



Monitoring Report No. 51

**Ballyvicknacally
Co. Down**

AE/06/44

Cormac McSparron

Site Specific Information

<i>Site Name:</i>	Dromore Cemetery Extension
<i>Townland:</i>	Ballyvicknacally
<i>SMR No:</i>	DOW 021:047
<i>Grid Ref:</i>	J21095326
<i>County:</i>	Down
<i>Excavation License No:</i>	AE/06/044
<i>Planning Ref / No.:</i>	Q/2005/0661/F
<i>Dates of Monitoring:</i>	Wednesday 22 nd March 2006
<i>Archaeologist Present:</i>	Cormac McSparron, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB.
<i>Brief Summary:</i>	Evaluation of cemetery extension site carried out by excavation of seven test trenches. No archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered.
<i>Type of monitoring:</i>	Excavation by mechanical digger under supervision of archaeologists
<i>Size of area opened:</i>	Seven trenches were opened <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tr.1 2m by 30m• Tr.2 2m by 30m• Tr.3 2m by 30m• Tr.4 2m by 30m• Tr.5 2m by 15m• Tr.6 2m by 15m• Tr.7 2m by 10m
<i>Current Land Use:</i>	The land is currently used for grazing.
<i>Intended Land Use:</i>	Cemetery extension

