



## **Monitoring Report No. 33**

**Drumavoley Park  
Town Parks  
Ballycastle  
Co. Antrim**

**AE/05/150**

Kara Ward

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* Drumavoley Park, Ballycastle

*Townland:* Town Parks

*SMR No:* Ant 009:115

*State Care*   *Scheduled*   *Other* ✓

*Grid Ref:* D 1223 4067

*County:* Antrim

*Excavation License No:* AE/05/150

*Planning Ref / No.:* E/2005/0084/F

*Date of Monitoring:* 17<sup>th</sup> November 2005

*Archaeologist Present:* Kara Ward

### *Brief Summary:*

Two test trenches each measuring c. 40m by 2m were excavated (north-south) to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological material present.

### *Type of monitoring:*

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

*Size of area opened:* Two trenches, each measuring c. 40m by 2m

*Current Land Use:* Overgrown pasture

*Intended Land Use:* Residential

## Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site is located on a natural platform overlooking Ballycastle and Rathlin Island to the north (Plate 1). Dun a Mallaght Motte (Ant 009:001) and seven cropmarks identified by aerial photography (Ant 009:115A.P.) are located to the north-west of the site.

Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Two test trenches were excavated, as indicated on the site plan provided by Andrew Gault, PHM Casework Officer (Figure 1). The sod layer (C101), the topsoil horizon (C102) and the eluviation layer (C103) were removed to reveal the underlying subsoil (C104).

The sod layer (C101) was up to 0.10m deep and contained natural flint inclusions as well as sherds of modern pottery and glass. The topsoil (C102) was approximately 0.26m deep. It was a dark brown sandy silt containing flint, decayed stone, chalk and modern pottery fragments. The eluviation layer (C103) averaged around 0.22m deep. It was a light grey brown clay silt with some decayed stone inclusions. The subsoil (C104) varied between a deep orange coloured silty clay to a mottled yellow grey clay.

A number of features were found to cut into the subsoil in both trenches. Three of these were identified as modern and four others appeared to be postholes of archaeological significance (Plates 2 and 3). In Trench 1 (Figure 2) a linear feature (C115) cut north-east to south-west across the site. It measured approximately 1.5m wide and at least 0.35m deep. The fill (C116) was a friable grey brown clay silt. A sherd of glazed red earthenware was retrieved from the fill, dating this feature to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The feature is probably the remains of an old field boundary. The linear feature (C115) was also present in Trench 2.

Further south a shallow plough furrow (C107) cut east-west across the site. It measured 0.27m wide and up to 0.07m deep. The fill (C108) was a mottled red grey clay. The furrow (C107) truncated the southern side of a posthole (C105) (Plate 4). The remaining section of the posthole (C105) measured 0.44m (east-west) by 0.18m (north-south). It was found to have a depth of 0.13m when half-sectioned. The northern and eastern edges of the cut were fairly steep while the base was concave. The fill (C106) was a moist mid-brown clay silt. One piece of unworked flint was retrieved from the fill but no datable finds were recovered.

Approximately 3.3m further south was a second posthole (C109) (Plate 5). It was almost perfectly circular shaped in plan with a diameter of 0.46m. The fill (C110) appeared to be a moist dark brown clay silt. This feature was not half sectioned.

In Trench 2, there was a further modern linear feature (C117), a modern stone filled drain. It cut north-east to south-west across the site. It measured 0.60m wide and some 0.18m deep.

As noted above, the old field boundary (C115) was also present in Trench 2 and approximately 11m south of it was a posthole (C111) (Plate 6). This posthole was sub-oval shaped in plan. It measure 0.54m (north-south) by 0.36m (east-west). The fill (C112) appeared to be a moist brown clay silt with possible charcoal and flint inclusions. This feature was not half sectioned.

A further 4.1m to the south was another posthole (C113), also sub-oval shaped in plan (Plate 7). It measured 0.59m (north-south) by 0.33m (east-west). The fill (C114) appeared to be a moist brown clay silt. This feature was not half-sectioned.

Additional areas were opened up to the west of three of the postholes (C109, C111 and C113), each of these additional areas measured approximately 2m by 4m (Figure 2). No further deposits or features of archaeological significance were uncovered in these trench extensions.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that a large area measuring approximately 20-25m squared is opened up, encompassing the southern ends of the two original test trenches and the postholes therein. The aim of this exercise would be to establish if there are further archaeological features present in this area and to ascertain their nature, extent and possible date.

