



## **Monitoring Report No. 298**

**Site adjacent to 12 Leansmount Road  
KILMORE  
COUNTY DOWN**

**LICENCE NO.: AE/14/67E**

**GRACE McALISTER**

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* Site adjacent to 12 Leansmount Road

*Townland:* Kilmore

*SMR No. :* DOW 013:002

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other    ✓                      [delete as applicable]

*Grid Ref.:* 309070 362383

*County:* Down

*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/15/67E

*Planning Ref / No. :* N/2014/0649/F

*Dates of Monitoring:* 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015

*Archaeologist(s) Present:* Grace McAlister

### *Brief Summary:*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site adjacent to 12 Leansmount Road, Kilmore, County Down in response to a planning application for a new dwelling. A partially destroyed enclosure (DOW 013:002) is situated in the vicinity of the site, within the same field. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of five test trenches within the area of the proposed development. Several sherds of nineteenth/twentieth century pottery and a stone field drain were uncovered during the excavation, however there were no archaeological features uncovered in the test trenches.

### *Type of monitoring:*

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

*Size of area opened:* Five trenches each approximately 1.9m wide and 30m long.

*Current Land Use:* Agricultural

*Intended Land Use:* Residential

## Brief account of the excavation

The application site is located adjacent to 12 Leansmount Road, Kilmore, County Down (Figure 1). The site is located immediately to the north of a known archaeological site (NISMR DOW 013:002) noted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 2). This enclosure may represent a rath, a defensive farmstead enclosure, dating to the Early Christian period c.600-1100 AD. Above-ground traces of the monument have been removed as a result of agricultural practices; however substantial remains could still exist below the present ground surface. There is also another circular enclosure 300m to the north-east of the site and a scheduled multi-ditched enclosure 600m to the south-west. Adjacent to the development site, there are upstanding ruined dwellings which are marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map indicating that they date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The evaluation took place in response to a planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Thom Kerr (NIEA Caseworker). Five trenches were mechanically excavated across the development footprint which measured 40m x 70m, each trench measured approximately 1.9m x 30m (Figure 3, Plate 1).

### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 (Plates 2 and 3) measured 1.90m x 30.30m and was aligned north-east – south-west, perpendicular to the Leansmount Road and 15m from the western field boundary. The sod layer (100) was 0.05-0.08m in depth and was removed to reveal the topsoil (101), a friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silty loam. This deposit was 0.19m–0.28m in depth, thickening to the southern end of the trench and contained two fragments of white ceramic pottery and unworked flint. The topsoil was removed on to the subsoil (102), a mid-orange brown, sandy clay with stone and boulder inclusions and occasional flint nodules. No subsoil cut features were present in this trench.

### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 (Plates 4 and 5) measured 1.90m x 30.10m was located parallel to and 5m to the south-east of Trench 1. The sod layer (200) was 0.05m in depth and was removed to reveal the friable, mid greyish brown silty-sandy loam topsoil layer (201). It had a depth of 0.20-0.30m and contained one fragment of blackware and three fragments of white ceramic pottery. The topsoil was removed on to the orangey brown subsoil (202). No subsoil cut features were present in this trench.

### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 (Plates 6, 7 and 8) measured 1.90m x 29.10m and was located parallel to and 6.5m to the south-east of Trench 2. The sod layer (300) was 0.05-0.10m in depth. This was removed to reveal the friable, mid-greyish brown silty sandy loam topsoil layer (301). This layer had a depth of 0.20-0.27m and contained one fragment of white ceramic pottery and unworked flint. The topsoil was removed and revealed a linear cut (302), 0.4m wide and filled with stone hardcore (303). It was aligned north-west - south-east, located 2.4m from the north-eastern limit of the trench. This feature which was interpreted as modern field drain was cut into the orange-brown subsoil (304). No other subsoil cut features were noted.

