



Evaluation Report No. 163

**Hillsborough Fort
Hillsborough
Co. Down**

License No. AE/08/76

Cormac McSparron
and
Brian Sloan

Site Specific Information

Site Name : Hillsborough Fort

Townland : Hillsborough

County : Down

Grid Ref. : J23955881

SMR No. : Down 14:11

Current Land Use : State Care Monument

Intended Land Use : State Care Monument

State Care[] : Scheduled []
Other []

Excavation Licence No : AE/08/76

Planning Ref / No. : N/A

Dates of Monitoring : 27th to 30th May 2008

Archaeologist Present : Cormac McSparron and Brian Sloan

Brief Summary

Archaeological monitoring of replacement of service pipes was carried out at the lawn to the northwest of Hillsborough Fort, Hillsborough, Co. Down. The excavated trench followed the line of pre-existing pipes and no archaeological finds or features were uncovered during the monitoring.

Type of monitoring

Excavation of the existing pipe trenches was carried out by a back acting mechanical digger fitted with a toothless 1/2m bucket.

Size of area opened

A trench 69.5m was excavated running from the northwest wall of the fort northwest across the green to the first manhole, before turning southwest and running a length of 31.25m to a second manhole, before turning northwest again and continuing a further 31.25m until encountering a third manhole, where the excavation ceased. The trench was 0.5m wide and was up to about 0.5m deep

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

Hillsborough fort was constructed about 1650, upon the remains of an earlier rath (Gaskell-Brown and Brannon 1978). The Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork was requested by Maybelline Gormley and Paul Logue of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to carry out monitoring of the replacement of service pipes running to the fort across an area of lawn to its front (northwest).

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of the archaeological supervision of a single trench 69.5m long running from the wall of the fort across the lawn (Figure 1, Photo 1 and Photo 2). The trench was excavated along the line of a pre-existing pipe trench and was approximately 0.5m wide and up to 0.5m deep. The sod in the excavated trench was above a loam topsoil layer. No archaeological artefacts or strata were uncovered during the monitoring. At no stage was subsoil uncovered during the excavation.

Interpretation

The new trench followed almost exactly the line of the old pipe and therefore only disturbed the pre-existing pipe trench which most likely dated to the 1960's.

Recommendations

As there were no archaeological artefacts or strata uncovered there are no recommendations for future work .

Bibliography

Gaskell-Brown, C. and Brannon, N.F., 1978: "The Rath in Hillsborough Fort, Co. Down", *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. 41, 78-87

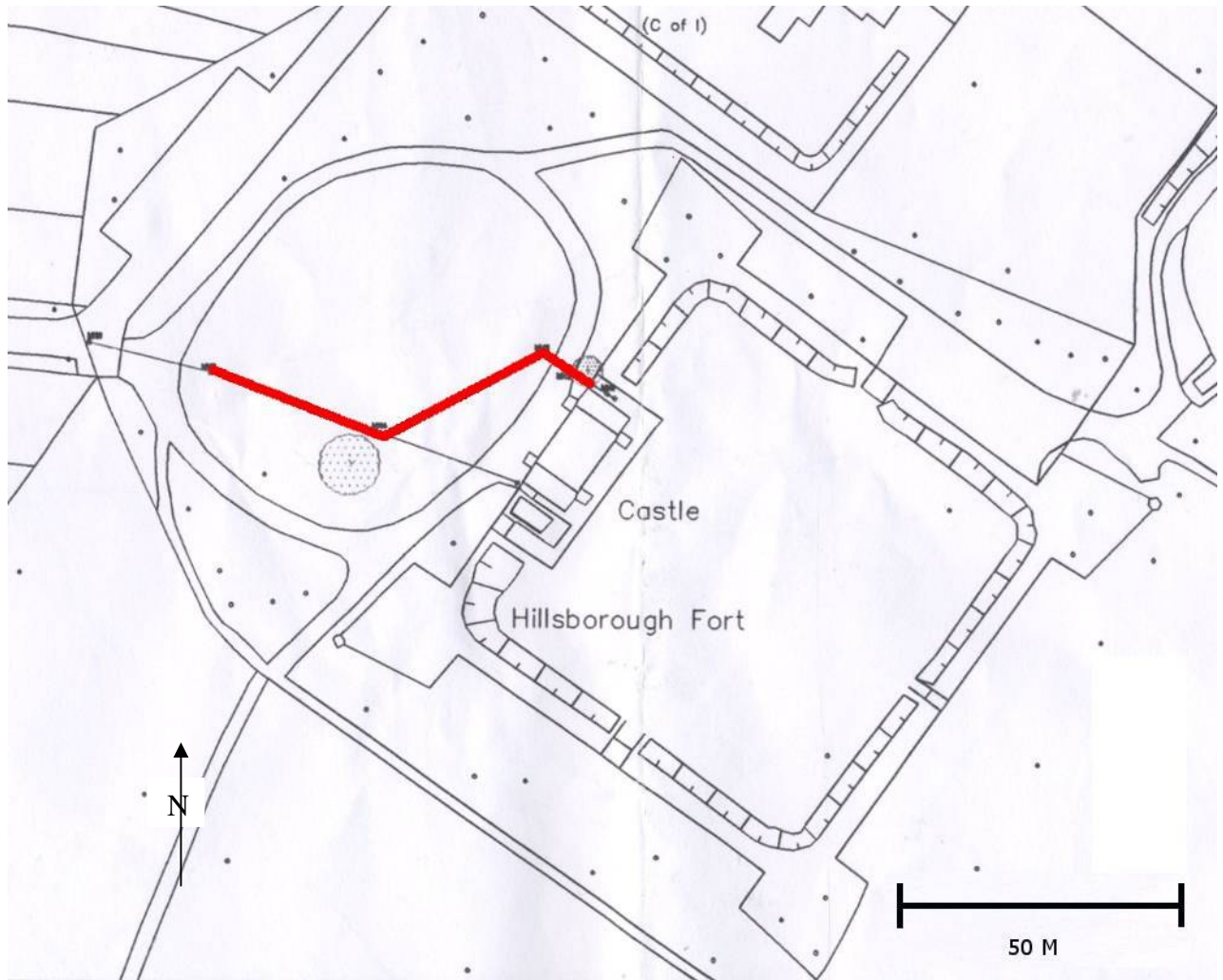


Figure 1: Location map of Hillsborough Fort showing line of replacement pipe (in red).



Photo 1: Excavated trench with replacement pipe running up to wall of Hillsborough Fort



Photo 2: Excavation of trench for replacement pipe running across lawn at Hillsborough Fort.