



**Monitoring Report No. 231**

**Adjacent to 40 Ballyclare Road**

**Ballycushan townland**

**Templepatrick**

**County Antrim**

**AE/11/104E**

**Grace McAlister**

## Site Specific Information

*Site location:* Adjacent to 40 Ballyclare Road, Templepatrick, Co. Antrim

*Townland:* Ballycushan

*SMR number:* ANT 051:010

*State Care*      *Scheduled*      *Other*

*Grid reference:* J24608670

*County:* Antrim

*Excavation licence number:* AE/11/104E

*Planning reference number:* T/2011/0220/O

*Date of monitoring:* 5th October 2011

*Archaeologists present:* Grace McAlister, Brian Sloan

*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 was found.

*Type of monitoring:*

Excavation by mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth edged "sheugh" bucket under archaeological supervision.

*Size of area opened:* 5 trenches measuring approximately 30m in length by 2m in width.

*Current land use:* Arable agriculture

*Intended land use:* Dwelling on farm

## **Account of monitoring**

The site of the proposed farm dwelling is located in the field adjacent to 40 Ballyclare Road, Ballycushan townland, near Templepatrick in Co. Antrim (Figure 1).

The evaluation was requested due to the proximity of a scheduled barrow (NISMR ANT 051:010) located 35m to the west of the application site. In general, the surrounding area is rich in archaeological remains, generally Bronze Age in date. The archaeological evaluation was carried out to assess the presence and survival of any archaeological remains that would be adversely affected by the development. Monitoring of test trenches took place on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Five test trenches (1-5) each measuring approximately 30m in length and 2m in width were opened in the southern half of the area highlighted by Andrew Gault: NIEA Inspector. (Figure 2).

### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was aligned parallel with the western field boundary and ran approximately north-south (Figure 2). The topsoil (context no. 101) consisted of a light brown sandy clay. The layer contained thermally shattered flint, occasional small angular and sub-rounded stones and infrequent larger ones. Isolated organic patches were observed, these were probably a result of the overturning of sods when ploughing. Three flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil.

Following the removal of the topsoil a feature running roughly east-west was visible in the subsoil. This feature (context no. 103) extended the width of the trench and was 0.27m in width. The fill (context no. 104) was a light greyish brown gravelly clay contained large and medium angular stones. The size of the cut and the nature of the fill suggest that this feature is a modern field drain (Plate 2).

The subsoil in trench 1 (context no. 105) (Plate 1) was a reddish orange firm clay, with frequent inclusions and large angular stones protruding from the surface.

### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 was positioned approximately 8m to the west of trench 1 (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to the natural subsoil at an average depth of 0.28m. The character of the topsoil and the subsoil in this trench was the same as in trench 1. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (context no. 201) directly overlying the natural subsoil (context no. 202) was encountered. A stripe of mid brown clay was observed running roughly north west – south east; it does not appear to be archaeological and was been interpreted as a plough mark (Plate 3).

### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 was positioned approximately 8m to the west of trench 2 (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to the natural subsoil to an average depth of 0.28m. The character of the topsoil and the subsoil in this trench was the same as in trenches 1 and 2. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (context no. 301) directly overlying the natural subsoil (context no.302) was encountered (Plate 4). There was a possible lazy bed observed to the north of the trench measuring 0.56m in width and 0.06m in depth. Two flint flakes were recovered from this trench.

#### *Trench 4*

Trench 4 was positioned to the north and perpendicular to trenches 1, 2 and 3, running approximately east –west (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to the natural subsoil at an average depth of 0.35m. The character of the topsoil and the subsoil in this trench was the same as in the other trenches. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (context no. 401) directly overlying the natural subsoil (context no. 402) was encountered (Plate 5). A small piece of red brick was recovered from this trench.

#### *Trench 5*

Trench 5 was aligned parallel to trench 4 (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to the natural subsoil at an average depth of 0.32m. The character of the topsoil remained the same as in the other trenches; however the subsoil was a lot dirtier (Plate 6). This is probably due to this trench being positioned in a wetter, slightly lower part of the field. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (context no. 501) directly overlying the natural subsoil (context no. 502) was encountered. A single sherd of modern white glazed ceramic was recovered from the topsoil.

#### *Summary*

The five trenches excavated at the application site contained nothing of archaeological significance. It is thought that the proposed development will not have any impact upon previously unrecorded archaeological remains. Therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological work is carried out on the site. Publication of the results of the evaluation is not merited, save an entry into the Annual Excavations Bulletin.

## **Archive**

### *Finds:*

The artefacts found during the evaluation are temporarily housed within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork.

### *Photographs:*

37 digital images taken during the evaluation are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork offices.

### *Plans / Drawings:*

N/A



Figure 1: 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map showing location of site (circled in red).



Figure 2: Plan showing location of trenches 1-5.



Plate 1: Trench 1, post-excitation, looking south.



Plate 2: Field drain (context no. 103) in trench 1, looking west.





Plate 3: Trench 2, post-excavation, looking south.



Plate 4: Trench 3, post-excavation, looking south.



Plate 5: Trench 4, post-excavation, looking east.



Plate 6: Trench 5, post-excavation, looking east.