



MONITORING REPORT: No. 293

103 Mussendun Road

Artidillon

Castlerock

Co. Derry

AE/15/27E

Dermot Redmond

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 103 Mussendun Road, Castlerock

Townland: Artidillon

SMR No. : LDY 002:008

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

Grid Ref.: 276939 434768

County: Derry

Excavation Licence No. : AE/15/27E

Planning Ref / No. : C/14/0442/O

Dates of Monitoring: 18th February 2015

Archaeologist(s) Present: Dermot Redmond

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 103 Mussendun Road, Castlerock, Co. Derry, in the townland of Artidillon. The work was requested in response to a planning application for a new dwelling. The proposed development site lies to the south-east of a souterrain (NISMR no. LDY 002:008). Four trenches were excavated during the course of the evaluation, each measuring 20m in length and 2m wide. 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 four test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Four trenches each measuring 20m x 2m, a total area of 160m²

Current Land Use: Agricultural/Greenfield

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site for the proposed new dwelling is located at 103 Mussendun Road, Castlerock, Co. Derry (Figures 1 and 2).

The souterrain (LDY 002:008) is located 35m to the north-west of the site. It was first discovered due to ploughing in 1979. The description in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) notes that substantial remains of the site exist, with the vast majority of the site discernible. It is not shown on any of the historic Ordnance Survey maps of the area.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. It was requested by Vicky Ginn of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Excavation

Four test trench, each measuring 2m wide and 20m long was excavated on the site, covering the entire footprint of the proposed extension (Figure 3).

Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north-west/south-east, and located in front of an existing dwelling and outbuilding. It measured 20m x 2m (Plate 2).

The uppermost deposit in this trench was the sod layer (c100), which was a mid-brown clay loam. This deposit was 0.1m deep. Beneath the sod (c100) was the topsoil (c101). The topsoil was a dark brown clay loam, with frequent inclusions of medium to large sub-rounded stones, measuring in diameter from 0.15-0.45m. This deposit was between 0.1m and 0.4m deep. A modern water pipe, to service a drinker for cattle, was found at the very bottom of this deposit, 7m from the north-western end of the trench.

Beneath the topsoil (c101) was the natural subsoil (c102), an orange-brown sandy clay, which was encountered at a depth between 0.2-0.5m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance within this trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was oriented north-east/south-west, and located to the south-west of the existing dwelling and outbuilding. It measured 20m x 2m (Plate 3).

The uppermost deposit of this trench was the sod (c200), which was a light brown clay loam. This deposit was 0.1m deep. It overlay the topsoil (c201), a mid-brown clay loam, which ranged in depth from 0.2-0.3m.

Beneath the topsoil (c201), was the natural subsoil (c202). This deposit was an orange-brown sandy clay, which was encountered at a depth between 0.3-0.4m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance within this trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was oriented north-east/south-west and located parallel to Trench 2. It measured 20m x 2m (Plate 4).

The uppermost deposit of this trench was the sod (c300), which was a mid-brown clay loam. This deposit was 0.1m deep. Beneath the sod (c300) was the topsoil (c201), a dark brown clay loam, with frequent inclusions of medium to large sub-rounded stones, ranging in diameter from 0.20-0.40m. This deposit was between 0.4-0.6m deep.

The topsoil (c301) overlay the natural subsoil (c302), which was an orange-grey sandy clay. It was encountered at a depth between 0.5-0.7m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance found within this trench.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was oriented north-east/south-west and located parallel to Trench 3. It measured 20m x 2m (Plate 5).

The uppermost deposit in this trench was the sod (c400), a mid-brown clay loam, which was 0.1m deep. Beneath the sod (c400) was the topsoil (c401), which was a dark brown clay loam. It had very frequent inclusions of medium to large sub-rounded stones, ranging in diameter from 0.15-0.4m. This deposit was between 0.3-0.4m deep.

The topsoil (c401) overlay the natural subsoil (c402). This was an orange-brown sandy clay, encountered at a depth between 0.4-0.5m. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance found 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 (outlined in blue)



Figure 3 – Site plan showing locations of test trenches



Plate 1: Overview of the proposed site, looking south-west



Plate 2: Trench 1, surface of the natural subsoil (c102), looking north-west



Plate 3: Trench 2, surface of the natural subsoil (c202), looking south-west



Plate 4: Trench 3, surface of the natural subsoil (c302), looking south-west



Plate 5: Trench 4, surface of the natural subsoil (c402), looking south-west