



## **Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 129**

**Drummenagh Beg  
Churchill  
Derrygonnelly  
County Fermanagh**

**LICENCE NO. : AE/07/136**

David McIlreavy

## Site Specific Information

Site Name : Drummenagh Beg, Derrygonnelly

Townland : Churchill

County : Fermanagh

Grid Ref. : IH 1113055828

SMR No. : FERM 172:53

State Care : Scheduled [  ]  
Other [  ]

Excavation Licence No : AE/07/136

Planning Ref / No. : I/2006/2304/O

Dates of Monitoring : 15<sup>TH</sup> October 2007

Archaeologist Present : David McIlreavy

### *Brief Summary:*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the townland of Churchill, Co. Fermanagh, as part of the planning regulations surrounding the erection of a new building. The archaeological evaluation was requested as the development site is located within the are of the 17<sup>th</sup> century historic settlement of Churchill (FERM 172:53).

### *Type of monitoring:*

Excavation of three test trenches within the development site, by mechanical excavator fitted with a 1 metre wide smooth edged bucket, under archaeological supervision.

### *Size of area opened:*

Three trenches were mechanically excavated within the development site (10m, 5m, and 5m). All trenches were 1 metre wide.

*Current Land Use:* Agricultural

*Intended Land Use:* Residential

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the townland of Churchill, Co. Fermanagh. The proposed development site is located at the northern end of the modern linear settlement, and consists of a roughly L shaped site, of maximum dimensions 30m by 20m. The majority of the site was covered with a rough concrete and packed gravel farmyard surface. Consequently, the evaluative test trenches were confined to those areas where the hard packed gravel could be removed.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for the construction of a new dwelling, and was requested by Edith Gowdy (Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage) due to the location of the development site within the area of the historic 17<sup>th</sup> century settlement of Churchill (FERM 172:53) and the possibility that there may be previously unrecorded remains associated with this site.

### *Excavation*

The evaluation consisted of the archaeological supervision of three mechanically excavated test trenches, approximately 10 m, 5, and 5 metres respectively, all of which were 1 metre wide. These test trenches were excavated to the glacial subsoil level (Context No. 103), which was noted as a light brown boulder clay with some stony inclusions.

Trench A was excavated running 5m SWW – NEE between two extant outbuildings. The topsoil (Context No. 101) was a dark brown/black loam extending approximately 5cm in depth. This layer showed significant organic content, but this was considered not be the result of agricultural improvement but rather the incomplete decomposition of material as a result of the underlying layer. Context No. 102 was a layer of mixed demolition rubble, considered to be of modern date, approximately 15 cm in depth, which extended for the length of the trench.

The rubble layer (Context No. 102) directly overlay the glacial boulder clay (Context 103). No finds were recorded from this trench, and no features of potential archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench B was excavated running 10m SWW – NEE. The topsoil (Context No. 201) was a dark brown/black loam, approximately 5 cm in depth. As with the topsoil layer in Trench 1, this layer contained significant organic content, and Context 101 and 201 are considered analogous. The topsoil layer (Context No. 201) directly overlay the glacial subsoil (Context No. 202), a light brown boulder clay with some stony inclusions. No finds were recorded from this trench, and no features of potential archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench C was excavated running 5 m SE – NW. The topsoil (Context No. 301) was a dark brown sandy loam approximately 10 cm in depth. The layer is considered to be mostly composed of a dump of builders sand and some material analogous to Context 101 and 201. The topsoil layer (Context No. 301) directly overlay the glacial subsoil (Context No. 302), a light brown boulder clay with some stony inclusions.

### *Interpretation*

The rubble layer (Context 102) encountered in Trench 1 is considered to be modern dump deposit to level the northern end of the development site, and therefore not of archaeological significance. The majority of the site would seem to have been mechanically stripped to the base of the cultivation soil prior to the construction of the extant outbuildings.

### *Recommendations*

It is not considered that the proposed development of the main site will impact on previously unrecorded archaeological remains. Consequently, it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out, and no further publication except a short summary in the annual 'Excavations' bulletin.



