



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 062

**49 Toberdoney Road
Dervock
Co. Antrim**

LICENCE NO.: AE/06/75

BRIAN SLOAN

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Toberdoney Road

Townland: Toberdoney

SMR No. : ANT 007:056 and ANT 007:111

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: C9821 3503

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/06/75

Planning Ref / No. : N/A

DARD Nitrates Directive Ref.: 159914

Dates of Monitoring: 29th August 2006

Archaeologist(s) Present: Brian Sloan and Alison Kyle

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 49 Toberdoney Road, Dervock, Co. Antrim in response to an application for a proposed new slurry pit. Two souterrains (ANT 007: 056 and 007:111) are recorded in the vicinity of the site (Environment and Heritage Service: Sites and Monuments Record). The evaluation consisted of a single trench incorporating the footprint of the proposed slurry pit. There were no archaeological features within the excavated area. Several sherds of nineteenth century pottery were recovered, presumably derived from manuring with midden material. Two abraded sherds of coarse pottery were also recovered from the topsoil. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

A single trench measuring 45m (east/west) x 16m (north/south)

Current Land Use: Agricultural

Intended Land Use: Slurry pit

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The site of the proposed slurry pit is located at 49 Toberdoney Road, Dervock, Co. Antrim (Figure 1). The site lies approximately 4km north-west of the town of Dervock, 2km north of the Stracum River and at a height of approximately 60m above sea level. The surrounding area is rich in archaeological sites (Figure 2). Two souterrains (ANT 007:056 and 007:111) are reported to exist beneath the farmhouse at 49 Toberdoney Road, although these are said by the landowner to have been filled in some time ago. Sites in the immediate vicinity include another souterrain (ANT 007:114), a cairn (ANT 007:106) and two enclosures (ANT 007:015 and 012:021). The surrounding landscape consists predominantly of pastoral land, interspersed with dwelling houses. The intended site of the slurry pit is positioned to the north of the farm buildings (Figure 3). The dimensions of the proposed slurry pit are 37m (east/west) x 14m, and a trench was positioned to incorporate this footprint (Plate 2).

The evaluation took place in response to a Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Nitrates Directive (ref.: 159914) and was requested by Rhonda Robinson (Environment and Heritage Service: Protecting Historic Monuments).

Excavation

The original research design for this evaluation called for a trench measuring 45m x 20m. However, this strategy was revised in the field and a 45m (east/west) x 16m trench was excavated as there was an upstanding barn over part of the area which was to be used for the slurry pit.

The sod and topsoil layer in the trench (Context No. 101) consisted of friable, light to mid brown, sandy loam. The layer contained infrequent angular and sub-rounded stones (average size 40mm x 20mm x 5mm) and modern artifacts including sherds of nineteenth-century black-glazed earthenware, glazed ceramics, glass and brick fragments. Two, much abraded, sherds of coarse pottery were also recovered from the topsoil. This deposit had a thickness of 0.25m.

Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was a deposit of mid to dark brown clay loam (Context No. 102). This layer was noticeably stonier than the topsoil (Context No. 101) and of a more compact consistence. The clay loam was 0.12m thick and contained a few sherds of nineteenth-century glazed ceramics and fragments of highly corroded iron objects. This deposit has been interpreted as a plough soil.

Below the clay loam (Context No. 102) was the subsoil (Context No. 103), the surface of which was encountered at a depth of 0.35m to 0.40m (Plate 3). The subsoil consisted of boulder clay, which was yellowish orange in colour, and had infrequent medium to large stones imbedded in it. No features were observed cutting into the subsoil (Context No. 103).

Apart from the two abraded coarse pottery sherds, nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the evaluation. The nineteenth century pottery is consistent with using midden deposits for manuring of fields. 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:

