



## Monitoring Report No. 61

Duncrun  
Co. Derry

AE/06/88

Cormac McSparron

## Site Specific Information

<i>Site Name:</i>	Duncrun Housing Development
<i>Townland:</i>	Duncrun
<i>SMR No.:</i>	LDY 005:016
<i>Grid Ref.:</i>	C685783248
<i>County:</i>	Derry
<i>Excavation License No:</i>	AE/06/88
<i>Planning Ref. / No.:</i>	B/2005/0332/O
<i>Dates of Monitoring:</i>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2006
<i>Archaeologist Present:</i>	Cormac McSparron, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB.
<i>Brief Summary:</i>	Evaluation of development site carried out by excavation of seven test trenches. No archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered.
<i>Type of monitoring:</i>	Excavation by mechanical digger under supervision of an archaeologist.
<i>Size of area opened:</i>	The area opened at Duncrun covered as much of the development site as could be practically excavated. A strip was left around the perimeter of the excavated area of approximately 4m to avoid disturbance to the root systems of hedges and trees. In addition baulks were left for the placement of excavated spoil. An area in the centre of the site was left unexcavated because of the presence of a drain. This area was also utilised for placing spoil. An area of approximately 420 m <sup>2</sup> was excavated.
<i>Current Land Use:</i>	The land is currently used for grazing.
<i>Intended Land Use:</i>	Private house.



