



Monitoring Report No. 217

**270m north-west of 101 Forkhill Road
Aghyalloge townland
County Armagh**

AE/10/165E

Ruth Logue

Site Specific Information

Site location: 270m north-west of 101 Forkhill Road, Newry

Townland: Aghayalloge

SMR number: Dane's Cast – ARM 029:016

State Care Scheduled Other

Grid reference: J0590120919

County: Armagh

Excavation licence number: AE/10/165E

Planning reference number: P/2010/0697/RM

Date of monitoring: 14 January 2011

Archaeologist present: Ruth Logue

Brief summary:

Monitoring of six test trenches excavated to subsoil to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any previously unrecorded below-ground remains. Nothing of archaeological significance found.

Type of monitoring: Mechanical back-acting digger

Size of area opened: Trenches 1 to 5: 2m by 20m
Trench 6: 2m by 15m

Current land use: Pasture

Intended land use: Dwelling and domestic garage

Account of the monitoring

The application site was located in a field 270m north-west of 101 Forkhill Road, Aghyalloge townland, near the village of Meigh, in County Armagh. The proposed development was for a dwelling and domestic garage. The site was in close proximity to part of the Dane's Cast (ARM 029:016), a prehistoric linear earthwork, parts of which were located at the south-west end of the fields in which the application site was (Plates 6 to 11). Some other sites of archaeological interest were also in the vicinity; a souterrain (ARM 029:018) of which no visible remains can be identified, and a cashel (ARM 029:008). (Figure 1)

An archaeological evaluation was requested to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 14 January 2011. Six test trenches were excavated in the area requested by the Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker, Gail Howell.

The topsoil was uniform in all three trenches, a mid grey-brown silty loam; it averaged from 0.2m to 0.4m. The topsoil lay directly above the subsoil, a mottled orange and buff silty clay. Both topsoil and subsoil had a high stone content, including large stones and a couple of boulders.

Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were located within the area where the house and garage were to be sited. They were all parallel, aligned approximately north-west/south-east, and were 20m long and 2m wide. Trenches 5 and 6 were located along the line of the development's access, and were also 2m wide and aligned approximately north-west/south-east. Trench 5 was also 20m long, but Trench 6 was only 15m long because of the presence of a temporary animal pen at the end of the field nearest the current buildings. (Figure 2, Plates 1 to 5; a photograph of Trench 6 was unable to be taken due to failing light conditions)

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

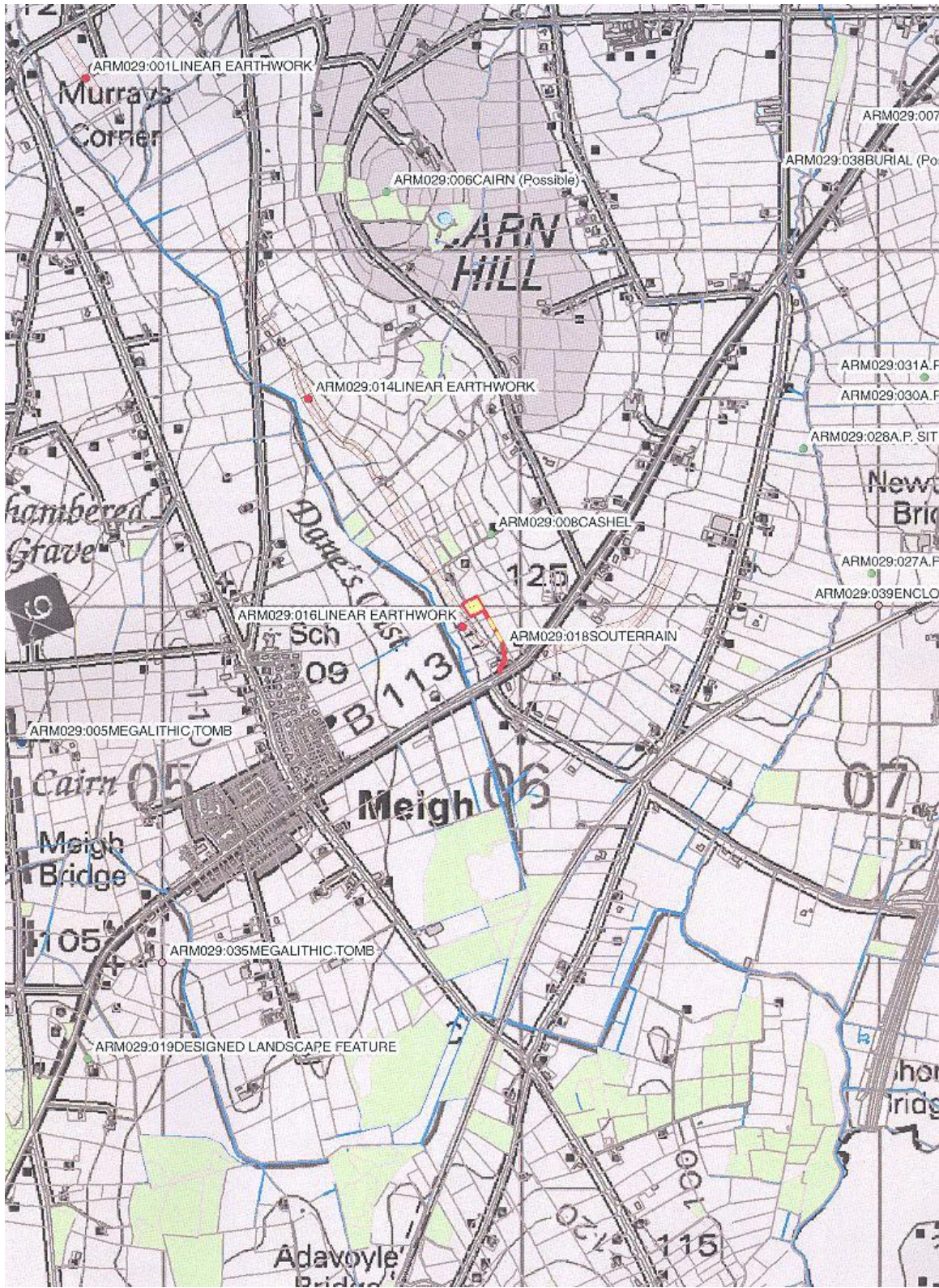


Figure 1: 1:10,000 map (supplied by Caseworker) showing location of application site (highlighted), sites of archaeological interest in the surrounding area, and the village of Meigh.

