



MONITORING REPORT: No. 289

21 Ballynarrig Road

Ballydarrog

Co. Derry

AE/14/213E

Dermot Redmond

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 21 Ballynarrig Road, Limavady

Townland: Ballydarrog

SMR No. : LDY 016:004

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: 3456918357920

County: Derry

Excavation Licence No. : AE/14/213E

Planning Ref / No. : B/2014/0223/F

Dates of Monitoring: 15th December 2014

Archaeologist(s) Present: Dermot Redmond

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 21 Ballynarrig Road, Limavady, Co. Derry, in the townland of Ballydarrog. The work was requested in response to a planning application for an extension to an existing dwelling. The proposed development site lies to the north of an enclosure (NISMR no. LDY 016:004). One trench was excavated during the course of the evaluation, measuring 5m wide and 8m in length. No finds or features of archaeological significance were found, and it is not recommended that any further archaeological mitigation is required.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

1 trench covering the footprint of the proposed extension to this property, measuring 5x8m

Current Land Use: Residential

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for the proposed extension is located at 21 Ballynarrig Road, Limavady, Co. Derry (Figures 1 and 2). The site is located at the western gable of the current dwelling, taking in part of the farmyard and gardens of the house.

The enclosure (LDY 016:004) is located 25m south of the site. It is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey Six Inch map of 1830-1832. The description in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) notes that most of the site has been destroyed, with its shape being preserved by field boundaries to the north, east and south-west of the site.

It is shown on the 1830-32 map and the 1850-54 revision as an undesignated fort convention. In the 3rd Edition revision of 1904-07, it is marked as a semi-circular field, and was noted in a 1985 survey as having only traces remaining.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for an extension to an existing dwelling. It was requested by Vicky Ginn of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Excavation

One test trench, measuring 5m wide and 8m long was excavated on the site, covering the entire footprint of the proposed extension (Figure 3). The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at a depth of 0.40m.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located over the footprint of the proposed development. It measured 5m east/west and 8m north/south (Plate 2).

The uppermost deposit in this trench was gravel for the farmyard area (c100), which stratigraphically overlay the sod layer of the garden (c101). This gravel layer was 0.1m thick, and the sod layer was also 0.1m thick. Beneath the sod (c101) was the topsoil (c102). The topsoil was a mid-brown gravelly silt loam, with frequent inclusions of small to medium stones throughout. A few larger stones were found in the southern end of the trench, most likely used to have built up the area before the gravel was laid down for the farmyard. The topsoil was 0.3m thick.

Beneath the topsoil (c102) was the natural subsoil (c103), an yellow-brown sandy clay, which was encountered at a depth of 0.4m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance within this trench.

Conclusions

No finds or features of archaeological significance were found during the evaluation. It is not thought that the proposed development will impinge on any unknown archaeological deposits and therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual 'Excavations' bulletin.

Archive:

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: _____

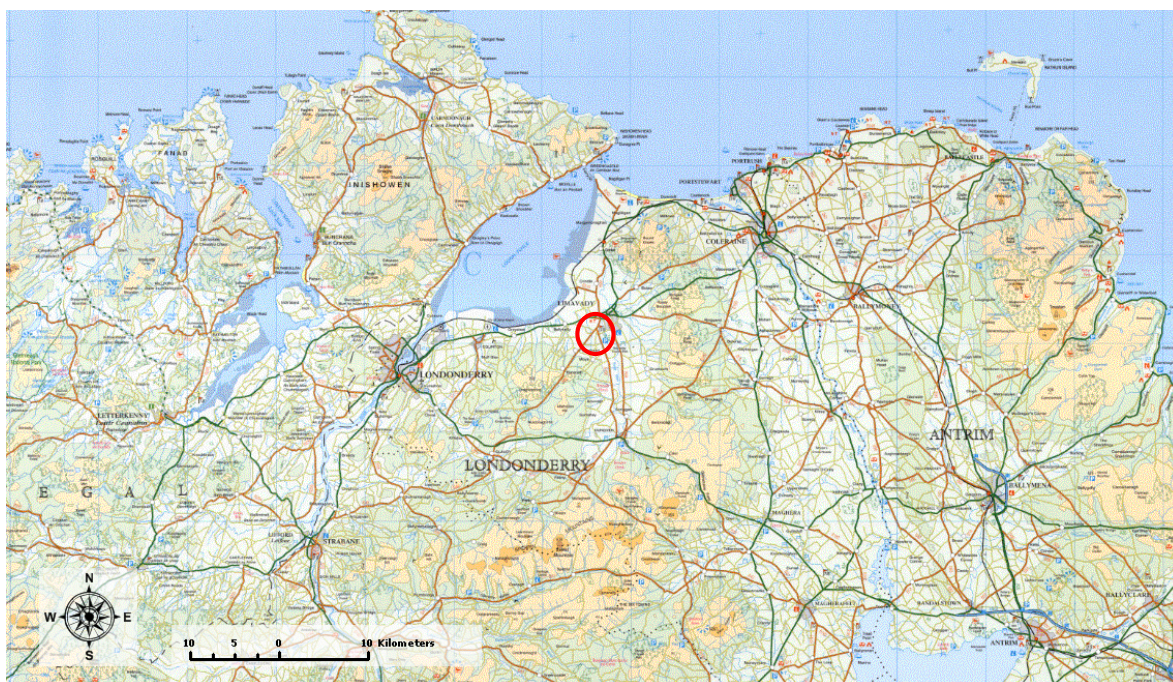


Figure 1: General location map with location of the site marked by the red circle

