



Monitoring Report No. 49

**Burren Road
Burren
Co. Down**

AE/06/33

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Burren Road

Townland: Burren

SMR No.: DOW:051:072

Grid Ref: 313966 320645

County: Down

Excavation License No: AE/06/33

Planning Ref / No.: P/2005/0739/O

Date of Monitoring: 28th February 2006

Archaeologist Present: Kara Ward

Brief Summary:

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

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened: Three trenches measuring 70m by 2m and two trenches measuring 50m by 2m.

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site (Fig. 1 and 2) is located c.75m south-east of an enclosure DOW:051:072) which is situated in a large, low-lying field and was identified by aerial photography. There are however, no visible surface remains. The monument is described in the SMR as a circular enclosure, 55m in diameter, with a double bank and ditch.

An archaeological evaluation was requested by Stiofán Ó Cathmhaoil, Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, EHS: Built Heritage to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 28th February 2006. Five test trenches were excavated (Fig. 3). Trenches A, B and C measured 70m by 2m each and Trenches D and E measured 50m by 2m each. The trenches could not be excavated to the subsoil along their entire length for safety and practical reasons; the site was on peat with a depth of up to 2.2m. It was decided to excavate the trenches to approximately 0.5m along the entire length and to excavate down to subsoil at intervals of approximately 10m. At least four modern stone filled drains were cut north-east to south-west through the site at regular intervals; the trenches were not excavated through these to avoid flooding the site. An old field boundary consisting of a bank (C106) and ditch (C107) was uncovered running through Trenches A, B, C and D.

The stratigraphy was roughly consistent across the site; the sod layer (C101) was approximately 0.11m deep. Underlying this was a deposit of mid-brown stoney peat (C102) at a depth of between 0.11m and 0.50m. In places there was a horizon of yellow stoney clay (C103) located between C102 and C104 at a depth of between 0.50m and 0.60m. Next in the sequence was a deep deposit of dark brown peat (C104) containing some root material and occasional stones. It was located at approximately 0.5m below ground level and was present up to a maximum depth of 2.2m below ground level. C104 directly overlay the subsoil (C105) which was a yellowish white, stoney silty clay.

Trench A

The excavation of the trench is described from south to north:

Distance from southern end of trench	Excavated depth
0.0 - 2.5m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 1.4m
2.5 - 8.8m	excavated to a depth of 0.6m within C104. A stone filled drain was located within C104 at 6.3m from the southern end of the trench and at a depth of 0.5m.
8.8 – 12.2m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 1.35m
12.2 – 23.5m	excavated to a depth of 0.4m, to surface of C104. A north-south aligned stone filled drain was located within C104 between 12.2m and 23.5m from the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.4m below ground level.
23.5 - 26.5m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 1.3m
26.5 – 34.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.4m within C104. A stone filled drain was located within C104 at 33m from the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.4m below ground level.
34.0 - 36.4m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 1.5m
36.4 – 40.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.4m within C104
39.2m – 40.0m	At this location along the trench was a ditch (C107) filled with large stones which was part of the old field boundary.
40.0m - 44.7m	A bank (C106), also part of the old field boundary, was located at this point along the trench. The bank material was composed of compact yellow brown stoney clay (C108). It appeared to be revetted with stone at either side and dipped quite steeply down to subsoil on the northern edge.
44.7 – 47.4m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 1.9m
47.4 – 55.2m	excavated to a depth of 0.4m within C104
55.2 – 58.5m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 2.0m
58.2 – 65.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.6m within C104
65.0 – 70.0m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 2.2m

Trench B

The excavation of the trench is described from south to north:

Distance from southern end of trench	Excavated depth
0.0 – 3.0m	excavated to the surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 0.8m. A stone filled drain was located within C104 at 5.6m from the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.5m below ground level.
3.0 – 12.6m	excavated to a depth of 0.4m within C104. A stone filled drain was located within C104 at 12.5m from the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.4m below ground level.
12.6 – 15.1m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 0.61m
15.1 – 23.6m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C104. A stone filled drain ran north-south through the site between 15.1 – 23.6m from the southern end of the trench it was cut into C104 and at a depth of 0.5m below ground level.
23.6 – 26.0m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 0.7m

26.0 – 28.8m	excavated to a depth of 0.45m within C104. A stone filled drain was located within C104 at 27.0m from the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.45m below ground level.
28.8 – 36.0m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 0.84m
36.0 – 40.7m	excavated to a depth of 0.33m, to surface of C104. A stone filled ditch (C107) was located within C104 between 36.0 – 40.7m from the southern end of the trench and at a depth of 0.30m below ground level. The ditch was part of the old field boundary.
40.7 – 43.5m	A bank (C106) which had formed part of the old field boundary was encountered between 40.7m and 43.5m from the southern end of the trench at 0.26m below ground level.
43.5 - 46.9m	excavated to a depth of 0.30m, to surface of C104
46.8 – 50.1m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 1.7m
50.1 – 64.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C104
64.0 – 70.0m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 2.2m

Trench C

The excavation of the trench is described from south to north:

Distance from southern end of trench	Excavated depth
0.0 – 34.2m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a maximum depth of 0.36m
34.2 – 34.8m	A ditch (C107) which was part of the old field boundary was encountered at between 34.2m and 34.8m from the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.36m below ground level.
34.8 – 37.8m	A bank (C106) which was part of the old field boundary was encountered between 34.8m and 37.8m from the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.36m below ground level.
37.8 – 46.2m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 0.65m
46.2 – 48.6m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 0.86m
49.0m	A stone filled drain was located within C104 at 49.0m from the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.5m below ground level
50.0 - 54.0m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 1.00m
54.0 – 62.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C104
62.0 – 70.0m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 1.5m.