Should significant archaeological remains be uncovered, the project director will immediately consult with the PHM Casework Officer about how best to proceed. If a decision is made to authorise a programme of excavation, then a number of additional site staff will be required. The number of additional staff required would be dependent on the nature and extent of the archaeology uncovered.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* N/A

*Photographs:* 20 digital images. Held by CAF

*Plans / Drawings:* N/A

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

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

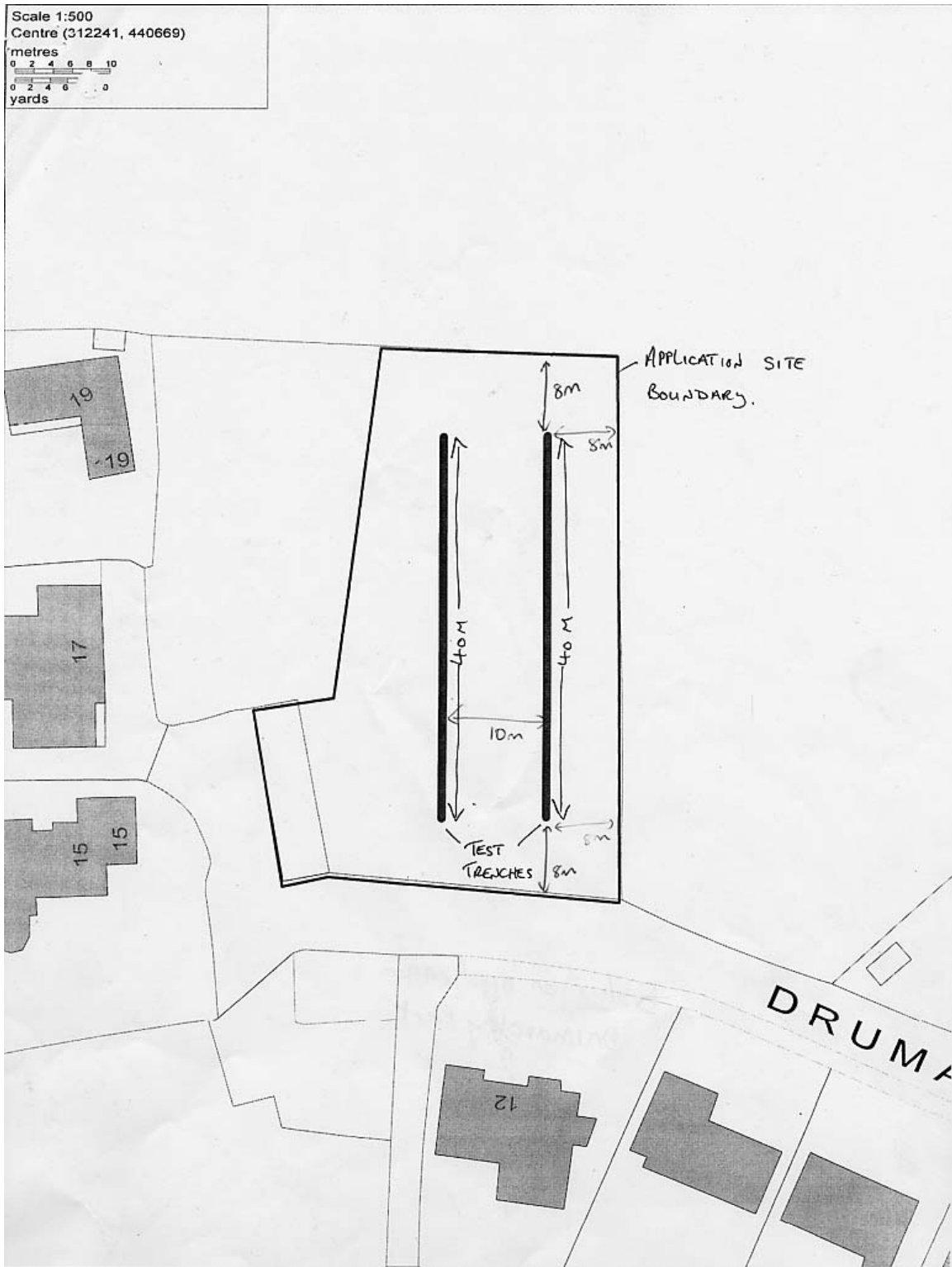


Figure 1: Plan of site showing test trench locations, as issued by PHM.

