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School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology
Queen's University Belfast



Data Structure Report: No. 7.

Excavations at Crossreagh West, Co. Londonderry
AE/02/65

On behalf of



Data Structure Report: Crossreagh West, Portstewart, County Londonderry

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(CAF DSR 007)

(Licence No. AE/02/65)

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1 Summary

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation at Crossreagh West, Co. Londonderry (Irish Grid Reference C82133651) was undertaken in advance of a housing development on a single building plot at the Meadowlands Housing Estate on the southern outskirts of Portstewart. The excavation was conducted by the Excavation Unit of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork in the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage.
- 1.1.2 The site is located within an archaeologically rich landscape which contains sites ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Post-Medieval period. Within the immediate environs of the building plot is a megalithic funerary monument excavated by Declan Hurl, Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage in 1995; two large middle Bronze Age structures excavated by Cormac McSparron, Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in 2000; the ecclesiastical site of Ballyaghan; and a circular mound which local tradition suggests was a signal beacon but is possibly a prehistoric barrow.
- 1.1.3 Following mechanical excavation of the topsoil on the building plot, site visits undertaken by Mr Stephen Gilmore, Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd and Mr Declan Hurl, Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage resulted in traces of several truncated features cut into the natural subsoil being observed and recorded. These observations, combined with the proximity of the site to the previously excavated Neolithic funerary monument and middle Bronze Age structures, led to the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage deciding that an excavation of the building plot prior to any construction work being undertaken was necessary.
- 1.1.4 Excavation of the site duly took place between the 1st and 26th of July 2002. Since the topsoil stripping of the site over eighteen months previously, the building plot had been used for dumping quarried stone, rubble and topsoil associated with construction work on adjacent building plots and had been repeatedly driven over by heavy plant. In addition, several bonfires had been lit on the site and it had become overgrown with weeds.

1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 The principal research aim of the excavation was to recover any evidence of Neolithic or Bronze Age activity at the site and, if possible, relate it to that uncovered during the previous excavations of the adjacent Neolithic funerary monument and middle Bronze Age structures. In addition, any other archaeological features present at the site were to be

excavated and recorded in advance of construction work which was likely to damage or destroy them.

1.3 *Excavation*

1.3.1 Initially, the site was cleared of both relict traces of topsoil (Context Nos.1002, 1003 and 1023) and the dumped deposits of general 'trample' and building debris (Context Nos.1001, 1007, 1019 and 1021), quarried stone (Context No.1004) and redeposited topsoil (Context Nos. 1005, 1006 and 1041). Following this clearance it was revealed that the features recorded by Stephen Gilmore and Declan Hurl had been either considerably damaged by the subsequent activity on the site or destroyed altogether. Only nine truncated features survived; these were all located in the southern half of the site where the natural subsoil (Context No.1042) was deepest.

1.3.2 The nine features included: an oval-shaped pit of recent date (Context No.1025), six possible stake holes or small post holes (Context Nos.1026, 1027, 1032, 1036, 1039 and 1040) and a hearth (Context Nos.1016 and 1018). Unfortunately, as well as being severely truncated, the hearth had been disturbed by several animal burrows (Context Nos.1034, 1035, 1037 and 1038). All nine features were fully excavated. Only one stratigraphic relationship between these features could be established - one of the possible small post holes (Context No.1036) cut through part of the hearth (Context No.1016). The features' distribution across the site did not form any obvious pattern or arrangement to suggest that they were part of a contemporary structure, although presumably the hearth was originally located within some form of structure. In the course of the excavation 102 small finds were recovered (mostly flint flakes but also pottery sherds, burnt bone, glass and clay pipe stems) although only a few of these were associated with the excavated features.

1.4 *Recommendations*

1.4.1 The level of preservation of the site was poor and this was reflected in the results of the excavation which, consequently, do not justify full or detailed publication. The importance of the excavation lies in its potential for informing the interpretation of the unpublished excavations of the adjacent Neolithic funerary monument and middle Bronze Age structures. It is recommended that a short note on the 2002 excavations is prepared for publication. To facilitate the writing of this note, a limited programme of post-excavation analysis is proposed.

2 Introduction

2.1 General

2.1.1 The following report details the preliminary results of the archaeological excavation at Crossreagh West, undertaken by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast from the 1st to the 26th of July 2002 (Licence No. AE/02/65). This excavation was undertaken on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Services: Built Heritage who funded the project.

2.2 Background

2.2.1 The Crossreagh West excavation was carried out in advance of a housing development on a single building plot on the Meadowlands Housing Estate situated on the southern outskirts of Portstewart, in the parish of Ballyaghan, Co. Londonderry (Grid Reference C82133651) (Figure One). The site is set c.40 metres above sea level on a gentle slope which overlooks both the River Bann, which is located c.1.1km to the southwest, and the sand dune system associated with the river's mouth. The townland of Crossreagh West is located on the northeastern side of the Bann Estuary in a region geologically dominated the Quaternary drift deposits which fill the Bann valley and the Cenozoic Upper Basalt Formation of olivine-basalt lava (Wilson 1972, 64, fig.24; see also Aalen 1997, 15). The soils surrounding the Bann estuary are made up of various acid brown earths and the area has a wide land use capability (Aalen 1997, 17-18, figs.29, 32). Prior to the construction of the Meadowlands Housing Estate, the site was part of an area of enclosed pasture that was used for growing silage grass and was periodically subjected to shallow ploughing (D.Hurl pers.comm.).

2.3 Archaeological survey of the site's environs

2.3.1 The site is located within an archaeologically rich landscape that contains sites ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Post-Medieval period (Figure Two). Details of the sites and monuments within 500 metres of the 2002 excavation have been tabulated (Table One). Within the immediate environs of the building plot is: a megalithic funerary monument excavated by Declan Hurl, Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage in 1995 (SMR No. LDY 003:002); two large middle Bronze Age structures excavated by Cormac McSparron, Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in 2000 (McSparron 2000); the ecclesiastical site of Ballyaghan, first mentioned in 1262 and now consisting of a curvilinear graveyard and a ruined church which are traditionally associated with a nearby, but now lost, souterrain (Lewis 1837, 19; Girvan 1972, 37, no.90; Hamlin 1976, 545; Day, McWilliams and English 1995, 8-9, 16, 22-23; SMR No. LDY 003:003); and a circular

mound, which local tradition suggests was a signal beacon but is possibly a prehistoric barrow (McSparron 2000; SMR No.LDY 003:025).

2.3.2 Other nearby sites and monuments include: two standing stones of uncertain date (SMR Nos. LDY 003:004-005), one of which has been destroyed (i.e. SMR No. LDY 003:005); an urn burial discovered during the nineteenth century and whose precise location is now unknown (SMR No. LDY 003:022); a find spot of various prehistoric lithics and pottery (May and Batty 1948, 132; SMR No. LDY 003:044); a rath recorded in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs as a destroyed fort and which can no longer be located (Day, McWilliams and English 1995, 11; SMR No. LDY 003:029); a possible raised rath called Cashlandoo (SMR No. LDY 003:006); a circular crop mark which consists of a raised circular area enclosed by an upstanding bank (SMR No. LDY 003:037); and three alignments of stone, possibly representing ancient field walls or structures, as well as an area of burning recorded by Declan Hurl during topsoil stripping in 1994 (SMR No. LDY 003:076) and identified by John O'Neill from Hurl's description as a ploughed out burnt mound (J.O'Neill pers.comm.) (Figure Two). In addition, a 'castle' and an associated settlement, reportedly robbed for stone in the late eighteenth century, are recorded as being sited in the area (Day, McWilliams and English 1995, 23; SMR No. LDY 003:028). Although their precise location is no longer known, both are presumably located relatively close to the old church site of Ballyaghan.

