



Monitoring Report No. 18

**Ballyoolymore / Tullyorior
Co. Down**

AE/05/158

Cormac McSparron

Site Specific Information

<i>Site Name:</i>	Byrne Development
<i>Townland:</i>	Ballyoolymore / Tullyorior
<i>SMR No:</i>	DOW 034:104
<i>Grid Ref:</i>	J19334319
<i>County:</i>	Down
<i>Excavation License No:</i>	AE/05/158
<i>Planning Ref / No.:</i>	Q/2005/0170/O
<i>Dates of Monitoring:</i>	Friday 9 th December 2005
<i>Archaeologist Present:</i>	Cormac McSparron, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB.
<i>Brief Summary:</i>	Evaluation of building site carried out by excavation of four test trenches. No archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered.
<i>Type of monitoring:</i>	Excavation by mechanical digger under supervision of archaeologists
<i>Size of area opened:</i>	Four trenches were opened <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tr.1 2m by 30m• Tr.2 2m by 30m• Tr.3 2m by 30m• Tr.4 2m by 30m
<i>Current Land Use:</i>	The land is currently used for grazing. The ground has been cultivated in recent decades, having been planted in potatoes.
<i>Intended Land Use:</i>	Single residence

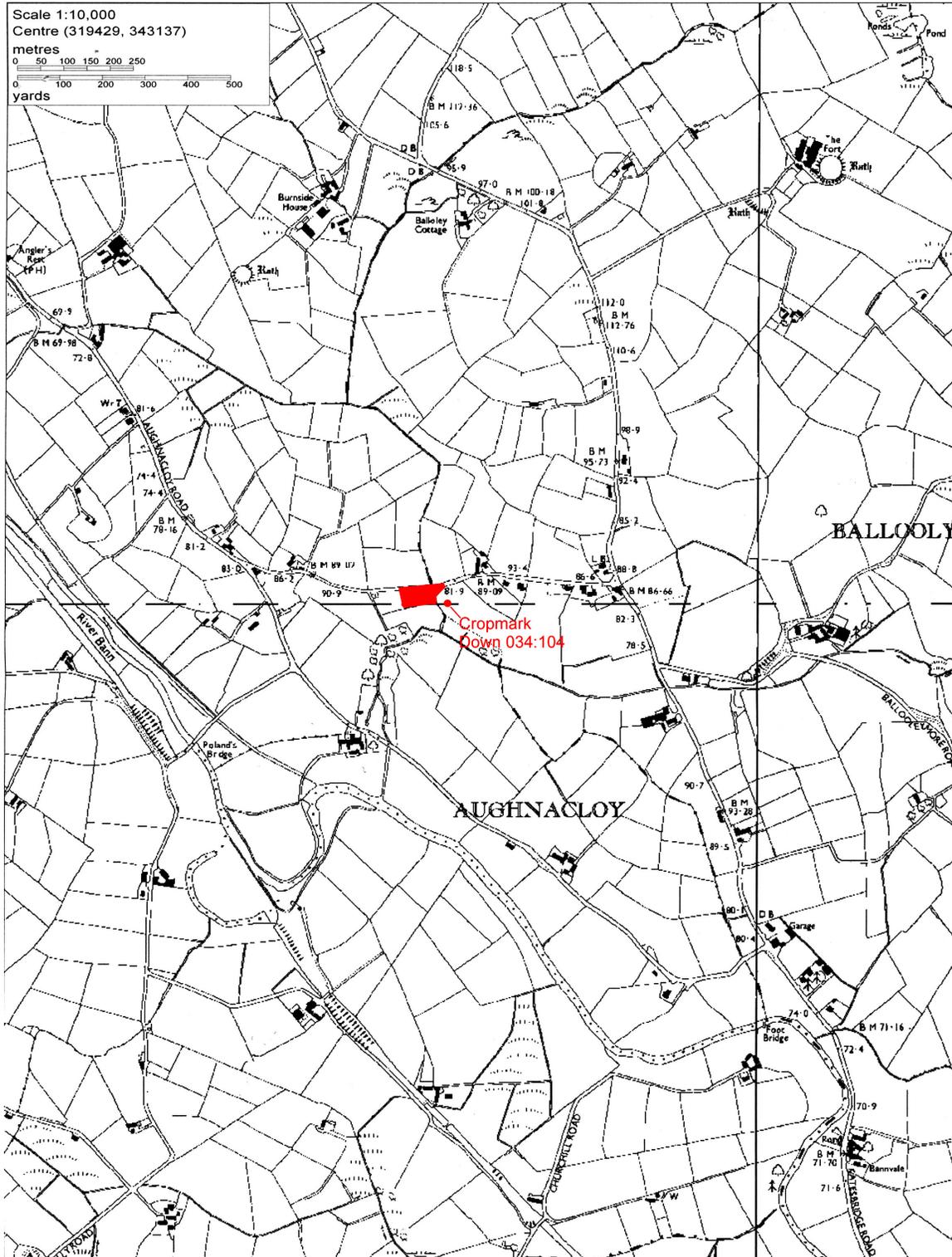


Figure 1: Location of site

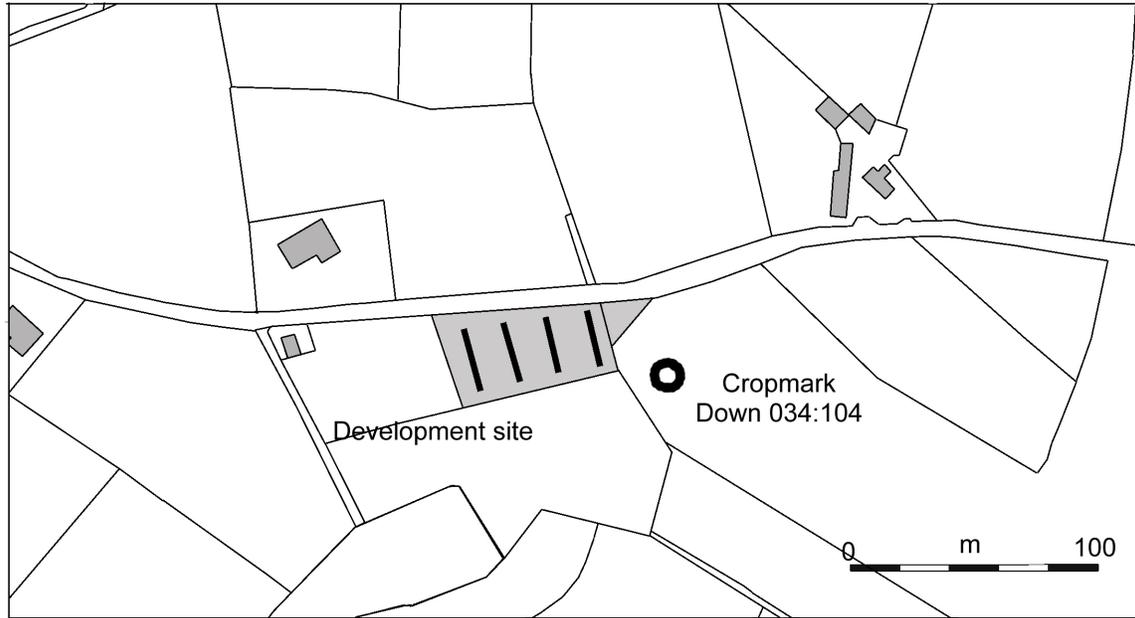


Figure 2: Map showing extent of suggested development site and proximity to nearby archaeological monuments

