



Evaluation/monitoring Report No. 156

**Tullycarn
Co. Down**

AE/08/109

Clare McGranaghan

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 65 Blackskull Road

Townland: Tullycarn/ Dromore

SMR No (if applicable): DOW 20:070

State Care Scheduled ✓ Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref: J 1501 5256

County: Down

Excavation License No (if applicable): AE/ 08/ 109

Planning Ref / No. (if applicable): Q/ 2007/ 0593/ F

Dates of Monitoring: 13th June 2008

Archaeologist(s) Present: Clare Mc Granaghan

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 65 Blackskull Road, Tullycarn, Dromore, County Down (Figure 1 & 2) as part of a planning application for an extension to the existing dwelling. The application site is situated approximately 45m south-east of a scheduled rath (DOW 20:700).

The evaluation consisted of two mechanically-excavated test trenches, one measuring 10m by 2m and another measuring 14m by 2m (Figure 3).

Neither of the two trenches contained anything of archaeological significance. It is therefore 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:

One test trench approximately 2m wide and 10m in length.

One test trench approximately 2m wide and 14m in length.

Current Land Use: Agriculture/ maize crop

Intended Land Use: Extension of a residential dwelling

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located at 65 Blackskull Road, Tullycarn, Dromore, County Down. The site is approximately 45m northeast of the village of Blackskull (Figure 1).

The general area of the application site is on low ground at an O.D of 60-70m. The underlying geology is of Southern Uplands-Down-Longford Terrane.

The proposed extension to the dwelling is situated along the northwest and northeastern boundaries of the existing dwelling (Plate 2)

All boundaries are defined by wire fencing, interspersed with stone walls and mature trees; a wooden fence defines the boundary of the dwelling.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for an extension to the existing residential dwelling and was requested by Paul Devlin: Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Historic Monuments Unit. It was requested due to the close proximity to a scheduled rath (Plate 1).

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of the supervision of two mechanically-excavated test trenches. The trenches measured 2m wide varying in length between 10-14m (positions are illustrated in Figure 3). All test trenches were excavated to the natural subsoil which consisted of orange boulder clay.

Trench One

Trench One was located along the northeast boundary of the existing dwelling. Trench one was approximately 2m wide and 10m long, and was aligned northwest-southeast (Plate 3).

The topsoil layer, C.101, in Trench One was extremely thin (0.01m) due to the field being recently ploughed and sown with maize crop. Below this layer was a cultivation layer (C.102); measuring 0.42m deep. Following the removal of the cultivation layer (C.102) the natural subsoil (an orange boulder clay C.103) was exposed. No archaeological features were located in this trench and no finds were recovered.

Trench Two

Trench two was located along the northwest boundary of the existing dwelling. Trench Two was approximately 2m wide and 14m in length and was aligned southwest-northeast (Plate 4). As with Trench One the topsoil layer, C.201, was extremely thin (0.01m) due to the field being recently ploughed and sown with maze crop. Below this layer was a cultivation layer (C.202); measuring 0.26m deep. Following the removal of cultivation layer (C.202) the natural subsoil, (orange boulder clay with decayed stone C.203) was exposed. One feature, a modern cut for the pipe for the septic tank, was exposed. This measured 0.40m wide but was not excavated. No archaeological features were located in this trench and no finds were recovered.

Archive:

Context Register

Trench 1

Context Num#	Description
101	Topsoil
102	Cultivation layer
103	Natural subsoil

Trench 2

Context Num#	Description
201	Topsoil
202	Cultivation layer
203	Natural subsoil
204	Cut for septic tank pipe
205	Gravel fill within 204

