



**Monitoring Report No. 039**

**ANTICUR ROAD  
BELLAGHY TOWNLAND  
DUNLOY  
COUNTY ANTRIM**

**LICENCE NO.: AE/05/179**

**NAOMI CARVER**

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* Anticur Road

*Townland:* Bellaghy

*SMR No. :* ANT 023:020

State Care            Scheduled            Other             [delete as applicable]

*Grid Ref:* D 0412 1696

*County:* Antrim

*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/05/179

*Planning Ref / No. :* D/2005/0188/0

*Dates of Monitoring:* 10<sup>th</sup> January 2006

*Archaeologist(s) Present:* Naomi Carver

*Brief Summary:*

The archaeological evaluation was carried out at Anticur Road near Dunloy, County Antrim, as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. The application site is located immediately north of a possible rath (ANT 023:020) of which there are now no visible remains. The evaluation consisted of two test trenches in the area of the footprint of the proposed dwelling. Nothing of archaeological significance was found and it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is required.

*Type of monitoring:* Back-acting mechanical excavator with 'sheugh' bucket, under archaeological supervision.

*Size of area opened:*

Two trenches:            Trench One (30m by 2m)  
                                  Trench Two (40m by 2m)

*Current Land Use:* Agricultural

*Intended Land Use:* Residential

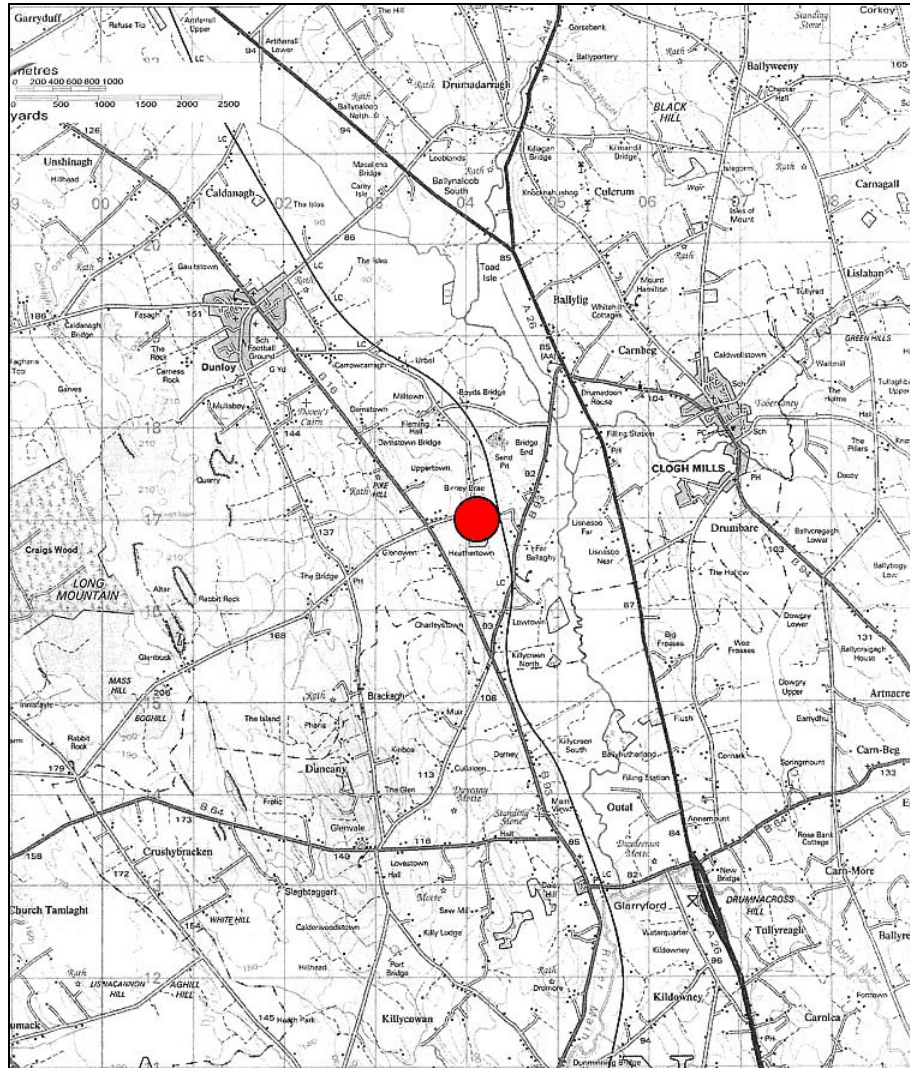


Figure One: Map showing location of site (red dot)

