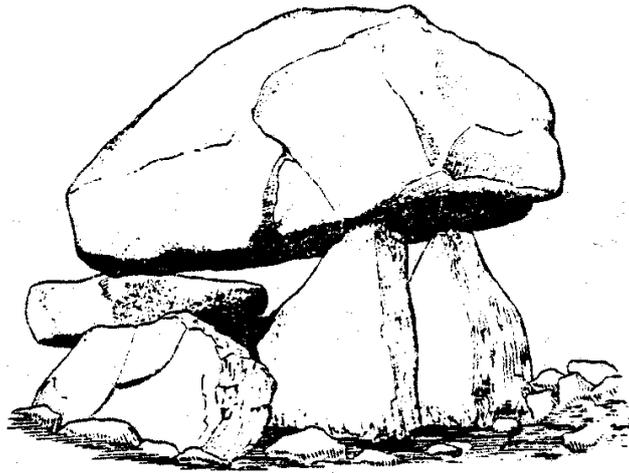


ULSTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Survey Report: No. 6

**Survey of Cruik-na-Dhuine, Cushendun, County Antrim
UAS/06/06**

In association with



JUNE WELSH & HENRY WELSH

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1. Summary

1.1 Location

A site survey was undertaken at a mound known as Cruik-na-Dhuine at Cushendun, County Antrim (SMR number: ANT 015:010), in the Barony of Cary, townland of Cushendun, Irish Grid reference D 2478 3293. The site has also been given the reference NTSMR 130917 by the National Trust.

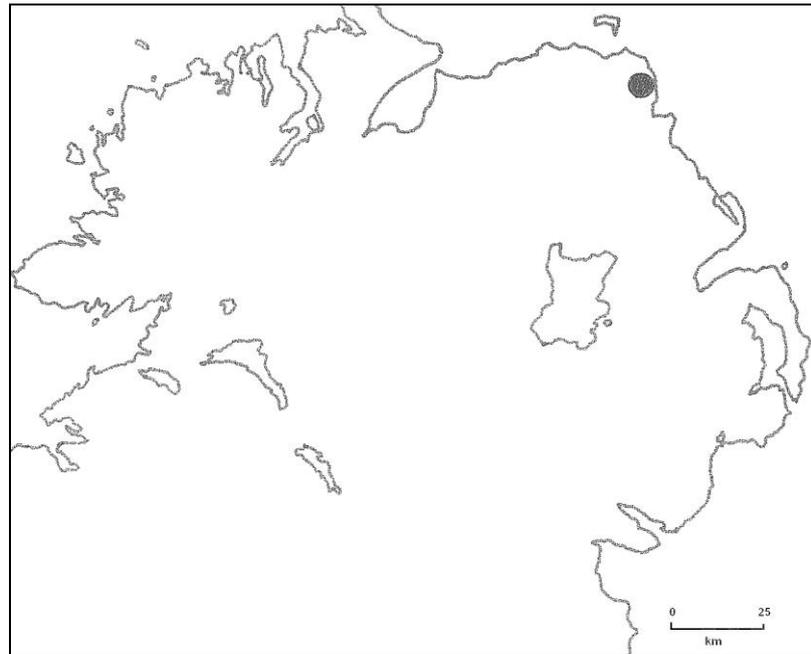


Figure 1: Location map for Cushendun, County Antrim



Figure 2: Site map of Cruik-na-Dhuine

The mound of Cruik-na-Dhuine is situated within the grounds of Glenmona Lodge and forms part of a wider landscape owned by the National Trust, including most of the village of Cushendun and the adjacent shore. The survey was the sixth in a series of planned surveys undertaken by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society during 2006.

1.2 Aims

In order to enhance the archaeological record of this site, the aims of this survey were to produce accurate plan and profile drawings of the monument, carry out a photographic survey and complete a Condition And Management Survey of the Archaeological Resource (CAMSAR) record form. This information was compiled into a report and copies submitted to the Environment and Heritage Service, the National Trust and to the archives of the Ulster Archaeological Society.