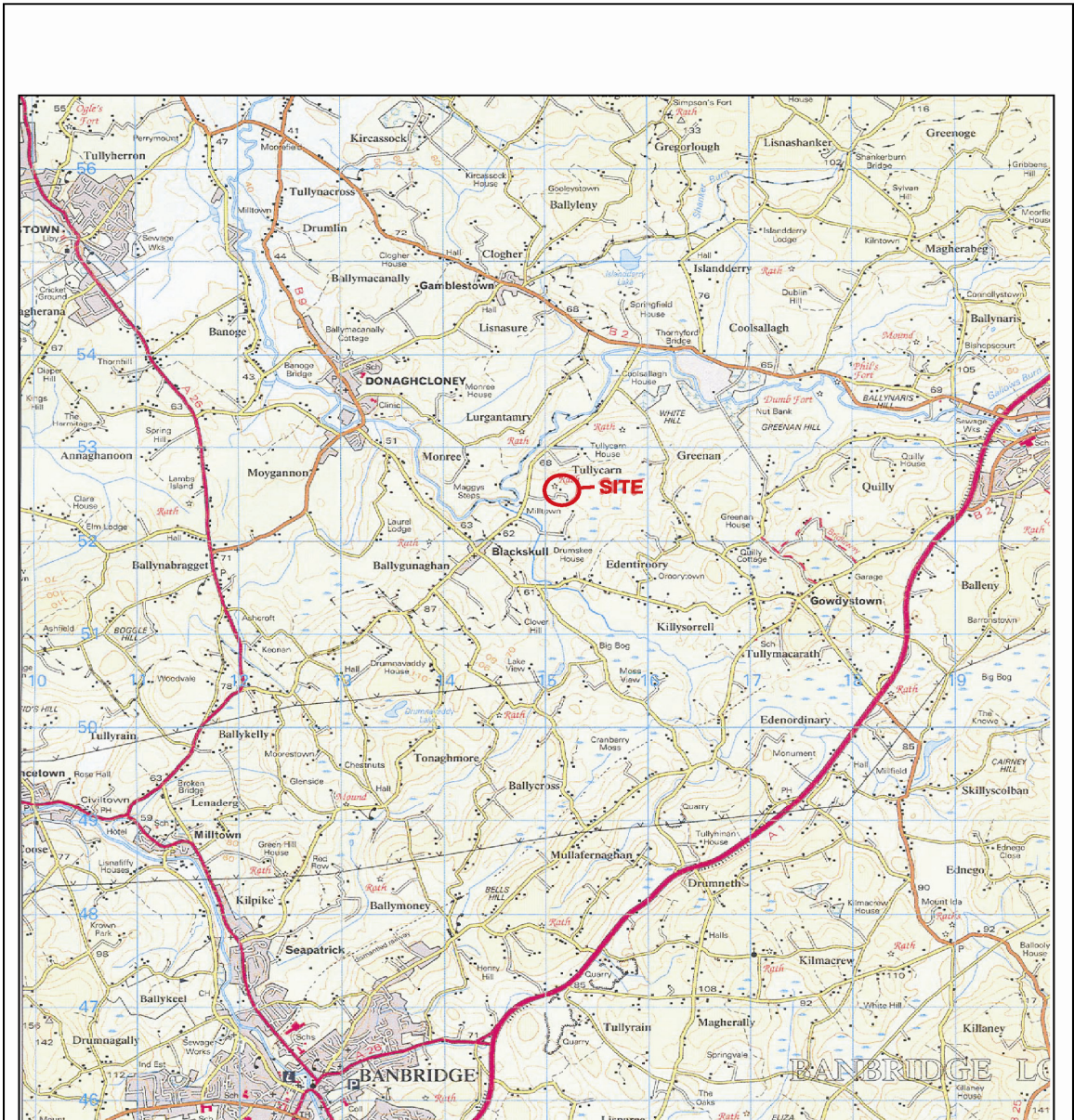
Finds: N/A

Photographs:

