



ULSTER
ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Survey Report

Reference: **Survey Report No. 63**

Author: **David Craig and Harry Welsh**

Location:

**Stone Circles, Burial Cairns,
Standing Stone and Stone
Rows
Broughderg
County Tyrone**

In association with:

**Heart of Ancient Ulster
Landscape Partnership**



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Ulster Archaeological Society
c/o School of Natural and Built Environment
The Queen's University of Belfast
Belfast BT7 1NN

Cover illustration: *Standing Stone*, with quartz banding

CONTENTS

List of figures	4
1. Summary	5
2. Introduction	7
3. 2017 UAS Survey	14
4. Discussion	21
5. Conclusions and Recommendations for further work	25
6. Bibliography	26
Appendix	
Photographic record	27

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures	Page
01. Location map for Broughderg	5
02. Aerial view of survey site	5
03. View of north circle and <i>Standing Stone</i> , looking south	6
04. Surveying the north stone circle (North)	6
05. Plan of site in SMR File TYR 020:021	8
06. 1996 map indicating location of unrecorded cairns	10
07. OS County Series, First Edition, Tyrone, Sheet 20 (part of) 1834	11
08. OS County Series, Second Edition, Tyrone, Sheet 20 (part of) 1857	12
09. OS County Series, Third Edition, Tyrone, Sheet 20 (part of) 1906	12
10. OS County Series, Fourth Edition, Tyrone, Sheet 20 (part of) 1955	13
11. Survey Group members at work at Broughderg	14
12. Plan of site	15
13. Aerial view of stone circles	16
14. Plan of site from drone survey	16
15. Plan of stone circles and adjacent stone row, from drone survey	17
16. North stone circle and <i>Standing Stone</i> , looking south-east	17
17. Quartz seams in <i>Standing Stone</i> , looking north	18
18. Stone row A, looking north-east	18
19. Stone row B, looking north	19
20. Pre-bog tree root	19
21. Table of dimensions of stones surveyed	20
22. Table of Broughderg prehistoric monuments recorded in SMR	21
23. Beaghmore (TYR 020:004), with stone circles B and A	23
24. UAS inventory of monuments in survey field	23
25. UAS inventory of monuments in the <i>Cairn Field</i>	24
26. View of typical burial cairn in the <i>Cairn Field</i>	24
27. Monuments recorded in SMR, adjacent to survey area	23

1. Summary

1.1 Location

Site surveys were undertaken at the townland of Broughderg, County Tyrone on Saturday 25 March 2017 and Saturday 26 August 2017. The principal site was recorded in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (HED) as TYR 020:021. It was located at Irish Grid reference H 6532 8440, in the parish of Lissan and Barony of Dungannon Upper. It consisted of a complex of prehistoric monuments including two stone circles, two stone rows, three burial cairns and a standing stone, with indications of other monuments partially buried in bog land nearby. The surveys were part of a series of planned surveys undertaken by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS) during 2017.

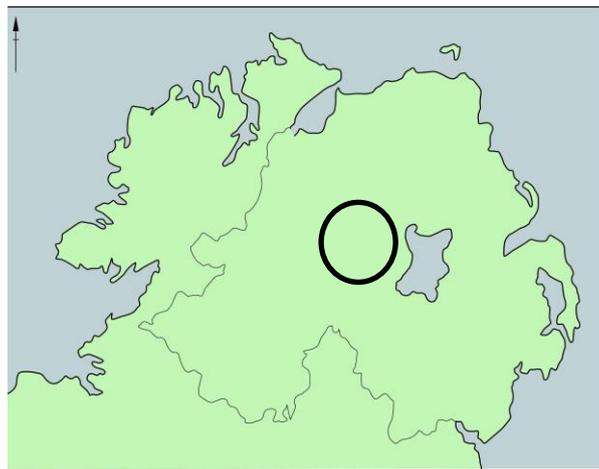


Figure 01: Location map for Broughderg



Figure 02: Aerial view of survey site



Figure 03: View of north circle and *Standing Stone*, looking south

1.2 Aims

In order to enhance the archaeological record of this site, the aims of this survey were to produce accurate plan drawings of the monument and carry out a photographic survey. This information was compiled into a report and copies submitted to the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership and to the archives of the UAS.