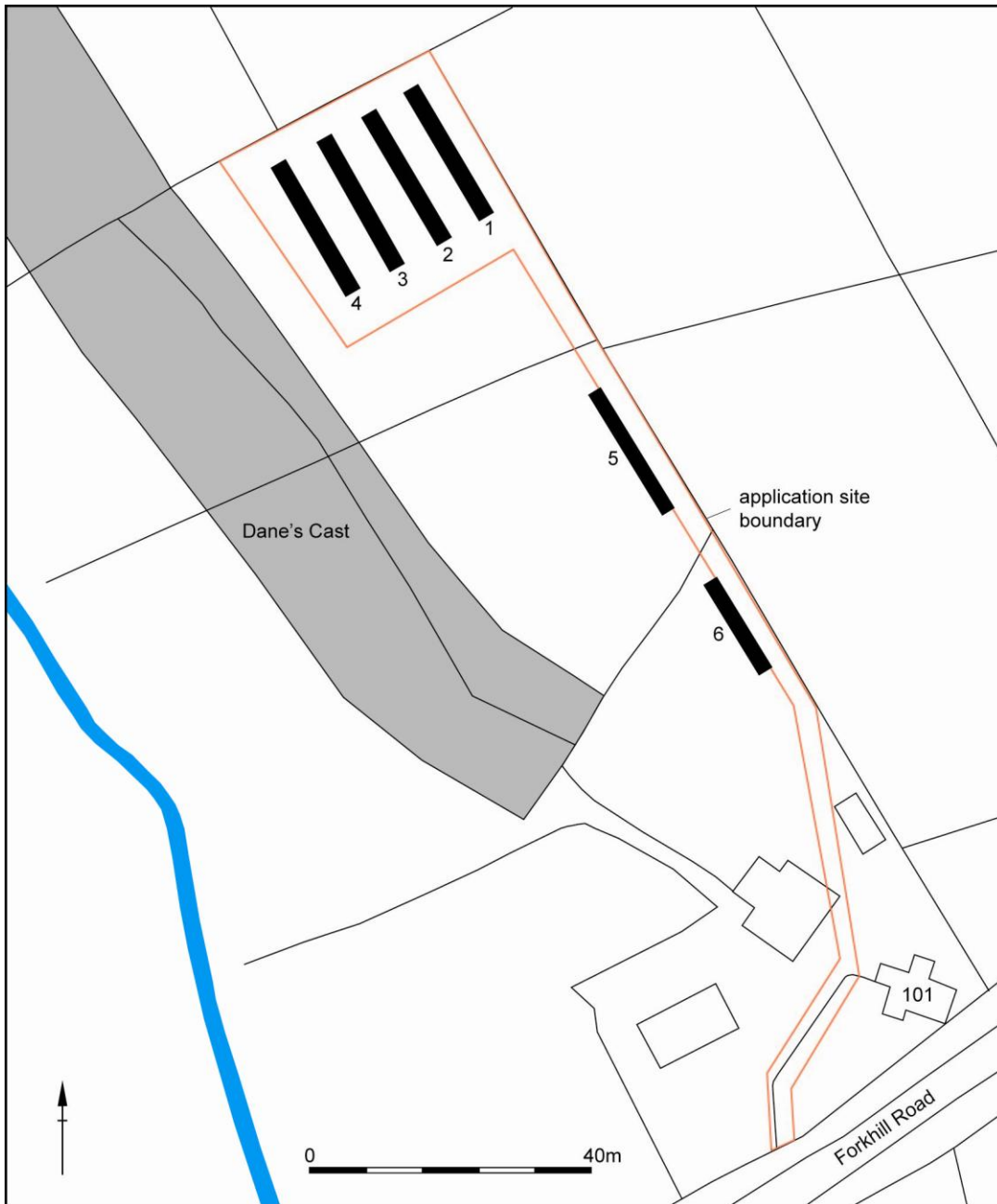


Figure 2: Plan showing application site, the position of the test trenches and the location of the Dane's Cast.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-west.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking south-east.



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north-west.



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking south-east.



Plate 5: Trench 5, looking south-east.



Plate 6: Section of Dane's Cast adjacent to field containing Trenches 1 to 4, looking south-east.



Plate 7: Section of Dane's Cast adjacent to field containing Trenches 1 to 4, looking north-west.



Plate 8: Section of Dane's Cast adjacent to field containing Trench 5, looking south-east.



Plate 9: Section of Dane's Cast adjacent to field containing Trench 5, looking north-west.



Plate 10: Gap in monument between section in Plates 6 and 7 and section in Plates 8 and 9, hedge on the right is the field boundary, looking north-west.



Plate 11: View of the field in which Trenches 1 to 4 were located; just beyond the hedge running through the plate is a section of the Dane's Cast, with Meigh in the background, looking north-west.