Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork
School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology
Queen's University Belfast

CAF Data Structure Report No. 076

Investigations at Dartanree Road Tynan Co. Armagh

AE/11/89E

On behalf of

NI Water Ltd.

Investigations at Dartanree Road
Tynan
Co. Armagh

Naomi Carver

CAF DSR 076
Licence Number: AE/11/89E
Grid Ref: H 76504 42808

3rd October 2011

Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1 Summary

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The discovery of skeletal human remains by contractors laying pipes on behalf of Northern Ireland Water Ltd. in July 2011 necessitated an archaeological excavation in order to recover all remains and assess their depositional context.

1.1.2 A small-scale excavation was undertaken by a team from the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF) in August 2011. All of the archaeological work on the site was conducted under licence from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) [licence number AE/11/89E] and was funded by Northern Ireland Water Ltd.

1.2 Objectives

1.2.1 The principal objective of the excavation was to excavate the skeletal remains and record any deposits stratigraphically related to them. A further objective was to excavate and record- if present- any other *in-situ* remains including articulated burials.

1.3 Excavation

1.3.1 The excavation comprised a single trench opened across the drainage pipe trench and measuring 2.0m by 2.5m (north-east/south-west by north-west/south-east). The excavation trench was sub-divided into north-west (NW) and south-east (SE) sides where it straddled the pipe trench. Excavation was carried out partly by hand and partly using a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision, where appropriate, to remove the overburden.

1.3.2 The majority of the human bones were confined to the north-western side of the trench and were found at varying depths. Skeletal remains were also recovered from the south-eastern side. On completion of the excavation a number of tip lines were visible in the north-west and south-east facing sections. The human bone was mixed through these layers and did not appear to be confined to any one layer in particular, although larger quantities of bone were recovered from higher up in the sequence.

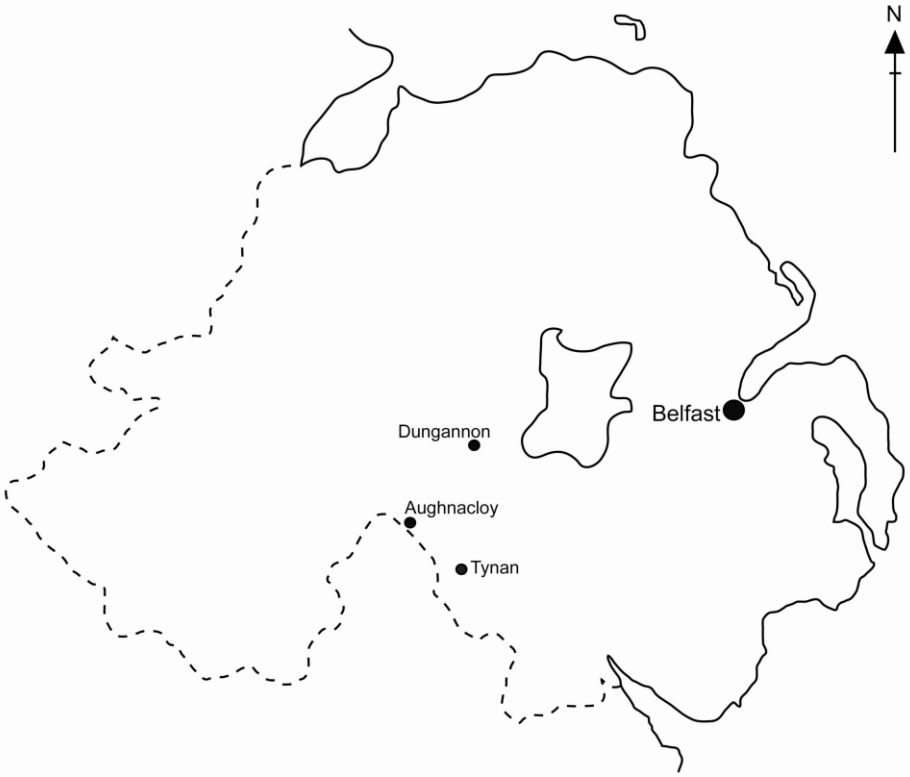
1.4 Discussion

1.4.1 The results of the investigations at Tynan revealed a series of tipline deposits, some of which contained human bone. The deposits predate the construction of the Dartanree Road and have been tentatively dated, by association, to the eighteenth or nineteenth century due to the discovery of a copper alloy mount, possibly part of a coffin mount, found in the south-east facing section of the pipe trench. Cartographic evidence supports this as the Dartanree Road is shown on the earliest Ordnance Survey six inch map of the area

dating to 1834. The road is also shown on the 1860 revision having been lengthened and improved. It can therefore been inferred that the human remains were buried prior to 1860, and possibly, prior to 1834. A plausible explanation for the presence of the human remains is that they are the result of clearance from a nearby graveyard, such as the one adjoining the Church of Ireland to the north-east. It is possible that the bone was removed from graves and re-buried in an unmarked part of the graveyard before the soil they were contained in was used to create a raised platform with a level surface for the construction of the road.

1.5 Recommendations

1.5.1 It is recommended that the skeletal remains are examined by an osteo-archaeologist and that a full report produced, along with their recommendations for one sample to be sent for radiocarbon dating. If the bones exhibit any interesting pathologies such as signs of disease or trauma, where appropriate, the final report will then be published in a relevant journal.

