



Monitoring Report No. 285

**100m NORTH-EAST OF CRANFIELD ROAD
CRANFIELD
KILKEEL
COUNTY DOWN**

LICENCE NO.: AE/12/155

GRACE McALISTER

Site Specific Information

Site location: 100m NE of 62 Cranfield Road

Townland: Cranfield

SMR number: DOW 057:008

State Care Scheduled Other

Grid reference: J27177 10589

County: Down

Excavation licence number: AE/14/155

Planning reference number: P/2011/0681/F

Date of monitoring: 3rd November 2014

Archaeologists present: Grace McAlister

Brief summary:

Archaeological monitoring of the footprint of a development site. Two probable agricultural features were uncovered, 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: 725m²; 29m north-south, 25m east-west

Current land use: Agricultural

Intended land use: Residential

Introduction

The development site is located 5km to the south-west of Kilkeel, just outside the village of Cranfield, Co. Down (Figures 1 and 2). To the south-west of the site, in the adjacent field is a scheduled mound (NISMR DOW 057: 008: Figure 3). Although the monument has never been excavated, animal disturbance has revealed charcoal-rich soil as well as shells, animal bone and souterrain ware. In October 2012, an archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site by Naomi Carver of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (Licence No. AE/12/135E; CAF Monitoring Report No. 249) during which two linear features, approximately 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep of uncertain date and function were uncovered. It is possible that these features may have been cultivation ridges or relict field boundaries associated with an old dwelling house nearby. However, it is also possible that the linear features uncovered during the evaluation were part of a relict medieval field system associated with the adjacent monument. It was recommended by the archaeologist who completed the evaluation that the footprint of the development (Figure 4) be topsoil stripped and the features investigated.

Account of monitoring

The development footprint was excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-edged “sheugh” bucket. The area measured approximately 25m east-west and 29m north-south. The total area excavated was approximately 725m². The site was located approximately 13m above sea level, gently sloping down to the east. Prior to the archaeological monitoring the dwelling (Plate 1) to the north-west of the site was demolished.

Across the excavation area the sod and topsoil layer (100) was removed which consisted of a dark greyish brown loam approximately 0.15m in depth. This was overlying a cultivation soil which was a mid-brownish grey, clayey loam with small stone inclusions (101) which produced various different fragments of glazed ceramic's and earthenware's. This deposit ranged in depth from 0.05m – 0.35m, becoming thicker towards the east of the excavation area. This variation in depth is probably a reflection of cultivation practice in the field, with the area immediately adjacent to the now demolished dwelling being ploughed less. This deposit was removed to reveal the natural subsoil (102) which was a light yellowish brown, sandy clay with areas of firm, orange sand and bedrock outcropping. Cut into the subsoil were two linear features (105 and 107: Figure 5). Cut 105 (Figures 6 and 7; Plates 3 and 4) was aligned east-west and extended from the north-eastern corner of the excavation area for approximately 11.5m metres. It was approximately 0.9m wide with steep sides, sharp breaks of slope and a narrow base. There were two associated fills, the uppermost was a dark brown, sandy silty loam (103), 0.08m in depth which produced a fragment of glazed red earthenware. This was overlying a soft,

light grey, silty sand (104), 0.28m in depth, with medium sized stone inclusions. The second linear feature, cut 107 (Figures 8 and 9; Plates 5 and 6) was 6.8m to the south of and parallel to cut 105. It was approximately 5.7m in length, 0.65m wide, and 0.32m deep with an uneven base. The southern side of the cut had a sharp break of slope, while the northern side was more gentle. The cut was filled with a firm yellowish brown, sandy clayey loam (106) with charcoal flecking and small stone inclusions. The fill contained fragments of glazed white ceramic.

Cut 105 most likely represents an old field drain and cut 107 is probably an old field boundary. The post-medieval pottery found in association with both features indicate that these features are probably associated with old dwelling house which the new development is replacing. No other archaeological features were noted during the course of the monitoring.

