Monitoring Report No. 44

Annaghad Road
Drumboy
Co. Armagh

AE/06/06

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Annaghad Road

Townland: Drumboy

SMR No.s: ARM 030:017 – Drumboy Rath
ARM 030:022 – mound

Grid Ref: 290232 311650

County: Armagh

Excavation License No: AE/06/06

Planning Ref / No.: P/2005/1097/O

Date of Monitoring: 31st January 2006

Archaeologist Present: Kara Ward

Brief Summary:
Five test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains.

Type of monitoring:
Excavation of five test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision

Size of area opened: Four trenches measuring 35m by 2m each and one trench measuring 30m by 2m.

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site is located 80-100m south of a scheduled rath and possible souterrain known as Drumboy Fort (ARM:030:017). Approximately 30m to the west of the site is a mound (ARM:030:033). It is thought to be the remains of a site known as 'The Moat' reported by the late T.G.F. Paterson, Curator of Armagh County Museum in the early twentieth century (Fig. 1). The proposed site is located on a steep south-facing slope in Drumboy townland (Fig. 1 and 2, Plate 1).

An archaeological evaluation was requested by EHS: Built Heritage to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 31st January 2006. Five test trenches were excavated as requested by the PHM Casework Officer, Stiofán Ó Cathmhaoil (Fig. 3). Four trenches measured 35m by 2m each and the fifth measured 30m by 2m. The fifth trench could not be excavated the full width of the field due to the presence of overhead electricity cables.

The stratigraphy of the test trenches is described below. The trenches are numbered 1-5 from north to south. The topsoil was deeper in the southernmost trenches which were located further down the slope. The topsoil was a uniform grey brown, clayey silt across the site.

In Trench 1 the topsoil (C101) was between 0.25m and 0.30m deep. The underlying subsoil (C102) was brownish grey clayey silt with small limestone inclusions (Plates 2 and 3).

The topsoil (C101) in Trench 2 had an average depth of 0.32m. The underlying subsoil (C102) was brownish grey clayey silt with limestone and decayed stone inclusions (Plates 4 and 5).

In Trench 3, the topsoil (C101) was up to 0.34m deep. The underlying subsoil (C102) was moist brownish grey clayey silt with limestone inclusions (Plates 6 and 7).

The topsoil (C101) in Trench 4 had an average depth of approximately 0.36m. The subsoil was moist brownish grey clayey silt with limestone inclusions (Plate 8 and 9).

In Trench 5, the topsoil (C101) had a depth of up to 0.34m. The underlying subsoil (C102) was brown grey clayey silt (Plates 10 and 11).

No finds or features of archaeological significance were apparent in any of the trenches.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs:. 13 digital images, held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed:_____ Date:_____