Figure 3: The mound of Cruik-na-Dhuine, viewed from the east

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The survey of Cruik-na-Dhuine was carried out on Saturday 30 September 2006 by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society. It was undertaken in response to a decision taken by the committee of the society to extend an opportunity to members to participate in practical surveys of archaeological monuments that had not previously been recorded. This followed a bequest to the society from the late Dr Ann Hamlin, from which the items of survey equipment were purchased. During discussions with Mr Malachy Conway, Survey Archaeologist of the National Trust in Northern Ireland, it was noted that many archaeological sites on National Trust property had not been subject to a detailed archaeological survey. It was therefore agreed that members of the society would commence a programme to survey these sites and the mound at Cruik-na-Dhuine was subsequently chosen to be the sixth of these.



Figure 4: Ulster Archaeological Society Survey Team at work at Cruik-na-Dhuine

2.2 Previous archaeological surveys

The mound at Cruik-na-Dhuine was visited by a representative from the Environment and Heritage Service on 23 June 1992, when it was noted that:

Reeves (1847) mentions a mound, traditionally the site of single combat between O'Neill and MacDonnell, beside the new church. APs [aerial photographs] possibly show the crop mark of this mound in the grounds of Glenmona Lodge Resource Centre. There were no visible traces of this mound on the ground. See SM7 file for AP evidence etc. (Environment and Heritage Service, n.d. [1992])

The reason that the presence of the mound went unnoticed during this inspection could be that it was hidden by plant cover (see aerial photograph below). This aerial photograph also recorded the presence of a circular crop mark in the grounds of the Glenmona Lodge Resource centre, which may have been confused with the Cruik-na-Dhuine monument. It is probable that the crop mark relates to a completely different feature that has so far not been recorded on any maps or received any archaeological investigation.

2.3 Cartographic evidence

The mound of Cruik-na-Dhuine was recorded on the 1832 (First Edition) Ordnance Survey with a 'fort' convention and shows no other upstanding earthwork in the immediate area (figure 5).

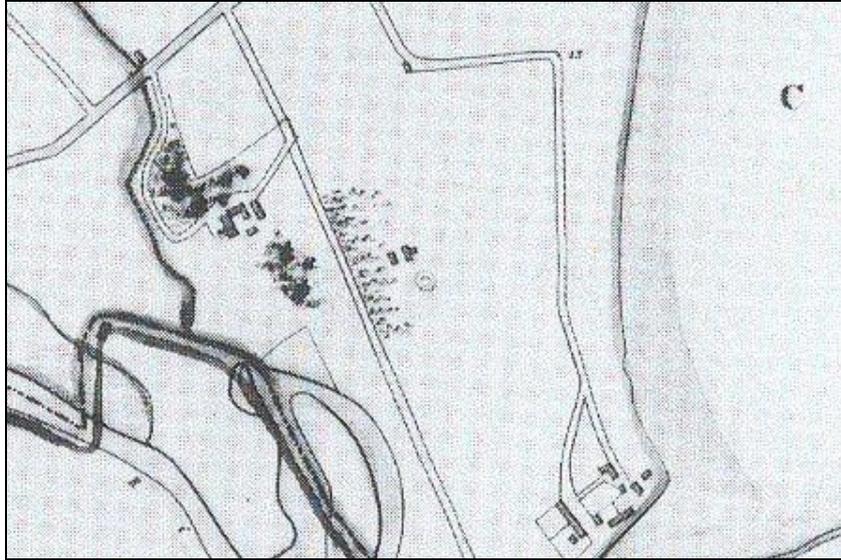


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey 1832 (scale 6" to 1 mile) *Crown Copyright*

The mound was next recorded on the Magee map of 1841, where it is shown to be situated between the newly-constructed parish church and Glenmona Lodge (figure 6).