Table 1

Context Register

| Context No. | Description                 |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
|             |                             |
| 101         | Dark brown/black loam       |
| 102         | Rubble deposit              |
| 103         | Light brown boulder clay    |
| 201         | Dark brown/black loam       |
| 202         | Light brown boulder clay    |
| 301         | Dark brown/black sandy loam |
| 302         | Light brown boulder clay    |



Plate 1          General shot of development site showing the hard packed gravel surface.



Plate 2      Location of Trench 1, looking SW.





Plate 3      Context No. 202, the rubble layer, which extended the length of Trench 1





Plate 4 Post excavation shot of Trench 1, showing the light brown boulder clay (Context No. 103)





Plate 5 Post excavation shot of Trench 2, looking SW, showing the light brown boulder clay (Context No. 202)





Plate 6 Post excavation shot of Trench 3 showing the dark brown/black (Context No. 301) sandy loam, lying directly on the light brown boulder clay (Context No. 302)

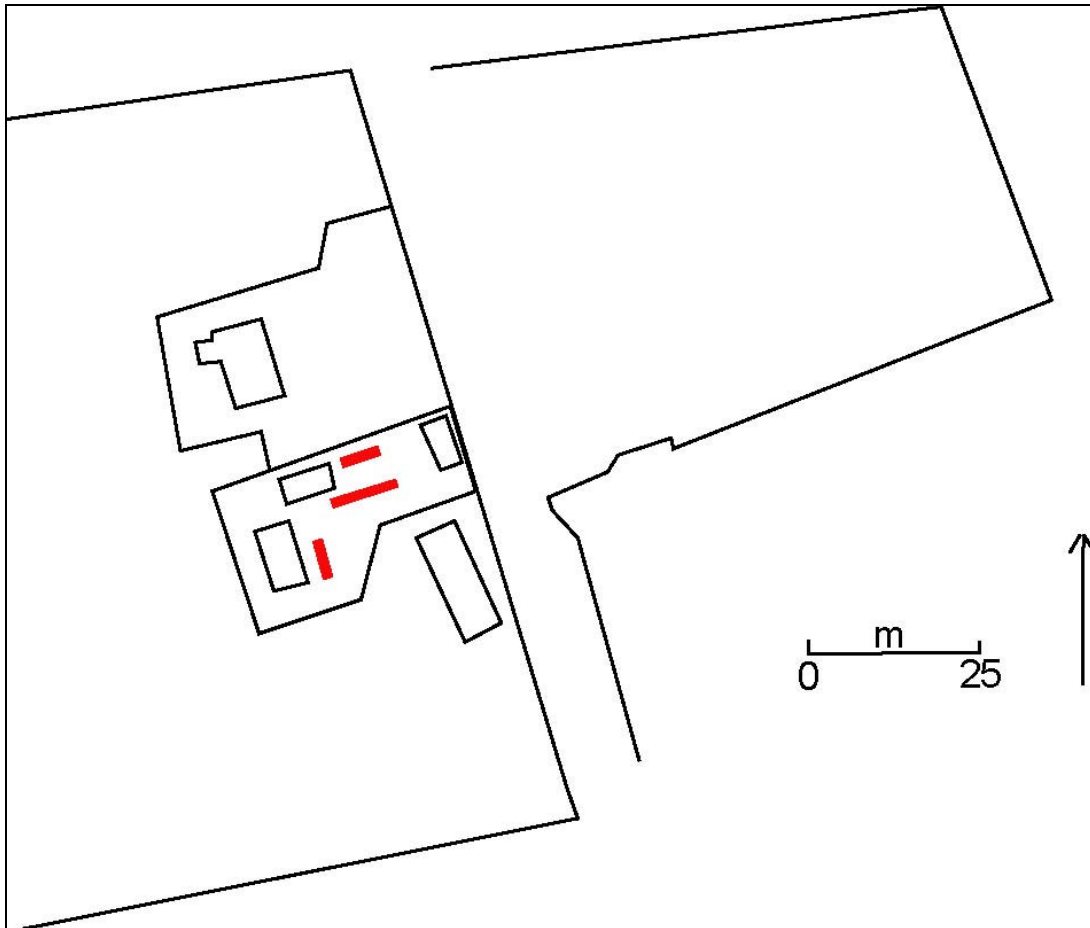


Fig.1 Location of development site, Trenches A-C highlighted in red.



