



Monitoring Report No. 30

**Killesher
Co. Fermanagh**

AE/05/132

Cormac McSparron

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Elliot York Development

Townland: Killesher

SMR No: Close proximity to FER 228:056, FER 228:057 and FER 228:058

Grid Ref: IG 2122 3361

County: Fermanagh

Excavation License No: AE/05/132

Planning Ref / No.: L/2005/0965/O

Dates of Monitoring: 8 November 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 archaeologists

Size of area opened: Five trenches were opened

- Tr.1 1m by 25m
- Tr.2 1m by 25m
- Tr.3 1m by 25m
- Tr.4 1m by 25m
- Tr.5 1m by 25m

Current Land Use: The land is currently used for rough grazing. The ground has not been cultivated in recent decades but there some evidence of 19th century potato rigs. The land is low lying and boggy.

Intended Land Use: Single residence

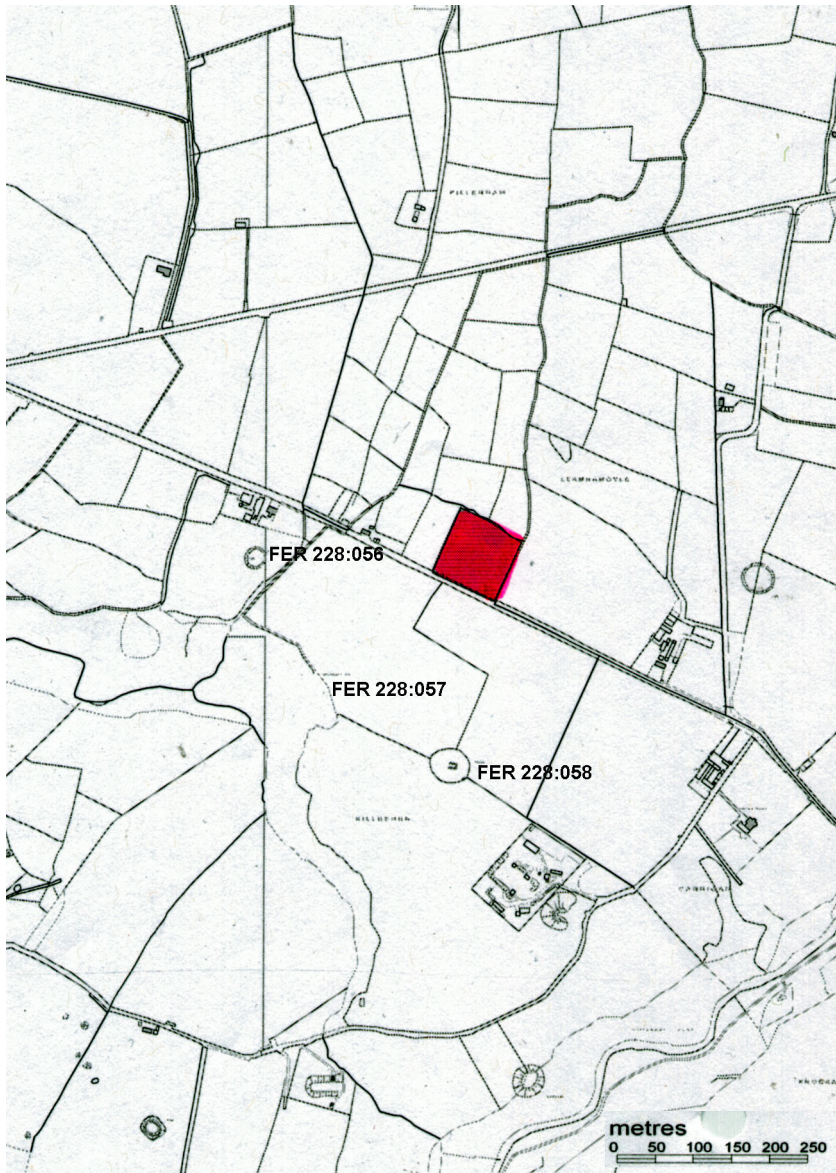


Figure 2: Map showing extent of suggested development site (red coloured area) and proximity to nearby archaeological monuments

