



Monitoring Report No. 43

**19 Mullaghglass Road
Aghaislone
Lisburn
Co. Antrim**

AE/06/08

Kara Ward
& Cormac McSparron

Site Specific Information

Site Address: 19 Mullaghglass Road, Lisburn, Co. Antrim (Fig. 1 and 2)

Townland: Aghalislone

SMR No: ANT:064:082

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: 24536 68301

County: Antrim

Excavation License No: AE/06/08

Planning Ref / No.: S/2005/0303/F

Date of site visit: 27th January 2006

Archaeologists Present: Kara Ward and Thom Kerr

Brief Summary:

Unsupervised topsoil stripping had already been carried out on the application site prior to the evaluation request. The proposed development site lies to the north-west of a rath (ANT:064:082). Monitoring of re-stripping of topsoil was requested to evaluate the proposed development site. The developer had however, proceeded to lay the foundations of a new building and a layer of stones had been placed across the site. The evaluation could therefore not take place.

Current Land Use: Development site

Intended Land Use: Residential

Assessment of site

The proposed development site is located approximately 40m north-west of a rath (ANT:064:082) (Fig. 3). The rath and proposed development site are located on a steep east-facing slope of White Mountain, with extensive views towards the north-east, east and south. The large oval rath consists of an interior measuring 53.5m (north-south) by 46.5m (east-west), enclosed by an earth and stone bank and outer ditch. Aerial photographs also identified anomalies on the site of the proposed development.

Prior to the evaluation request, a site visit by Gina Baban, Casework Officer with EHS: Built Heritage, confirmed that the site had been topsoil stripped without archaeological supervision. The subsoil had been reached in some places but patches had been left with topsoil remaining. Some sherds of pottery, burnt bone and charcoal spreads were also apparent (Gina Baban pers. comm.).

An evaluation request was made to the CAF. The evaluation was to re-expose the subsoil and reduce the ground to subsoil level where necessary within the footprint of the development. Conversation between Kara Ward and the agent and landowner during the organisation of the evaluation revealed that the landowner had already proceeded to lay foundations and a layer of stones on the site.

A site visit was made on 27th January to assess the situation and carry out the requested evaluation if possible. The visit confirmed that further unauthorised works had been carried out. Foundation trenches had been cut across the site and filled with concrete (Plates 1 and 2) and all exposed areas of soil had been covered in a layer of stone (Plates 3 and 4). Any archaeological deposits or features present will have been damaged and/or severely truncated by these works. At the time of the site visit, the topsoil remained on site in two large spoilheaps. A number of sherds of Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery were retrieved from the spoilheaps but no burnt bone or charcoal was evident. It was not possible to carry out the evaluation as requested due to the advanced stage of construction at the site.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 11 digital images, held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

