



## **Monitoring Report No. 60**

**Magherahar  
Co. Fermanagh**

**AE/06/87**

Cormac McSparron

## Site Specific Information

<i>Site Name:</i>	Magherahar Housing Development
<i>Townland:</i>	Magherahar
<i>SMR No.:</i>	FER 191:034
<i>Grid Ref.:</i>	H16395191
<i>County:</i>	Fermanagh
<i>Excavation License No.:</i>	AE/06/087
<i>Planning Ref / No.:</i>	L/2005/1736/O
<i>Dates of Monitoring:</i>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May
<i>Archaeologist Present:</i>	Cormac McSparron, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB.
<i>Brief Summary:</i>	Evaluation of development 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 an archaeologist.
<i>Size of area opened:</i>	Five trenches were opened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tr.1      2m by 20m</li><li>• Tr.2      2m by 20m</li><li>• Tr.3      2m by 20m</li><li>• Tr.4      2m by 20m</li><li>• Tr.5      2m by 30m</li></ul>
<i>Current Land Use:</i>	The land is currently used for grazing.
<i>Intended Land Use:</i>	Private house.





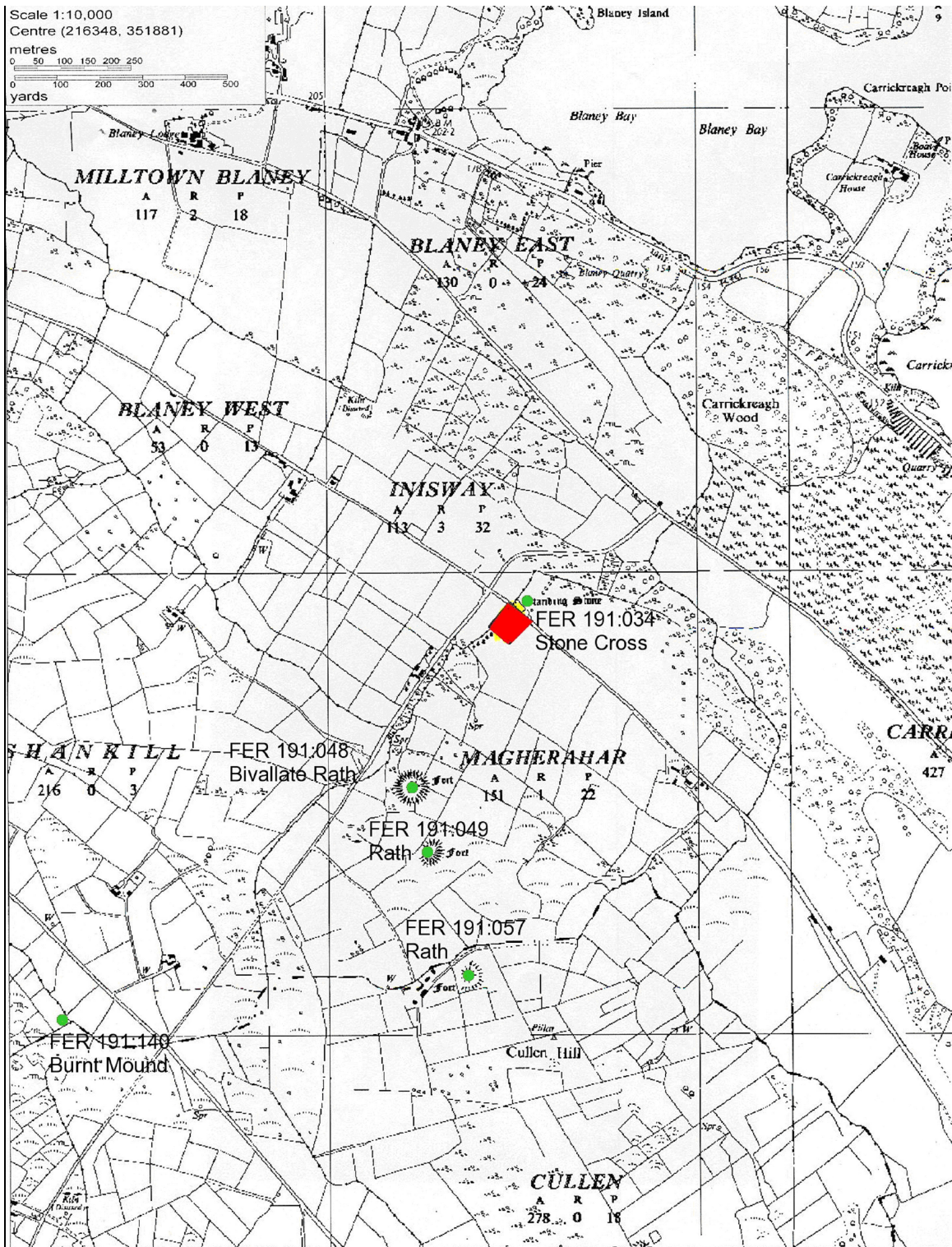


Figure 2: Map showing location of development site (red square), in relation to other monuments in the surrounding area