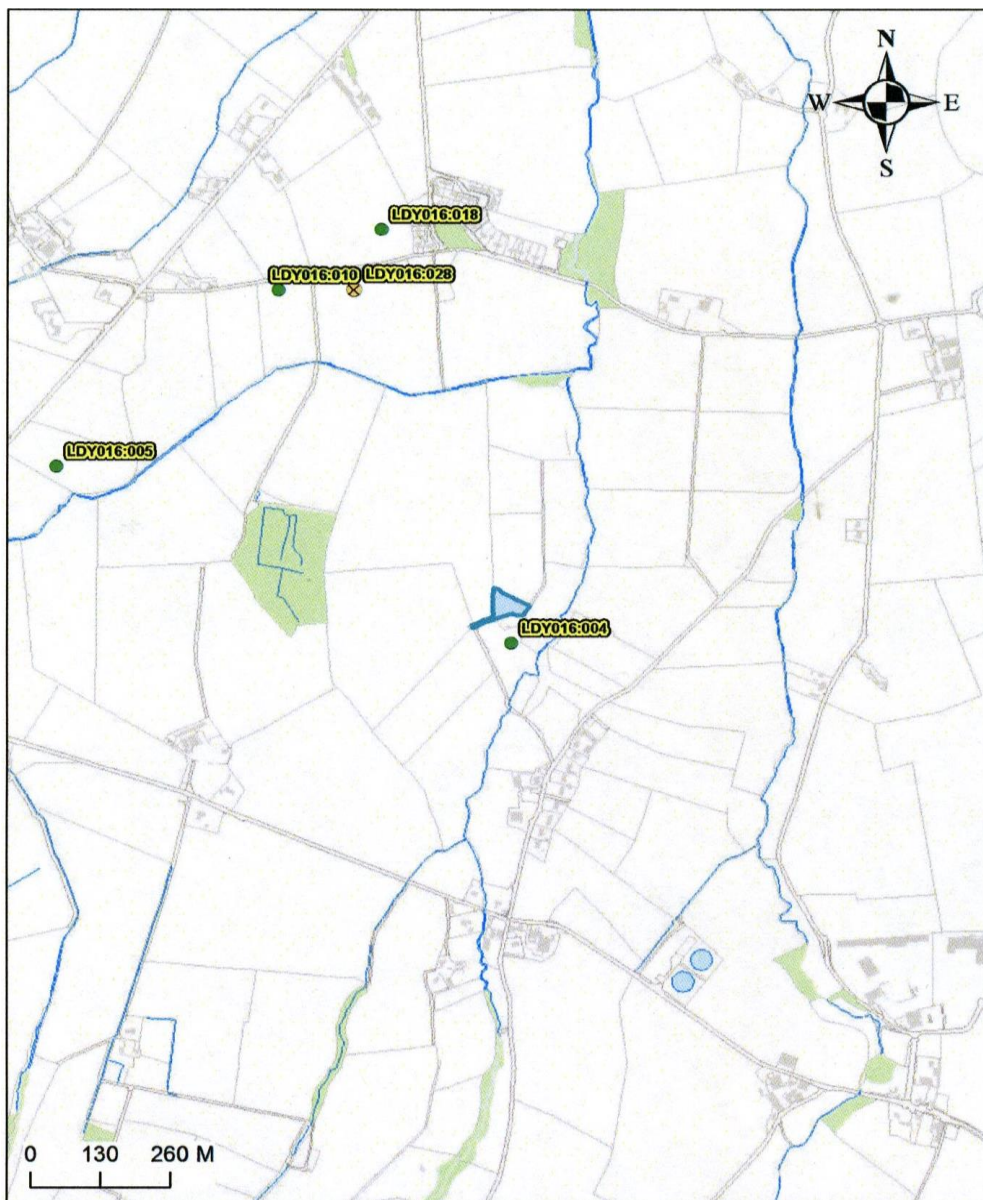


Figure 2: Detailed location map showing location of site (in blue)



Figure 3 – Site plan showing locations of test trench (Scale 1:500)



Plate 1: Area of the extension, looking north



Plate 2: Trench 1, surface of the natural subsoil (c103), looking south



Plate 3: Trench 1, surface of the natural subsoil (c203), looking north-west