



Monitoring Report No. 16

**ST BRIGID'S GAC (CLOUGH MILLS)
MOUNT HAMILTON
COUNTY ANTRIM**

AE/04/147

PETER MOORE

Site Specific Information

Site Name: St Brigid's GAC – Clough Mills

Townland: Mount Hamilton

SMR No (if applicable): N/A

~~State Care~~ ~~Scheduled~~ Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref: D 0699 1941

County: Antrim

Excavation License No (if applicable): AE/04/147

Planning Ref / No. (if applicable): SM11 / 1 / ANT 23:24

Dates of Monitoring: 7th Sept 2004 (Fieldwalking) and 14th – 22nd Sept 2004 (Monitoring)

Archaeologist(s) Present: Peter Moore and Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

(e.g. monitoring carried out in advance of erection of sign, nothing of archaeological interest noted)

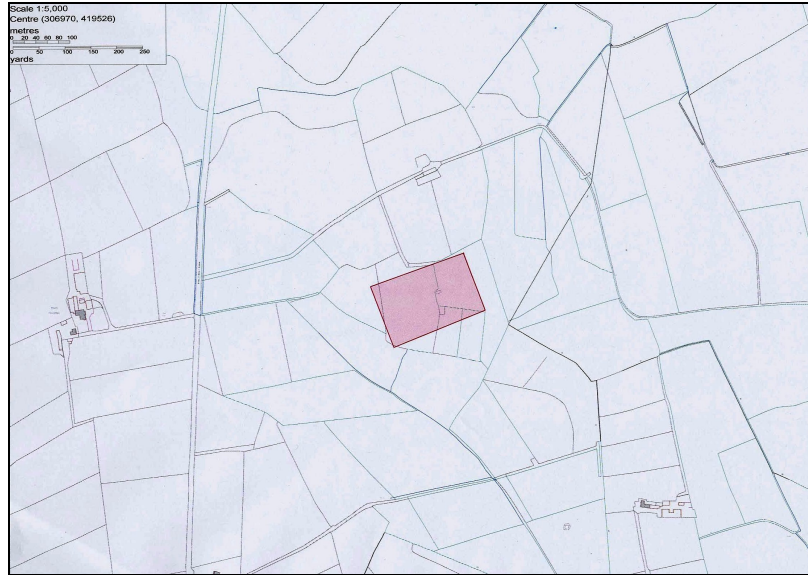
Monitoring was carried out in advance of the construction of a new GAA playing pitch. The topsoil layer was ploughed to identify potential find 'hot-spots' before the topsoil stripping commenced. Although finds were recovered after ploughing (modern ceramics, glass, burnt flint) no artifact concentrations were present. A total of four small features were recorded as a result of topsoil stripping. However, no finds were associated with their excavation and they were not connected with any other archaeological remains.

Type of monitoring: Ploughing of topsoil followed by bulldozer topsoil removal.
(e.g., mechanical digger / hand)