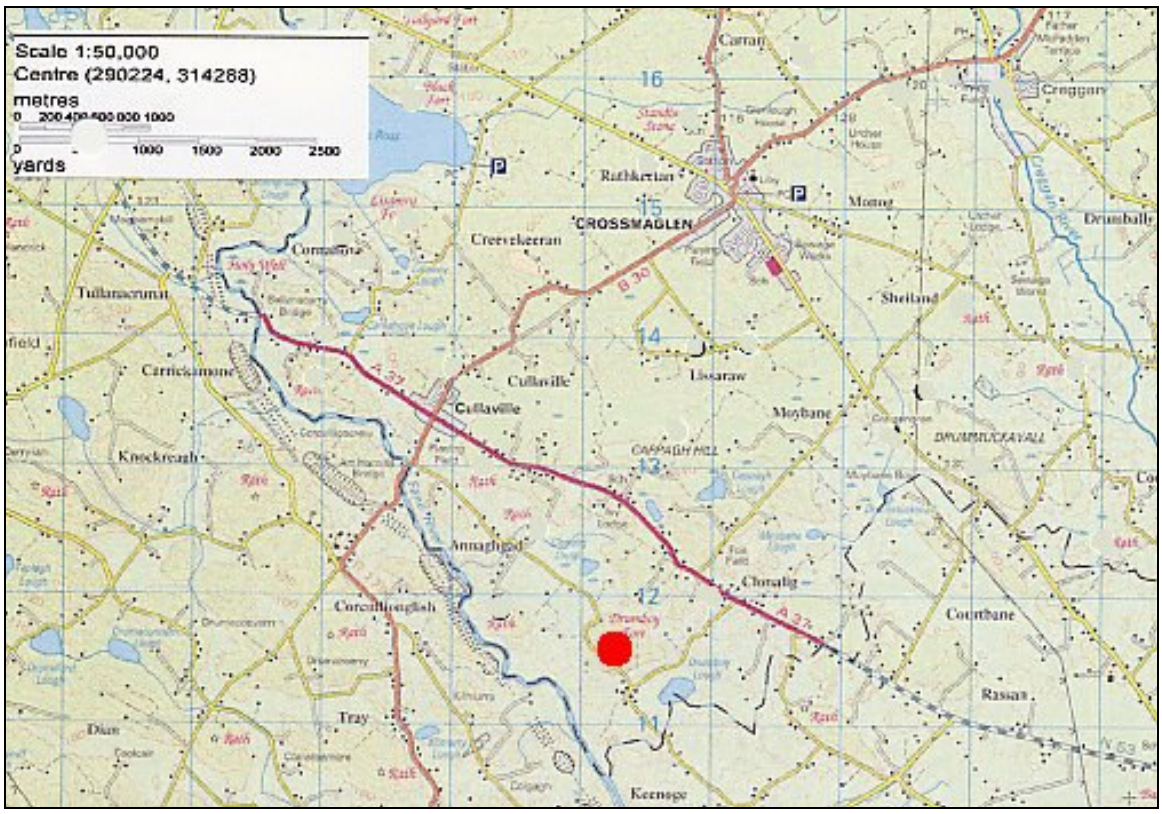

Fig. 1: 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map showing location of site (marked by red circle).

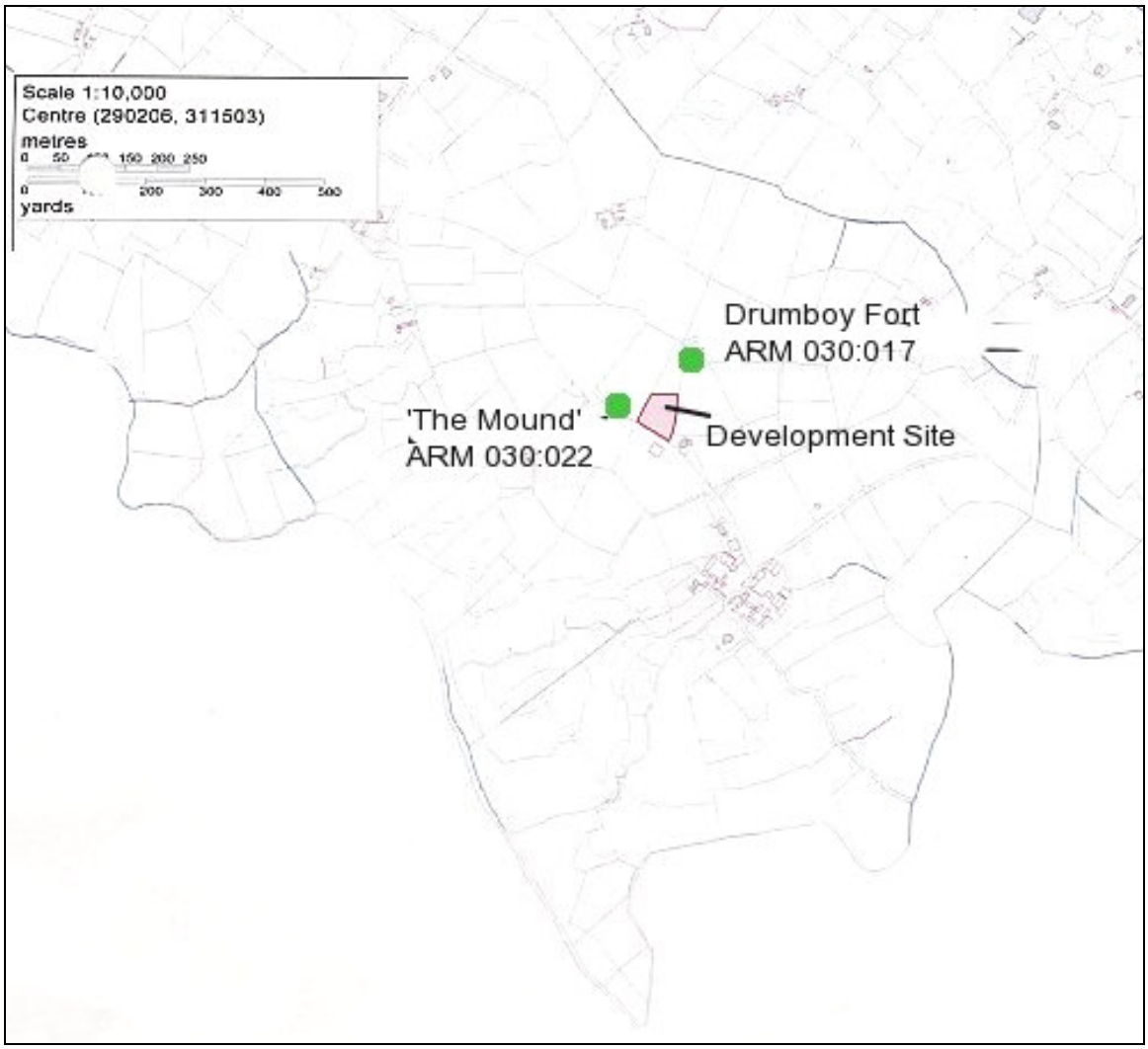

Fig. 2: 1:10,000 Map showing location of development site and archaeological monuments in immediate vicinity.

