



Monitoring Report No. 58

**Crobane
Co. Down**

AE/06/71

Cormac McSparron

Site Specific Information

<i>Site Name:</i>	Crobane Housing Development
<i>Townland:</i>	Crobane
<i>SMR No:</i>	DOW 047:058
<i>Grid Ref:</i>	J12102790
<i>County:</i>	Down
<i>Excavation License No:</i>	AE/06/71
<i>Planning Ref / No.:</i>	P/2004/1578/O
<i>Dates of Monitoring:</i>	Tuesday 3rd April 2006
<i>Archaeologist Present:</i>	Cormac McSparron, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB.
<i>Brief Summary:</i>	Evaluation of a proposed house site through the excavation of four evaluation trenches
<i>Type of monitoring:</i>	Excavation by mechanical digger under supervision of an archaeologist
<i>Size of area opened:</i>	Four trenches were excavated <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tr.1 2m by 25m• Tr.2 2m by 25m• Tr.3 2m by 25m• Tr.4 2m by 25m
<i>Current Land Use:</i>	The land is currently used for grazing.
<i>Intended Land Use:</i>	Private house site

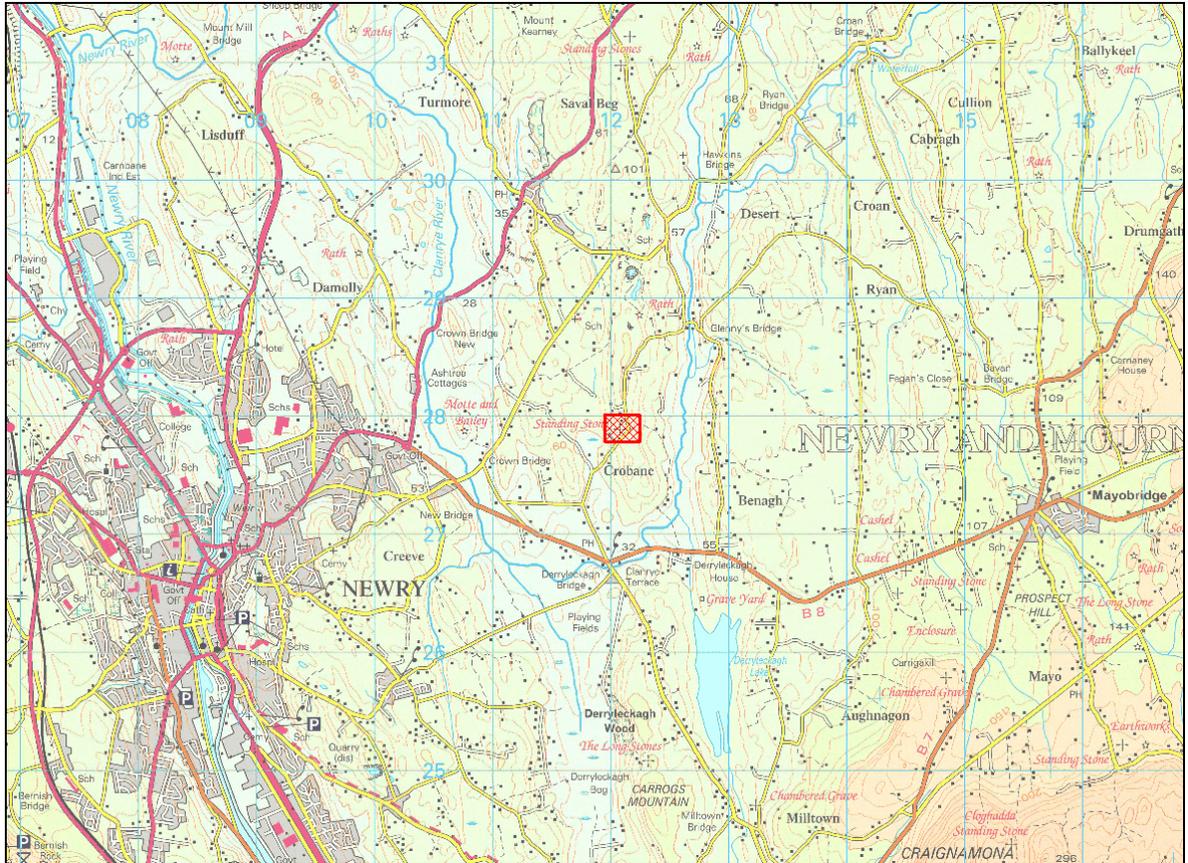


Figure 1: Location of site

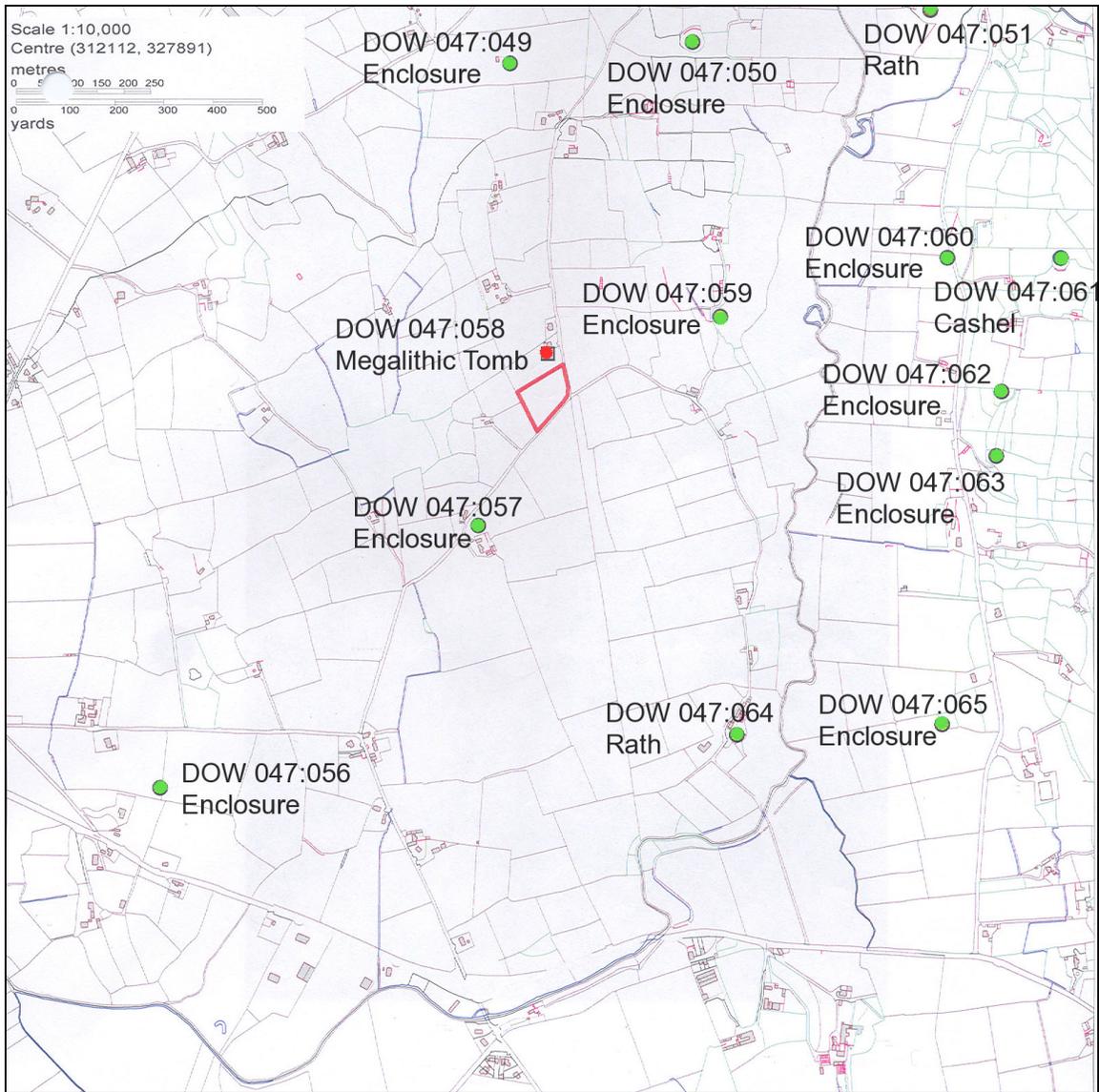


Figure 2: Map showing location of development site (in red), in relation to other monuments in the surrounding area