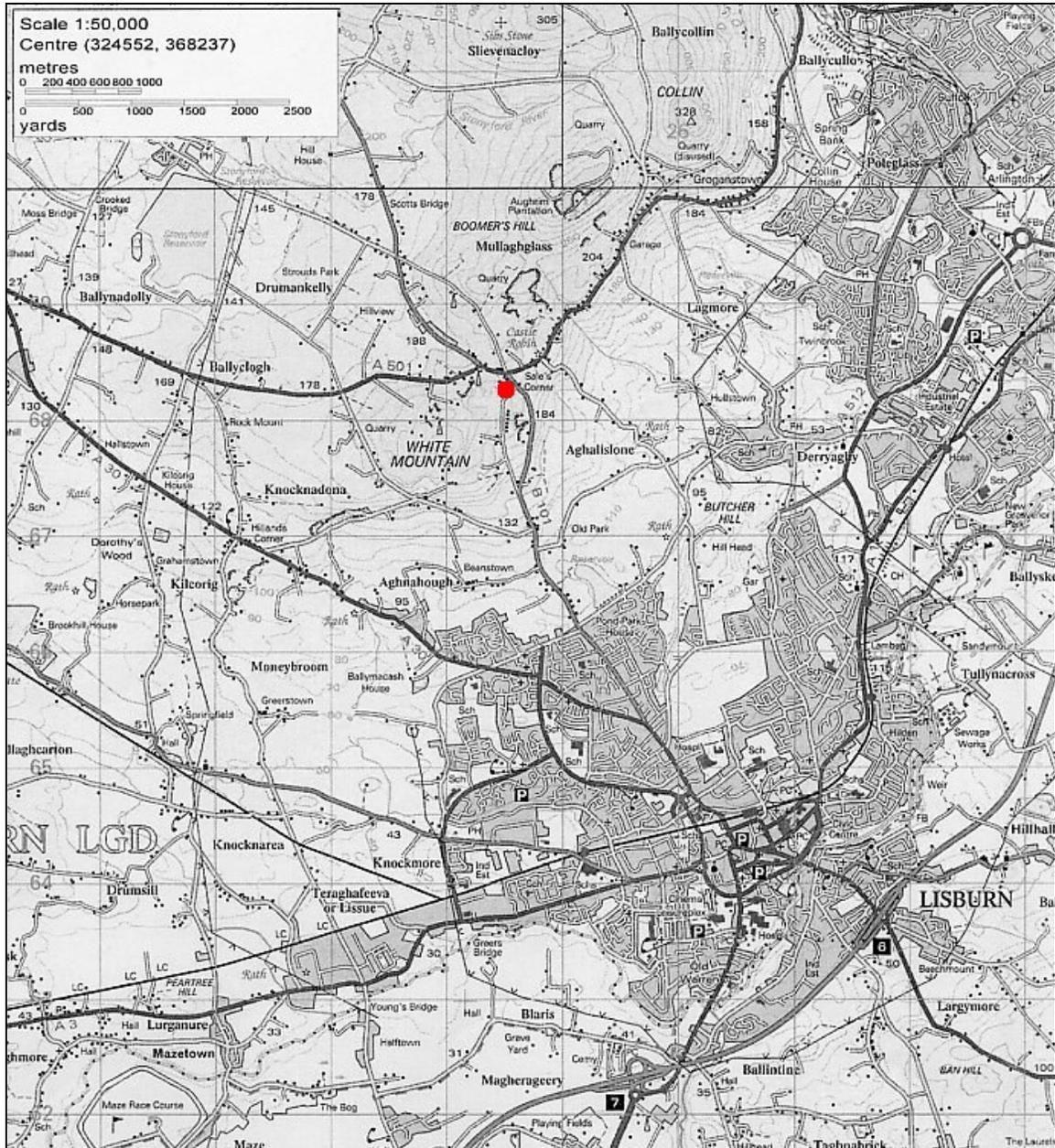


Fig. 1: 1:50,000 Map showing location of site (marked in red).