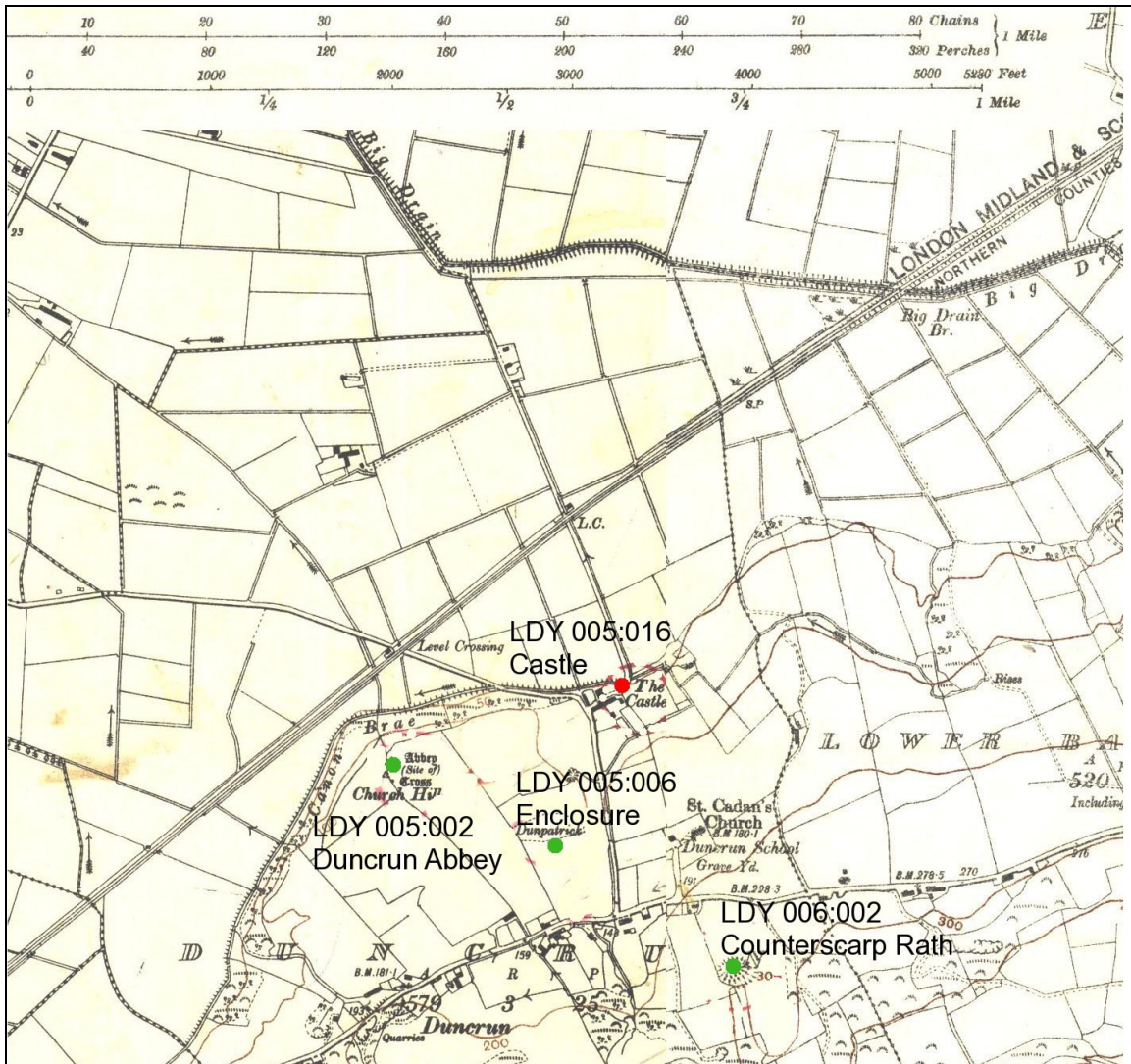


Figure 2: Map showing location of development site (red dot), in relation to other monuments in the surrounding area