Figure 04: Surveying the north stone circle

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The survey of a prehistoric site, containing what initially appeared to consist of two stone circles and a standing stone was undertaken on Saturday 25 March 2017. It was carried out by members of the UAS, in response to a decision taken by the committee of the society to extend an opportunity to members to participate in practical surveys of archaeological monuments that had not previously been recorded. This followed a bequest to the society from the late Dr Ann Hamlin, from which the items of survey equipment were purchased. It was therefore agreed that members of the society would commence a programme to survey these sites and this site, known locally as *Broughderg Stone Circles*, was subsequently chosen to be the sixty-third of these, following an invitation from the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership. A second site visit was made on Saturday 26 August 2017, following some initial research into the site, which indicated that in addition to the visible features at the site, further monuments had been noted during previous site visits by inspectors from HED (see below). The second UAS survey aimed to identify any evidence of these monuments and add these to the site inventory.

2.2 Previous archaeological surveys

(A) The UAS survey site (SMR 020:021) was first identified by Terence Reeves-Smith of HED in 1982 and recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record. It was thought to consist of a standing stone and two stone circles, referred to as the North Circle and South Circle. Also noted were:

a couple of low outliers to E. may be part of alignment but field clearance cairns in field to S...[and]...½ way between road and site
 Low cairn of stone 2.80m N/S 3m E/W .30m high...[and]...Poss.
 Portion of pre-bog fieldwall in field near gate.
 (HED SM7 File TYR 020:012)

The SM7 file also contains a sketch plan of the site (Figure 04) and shows the location of not one, but two burial cairns, referred to as B and C. These cairns are described in the SM7 File thus:

[Cairn B] Recorded at grid reference H 6534 8438, 'situated close to the ridge of a glacial knoll this feature takes the form of a kidney-shaped cairn which stands 0.5m high and measures 5.0 m E/W and 4.0 m transversly [sic]. The site protrudes out from under an overburden of 0.7 m of peat. There is a slight suggestion that the feature is ringed with a kerb of stones and in-filled with relatively stone-free soil. The site is situated some 30 m SE of Tyr 20:21 [stone circles and standing stone].

[Cairn C] Recorded at grid reference H 6530 8438, 'situated some 20m to the SW of Tyr 20:21 [stone circles and standing stone] the site consists of a low grass and reed-covered circular mound standing 0.2 m high and approximately 3m in diameter.

Earthfast stones protrude through the surface. Possibly a pre-bog clearance cairn but the earth-fast stones may indicate a burial marker. A second, less well-defined example [Cairn B] may be seen some 10 m to the NW'.

The SM7 File also records that by 2005, these two cairns had been removed 'some years ago during land improvements' and there were no visible remains in this field of improved grassland.

(B) A burial cairn (SMR 020:039) was recorded at grid reference H 6538 8436 in 1994 [approximately 60m to the south-west of the stone circles and standing stone]. It was reported as being visible in the west-facing turf bank where a few stones protruded. Probing indicated that the cairn was 3m east/west by 2m north/south, reaching a maximum height of 0.7m. A site inspection in 2005 failed to locate the cairn and the landowner suggested that it had been covered up during drainage works.

(C) A burial cairn (SMR TYR 020:012) was identified by Oliver Davies 100m to the south of the UAS survey site during survey work for the *Preliminary Survey of Ancient Monuments of Northern Ireland* in 1940. It was recorded as :

Close to spot-height 616, 2/3 m N.W. of Evishessan Bridge. Tyr. Sh. 20, 7 7/8 ins. E., 20 1/8 ins. S., Plan 13, Tr. 3 (not marked in 1908 Edn. of OS Map). Alt. 600. Cairn about 1 ft. high and 10 ft. across, probably a small burial mound, but exhibiting no structure.
(Chart 1940, 227)

No mention was made of the stone circles, standing stone or burial cairns, suggesting that turf cutting had not yet taken place there.

(D) The area was investigated by Claire Foley of HED in 1996, who noted 'numerous cairns in this field in Nov 1996. No description available. See map for location' (SM7 file TYR 020:012). This map is reproduced below (Figure 05). A further site inspection in 2005 failed to locate any cairns and it was suggested that TYR 020:012 'may now be destroyed' (SM7 File TYR 020:012).

