



Monitoring Report No. 21

**Castle Espie Road
Ballylighorn
Co. Down**

AE/06/35

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Castle Espie Road

Townland: Ballyglighorn

SMR No.: DOW:011:015 – enclosure

Grid Ref: 4894366218

County: Down

Excavation License No: AE/06/35

Planning Ref / No.: X/2005/1120/F

Date of Monitoring: 23rd February 2006

Archaeologist Present: Kara Ward

Brief Summary:

Three test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in any of the trenches.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of three test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision

Size of area opened: Three trenches measuring approximately 20m by 2m each.

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site is located immediately east of an enclosure (DOW:011:015) in Ballyglighorn townland (Fig. 1 and 2). The enclosure is designated 'Fort' on the 1834 OS 6" map, 'Site of Fort' on the 1859 edition and is undesignated on the 3rd and 4th editions. The monument consists of a low mound set off the slope of a hill with scarped sides. It is an elevated site with excellent views towards Strangford Lough (Plate 1). The surface is trampled by cattle and an access for farm machinery cuts across the monument and through what appears to be part of the bank (Plate 2). A track runs straight along the eastern edge of the monument next to the proposed development site.

An archaeological evaluation was requested by EHS: Protecting Historic Monuments to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 23rd February 2006. Three test trenches were excavated (Fig. 3) as requested by the PHM Casework Officer, Gina Baban. All three trenches measured approximately 20m by 2m. The stratigraphy of the test trenches is described below.

Trench A had a topsoil (C101) with a depth of approximately 0.18m. The topsoil was a uniform moist dark brown sandy silt intermixed with modern farm waste and rubble including brick and baling plastic. Underlying C101 was an eluviation layer (C102) consisting of orange brown silty clay. It was present at a depth of between 0.18m and 0.26m below normal ground level. The subsoil (C103) was an orange brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions and was located at a depth of approximately 0.26m (Plates 3 and 4).

In Trench B the topsoil (C101) had an average depth of 0.14m. The eluviation layer (C102) was located at between 0.14m and 0.24m below ground level and overlay the subsoil (C103) (Plates 5 and 6).

The topsoil (C101) in Trench C had a depth of approximately 0.16m. Underlying this, the eluviation layer (C102) was present between 0.16m and 0.28m and overlay the subsoil (C103) (Plates 7 and 8).

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were apparent in any of the trenches.

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs: 15 digital images, held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Fig. 1: 1:50,000 Map showing location of site (red circle).