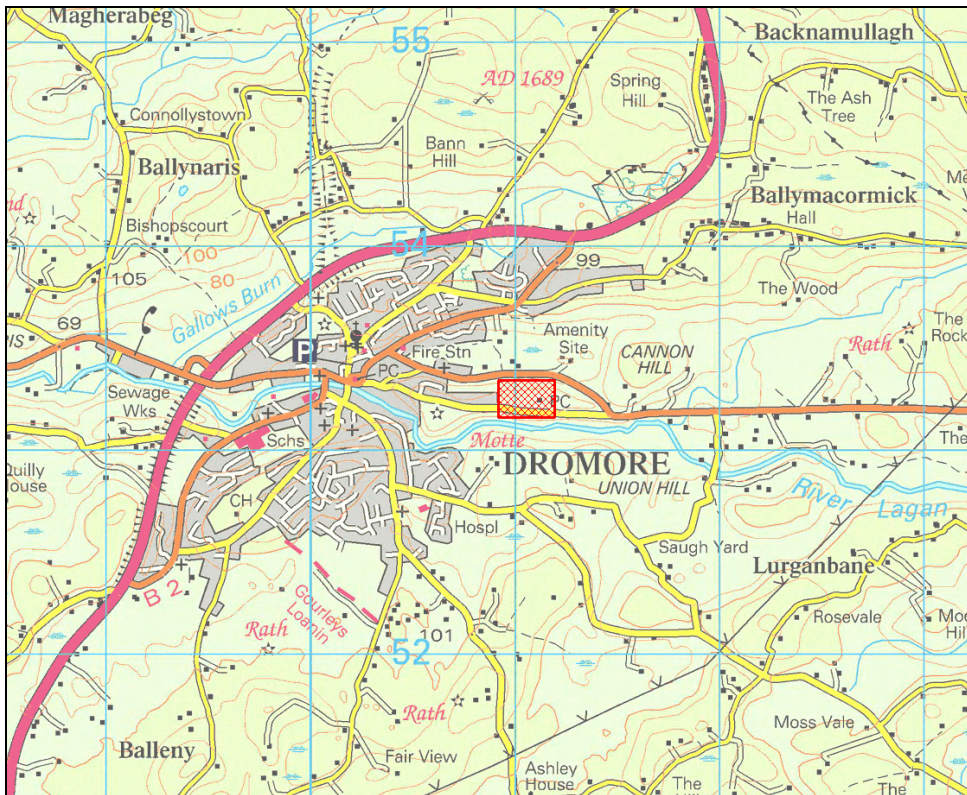


Figure 1: Location of site

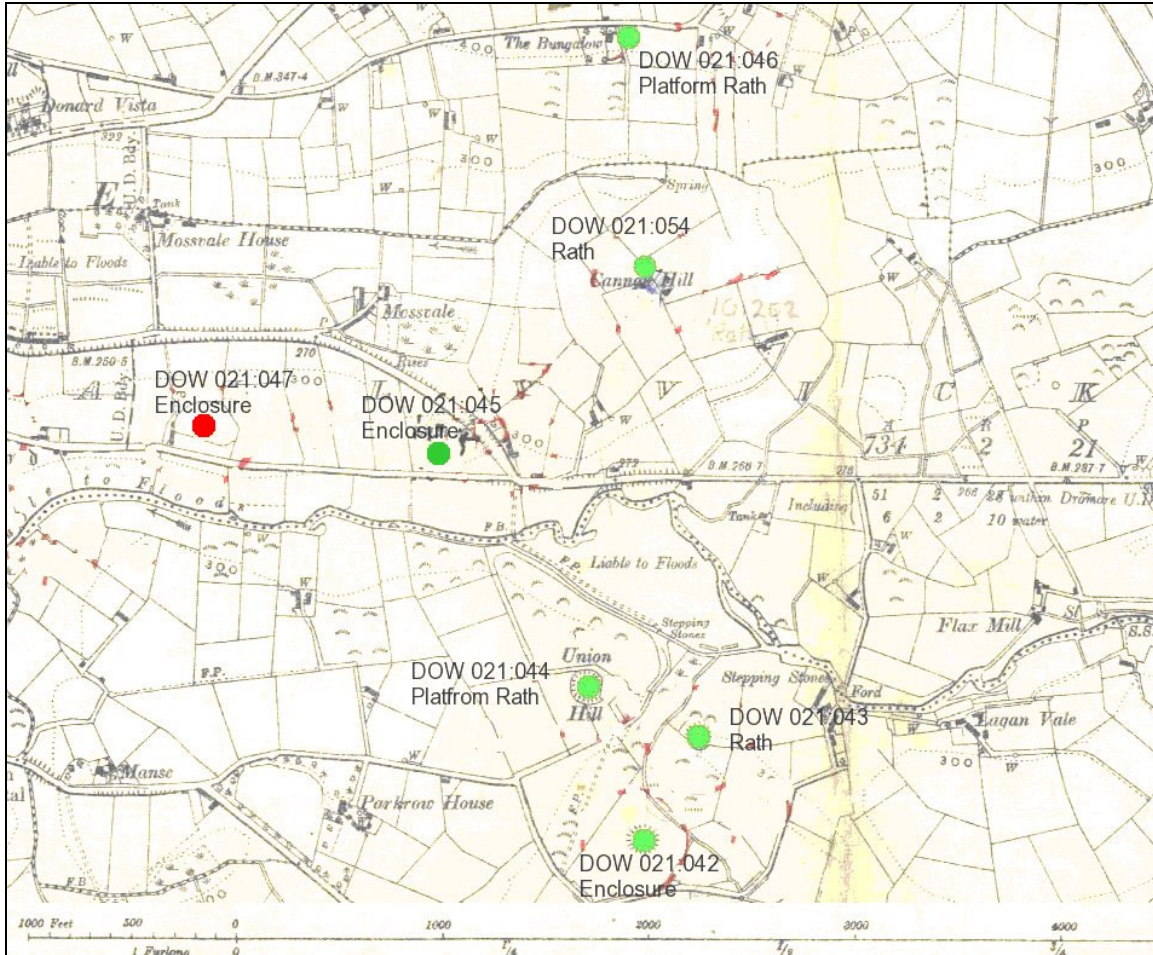


Figure 2: Map showing location of development site (red dot), in relation to other monuments in the surrounding area

