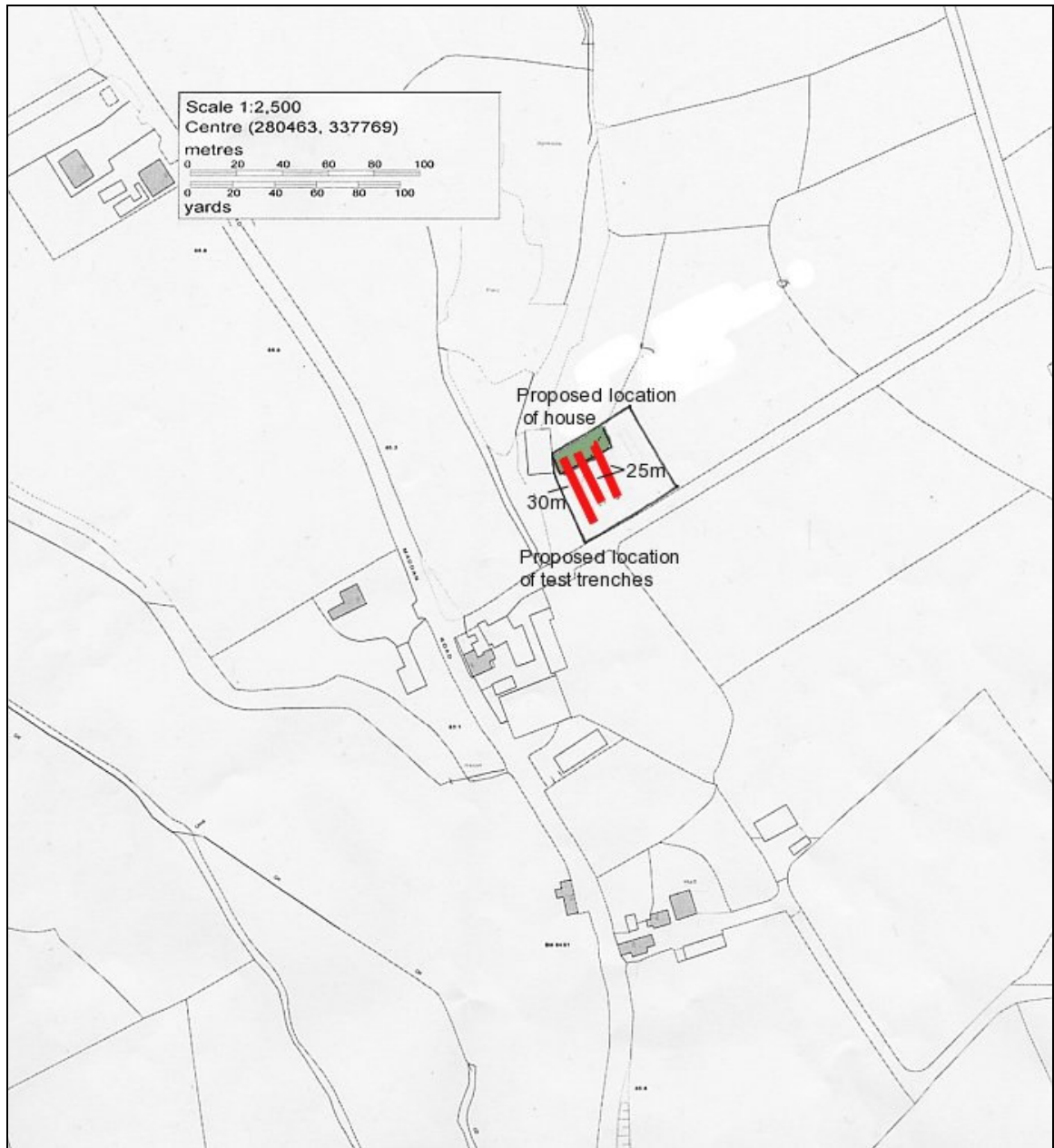


Figure Three: Location of test trenches (numbered- from west to east- One to Three)

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

Drumacanver Road is located approximately 5km north-west of the town of Keady in County Armagh (Figure One). The site consists of a field approximately 3.5 acres in size, bounded on the south-eastern side by the Drumacanver Road. Immediately to the north-west is a large barn and also a yard containing farm machinery (Plate One). On all other sides the site is surrounded by agricultural land. The local topography is varied and the site is in an area of drumlins. The field in which the site is located slopes down to the south-west. The field is poorly drained with reeds growing over much of it, and is quite wet underfoot.

