



Monitoring Report No. 269

**Clare Lodge
Newcastle townland
Newcastle
County Down**

AE/13/141

Ruth Logue

Site Specific Information

Site location: Clare Lodge, Castle Place/Main Street, Newcastle

Townland: Newcastle

SMR number: DOW 025:003

County: Down

Excavation licence number: AE/13/141

Planning reference number: not applicable

Date of monitoring: 6 August 2013

Archaeologist present: Ruth Logue

Brief summary: Test Trench excavation to see if the remains of the castle were on the site. Nothing of archaeological significance found.

Current land use: Area vacant following demolition of Clare Lodge, a St Vincent de Paul Holiday Home.

Intended land use: Rebuilding of Clare Lodge.

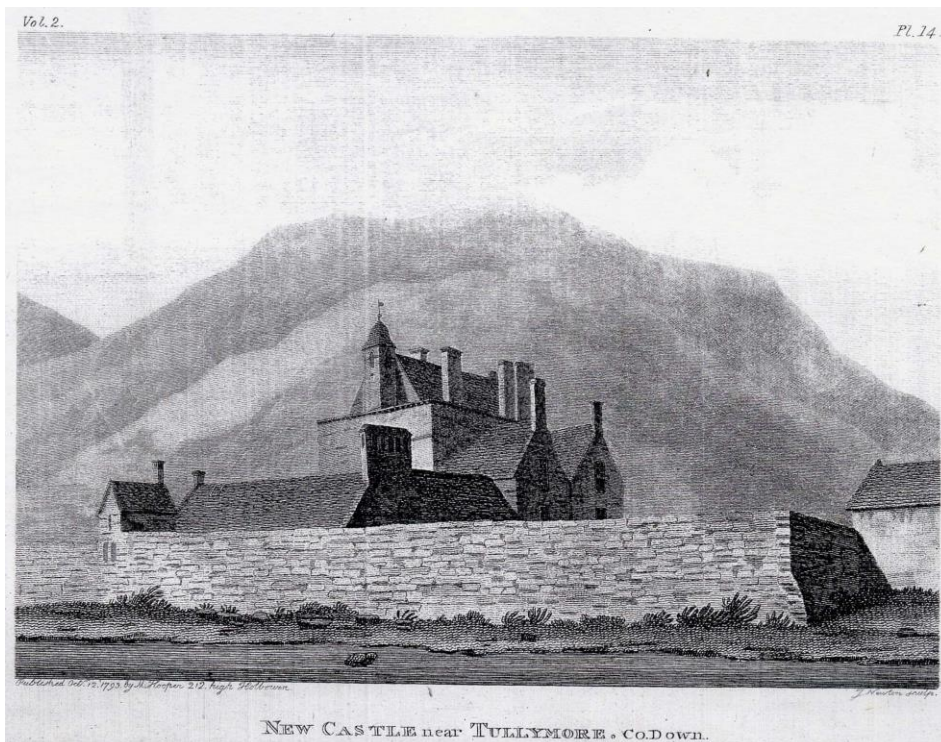


Figure 1: Picture of the castle at Newcastle from Grose's *Antiquities of Ireland, 2, 1791*.

Account of the monitoring

It was requested by Ken Neill, Senior Inspector HMU, that monitoring be carried out at a site which had planning permission with archaeological conditions. The site was adjacent to the site of the castle in Newcastle, DOW 025:003. The site was that of the former Clare Lodge, a St Vincent de Paul Holiday Home situated on Castle Place between Main Street and the promenade. It was between Newcastle Tourist Information Centre, which was the former Annesley Arms Hotel, and Castlebridge House, which has now been converted into a number of residences.

At the time that the archaeological investigation took place the building had been demolished. Emily Murray (CAF) and Paul Logue (HMU) meet at the site on 26 July to establish how test trenching would proceed. At this meeting it was agreed that one trench would be opened along the north-west edge of the site (parallel to Main Street) and two would be opened at the opposite end of the site (parallel to the promenade). It was suggested that another two or three trenches be opened across the plot.

A total of five trenches were opened: the siting of these was to avoid the concrete base of a lift shaft (between Trenches 1 and 2) and a pile of stone near the southern corner of the site (see Plate 6). The trenches were aligned roughly north-east to south-west, numbered 1 to 5 from that nearest to the wall on Main Street to that nearest to the wall on the promenade side. (Figure 2)

The trenches were between 20.0m and 25.0m long, and c. 2.0m wide. Following the removal of debris associated with Clare Lodge the trenches bottomed onto sand with water-rolled stones/boulders. Trench 3 contained concrete footings of foundations (Plate 4); and Trench 4 contained concrete footings of the bay windows and porch that had been on the front of the building (Plate 5). In Trench 5 the natural sand was uncovered at a depth of only 0.3m, below a surface layer of tarmac and a leveling deposit of gravel (see Plate 6).

No features or finds of archaeological significance were found during the test trenching.



Figure 2: Plan of the development site showing the approximate locations of the trenches.



Plate 1: Site before trenches opened (looking south-east).



Plate 2: Trench 1 post-excitation (looking north-east).



Plate 3: Trench 2 post-excitation (looking south-west).



Plate 4: Trench 3 post-excitation (looking south-west). Note the concrete foundation footings running through middle of trench.



Plate 5: Trench 4 post-excitation (looking south-west). Note the concrete bay windows and porch footings.



Plate 6: Trench 5 post-excitation (looking south-west). Note pile of stone near corner of site.