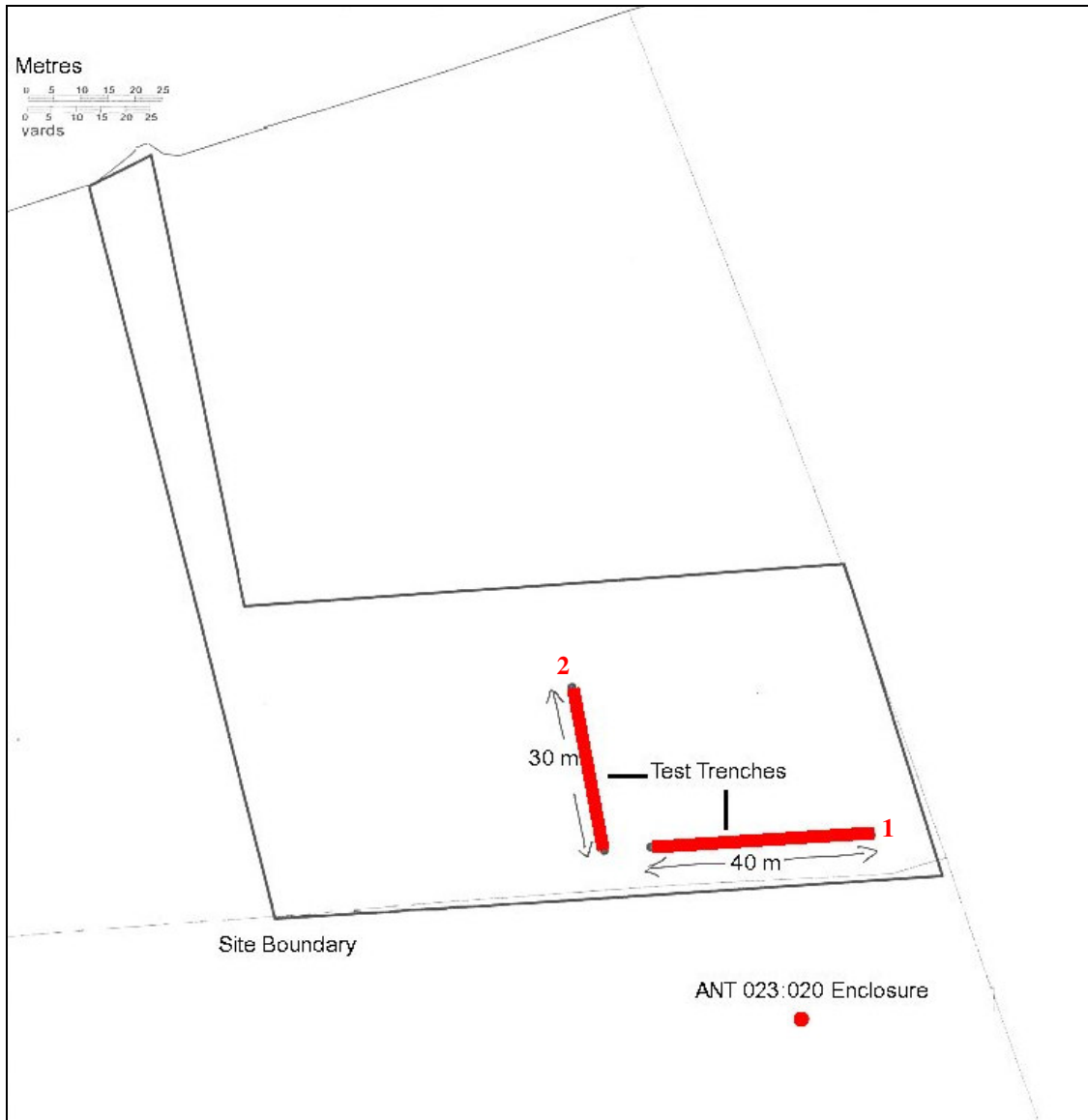


Figure Two: Site plan showing location of test trenches and possible enclosure (ANT 023:020)