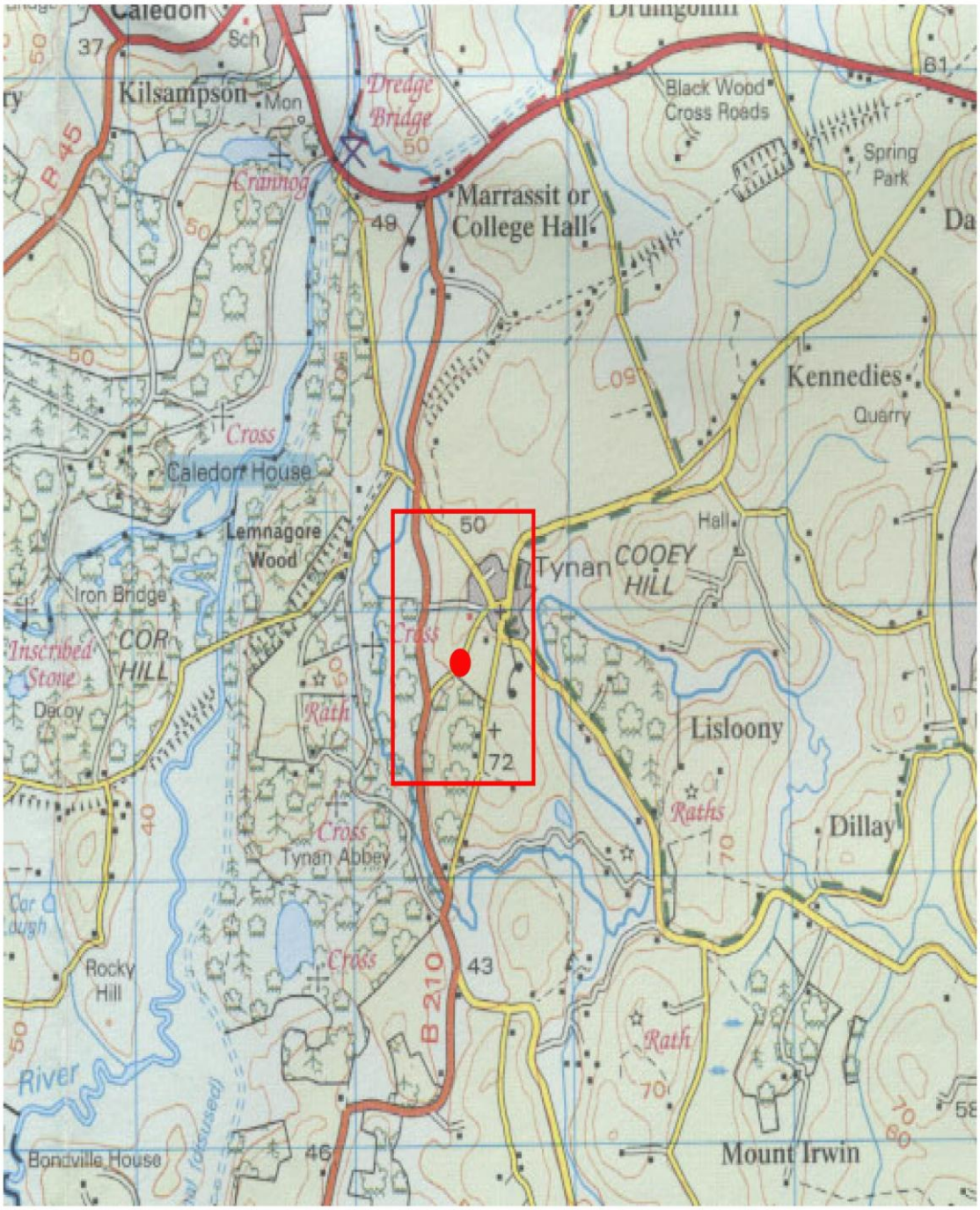


CLIENT:
Northern Ireland Water Ltd

PROJECT
Dartanree Rd, Tynan, Co. Armagh

TITLE:
General location map

FIGURE: One



	CLIENT: Northern Ireland Water Ltd	PROJECT: Dartanree Rd, Tynan, Co. Armagh TITLE: General location map (from OSNI Discovery Series Sheet 19 1:50,000) FIGURE: Two

2 Introduction

2.1 General

2.1.1 The following report details the preliminary results of the archaeological excavation at Dartanree Road, Tynan, Co. Armagh. The excavation was directed by Naomi Carver of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF), School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast (QUB), under licence from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) [AE/11/89E] from the 2nd August 2011 to the 8th August 2011. The excavation and subsequent post-excavation work were funded by Northern Ireland Water Ltd. The report also offers recommendations for post-excavation work and further analysis.

2.2 Background

2.2.1 On 22nd July 2011 contractors working on behalf of Northern Ireland Water Ltd, who were co-ordinating the laying of storm drains for a new development on the outskirts of the village of Tynan in Co. Armagh (Figures One and Two), came across human remains. The discovery was reported to Dr John O'Keeffe, Assistant Director within the NIEA who identified that the bones were of archaeological interest and arranged for it to be examined by Dr Eileen Murphy of QUB. An initial examination by Dr Murphy revealed that the collection of bones comprised largely of long bones such as femurs. None of the bones exhibited evidence of trauma and were probably from both males and females. There was also no evidence that the skeletal remains were articulated suggesting that they may have represented a charnel deposit. A copper artefact found associated with the bones was assessed by Dr Philip Macdonald of the CAF who provisionally identified it as a copper alloy mount, probably part of a coffin mount, of eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date.

2.3 Site description

2.3.1 The site is located on the Dartanree Road, around 130m to the south-west of the village of Tynan in Co. Armagh (Figure Three). The Dartanree Road originates in Tynan village and runs south-west for approximately 0.5km where it joins the Coolkill Road (B210) that runs between Caledon and Middletown. The Dartanree road follows the natural topography, which consists mostly of rolling drumlins, sloping down from north-east to south-west. The site lies at a height of around 50m above sea level, while the village of Tynan is at a height of around 200m. To the north of the site are fields currently used for pasture, while to the west is the Coolkill Road beyond which is a mill race and also the Tynan River. The Coolkill Road crosses the estate land of Tynan Abbey which also lies to the south and south-east of the excavation area. This land, which rises up to the south-east to a height of around 200m above sea level, is currently used for the grazing of cattle.


Tynan
Abbey Road
Main Street
Connors Lane
Dartanree Road
Cookhill Road (B210)
Chapel Hill Road
Derrylaw Road
N
Location of exavation trench
0
125m
CAF
CLIENT:
Northern Ireland Water Ltd
PROJECT
Dartanree Rd, Tynan, Co. Armagh
TITLE:
Detailed location map showing excavation area
FIGURE: Three

2.4 Historical background

2.4.1 The village of Tynan lies within the parish of the same name which was referred to as *Tungenethe* in the early 14th century Papal Taxation (Hamlin 2008, 251). At this time it was listed as belonging to the Culdees of Armagh (Reeves 1864, 13 & 102). The present church, St Vindic's Church of Ireland, is thought to be on or near the site of an Early Christian foundation dating back to the first millennium AD, of which the patron saint may have been St Vindic, although there is some confusion relating to saints and places with similar names (Hamlin 1976, 536). That it was mentioned in the Annals of Ulster in 1072 supports the theory of an early settlement at Tynan (Reeves 1884, 413). The village has a High Cross (Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record ARM 011:014) and there are also other elements of early ecclesiastical architecture, including carved cross fragments, in the graveyard of the present Church of Ireland. To the south-west of the village, in the grounds of Tynan Abbey, an eighteenth-century stately home, there are three more crosses (NISMR ARM 0015:001, 002 and 011:013). These were probably once associated with the early church site. They have been extensively described by Reeves (1884), Roe (1955) and Hamlin (1976).

2.4.1 The present day church of St Vindic's was probably built in the early seventeenth century. Leslie notes that in 1622 the 'Rector [was] resident, church now built' (Leslie 1911, 435). Leslie goes on to say that the church was rebuilt in 1784 and that it was then modified in 1822 with the addition of two transepts and a chancel (*ibid.* 1911, 435). Lewis also mentions these modifications (1837, 664).

2.5 Sites of archaeological interest

2.5.1 There are a number of archaeological sites in the surrounding area dating from pre-history to more recent times and also including the ecclesiastical sites mentioned above (2.4.1). Table One, below, lists some of the sites.

Description	***SMR No.***	***Townland***	***Grid Ref.***
Well cross	ARM 011:013	Fairview/ Mucklagh	H 7602 4288
Tynan High Cross	ARM 011:014	Tynan	H 7662 4300
Rath	ARM 011:015	Fairview/ Mucklagh	H 7582 4277
Underground observation post	ARM 011:027	Cooey	H 7735 4314
Cross	ARM 015:001	Fairview/ Mucklagh	H 7592 2322
High cross	ARM 015:002	Corfehan	H 7576 4165
Bi-vallate rath	ARM 015:003	Lisloony	H 7762 4231
Cairn or barrow	ARM 015:004	Tynan	H 7717 4207
Possible crannog	ARM 015:033	Corfehan	H 7581 4183
Bullaun	ARM 015:045	Corfehan	H 7596 4240

Table One: Sites of archaeological interest in the surrounding area

2.6 Cartographic evidence

2.6.1 A number of Ordnance Survey maps were examined in order to assess the context in which the bones were found. The Dartanree Road is shown on the first edition six inch map dating to 1834 (Figure Four) and, since the bones were buried below the road, it can be inferred that they may have been placed there prior to this date. The road is shown running from Tynan village and ending abruptly to the south-west of the village, before the Coolkill Road. The Church of Ireland is shown on the map as a large, cruciform-shaped building set within a polygonal graveyard, on the junction between present day Dartanree Road and Main Street of the village. The location of the high cross does not appear to be marked on the map. To the south-west of the church and along the eastern edge of the Dartanree Road the fields appear to be under cultivation. Also shown on the first edition map is the Roman Catholic chapel and graveyard to the south-east of the excavation area, on the Chapel Hill Road.