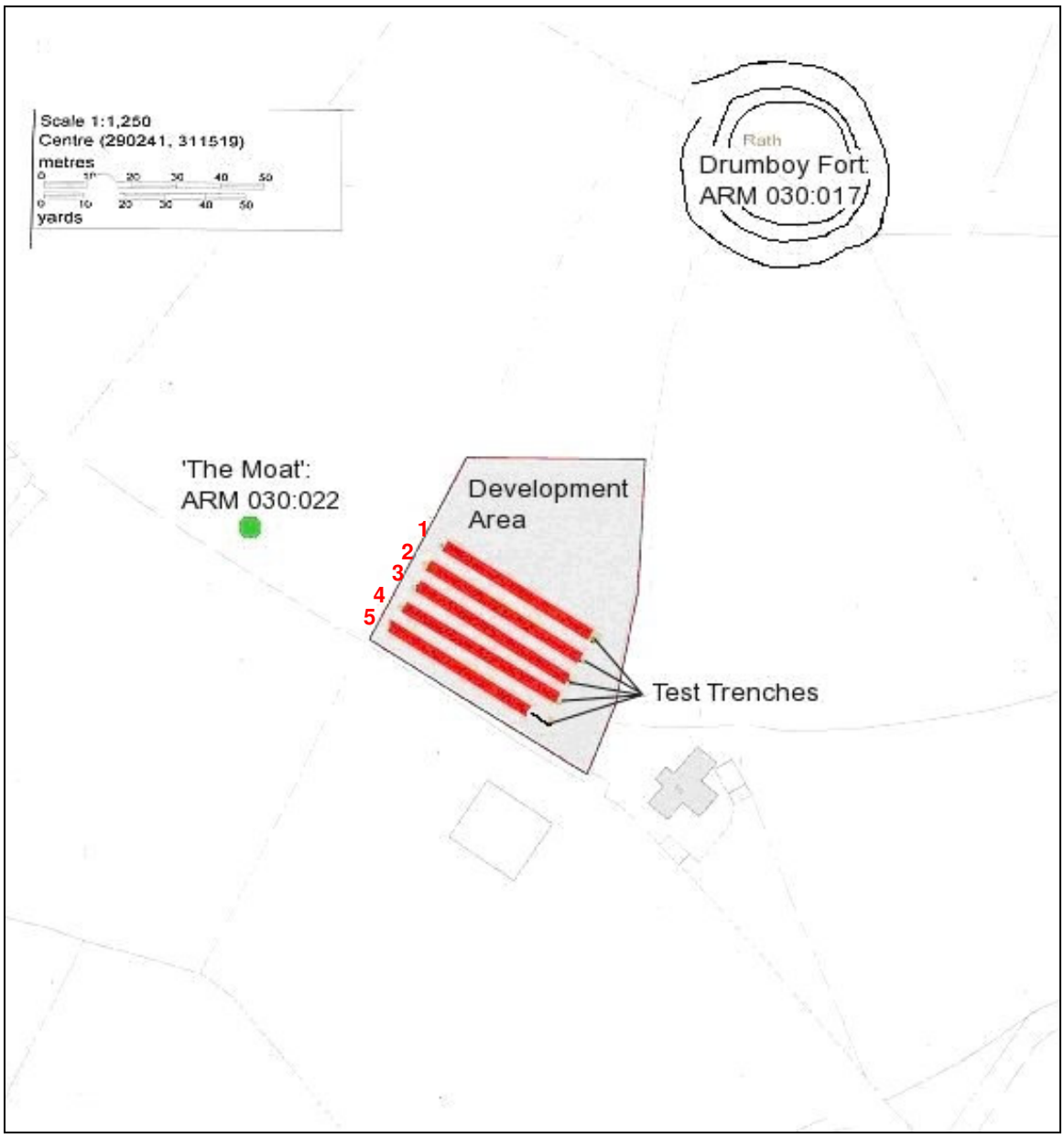

Fig. 3: 1:1250 Map showing location of test trenches.

Plate 1: View of proposed development from north

Plate 2: View of Trench 1 from the west

Plate 3: View of north-facing section in Trench 1

Plate 4: View of Trench 2 from the west

Plate 5: View of north-facing section in Trench 2

Plate 6: View of Trench 3 from the west

Plate 7: View of north-facing section in Trench 3

Plate 8: View of Trench 4 from the west

Plate 9: View of north-facing section in Trench 4

Plate 10: View of Trench 5 from the west

Plate 11: View of north-facing section in Trench 5