



## **Monitoring Report No. 65**

**Drumintee Road  
Meigh  
Co. Armagh**

**AE/06/110**

Kara Ward

## Site Specific Information

*Site Address:* Adjacent to and south-west of 26 Drumintee Road

*Townland:* Meigh

*SMR No.:* ARM:029:035

*State Care*    *Scheduled*    *Other* ✓

*Grid Ref:* J05182006

*County:* Armagh

*Excavation Licence No.:* AE/06/110

*Planning Ref / No.:* P/2004/3185/O

*Date of Monitoring:* 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006

*Archaeologist Present:* Kara Ward

### *Brief Summary:*

Four test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed development site is in the same townland as an unlocated megalithic tomb. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in any of the trenches.

### *Type of monitoring:*

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

### *Size of area opened:*

Four trenches; each measuring approximately 25m by 2m.

*Current Land Use:* Pasture

*Intended Land Use:* Residential

## **Account of the monitoring**

A planning application for a private dwelling and detached garage was made for a site adjacent to and south-west of 26 Drumintee Road, Meigh, Co. Armagh (Fig. 1). An un-located megalithic tomb (ARM:029:035) is reputed to be in the same townland as the proposed development site (Fig. 2). The Sites and Monuments Record states that in a postcard to Dr. Chart dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 1928, a Father Murray referred to 'cromlechs' at Aghadavoyle and Meigh. No details were given and the sites have not been located. In his reply, Dr. Chart suggested that the townlands may have been misidentified. There are also a large number of other archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site.

An archaeological evaluation was requested by the Environment and Heritage Service: Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Stiofán Ó Cathmhaoil, to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006. Four test trenches were excavated (Fig. 3) within the development site boundary. Each trench measured approximately 25m by 2m and all four had a similar stratigraphy, described below:

Trench A had a topsoil (C101) with a depth ranging between 0.27m and 0.38m. The topsoil was a friable black humic silt with a large number of granite boulder inclusions. Directly underlying the topsoil (C101) was the subsoil (C102) consisting of an orangey brown sandy silt with frequent granite inclusions ranging from small sub-rounded to angular stones to large boulders (Plates 1 and 2).

In Trench B the topsoil (C201) had a depth range of between 0.24m and 0.31m. The topsoil in Trench B was the same black humic silt with granite boulder inclusions similar to that found in Trench A. The subsoil (C202) was located directly beneath the topsoil (C201), it was an orangey brown sandy silt with frequent granite inclusions (Plates 3 and 4).

The topsoil (C301) in Trench C had a depth measuring between 0.23m and 0.31m. It was a black humic silt with granite boulder inclusions. Underlying this was the subsoil (C302), an orangey brown sandy silt with frequent granite inclusions (Plates 5 and 6).

In Trench D, the topsoil (C401) had a depth range of between 0.22m and 0.33m. The topsoil (C401) was a black humic silt with large granite boulders, as found in the other trenches. It directly overlay the subsoil (C402), an orangey brown sandy silt with frequent granite inclusions (Plates 7 and 8).

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

**Archive:**

*Finds:* n/a

*Photographs:* 16 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

*Plans / Drawings:* n/a

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

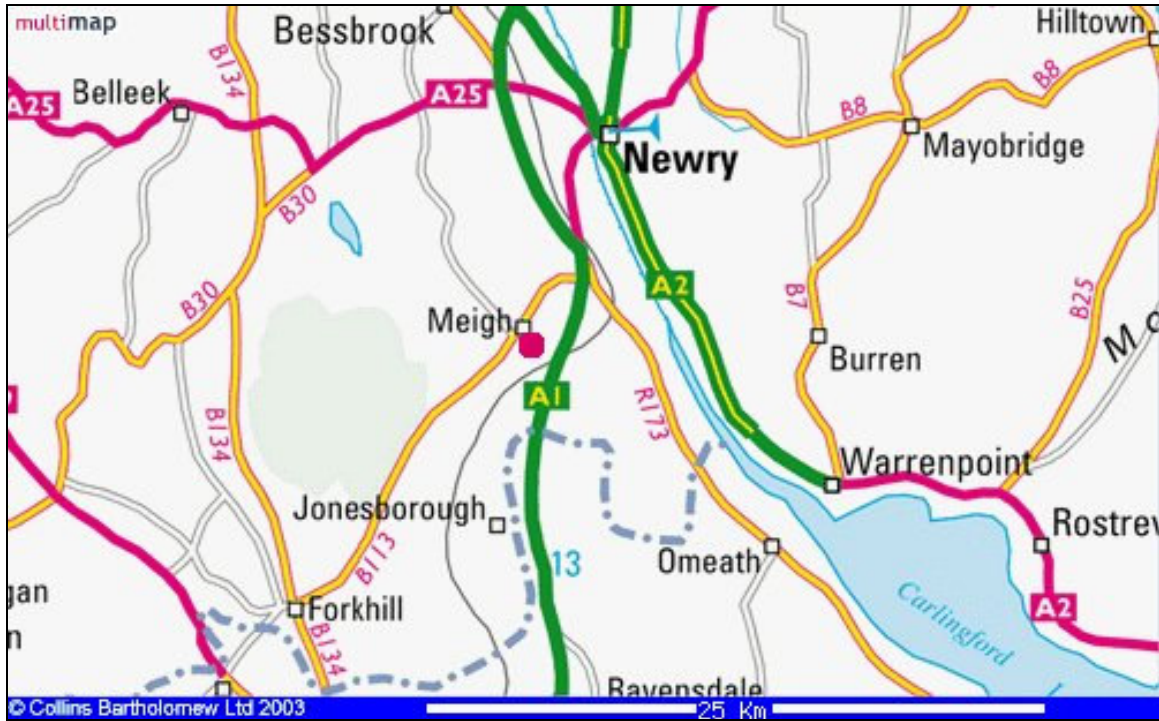


Fig. 1: Map showing location of site (red circle).