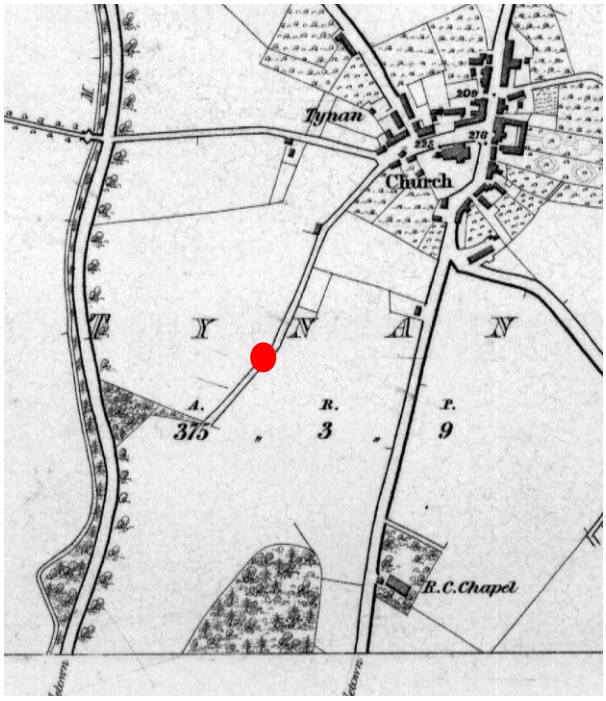


Figure Four: Detail from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey six inch map (Sheet No. 011) showing Tynan village and the approximate location of the excavation (red dot).

2.6.2 The 1860 revision of the first edition map (Figure Five) shows the Dartanree Road as it is today, continuing from Tynan village to join with the Coolkill Road. This indicates that sometime between 1834 and 1860 the road was improved and lengthened and it is also possible that the human remains were buried at this point. It may initially have been a

laneway allowing access to some of the Tynan Abbey estate parkland to the south of the village. The Church of Ireland and village remain much the same and a graveyard is now labelled to the west south-west of the church. The high cross is marked at the junction of Dartanree Road and Connor's Lane. The revision also shows more field boundaries in the land to the east of the Dartanree Road. The Roman Catholic chapel and graveyard are unchanged.

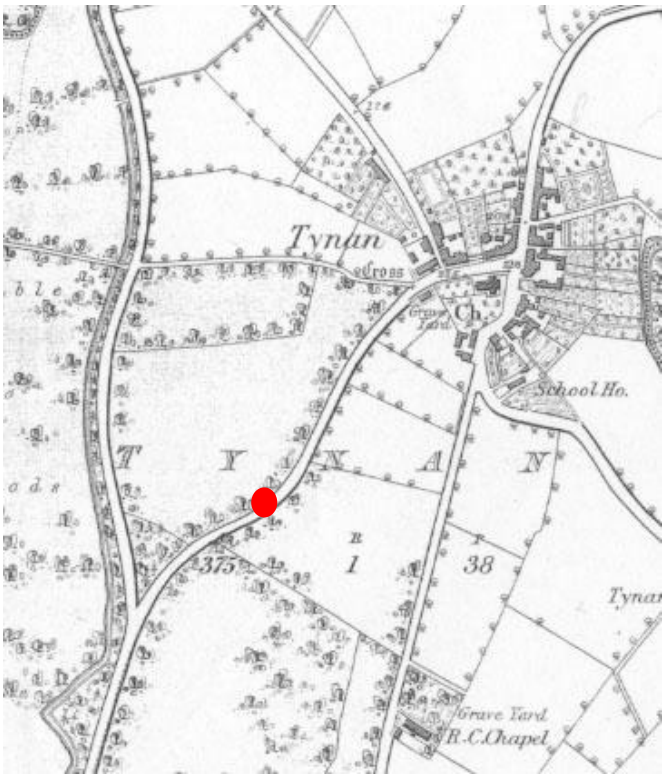


Figure Five: Detail from the 1860 revision Ordnance Survey six inch map (Sheet No. 011) showing the village of Tynan and the approximate location of the excavation (red dot).

2.6.3 The 1906 revision shows the area of the excavation unchanged (Figure Six). The Church of Ireland, graveyard and high cross also appear to have had little or no alterations made to them. Other features in the immediate vicinity such as the Roman Catholic chapel also appear to be unchanged. The 1952 edition (Figure Seven) also shows the village and area of the excavation as unchanged.

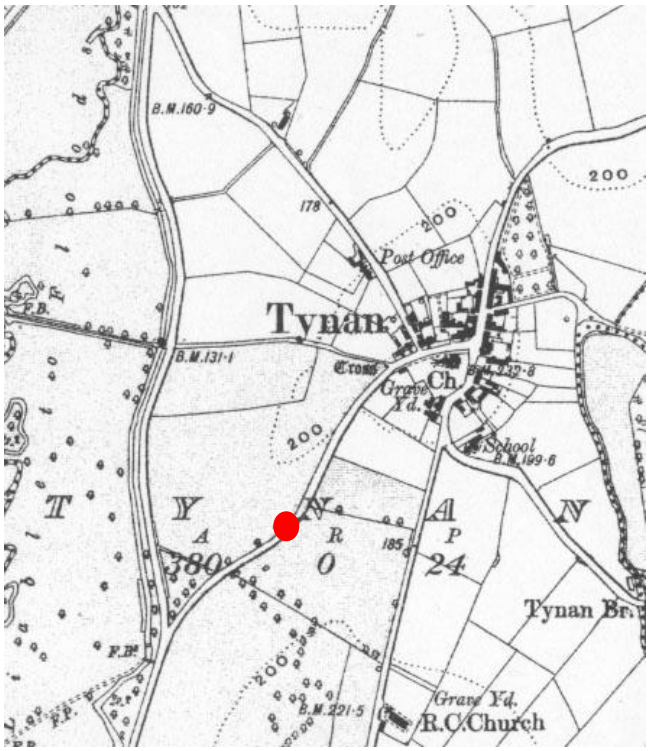


Figure Six: Detail from the 1906 revision of the Ordnance Survey six inch map (Sheet No. 011) showing the village of Tynan and the approximate location of the excavation (red dot).

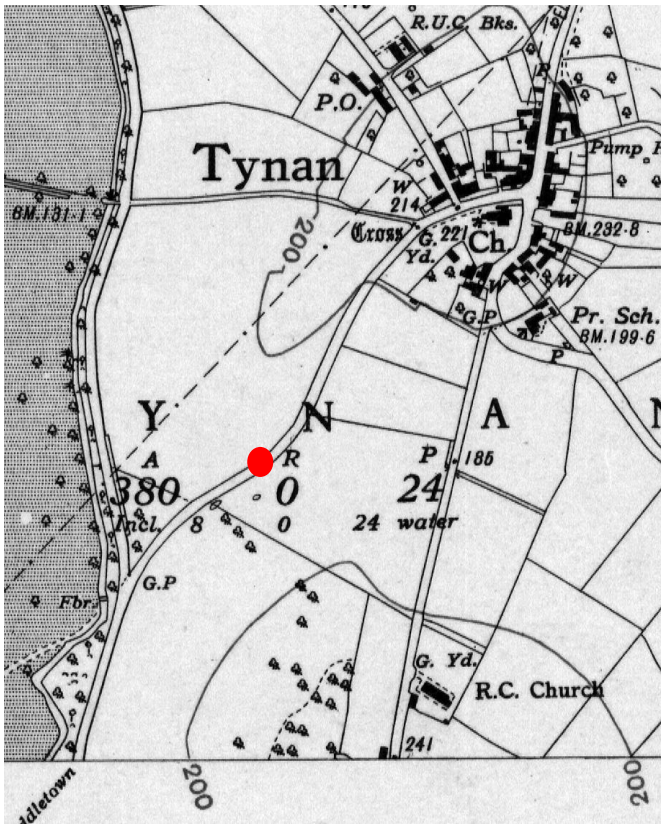


Figure Seven: Part of the 1952 edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map showing the village of Tynan and the approximate location of the excavation (red dot).

2.7 Previous excavations

2.7.1 A small number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in and around the village of Tynan. An evaluation in advance of a housing development on land adjacent to Chapel Hill Road, to the east of the site, which consisted of ten trenches found no remains of archaeological significance (Long 2007:089) while another evaluation close to a possible barrow (NISMR No. ARM 015:004) also uncovered no archaeological features (Sloan 2007). A third investigation off Abbey Road to the north of the site found evidence of occupation (MacManus 2008:070). The remains have been interpreted as part of a small rural dwelling of unknown date; and are to be dated using radiocarbon samples.