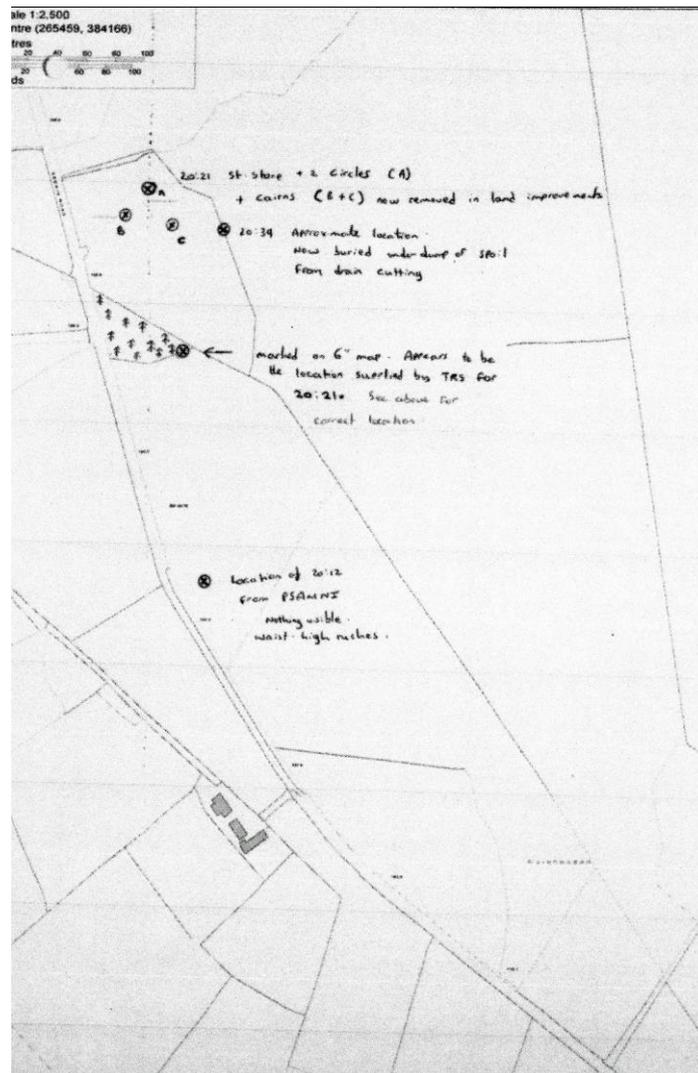


Figure 05: Plan of site in SMR file TYR 020:021

(D) A further monument, identified as a stone circle by Rhonda Robinson of HED in 2000 and recorded as TYR 020:056, is located in the adjacent bog:

This is a low stone circle, set in a shallow bog. Seven stones are visible - these are max. 0.35m high x 0.5m wide and the circle is 5.5m in diam. At least 1 stone is missing at NW and there may be the remains of a low cairn at NE. About 14m to N is a large natural rock with a stoney [sic] rise behind it to S, 2m long, possibly a pre-bog clearance cairn (SM7 File).