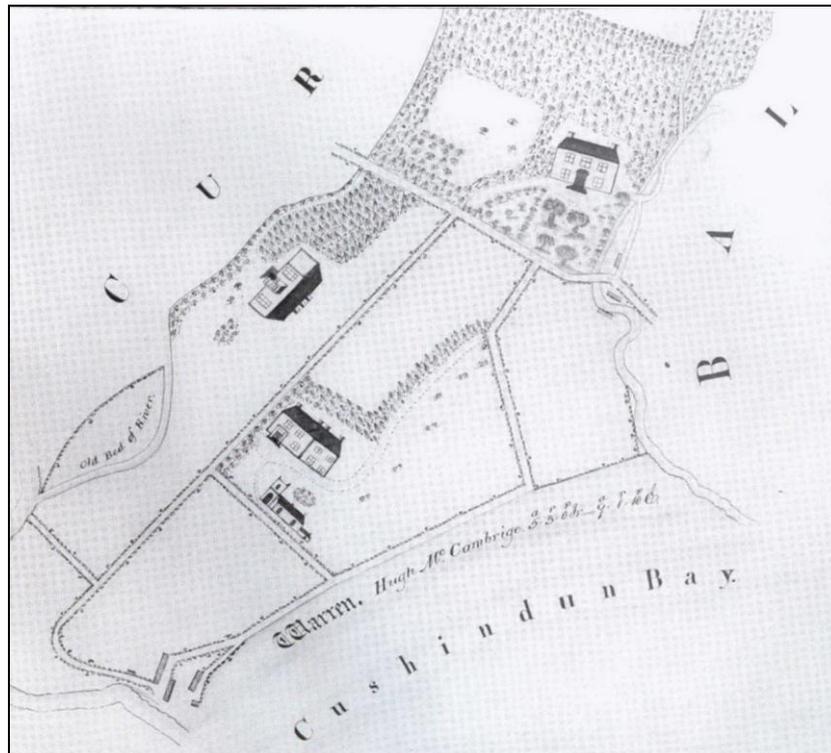
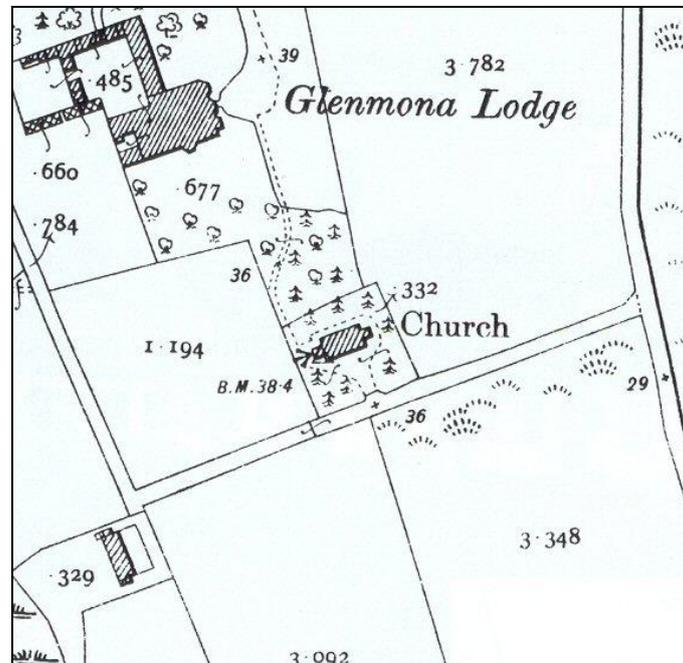


Figure 6: Magee map of 1841 *National Trust*

On the next Ordnance Survey (Second Edition) of 1857, the mound was not specifically recorded, but the area where it was situated was marked as tree cover and the mound itself may not have been visible to the cartographers of the time.

Figure 7: Ordnance Survey, Second Edition 1857 *Crown Copyright*

The area was again surveyed during the 1903-4 survey (Third Edition) when no mention was made of the mound, but it is clear from this map that efforts had been made to landscape the grounds of Glenmona Lodge, as a fountain has been recorded close to the site of the mound and more planting is evident (figure 8).

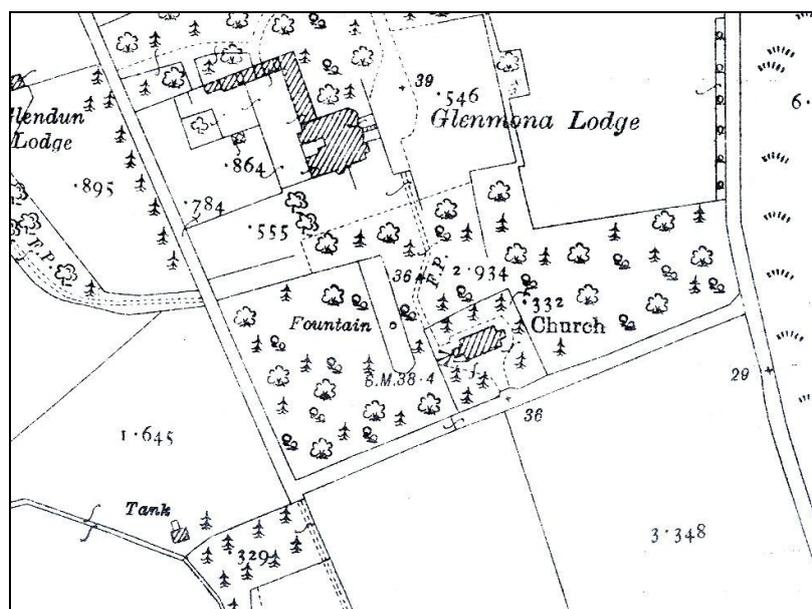


Figure 8: Ordnance Survey, Third Edition, 1903-4 (scale 6" to 1 mile)

