



Monitoring Report No. 50

**Ballygoskin
Co. Down**

AE/06/45

Cormac McSparron

Site Specific Information

<i>Site Name:</i>	171 Clay Road
<i>Townland:</i>	Ballygoskin
<i>SMR No:</i>	DOW 024:0037
<i>Grid Ref:</i>	J21095326
<i>County:</i>	Down
<i>Excavation License No:</i>	AE/06/045
<i>Planning Ref / No.:</i>	R/2005/1205/F
<i>Dates of Monitoring:</i>	Tuesday 13 th March 2006
<i>Archaeologist Present:</i>	Cormac McSparron, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB.
<i>Brief Summary:</i>	Evaluation of site of domestic house extension. No archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered.
<i>Type of monitoring:</i>	Excavation by mechanical digger under supervision of archaeologists.
<i>Size of area opened:</i>	Two trenches were opened <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tr.1 2m by 15m• Tr.2 2m by 15m
<i>Current Land Use:</i>	The land is currently a garden.
<i>Intended Land Use:</i>	Domestic house extension



Figure 1: Location of site.

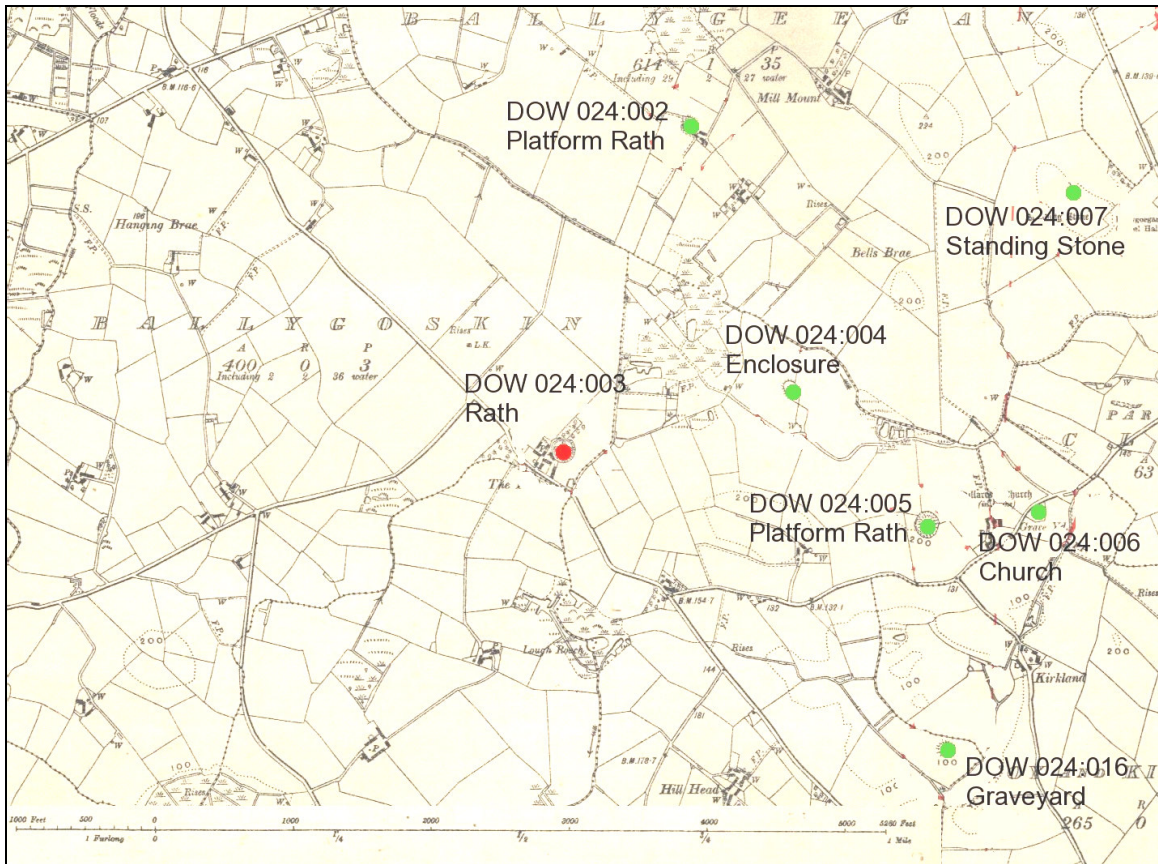


Figure 2: Map showing location of suggested development site (red dot) and proximity to nearby archaeological monuments.

