



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 084

**ADJACENT TO 15 WEST STREET
BALLYCARRY
COUNTY ANTRIM**

LICENCE NO.: AE/06/208

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Adjacent to 15 West Street, Ballycarry

Townland: Ballycarry

SMR No. : ANT 047:009

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 4467 9401

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/06/208

Planning Ref / No. : F/2005/0404/O

Dates of Monitoring: 29th August 2006

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site immediately to the south of 15 West Street, Ballycarry, County Antrim. The evaluation was requested as the site is close to the site of *Brackenbergha*, a medieval church and graveyard (ANT 047:009). The Environment and Heritage Service Sites and Monuments Record notes that human remains were found in the area of the medieval church. The evaluation consisted of two test trenches within the development area. There were no remains of archaeological significance and it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Two trenches each approximately 1.3m wide and 15.0m long.

Current Land Use: Common land

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for a proposed new dwelling is located in the village of Ballycarry which is situated approximately 3.5km to the north-west of Whitehead (Figure One). The application site is on the corner of a cul-de-sac in West Street, a residential area in the centre of the village, and is immediately to the south of 15 West Street (Figure Two). The application site consists of a rectangular area approximately 20m (east-west) by 10m in size, bounded on the northern side by a fence belonging to 15 West Street (Plate One). On the eastern, western and southern sides the site is unenclosed and there are footpaths running alongside. West Street runs along the southern side of the site (Plate Two). Prior to excavation the site was an open area of regularly maintained grass.

Around 50m to the south-west of the application site is the apparent location of a medieval church and graveyard known as *Brakenberghe* (Environment and Heritage Service: Sites and Monuments Record). In the nineteenth century stone foundations and human bones were found close to this site, although the exact location is now not known (Environment and Heritage Service: Sites and Monuments Record).

The evaluation took place in response to a planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Andrew Gault: Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage.

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of two test trenches positioned in the locations shown in Figure Three. The test trenches were each approximately 1.3m wide and 15.0m long. Both trenches were excavated to the natural boulder clay subsoil, the surface of which varied from 0.2m to 0.8m deep.

Trench One

Trench One was situated in the northern part of the site with the long axis of the trench running parallel to West Street. The western end of the trench was 2.1m from the boundary fence of 15 West Street and the eastern end of the trench was 2.9m from the fence. Trench One was 1.3m wide and 15.0m long (Plate Three).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of friable to loose, dark brown, silty loam. The layer contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size 20x10x5mm) and small quantities of modern glass. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was around 0.1m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was a deposit of silty clay loam (Context No. 102). The silty clay loam was compact and dark brown in colour. It contained frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded inclusions (average size 50x40x20mm). The silty clay loam (Context No. 102) was approximately 0.7m thick at the western end of the trench but became shallower (approximately 0.4m thick) towards the eastern end. A small number of sherds of modern pottery and glass, as well as a clay pipe stem, were recovered from the silty clay loam (Context No. 102). Two fragments of animal bone were also found. Below the silty clay loam (Context No. 102) was the subsoil (Context No. 103). The

surface of the subsoil in Trench One was around 0.8m deep (Plate Four) and there were no features cut into it.

Trench Two

Trench Two ran parallel to Trench One and was situated approximately 2.6m to the south. Trench Two was approximately 15.0m long and 1.3m wide (Plate Five). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of loose, dark brown, silty loam containing frequent large stone inclusions (average size: 200x100x50mm). Several sherds of modern glass were found within the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) which was between 0.1 and 0.2m thick. The layer was deeper at the eastern end. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) was a deposit of compact silty clay loam (Context No. 202). The silty clay loam was mid to dark brown in colour and contained some stone inclusions (average size: 40x30x10mm). The silty clay loam was approximately 0.2m thick and contained a few sherds of nineteenth century pottery as well as sherds of glass and some pieces of metal. Below the silty clay loam (Context No. 202) was the subsoil (Context No. 203), the surface of which was at a depth of 0.2 to 0.4m (Plate Six). There were no features cut into the subsoil.