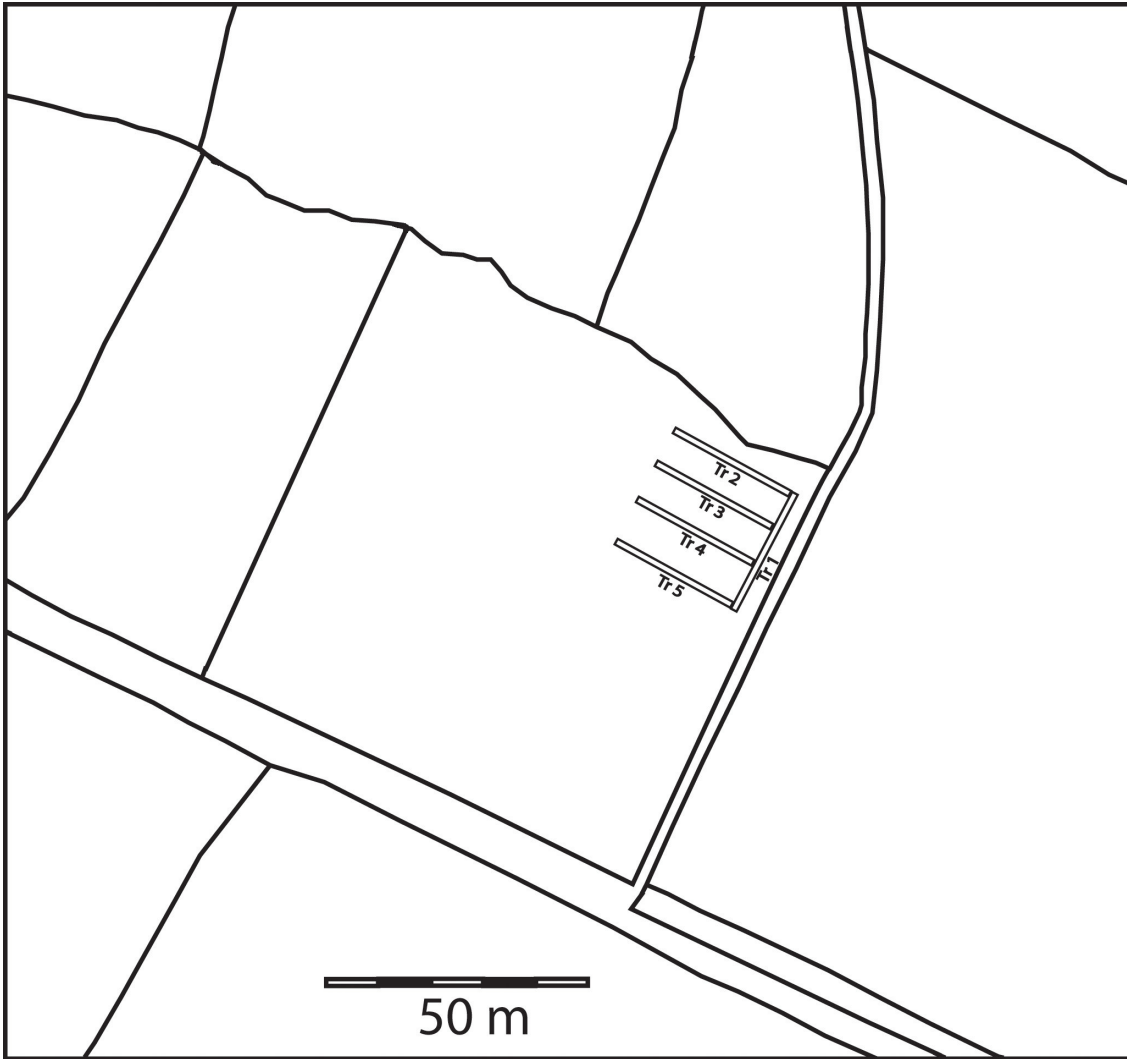


Figure 3: Plan of development site showing location of excavated evaluation trenches