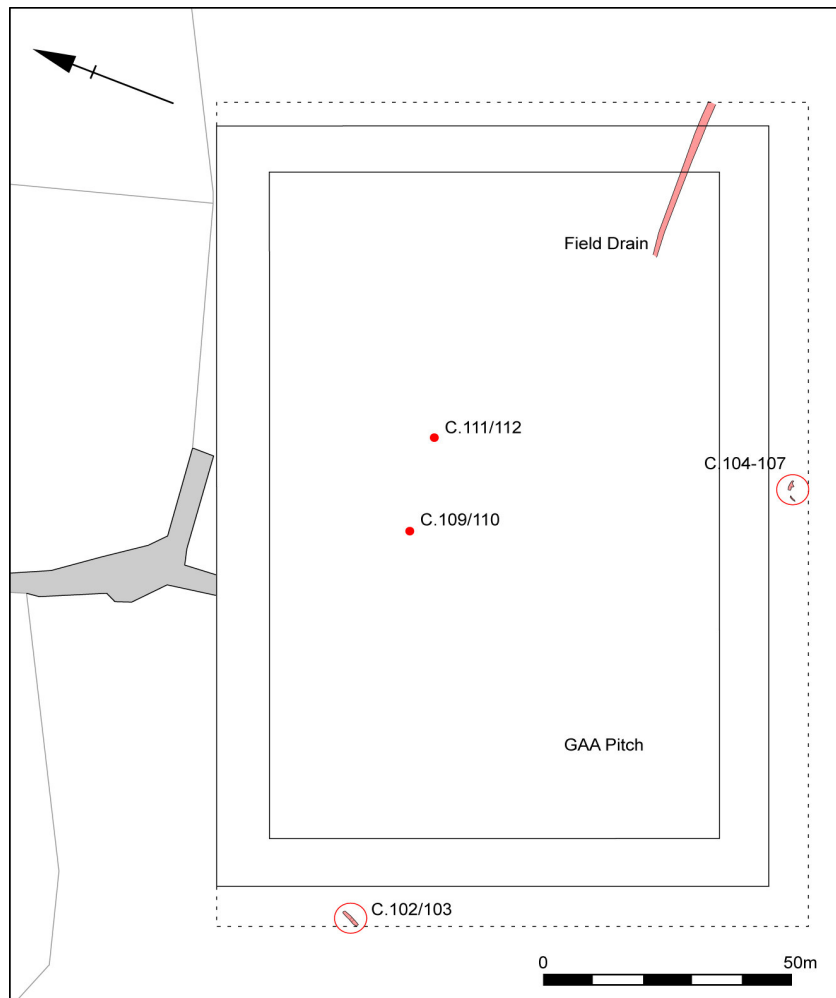
Size of area opened: 15 000m²

Current Land Use: Grazing farmland.
(e.g., farming / industrial)

Intended Land Use: The area is to be converted into a GAA playing field.
(e.g., residential, graveyard)



Plan of site issued by PHM showing extent of area to be monitored.



Ground plan showing the position of recorded features

Key

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Fence |  Extent of surface stripping |
|  Feature |  Roadway |

Monitoring Account:

A selection of artifacts was recovered after ploughing and fieldwalking. A large corpus of burnt flint was collected, although there did not appear to be any obvious tools. Fragments of modern ceramics and glass were also recovered, probably present as a result of middening during the early modern period. A decorated clay pipe bowl was also recovered during this part of the programme of work.

A total of four features were uncovered as a result of topsoil removal. A linear gully (C. 102 and C.103: see ground plan) was recorded towards the north-west extremity of the site. This was excavated to a depth of 0.23m. However, this feature was not found in conjunction with any other archaeological remains and it is possible that it represents the remains of a burnt hedgerow.

Two curving features (C. 105 and C. 107: Plate Three) were recorded towards the south end of the site. However, their fill constituted residual topsoil and it is possible that they represent an old field boundary. Old goal posts were situated towards this end of the site, and it is also possible that these features represent their position.

A dark circular feature was recorded towards the top of the slope (C. 109 and C. 110: Plate Four). This was excavated to a depth of 0.09m. Reddened burnt clay was recorded at the base of the feature. However, no artifacts or other archaeological remains were found in conjunction with it. It is likely that this was an area of burning, probably representing a fire.

A small circular pit (C. 112) was recorded towards the top of the slope (north end of the site). This feature was excavated to a depth of 0.23m. Several small stones were situated at the base of the pit, although no finds were recovered from its excavation and there were no other archaeological remains associated with this feature.

An extensive system of ridge and furrow agricultural features were recorded running approximately north-east to south-west across the site (Plate Five). These measured c. 0.4 – 0.45m in width.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that no further action is required at the site. Any potential archaeological remains have been identified and recorded.

Archive:

(List any records from the monitoring e.g. finds, photos and plans and state where they are currently available for inspection.)

Finds: A corpus of burnt flint fragments, together with modern glass, ceramics and a decorated clay pipe bowl were recovered during the course of the monitoring programme.

Photographs: See attached photographs of individual features.

Plans / Drawings: See attached ground plan.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Plate One: C. 102 and C. 103 looking east.



Plate Two: Section taken through C. 102 and C. 103 looking south.



Plate Three: C. 104 / 105 / 106 / 107.



Plate Four: Circular hearth (C. 109 and C. 110).



Plate Five: Ridge and furrow agricultural features.

Harris Matrix