No remains of archaeological significance were found during the evaluation. The differences in the depth of stratigraphy in Trench One and Trench Two suggest that landscaping of the area may have taken place, possibly when the houses in the cul-de-sac were built. If landscaping did occur at this date the surface of the boulder clay may have been truncated which would therefore reduce the archaeological potential of the area. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. No publication is required save for a short summary in the annual '*Excavations*' bulletin.

Archive:

Finds:

The artefacts recovered from 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 currently archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

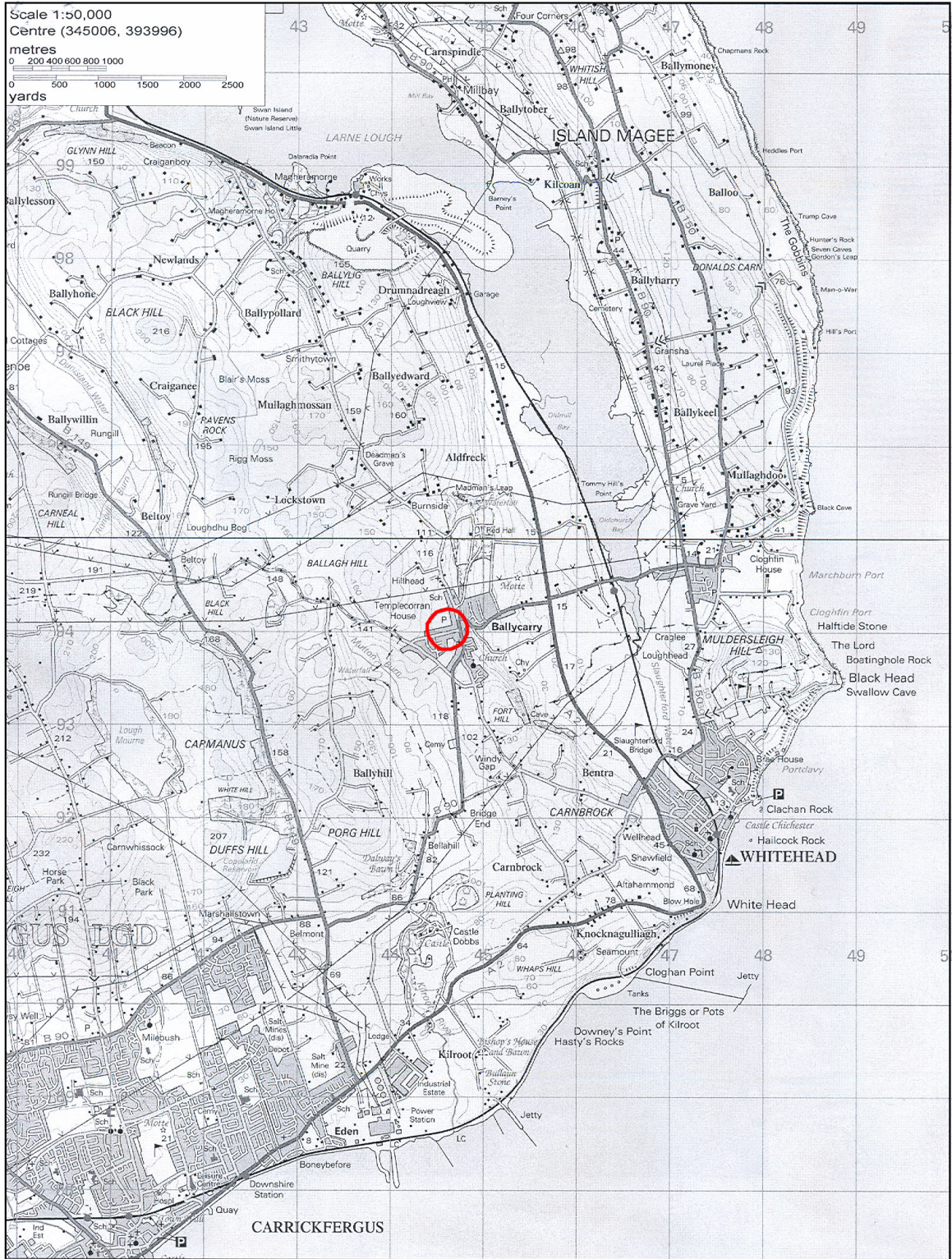


Figure One: 1:50,000 map showing location of site (circled in red)