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

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: _____

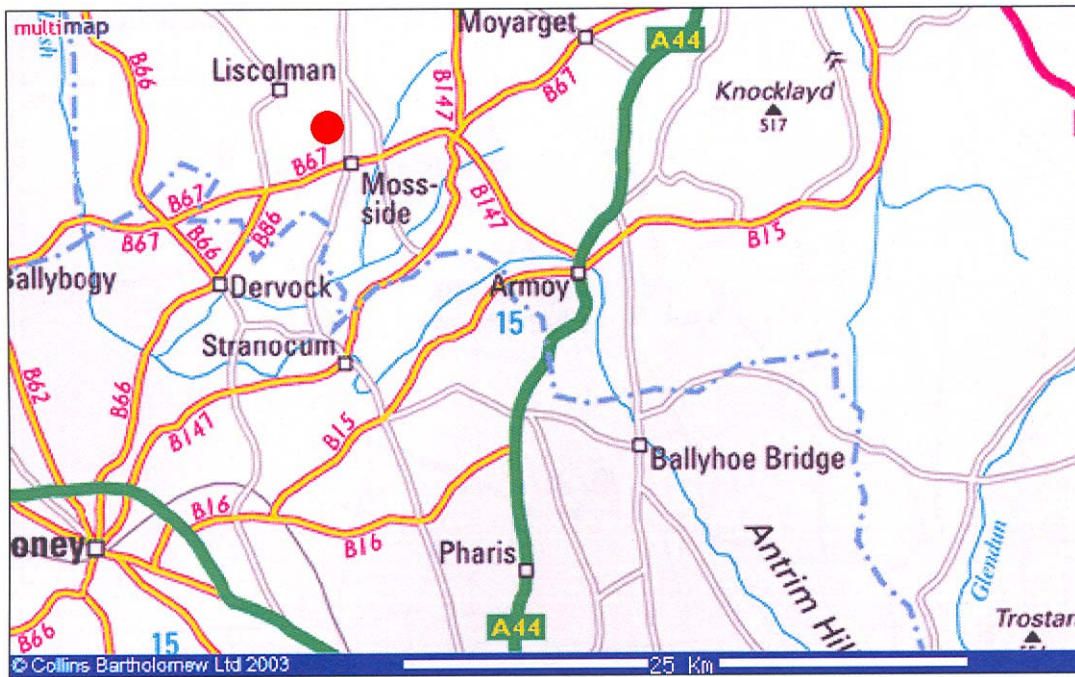


Figure 1: Site location (red dot)

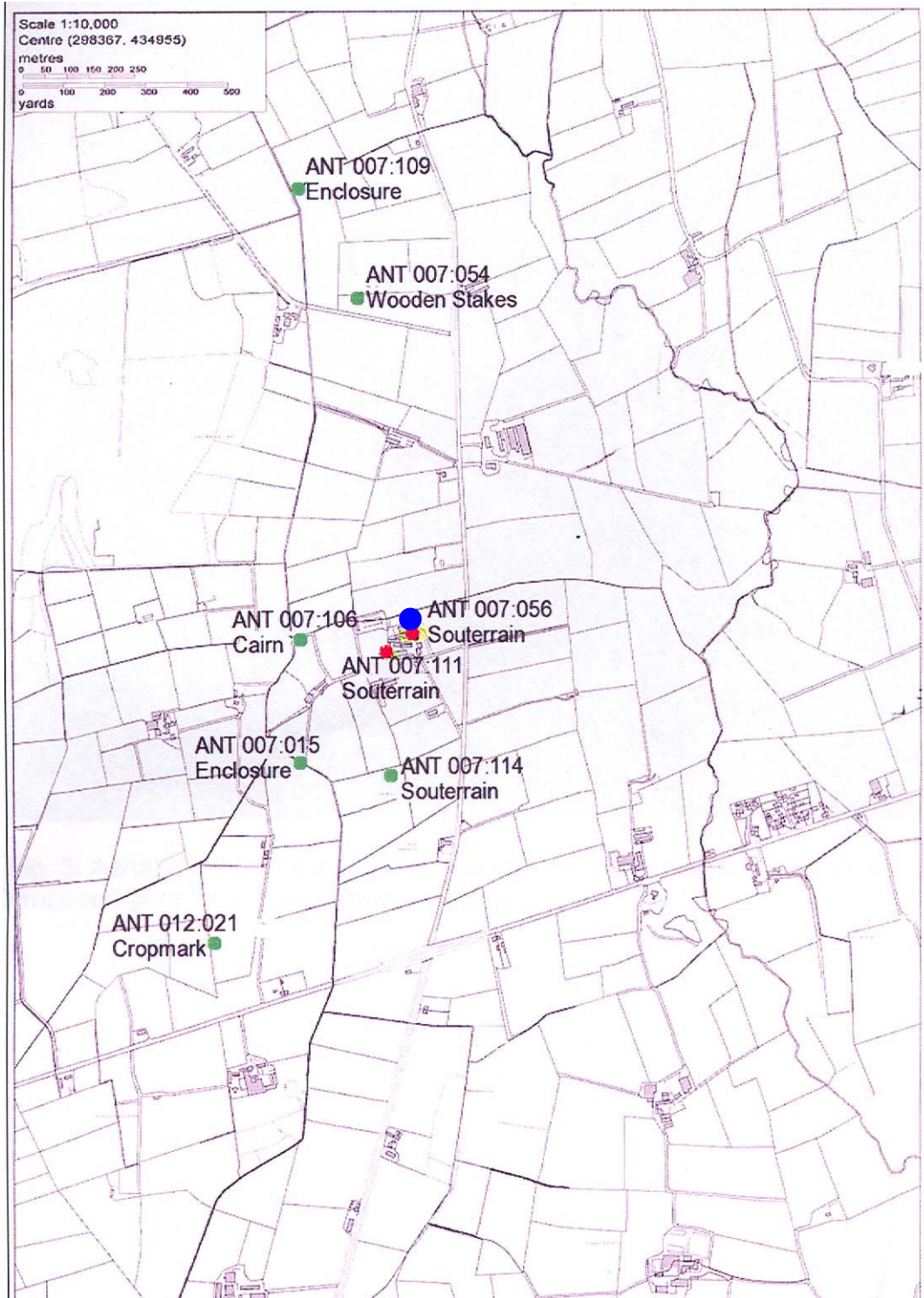


Figure 2: Archaeological sites in the area (red and green dots) and evaluation site (blue dot)