Summary

The two linear features noted during the original evaluation were uncovered and investigated. The excavation showed that they are most likely associated with the old dwelling that has now been demolished and represent agricultural improvement in the area. The fragments of pottery found were 19th and 20th century in date, no earlier artefactual evidence associated with the medieval activity in the vicinity was uncovered. The monitoring of the development footprint completed the archaeological mitigation on the site. A short summary will be prepared for inclusion in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

Archive

Finds:

Finds uncovered during the archaeological monitoring have been housed temporarily within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Photographs:

39 digital images taken during the monitoring are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings:

The drawings compiled during the monitoring work are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Figures and Plates



Figure 1: Map showing the location of the site (highlighted in yellow)



Figure 2: Detailed map showing the location of the site (highlighted in yellow) with the mound (NISMR DOW 057:008) to the south-west



Figure 3: Site plan showing location of the development site (highlighted in yellow) with nearby sites of archaeological interest.

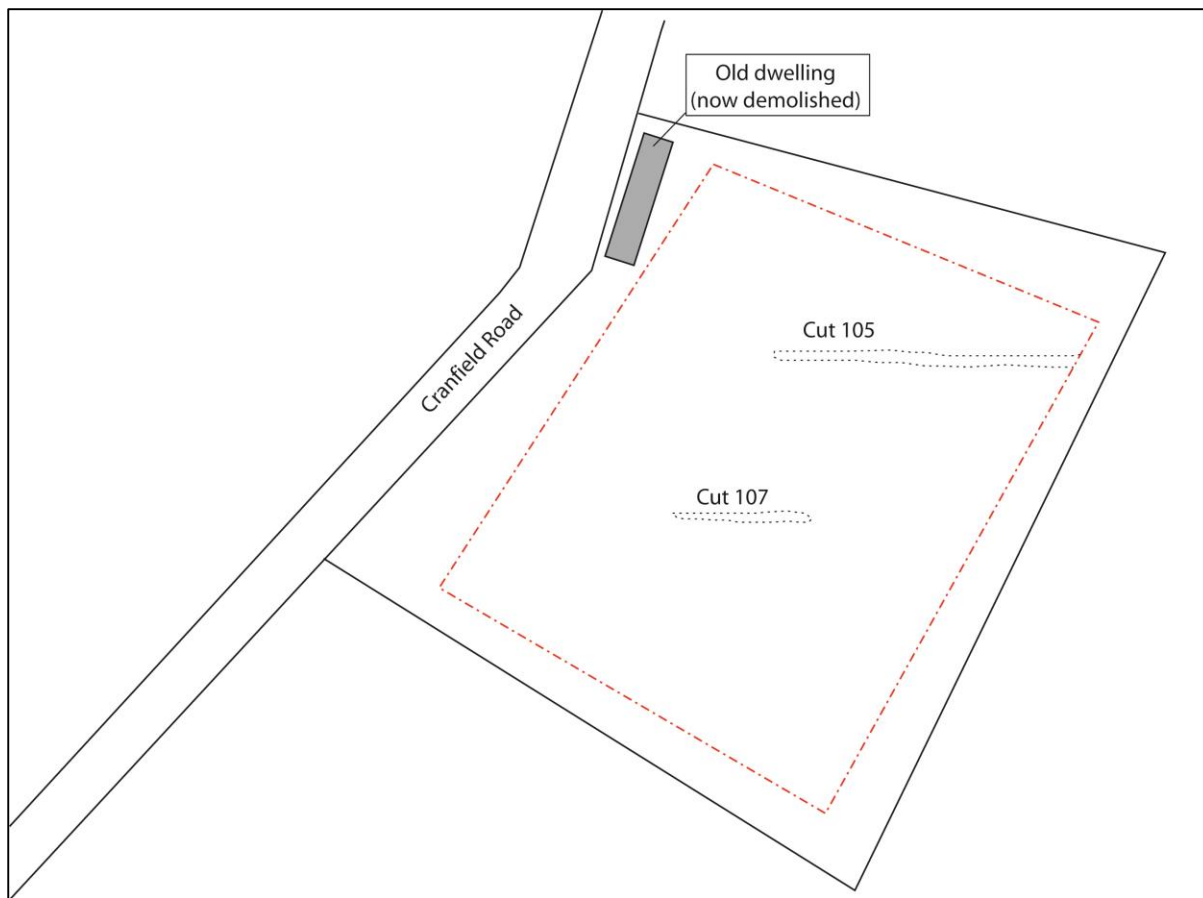


Figure 5: Plan showing excavation area (in red) and the linear features (cut 105 and cut 107)

