



Monitoring Report No. 64

**Newmills Road
Stughan/Bloomhill Demesne
Co. Tyrone**

AE/06/114

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Approx. 200m north-east of 33 Newmills Road

Townland: Stughan/Bloomhill Demesne

SMR No.: near TYR:046:033 and TYR:046:034

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: H81036905

County: Tyrone

Excavation Licence No: AE/06/114

Planning Ref / No.: M/2003/1282/O

Date of Monitoring: 24th May 2006

Archaeologist Present: Kara Ward

Brief Summary:

Three test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed development site is located near a number of undated enclosures (TYR:046:034, TYR:046:035 and TYR:046:020) and the ruins of Stughan Chapel (TYR:046:033). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in any of the trenches.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of three test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened: Three trenches; each measuring approximately 30m by 2m.

Current Land Use: pasture

Intended Land Use: residential

Account of the monitoring

A planning application for a private two-storey dwelling was made for a site approximately 200m north-east of 33 Newmills Road, Stughan/Bloomhill Demesne, Co. Tyrone. The proposed development site is in close proximity to a number of undated enclosures (TYR:046:034, TYR:046:035 and TYR :046:020) as well as the remains of Stughan Chapel (TYR:046:033) (Fig. 2). A previous evaluation carried out by Stiofán Ó Cathmhaoil on 1st July 2004 in the north-eastern part of the same field uncovered some archaeological remains. In his report, Stiofán states that a linear feature of potential archaeological significance was uncovered in Trench 3 (Ó Carhmhaoil, 2005).

An archaeological evaluation was requested by the Environment and Heritage Service: Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Paul Logue, to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains in the north-western corner of the field. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 24th May 2006. Three test trenches were excavated (Fig. 3) within the development site boundary. Each trench measured approximately 30m by 2m and a similar stratigraphic sequence was represented in all three of the trenches. The stratigraphy of the test trenches is described below:

The sod layer (C101) in Trench A was up to 0.07m deep. Underlying the sod was a layer of compact crushed stone (C102) which had been set down to consolidate the ground. This layer was only present in the first 9-10m from the western end of Trench A, the end closest to the gate, and this material was obviously meant to repair or prevent poaching damage by cattle. The layer of stone (C102) was present between 0.07m and 0.15m below ground level. Underlying the stone layer (C102), and directly underlying the sod layer (C101) in the rest of Trench A, was the original topsoil (C103) at a depth of between 0.15m and 0.42m below ground level. It was an orangey brown silty sand with inclusions of decayed stone. The topsoil (C103) was located immediately above the subsoil (C104) which was a light orangey brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions (Plates 1 and 2). A water pipe was broken at the western end of Trench A and consequently a small section was not excavated in the other two trenches to avoid breaking it again.

In Trench B the sod layer (C201) had a depth of up to 0.10m and directly overlay the topsoil (C203) which was an orangey brown silty sand with inclusions of decayed stone. The topsoil (C203) was located directly over the subsoil (C204) which was a light orangey brown silty sand with stone inclusions. The topsoil (C203) was present between 0.10m and 0.52m below ground level. A section between 9.0m and 11.4m from the western end of the trench was not excavated to avoid the waterpipe (Plates 3 and 4).

The sod layer (C301) in Trench C had a depth of up to 0.14m. Directly underlying this was the topsoil (C303) which was present between 0.14m and 0.56m. The topsoil (C303) in this trench was an orangey brown silty sand with inclusions of decayed stone, similar to the topsoil found in the other trenches. Underlying this was the subsoil (C304), a light orangey brown silty sand with stone inclusions. A section between 15.0m and 17.5m from the western end of the Trench was avoided due to the waterpipe (Plates 5 and 6).