2.4 Archiving

Copies of this report have been deposited with the Environment and Heritage Service and the National Trust. All site records are temporarily archived with the Honorary Archivist of the Ulster Archaeological Society.

2.5 Credits and Acknowledgements

The survey was led by Harry Welsh and other members of the survey team were William Dunlop, Joan Semple, Anne MacDermott, Ruth Logue, Ken Pullin, George Rutherford, Julie Hanse, June Easton, Ian Gillespie and Janey Sproule. The Ulster Archaeological Society is particularly grateful to Mr Malachy Conway, Survey Archaeologist of the National Trust, who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site and facilitating access.

3. 2006 UAS Survey

3.1 Methodology

It was decided that the survey would take the form of the production of plan and section drawings, accompanied by a photographic survey and the completion of a Condition And Management Survey of the Archaeological Resource (CAMSAR) form. This report was compiled using the information obtained from these sources, in addition to background documentary material.

3.2 Production of plan and profile drawings

Plan and profile drawings were completed, using data obtained from a field survey. Measurements were obtained by using the society's *Leica Sprinter 100* electronic measuring device. Sketch plans at 1:200 scale were completed on site by recording these measurements on drafting film secured to a plane table and backing up the data on a field notebook for subsequent reference. Field plans were later transferred to a computer-based format for printing.