2.8 Geological background

2.8.1 Tynan is located on Carboniferous sedimentary rocks of the Maydown Limestone Formation. This limestone, which contains macrofossils such as Asbian corals and brachiopods, is exposed in Plaister Quarry near Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone and also in Maydown Quarry on the outskirts of Benburb (Mitchell 2004).

2.8.2 Overlying the natural bedrock the superficial or drift geology consists mainly of Carboniferous limestone till with some alluvial deposits of sand and silt. The main soil types in the area are gleys with good to impeded drainage (Cruickshank 1997).

2.9 Reason for the excavation and research objectives

2.9.1 The main objectives of the investigation were:

- to retrieve human remains from the area of the pipe trench
- to identify and record any deposits stratigraphically related to the human remains
- to excavate and record any further *in-situ* remains including possible articulated skeletal remains
- to set such deposits within the wider archaeological and historical background of the area, if possible

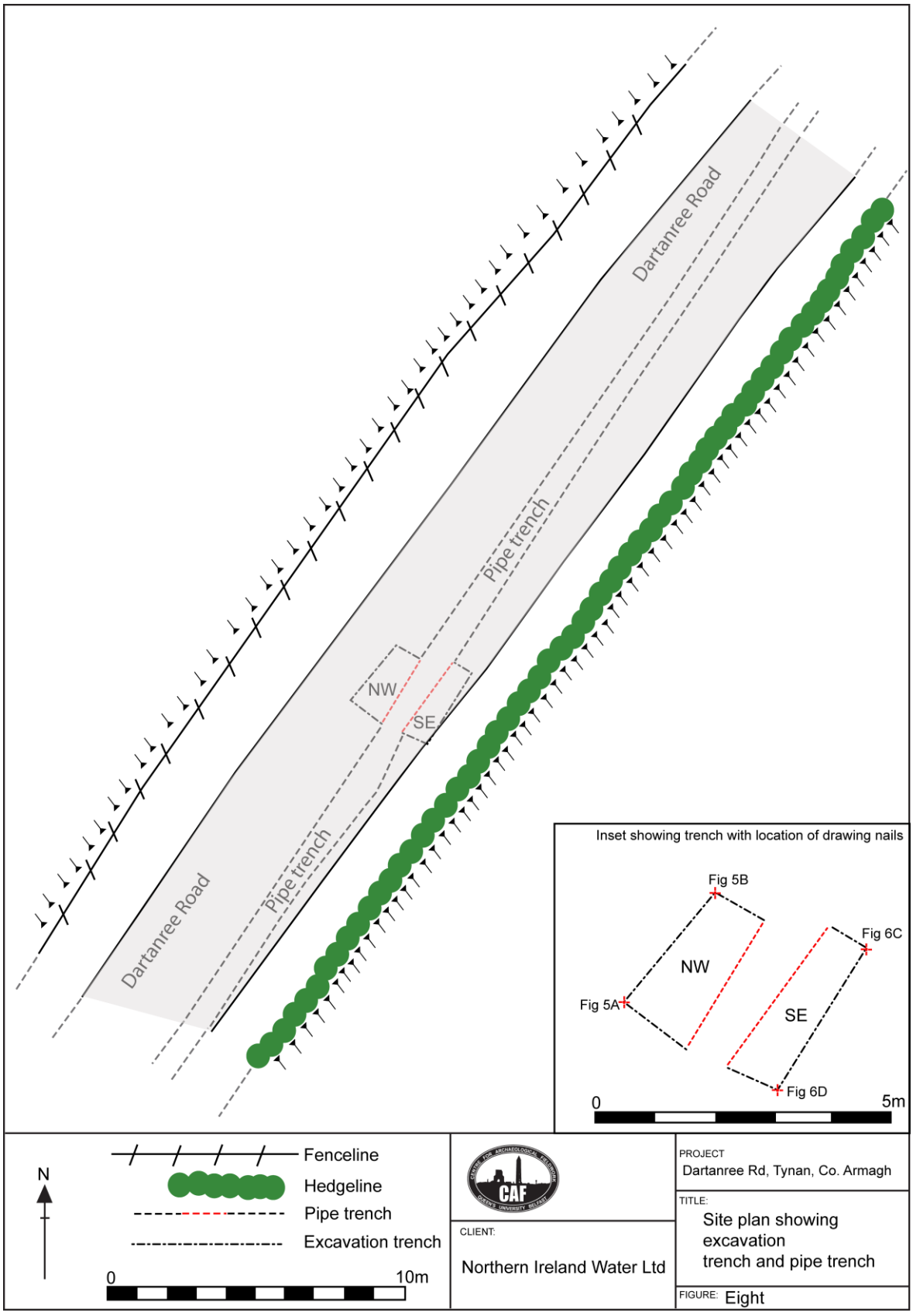
2.10 Archiving

2.10.1 Copies of this report will be deposited with the NIEA. All site records and finds are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

2.11 Credits and Acknowledgements

2.11.1 The excavation was directed by Naomi Carver and the crew consisted of Ruth Logue and Sapphire Mussen (CAF).

2.11.2 Assistance during the course of the excavation and the preparation of this report was kindly provided by: Dr Philip Macdonald (CAF); Richard Manson (AECOM); Sam McManus (AECOM); Cormac McSparron (CAF); Dr Eileen Murphy (QUB); Ruairí Ó Baoill (CAF), Maura Pringle (QUB) and Brian Sloan (CAF). The human remains were washed and catalogued by Grace McAlister (CAF) and Sapphire Mussen (CAF). Sapphire Mussen (CAF) also compiled some of the appendices.


Dartanree Road
Pipe trench
NW
SE
Dartanree Road
Pipe trench
Inset showing trench with location of drawing nails
Fig 5B
Fig 6C
NW
Fig 5A
SE
Fig 6D
0
5m
N
Fenceline
Hedgeline
Pipe trench
Excavation trench
0
10m
CAF
CLIENT:
Northern Ireland Water Ltd
PROJECT
Dartanree Rd, Tynan, Co. Armagh
TITLE:
Site plan showing excavation trench and pipe trench
FIGURE: Eight

3 Excavation

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 The excavation trench was rectangular in shape and measured approximately 2.0m (north-east/south-west) by 2.5m (north-west/south-east). It was positioned over the pipe trench, centred on the concentration of human bone which was uncovered during the initial pipe laying. The trench was excavated in two parts, referred to here as north-west (NW) and south-east (SE). The stratigraphy in each trench was treated separately due to the pipe trench having severed the stratigraphic relationships between the two sets of deposits. During the course of the excavation it was difficult to discern subtle changes in context and therefore much of the trench was treated as a single stratigraphic unit and all finds recorded from the same context (no. 106) which was suffixed by NW and SE to represent the two sides of the trench. When both sides of the trench had been excavated down to the level of the base of the pipe trench, a number of layers were visible in the section. These were retrospectively assigned context numbers for the purpose of description and interpretation and will be described at greater length below.

3.1.2 The excavation was carried out both by hand and with the aid of a mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision, to remove layers of overburden. The context record for the site was created using the standard context recording method. The list of contexts forms Appendix One, the photographic record is reproduced as Appendix Three and the field drawing register forms Appendix Four. The finds register is Appendix Five. No samples were taken during the course of the excavation. The unique site code used to identify the site records during both the evaluation and the excavation was TYN'11.

3.2 Account of the excavation

3.2.1 The Harris Matrix for the site is provided in Appendix Two. It is intended that this is referred to whilst reading the following account of the stratigraphic sequence present on the site.