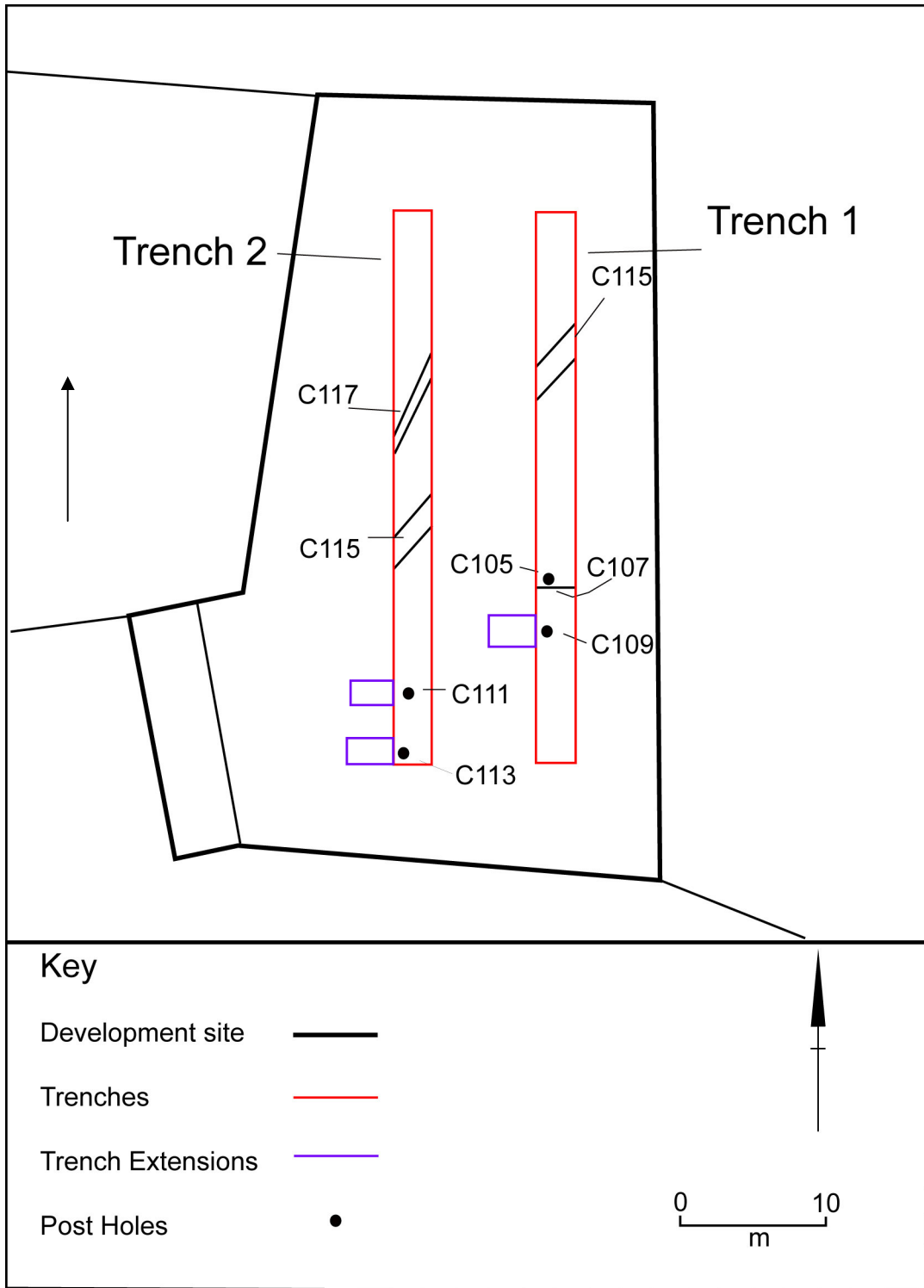


Figure 2: Plan of site showing features uncovered during testing



Plate 1: View of site looking north



Plate 2: Trench 1 from south



Plate 3: Trench 2 from south



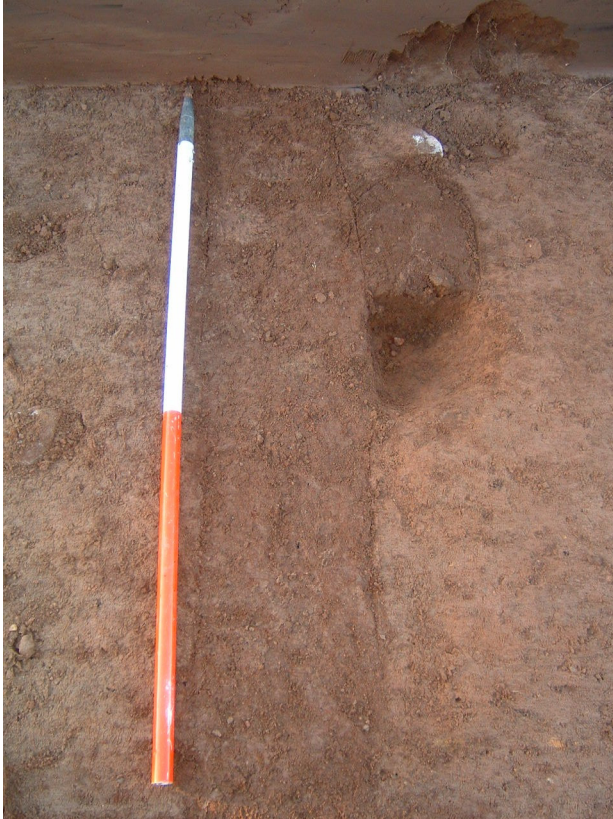