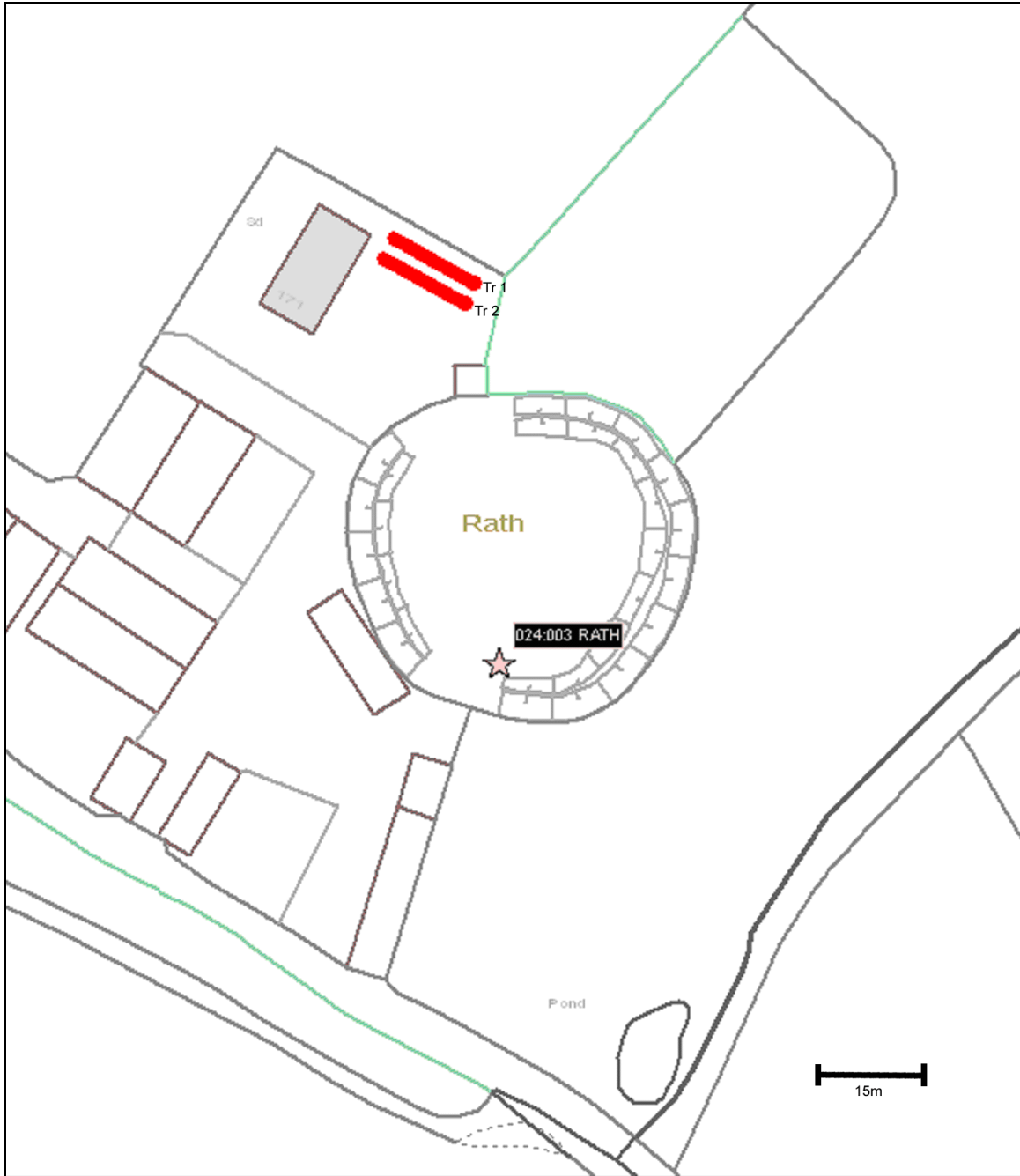


Figure 3: Plan of development site showing location of excavated evaluation trenches.

Brief account of the monitoring.

The house extension site is located at Ballygoskin, Co.Down, (Figures 1-3) in a garden adjacent to a ringfort (DOW 024:037). The evaluation was requested by Edith Gowdy, PHM caseworker, EHS: Built Heritage.

Two 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). The trenches measured 2m by 15m each.

Trench 1: This trench ran north-west to south-east. The topsoil (Context 101) in this trench was a mid brown soft, humus rich, loam, which was up to approximately 40cm deep. The topsoil sat directly above the subsoil (Context 102), a pink-orange clay with some stones. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 2).

Trench 2: This trench ran north-west to south-east and was located parallel to Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a mid brown soft, humus rich, loam (Context 201) which was up to 40cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the subsoil (Context 202), which consisted of a pink-orange clay with some stones. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 3).

Conclusions

After evaluating an area of approximately 60 m² 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.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 6 digital photographs currently held by the CAF

Signed: _____

Date: _____



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



Photo 2: Trench 1 after excavation showing surface of subsoil (102).



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