Description	SMR No.	Grid Reference	References
Neolithic funerary monument	LDY 003:002	C82133656	Day, McWilliams and English 1995, 10, 16, 24, 25; O'Lavery 1878, 227.
Middle Bronze Age structures	N/A	C821043651	McSparron 2000
Urn burial	LDY 003:022	C8236	
Find spot of flints and pottery	LDY 003:044	C81893640	May and Batty 1948, 132.
Standing stone	LDY 003:004	C82423662	
Standing stone	LDY 003:005	C82253646	
Burnt Mound ?	LDY 003:076	C82303657	J.O'Neill pers.comm.
Stone alignments ?	LDY 003:076	C82283648	
Rath	LDY 003:029	C824363	Day, McWilliams and English 1995, 11
Raised rath ?	LDY003:006	C82283632	
Ecclesiastical site	LDY 003:003	C82253658	Lewis 1837, 19; O'Lavery 1878, 224-225; Girvan 1972, 37, no.90; Hamlin 1976, 545; Day, McWilliams and English 1995, 8-9, 16, 22-23.
'Castle' and settlement	LDY 003:028	C8236	Day, McWilliams and English 1995, 23; O'Lavery 1878, 226.
Signal mound ?	LDY 003:025	C82143646	
Circular crop mark	LDY003:037	C82293663	

Table One: Archaeological sites within 500 metres of the 2002 Crossreagh West excavations

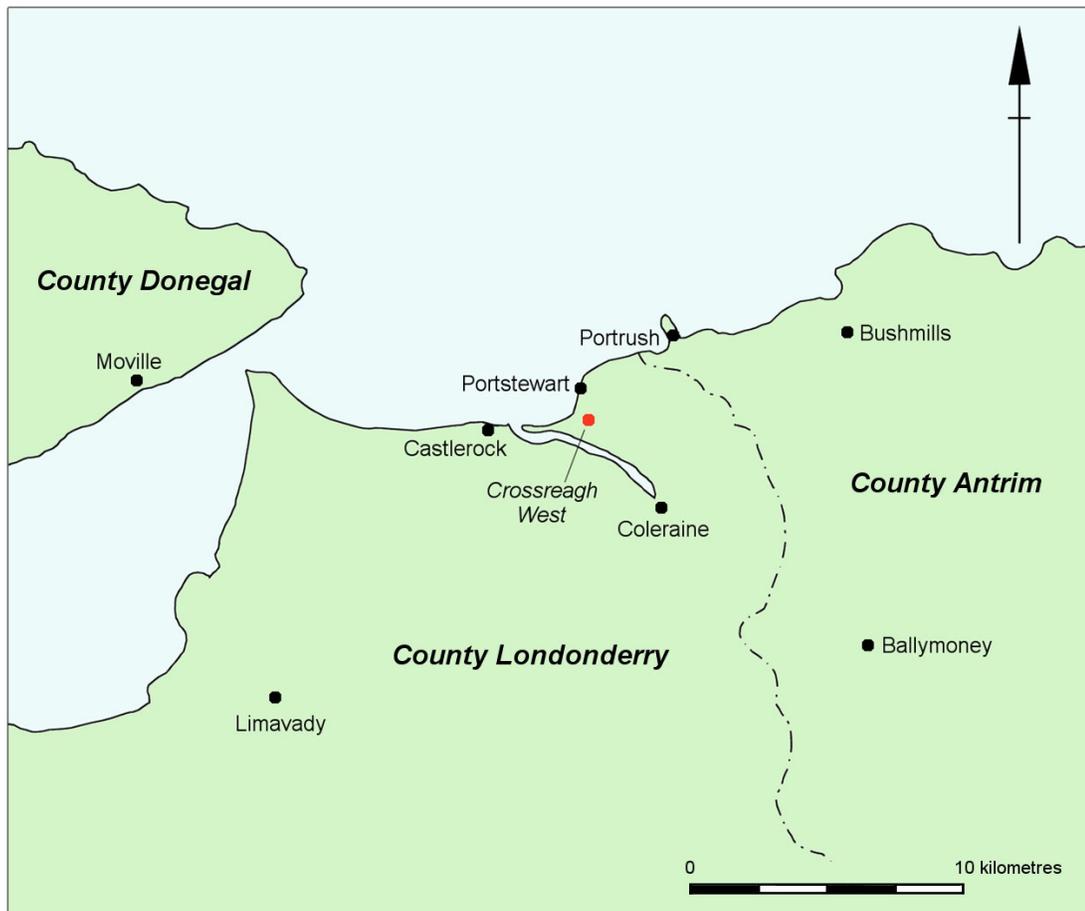


Figure One: Crossreagh West Location Map

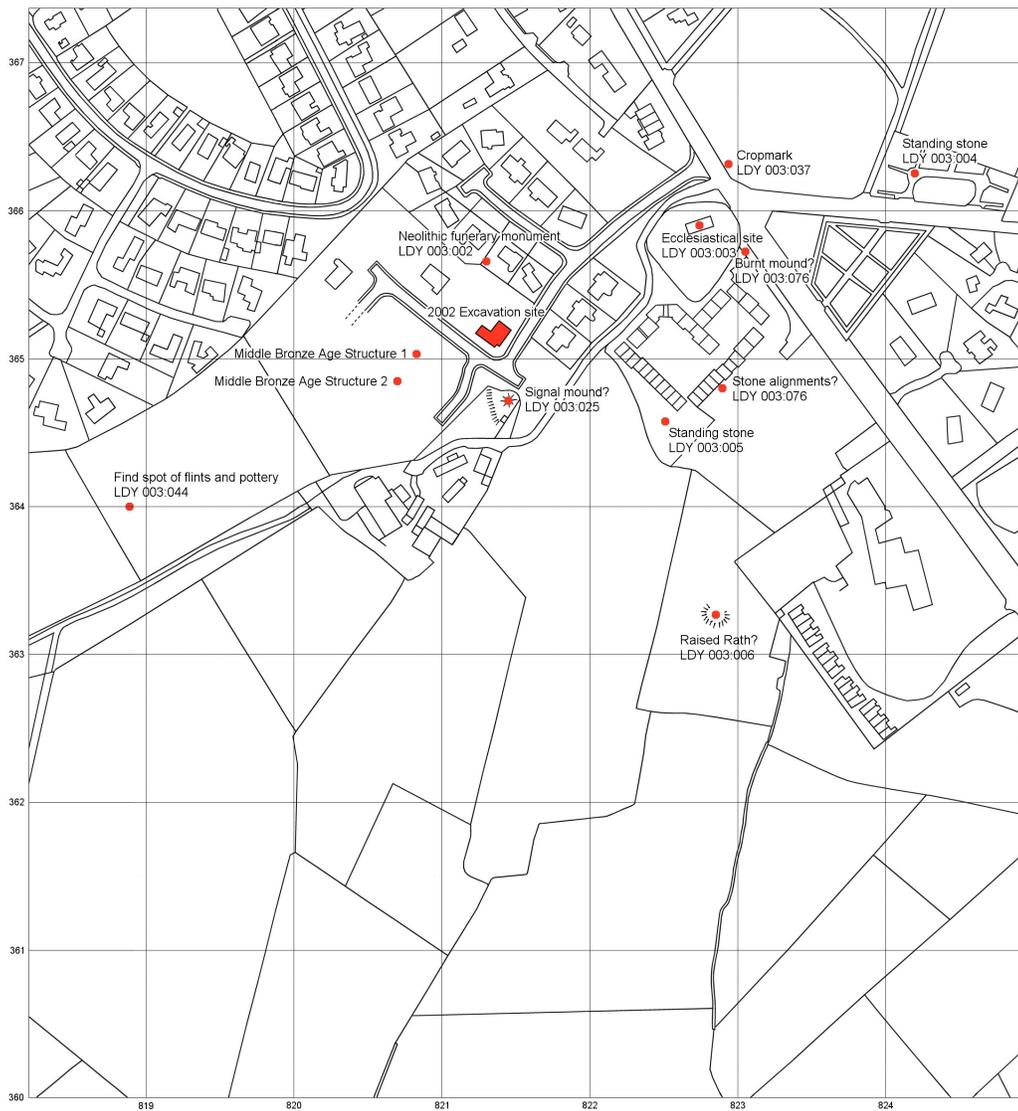
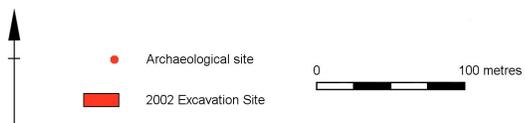


Figure Two: Archaeological sites and monuments surrounding the 2002 excavations



2.4 *Previous archaeological investigations held in the vicinity of the 2002 excavation site*

- 2.4.1 The Neolithic funerary monument (SMR No.LDY 003:002), excavated by Declan Hurl in advance of an earlier phase of development of the Meadowlands Housing Estate, is located c.50 metres to the north of the 2002 excavation site. Today the monument consists of three upright stone slabs which have been incorporated into a garden feature (Plate One); however, when recorded by the Ordnance Survey during 1835 the monument was more extensive (cf. Day, McWilliams and English 1995, 24, 25). In addition to establishing the extent of the monument, Hurl's excavations revealed evidence of pits, possible post holes and gullies cut into both the mound and the natural subsoil of the area immediately surrounding the monument. Both radiocarbon dating and pottery recovered from these features indicated separate late Neolithic, early Bronze Age and Medieval phases of activity. The late Neolithic and early Bronze Age features included a number of pits containing burnt or pulverised bone and charcoal that were associated with exotic artefacts, including a saddle quern and a broken macehead. These features are interpreted as burial pits.
- 2.4.2 The two middle Bronze Age structures excavated by Cormac McSparron, Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in advance of a subsequent phase of development of the Meadowlands Housing Estate were located c.35 - 50 metres to the west of the 2002 excavation site. The first structure was a sub-rectangular house with an apsidal north end represented by a series of post holes, circular gullies, pits and a hearth, all of which were cut into the natural subsoil. The second structure was a large sub-circular building with a smaller circular annex consisting of a series of small post holes or stake holes and a circular construction slot, again all of which were cut into the natural subsoil. Evidence of copper smelting was associated with the first structure. The two structures are dated to the middle Bronze Age on the basis of both artefactual evidence and a single radiocarbon date associated with the first structure.
- 2.4.3 In addition to the two excavations, topsoil stripping in advance of the development of an area c.100 metres by 100 metres immediately to the southeast of the ecclesiastical site of Ballyaghan was undertaken in 1994. The topsoil stripping was monitored by Declan Hurl who recorded two sets of separate features. The first, located in an area immediately adjacent to the eastern most part of the graveyard, consisted of an extensive area of burning, made up of charcoal, red soil and scorched stones, which was associated with an irregular-shaped pit was observed. This feature has been identified from Hurl's description as a possible ploughed out burnt mound (J.O'Neill pers.comm.). The second set of features, which were located in an area c.100 metres to the south of the possible burnt mound, consisted of three alignments of stone that possibly represent ancient field walls or structures (SMR No. LDY 003:076).