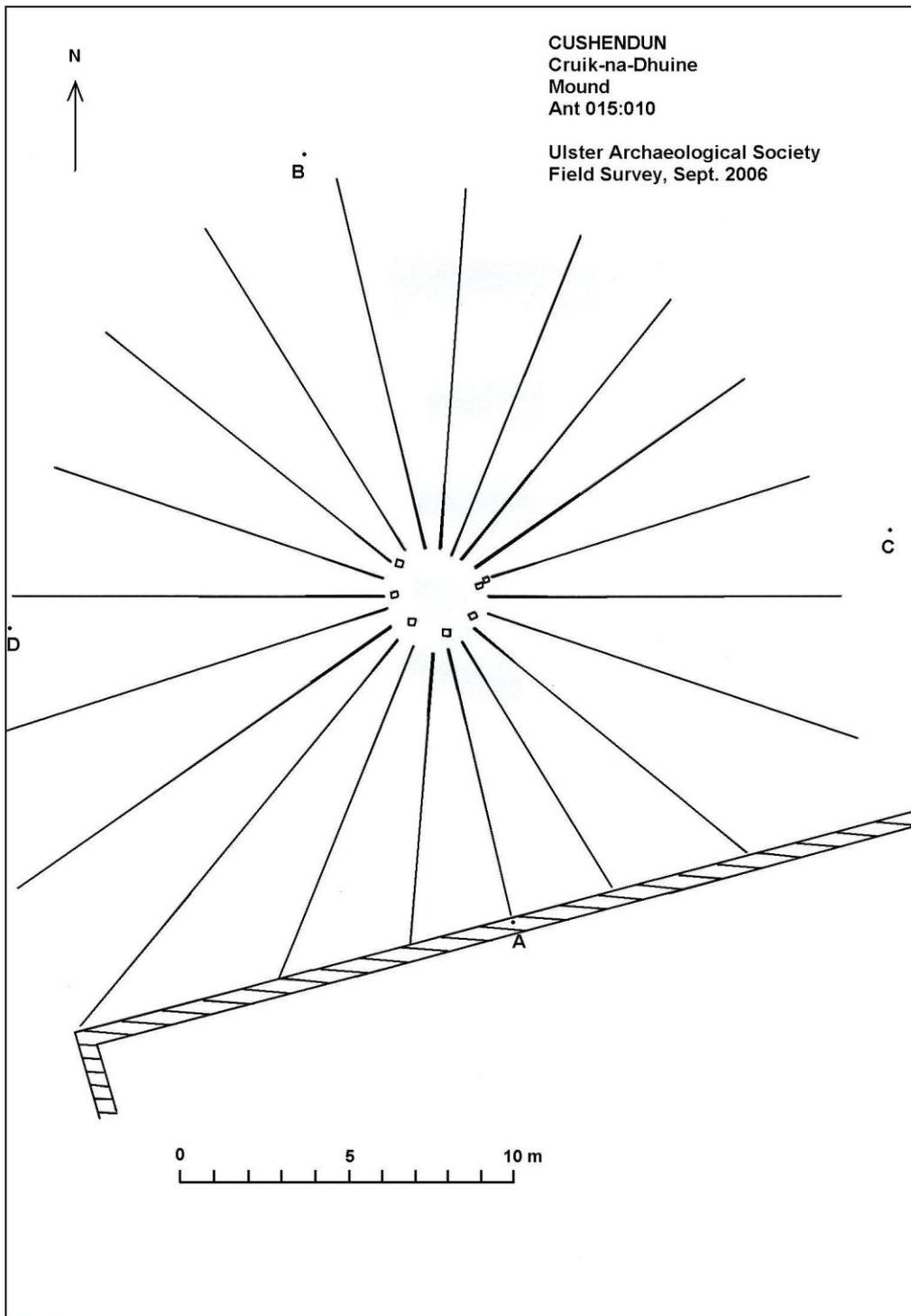


Figure 9: Plan of Cruik-na-Dhuine

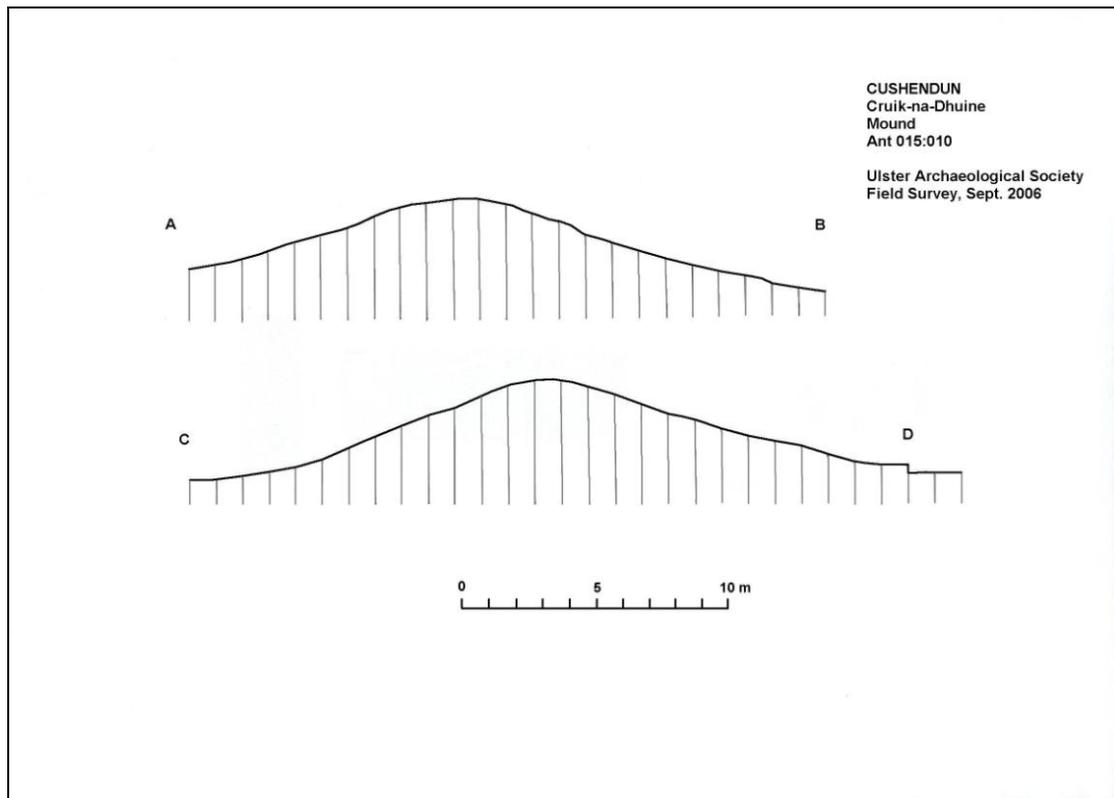


Figure 10: Profiles of Cruik-na-Dhuine

The plan drawing confirmed photographic evidence that the northern boundary wall of Cushendun parish church truncated the lower part of the Cruik-na-Dhuine mound, suggesting that the mound pre-dated the construction of the wall.