3.3 North-western side of the trench

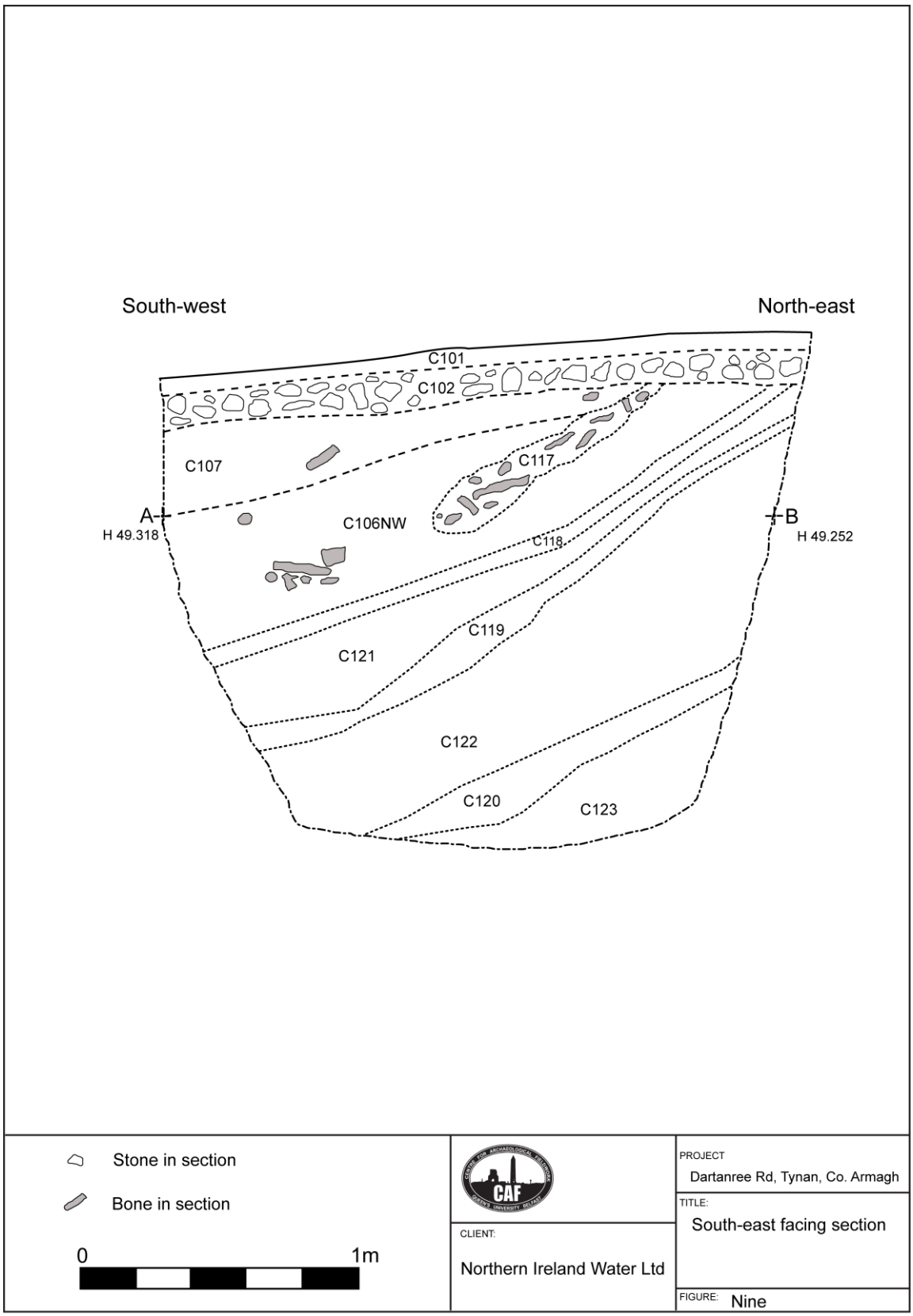
3.3.1 The north-western side of the trench measured approximately 1.0m (north-west/south-east by 2.0m (north-east/south-west). It was excavated to the base of the pipe trench, an overall depth of 1.8-2.0m. The stratigraphically latest deposit in this part of the trench was the bitumen road surface (context no. 101). This was cut and subsequently removed by mechanical excavator. The road surface was between 0.06 and 0.12m thick. It extended over much of the trench although was encroached by grass on the south-eastern side. Below the road surface was a layer of hardcore (context no. 102) consisting of angular and sub-angular stones ranging in size from 15x15x7mm to 50x40x30mm. This layer was also removed using a mechanical excavator. It was around 0.18m thick.

3.3.2 Below the hardcore (context no. 102) was a deposit of highly compact orange clay (context no. 107) up to 0.3m in thickness. The clay contained small angular stones around 3x3x1mm along with occasional flecks of charcoal. It also contained some bone as high up as 0.25m below the surface of the road. It is probable that the clay was brought in as a levelling deposit upon which to construct the road.

3.3.3 Below the clay levelling deposit (context no. 107) was a layer of dark brown, smooth, friable clay loam (context no. 108) containing occasional small stones around 3x3x1mm in size and also some flecks of charcoal. The clay loam sloped relatively steeply from north-east to south-west. The layer was between 0.08m and 0.14m thick and was not represented in the south-east facing section. Below the clay loam was a layer of greyish brown and orange mottled compact loamy clay with a slightly gritty texture. It contained sub-rounded stones around 10x5x2mm in size along with occasional charcoal flecks and some concentrations of charcoal. The layer extended over the whole trench and was recorded as context nos. 106NW and 106SE (see paragraph 3.1.1 above). In the north-western side of the trench it was 0.50m thick. The mottled clay contained dense concentrations of human bone, particularly in the north-western part of the trench. The most significant find from this part of the trench were fragments of copper alloy which are thought to have been part of a coffin mount of eighteenth or nineteenth century date (Philip Macdonald *pers. comm.*). The layer also contained a small sherd of brown-glazed earthenware which may also date to the eighteenth or nineteenth century and a piece of flint. The flint was examined by Brian Sloan (CAF) who identified it as a proximal fragment of a flake or blade with semi-invasive pressure flaking on lower left dorsal lateral. It was prehistoric in date and therefore residual.

3.3.4 Below the mottled clay (context no. 106NW), and visible in the south-east facing section was a layer of dark clay loam (context no. 117) containing large concentrations of bone. The layer sloped steeply from north-east to south-west. It was slightly gritty in texture, friable and contained moderately frequent angular stones around 3x3x2mm along with occasional flecks of charcoal. It was 0.20m thick and at least 0.80m long. Below the dark layer was more of the mottled clay layer (context no. 106NW); in parts these two layers were indistinguishable from one another. Below the mottled clay was another layer of clay (context no. 118) which was brownish orange in colour, slightly gritty and compact. It contained moderately frequent angular stones around 3x3x2mm as well as occasional charcoal flecks. The layer was around 0.10m thick and may have been deliberately laid down as a consolidator between the looser, loamier layers. Below the clay (context no. 118) was another layer of clay (context no. 121) which also sloped down from north-east to south-west. The clay was compact, with a smooth texture, and mottled orangeish brown in colour. It was between 0.05 and 0.30m thick and contained a few sub-angular stones

around 3x3x2mm as well as a few flecks of charcoal. Fragments of bone were visible in this layer in the south-east facing section.