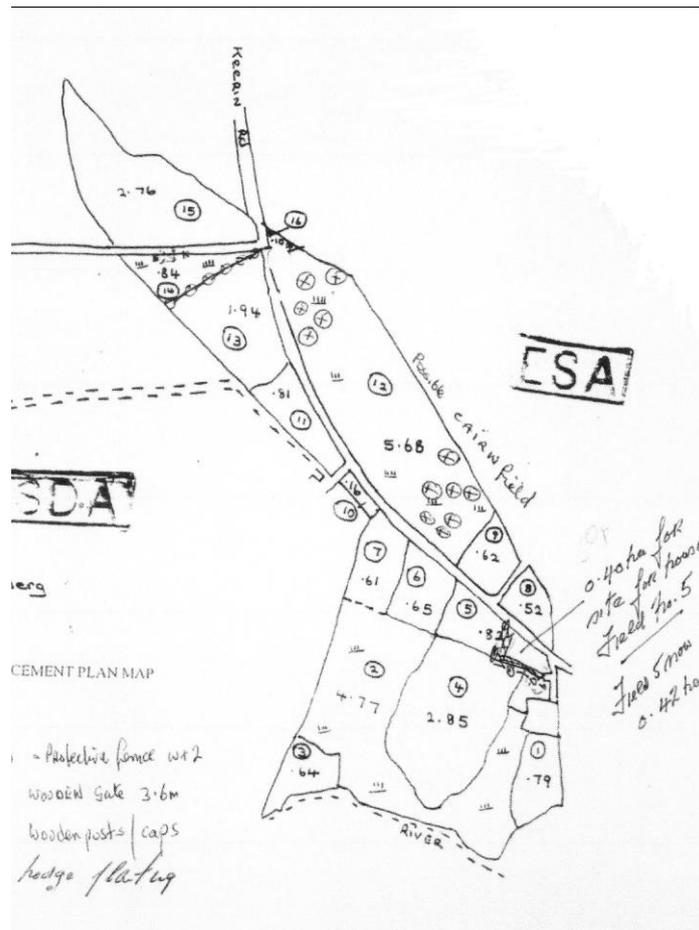


Figure 06: 1996 map indicating location of unrecorded cairns to the south of the survey site (after SM7 File TYR 020:012)

2.3 Cartographic Evidence

None of the prehistoric monuments investigated during the survey are recorded on any of the early editions of the Ordnance Survey (OS) County Series maps, although they do illustrate the development of modern field systems in the area between the earliest map in 1834 and the fourth edition map, just over one hundred years later in 1957.

On the First Edition map of 1834 (Figure 06), the area around the survey site is recorded as bog land, without any features such as trackways, field boundaries or monuments noted.

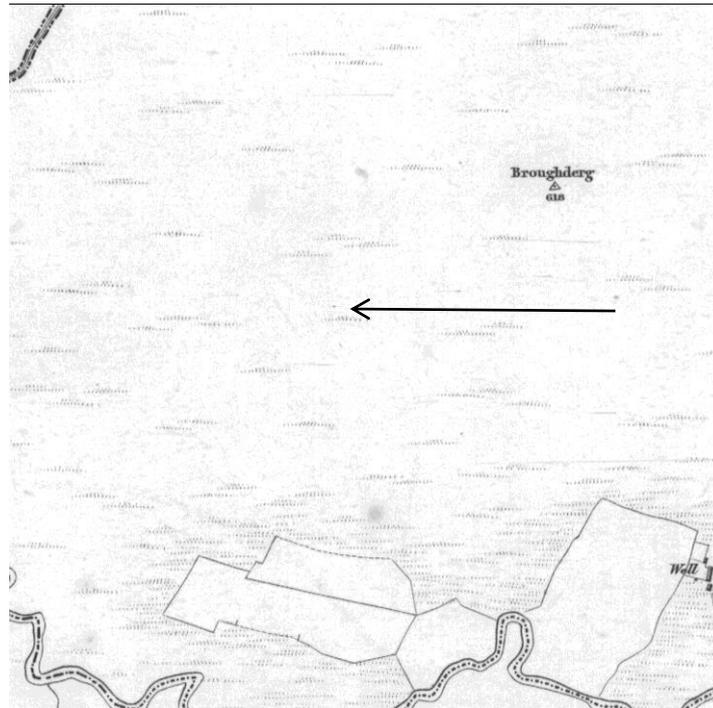


Figure 07: OS County Series, First Edition, Tyrone, Sheet 20 (part of) 1834
Ordnance Survey

By the time of the Second Edition in 1857 (Figure 07), significant development had taken place, such as the construction of several roads, such as one connecting *Evishessan Bridge* over the Broughderg River, with *Connacarta*, now known as the Keerin Road, which also passes the UAS survey site. Several field boundaries are shown to the south, but none in the area of the survey site. By the 1906 OS map, little development had taken place in the area of the survey site, with the exception of a new road, connecting the Keerin Road with the area known as *Ballintleva* to the west, in the townland of Cruck. The provision of these roads greatly increased accessibility into the vast area of bogland (and corresponding turf exploitation) of Broughderg and probably stimulated the period of turf cutting and land reclamation that exposed several of the monuments in the survey area during the 1950s.

None of the monuments within the UAS survey area were marked on any edition of the OS maps.