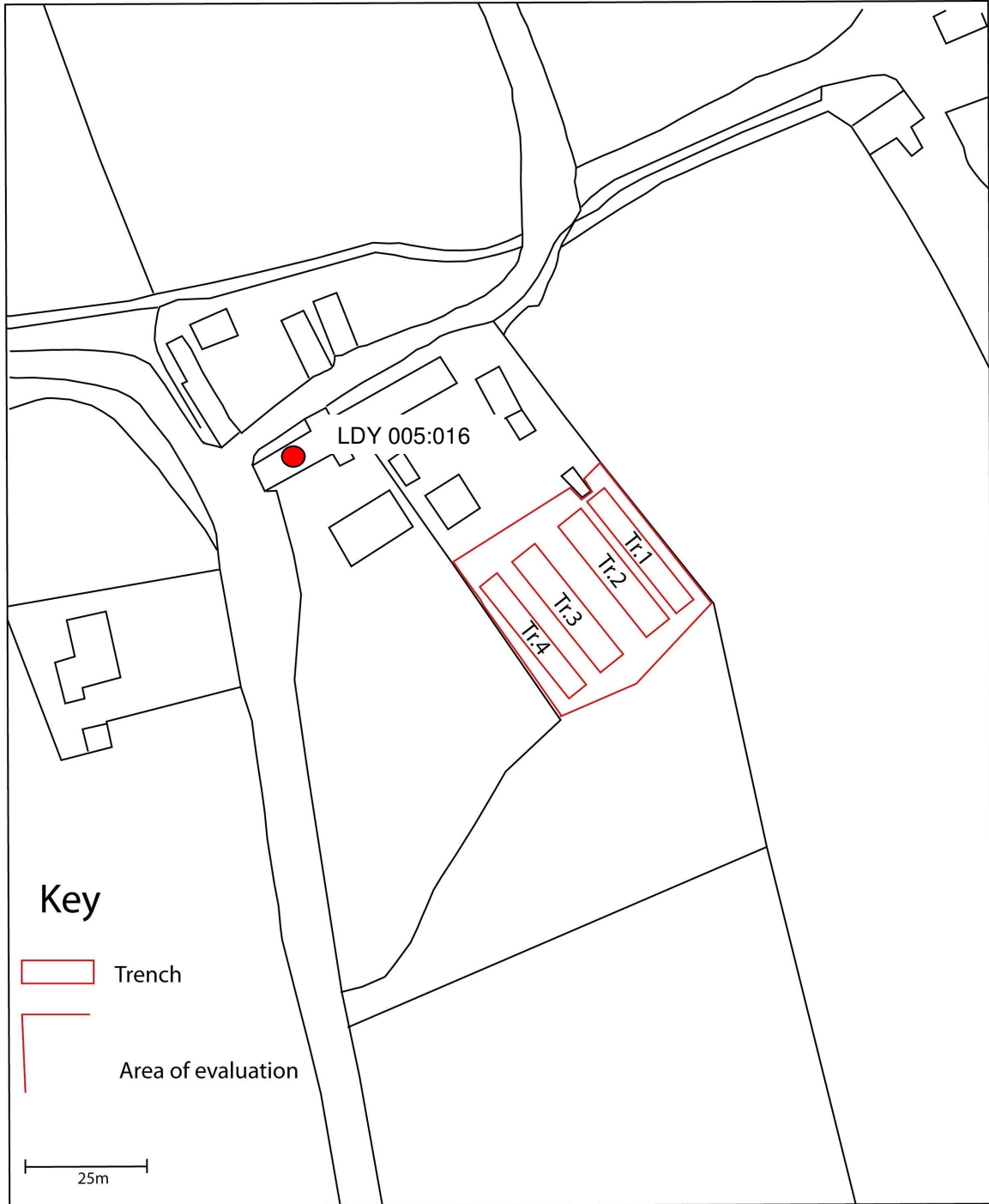


Figure 3: Plan of development site showing location of excavated evaluation trenches and recorded location of an O'Cahan Towerhouse SMR LDY 005:016

## **Brief account of the monitoring.**

This proposed housing site is located in Duncrun, Co. Derry close to the recorded site of an O’Cahan Towerhouse (LDY 005:016) (Figures 1 & 2). The evaluation was requested by Paul Logue, PHM caseworker, EHS: Built Heritage.

A total of four 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). Trench 1 measured 3m by 28m, Trench 2 measured 5m by 28m, Trench 3 measured 5m by 28m and Trench 4 measured 2.5m by 28m. The areas in between the trenches were used for the placement of excavated topsoil. There was an area in the centre of the site which was left unexcavated because of the presence of a drain.

**Trench 1:** This trench was 3m wide by 28m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located 4m from the northeastern boundary and 5m from the southeastern boundary of the field. The topsoil was a reddish brown loam (Context 101), which was up to 50cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly on the subsoil (Context 102). The subsoil consisted of reddish orange sandy clay. No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 2).

**Trench 2:** This trench was 5m wide by 28m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located parallel to, and 2m southwest of, Trench 1. The topsoil in this trench was a reddish brown loam (Context 201), which was up to 50cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the reddish orange, sandy clay subsoil (Context 202). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 3).

**Trench 3:** This trench was 5m wide by 28m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located parallel to, and 7m southwest of, Trench 2. There was a large gap between Trenches 2 and 3 to protect a covered drain and to facilitate the placement of spoil. The topsoil in this trench was a reddish brown stoney loam (Context 301), which was up to 30cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over the reddish orange, sandy clay subsoil (Context 302). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 4).

**Trench 4:** This trench was 2m wide by 28m long. It ran northwest-southeast and was located parallel to, and 2m southwest of, Trench 3. The topsoil in this trench was a reddish brown stoney loam (Context 401), which was up to 30cm in depth. The topsoil sat directly over a greenish grey clay subsoil (Context 402). No archaeological artifacts or features were found during the excavation of this trench (Photo 5).

## **Conclusions**

After evaluating an area of approximately 420 m<sup>2</sup>, 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: Eight 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 1 showing utilization of toothless “sheugh” bucket.*



*Photo 2: Trench 1 looking northwest after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 102).*





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



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



*Photo 5: Trench 4 looking northwest after excavation showing surface of subsoil (Context 402).*