2.5 *Reason for excavation and research objectives*

2.5.1 Following mechanical excavation of the topsoil on the building plot, site visits undertaken by Stephen Gilmore, Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on the 24th November 2000 (see Appendix Seven) and Declan Hurl, Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage on the 19th February 2001 (see Appendix Eight) led to traces of several truncated features cut into the natural subsoil being observed and recorded. These observations, combined with the proximity of the site to both the Neolithic funerary monument excavated in 1995 and the middle Bronze Age structures excavated in 2000, prompted the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage to deciding that, prior to any construction work, an excavation of the building plot was necessary.

2.5.2 The aim of the 2002 excavations was to ascertain the character of the archaeological features recorded by Stephen Gilmore and Declan Hurl following the topsoil stripping of the site. The principle research objective of the excavation was to recover any evidence of Neolithic or Bronze Age activity at the site and, if possible, relate it to that uncovered during the previous excavations of the adjacent Neolithic funerary monument and middle Bronze Age structures. In addition, any other archaeological features present at the site were to be excavated and recorded in advance of the construction work which was likely to damage or destroy them.

2.6 *Archiving*

2.6.1 A copy of this report has been deposited with the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. All site records and finds are temporarily archived within the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

2.7 *Credits and Acknowledgements*

2.7.1 The excavation was directed by Philip Macdonald and supervised by Bronagh Murray. The excavation team consisted of Nicholas Beer, Graeme Heyburn, Sonja Laus, Daniel Reilly and Brian Sloan.

2.7.2 Assistance during the course of the excavation and the preparation of this report was kindly provided by: Paul Crawley (The Anchor Bar, Portstewart), John Davison (Queen's University Belfast), Colm Donnelly (Queen's University Belfast), Stephen Gilmore (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd), Declan Hurl (Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage), John O'Neill (Queen's University Belfast) and Cormac McSparron (Queen's University Belfast). The illustrations were prepared by Keith Adams and Bronagh Murray of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

3 Excavation

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The excavation consisted of a single L-shaped trench sited across the eastern, southern and western quarters of the building plot (Figure Three). The northeast to southwest aligned part of the excavation trench extended for a distance of 16.15 metres and was 10.45 metres wide, whilst the additional area included within the northwest to southeast aligned part of the trench extended for a distance of c.7.50 metres and was 7.00 metres wide. For the purposes of creating a convenient site grid, a site north (equivalent to true northeast) was established. To avoid confusion all references to cardinal directions within this report have been corrected; however, references in the primary site records have not been altered.
- 3.1.2 Subsequent to the topsoil stripping of the site over eighteen months previously, the building plot had been used for dumping quarried stone, rubble and topsoil associated with construction work on adjacent building plots. In addition, the site had also been repeatedly driven over by heavy plant, had had several bonfires lit on it and had become overgrown with weeds (Plate Two). Following the removal and excavation of these modern deposits a small number of relatively easily recognised, truncated, negative features cut into the orange sandy clay loam natural subsoil (Context No.1042) were observed. All of the features were excavated and recorded. In addition, a sondage in the eastern corner of the site was dug to confirm that a thick deposit of modern redeposited topsoil (Context No.1041) overlay the truncated surface of the natural subsoil (Context No.1042). Following the completion of the site recording, and at the request of the developer, only those parts of the excavation which would have presented a safety risk to the public, if left open, were backfilled.
- 3.1.3 Excavation was undertaken by hand and the context record for the site was created using the standard context recording method. Large scale plans (Scale 1:50) were prepared of the site following both its initial clearance and the removal of the superficial sequence of modern deposits. Individual features were planned (Scales 1:10 and 1:20) and photographed both prior to, and following, excavation. Section drawings were completed of both the fills of significant negative features (Scale 1:10) and the sondage cut in the eastern corner of the site (Scale 1:20) (for details of site photography see Appendix Three and for field illustrations see Appendix Four). In addition to the photography and illustration, the principal site records consisted of context sheets augmented by a supervisor's notebook, as well as separate registers of small finds (Appendix Five) and samples (Appendix Six). The unique site code used to identify the records generated during the excavation is CRW 02.

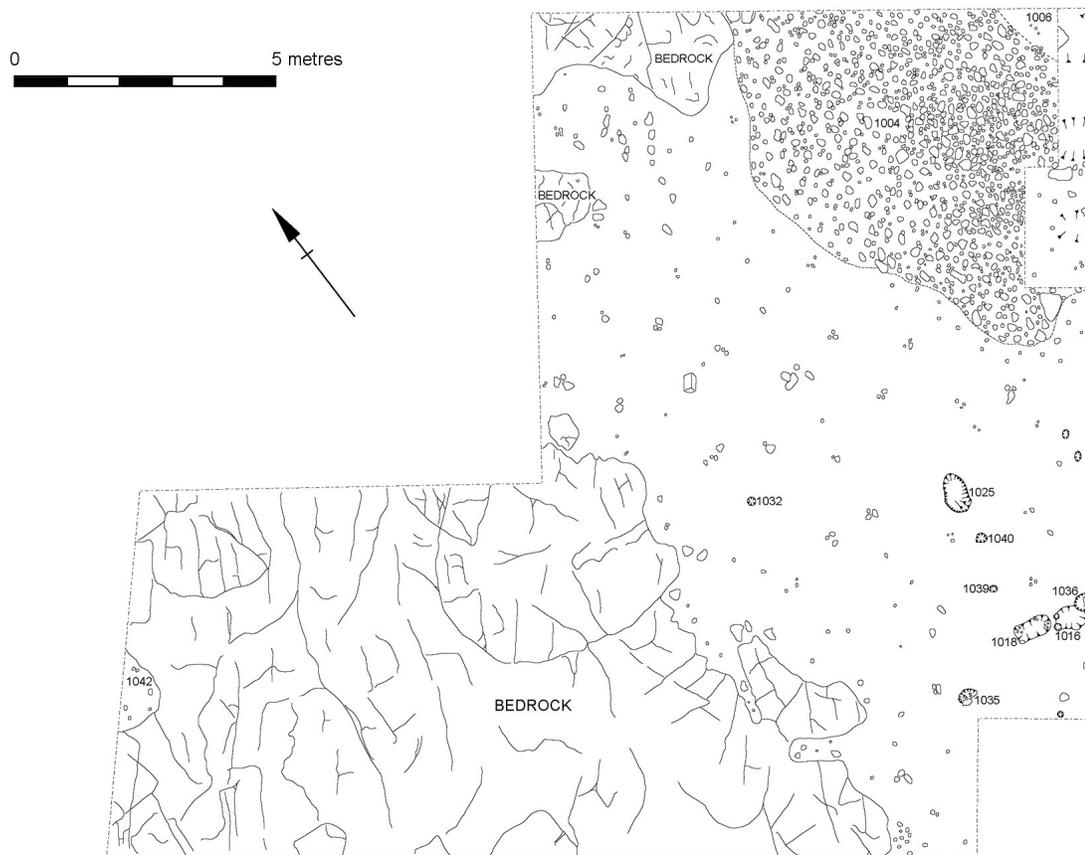


Figure Three: Overall site plan showing features cut into the natural subsoil (Context No. 1042)

3.2 *Account of the excavations*

- 3.2.1 It is intended that the Harris matrix for the site (see Appendix Two) is referred to whilst reading the following account of the stratigraphic sequence of the excavation.
- 3.2.2 An arbitrary context number (Context No.1001) was used to record finds made during the initial clearance of the site. This clearance involved the removal of a spit (maximum depth 0.05 metres) of disturbed deposits across the entire site. Material removed during the clearance included several dumps of building materials (such as tarmac, gravel, building sand, concrete and cement), topsoil (presumably redeposited from adjoining building sites), ashy deposits associated with recent bonfires, and grass cuttings. Modern finds derived from adjoining building plots, such as roof tile fragments, nails, polystyrene and plastic sheeting, were not retained.
- 3.2.3 The surface revealed by the site clearance had been heavily disturbed. The features recorded by Stephen Gilmore and Declan Hurl had been considerably damaged, or destroyed altogether, as a result of activity on the building plot following the initial topsoil stripping. The preservation of several tyre tracks from heavy plant and large vehicles within the exposed surface of the natural subsoil indicates the principal cause of this damage.
- 3.2.4 Following the clearance of the site several types of deposit and feature were recognised. These included relict areas of topsoil which had not been removed during the initial evaluation of the site (Context Nos.1002, 1003, 1023), as well as deposits of general 'trample' (Context Nos.1007, 1019 and 1021), dumped quarried stone (Context No.1004) and redeposited topsoil (Context Nos. 1005, 1006, 1041) which all post-dated the topsoil stripping. Only nine truncated features, all of which were cut into the natural subsoil (Context No.1042), survived. These were all located in the southern half of the site where the natural subsoil (Context No.1042) was deepest. The nine features included: an oval-shaped pit of recent date (Context No.1025), six possible stake holes or small post holes (Context Nos.1026, 1027, 1032, 1036, 1039, 1040) and a hearth (Context Nos.1016, 1018). Several animal burrows were also preserved (Context Nos.1034, 1035, 1037, 1038), including two which had disturbed the hearth (i.e. Context Nos.1037 and 1038).

