



Monitoring Report No. 57

**Tully
Co. Fermanagh**

AE/06/54

Cormac McSparron

Site Specific Information

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Site Name:</i> | Tully private housing development |
| <i>Townland:</i> | Tully |
| <i>SMR No:</i> | FER 172:023 |
| <i>Grid Ref:</i> | H1264 5618 |
| <i>County:</i> | Fermanagh |
| <i>Excavation License No:</i> | AE/06/054 |
| <i>Planning Ref / No.:</i> | L/2005/1510/O |
| <i>Dates of Monitoring:</i> | Friday 7 th and Thursday 13 th April 2006 |
| <i>Archaeologist Present:</i> | Cormac McSparron, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB. |
| <i>Brief Summary:</i> | Evaluation of development site carried out by excavation of five test trenches. No archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered. |
| <i>Type of monitoring:</i> | Excavation by mechanical digger under supervision of an archaeologist. |
| <i>Size of area opened:</i> | Five trenches were opened <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tr.1 2m by 50m• Tr.2 2m by 50m• Tr.3 2m by 20m• Tr.4 2m by 20m• Tr.5 2m by 20m |
| <i>Current Land Use:</i> | The land is currently used for grazing. |
| <i>Intended Land Use:</i> | Private house |



Figure 1: Location of site

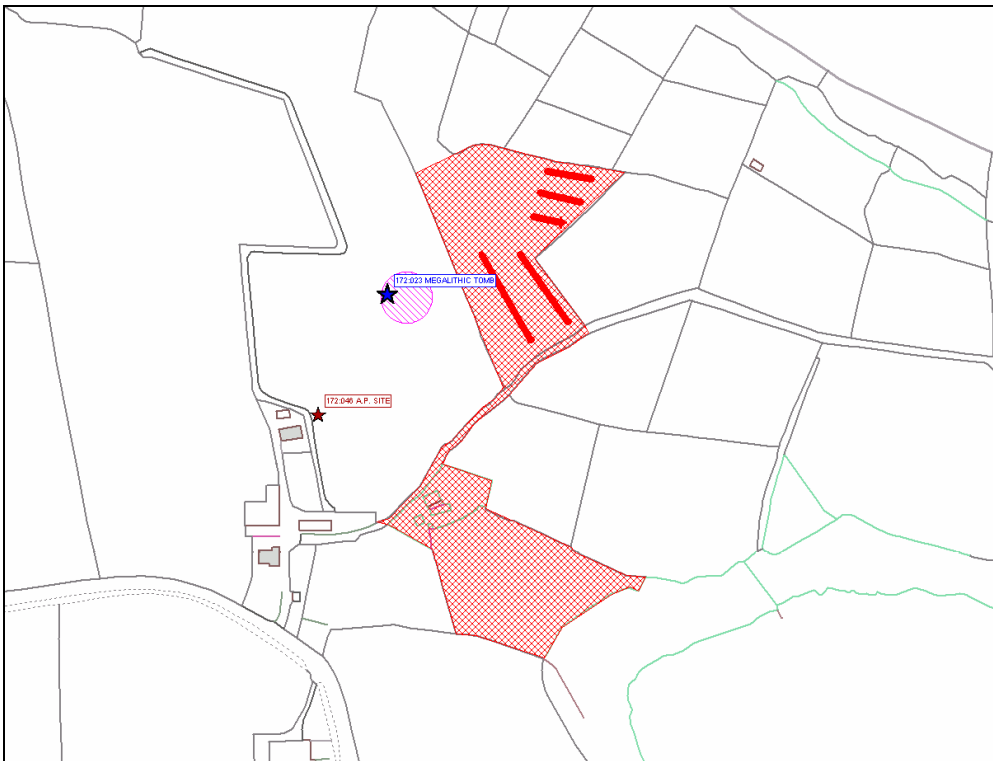


Figure 2: Map showing location of development site (in red), in relation to other monuments in the surrounding area