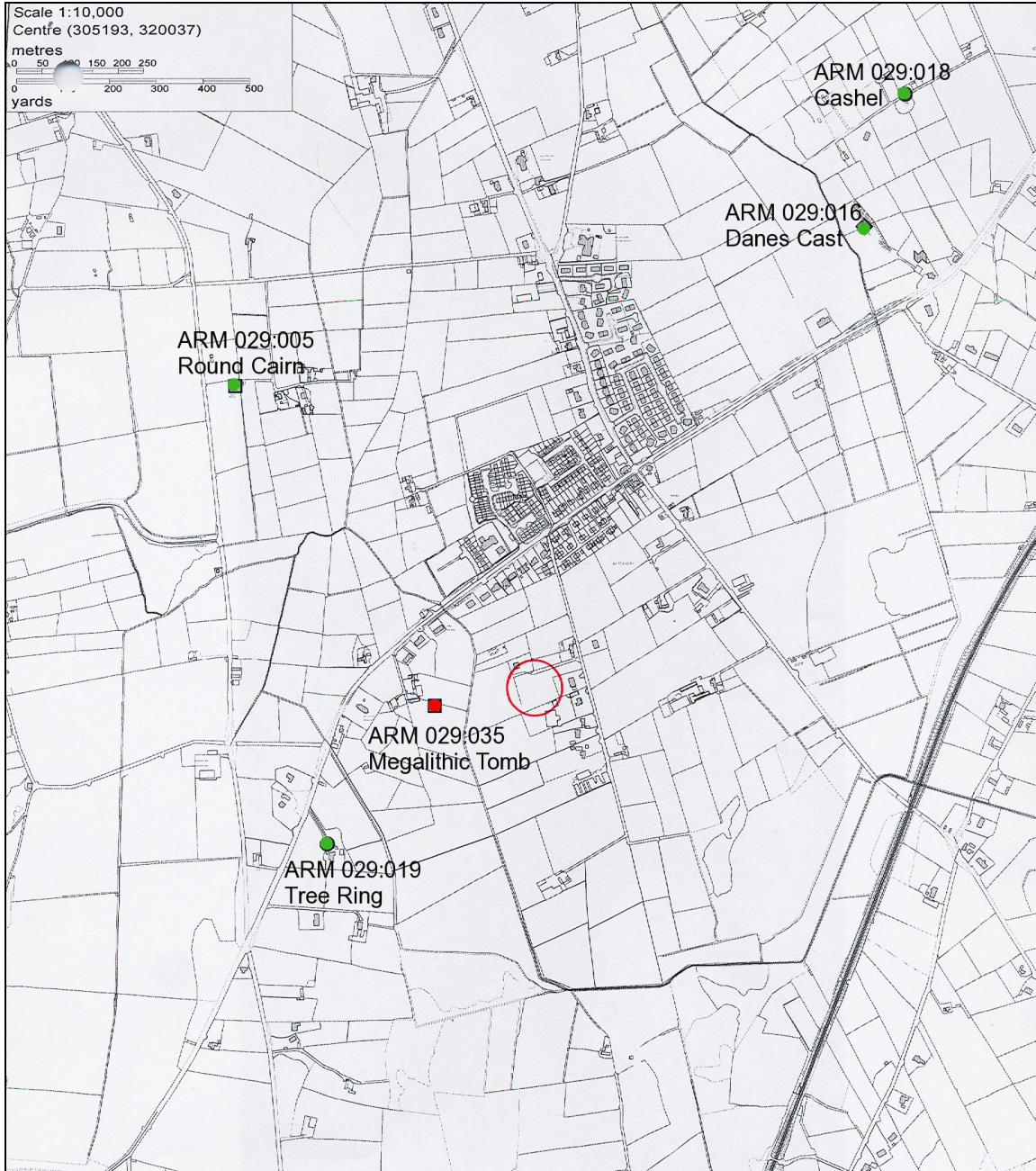


Fig. 2: Location of site (red circle) and archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity (green circles). Location of megalithic tomb (red square) is not known precisely.



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



Plate 1: View of Trench A from the south, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).



Plate 2: View of west-facing section in Trench A, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).





Plate 3: View of Trench B from the south, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C202). Some relict traces of topsoil remain where stones prevented full excavation, these were investigated by hand to ensure no archaeological features or deposits were obscured.



Plate 4: View of west-facing section in Trench B, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C202).



Plate 5: View of Trench C from the south, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C302).



Plate 6: View of west-facing section in Trench C, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C302).



Plate 7: View of Trench D from the south, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C402).



Plate 8: View of west-facing section in Trench D, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C402).