*Trench 4*

Trench 4 (Plates 9 and 10) measured 1.90m x 29.50m and was located parallel to and 7m to the south-east of Trench 3. The sod layer (400) was 0.06-0.10m in depth and was removed to reveal the topsoil (401), a friable, mid greyish brown silty sandy loam. This layer had a depth of 0.20-0.26m and contained one fragment of white ceramic pottery. This topsoil layer was removed to reveal the orange brown subsoil (402). No subsoil cut features were present.

*Trench 5*

Trench 5 (Plates 11 and 12) measured 1.90m x 30.50m and was located parallel to and 8.5m to the south-east of Trench 4 and 16m to the north-west of the ruined dwellings. The sod layer (500) was 0.06-0.10m in depth and was removed to reveal the topsoil (501), a friable, mid-greyish brown silty sandy loam which was 0.16m- 0.24m in depth. This was removed on to the orange brown subsoil (502). No subsoil cut features were noted in this trench.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the five test trenches. The fragments of pottery found were 19th and 20th century in date, no earlier artefactual evidence associated with the medieval activity in the vicinity was uncovered. The excavation of the test-trenches completed the archaeological mitigation on the site. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

**Archive:**

*Finds:*

The artefacts found during the evaluation are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

*Photographs:*

The digital images taken during the evaluation are currently archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

*Plans / Drawings:*        *N/A*

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



Figure 1: General location map showing application site highlighted in red.

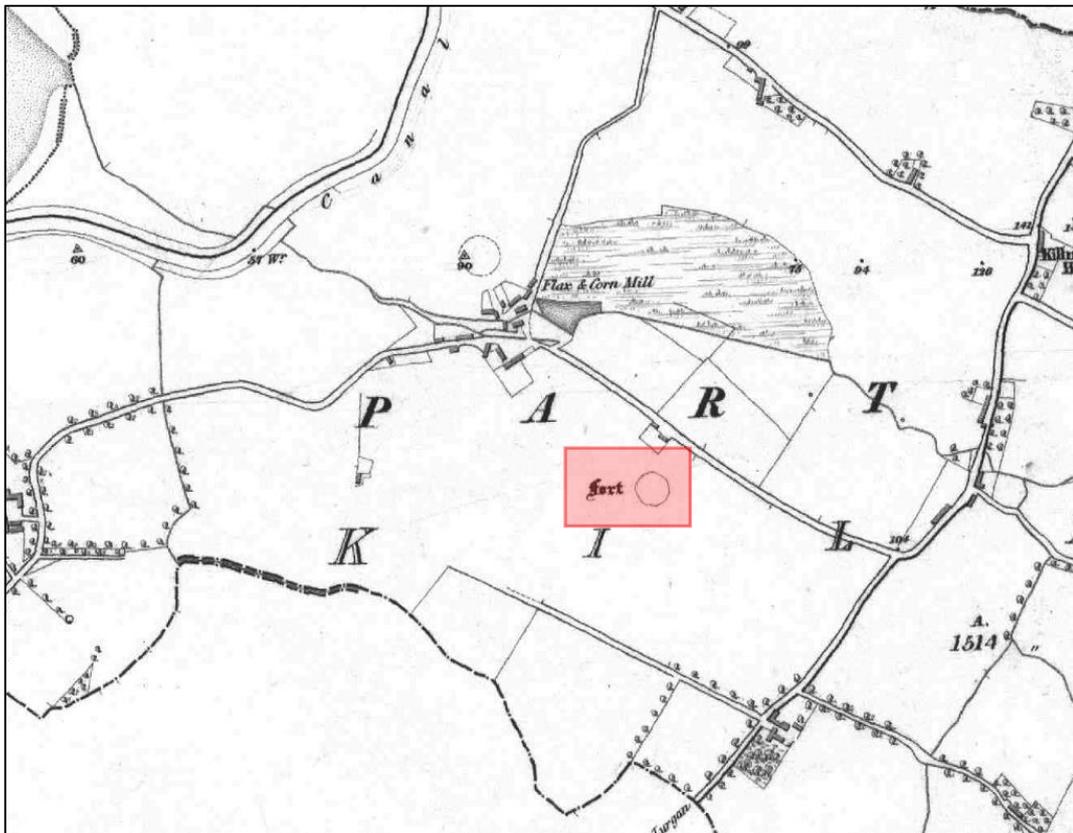


Figure 2: First edition Ordnance survey map showing location of probable path (DOW 013:002)