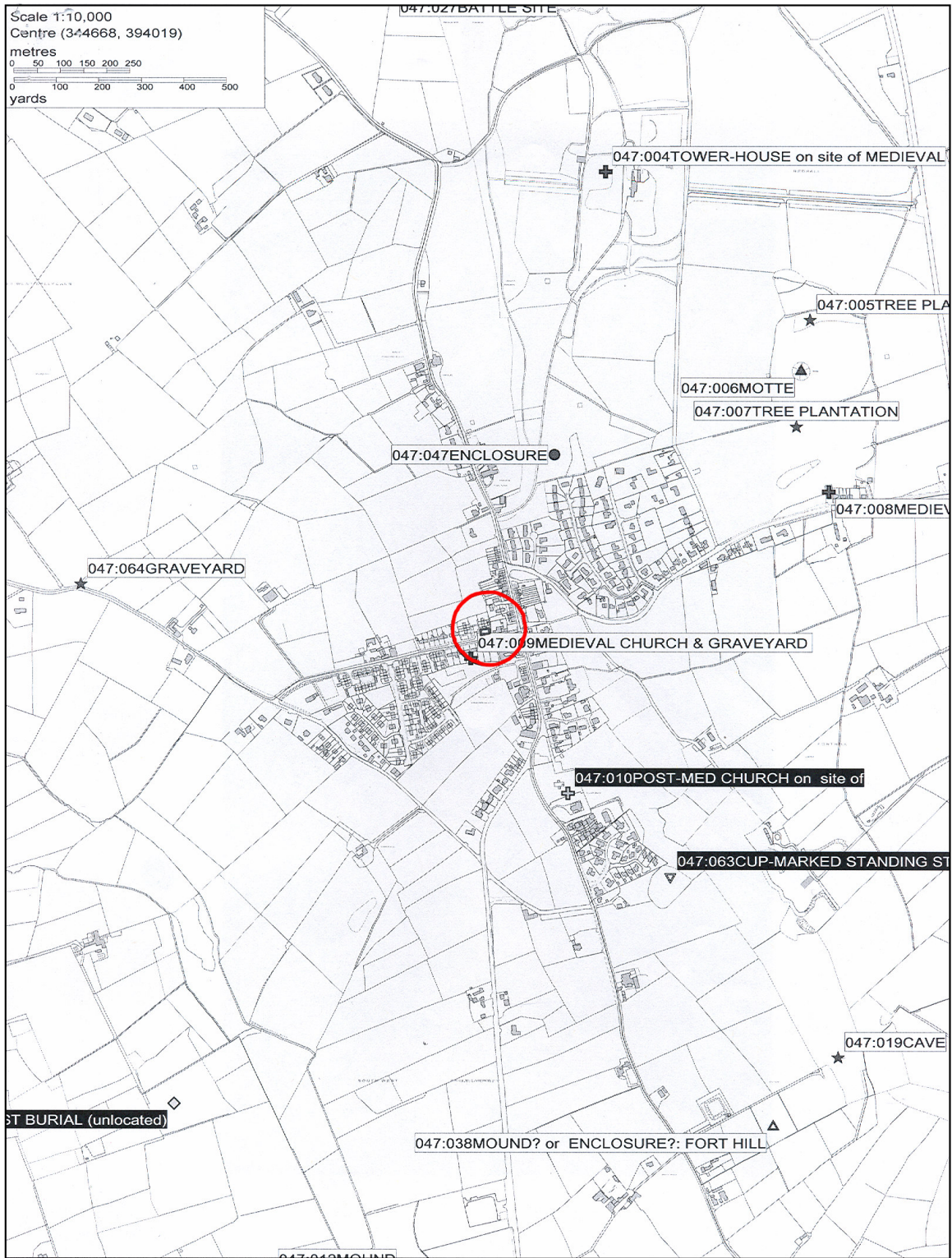


Figure Two: 1:10,000 map showing location of site (circled in red) and sites in the surrounding area