Plate 4: Posthole (C105) and  
plough furrow (C107) from east

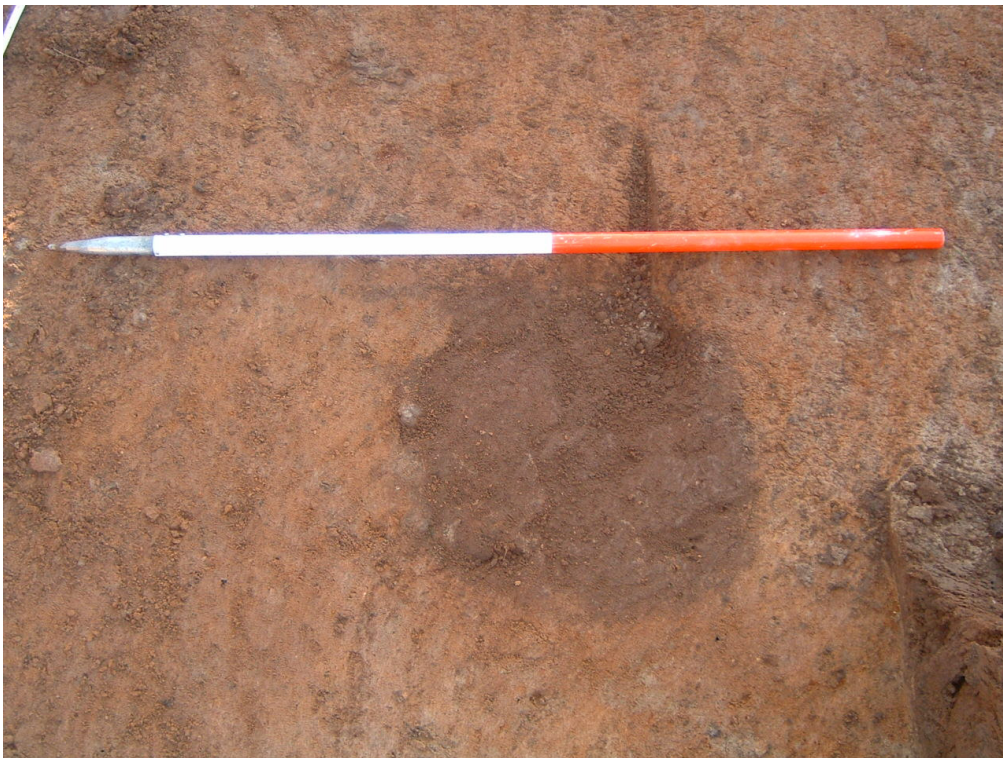


Plate 5: Posthole (C109) from north



Plate 6: Posthole (C111) from south



Plate 7: Posthole (C113) from north