



MONITORING REPORT: No. 296

Ballyskeagh Lock Keeper's House

Ballyskeagh Road

Drumbeg

Co. Down

AE/15/34E

Dermot Redmond

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Ballyskeagh Lock Keeper's House, Drumbeg

Townland: Ballyskeagh

SMR No. : DOW 008:001

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: 328878 366877

County: Down

Excavation Licence No. : AE/15/27E

Planning Ref / No. : S/2014/0349/F

Dates of Monitoring: 5th March 2015

Archaeologist(s) Present: Dermot Redmond

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Ballyskeagh Lock Keeper's House, Ballyskeagh Road, Drumbeg, Co. Down. The work was requested in response to a planning application for a new garage. The proposed development site is either adjacent to, or possibly on, an enclosure (NISMR no. DOW 008:001). One trench was excavated during the course of the evaluation, measuring 5m x 3m. No finds or features of archaeological significance were found, and it is not recommended that any further archaeological mitigation is required.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of one test trench by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

One test trench measuring 5m x 3m.

Current Land Use: Residential

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for the proposed new garage is located at Ballyskeagh Lock Kepper's House, Ballyskeagh Road, Drumbeg, Co. Down (Figures 1 and 2).

The proposed garage is located adjacent to or possibly on the site of an enclosure (DOW 008:001). The description in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) notes that no visible remains of the site exist, all above ground features having been removed due to either agricultural activity or development within the area.

The enclosure is present on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Six Inch map of 1833-34, and its 1858-60 revision, as an undesignated fort convention. In the Third Edition revision of 1900-03, it was preserved as being a curve in the boundary around the house.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new garage. It was requested by Gina Baban of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Excavation

One test trench, measuring 5m x 3m was excavated on the site, covering the entire footprint of the proposed new garage (Figure 3).

Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north-west/south-east, and located over the footprint of the proposed new garage. It measured 5m x 3m (Plates 2 and 3).

The uppermost deposit in this trench was the sod layer (c100), which was a dark brown, silty loam. This deposit covered the entire trench, and was very humic rich, with a depth of 0.15m.

Beneath the sod (c100) was a layer of redeposited subsoil (c101). This deposit was present in the first 3m of the trench, from the south-eastern end. This deposit was an orange-brown mottled sand, with very frequent root inclusions. This deposit was between 0.5-0.6m. Beneath this layer of redeposited subsoil (c101) was a dark brown, sandy loam (c102). This layer ranged in depth from 0.6-0.8m. There was some modern glass, and plastic within this deposit. This layer extended over the whole length of the trench.

Beneath this layer was the natural subsoil (c103), an orange sand, encountered at a depth ranging from 0.6-1.3m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance within this trench.

Conclusions

No finds or features of archaeological significance were found during the evaluation. It is not thought that the proposed development will impinge on any unknown archaeological deposits and therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual '*Excavations*' bulletin.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs:

The digital images taken during the evaluation are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