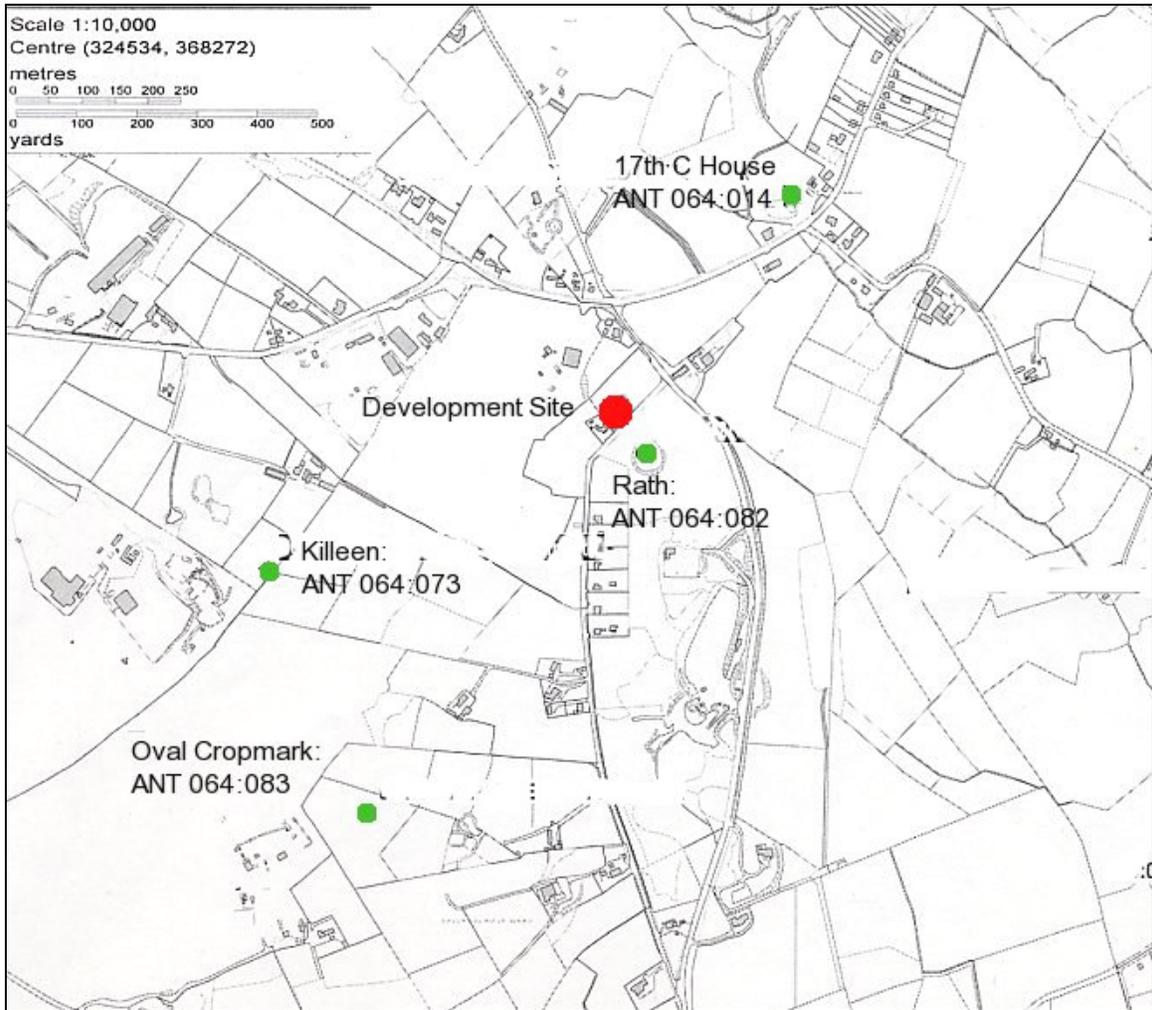


Fig. 2:1:10,000 Map showing location of development site (red) and local archaeological monuments (green).

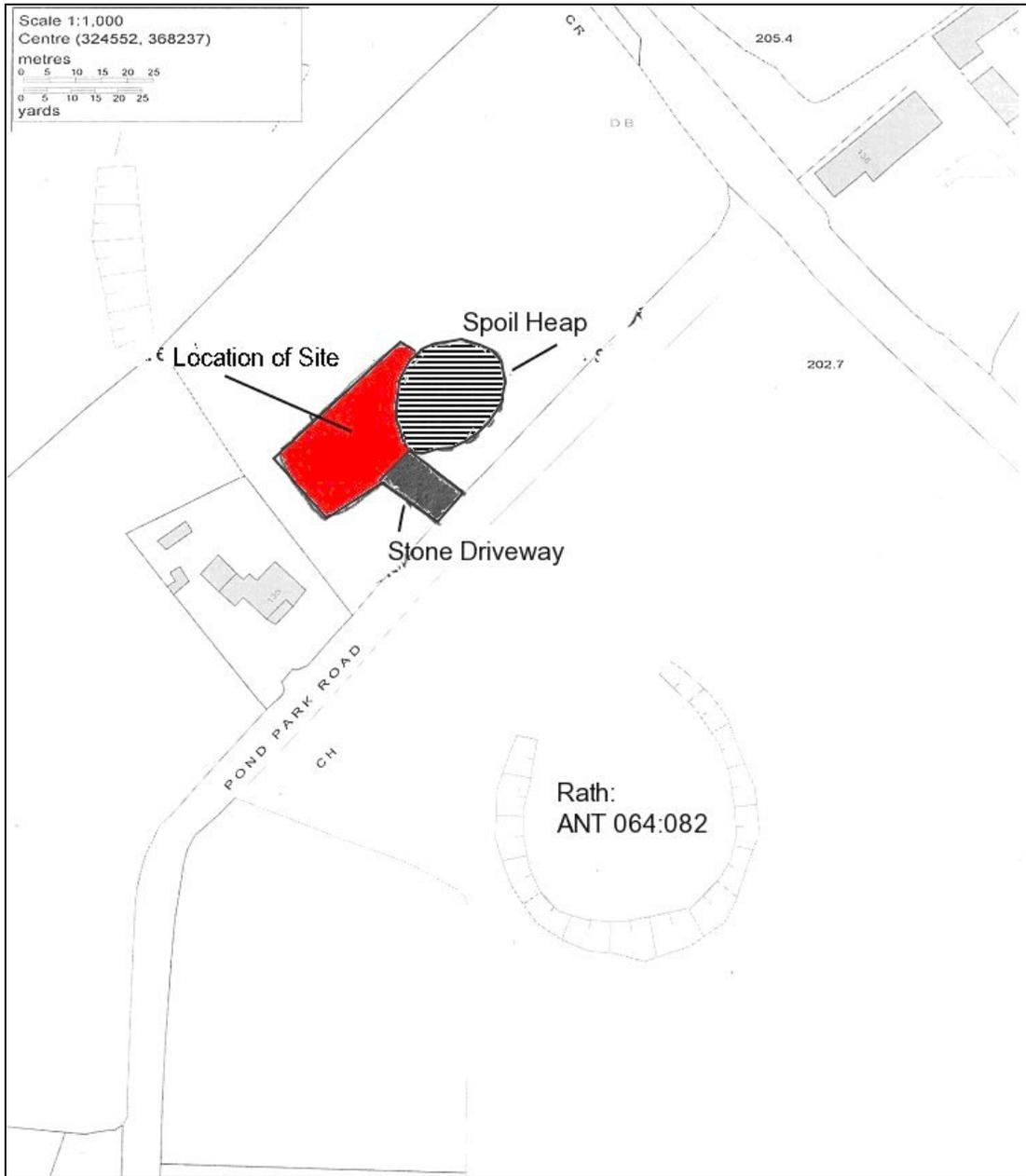


Fig. 3: 1:10,000 map showing location of site (red).



Plate 1: View of site from north-east



Plate 2: View of foundation trenches from north-east



Plate 3: View towards rath (ANT:064:082) to south-east, with access road and spoilheap in foreground



Plate 4: View of northern part of site, with additional access road under construction