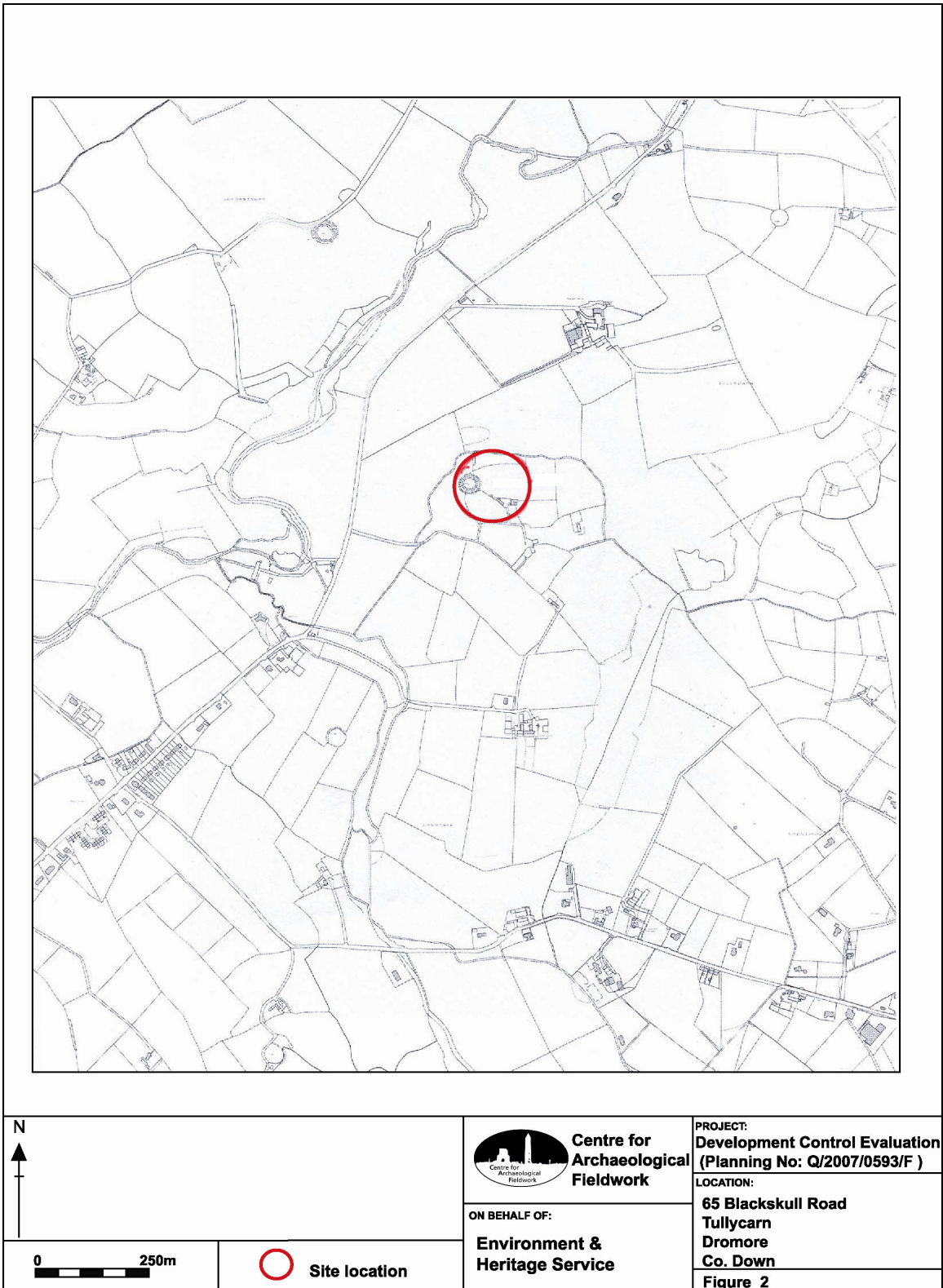
The digital images taken during the evaluation are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology, and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____ Date: _____



	<p>Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork</p>	<p>PROJECT: Development Control Evaluation (Planning No: Q/2007/0593/F)</p>
		<p>LOCATION: 65 Blackskull Road Tullycarn Dromore Co. Down</p>
<p>0 1000m</p>	<p> Site location</p>	<p>ON BEHALF OF: Environment & Heritage Service</p>
		<p>Figure 1</p>