3.3 *Modern deposits and features*

- 3.3.1 The areas of relict topsoil extended across the western part (Context No.1002), the northeastern corner (Context No.1003) and the southern corner (Context No.1023) of the trench. The western area of relict topsoil (Context No.1002) extended over an irregular-shaped area 15.0 metres by 7.0 metres in size, the relict topsoil in the northeastern corner

of the site (Context No.1003) extended across an area 3.75 metres by 7.50 metres, while the relict topsoil in the southern corner of the site (Context No.1023) extended over an area 0.55 metres by 0.55 metres. The depth of topsoil removed varied, but had a maximum depth of 0.10 metres. All three areas were located in parts of the site where the basalt bedrock lay close to the surface and it would not have been possible to remove the topsoil by machine. The relict topsoil deposits all consisted of a firm, dark brown, humic sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions. The deposits had all been compacted, presumably as a result of having been driven over by heavy plant. Although all three areas of topsoil were fully excavated, to reveal either the underlying natural subsoil (Context No.1042) or bedrock surfaces, no additional features or deposits were exposed. In addition to the recorded finds (see Appendix Five), a large amount of modern building debris was recovered from the areas of relict topsoil but was not retained.

- 3.3.2 Three shallow deposits of topsoil (Context Nos.1007, 1019 and 1021) 'trampled' into hollows within the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No.1042) after the topsoil stripping had been completed, were initially identified as possible features and therefore excavated. The first was a sub-circular shaped, shallow deposit of dark brown humic sandy clay loam (diameter 0.12 - 0.16 metres, depth 0.04 metres) in the southern half of the site (Context No.1007). The second was an irregular-shaped deposit of a dark brown silty loam (dimensions 0.08 by 0.14 metres, depth 0.03 metres) in the southern corner of the site (Context No.1019). The third was an elongated deposit of dark brown, humic sandy loam (dimensions 1.40 metres by 0.23 metres, depth 0.02 metres) also in the southern corner of the site.
- 3.3.3 A dump of quarried stone (Context No.1004) was located in the eastern end of the site and was exposed over an area 7.0 metres by 6.5 metres. It consisted of an irregular-shaped deposit of sub-angular to angular stone fragments of varying size (the largest stones had maximum dimensions of 0.25 metres). Due to time constraints, the dump was only partially excavated by means of a sondage cut in the eastern corner of the site where it was demonstrated that it was 0.1 metres in depth and overlay deposits of redeposited topsoil (Context Nos.1005, 1006 and 1041). During the course of the excavation the owner of a nearby house confirmed that the stones were derived from bedrock quarried from an adjacent building plot during September 2001.
- 3.3.4 Underlying the dump of quarried stone (Context Nos.1004) were two separate deposits of dark brown, humic sandy clay loam, topsoil (Context Nos. 1005, 1006, 1041) which had been redeposited on to the truncated surface of the natural subsoil following the topsoil stripping of the site. Both of these deposits were partially excavated in order to confirm their recent date. The first (Context No.1005) was a shallow, irregular-shaped deposit (depth 0.02 metres) located on the western edge of the stone dump. The second dump of

redeposited topsoil (Context Nos.1006 and 1041) was exposed in the sondage in the eastern corner of the site for a length of 4.80 metres. The deposit contained several lenses of builder's sand and had a maximum depth of 0.40 metres. Presumably, these deposits of redeposited topsoil were derived from the clearance of nearby building plots in advance of construction work.

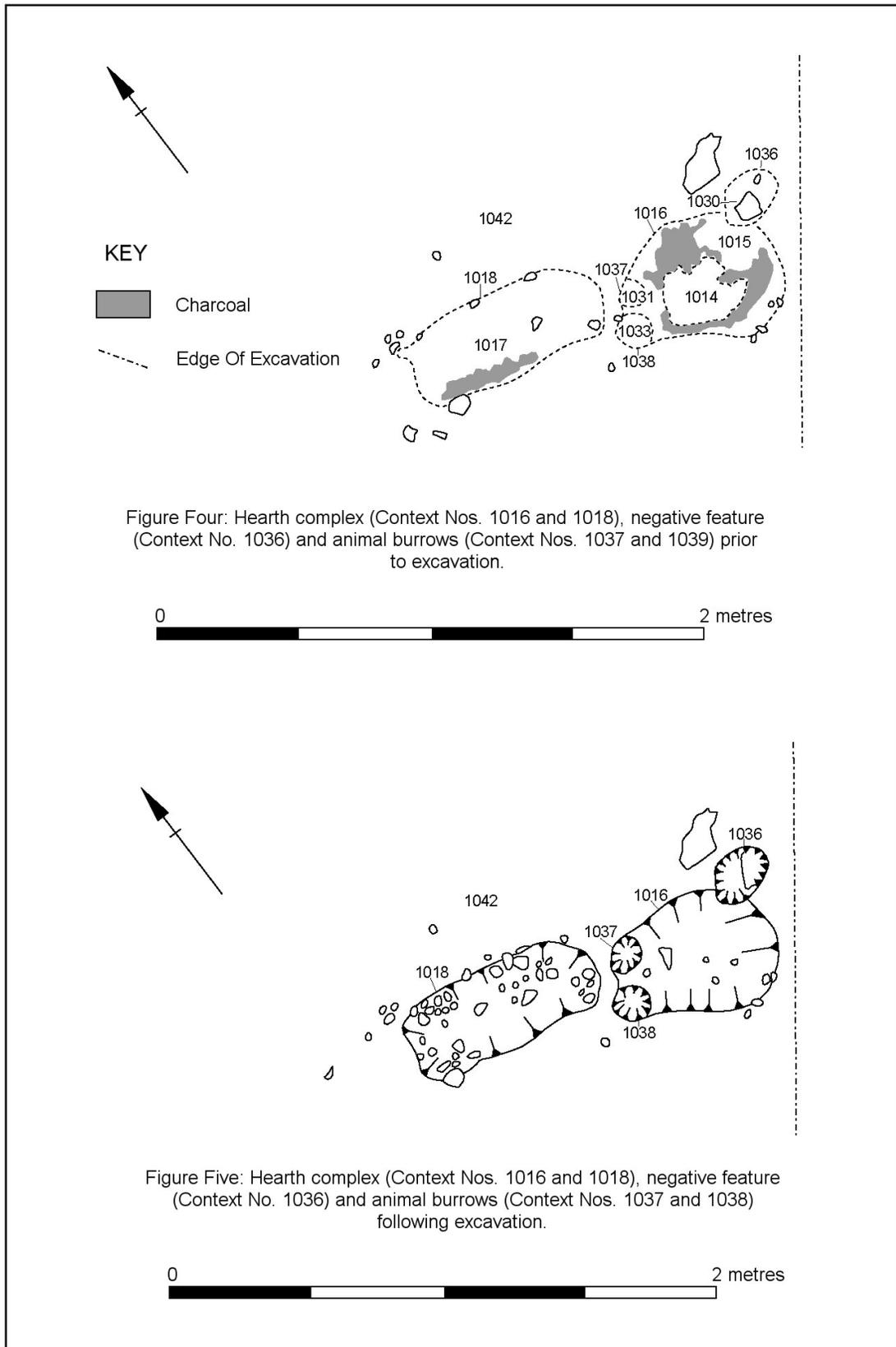
- 3.3.5 The only demonstrably modern, negative feature investigated during the course of the excavation was a truncated oval-shaped pit (dimensions 0.70 by 0.50 metres, depth 0.28 metres) located in the southern half of the site (Context No.1025). The pit was filled by a firm, dark brown sandy clay loam with occasional charcoal flecking and several small stone inclusions (Context No.1010) from which two pieces of modern glass were recovered (Small Find Nos. 180 and 183; see Appendix Five). The absence of building debris within the pit's fill suggests that it predates the construction of the Meadowlands Estate.