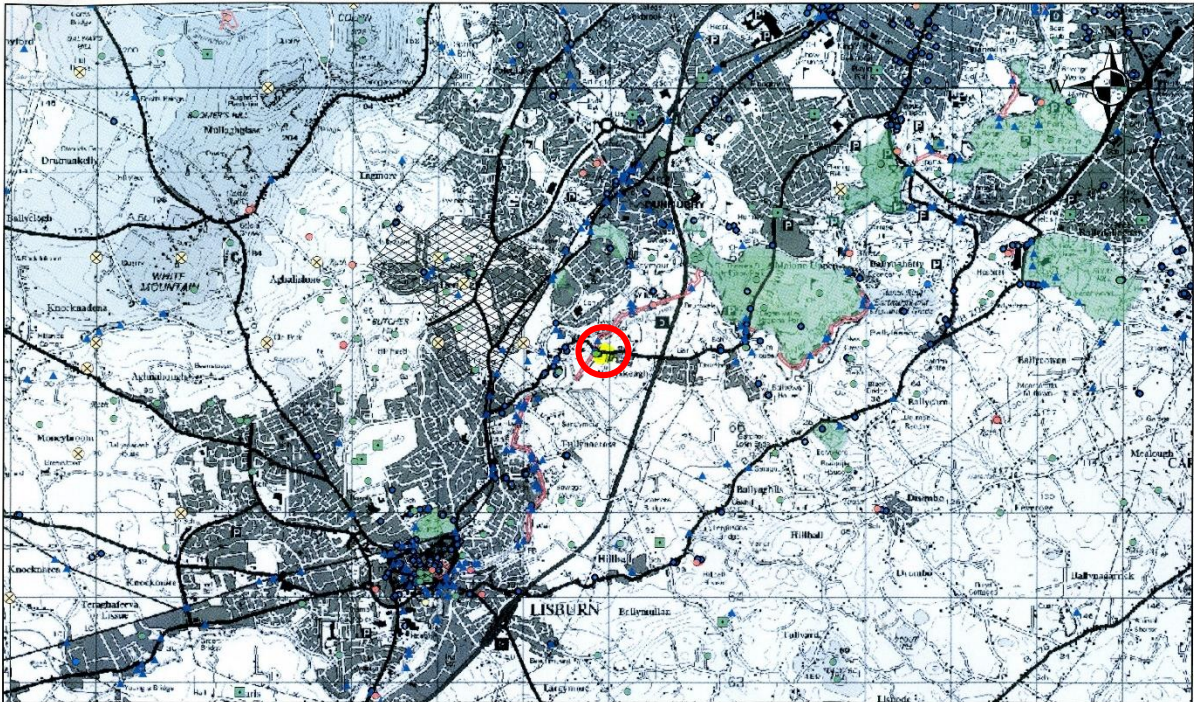


Figure 1: General location map with location of site (Shown by red circle). Scale 1:50000



Figure 2: Detailed location of site (Highlighted in yellow). Scale 1:2500

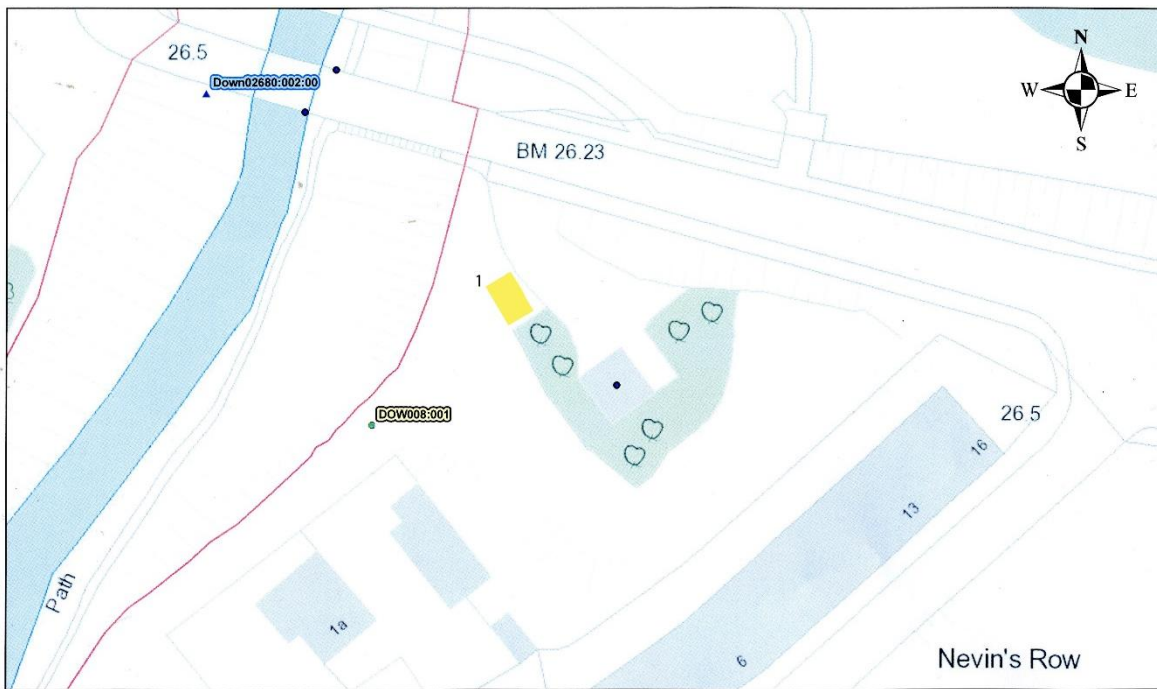


Figure 3: Plan of site showing location of trench (Highlighted in yellow). Scale 1:500



Plate 1: Overview of the proposed site, looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench 1, surface of the natural subsoil (c103), looking south-east



Plate 3: Trench 1, surface of the natural subsoil (c103), looking north-west