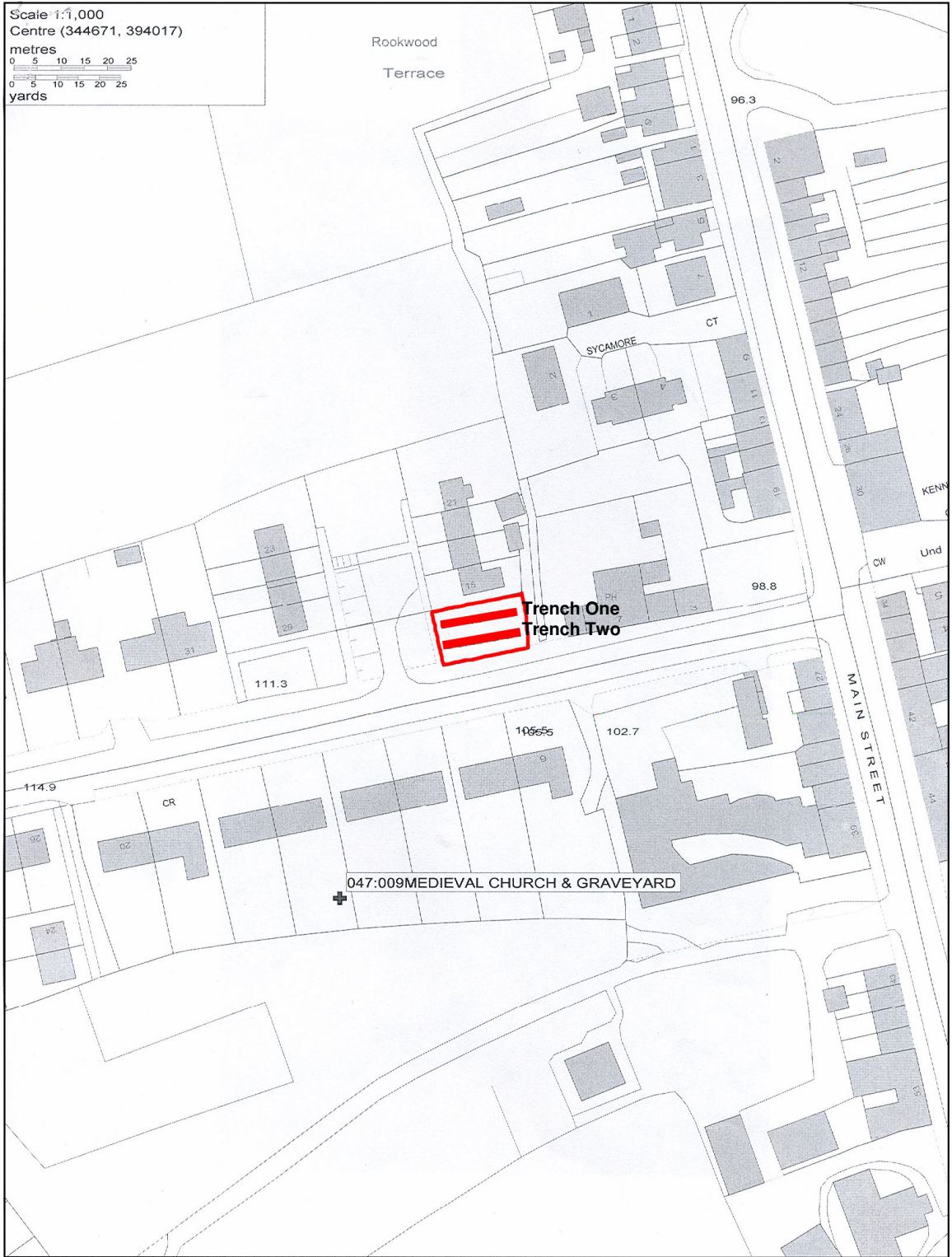


Figure Three: Site plan showing location of test trenches (in red)



Plate One: General view of site prior to excavation, looking east



Plate Two: General view of site prior to excavation, looking north



Plate Three: Trench One following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 103), looking west



**Context No.
101 (Sod and
topsoil layer)**

**Context No.
102 (Silty clay
loam)**

Plate Four: South facing section of Trench One, looking north



Plate Five: Trench Two following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 203), looking east



**Context No.
201 (Sod and
topsoil layer)**

**Context No.
202 (Silty clay
loam)**

Plate Six: South facing section of Trench Two, looking north