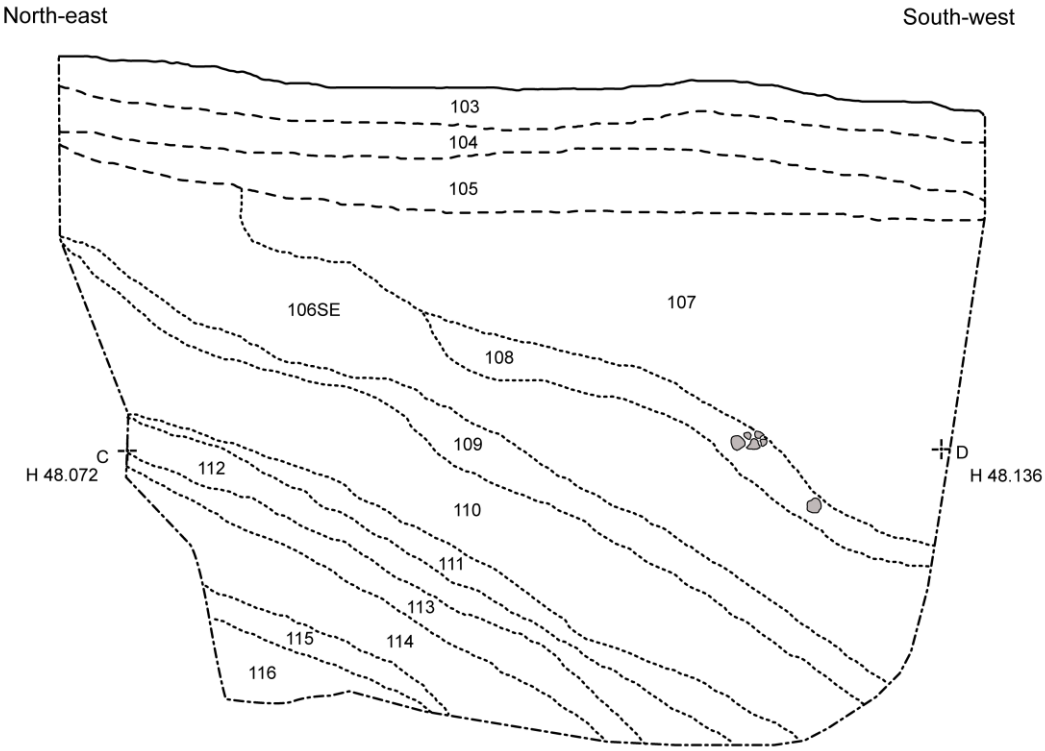


3.3.5 Below the clay (context no. 121) was another layer of dumped soil (context no. 119) which was also only identifiable in the south-east facing section. The layer consisted of brownish orange compact clay which was slightly gritty in texture. It contained moderately frequent angular stones around 3x3x2mm in size. The layer sloped relatively steeply from north-east to south-west and was between 0.04m to 0.18m thick. Below the compact clay layer (context no. 119) was another layer of clay (context no. 122) which was mottled orangeish brown in colour and quite compact. It had a slightly gritty texture and contained moderately frequent sub-angular stones around 3x3x2mm in size as well as occasional flecks of charcoal. It was an average of 0.60m thick. The layer contained some bone which was visible in the south-east facing section. Two sherds of glass from a bottle were also recovered from this layer and have been dated to the eighteenth or possibly nineteenth century (Ruairí Ó Baoill *pers. comm.*). The layer was probably intended to consolidate the looser, loamier layers within the dump.

3.3.6 Below the clay (context no. 122) was a dark brown loamy clay (context no. 120) which was friable with a smooth texture and up to 0.20m thick. The loamy clay contained a few sub-angular stones around 3x3x2mm in size as well as occasional flecks of charcoal. The lowest exposed layer in the sequence was a clay layer (context no. 123). This layer was mottled orangeish grey in colour and quite compact with a slightly gritty texture. It contained moderately frequent angular stones around 3x3x2mm in size along with some occasional charcoal flecks. It was at least 0.35m thick and at the base of the sequence of layers visible in the south-east facing section. It may be the equivalent of the clay layer (context no. 116) exposed in the north-west facing section and probably overlies the natural, but as the excavation ceased at this layer when it reached the level of the base of the pipe trench, this was impossible to prove.

3.4 South-eastern side of the trench

3.4.1 The south-eastern side of the trench measured 1.0m (north-west/south-east) by 2.0m (north-east/south-west). It was later extended by approximately 1.0m to the north-east for health and safety reasons. The trench was excavated to the level of the base of the pipe trench, a depth of 1.9m. The stratigraphically latest deposit on this side of the trench was the sod layer (context no. 103). This layer consisted of dark brown, gritty, loose sandy loam containing small rounded stones around 2x3x5mm in size. It was 0.15m thick and overlay the road surface along its south-eastern edge. The sod layer (context no. 103) also overlay a layer of topsoil (context no. 104) which consisted of blackish brown relatively compact clay loam with a gritty texture. It contained angular stone approximately 25x15x5mm in size along with occasional charcoal flecks and was 0.12m thick.



Bone in section

0 1m

CLIENT:
Northern Ireland Water Ltd

PROJECT
Dartanree Rd, Tynan, Co. Armagh

TITLE:
North-west facing section

FIGURE: Ten

3.4.2 Below the topsoil (context no. 104) was a layer of light greyish brown clay loam (context no. 105) which had a spongy texture and was quite compact. The layer contained infrequent angular stones around 5x5x2mm along with more frequent larger stones at the base of the layer which were around 35x40x20mm in size. The clay loam also contained occasional flecks of charcoal along with tree roots. The layer was 0.10-0.20m thick.

3.4.3 Below the clay loam (context no. 105), at the south-eastern side of the trench, was a layer of clay (context no. 107) equivalent to that excavated at the north-western side of the trench (also context no. 107). As previously described, this layer was orange in colour and highly compact with a smooth texture. It contained occasional small angular stones around 3x3x1mm in size as well as occasional charcoal flecks. At this side of the trench the layer was up to 0.50m thick. As suggested previously, it was probably intended as a levelling deposit to provide a base for the construction of the road.

3.4.4 Below the levelling deposit (context no. 107) was a sequence of deposits visible in the north-west facing section but not clearly identifiable during excavation. The first layer in this sequence consisted of a dark brown, smooth, friable clay loam (context no. 108) containing occasional small stones around 3x3x1mm in size and also some flecks of charcoal. The clay loam sloped relatively steeply from north-east to south-west and contained bone, visible in the section. It was between 0.08m and 0.14m thick. Below the clay loam (context no. 108) was a layer of greyish brown and orange mottled clay (context no. 106SE) which again was the equivalent to a deposit excavated on the north-western side of the trench (context no. 106NW). As previously described, the compact loamy clay had a slightly gritty texture and contained sub-rounded stones approximately 10x5x2mm in size. It contained a large quantity of bone as well as fragments of copper alloy and a small sherd of eighteenth century pottery.

3.4.5 Below the mottled clay (context no. 106SE) was a layer of greyish brown sandy loamy clay (context no. 109) which also sloped down steeply from north-east to south-west. The loamy clay was friable with a slightly gritty texture and contained frequent sub-angular stones around 10x5x2mm in size. The layer contained bone although not in as large quantities as the layers above (contexts no. 106SE and 108). It was around 0.16m thick.

3.4.6 Below the sandy loamy clay (context no. 109) was a compact clay (context no. 110). The clay was mottled greyish brown and orange in colour and contained frequent sub-rounded stones with an average size of 10x5x2mm and also some flecks of charcoal. It was up to 0.34m thick and sloped from north-east to south-west. The layer was probably intended to consolidate the loamier dumps on either side. Below the clay (context no. 110) was a layer of loamy clay (context no. 111) which was greyish brown in colour and relatively compact with a slightly gritty texture. The loamy clay contained some small sub-angular stones with

an average size of 3x3x1mm and also occasional flecks of charcoal. The layer was shallow at its north-eastern side (around 0.02m) but became thicker towards the south-western side (around 0.14m). It did not contain any visible bone.

3.4.7 Below the loamy clay (context no. 111) was a compact orange clay (context no. 112) which had a gritty texture and contained a moderate amount of sub-angular stones with an average size of 3x3x2mm. It also contained occasional flecks of charcoal. The layer was between 0.08m to 0.16m thick. It overlay another layer of loamy clay (context no. 113) which was greyish brown in colour and compact with a smooth texture. The loamy clay contained occasional small stones around 3x3x2mm in size. It did not contain any visible bone or artefacts. The loamy clay sloped down from north-east to south-west and was visible in the north-west facing section. It was up to 0.14m thick.