Figure 11: View of church wall and mound, looking north

3.3 Photographic archive

A photographic record of the site was taken by using a *Nikon Coolpix S1 5.1* megapixel digital camera and a photograph record sheet was employed, corresponding to photographs taken during the site survey on 30 September 2006. The archive has been compiled in jpeg format and saved to compact disc.



Figure 12: Aerial photograph of Cushendun. *Crown Copyright*



Figure 13: Aerial photograph of Cushendun parish church. *Crown Copyright*

4.3 The Cruik-na-Dhuine mound

The mound of Cruik-na-Dhuine is sub-circular in plan, truncated to the south by the boundary wall of the old parish church. It is approximately 28 metres in diameter and rises to a height of 3.5 metres at its highest point. At the top, an area of metallated surface was visible, consisting of oval rounded stones (approximately 8-10 centimetres in length) embedded in what appeared to be lime mortar.



Figure 14: View of metallated surface at summit of mound, looking south

At regular intervals round this metallated surface, five sandstone blocks were present and a local historian present suggested these were the foundations of a gazebo that had been taken down some time previously by the National Trust. Subsequent inquiries revealed that a gazebo had indeed been removed by the National Trust, but this had been from a paved area nearby and nothing had been removed from the mound as far as was known. The area of metallating, along with the sandstone blocks suggests that the summit of the mound may have been used by the Harrison family as a viewing point to enjoy their formal gardens, traces of which are still visible in the grounds nearby.



Figure 15: View of sandstone blocks, looking south

During the survey at Cruik-na-Dhuine, it was observed that the profile bore a striking similarity to another mound in the grounds of Castle Upton at Templepatrick, also in County Antrim (ANT 051:058). The mound there is somewhat larger, at approximately 40 metres in diameter and 5 metres in height. Little is known about this monument, although it has been scheduled under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.



Figure 16: Mound [ANT 051:058] at Templepatrick in 1982. *William Dunlop*

3.4 Completion of CAMSAR form

A Condition And Management Survey of the Archaeological Resource (CAMSAR) form was completed by the survey team on 30 September 2006 and is given in appendix 1 below. As far as is known, this is the first occasion on which this type of record form has been completed for the monument.

4. Discussion

4.1 Prehistoric and early historical background

Cruik-na-Dhuine is situated in the barony of Cary, or Carey and according to a report by Lieutenant T.C. Robe in July 1831, the name has been derived from Cah-a Righ, meaning battle of kings, or Cahir Righ, meaning the king's chair (Day et al 1994, 36). The area around the mound is rich in archaeological monuments. These include a number of megalithic monuments, such as several standing stones adjacent to the gate lodge of Glenmona Lodge. These have previously been photographed and details included in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record, maintained by the Environment and Heritage Service (ANT 015:012 & ANT 015:013) (see figures 17 & 18 below).



Figure 17: SMR ANT 015:012 Standing stone



Figure 18: SMR ANT 015:013 Standing stones

Nearby, Castle Carra is one of three stone buildings that may be dated

to the 13th or 14th centuries, and which may be attributed to the Irish, again to lords...[it]...is probably an isolated first floor hall building, a very small example of a type known from England but commoner in Scotland and in the west of Ireland, where they were built by the lesser lords...It lies in a part of the country, the north Antrim coast, which may have been held by the Byssets, tenants of the Earl, or by the O'Flynnns, or indeed as it certainly was later, by Highland Scots (Mallory & McNeill 1991, 271).

With regard to the potential construction date of the mound, the sixteenth century is perhaps the most significant period in the history of the area, as

Confrontations between septs followed very traditional patterns at the end of the sixteenth century. The chief men of the opposing sides were expected to challenge and fight each other in front of their men; in one case the winner replaced the chieftain of the sept he had beaten into submission by “proclaiming” a man he could trust to be the new chieftain. (O’Donnell had replaced the defeated MacQuillan chieftain by proclaiming his own nominee to be now the chieftain and installing him at Dunluce in 1513) (McDonnell 2005, 144).

