



**Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 134**

**104 Ballygawley Road  
DUNGANNON  
COUNTY TYRONE**

**LICENCE NO.: AE/07/158**

**Cormac McSparron**

**Site Specific Information**

*Site Name:* 104 Ballygawley Road, Dungannon  
*Townland:* Glenadush  
*SMR No. :* TYR 054:031  
*Status:* The site is not Scheduled or in State Care  
*Grid Ref.:* H7744862200  
*County:* Tyrone  
*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/07/158  
*Planning Ref / No. :* M/2007/0402/F  
*Date of Evaluation:* 15 August 2007  
*Archaeologist Present:* Sarah Gormley

*Brief Summary:*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the townland of Glenadush, County Tyrone, as a requirement of a planning application for a replacement dwelling. The proposed site lies approximately 100m to the north west of a Late Bronze Age occupation site. Four trenches were opened in total, located around the current dwelling. Topsoil and hardcore layers were mechanically removed in all trenches to natural subsoil, with nothing of archaeological significance uncovered.

*Type of monitoring:*

Mechanical excavation of topsoil from four trenches, using a smooth-edged 'sheugh' bucket and supervised by an archaeologist.

*Size of area opened:*

Four trenches were opened in total, measuring 9m, 10m, 11m and 16m in length by 2m wide.

*Current Land Use:*

Currently in short grass and in use as a garden.

*Intended Land Use:*

Residential.

## Brief account of the evaluation

### Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was requested by Environment and Heritage Service caseworker, Edith Gowdy, in order to inform a planning decision in respect of a proposed replacement dwelling located at 104 Ballygawley Road, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone (Planning Service application number: M/2007/0402/F; Fig. 1). The application site is situated on a plateau overlooking Lough Esragh (Fig. 2) which was the location of concentration of Late Bronze Age occupation activity. A number of Bronze Age occupation sites have been excavated on the lough shore in the past (Collins and Seaby 1960; Williams 1978) when water levels were low and it is possible that associated buried remains are present within the application site. The evaluation was undertaken in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area which is proposed for redevelopment.

