



## **Monitoring Report No. 29**

**Freemanstown/Tobergill  
Donegore Hill**

## **Site Specific Information**

*Site Name:* Campbell house development

*Townland:* Freemanstown / Tobergill

*SMR No (if applicable):* N/A

*Grid Ref:* J21358917

*County:* Antrim

*Excavation License No (if applicable):* AE/05/123

*Planning Ref / No. (if applicable):* T/2004/0326/O

*Dates of Monitoring:* 28 September 2005

*Archaeologist Present:* Cormac McSparron, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB.

*Brief Summary:* Evaluation of building site carried out by excavation of five test trenches. No archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered.

*Type of monitoring:* Excavation by mechanical digger under supervision of an archaeologist

*Size of area opened:* Five trenches were opened

- Tr.1 1m by 35m
- Tr.2 1m by 40m
- Tr.3 1m by 40m
- Tr.4 1m by 40m
- Tr.5 1m by 70m

*Current Land Use:* The land is currently used for grazing of sheep. The land has been ploughed in recent decades.

*Intended Land Use:* Single residence

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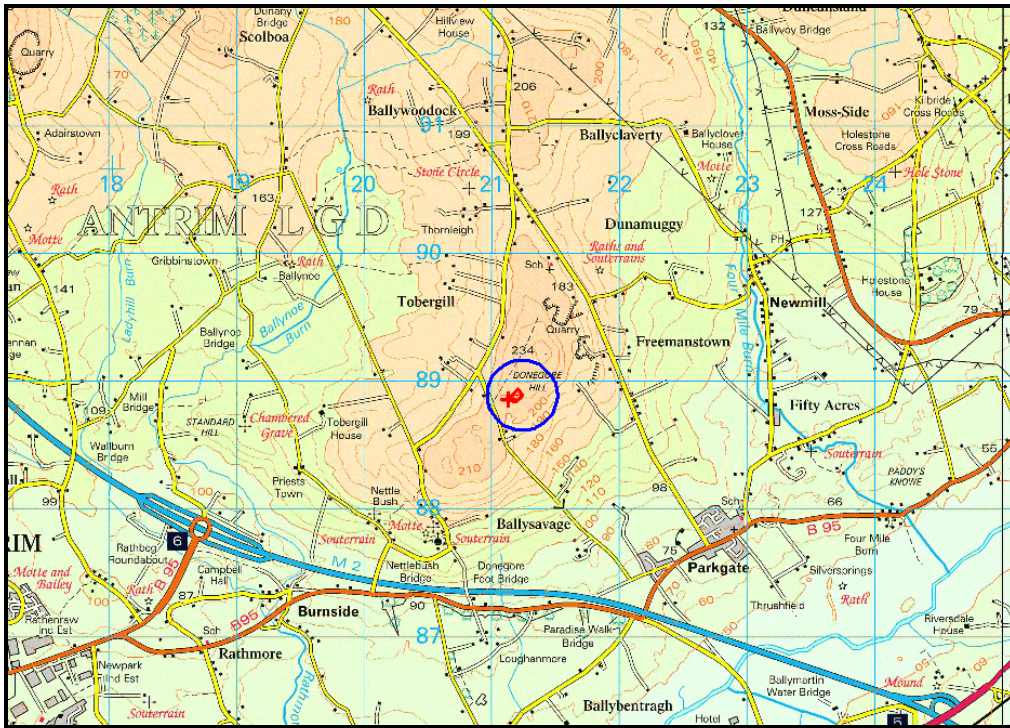