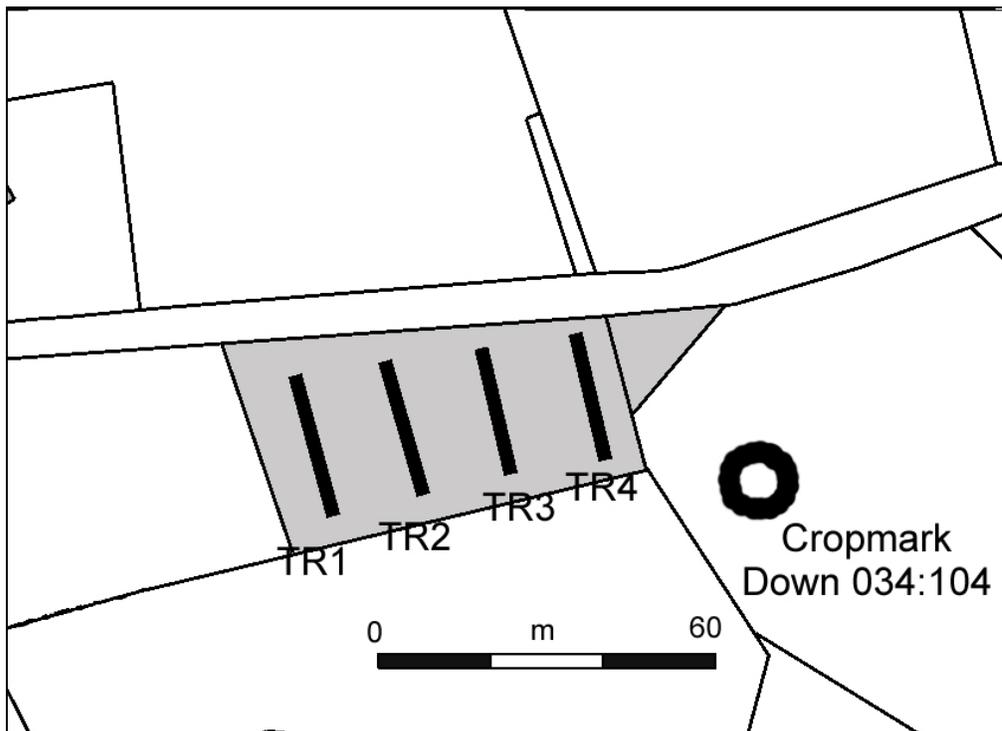


Figure 3: Plan of development site showing location of excavated evaluation trenches

Brief account of the monitoring.

The development site is located at Lower Castlevennon Road, Co.Down, within 40m of an aerial photograph site (Down 034:104). It straddles the townlands of Ballyoolymore and Tullyrior. The evaluation was requested by an EHS: Built Heritage caseworker.

A total of four trenches were excavated as part of the evaluation procedure (Figures 1 – 3). The trenches were excavated using a mechanical digger equipped with a toothless “sheugh” bucket (Photo 5). The four trenches all measured 2m by 30m. The trenches were stepped out slightly from the field boundary, so as not to disturb the root systems of the hedge and some trees located along the field boundary.

Trench 1: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran north / north-west to south / south-east. The topsoil was a brown loam (Context 101), which averaged approximately 20cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the subsoil (Context 102). The subsoil consisted of an orange / buff coloured sandy clay, which contained within its matrix lots of naturally occurring, angular, small stones up to 15cm in size. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 1)

Trench 2: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran north / north-west to south / south-east and was located parallel to Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a grey-brown sandy loam (Context 201) which averaged approximately 20cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the subsoil (Context 202). The subsoil consisted of an orange / buff sandy clay, which contained within its matrix naturally occurring small, angular stones up to a maximum of approximately 15 cm in diameter. A modern “wavin pipe” type drain with stone packing and a stone drain crossed this trench, both running approximately east – west. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 2)

Trench 3: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran north / north-west to south / south-east and was located parallel to Trench 2. The topsoil in this trench was a brown loam (Context 301), which averaged approximately 20cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the subsoil (Context 302). The subsoil consisted of a buff / orange coloured sandy clay, which contained within its matrix naturally occurring angular small stones up to a maximum of approximately 15cm in diameter. A modern “wavin pipe” type drain with stone packing was encountered running approximately east – west. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 3)

Trench 4: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran north / north-west to south / south-east and was located parallel to Trench 3. The topsoil in this trench was a grey, brown loam (Context 401), which averaged approximately 35cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the subsoil (Context 402). The subsoil consisted of a buff /orange coloured sandy clay, very sandy in places, which contained patches of small angular stones up to a maximum of approximately 15cm in diameter. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 4)

Conclusions

The evaluation trenches investigated an area of approximately 240m² in size. No archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered. It would therefore seem probable that there are no significant archaeological features or artifacts on the development site.



Photo 1: Trench 1 after excavation



Photo 2: Trench 2 after excavation



Photo 3: Trench 3 after excavation



Photo 4: Trench 4 after excavation



Photo 5: Excavation of Trench 1 showing utilization of toothless “sheugh” bucket.

Archive:

(List any records from the monitoring e.g. finds, photos and plans and state where they are currently available for inspection.)

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 17 Digital Photographs currently at CAF

Signed: _____

Date: _____