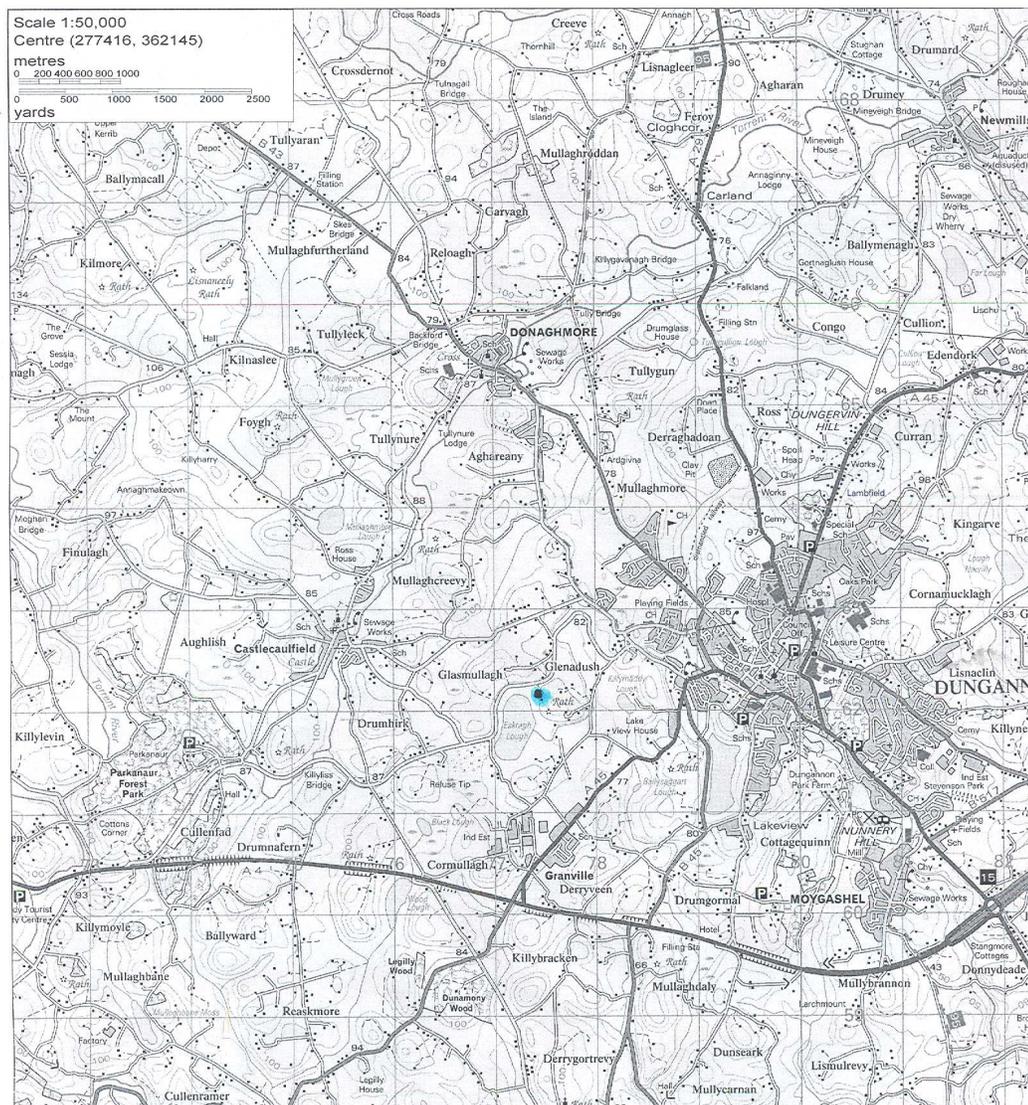


Fig. 1 – Location of the application site, highlighted in blue.



Fig. 2 – Looking south west from Trench 1 at Lough Eskragh, site of Late Bronze Age occupation activity.

### ***Excavation***

Four trenches were opened in total and deposits in all four were removed mechanically by a back-acting digger fitted with a smooth-edged 'sheugh' bucket measuring 2m wide. This work was subject to archaeological supervision at all times. In all trenches modern upper layers were removed to natural, with nothing of archaeological significance noted.

#### Trench 1

Trench 1 was the southern most of those opened (Fig. 3). It was aligned north-south and was 9m long by 2m wide. The southern limit of the trench was restricted by a boundary fence and the northern limit was constrained by the known presence of an underground drain. In this trench the topsoil (C101) was found to be around 0.23m thick. The topsoil was removed to reveal a red-brown hardcore level (C102), which survived with a thickness of around 0.26m and was made up of angular stone and rubble (Fig. 4). Below the red-brown hardcore, was a further rubble layer (C103) which survived with a thickness of up to 0.20m and was dark grey-brown loamy soil containing sub-angular and rounded stone rubble. Both contexts 102 and 103 contained finds of plastic, glass, bricks and modern pottery. Contexts 101, 102 and 103 were removed in Trench 1 to reveal the natural subsoil (C104), a light orange-brown clay and a large field drain. The field drain was around 0.80m wide and ran approximately north south, from the southern baulk, exiting the trench in the north west corner. It appeared to be of fairly coarse construction and was made up of large rounded

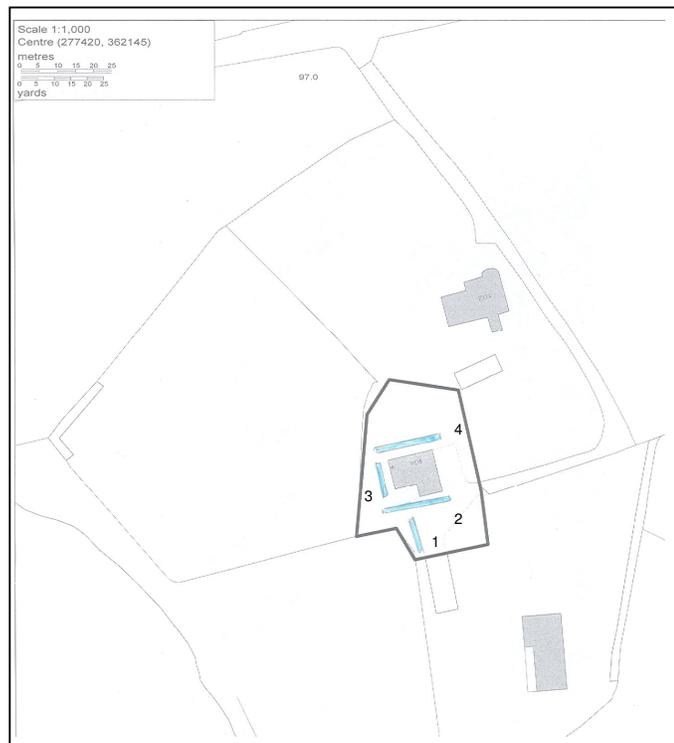


Fig. 3 – Location of trenches excavated, numbered 1 to 4.