3.4.8 Below the loamy clay (context no. 113) was a compact orange clay (context no. 114). The clay was at least 0.20m thick and contained moderately frequent angular to sub-angular stones around 3x3x1mm. It was visible in the north-west facing section of the trench and may have been intended to consolidate the looser, loamier layers. Below the compact orange clay (context no. 114) was a layer of mottled orangeish grey clay loam (context no.115) which was around 0.10m thick. The mottled clay loam had a smooth to slightly gritty texture and was friable. It contained small angular stones with an average size of 3x3x2mm. As with the overlying layers, the mottled clay loam probably represented the remains of dumped, looser soil in between consolidatory layers of clay. It contained no visible bone. Below the mottled clay loam (context no. 115) was a compact orange clay (context no. 116) which contained some small stones around 3x3x2mm and occasional flecks of charcoal. This was the lowest layer exposed by excavation and probably overlay the boulder clay subsoil (which was exposed in the pipe trench to the north-east). The surface of the layer was encountered at a depth of 1.76m and excavation continued to a level of 1.96m. The layer may have been the equivalent of the clay layer in the north-western side of the trench (context no. 123).

3.5 The pipe trench

3.5.1 The excavation of the pipe trench by mechanical excavator was monitored for a distance of around 20m to the north-east of the excavation trench. Although a section drawing was completed of this trench, the layers were not recorded by context. The bone retrieved from this section was recorded as coming from the ‘fill of the pipe trench’. It was found that the banded layers containing bone continued for a distance of around 14.0m to the north-east of the trench.

4 Discussion

4.1 The excavation at Dartanree Road, Tynan revealed that there was a substantial quantity of human bone buried below the surface of the road. The bone was not contained within a cut feature but rather within a series of tipline deposits which, during excavation were virtually indistinguishable from one another. There was bone present within most of the tip lines from as close to the surface as 0.25m down to around 1.2m below the surface of the road. The bone was, however, concentrated within a layer of mottled clay loam (context no. 106) and there was also more bone found in the north-western side of the trench than the south-eastern side. The layers containing the bone extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north-west. Monitoring of the pipe trench under archaeological supervision also revealed that the layers containing the bone extended for a distance of around 14.0m to the north-east of the excavation trench. Some fragments of bone were visible in the section of the pipe trench which had previously been excavated to the south-west of the excavation trench.

4.2 The area of the site was raised up from the surrounding landscape, probably to provide a level surface for the construction of the road. Perhaps the nearby fields were boggy or prone to becoming waterlogged. The layers observed within the excavation trench revealed the nature of the deposit used to build up the land. It comprised alternating layers of loam and clay or clay loam which had been dumped or tipped from the north-east. It is probable that the clay-rich layers were intended to consolidate the looser, loamier soil. The bone was not confined to any single layer.

4.3 The bone was in a secondary or tertiary context of deposition. The excavation did not reveal any evidence of articulated burials or burials within formal grave cuts. All the excavated bone was disarticulated and consisted mainly of long bones and cranial fragments. This indicates that it had been moved from elsewhere and in the process the smaller, more fragile bones, such as ribs and phalanges for example, were lost. The association of the bone with a possible coffin mount suggests that the original context of deposition was within a formalised burial ground. There are two graveyards nearby- that associated with the Roman Catholic chapel to the south-east and that adjoining the Church of Ireland to the north-east. Documentary evidence records that the Church of Ireland was substantially renovated in 1822 with the addition of two transepts and a chancel (Lewis 1837, 664 and Leslie 1911, 435). It is plausible that during these renovations some of the existing burials within the graveyard were disturbed and re-buried elsewhere, perhaps straight into area of excavation, but more likely reburied in an unmarked area of the graveyard. The remains must then have been dug up again within the deposits used to build up the level of the land surface below the road. If the bones were within their third context of deposition this would account for the missing smaller bones plus the fragmentary nature of some of the remains.

4.4 The human bone was buried prior to, or during the construction of, the Dartanree Road. Cartographic evidence indicates that the road was finished by 1860 and that although it was extant in 1834 it was not at its full length and as such was probably a lane or trackway. The excavation revealed a series of tipline deposits capped with a thick deposit of clay that was probably intended as a levelling deposit. It was not possible to determine if the clay was related to the initial construction of the lane prior to 1834 or to the improvement of the road prior to 1860. It is possible that there was a horizontal discontinuity between the tipline deposits and the levelling clay or between the levelling clay and the modern day road which represents the removal of the original lane.

4.5 It is probable that the bones were buried after 1822, when the Church of Ireland was renovated, and prior to 1860 when the completed road is shown on the Ordnance Survey map revision. It is possible that the road was constructed at around the same time as the church improvements and finished by 1860. The artefactual evidence also supports an early nineteenth century date for the deposition of the bone. As well as the possible coffin mount which was tentatively dated to the eighteenth or nineteenth century (Philip Macdonald *pers. comm.*), a small sherd of glazed earthenware along with a piece of glass also indicates an eighteenth or nineteenth century date (Ruairí Ó Baoill *pers. comm.*). Unfortunately, the artefactual evidence only serves to provide a *terminus post quem* for the deposition of the bone. However, the depiction of the finished road on the 1860 Ordnance Survey map provides an approximate *terminus ante quem* for the burial. Obtaining a radiocarbon date from a bone sample as recommended by the osteo-archaeologist will hopefully provide an idea of the original burial date.

4.5 Conclusions

4.5.1 The excavation uncovered a series of tipline deposits containing skeletal human remains. The bone was buried prior to 1860 and, possibly prior to 1834, and was probably removed from a nearby graveyard during an episode of graveyard clearance. It may relate to the remodelling of St Vindic's Church of Ireland in 1822. The bone was contained within a series of tip line deposits which formed a 'made-up' platform upon which the Dartanree road was constructed.

5 Recommendations.

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 There are several areas of further work required to bring the Tynan excavation to final report stage. These are detailed below in Sections 5.2-5.3. Depending on the results of the osteo-archaeological analysis, the final report may take the form of a short article or note intended for submission to the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology.* A short summary will also be published in the *Excavations 2011* bulletin. A Costed Assessment (CAF CA 076) accompanies this report.

5.2 Osteo-archaeological analysis

5.2.1 Several hundred individual human bones, from perhaps 30 individuals, were recovered from the site. Most of these were long bones such as femurs and skull fragments. It is proposed that the assemblage is analysed by an osteo-archaeologist in order to discover if the bone exhibits interesting pathologies, as well as finding out details on the minimum number of individuals present and retrieving data on age and sex.

5.3 Programme of radiocarbon dating

5.3.1 It is proposed that one radiocarbon date is obtained from the human bone recovered during the course of the excavation. The sample for submission will be chosen following the completion of the osteo-archaeological analysis. Although the bone is in a secondary context and the excavated sequence of deposits were thought to have been dumped within a relatively short space of time, a radiocarbon date may help to refine the timescale of the site.