The use of a single combat mound was recorded by Reeves in 1847, when he stated

In the townland Cushendun, which is separated from Ballyteerim by only two very narrow townlands, originally quarter-lands, is a small mound called Cruick-na-Dhuine, where according to local tradition, O’Neill and MacDonnell fought in single combat. This mound is beside the new church (Reeves 1847, 283-4).

The final confrontation between Shane O’Neill and James McDonnell was recorded as being in 1567, when ‘O’Neill and his retinue were slain’ (O’Lavery 1887, 252-8). Clearly there was much political intrigue taking place during this period and the confrontations between the O’Neills and MacDonnells featured significantly in the folklore of the North Antrim area. So much so that it was referred to by historians of the nineteenth century. However, there is no direct evidence to link the Cruick-na-Dhuine mound with any of these activities and it may be that the mound, with its ancient presence in Cushendun, may have been an attractive and obvious focus for this local folklore.

4.2 Later historical background

The migrations and settlement of the Scots seems to have begun about 1500 with the MacDonnells and many family names in the Cushendun area are still prevalent in Argyllshire in Scotland. These include McAuley, McBride, Campbell, Stewart, McIntyre and McDougall (Day et al 1994, 46). Prior to the construction of the Antrim coast road, the remoteness of the village maintained this close affinity with Scotland and a ferry operated from Cushendun to Dunaverty in Kintyre from 1709 to 1833 (ibid., 18).

It has been suggested that Cushendun is ‘uniquely situated, has a surreal atmosphere, as if the village lay between two worlds’ and, along with nearby Cushendall has been described as being ‘synonymous with life in the glens for generations. They were central to the social, cultural and commercial activity of the area’ (McAuley 2000, 39-44). This remoteness and charm attracted the attention of several nineteenth century wealthy families, who greatly influenced the development of the village.

The Cornish style cottages were designed by architect Clough William Ellis, who also designed the Welsh village of Portmerrion. Cushendun bridge was constructed between 1854 and 1856, under the supervision of the famous architect Charles Lanyon (Day et al 1994, 19). Cushendun parish church was constructed in 1840 by Michael Harrison and there is a memorial tablet to him there. In the east window, the O'Neill coat of arms is also incorporated (Brett 1997, 19). However, by 2000, dwindling numbers within the congregation led to the church being amalgamated with Layde church in Cushendall, which has one of the oldest churchyards in the glens. In 2003, the church at Cushendun was deconsecrated and subsequently achieved Grade B1 listed building status. In 2006, it became the Northern Ireland winner of the British Broadcasting Corporation *Restoration* competition (Cushendun Buildings Preservation Trust n.d. [c.2006], 1).

The Harrison family was one of several who constructed houses and bathing lodges in Cushendun during the nineteenth century. There were five main houses, including Glenmona Lodge, which was the summer residence of Michael Harrison; Cushendun House, the summer residence of Robert Smyth; Glens Cottage, summer residence of Major James Higginson and Castle Park, the residence of Major General O'Neill, member of Parliament (OS Memoirs, 1830-2, 1835, 1838-9, 44-5). It is in the grounds of one of these houses, Glenmona Lodge, that the mound of Cruik-na-Dhuine is situated.

4.3 Conclusion

There is no doubt that the area in which the Cruik-na-Dhuine mound is located has been an important ritual and social landscape for thousands of years. The most difficult question to answer here is whether the mound is of some antiquity, or was constructed during the nineteenth century to enhance the enjoyment of the landowners by providing a raised platform to view their gardens. Cartographic evidence suggests that in 1833, the mound was present to the south of Glenmona Lodge, before the development of formal gardens. Survey plans indicate that the mound also pre-dated the construction of the parish church, as the northern boundary wall clearly truncates the base of the mound. The area around the mound appears to have been planted with trees since at least 1857, perhaps accounting for the absence of the mound from later maps and surveys. It seems unlikely that the mound would have been used as a viewing platform with this amount of tree cover and it must therefore be concluded that the mound is indeed of some antiquity.