Trench D

The excavation of the trench is described from south to north:

Distance from southern end of trench	Excavated depth
0.00 – 25.5m	excavated to subsoil at a depth of 0.49m. A stone filled drain was located within C104 at 0.00 -1.00m from the southern end of the trench and at a depth of 0.4m below ground level.
25.5 – 31.8m	excavated to subsoil at a depth of 0.67m. The site has been extensively disturbed from 25.5m onwards. A layer of rubble (C109) was encountered between 25.5 – 34.3m below ground level.
32.1m	a manhole was located at approximately 32.1m
32.2 – 42.0m	excavated to subsoil at a depth of 0.91m
42.0 – 50.0m	a large amount of farm waste and clearance debris had been buried in a large pit excavated by the landowner. The pit had been excavated down to subsoil (C105) or deeper at a depth of approximately 2.0m.

Trench E

The excavation of the trench is described from east to west:

The eastern part of the trench from 0.0m to 19.7m had been previously disturbed; tree stumps and other debris had been buried in a large pit which was excavated to at least subsoil level at a depth of approximately 2.2m

Distance from eastern end of trench	Excavated depth
0.0 – 6.5m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C108 (dump material). A stone filled drain was located within C104 at 5m from the eastern end of trench and 0.5m below ground level.
6.5 – 7.8m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 2.2m
7.8 – 18.0m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C108
18.0 – 20.3m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 2.2m
20.3 – 33.4m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C104
33.4 – 35.3m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 2.2m
35.3 – 46.9m	excavated to a depth of 0.5m within C104
46.9 – 50.0m	excavated to surface of subsoil (C105) at a depth of 2.2m

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

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 36 digital images, held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

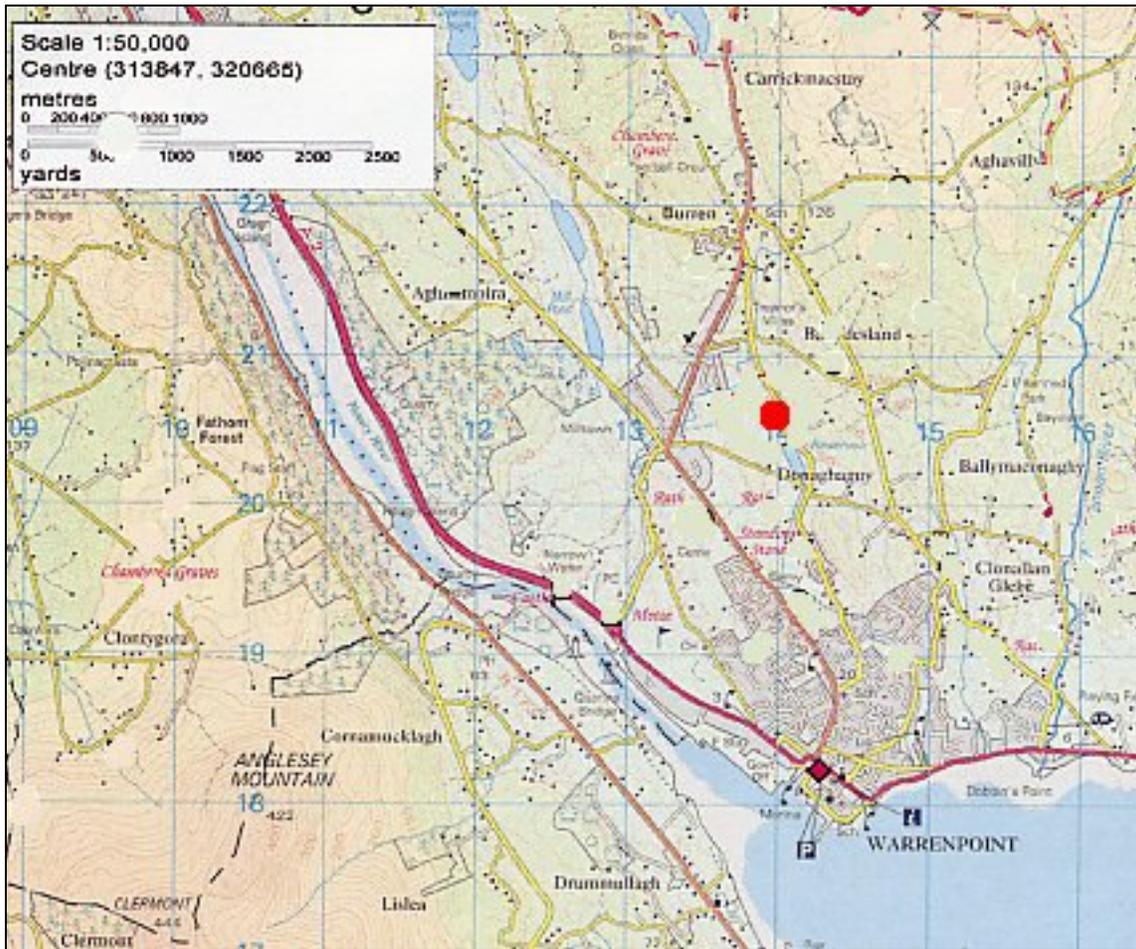


Fig. 1: 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map showing location of site (marked by red circle).