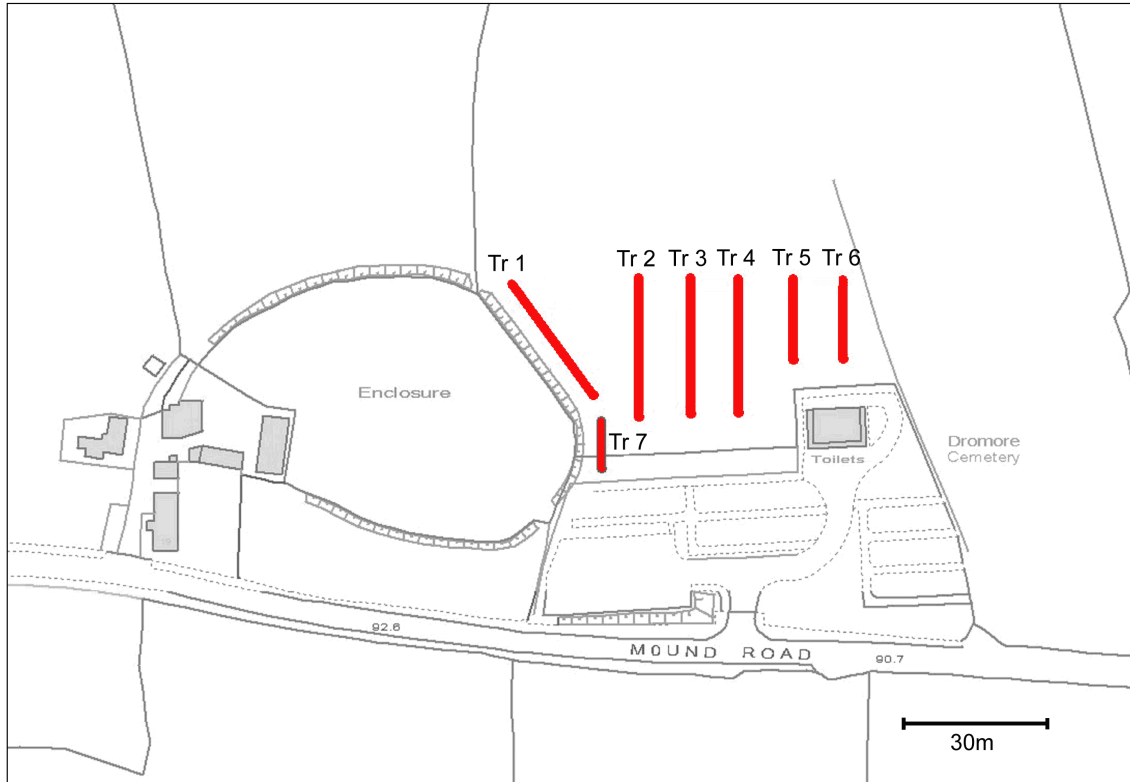


Figure 3: Plan of development site showing location of excavated evaluation trenches

Brief account of the monitoring.

The cemetery extension site is located at Mound Road, Ballyvicknacally, Dromore, (Figures 1-3) in a field adjacent to an enclosure (DOW 021:047). The evaluation was requested by Edith Gowdy, PHM caseworker, EHS: Built Heritage.

A total of seven 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 to Tr. 4 measured 2m by 30m, Tr. 5 and 6 measured 2m by 15m and Tr. 7 was 2m by 10m with the centre of this trench disrupted by the boundary hedge with the current cemetery.

Trench 1: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran northwest - southeast and was located 5m to the east of the enclosure (DOW 021:047). The topsoil was a grayish-brown sandy loam (Context 101), approximately 20cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 102). The subsoil consisted of an orange / buff coloured sandy clay which became progressively more reddish towards the northwest end of the trench. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 1).

Trench 2: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran north - south and was located to the north of the boundary with the current cemetery. The topsoil in this trench was a grey-brown sandy loam (Context 201), which was up to 40cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the subsoil (Context 202), a light grey to buff stony clay. A drainage gully containing modern glass crossed this trench, running approximately northeast - southwest. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 2).

Trench 3: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran north - south and was located parallel to Trench 2. The topsoil in this trench was a grey-brown loam (Context 301), which was approximately 35cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 302) which consisted of a buff coloured sandy, stony, clay. Traces of cultivation, in the form of plough marks, were visible running east - west in this trench. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 3).

Trench 4: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran north - south and was located parallel to Trench 3. The topsoil in this trench was a grey-brown loam (Context 401), approximately 35cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 402) which consisted of a buff coloured sandy, stony, clay. A narrow field drain, containing modern pottery and glass fragments, was found running east - west in this trench. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 4).

Trench 5: This trench was 2m wide and 15m long. It ran north-south and was located parallel to Trench 4. 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 5).

Trench 6: This trench was 2m wide and 15m long. It ran north-south and was located parallel to Trench 5. The topsoil (Context 601) in this trench was a grey-brown sandy loam which averaged approximately 20cm deep. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil, a buff, sandy, stony, clay (Context 602). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 6).

Trench 7: This trench was 2m wide and 10m long. It straddled the boundary of a strip of unused land at the northern edge of the existing cemetery and the field intended for the cemetery extension. A short break in the trench was left to allow the current boundary to remain in place. The topsoil in this trench (Context 701) was a grey-brown loam, which averaged 20cm deep. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 702), which was a buff to light grey sandy clay. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 7).

Conclusions

After evaluating an area of approximately 290 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 Tr. 1 showing utilization of toothless “sheugh” bucket and surface of subsoil (Context 102).



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



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



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



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



Photo 6: Trench 6 after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 602).



Photo 7: Trench 7 after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 702).