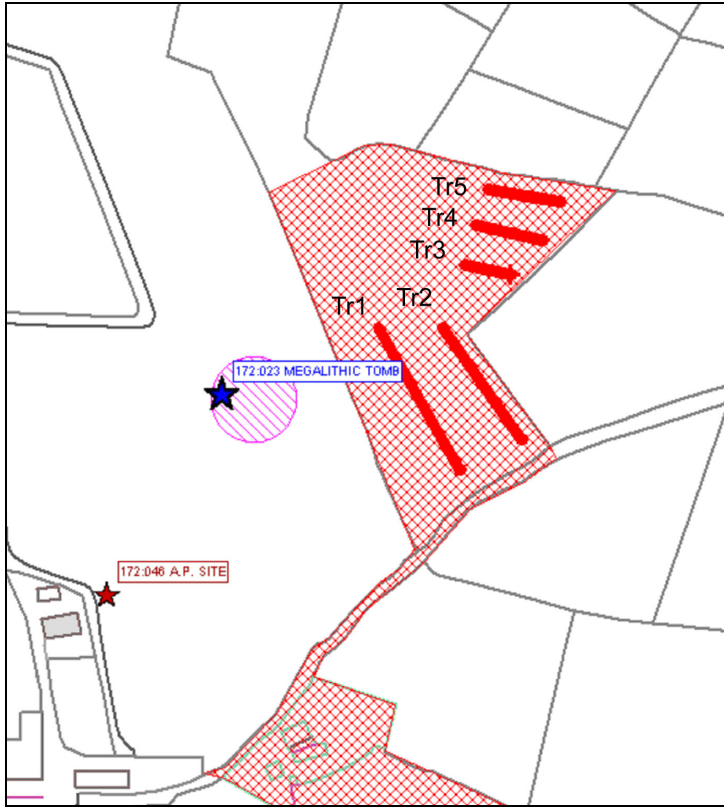


Figure 3: Plan of development site showing location of excavated evaluation trenches and megalithic tomb (FER 172:023)

Brief account of the monitoring.

This proposed housing site is located in Tully, Co. Fermanagh close to the site of a court tomb (FER 172:023) which was excavated by Dudley Waterman in 1976¹ (Figures 1 & 2). The evaluation was requested by Edith Gowdy, PHM caseworker, EHS: Built Heritage.

A total of five trenches were excavated as part of the evaluation procedure (Figure 3). The trenches were excavated using a mechanical digger equipped with a toothless “sheugh” bucket (Photo 1). Tr. 1 and Tr. 2 measured 2m by 50m, Tr. 3, 4 and 5 measured 2m by 20m.

Trench 1: This trench was 2m wide by 50m long. It ran northeast–southwest and was located 20m from the eastern boundary of the field. The topsoil was a brown loam (Context 101), which was 50cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 102). The subsoil consisted of an orange coloured sandy clay. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 2).

Trench 2: This trench was 2m wide by 50m long. It ran northeast-southwest and was located parallel to Trench 1, 5m west of the eastern boundary of the field. The topsoil in this trench was a brown loam (Context 201), which was 50cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the grey / orange clay subsoil (Context 202). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 3).

Trench 3: This trench was 2m wide by 20m long. It ran from east/northeast to west/southwest and was located 27m from the northeast boundary of the field. The topsoil in this trench was a light grey / brown friable loam (Context 301), which was 25cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 302) which consisted of a brown / grey clay which became progressively more stoney to the north-west end of the trench. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo4).

Trench 4: This trench was 2m wide by 20m long. It ran from east/northeast to south/southwest and was located parallel to Trench 3, 12m from the northeast boundary of the field. The topsoil in this trench was a grey brown loam (Context 401), which was up to 45cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 402) which consisted of a brown / grey clay, full of lots of rotted stone which became much cleaner and yellowish towards the east end of the trench. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 5).

Trench 5: This trench was 2m wide and 20m long. It ran from east/northeast to west/southwest and was located parallel to Trench 4, 5m from the northeast boundary of the field. The topsoil (Context 501) in this trench was a grey brown sandy loam, approximately 25cm deep. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil, a buff, sandy, stony clay (Context 502). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 6).

Conclusions

After evaluating an area of approximately 320 m², no archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered. It would therefore seem probable that there are no significant archaeological features or artifacts within the area of the development site.

¹ Waterman, D.M: 1978; ‘The excavation of a court cairn at Tully, County Fermanagh’: *UJA* (41), 3-14

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 6 35mm photographs and their scanned copies currently held by the CAF

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Photo 1: Excavation of Tr. 1 showing utilization of toothless "sheugh" bucket.



Photo 2: Trench 1 after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 102).



Photo 3: Trench 2 after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 202).



Photo 4: Trench 3 after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 302).



Photo 5: Trench 4 after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 402).



Photo 6: Trench 5 after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 502).