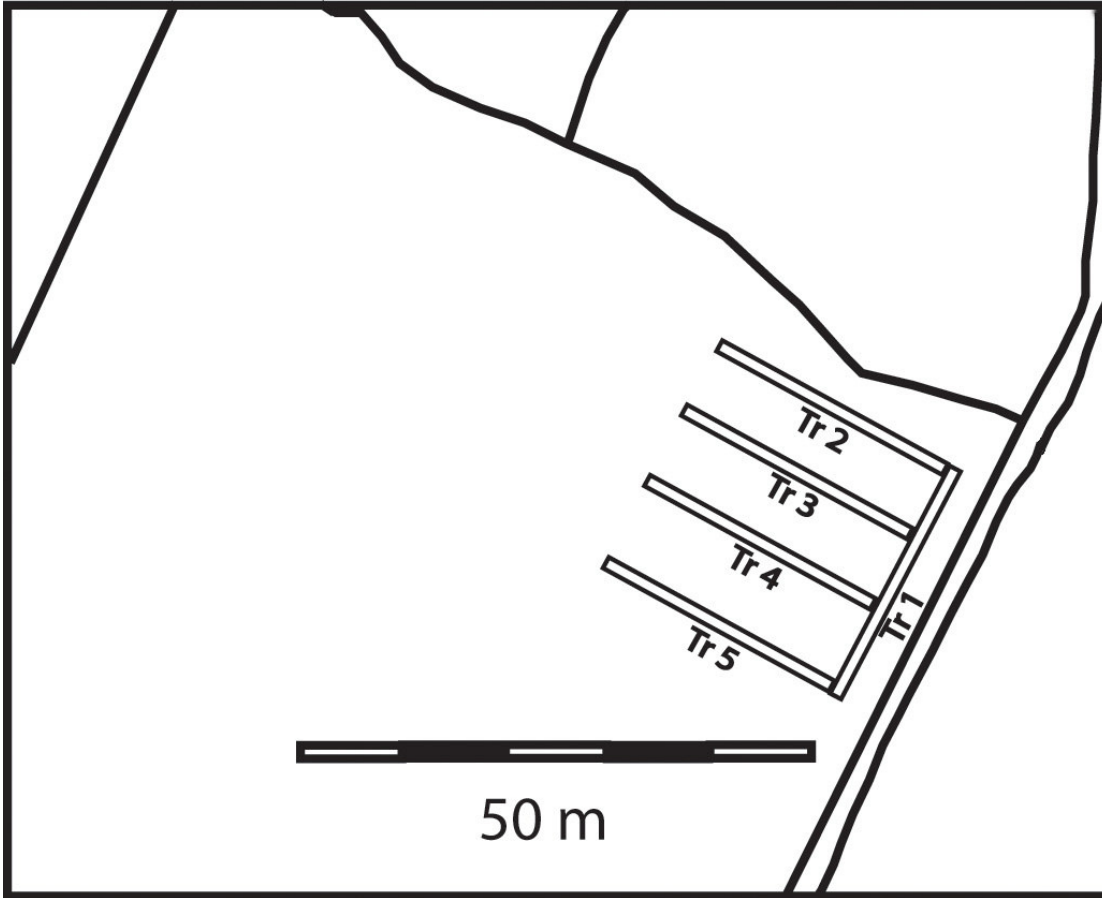


Figure 4: Detail of development site showing location of test trenches.

Brief account of the monitoring.

This development site was located at Killesher, Co. Fermanagh, within 200m of a ringfort (FER 228:056), St Lassers Well (FER 228:057) and Killesher Church, an early church site (FER 228:059).

A total of five trenches were excavated as part of this evaluation procedure (Figures 1 – 4). The trenches were excavated using a mechanical digger equipped with a toothless “sheugh” bucket (Photo 6). These trenches were located on the part of the development site suggested for the location of the house footprint. The five trenches all measured 2m by 25m. Trench 1 was located approximately 3m north-west of the field / site boundary. This was so as to not disturb the root systems of the hedge and some trees located along the field boundary. Trenches 2 to 5 were located at right angles to and running west from Trench 1 spaced at five metre intervals.

Trench 1: This trench was 2m wide by 25m long. It ran north-east to south-west and was located approximately 3 m north-west of the eastern field / site boundary. The topsoil in this trench was a grey brown silty loam (Context 101), which averaged approximately 30cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on top of the subsoil (Context 102). The subsoil consisted of a yellow orange sandy clay which contained within its matrix naturally occurring sandstone stones up to a maximum of approximately 50cm in diameter. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 1)

Trench 2: This trench was 2m wide by 25m long. It ran north-west to south-east and was located at a right angle to Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a grey brown silty loam (Context 201) which was between 25 and 40cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on top of the subsoil (Context 202). The subsoil consisted of a yellow to orange sandy clay, which contained within its matrix naturally occurring sandstone stones up to a maximum of approximately 30cm in diameter. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 2)

Trench 3: This trench was 2m wide by 25m long. It ran north-west to south-east and was located at a right angle to Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a grey brown silty loam (Context 301), which was between 40 and 50cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on top of the subsoil (Context 302). The subsoil consisted of a yellow to orange sandy clay, which contained within its matrix naturally occurring sandstone stones up to a maximum of approximately 30cm in diameter. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 3)

Trench 4: This trench was 2m wide by 25m long. It ran north-west to south-east and was located at a right angle to Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a grey brown silty loam (Context 401,) which was between 40 and 50cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on top of the subsoil (Context 402). The subsoil consisted of a yellow / mustard sandy clay, which contained within its matrix naturally occurring sandstone stones up to a maximum of approximately 30cm in diameter. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 4)

Trench 5: This trench was 2m wide by 25m long. It ran north-west to south-east and was located at a right angle to Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a grey brown silty loam (Context 501), which was between 40 and 50cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on top of the subsoil (Context 502). The subsoil consisted of a yellow to mustard sandy clay, which contained within its matrix naturally occurring sandstone stones up to a maximum of approximately 30cm in diameter. No artifacts or archaeological features were found during the excavation of this trench. (Photo 5)

Conclusions

After evaluating five trenches, totaling approximately 250m² in area, 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.



Photo 1: Trench 1 after excavation



Photo 2: Trench 2 after excavation



Photo 3: 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.

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: _____

Date: _____