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

Anticur Road is situated in Bellaghy townland, County Antrim, approximately 3km south-east of the village of Dunloy (Figure One). The surrounding countryside consists of gentle hills and is made up predominantly of agricultural land, as is the field in which the development site is located. Both the north-eastern and south-eastern corners of the field are on higher ground level. The ground slopes to a flattish area in the middle where the proposed dwelling is to be constructed. On its western side the field is bounded by the Anticur Road and there is a newly constructed house in this part of the field (Plate One). On all other sides the site is surrounded by agricultural land.

The application site is located immediately to the north of an enclosure, possibly a rath (ANT 023:020), which was recorded in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs for the Parish of Rasharkin in 1837. Although there are now no visible remains, aerial photographs taken in 1983 indicate the presence of a circular cropmark approximately 25m in diameter.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Andrew Gault: PHM Caseworker with EHS: Built Heritage. It was recommended that two test trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed location of the new house. For the purpose of the evaluation these trenches were designated as Trench One and Trench Two (Figure Two).

### *Excavation*

The two trenches were excavated mechanically using a smooth-edged bucket operated on a back-acting mechanical digger.

### *Trench One*

Trench One was located in the south-eastern corner of the field and ran parallel with the field boundary. The trench was 40m long (east/west) and approximately 2m wide (north/south). In the area of the trench the ground level sloped from east to west. Trench One was excavated to the natural subsoil, a depth of approximately 0.3m. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) consisted of dark brown clay loam containing small stones (around 10x10x10mm in size) and was less than 0.1m deep. Below the topsoil (Context No. 101) was a shallow ploughsoil (Context No. 102) consisting of mid to dark brown clay loam. The ploughsoil (Context No. 102) contained both small (average size: 10x10x10mm) and large (average size: 300x200x200mm) stones. The deposit (Context No. 102) was, on average, 0.2m deep but was up to 0.3m deep in parts. There were no finds associated with the ploughsoil, which directly overlay the subsoil of orange-brown glacial till (Context No. 103) which was gravelly with quite large stones in parts (Plate Two). The subsoil was archaeologically sterile and no artefactual material was recovered from the overlying deposits.

### *Trench Two*

Trench Two was located perpendicular to Trench One, approximately 3m to the west. The trench was 30m long and approximately 2m wide, with the long axis orientated from north to south. The trench followed the topography of the field which sloped gently from south to north. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) consisted of mid brown clay loam which was around 0.1m deep and contained occasional small stones (10x10x10mm in size). Below the topsoil was a deposit of mid to dark brown clay loam (Context No. 202) which was the ploughsoil. This deposit (Context No. 202) contained abundant small stones (10x10x10mm in size). It was shallow at the southern end of the trench (0.2m) and became deeper towards the northern end (0.25-0.3m). Below the ploughsoil (Context No. 202) was the subsoil (Context No. 203) which was a gravelly orange glacial till, with some sandy deposits (Plate Three). There were no archaeological features in the subsoil and no finds were associated with any of the deposits in Trench Two.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the two test trenches excavated, and it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication is required apart from a short summary in the annual bulletin of excavations.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* N/A

*Photographs:*

Eighteen digital images were taken during the evaluation (ANT0601-ANT0618). The images are digitally archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

*Plans / Drawings:* N/A

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

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





Plate One: General view of site (looking north-west)



Plate Two (*left*): General view of Trench One (looking west).  
Plate Three (*right*): General view of Trench Two (looking north)