3.4 *Possible ancient features and animal burrows*

- 3.4.1 Six truncated possible stake holes or small post holes (Context Nos.1026, 1027, 1032, 1036, 1039, 1040), all located in the southern half of the site, were excavated. Little artefactual material suitable for dating purposes was recovered from these features and their date is uncertain. Roots ran through the fills of all of the features and, although all of the fills were sampled with a view to recovering organic material suitable for radiocarbon dating, it is unlikely that these samples will not be contaminated.
- 3.4.2 The first feature (Context No.1026) was sub-circular in shape with a rounded base (diameter 0.18-0.19 metres; depth 0.10 metres), it was located adjacent to the southeastern edge of excavation and filled with a friable dark brown loam (Context No.1011). The second feature (Context No.1027) was sub-oval in shape with a rounded base (diameter 0.12-0.13 metres; depth 0.06 metres), it was also located adjacent to the southeastern edge of excavation (c.0.5 metres to the south of the first feature) and filled with a dark brown loam (Context No.1012). The third feature (Context No.1032) was circular in shape with steep sides and a base defined by the bedrock (diameter 0.12 metres; depth 0.03 metres), it was located towards the centre of the southern half of the site and was filled with a dark brown silty loam (Context No.1008). The fourth feature (Context No.1036) was sub-circular in shape with steep sides (diameter 0.21-0.25 metres, depth 0.19 metres), it was located near the southern corner of the site and was cut through the upper fill (Context No.1014) of part of the hearth (Context No.1016) (see below). It was filled by a charcoal flecked, mid to dark brown loam (Context No.1030) which contained a large sub-angular stone at its base (maximum dimension 0.17 metres) which might represent packing. The fifth feature (Context No.1039) was a shallow, sub-circular hollow (diameter 0.17-0.21 metres, depth 0.06 metres), that was located near the southern corner

of the site and filled with a charcoal flecked, dark brown sandy clay loam (Context No.1013). The sixth feature (Context No.1040) was sub-circular in shape with a rounded base (diameter 0.22-0.33 metres, depth 0.08 metres), it was located c.0.5 metres to the south of the modern pit (Context No.1025) and filled with a charcoal flecked, dark brown sandy loam (Context No.1009).

- 3.4.3 All of the features had been truncated and three of them (i.e. Context Nos.1027, 1032 and 1039) were so shallow that their identification as possible stake holes or small post holes is particularly problematic. Of the remaining features, the only one which can be identified with reasonable confidence as a definite stake hole or post hole is the example (Context No.1036) which stratigraphically cut the hearth and whose fill (Context No.1030) contained a possible packing stone.
- 3.4.4 The only other significant feature was the shallow remains of a hearth (Context Nos.1016 and 1018) which was located in the southern corner of the site (Figures Four and Five; Plates Four and Five). The base of the hearth appeared to have been originally a linear feature, 1.4 metres long, 0.3 - 0.45 metres wide and aligned approximately east-west; however, as a result of its truncation it had become two separate stratigraphic units set 0.04 metres apart from each other. The eastern unit (Context No.1016) was oval in shape (diameter 0.64 - 0.43 metres, depth 0.07 metres), whilst the western unit (Context No.1018) was sub-rectangular in shape (length 0.65 metres, width 0.36 metres, depth 0.03 metres).
- 3.4.5 Both parts of the hearth have comparable stratigraphic sequences. The primary fill of the slightly better preserved eastern unit (Context No.1016) was a charcoal flecked, brown sandy loam with small pebble inclusions (thickness 0.03-0.04 metres). It was overlain by a charcoal rich, dark brown to black sandy loam (thickness 0.03 metres) (Context No.1015) which contained a lens of light brown sand (thickness 0.01 metres) (Context No.1024). The charcoal rich fill (Context No.1015) was in turn overlain by a charcoal flecked, reddish-brown sandy loam set within the centre of the feature (dimensions 0.25 metres by 0.43 metres, thickness 0.04 metres). The primary fill of the western unit (Context No.1018) consisted of a deposit of sub-rounded stones apparently deliberately spread across the base of the hearth (Context No.1029). The spread of stones was overlain by a charcoal rich, dark brown to black sandy loam (thickness 0.03 metres) (Context No.1017) and is equated with the comparable fill in the eastern unit (i.e. Context No.1015).
- 3.4.6 The eastern part of the hearth (Context No.1016) was cut by two animal burrows (Context Nos.1037 and 1038). These animal burrows were partially excavated in order to establish that they were not anthropogenic. In addition to the two burrows which cut the hearth feature, two other burrows (Context Nos.1034 and 1035) in the southern corner of the site



were also partially excavated. The date of the burrows is uncertain; however, considering the acidic soil conditions, the survival of a piece of bone (Small Find Nos.201) within the fill (Context Nos.1022) of one of the burrows (Context Nos.1035) suggests that at least one burrow is of relatively recent date.

3.4.7 The distribution of the six possible stake holes or small post holes (Context Nos.1026, 1027, 1032, 1036, 1039, 1040) and the hearth (Context Nos.1016 and 1018) did not form any obvious pattern or arrangement to suggest that they were part of a contemporary structure, although presumably the hearth was originally located within some form of structure.

3.5 *Artefactual dating*

3.5.1 In the course of the excavation 102 small finds were recovered, although only a few of these were associated with the excavated features (see Appendix Five). Most of the finds consist of worked flint, pottery sherds and burnt bone. Two fragments of modern glass (Small Find Nos.180 and 183), a possible rubbing stone (Small Find No.111) and two pieces of clay pipe stem (Small Find Nos.140 and 151) were also recovered.

3.5.2 A total of 14 sherds of pottery (Small Find Nos. 103, 104, 108, 120, 134, 153, 157, 161, 165, 176, 177, 195, 203 and 204), all from modern or disturbed contexts, were recovered during the excavations. Provisional analysis indicates that the majority of the sherds are eighteenth century or later in date; however, two sherds (Small Find Nos.108 and 120) are examples of an apparently local earthenware and are difficult to date precisely, but probably range in date from the Medieval period to the eighteenth or nineteenth century (McSparron pers.comm.). Considering the small size of the ceramic assemblage, the presence of the sherds is consistent with nothing necessarily more significant than the use of kitchen middens to manure fields during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

3.5.3 The acidic soil conditions of the site prevented the preservation of any unburnt animal bone apart from two pieces (Small Find Nos.201-202) which were recovered from the fill of a presumably recent animal burrow (Context No.1022) and a dump of redeposited topsoil (Context No.1041) which post-dates the mechanical excavation of the site's topsoil. Eleven fragments of burnt bone were recovered (Small Find Nos.119, 138, 150, 159, 160, 168, 172, 192, 196, 197 and 200); one of these (Small Find No.172) was recovered from a fill (Context No.1017) of the hearth, whilst the remainder were recovered from either modern or disturbed contexts.

3.5.4 The relatively large number of worked flints recovered during the excavations suggests the site, or its immediate environs, was a focus of prehistoric activity. Only two flint flakes were

recovered from significant contexts; the first (Small Find No.173) was recovered from a fill (Context No.1017) of the hearth (Context No.1018), whilst the second (Small Find No.174) was recovered from the fill (Context No.1011) of a possible stake hole (Context No.1026). Provisional analysis of the assemblage has resulted in the recognition of only one diagnostic type, that is a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age scraper (Small Find No.101) which was discovered during the initial clearance of the site.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 The 2002 excavation was only partially successful in ascertaining the character of the deposits recorded by Stephen Gilmore and Declan Hurl (see Appendices Six and Seven). In the period of approximately eighteen months between the mechanical excavation of the building plot's topsoil (November 2000) and the excavations (July 2002), a significant proportion of the recorded features were destroyed. Gilmore identified five features in the southern half of the site: a possible hearth, a stone packed feature, an oval pit and two linear features, one of which terminated in a stone packed post hole (see Appendix Seven). Of these five features, only the possible hearth (Context Nos.1016 and 1018) and the oval pit (Context No.1025) survived to be recorded in the 2002 excavations. The poor level of preservation was a result of the truncation of the archaeological horizon exposed by the topsoil stripping. This truncation was caused by driving heavy plant and large vehicles over the building plot and the use of the area for dumping large quantities of quarried stone, building material and general waste.
- 4.2 The level of preservation of the site was poor and this was reflected in the results of the excavation. The only excavated features of potential archaeological significance were the six possible stake holes or small post holes (Context Nos.1026, 1027, 1032, 1036, 1039 and 1040) and the hearth (Context Nos.1016 and 1018) located in the southern part of the site. These features did not form any pattern or arrangement to suggest that they were part of a contemporary structure, although presumably the hearth was originally located within some form of structure. That one of the small post holes (Context No.1036) cut through part of the hearth suggests that there were probably at least two separate phases of activity at the site.
- 4.3 At present, it is not possible to suggest a date for either the hearth or any of the possible stake holes or small post holes. The relatively large number of worked flints recovered during the excavation suggests the site, or at least the area immediately surrounding it, was a focus of prehistoric activity. However, given the scale of residual deposition of worked flint in demonstrably later contexts, the recovery of two flint flakes (Small Find Nos.173 and 174) from fills associated with the hearth feature (Context No.1018) and one of the possible stake holes (Context No.1026) cannot be taken as demonstrating a prehistoric date for these features. This is particularly regrettable as the principle research objective of the excavation was to recover any evidence of Neolithic or Bronze Age activity at the site and, if possible, relate it to that uncovered during the earlier excavations of the adjacent Neolithic funerary monument and middle Bronze Age structures.
- 4.4 The inherent importance of the features recorded during the 2002 excavation is not great. Their archaeological significance relates to the light that they potentially cast on the activity

uncovered in the earlier excavations of the adjacent Neolithic funerary monument and middle Bronze Age structures. If it was demonstrated that the features were of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date then the activity recognised in the area immediately surrounding the Neolithic funerary monument during Hurl's excavations could be argued to extend further south than has hitherto been recognised. Alternatively, if it was shown that the features were of middle Bronze Age date then it would suggest that the settlement evidence uncovered during McSparron's excavations was more extensive than has hitherto been demonstrated.