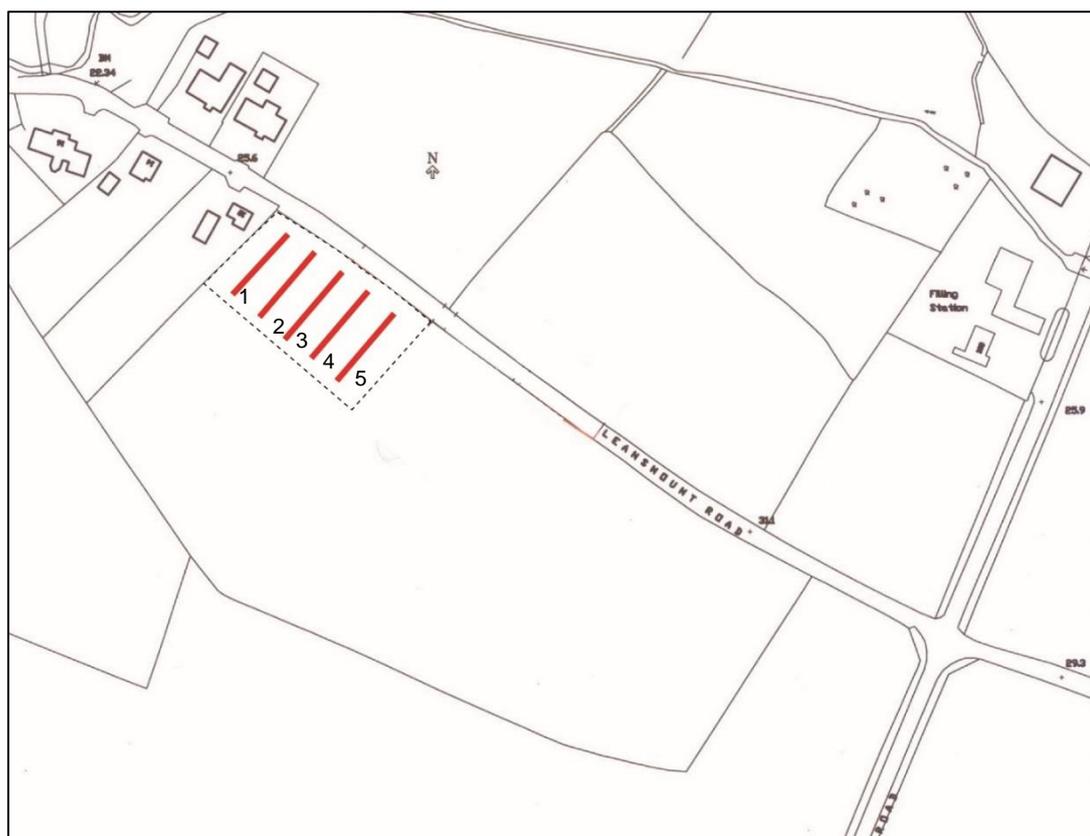


Figure 3: Map showing development area with the proposed location of test trenches 1-5 in red.



Plate 1: Development site prior to test-trenching looking east



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking north-east



Plate 3: South-east facing section of Trench 1



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking south-west



Plate 5: South-east section face of Trench 2



Plate 6: Trench 3 looking north-east



Plate 7: South-east facing section of Trench 3



Plate 8: Field drain (302) in Trench 3



Plate 9: Trench 4 looking north-east



Plate 10: South-east facing section of Trench 4



Plate 11: Trench 5 looking south-west



Plate 12: South-east section face of Trench 5