Fig. 4 – East facing section in Trench 1 showing the contexts encountered.

boulders. Upon excavation water began to seep in and there was quickly a pool of standing water covering the bottom of the trench. Apart from the field drain, the natural was otherwise undisturbed in this trench and nothing of archaeological significance was encountered.

#### Trench 2

Trench 2 lay immediately to the north of Trench 1 (Fig. 3) and was located taking into account the known underground location of a drain and telephone cables as well as the presence of a concrete path which runs around the southern limit of the dwelling. The trench measured 16m long and 2m wide and was orientated approximately east west. A layer of topsoil and hardcore (C201; Fig. 5), around 0.30m thick, was removed and lay above a layer of mid-brown loamy soil (C202) which was around 0.10m thick. Below C202 was a dark grey, charcoal rich layer (C203) which had a thickness of around 0.25m. This burnt soil lay directly above the light orange brown natural clay (C204).



Fig. 5 – North facing section of Trench 2 showing contexts encountered.

Plastic and modern pottery were noted in C201, C202 and C203. On removal of these contexts the natural clay subsoil (C204) was revealed in the west and south of the trench, while a modern storm drain was uncovered running diagonally through the north and east of the trench (Fig. 6). The plastic pipe receives rain water from the downpipes of the present dwelling and is set within a large trench which is the full width (2m) of Trench 2 at its eastern end. The modern storm drain ran out of the northern baulk of Trench 2, 3m from the western end. The pipe trench was backfilled with rubble.

Apart from the storm drain and a tree root stump, the natural clay was undisturbed and nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered.



Fig. 6 – Trench 2, looking west towards Lough Eskragh, contexts 201, 202 and 203 removed to reveal the natural clay (C204) and a modern storm drain.

### Trench 3

Trench 3 was located to the west of the present dwelling (Fig. 3) and was orientated approximately north south. The trench measured 10m long by 2m wide and was located taking into account the presence of sewage pipes located at its southern limit which ran from the dwelling in a westerly direction. Only one context was encountered in this trench (C301; Fig. 7). Context 301 was a mid-brown sandy loam topsoil which survived to a depth of between 0.70m and 0.80m and contained large quantities of rubble, including brick. This context was removed to reveal the light orange-brown natural clay subsoil, which was undisturbed in this trench. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted.



Fig. 7 – East facing section of Trench 3.



Fig. 8 – North facing section of Trench 4.

#### Trench 4

Trench 4 was located to the north of the present dwelling and was orientated east west. The known location of services in this area, including electricity and sewage dictated the location and size of this trench which measured 11m long by 2m wide. Upon removal of the topsoil (C401) it became apparent that there were also a number of modern pipes running east west through the area to the north of the house. A 2m wide 'sheugh' bucket was employed to clear the overburden to the level of the pipes and then a 0.60m wide smooth edged bucket was used to remove any remaining material in a strip down to the natural subsoil, while avoiding the pipe trenches. As with Trench 3, one context overlay the natural subsoil in this area to a depth of around 0.70m (Fig. 8). The mid-brown sandy loam (C401) contained rubble and also disused sections of plastic piping, as well as containing functioning water pipes. This was removed to reveal the natural clay subsoil (C402). The natural subsoil had been disturbed by the cutting of two trenches which ran east west through the Trench 4. These trenches were approximately 0.20m wide and held a plastic pipe and were backfilled with angular hard core. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in Trench 4.

#### **Conclusion**

Four trenches were excavated at the south, west and north of the existing dwelling at 104 Ballygawley Road to assess the archaeological potential of the area as a requirement of a planning application for a replacement dwelling. The area was characterized by the presence of leveling layers which local information would suggest were brought in which the dwelling was renovated some years ago. This includes the hardcore brought in to the south of the house (see Fig. 4) and also the deposits of rubble and topsoil brought in to build up the ground at the west and the north of the house (see Fig. 7). The immediate area is also crossed by field drains, old and new, as well as services associated with the present dwelling resulting in much disturbance in the location. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the course of the evaluation.

#### **Bibliography**

Collins, A.E.P. and Seaby, W.A. 1960 'A crannog at Lough Eskragh, County Tyrone', *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, vol. 23, 25-37.

Williams, B.B. 1978 'Excavations at Lough Eskragh, County Tyrone', *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, vol. 41, 37-48.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* No artefacts were recovered during the evaluation.

*Photographs:* The photographs taken during the evaluation are stored digitally with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

*Samples:* No samples were recovered during the evaluation.

*Drawings:* No drawings were made during the course of the evaluation.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_