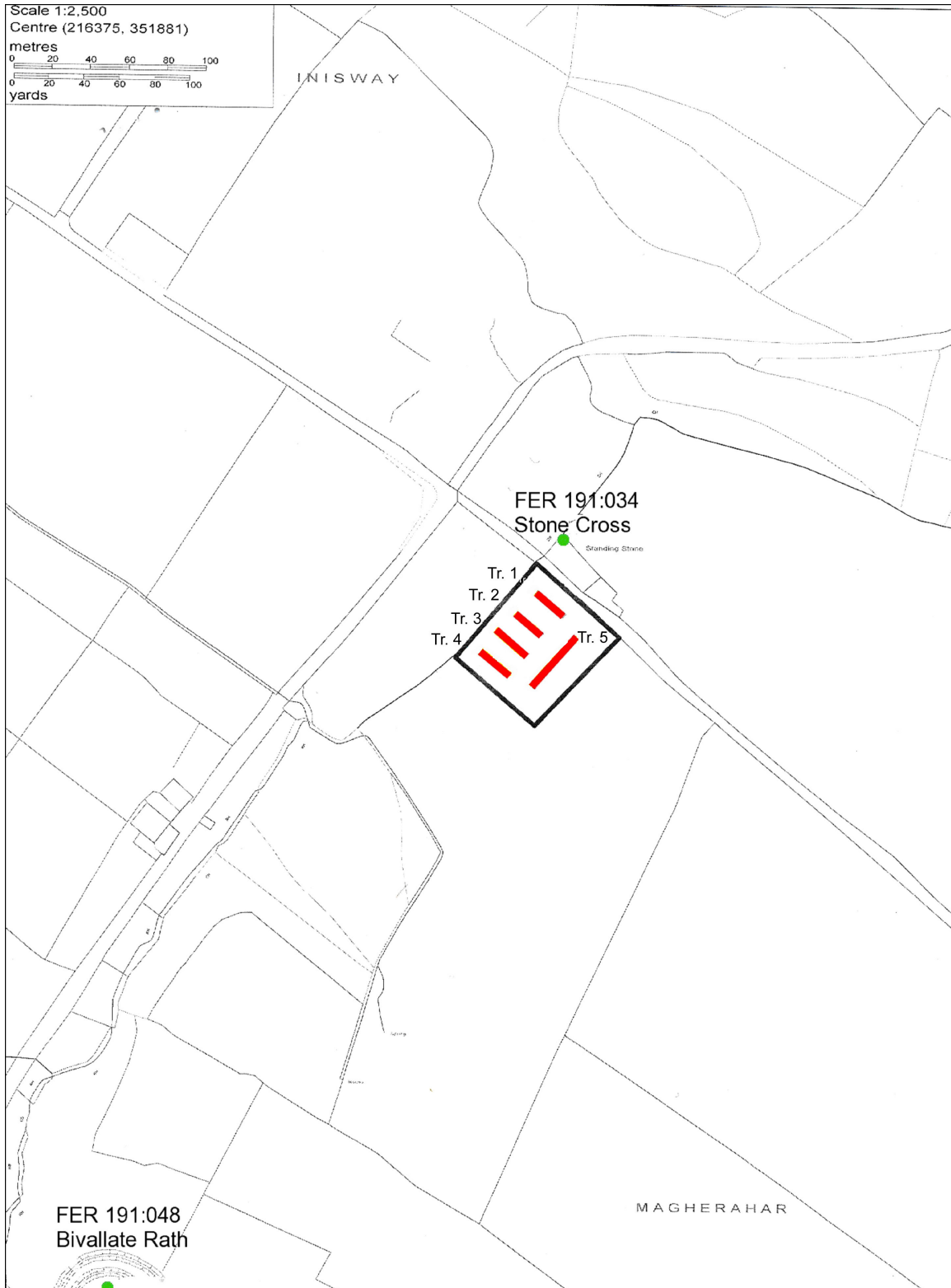


Figure 3: Plan of development site showing location of excavated evaluation trenches and recorded location of SMR FER 191:034

## **Brief account of the monitoring.**

This proposed housing site is located in Magherahar, Co. Fermanagh, adjacent to the site of the base of a stone cross (FER 191:034) which may be associated with a larger church site (Figures 1 & 2). The evaluation was requested by Edith Gowdy, PHM caseworker, EHS: Built Heritage.

A total of five 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). Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 measured 2m by 20m; Trench 5 measured 2m by 30m.

**Trench 1:** This trench was 2m wide by 20m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located 5m from the northeastern boundary and 5m from the northwestern boundary of the field. The topsoil was a brown loam (Context 101), which was, at the northwest end of the trench, up to 30cm deep, but which was less than 20cm deep in the southeastern half of the trench. The topsoil sat directly on shale bedrock (Context 102). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 2).

**Trench 2:** This trench was 2m wide by 20m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located parallel to, and 7m southwest of, Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a brown loam (Context 201), which was up to 15cm deep. The topsoil sat directly over shale bedrock (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 20m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located parallel to, and 7m southwest of, Trench 2. The topsoil in this trench was a brown loam (Context 301), which was 15cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over shale bedrock (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 20m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located parallel to, and 7m southwest of, Trench 3. The topsoil in this trench was a brown loam (Context 401), which was 15cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over shale bedrock (Context 402). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 5).

**Trench 5:** This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran northeast-southwest and was located running at a right angle to, and 7m southeast of, Trenches 1- 4. The topsoil in this trench was a brown loam (Context 501), which was 20cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over shale bedrock (Context 502). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 6).

## **Conclusions**

After evaluating an area of approximately 220 m<sup>2</sup>, 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:**

*Photographs: Thirteen 35mm photographs and their scanned copies currently held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.*

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

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



*Photo 1: Excavation of trench showing utilization of toothless “sheugh” bucket.*





*Photo 2: Trench 1 looking southeast after excavation showing surface of bedrock (Context 102).*



*Photo 3: Trench 2 looking southeast after excavation showing surface of bedrock (Context 202).*





*Photo 4: Trench 3 looking southeast after excavation showing surface of bedrock (Context 302).*



*Photo 5: Trench 4 looking southeast after excavation showing surface of bedrock (Context 402).*





*Photo 6: Trench 5 looking southwest after excavation showing surface of bedrock (Context 502).*