On the 1860 edition of the Ordnance Survey map there is a building marked in the location of the site. In 1911 Canon J.B Leslie noted that there was a church and graveyard known as 'Kilnacarrick' in the townland of Drumacanver. His description of its location seems to match the location of the building on the Ordnance Survey map although there are no visible remains on the ground today.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new house. The footprint of the proposed dwelling was approximately 10m by 25m. It was recommended that three test trenches (Trenches One, Two and Three: Figure Three) were excavated across the footprint.

### *Excavation*

The test trenches were excavated mechanically using a smooth-edged bucket operated on a back-acting mechanical digger. It was not possible to excavate the full length of Trench One due to insufficient access for the mechanical digger. The proposed trench was to be 30m in length but the actual excavated area was 28m in length.

### *Trench One*

Trench One was located in the south-western part of the field, close to the field entrance. The trench was approximately 28m by 2m with its long axis orientated north-west/south-east. The trench was excavated to the natural subsoil, a depth of around 0.5m (Plate Two). The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was less than 0.1m deep and consisted of mid to dark brown silty clay. Below this layer was the ploughsoil (Context No. 102), which consisted of mid brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions. The ploughsoil was, on average, 0.2 to 0.3m deep, although at the northern end it was up to 0.5m deep. There were no finds associated with the ploughsoil (Context No. 102). Below the ploughsoil, approximately 6m from the northern end of the trench was a localised deposit of compact silty loam (Context No. 103). Elsewhere in the trench the ploughsoil (Context No. 102) lay directly above the natural subsoil (Context No. 104). The deposit of compact silty loam (Context No. 103) was greyish brown in colour and contained charcoal inclusions and brick fragments. This deposit was between 0.05 and 0.10m deep and may have been a relict trace of the pre-ploughing soil profile. It extended over a small area, approximately 2m by 2m. This deposit overlay the subsoil (Context No. 104) which in

this area was greyish orange glacial till, mostly clay but sandy in parts. There were no archaeological features cut into the surface of the subsoil.

### *Trench Two*

Trench Two was located approximately 3m to the north-east of Trench One. The trench was 25m in length and 2m wide, with its long axis aligned north-west/south-east. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) consisted of mid to dark brown silty clay which was less than 0.1m deep. Below this layer (Context No. 201) was the ploughsoil (Context No. 202), which consisted of mid brown silty clay and was between 0.3 and 0.4m in depth. Two sherds of Post-Medieval pottery were found within this matrix. The ploughsoil (Context No. 202) lay immediately above the natural subsoil (Context No. 203) of orange glacial till (Plate Three). There were no archaeological features cut into the subsoil.

### *Trench Three*

Trench Three was located approximately 3m to the north-east of Trench Two. It was approximately 25m (north-west/south-east) by 2m (north-east/south-west). The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) consisted of mid brown silty clay which was between 0.05 and 0.10m deep. Below this layer was the ploughsoil (Context No. 302), a deposit of mid brown silty clay, between 0.3 and 0.4m in depth and containing two sherds of Post-Medieval pottery. The ploughsoil (Context No. 302) overlay the glacial till subsoil (Context No. 303) within which there were no archaeological features cut (Plate Four).

### *Discussion*

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the three test trenches excavated at the site. No archaeological features were evident in the subsoil and only four small sherds of pottery were recovered. The pottery was nineteenth century in date (Ruairí O Baoill, *pers. comm.*). There was no evidence of the remains of the church of Kilnacarrick and no suggestion that the construction of a new dwelling at Drumacnaver Road would disturb archaeology.

### *Recommendations*

It is recommended that no further work of an archaeological nature is carried out at Drumacnaver Road. No publication is required save for a short summary in the annual 'Excavations' bulletin, for 2006.

**Archive:**

*Finds:*

The sherds of Post-Medieval pottery recovered during the evaluation are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

*Photographs:*

Twelve digital images were taken during the evaluation (DRM061-DRM0612). The images are digitally archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

*Plans / Drawings:* N/A

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Plate One: General view of site (looking south-west)



Plate Two: General shot of Trench One, following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 104) level (looking north)





Plate Three: General view of Trench Two following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 203) level (looking north)



Plate Four: General view of Trench Three, following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 303) level (looking north)