5 Recommendations for further work

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The results of the 2002 excavation at Crossreagh West do not justify full and detailed publication. The excavation's importance lies in its potential for informing the interpretation of the results of the unpublished excavations of the adjacent Neolithic funerary monument and middle Bronze Age structures. Consequently, it is recommended that a limited programme of post-excavational analysis is undertaken and that a short note on the excavations is prepared for publication. It is anticipated that the note will be submitted to the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*.

5.1.2 In order to satisfactorily complete the post-excavation analysis and prepare a short note for publication the following four tasks have been identified. A time-table for the completion of this work has also been proposed (Table Two).

5.2 Programme of radiocarbon dating of material recovered during the 2002 excavations [to be completed by September 2003]

5.2.1 Given the high risk of contamination caused by root action, animal burrowing and the activity on the site following the mechanical excavation of the topsoil, it is not considered worthwhile to prepare charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating by floating the soil samples taken from the fills of the six possible stake holes or small post holes. Consequently, only a single radiocarbon date of the *in situ* charcoal deposits (Context Nos.1015 and.1017) from the hearth is recommended.

5.3 Specialist identification and dating of pot sherds [to be completed by September 2003]

5.3.1 The assemblage of pot sherds recovered during the excavation is not of central importance to the interpretation of the site. However, it is necessary for a specialist to confirm, and if appropriate revise, the provisional identifications of the small assemblage of pot sherds recovered during the excavations. It is not recommended that a formal report on the pottery should be prepared for publication.

5.4 Specialist analysis of the flint [to be completed by September 2003]

5.4.1 The worked flint assemblage recovered during the excavations is the only artefactual signature of the character of prehistoric activity at the site. Analysis of the flint assemblage will facilitate comparison with the worked flint recovered during the excavations of the

adjacent Neolithic funerary monument and middle Bronze Age structures. It is envisaged that a summary of the analysis will be included in the published note on the excavation.

5.5 Preparation of note for publication [to be completed by December 2003]

5.5.1 Preparing the short note will involve incorporating the results of the proposed radiocarbon dating and the specialist analyses into a summary account of the 2002 excavation derived from this report. The note will be c.1000 - 1500 words in length and will include illustrations adapted from this report. The preparation and submission of the note will take a week of staff time and should be programmed into the first half of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork's 2003/2004 post-excavation season.

Tasks	April – June 2003	July – September 2003	October – December 2003
Radiocarbon dating			
Analysis of pottery			
Analysis of flint			
Preparation of note for publication			

Table Two: Proposed time-table for completion of the proposed programmes of post-excavation analysis and publication (areas shaded grey show period during which work is to be undertaken and completed)

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Appendix One: Context List

Context No. Description

1001	Arbitrary context no. used to record finds discovered during initial clearance of site
1002	Relict deposit of topsoil
1003	Relict deposit of topsoil
1004	Modern dump of quarried stone
1005	Redeposited topsoil
1006	Redeposited topsoil (same as 1041)
1007	Relict deposit of trampled topsoil
1008	Fill of 1032
1009	Fill of 1040
1010	Fill of 1025
1011	Fill of 1026
1012	Fill of 1027
1013	Fill of 1039
1014	Red fill of hearth 1016
1015	Charcoal fill of hearth 1016
1016	Cut of hearth feature
1017	Charcoal fill of hearth 1018
1018	Cut of hearth feature
1019	Relict deposit of trampled topsoil
1020	Fill of animal burrow 1034
1021	Relict deposit of trampled topsoil
1022	Fill of animal burrow 1035
1023	Relict deposit of topsoil
1024	Sandy lens within charcoal fill 1015
1025	Cut feature (modern)
1026	Cut feature
1027	Cut feature
1028	Fill of hearth cut 1016
1029	Stony base of hearth 1018
1030	Possible fill of possible cut feature 1036
1031	Fill of animal burrow 1037
1032	Possible cut feature
1033	Fill of animal burrow 1038
1034	Animal burrow
1035	Animal burrow
1036	Possible cut feature

Context No. Description

1037	Animal burrow
1038	Animal burrow
1039	Cut feature
1040	Cut feature
1041	Redeposited topsoil (same as 1006)
1042	Natural subsoil

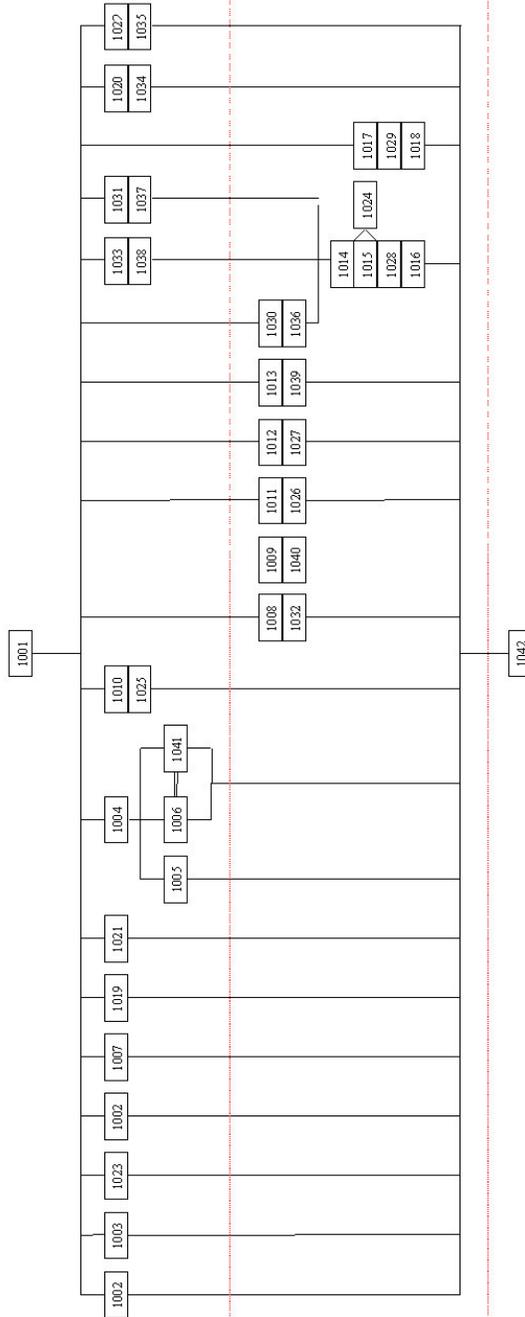
Appendix Two: Harris Matrix

Phasing

Modern deposits and features;
and animal burrows

Possible ancient features
and hearth complex

Natural



Appendix Three: Photographic Record

Film One: Kodak E100VS 5.135 – 36 Ektachrome colour reversal film.

- 1 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking northeast).
- 2 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking north).
- 3 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking north).
- 4 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 5 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 6 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking west).
- 7 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking west).
- 8 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking southwest).
- 9 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking southwest).
- 10 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking south).
- 11 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking south).
- 12 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 13 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 14 'Mound' SMR No.003:025 (looking south).
- 15 'Mound' SMR No.003:025 (looking south).
- 16 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking east).
- 17 General shot of site prior to excavation (looking east).
- 18 General shot of south-west side of site prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 19 General shot of south-west side of site prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 20 General shot of south-west side of site prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 21 General shot of south-west side of site prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 22 General shot of north-east side of site prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 23 General shot of north-east side of site prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 24 General shot of north-east side of site prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 25 General shot of north-east side of site prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 26 General shot of north-east side of site prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 27 General record shot of site prior to excavation.
- 28 General record shot of site prior to excavation.
- 29 Neolithic megalithic funerary monument SMR No.003:002 (looking northwest).
- 30 Neolithic megalithic funerary monument SMR No.003:002 (looking northwest).

Film Two: Kodak E100VS 5.135 – 36 Ektachrome colour reversal film.

- 1 General shot of excavation in progress (cleaning down on to the sub-soil surface).
- 2 General shot of excavation in progress (cleaning down on to the sub-soil surface).

