



Monitoring Report No. 126

**180m east of 63 Greenhill Road
Green Hill Demesne
Ballygawley
Co. Tyrone**

AE/07/106

Ruth Logue

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 180m east of 63 Greenhill Road, Ballygawley

Townland: Green Hill Demesne

SMR No (if applicable): rath – TYR 052:005

State Care Scheduled Other

Grid Ref: IH 6114059041

County: Tyrone

Excavation Licence Number: AE/07/106

Planning Reference Number: M/2006/0661/O

Date of Monitoring: 31st May 2007

Archaeologist Present: Ruth Logue

Brief Summary:

Monitoring of five test trenches excavated to subsoil to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any previously unrecorded below-ground remains. Nothing of archaeological significance found.

Type of monitoring: Trial trench excavation by mechanical back-acting digger under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened: Five trenches: four trenches each 15m long and 1.6m wide, and one trench 20m long and 1.6m wide.

Current Land Use: Rough grazing

Intended Land Use: Erection of private dwelling and access lane

Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site is located in a field in the townland of Green Hill Demesne, near Ballygawley in County Tyrone. The application site includes the western side of a rath – TYR 052:005. There are slight remains of a ditch on the north, upslope side of the rath. To the south the platform is 0.8m high, but it is only 0.2m high to the east and west.

An archaeological evaluation was requested to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of trial trench excavation took place on 31st May 2007. Five test trenches were excavated (Figure 2) in the area requested by the Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Edith Gowdy.

The topsoil was uniform in all five trenches, a mid-brown silty loam. The topsoil lay above the subsoil. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were aligned east to west and were situated to the north-west of the rath, in the house footprint. Trench 4 was aligned north to south, and Trench 5 was aligned north-west to south-east, both along the line of the access route.

Trench 1 was 15m long and 1.6m wide. Topsoil (Context 100) was an average of 0.35m deep along the trench. Topsoil lay above subsoil (Context 101).

Trench 2 was 15m long and 1.6m wide. The topsoil (Context 200) was an average of 0.39m deep in this trench. Topsoil lay above subsoil (Context 201).

Trench 3 was 15m long and 1.6m wide. The topsoil (Context 300) was an average of 0.32m deep. Topsoil lay above subsoil (Context 301).

Trench 4 was 20m long and 1.6m wide. The topsoil (Context 400) was an average of 0.35m deep. Topsoil lay above subsoil (Context 401).

Trench 4 was excavated into the subsoil (to a depth of over a metre) to try to identify any trace of a ditch belonging to the rath, no evidence of a ditch was found.

Trench 5 was 15m long and 1.6m wide. The topsoil (Context 500) was an average of 0.30m deep in this trench. Topsoil lay above subsoil (Context 501).

No features or finds of archaeological significance were found in any of the trial trenches.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 8 digital photos, held in Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork offices

Plans / Drawings: N/A

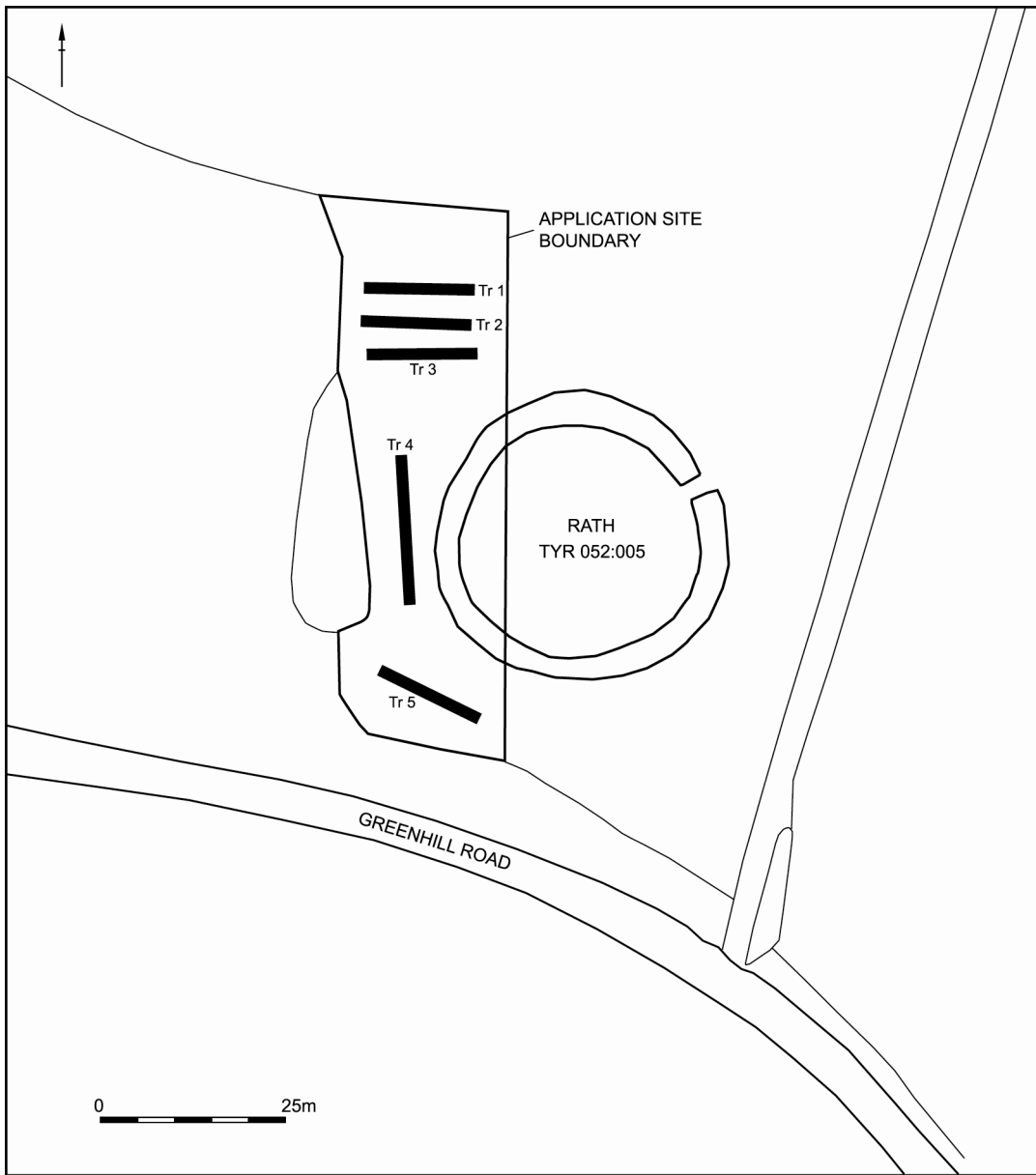


Figure 2: Plan of application site showing location of trenches and rath.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking west.



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking west.



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking north-east,
showing part of rath.



Plate 5: Trench 5, looking north-west.



Plate 6: View of rath, looking east.