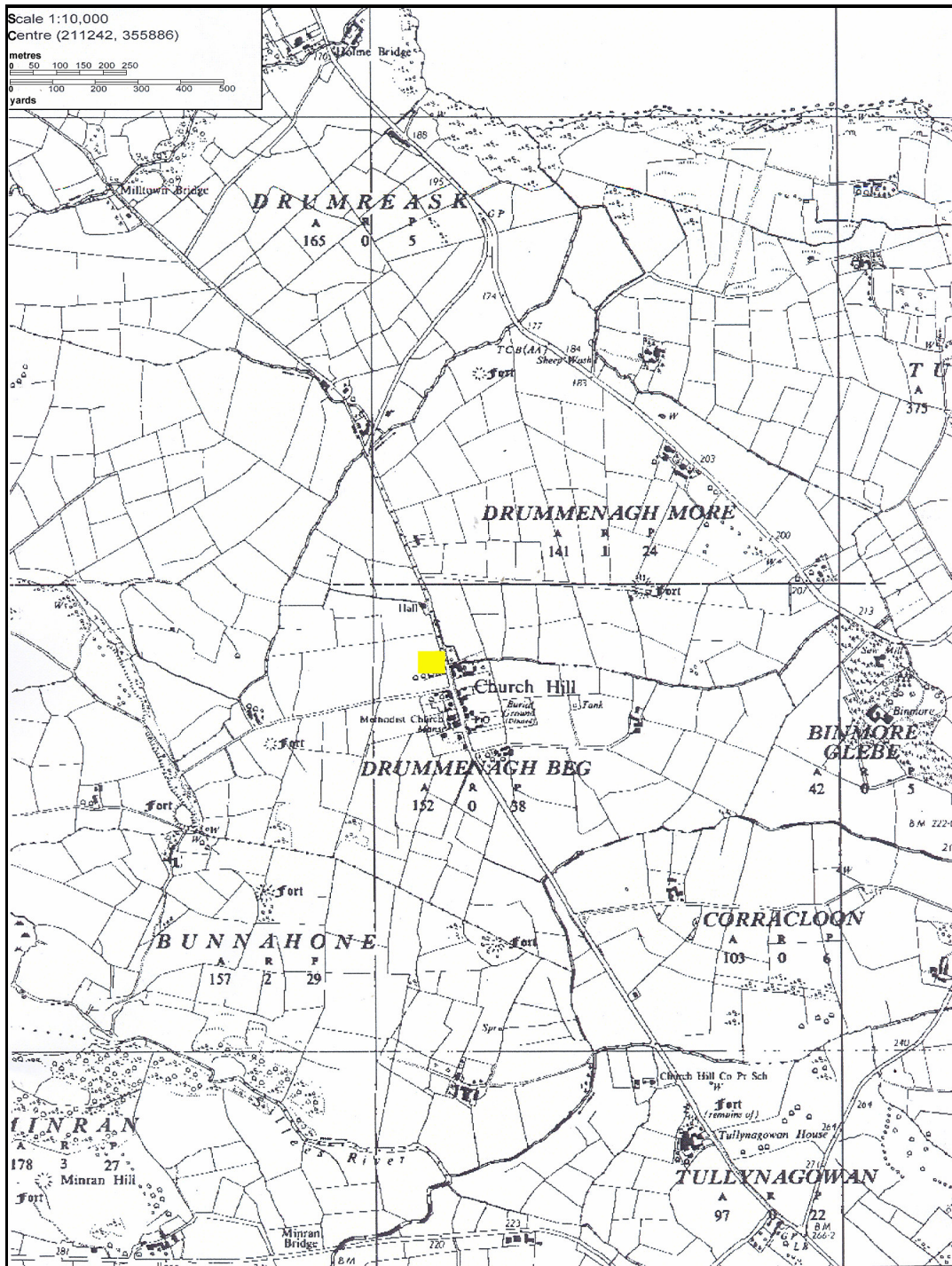


Fig 2 Detailed location map of the development site (highlighted in yellow)