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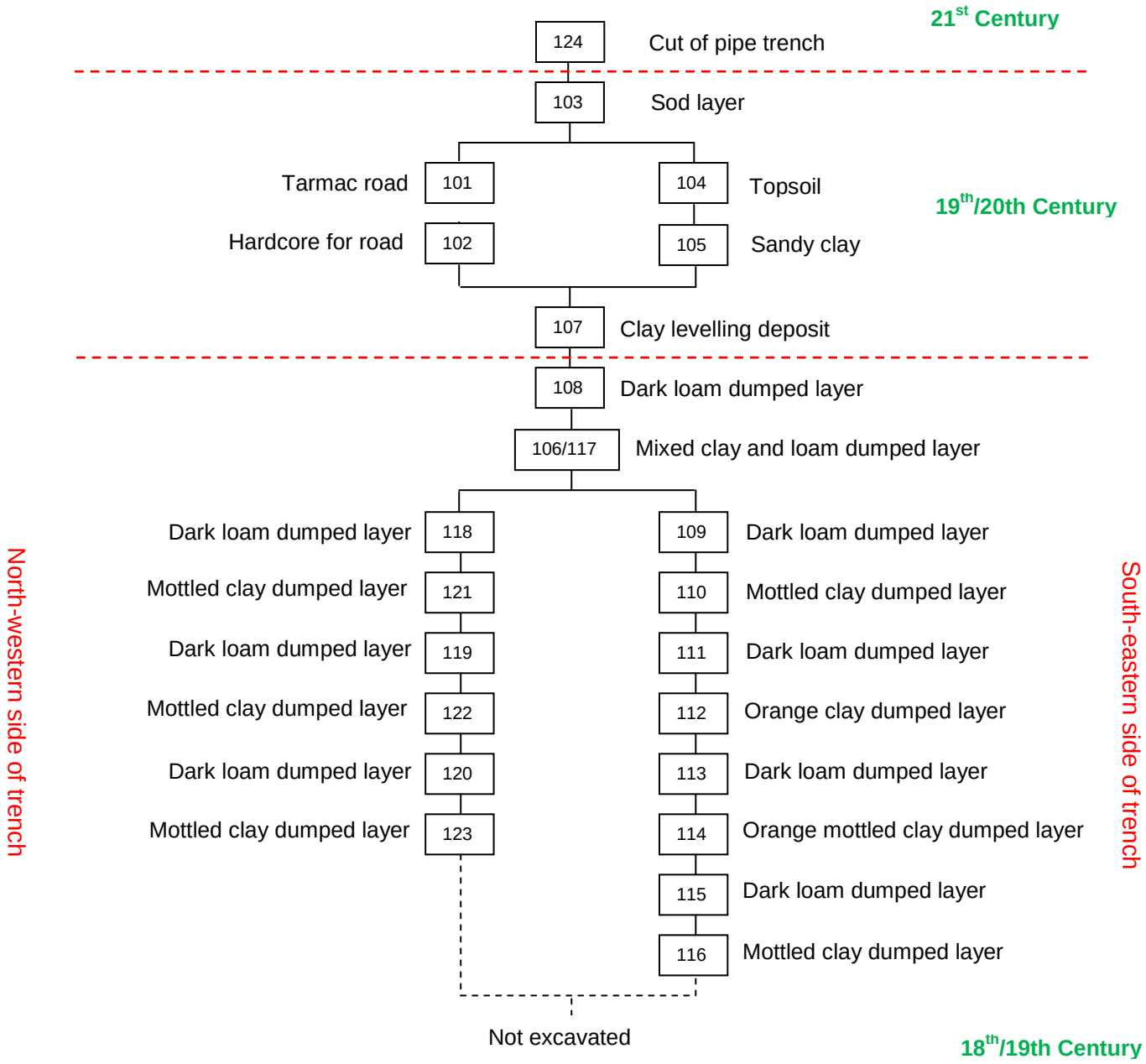
Appendix One: Context Register

Context Number	Context Type	Description
101	Layer	Tarmac road surface over most of trench
102	Layer	Hardcore for road surface over most of trench
103	Layer	Grass/sod layer at edge of road on south-eastern side of trench
104	N/a	Topsoil on south-eastern side of trench
105	Layer	Sandy clay below topsoil on south-eastern side of trench
106	Layer	Heterogeneous deposit of mottled clay loam
107	Layer	Compact orange clay levelling deposit
108	Layer	Dark loam layer on south-eastern side of trench
109	Layer	Dark loam layer on south-eastern side of trench
110	Layer	Mottled clay between loam layers on south-eastern side of trench
111	Layer	Dark loam layer on south-eastern side of trench
112	Layer	Orange clay between loam layers on south-eastern side of trench
113	Layer	Dark loam layer on south-eastern side of trench
114	Layer	Orange-mottled clay between layers in south-eastern side of trench
115	Layer	Dark loam layer on south-eastern side of trench
116	Layer	Mottled clay below layers in south-eastern side of trench

Context Number	Context Type	Description
117	Layer	Dark loam layer in north-western side of trench
118	Layer	Dark loam layer in north-western side of trench
119	Layer	Dark loam layer in north-western side of trench
120	Layer	Dark loam layer in north-western side of trench
121	Layer	Clay between layers in north-western side of trench
122	Layer	Clay between layers in north-western side of trench
123	Layer	Clay between layers in north-western side of trench
124	Cut	Cut of pipe trench

Appendix Two: Harris Matrix



Appendix Three: Digital Photograph Register (on accompanying CD)

1	General view of bones in section, looking north-west
2	General view of bones in section, looking north-west
3	General view of bones in section, looking south-east
4	Excavation trench following removal of upper deposits, looking south-east
5	Excavation trench following removal of upper deposits, looking north-west
6	General view after first clean-up & showing bones, looking south-east
7	General view after first clean-up & showing bones, looking south-west
8	Disarticulated bone on south-eastern side, looking north-west
9	Disarticulated bone on south-eastern side, looking north-east
10	Disarticulated bone on north-western side, looking north-east
11	Close-up of disarticulated bone on north-western side, looking north-east
12	Disarticulated bone in section on north-western side, looking north-west
13	Bank at north-western edge of road, looking south-east
14	Bank at north-western edge of road, looking south-east
15	Bank at south-eastern edge of road, looking south-east
16	North-west facing section of pipe trench, looking south-east
17	Bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
18	Bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
19	Close-up of bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
20	Close-up of bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
21	Close-up of bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
22	General view of pipe trench, looking south-west
23	General view of pipe trench, looking north-east
24	General view of south-east facing section, looking north-west
25	Post-excavation view of north-west facing section, looking south-east
26	Post-excavation view of north-west facing section, looking east
27	Close-up of north-west facing section, looking south-east
28	Close-up of north-west facing section, looking south-east
29	Close-up of north-west facing section, looking south-east
30	Close-up of north-west facing section, looking south-east
31	Post-excavation view of south-east facing section, looking north-west
32	Post-excavation view of south-east facing section, looking north-west
33	Post-excavation view of south-east facing section, looking north-west
34	Close-up of bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
35	Close-up of bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
36	Close-up of bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
37	Close-up of bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west

38 Close-up of bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
39 Close-up of bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west
40 Tip-lines in north-west facing section, looking south-east
41 Tip-lines in north-west facing section, looking south-east
42 General view of site, looking south-east
43 General view of site, looking south
44 General view of site, looking south-west
45 General view of site, looking west
46 General view of site, looking north-west
47 General view of site, looking north
48 General view of site, looking north-east
49 General view of site, looking east

Appendix Four: Field Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Type	Scale	Site sub-division	Description
1	Section	1:10	SE side	North-west facing section of drainage pipe trench (part 1)
2	Section	1:10	SE side	North-west facing section of drainage pipe trench (part 2)
3	Section	1:10	SE side	North-west facing section of trench (part 1)
4	Section	1:10	SE side	North-west facing section of trench (part 2)
5	Section	1:10	NW side	South-east facing section of trench
6	Plan	1:200	N/a	Schematic plan of site using EDM

Appendix Five: Finds Register

Context No.	Type	Quantity	Comment/description
106	Slate	542.9g	Fragments
106	Brick	76.3g	1 fragment
106	Flint	2.8g	Flake or blade fragment
106	Pottery	1.3g	1 small sherd of post-medieval pottery – 18th century
106	Copper	5 fragments	Copper alloy mount, probably from a coffin mount – 18th/19th century
122	Glass	29.3g	Fragments – 18th century

Plate One: General view of site showing pipe trench and the excavation trench, looking north-east. The NW trench is on the left hand side of the photo and the SE trench is on the right hand side

Plate Two: General view of site, looking south-west

Plate Three: General view of fields around site, looking south-east

Plate Four: General view of fields around site, looking north-west

Plate Five: General view showing difference in levels between the road and the field to the north-west, looking south-east

Plate Six: Human bone in south-east facing section, looking north-west

Plate Seven: Disarticulated bone on the north-western side of the trench, from above

Plate Eight: Close-up of human bone in the south-east facing section, looking north-west

Plate Nine: South-east facing section, looking north-west

Plate Ten: North-west facing section with tiplines clearly visible, looking south-east