



Monitoring Report No. 69

**Corbally
Co. Antrim**

AE/06/117

Cormac McSparron

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Corbally Housing Development

Townland: Corbally

SMR No.: ANT 55:140

Grid Ref.: J13438233

County: Antrim

Excavation License No.: AE/06/117

Planning Ref. / No.: T/2006/0213/O

Dates of Monitoring: Thursday 25th May 2006

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

Brief Summary: Evaluation of development site carried out by excavation of three 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: Three trenches were opened

- Tr.1 2m by 30m
- Tr.2 2m by 30m
- Tr.3 2m by 30m

Current Land Use: The land is currently used for arable farming.

Intended Land Use: Private house.



Figure 1: Location of site

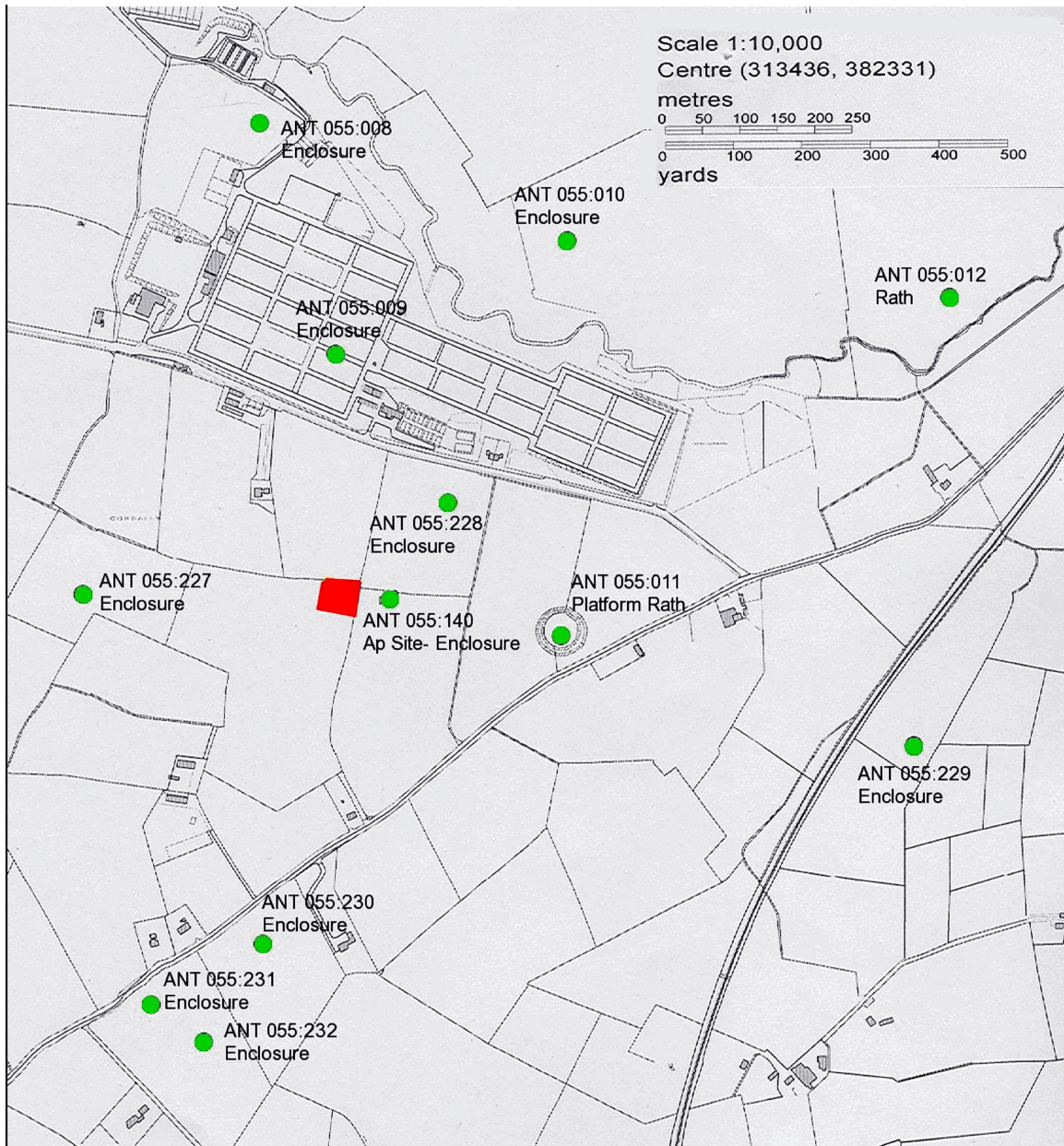


Figure 2: Map showing location of development site (red square), in relation to other monuments in the surrounding area



Figure 3: Plan of development site showing location of excavated evaluation trenches and recorded location of undated enclosure site (SMR ANT 055:140)

Brief account of the monitoring.

This proposed housing site is located in Corbally, Co. Antrim, close to a cropmark known from aerial photographs (ANT 55:140) (Figures 1 & 2). The evaluation was requested by Andrew Gault, PHM caseworker, EHS: Built Heritage.

A total of three 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). Each trench measured 2m wide by 30m long.

Trench 1: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran approximately north – south and was located approximately 5 m from the northern boundary and 5 m from the eastern boundary of the field. The topsoil was an orange - brown loam (Context 101), which was 30cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 102). The subsoil consisted of a light brown clay.. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench. Within the subsoil there were a number of areas of darker subsoil found. These were investigated and no evidence of an archaeological origin was uncovered. It seems likely they were the result of root action (Photo 2).

Trench 2: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran approximately east – west, emerging at a right angle from and approximately 5m south of the north end of Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was an orange - brown loam (Context 201), which was 30cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the light brown clay subsoil (Context 202). A two parallel dark bands and an irregular area of slightly darker subsoil were uncovered in this trench. They were investigated but appear to have been the result of deep ploughing. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 3).

Trench 3: This trench was 2m wide by 30m long. It ran approximately east – west, emerging at a right angle from and approximately 5m north of the south end of Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was an orange - brown loam (Context 301), which was 30cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the light brown-yellow clay subsoil (Context 302). As in Trench 2 there was some suggestion of dark bands within the subsoil, these also were investigated and appear to have been the result of ploughing. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 4).

Conclusions

After evaluating an area of approximately 180 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: Ten 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 northwards after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 102).



Photo 3: Trench 2 looking eastwards after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 202).



Photo 4: Trench 3 looking eastwards after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 302).