5. Recommendations for further work

In order to obtain more definitive dating material for the monument, the National Trust may wish to consider a limited excavation. As the monument is heavily overgrown and is therefore liable to damage, the National Trust may therefore wish to consider clearing an area around the mound and protecting this from further growth. However, the presence of a cleared area may also encourage greater use of the site by casual visitors, vandalism and the illicit use of metal detectors. Further, the crop mark within the grounds of the Glenmona Lodge Resource Centre seems to have been confused with the Cruik-na-Dhuine mound and has escaped archaeological investigation. The National Trust may wish to consider further analysis of this possible feature.

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APPENDIX A

CAMSAR record form

U.A.S. SURVEY GROUP.

NISM No. ANT 015:010		Grid Reference D24783293		Townland CUSHENDUN	
Landuse Cat. 12	Structural Cat.	Site Type MOUND		Protection N.T.	Altitude 10.7
Field Boundaries (e.g. contemporary/intrusive later/owners attitude towards monument i.e. dis/regard) WALL SURROUNDING CUSHENDUN C.O.F.I. CREPS THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF MOUND					
Site description/ notes SMALL MOUND WITHIN GROUNDS OF GLENMUNA LODGE, N.T. PROPERTY ADJACENT TO CHURCH (C.O.F.I.), IN SMALL AREA OF ROUGH WOODLAND. SUB-CIRCULAR MOUNDS. ON SUMMIT THERE IS EVIDENCE OF RE-USE AS GARDEN FEATURE(?) - COBBLING SURROUNDED BY 7 CUT SQUARE BLOCKS (HOLES IN CENTRES - PROBABLY FENCED AT A TIME). STEEPLY SLOPING SIDES.					
Landuse					
On Site		Around Site		Comments	
Previous	Present	Previous	Present	IN NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTY - GLENMUNA WOODS NORTH OF CUSHENDUN VILLAGE	
WOODLAND					
	N.T.				
	PROPERTY:				
	PARKLAND				
Fencing Site Fenced? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /N Condition (e.g. recent/broken) Type of fence Distance of fence from edge of monument					
Remains		Is the site visible?	Archaeological site?	Survival	Condition
		① 2 3 4	Y/N/?	① 2 3 4 5 6	1 ② 3 4 5 6
Comments (e.g. human interference and management)					
Surface Problems (e.g. ploughing, trampling, planting, scrub growth: localized/widespread) SCRUB & TREE GROWTH, NATURAL EROSION, MODERN LITTER. SOME QUITE MATURE TREES GROWING ON THE MOUND SLOPES.					
Sub-Surface Problems (e.g. rabbits, badgers, subsidence: localized/widespread) RABBIT/ BADGER HOLES					
Damage Sustained					
Past		Recent		Future Risk	
Category	Extent	Category	Extent	Category	Extent
4					
					Observations
					4 - SUMMIT LANDSCAPED AS A GARDEN FEATURE
Photographs			Recommendations		
GENERAL SHOTS OF MOUND CLOSE-UPS OF SUMMIT (DIGITAL & MANUAL)					
Map Evidence			Last Visit		
1st Ed	2nd Ed	3rd Ed	Date of last visit Deteriorated since last visit?		
Recorder RUTH LOGUE & JULIE HANSE			Date 30/09/06		
			ROUGH PLANS OVERLEAF.		

APPENDIX B

PHOTOGRAPH RECORD FORM

Site.....Cruik-na-Dhuine, Cushendun, County Antrim

Date.....30 September 2006

Film no.	B/W Print	Colour print	Colour slide	Digital image (m.pixels)
				5.1

Make and model of camera...Nikon Coolpix SI & others

Frame no	Direction viewed from	Details
CD001		Aerial photograph of Cushendun
CD002		Aerial photograph of Cushendun Parish Church
Castle Upton 1		Castle Upton
CD003	West	UAS survey group in National Trust car park
CD004	North	Sandstone blocks on summit of mound
CD005	West	Sandstone blocks on summit of mound
CD006	North	Metalled surface on summit of mound
CD007	North	Metalled surface on summit of mound
CD008	North	Surveying
CD009	North-west	Surveying
CD010	East	Mound
CD011	East	Mound
CD012	North-east	Summit of mound
CD013	West	Profile of mound
CD014	West	Profile of mound
CD015	North	Mound
CD016	North-east	Mound
CD017	North-east	Mound
CD018	East	Mound
CD019	East	Mound
CD020	South	Church wall and mound
SMR ANT12 1		Standing stone
SMR ANT 12 2 3		Standing stones