Figure 1: Location of site showing proximity to Donegore Hill

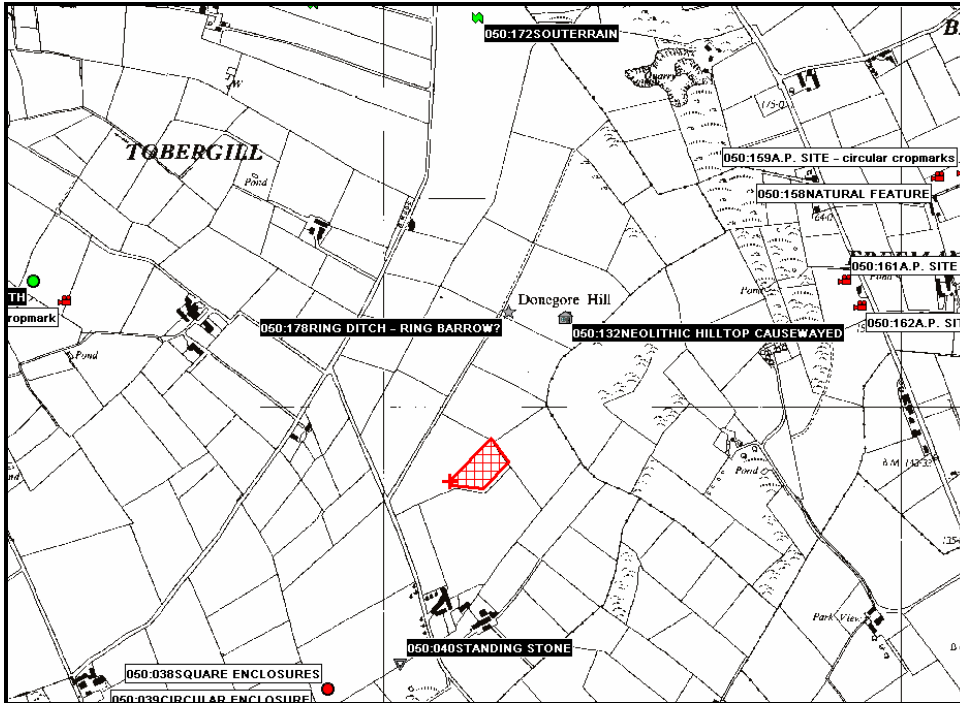


Figure 2: Map showing extent of suggested development site (red hatched area)

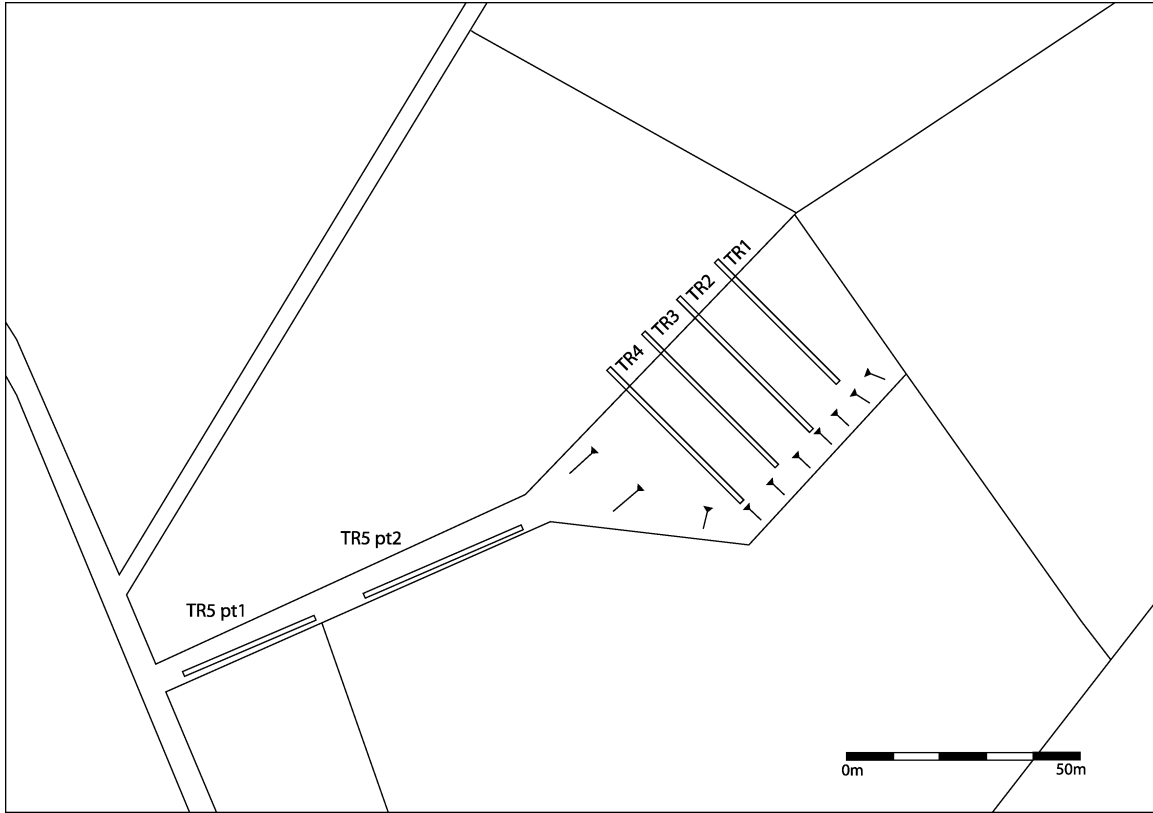


Figure 3: Plan of development site and access route showing location of excavated evaluation trenches

**Brief account of the monitoring.**

A total of five trenches were mechanically excavated as part of this evaluation procedure (Figures 1 - 3). The trenches on the main development site, Trench 1 to 4, were set back approximately 10m from the south-east site boundary. This was because the ground in this part of the site dropped suddenly to the south-east at an angle of not less than 45°, making a safe evaluation of this area impossible.