- 3 General shot of excavation in progress (cleaning down on to the sub-soil surface).
- 4 General shot of excavation in progress (cleaning down on to the sub-soil surface).
- 5 General shot of excavation in progress (surveying).
- 6 General shot of excavation in progress (surveying).
- 7 General shot of excavation in progress.
- 8 General shot of excavation in progress.
- 9 Main part of site following removal of relict topsoil (1002 & 1003) and general cleaning (1001) (looking northeast).
- 10 Main part of site following removal of relict topsoil (1002 & 1003) and general cleaning (1001) (looking northeast).
- 11 Main part of site following removal of relict topsoil (1002 & 1003) and general cleaning (1001) (looking southwest).
- 12 Main part of site following removal of relict topsoil (1002 & 1003) and general cleaning (1001) (looking southwest).
- 13 Pre-excavation photograph of features 1016 and 1018 (looking northwest).
- 14 Pre-excavation photograph of features 1016 and 1018 (looking northwest).
- 15 Pre-excavation photograph of possible fills 1019, 1020 and 1021 (looking northwest).
- 16 Pre-excavation photograph of possible fills 1019, 1020 and 1021 (looking northwest).
- 17 Personal.
- 18 Personal.
- 19 Features 1026 and 1027 (including fills 1011 and 1012) prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 20 Features 1026 and 1027 (including fills 1011 and 1012) prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 21 Feature 1025 (including fill 1010) and possible fills 1007 and 1009 prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 22 Feature 1025 (including fill 1010) and possible fills 1007 and 1009 prior to excavation (looking northwest).
- 23 Features 1026 and 1027, half-sectioned (looking southeast).
- 24 Features 1026 and 1027, half-sectioned (looking southeast).
- 25 Possible fill 1008 prior to excavation (looking northeast).
- 26 Possible fill 1008 prior to excavation (looking northeast).
- 27 Relict patch of topsoil 1023 prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 28 Relict patch of topsoil 1023 prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 29 Features 1016 and 1018 after removal of all fills (except 1029) and possible fills 1030 and 1031 (looking south).
- 30 Features 1016 and 1018 after removal of all fills (except 1029) and possible fills 1030 and 1031 (looking south).
- 31 West facing section of feature 1025 (including fill 1010) (looking southeast).
- 32 West facing section of feature 1025 (including fill 1010) (looking southeast).

- 33 Features 1026 and 1027 following excavation (looking southeast).
- 34 Features 1026 and 1027 following excavation (looking southeast).
- 35 Features 1026 and 1027 following excavation (looking southeast).
- 36 Features 1026 and 1027 following excavation (looking southeast).

Film Three: Kodak E100VS 5.135 – 36 Ektachrome colour reversal film.

- 1 Possible fill 1022 (looking southeast prior to excavation).
- 2 Possible fill 1022 (looking southeast prior to excavation).
- 3 Possible fill 1022 (looking southeast prior to excavation).
- 4 Possible fill 1022 (looking southeast prior to excavation).
- 5 Feature 1034 (northeast facing section looking southwest).
- 6 Feature 1034 (northeast facing section looking southwest).
- 7 Feature 1032 (northeast facing section looking southwest).
- 8 Feature 1032 (northeast facing section looking southwest).
- 9 Feature 1034 (looking southwest).
- 10 Feature 1034 (looking southwest).
- 11 Feature 1025 (looking southeast).
- 12 Feature 1025 (looking southeast).
- 13 Hearth 1016 and 1018 following excavation (looking south).
- 14 Hearth 1016 and 1018 following excavation (looking south).
- 15 Hearth 1016 and 1018 following excavation (looking south).
- 16 Hearth 1016 and 1018 following excavation (looking south).
- 17 Hearth 1016 and 1018 following excavation (looking west).
- 18 Hearth 1016 and 1018 following excavation (looking west).
- 19 Possible fill 1013 prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 20 Possible fill 1013 prior to excavation (looking southeast).
- 21 Feature 1039 (north facing section looking south).
- 22 Feature 1039 (north facing section looking south).
- 23 Feature 1035 (looking south).
- 24 Feature 1035 (looking south).
- 25 Feature 1035 (looking east).
- 26 Feature 1035 (looking east).
- 27 Personal.
- 28 Personal.
- 29 Feature 1009 (southeast facing section looking northwest).
- 30 Feature 1009 (southeast facing section looking northwest).
- 31 Feature 1036 (northwest facing section looking southeast).
- 32 Feature 1036 (northwest facing section looking southeast).
- 33 Feature 1036 (northwest facing section looking southeast).
- 34 Personal.

- 35 General shot of excavation in progress (surveying).
- 36 View from site towards the mouth of Bann and the adjacent coastline (looking west)

Film Four: Kodak E100VS 5.135 – 36 Ektachrome colour reversal film.

- 1 Feature 1036 following excavation (looking southeast)
- 2 Feature 1036 following excavation (looking southeast)
- 3 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking southeast).
- 4 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking southeast).
- 5 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking southeast).
- 6 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking southeast).
- 7 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking southeast).
- 8 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking southeast).
- 9 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking northeast).
- 10 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking northeast).
- 11 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking northeast).
- 12 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking northeast).
- 13 Sondage cut in east corner of the site to establish relationship between quarried stone dump 1004 and redeposited topsoil (1006/1041) (looking northeast).

Appendix Four: Field Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Scale	Type	Description
1	1:50	Plan	Extent of surviving patches of topsoil 1002 and 1003
2	1:20	Plan	Plan of hearth (context nos. 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017 and 1018) and surrounding possible fills (context nos. 1013, 1019, 1020, 1021 and 1022 prior to excavation)
3	1:20	Plan	Plan of possible fills 1007, 1009 and 1010 prior to excavation
4	1:20	Plan	Plan of features 1026 and 1027 and fills 1011 and 1012 prior to excavation
5	1:10	Section	Northwest facing section of feature 1026
6	1:10	Section	Northwest facing section of feature 1027
7	1:10	Plan	Feature 1023
8	1:10	Section	Northwest facing section of feature 1025
9	1:10	Profile	Section of features 1016 and 1018 showing fills 1014, 1015, 1024, 1028 and 1017
10	1:10	Plan	Plan of possible fill 1008 prior to excavation
11	1:20	Plan	Features 1026 and 1027 following excavation
12	1:10	Section	Northeast facing section of possible fill 1008
13	1:10	Section	Northeast facing section of feature 1034
14	1:10	Plan	Plan of cut 1032 following excavation
15	1:20	Plan	Plan of various features in the southern corner of site
16	1:10	Profile	Profile of 1033, 1031 – rabbit burrow
17	1:10	Section	Southeast facing section of 1009
18	1:10	Section	Northeast facing section of feature 1013
19	1:10	Section	Northwest facing section of feature 1007
20	1:10	Profile	Profile of 1036
21	1:20	Plan	Plan of excavated features 1040 and 1025
22	1:20	Plan	Plan of 1036 along with 1018 and 1016
23	1:50	Plan	Overall site plan following removal of relict topsoil 1002, 1003, 1023 and disturbed/trampled subsoil 1001
24	1:50	Plan	Plan of sondage in eastern corner of site with excavated features
25	1:20	Section	Northwest facing section of sondage in eastern corner
26	1:200	Plan	Site survey with roads

Appendix Five: Small Finds Register

Small Find No.	Description	Context No.	Easting	Northing	Height (uncorrected)
101	Flint scraper ?	1001	1511.77	501.50	99.84
102	Flint blade ?	1002	1507.89	505.45	99.88
103	Pot sherd	1002	1505.52	505.05	99.75
104	Pot sherd	1002	1506.67	503.50	99.78
105	Flint flake	1002	1504.62	503.87	99.63
106	Burnt flint	1002	1509.19	505.24	99.99
107	Flint debitage ?	1002	1506.10	504.19	99.80
108	Pot sherd	1002	1508.07	502.92	99.81
109	Flint flake	1001	1520.50	502.60	99.92
110	Flint flake	1001	1520.76	502.96	99.94
111	Rubbing Stone ?	1001	1518.74	503.02	99.88
112	Flint flake	1001	1519.78	503.64	99.93
113	Flint flake	1003	1511.13	513.88	100.17
114	Natural flint ?	1003	1511.13	513.99	100.19
115	Flint flake ?	1003	1511.16	514.75	100.32
116	Flint flake	1003	1511.48	515.11	100.37
117	Flint flake	1001	1515.50	501.75	99.88
118	Flint flake	1001	1515.07	500.93	99.88
119	Burnt bone ?	1001	1520.28	502.93	99.89
120	Pot sherd	1001	1518.65	506.59	99.92
121	Flint flake ?	1001	1520.45	505.54	99.91
122	Flint flake	1003	1511.79	512.14	100.03
123	Flint flake ?	1001	1521.27	506.02	99.92
124	Natural flint ?	1003	1511.50	513.26	100.09
125	Flint flake	1001	1520.70	506.19	99.92
126	Flint flake ?	1001	1520.68	506.34	99.93
127	Flint flake	1001	1515.97	505.50	99.91
128	Flint core ?	1001	1520.47	507.44	99.95
129	Flint flake	1001	1518.80	503.97	99.85
130	Flint flake	1001	1516.45	506.03	99.91
131	Flint core ?	1001	1520.37	507.56	99.96
132	Burnt flint	1001	1516.19	505.87	99.91
133	Flint flake	1001	1520.42	507.63	99.96
134	Pot sherd	1001	1515.75	506.02	99.90
135	Flint flake	1001	1520.02	507.58	99.95