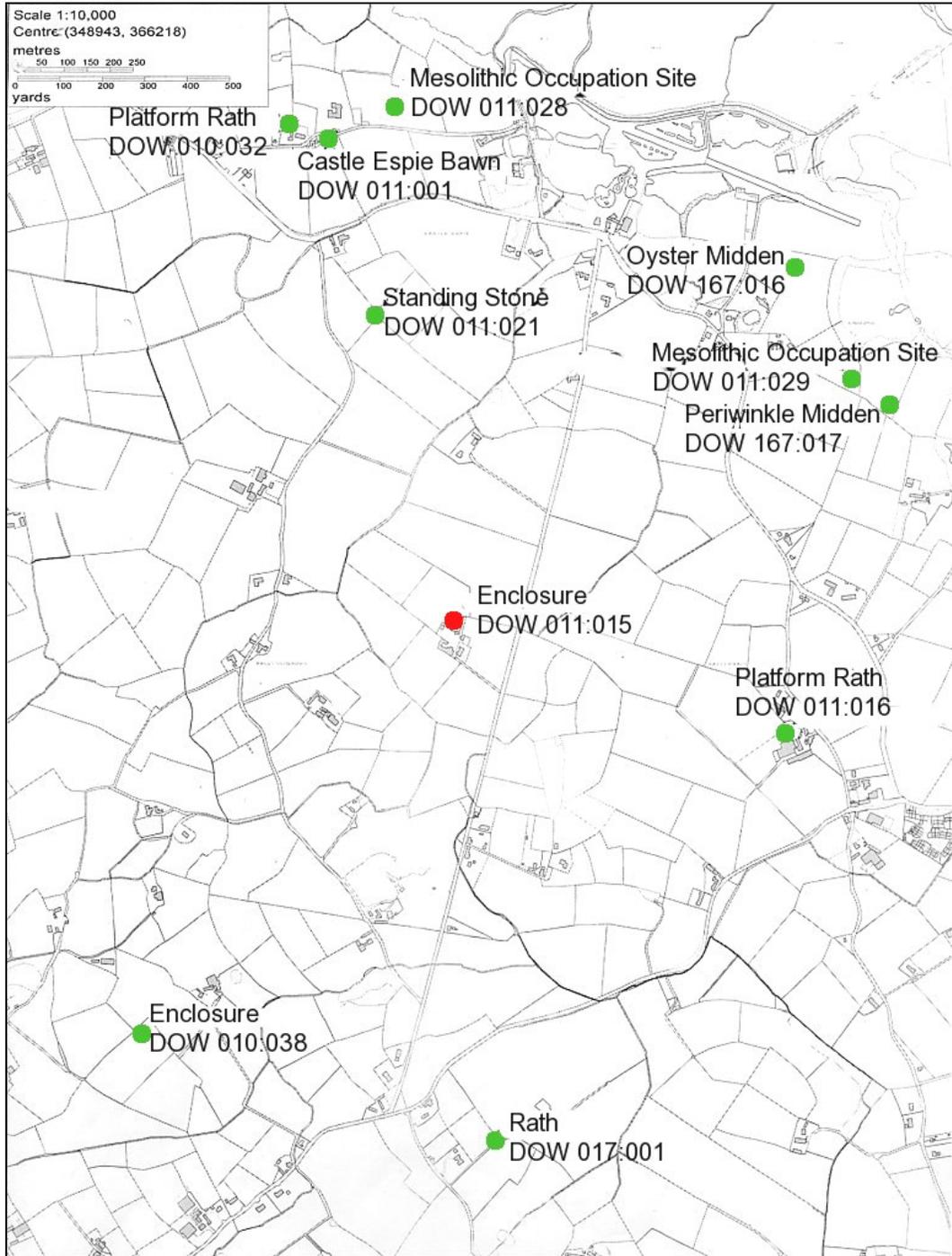


Fig. 2: Location of site (red circle) and archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity (green circles).

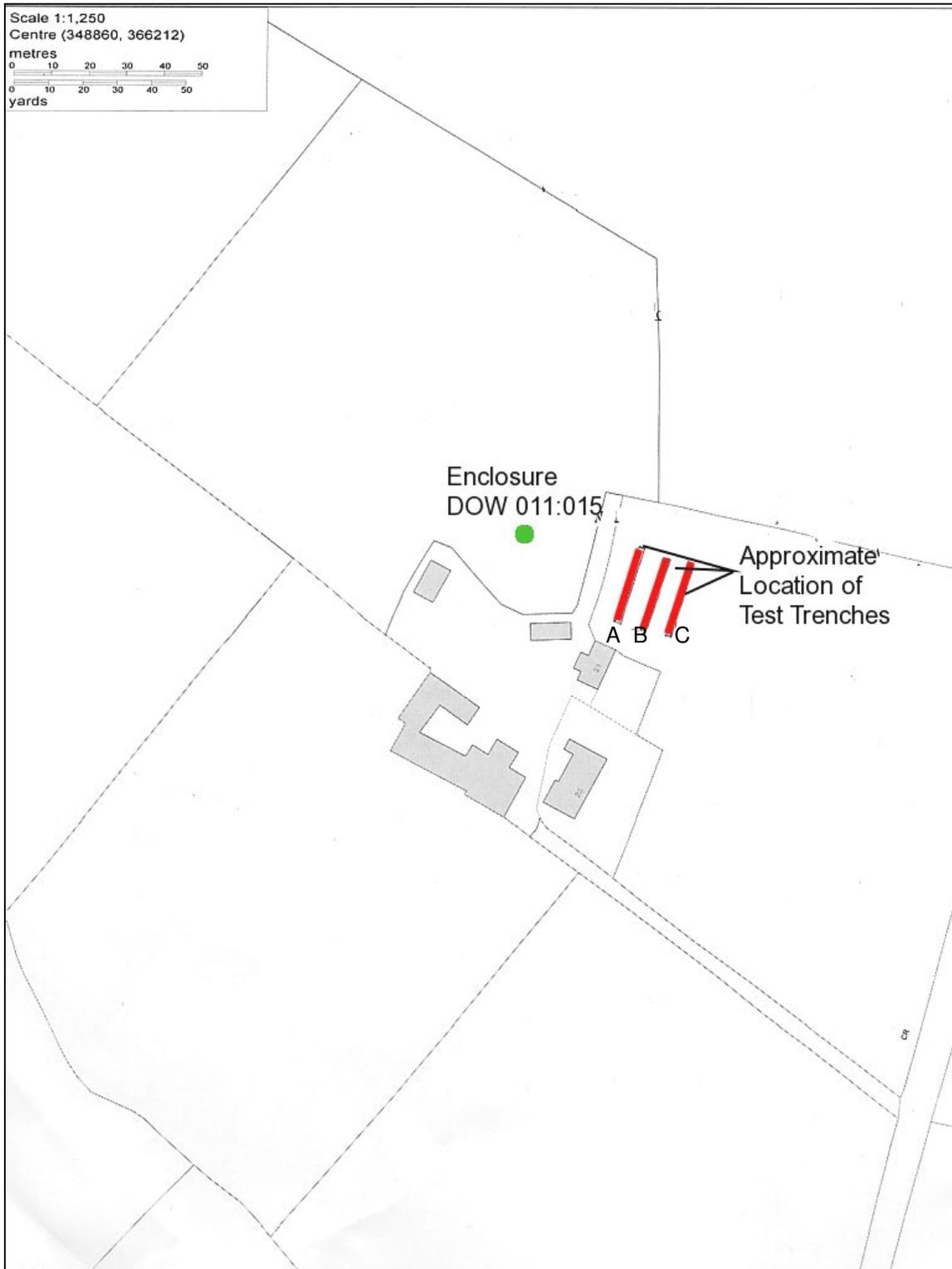


Fig. 3: Location of Enclosure (green circle) and approximate location of test trenches (red).



Plate 1: View of site from south-west.



Plate 2: View of farm access cut through bank of enclosure (DOW:011:015), from south.



Plate 3: View of Trench A from south after excavation to surface of subsoil (C103).



Plate 4: View of east-facing section in Trench A after excavation to surface of subsoil (C103).



Plate 5: View of Trench B from south after excavation to surface of subsoil (C103).



Plate 6: View of west-facing section in Trench B after excavation to surface of subsoil (C103).



Plate 7: View of Trench C from south after excavation to surface of subsoil (C103).



Plate 8: View of west-facing section in Trench C after excavation to surface of subsoil (C103).