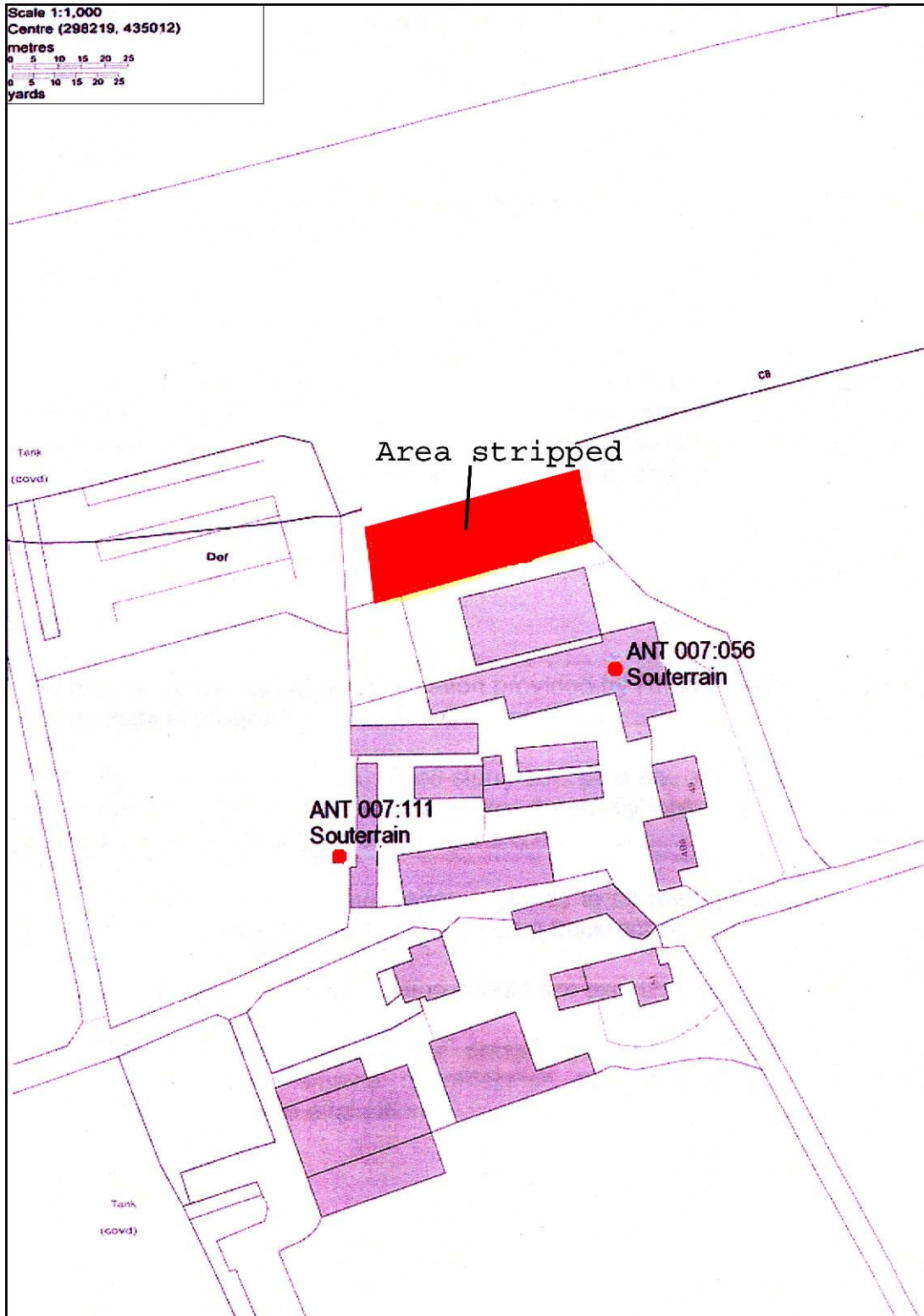


Figure 3: Evaluation site in relation to souterrains (ANT 007:056 and ANT 007:111)



Plate 1: View of site before excavation looking east



Plate 2: Following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 103) looking east



Plate 3: South facing section looking north