Small Find No.	Description	Context No.	Easting	Northing	Height (uncorrected)
136	Flint flake	1001	1515.00	505.30	99.87
137	Flint flake ?	1001	1517.09	506.59	99.91
138	Burnt bone	1001	1513.55	504.00	99.83
139	Flint flake	1001	1515.33	506.15	99.91
140	Clay pipe stem	1003	1512.67	513.64	100.11
141	Flint flake	1001	1517.99	507.76	99.95
142	Daub ?	1001	1518.50	507.39	99.95
143	Flint flake ?	1001	1516.83	506.81	99.92
144	Daub ?	1001	1513.99	505.77	99.93
145	Daub ?	1001	1520.49	507.67	99.95
146	Flint flake	1001	1516.74	507.08	99.93
147	Daub ?	1001	1518.56	507.81	99.95
148	Flint flake	1001	1514.36	506.22	99.92
149	Daub ?	1001	1514.13	505.95	99.92
150	Burnt bone	1001	1520.48	508.92	99.99
151	Clay pipe stem ?	1001	1517.06	507.96	99.95
152	Flint flake	1001	1519.00	509.61	99.53
153	Pot sherd	1001	1512.78	507.87	99.98
154	Flint flake	1001	1520.96	509.79	99.97
155	Bone ?	1001	1512.55	508.09	99.98
156	Flint flake ?	1001	1514.08	508.78	99.93
157	Ceramic	1001	1511.85	509.05	100.00
158	Pot sherd	1001	1519.67	512.06	99.98
159	Burnt bone	1001	1520.76	514.44	99.95
160	Burnt bone	1001	1520.54	514.43	99.98
161	Pot sherd	1001	1512.14	511.47	100.03
162	Flint flake	1001	1509.97	501.37	99.86
163	Flint flake ?	1001	1508.38	500.57	99.81
164	Flint flake ?	1001	1507.96	500.75	99.78
165	Pot sherd	1002	1503.38	499.60	99.40
166	Flint flake	1002	1503.66	499.23	99.42
167	Flint flake	1002	1509.00	503.86	99.91
168	Burnt bone	1010	1518.58	507.18	99.86
169	Flint flake ?	1010	1518.66	506.76	99.87
170	Flint flake	1010	1518.61	506.88	99.86
171	Flint flake	1010	1518.64	506.94	99.80
172	Burnt bone	1017	1520.38	503.64	99.90

Small Find No.	Description	Context No.	Easting	Northing	Height (uncorrected)
173	Flint flake	1017	1520.22	503.62	99.89
174	Flint flake	1011	1520.75	507.21	99.85
175	Chalk	1010	1518.80	506.75	99.86
176	Pot sherd	1010	1518.90	506.86	99.92
177	Pot sherd	1010	1518.93	506.88	99.87
178	Flint flake	1010	1518.82	506.94	99.85
179	Flint flake	1010	1518.83	506.72	99.84
180	Glass	1010	1518.85	507.12	99.88
181	Natural flint ?	1010	1518.73	507.05	99.86
182	Flint flake	1010	1518.70	507.09	99.87
183	Glass	1010	1518.71	507.02	99.80
184	Flint flake ?	1010	1518.84	507.02	99.85
185	Flint flake	1001	1518.80	502.52	99.91
186	Flint flake ?	1010	1518.77	506.71	99.82
187	Coal	1010	1518.70	507.12	99.83
188	Coal	1010	1518.87	507.09	99.85
189	Flint flake	1010	1518.73	506.91	99.74
190	Flint flake	1010	1518.91	507.01	99.85
191	Flint flake	1010	1518.92	506.91	99.87
192	Burnt bone	1022	1518.93	502.18	99.88
193	Flint flake ?	1010	1518.81	506.68	99.84
194	Flint flake	1010	1518.91	506.70	99.88
195	Pot sherd	1010	1518.89	507.09	99.80
196	Burnt bone	1010	1518.65	507.26	99.81
197	Burnt bone	1033	1520.82	503.59	99.79
198	Flint flake ?	1022	1518.84	502.16	99.85
199	Flint flake	1022	1519.16	502.38	99.89
200	Burnt bone	1022	-	-	-
201	Bone	1022	1519.03	502.36	99.76
202	Bone	1041	1520.83	512.48	99.90
203	Pot sherd	1003	-	-	-
204	Pot sherd	1003	-	-	-

Appendix Six: Samples Record

Sample No.	Context No.	Type	No. of bags	Volume (estimate)	Retained ?
1	1011	Fill	2	0.5 litres	Yes
2	1010	Fill	4	9 litres	Yes
3	1024	Fill	1	0.1 litres	Yes
4	1014	Hearth fill	1	1 litre	Yes
5	1015	Hearth fill	1	1 litre	Yes
6	1012	Fill	2	0.5 litres	Yes
7	1028	Hearth fill	3	1.5 litres	Yes
8	1017	Fill	1	1 litre	Yes
9	1023	Topsoil	1	2 litres	Yes
10	1020	Burrow fill	1	0.1 litres	Yes
11	1019	Topsoil	1	-	No
12	1031	Burrow fill	1	0.5 litres	Yes
13	1033	Burrow fill	2	1 litre	Yes
14	1022	Burrow fill	1	3 litres	Yes
15	1008	Fill	1	0.5 litres	Yes
16	1009	Fill	1	1.5 litres	Yes
17	1013	Fill	1	0.1 litres	Yes
18	1030	Possible fill	1	1 litre	Yes
19	1021	Topsoil	1	-	No

Appendix Seven: Stephen Gilmore's notes regarding his visit to the building plot following mechanical excavation of the topsoil

Site visit to Crossreagh West, Portstewart. 24/11/00.

The site in Meadowlands, Portstewart was visited on the morning of Friday 24th Nov by Stephen Gilmore. The site had already been topsoil stripped. On the south end of the site this had been carried out to a depth of c.0.2 - 0.3m. The orange subsoil was visible. On the northern end of the site the stripping was much more intermittent. The surface cover was gone and the area had been driven over but it was unclear how much had been removed. This area also had basalt visible across it. It was unclear if this was bedrock or human built. The subsoil on the southern end appeared to be a sandy clay.

Upon walking across the area several possible archaeological features were uncovered. These were:

1. A possible hearth in the southern corner of the site some 0.5m dia.
2. To the west of this was a linear feature some 0.3m wide and 4-5m long running N-S.
3. A stone packed feature to the west of the linear feature some 0.75m dia.
4. A linear feature some 0.3m wide and 3m + running from the east corner and terminating in a stone packed post hole.
5. An oval pit 1.5m X 1m to the north west of this feature.

These features were in the southern ½ of the site.

What would be necessary to try and establish what actually is present in the nature of archaeology would be a team of 4 archaeologists to clean up the surface of the site for 3 days. This would enable us to present the EHS with a coherent strategy for dealing with the archaeology or relocating the building to avoid the archaeology (however on a small site such options are limited). The EHS however retains the final say on how the archaeology is dealt with.

While S. Gilmore was present Paul Crawley and the land owner Des Higgins appeared. He told and showed them that there was archaeology present and that a clean-up to establish the nature and extent was required. It would be useful if the northern end of the site was re-stripped with an archaeologist present to establish archaeological presence or absence. This would expedite matters.

Appendix Eight: Declan Hurl's notes regarding his visit to the building plot following mechanical excavation of the topsoil

Site visit to Crossreagh West, Portstewart. 19/2/02.

I visited the plot of land within a housing development site outside Portstewart which had mitigation requirements and had been sold to a private individual who had not been appraised of that requirement. The plot consisted of an area of stripped ground, 20 x 18.5 m. On the SW side was exposed a surface of regular stone slabs which was consistent with an outcrop of basalt bedrock. Elsewhere were dark bands of soil and spreads of burnt material, but it was difficult to determine how close they had been to the original ground surface. A few sherds of post-medieval pottery, a piece of cremated/burnt bone and a possible flint flake were recovered from the surface. The plot may need some further examination considering its proximity to the megalithic site (Ldy 3:2) excavated in 1995.



Plate One: Neolithic funerary monument excavated in 1995 and currently forming part of a garden feature (SMR No. LDY 003:002) (looking northwest)



Plate Two: Site prior to excavation (looking southwest)



Plate Three: Site following removal of relict topsoil (Context Nos.1002 and 1003) (looking southwest)



Plate Four: Northeast facing section of hearth (Context Nos.1016 and 1018) (looking southwest)



Plate Five: Hearth (Context Nos.1016 and 1018) prior to excavation (looking northwest)