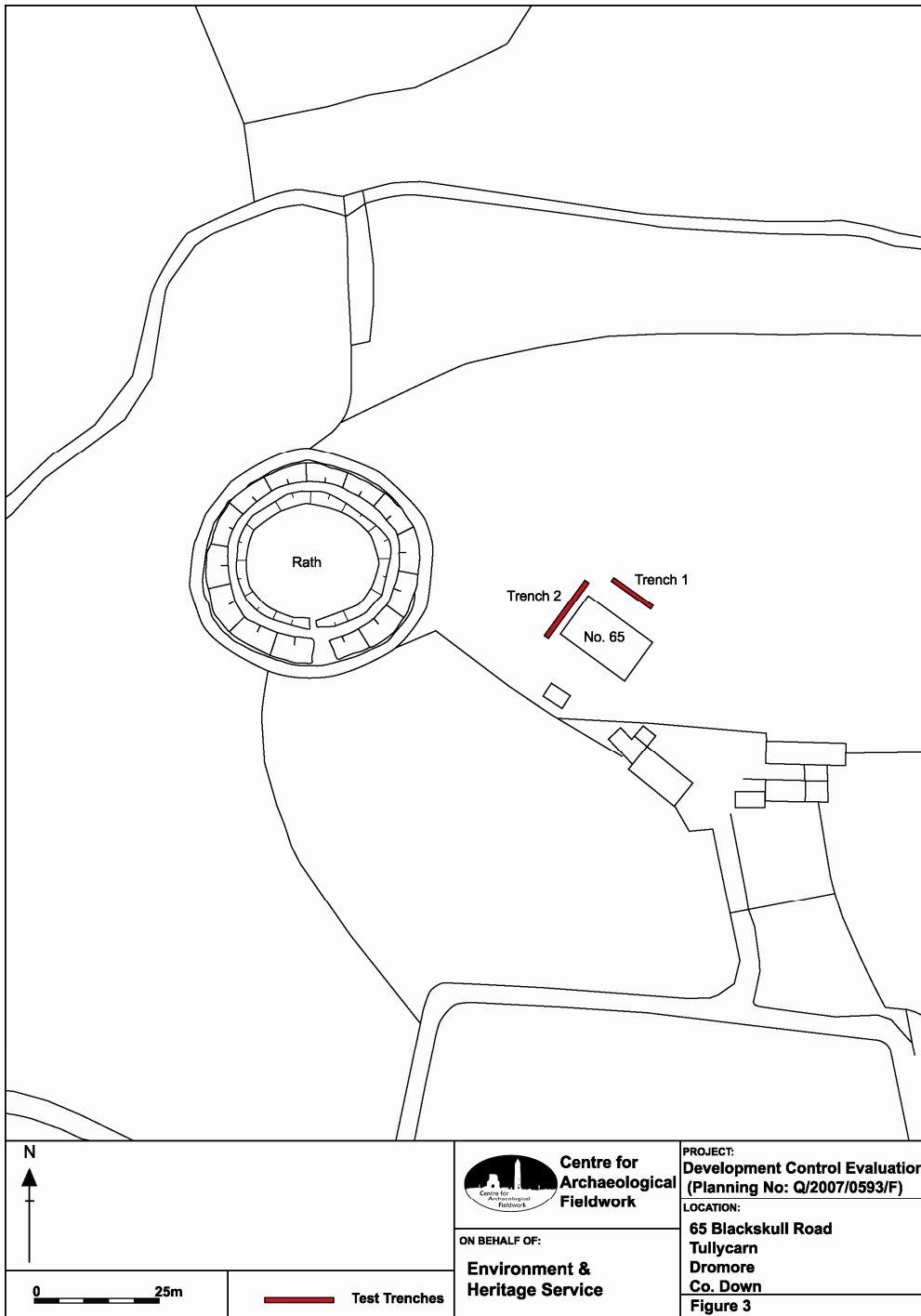




Plate 1: Location of rath from northern corner of application site.



Plate 2: Location of application site, looking south-west.



Plate 3: Trench One, looking northwest



Plate 4: Trench Two, looking southwest.