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

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs: 9 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed: _____ Date: _____

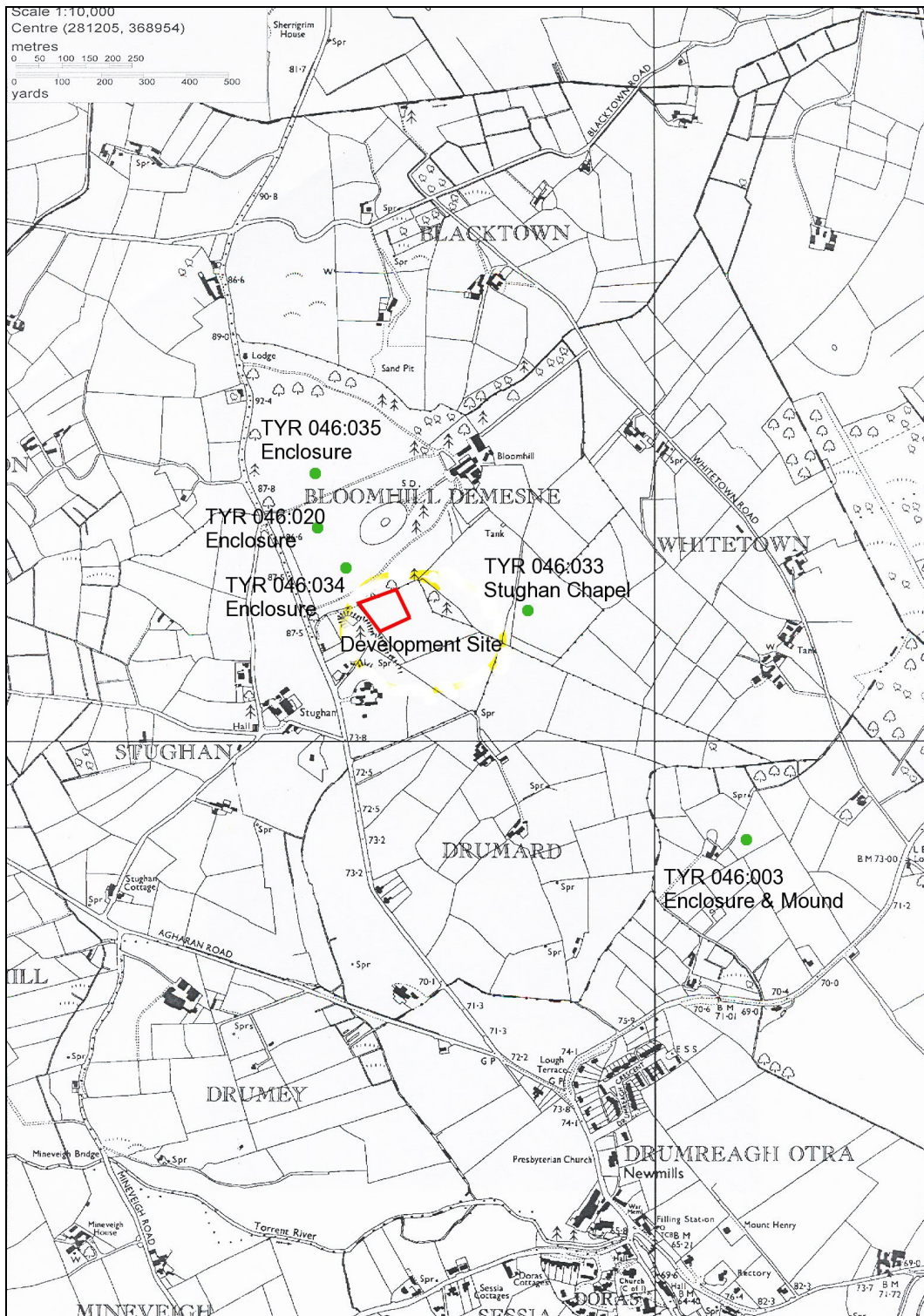


Fig. 2: Location of site (outlined in red) and archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity (green).