Trench 1: This trench was 1m wide by 35m long. It ran north-west to south-east and was located approximately 10 m south-west of the north-east boundary of the development site. The topsoil in this trench was a mid brown light sandy loam (Context 101) which varied from 15 to 20 cm in depth. For most of the length of the trench the topsoil sat directly on top of the subsoil (Context 102). The subsoil consisted on a thin layer of orange sandy clay sitting on top of basalt bedrock, which in places protruded through the orange sandy clay. In the 3m at the extreme south-east end of this trench the ground dropped rapidly to the west. At this end of the trench there was a deposit of orange clay (Context 103) located beneath the topsoil (Context 101). This orange clay layer contained fragments of brick and concrete. Beneath it was a layer of grey brown loam (Context 104) which sat above the subsoil (Context 102). I was informed by the land owner / developer Mr. Campbell that a 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural building had been demolished in this field in recent decades and the rubble pushed down the slope to the south east of the trench. The loam layer (Context 104), located below the orange clay layer (103), was presumably an old topsoil layer covered during the demolition of this building. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 1)

Trench 2: This trench was 1m wide by 40 m long. It ran north-west to south-east and was located approximately 20 m south-west of the north-east boundary of the development site and 10m south-west of Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a mid brown light sandy loam (Context 201) which was very similar to the topsoil in Trench 1. It varied from 5cm to 25cm in depth and for most of the length of the trench was located immediately above the subsoil (Context 202). The subsoil was an orange sandy clay through which the bedrock, and in a few places bedrock-derived rotted basalt protruded. It was very similar to the subsoil in Trench 1. As in Trench 1 there was a recently deposited clay (Context 204), located beneath the topsoil (201) in the extreme south east of the trench, which was sitting above a grey brown loam (Context 203). It seems likely that the clay layer (Context 204) is associated with the relatively recent demolition of an agricultural building and the loam beneath it (Context 203) is the topsoil on to which this demolition layer was deposited. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 2)

Trench 3: This trench was 1m wide by 40 m long. It ran north-west to south-east and was located approximately 30 m south-west of the north-east boundary of the development site and 10m south-west of Trench 2. The topsoil in this trench was a mid brown light sandy loam (Context 301) similar to the topsoil in Trench 1 and 2. It varied between 15 and 20cm thick and sat above the subsoil (Context 302). The subsoil was an orange sandy clay located above the basalt bedrock which sometimes protruded through it. In places the basalt bedrock had decayed into discrete lumps of rotted basalt. At the extreme south-east, where the ground begins to drop towards the break of slope, there was a slightly more grayish variant of the topsoil (Context 303) located beneath the topsoil (Context 301) and sitting above the subsoil (Context 302). It is likely that the distinction between Context 303 and the topsoil is the result of ploughing which did not fully penetrate the topsoil at the south east side of the development site where the level of the ground rapidly fell. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 3)

Trench 4: This trench was 1m wide by 40 m long. It ran north-west to south-east and was located approximately 40 m south-west of the north-east boundary of the development site and 10m south-west of Trench 3. The topsoil in this trench was a mid brown light sandy loam (Context 401) similar to the topsoil in the other trenches. In places the topsoil was very shallow, about 5cm in depth, but it deepened to the south-east, where it was up to 40cm deep. The subsoil (Context 403) was an orange sandy clay through which the basalt bedrock protruded in places. It was located directly beneath the topsoil (Context 401). No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 4)

Trench 5: This trench was 1m wide and 70m long. It was located along the suggested line of the access road to the housing development and was orientated east-north-east by west-south-west. There was a gap of about 15m left in the center of the trench because of the presence of poorly located service pipes in that area. The topsoil (Context 501) was a mid brown light sandy loam with a slight amount of orange flecking in the matrix of the soil. It varied between 20 and 30cm deep. The topsoil was similar to the topsoil on the main development site but slightly more sandy and with the orange flecks in the soil matrix mentioned above. This change of texture and colour may be the result of more frequent (or more recent) ploughing of this area causing some of the subsoil to be mixed in with the topsoil. At the base of the topsoil there were patches of small stones and gravel consistent with the tendency for small stones to gather at the base of plough soils. Immediately beneath the topsoil (501) was the subsoil (502) which was an orange sandy, and in places slightly gravelly, clay. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 5).



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Conclusions

After evaluating five trenches, totaling approximately 225m<sup>2</sup> in area, no archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered. Would therefore seem probable that there are no significant archaeological features or artifacts on the development site and access road.



*Photo 1: Trench 1 after excavation*





*Photo 2: Trench 2 after excavation*





*Photo3: Trench 3 after excavation*





*Photo 4: Trench 4 after excavation*





*Photo 5: Trench 5 after excavation*





Photo 6: Excavation of Trench 5 showing utilization of toothless “sheugh” bucket



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**Archive:**

(List any records from the monitoring e.g. finds, photos and plans and state where they are currently available for inspection.)

*Finds: N/A*

*Photographs: Digital Photographs currently at CAF*

*Plans / Drawings: One digitized plan currently at CAF*

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