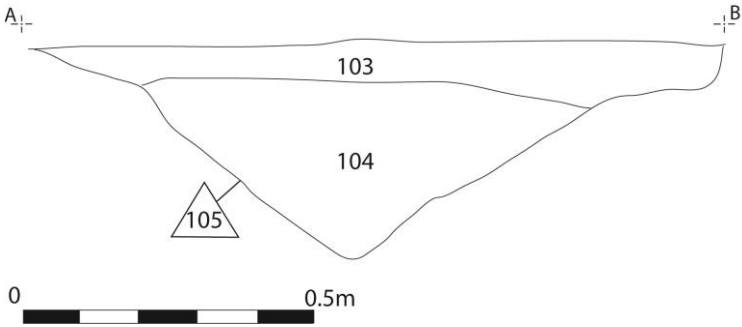


Figure 6: East facing section through cut 105

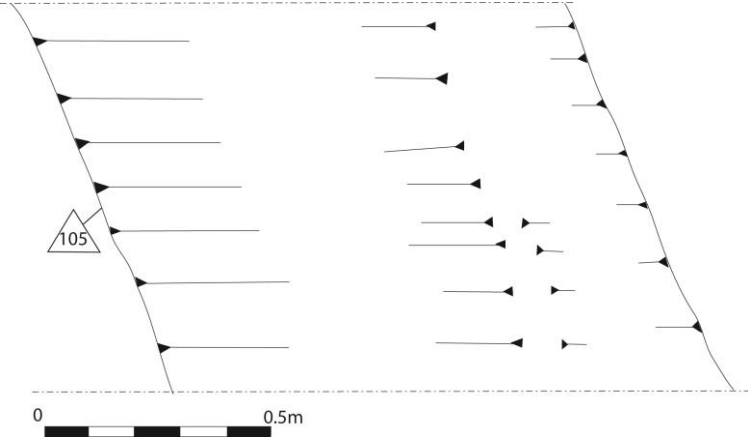


Figure 7: Plan of section cut through 105

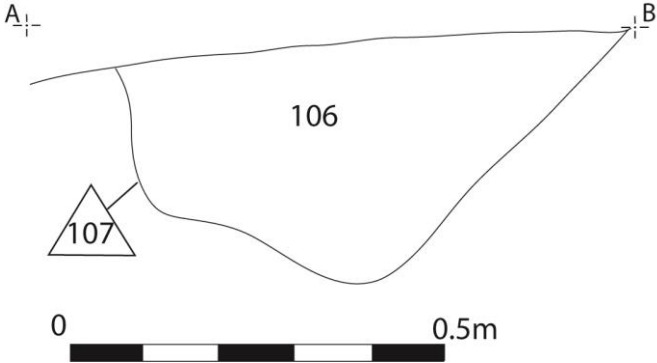


Figure 8: East facing section through cut 107

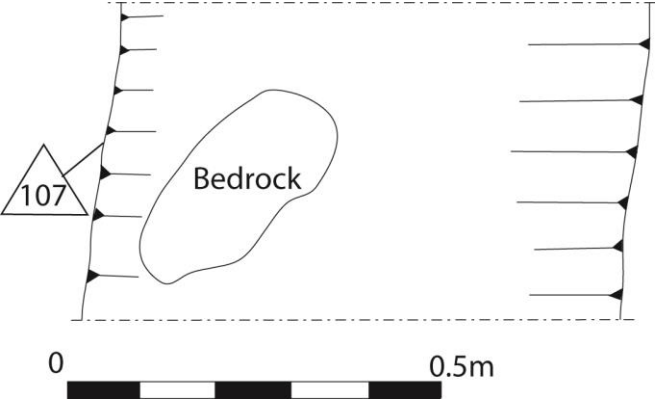


Figure 9: Plan of section cut through 107



Plate 1: Photo showing the old dwelling which was demolished prior to the archaeological monitoring (taken during the 2012 evaluation)



Plate 2: Overview of development footprint/excavation area after the archaeological monitoring, looking north-west



Plate 3: Linear cut 105, prior to excavation looking east.



Plate 4: Post-excavation shot of section through cut 105.



Plate 5: Linear cut 107 looking west.



Plate 6: East facing section of cut 107.