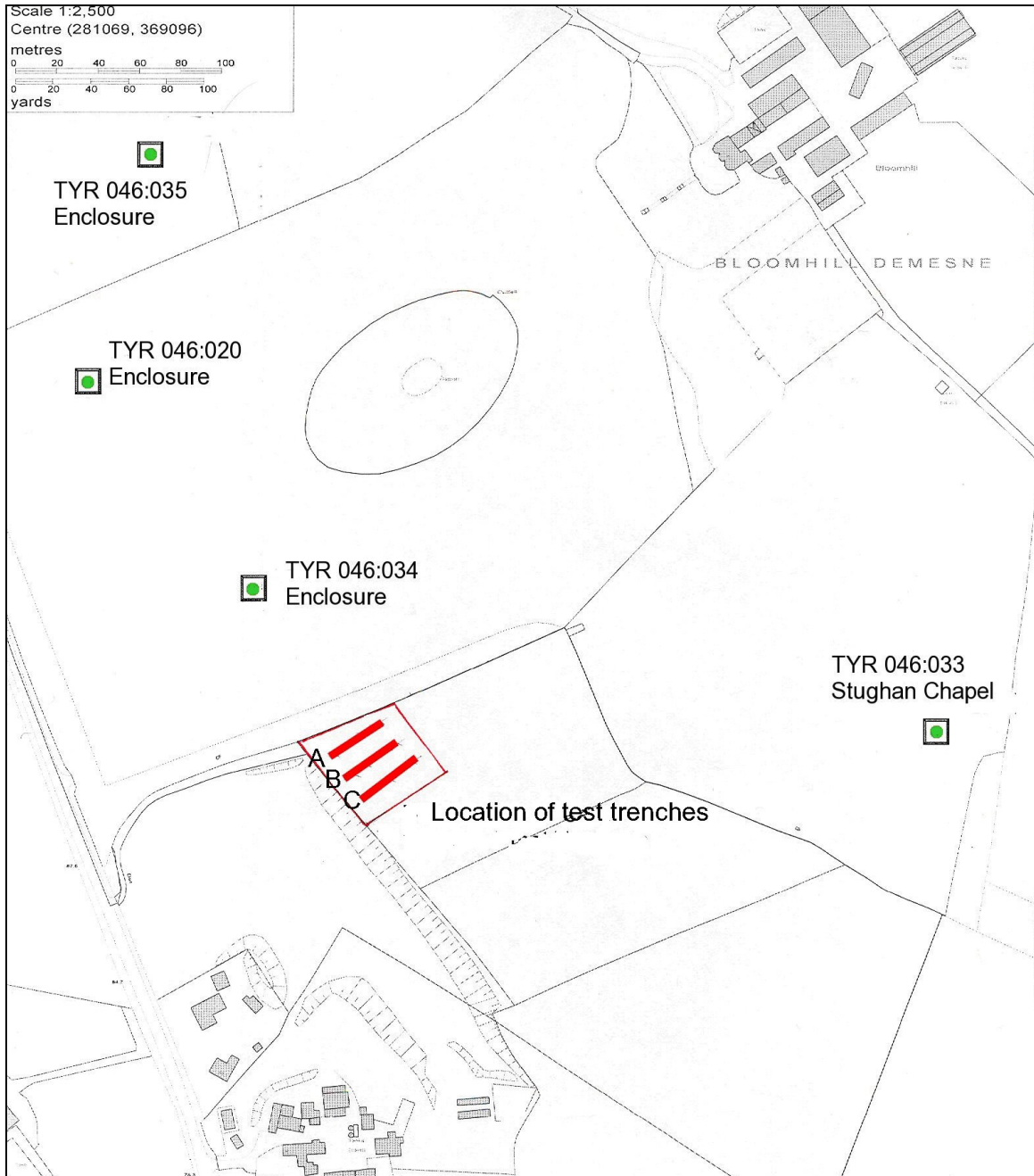


Fig. 3: Location of test trenches (marked in red).



Plate 1: View of Trench A from west, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C104).



Plate 2: View of south-facing section in Trench A, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C104).



Plate 3: View of Trench B from west, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C204).



Plate 4: View of north-facing section in Trench B, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C204).



Plate 5: View of Trench C from west, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C304).



Plate 6: View of north-facing section in Trench C, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C304).