



Monitoring Report No. 34

**Greencastle
Kilkeel
Co. Down**

AE/05/157

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Site to rear and north of 113 & 115 Greencastle Pier Road

Townland: Greencastle

SMR No: DOW057:001 (Greencastle Motte)

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: J 2423 1181

County: Down

Excavation License No: AE/05/157

Planning Ref / No.: P/2005/0851/O

Date of Monitoring: 6th December 2005

Archaeologist Present: Kara Ward

Brief Summary:

Three test trenches were excavated on an east-west axis across the site to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. No features or finds of archaeological significance were found.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of three test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision

Size of area opened: Three trenches, measuring a total of 70m by 2m

Current Land Use: Overgrown pasture

Intended Land Use: Residential

Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site is located to the rear and north of 113 and 115 Greencastle Pier Road (Fig. 1, Plate 1). It is surrounded on the north, east and west by a wall and on the south by an overgrown hedge. Greencastle Motte (DOW 057:001) is within 100 metres to the north-east of the site and a number of Medieval burials (DOW 057:017) were found within 100 metres to the south-west. The burials were disturbed during trench excavations for the laying of cables.

An archaeological evaluation was requested to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains.

Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 6th December 2005. Three test trenches were excavated (Fig. 2), in the area requested by the PHM Casework Officer, Stiofán O’Cathmhaoil, on the site plan. Due to the demolition of a dividing wall, however, the trenches could not be excavated as requested. A large mound of rubble prevented the two southernmost trenches from being excavated as continuous stretches.

The topsoil (C101) was a uniform black sand with shingle inclusions across the site. The underlying subsoil (C102) was a yellow sand with moderate shingle inclusions. In Trench 1 the topsoil ranged between 0.40m and 0.63m deep (Plates 2 and 3). In Trench 2 the topsoil had a depth of between 0.40m and 0.50m (Plates 4 and 5) and in Trench 3 the depth of topsoil was approximately 0.50m (Plate 6). Local tradition states that seaweed had been added to the soil to improve its fertility in the past and this is likely to account for the depth of topsoil. In all three trenches an old field boundary or drainage feature (C103) was present running north-west to south-east (Plate 4). It measured 1.1m wide and approximately 0.15m deep. It was filled with black sand and shingle (C104), similar to the topsoil material. No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 6 prints held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Fig. 2: Test Trenches to rear of 113 & 115 Greencastle Pier Road, Greencastle, Co. Down. The map also depicts the location of the motte (DOW 057:001) and burials (DOW 057:017).



Plate 1: General view of site from top of motte (DOW 057:001)



Plate 2: Trench 1 from west



Plate 3 Trench 1 section



Plate 4: Trench 2 from east
with linear feature C103 in the foreground.



Plate 5: Trench 2 section



Plate 6: Trench 3 from east