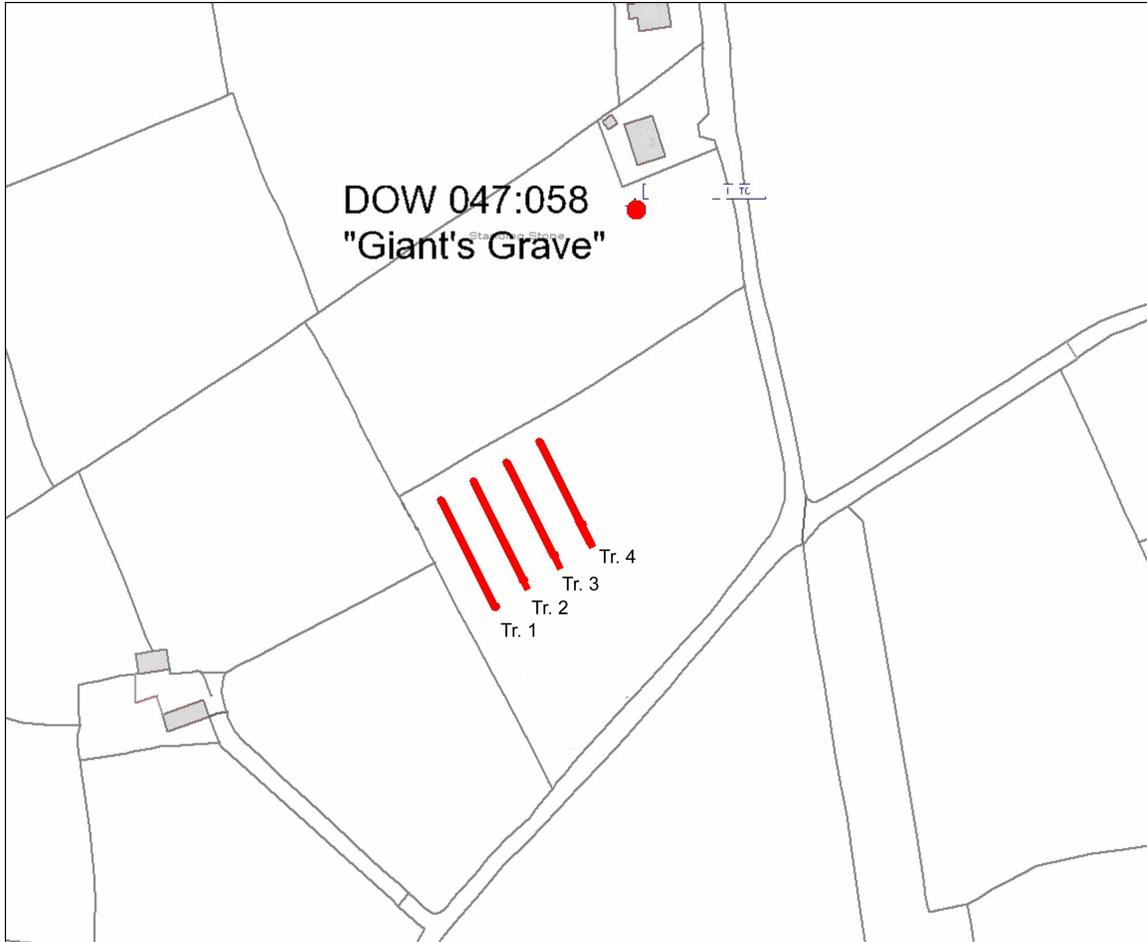


Figure 3: Plan of development site showing location of excavated evaluation trenches and location of megalith (DOW 047:058)

Brief account of the monitoring.

This house site is located at Crobane, Co. Down, in a field adjacent to a megalithic tomb (DOW 047:058), known as the 'Giant's Grave'. The evaluation was requested by Stiofan O Cathmhaoil, PHM caseworker, EHS: Built Heritage.

A total of four trenches, located in the western part of the field, were excavated as part of the evaluation procedure (Figure 3). Each trench measured 2m by 25m. The trenches were excavated using a mechanical digger equipped with a toothless "sheugh" bucket (Photo 1).

Trench 1: This trench was 2m wide by 25m long. It ran northwest - southeast and was located 5m to the east of the field boundary. The topsoil was a brown loam (Context 101), which was 45cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 102). The subsoil consisted of a light orange brown 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 25m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located parallel to and 5m east of Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a brown sandy loam (Context 201), which was 40cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the light brown / 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 25m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located parallel to and 5m east of Trench 2. The topsoil in this trench was a brown loam (Context 301), which was 45cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the light brown / grey / orange clay subsoil (Context 302). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 4).

Trench 4: This trench was 2m wide by 25m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located parallel to and 5m east of Trench 3. The topsoil in this trench was a brown loam (Context 401), which was 45cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the light brown / grey clay subsoil (Context 402). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 5).

Conclusions

After evaluating an area of approximately 200 m², 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.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 17 digital photographs currently held by the CAF

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Photo 1: Excavation of Trench 4 showing utilization of toothless 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).