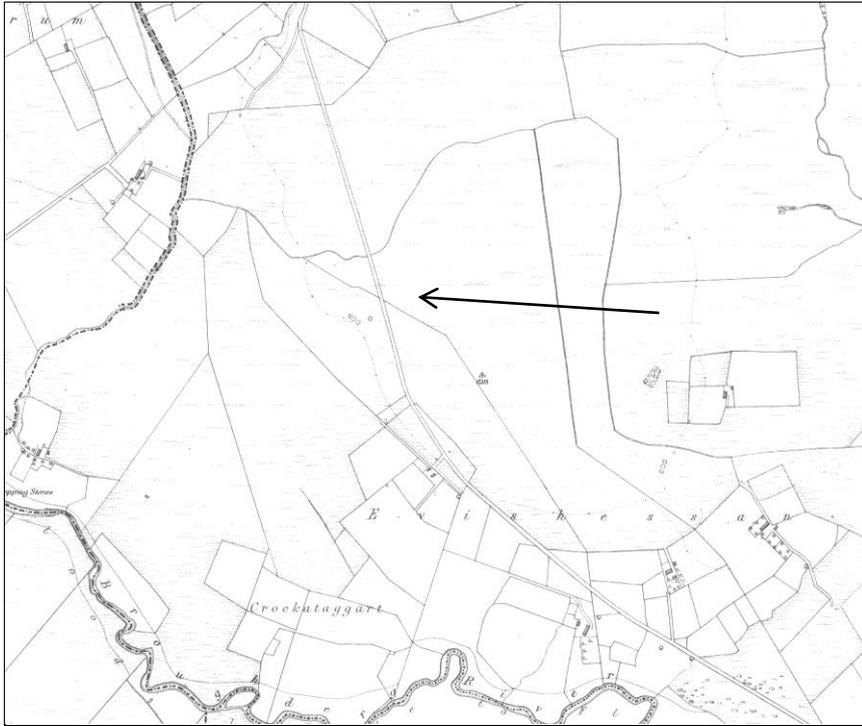


Figure 08: OS County Series, Tyrone, Second Edition, Sheet 20 (part of) 1857
Ordnance Survey

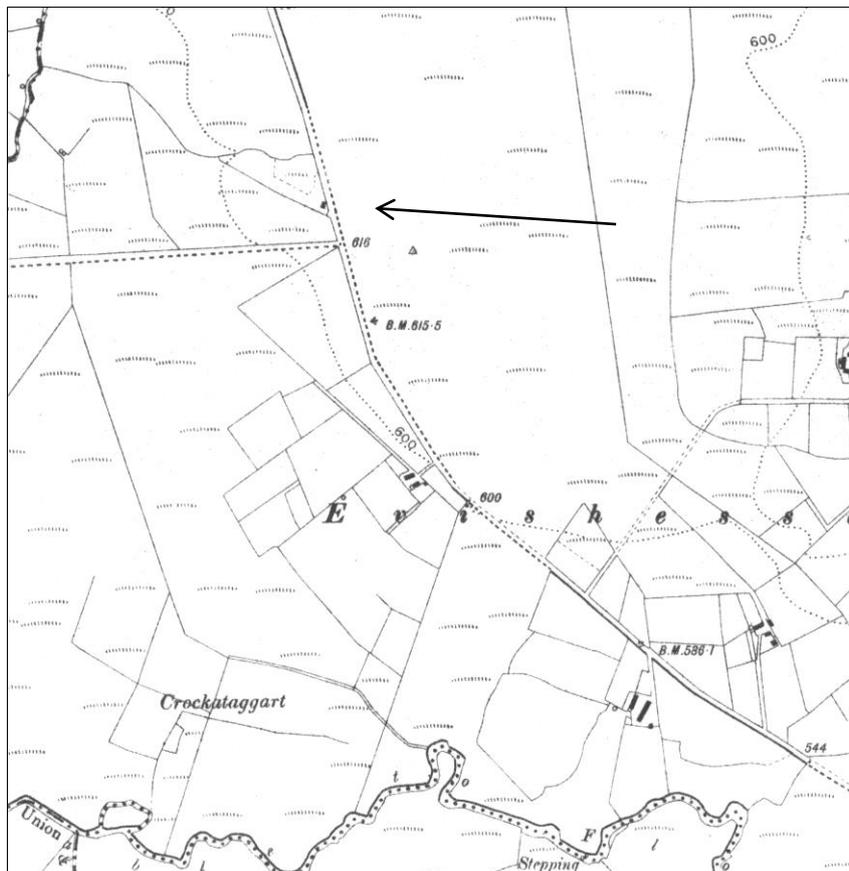


Figure 09: OS County Series, Tyrone, Third Edition, Sheet 20 (part of) 1906
Ordnance Survey

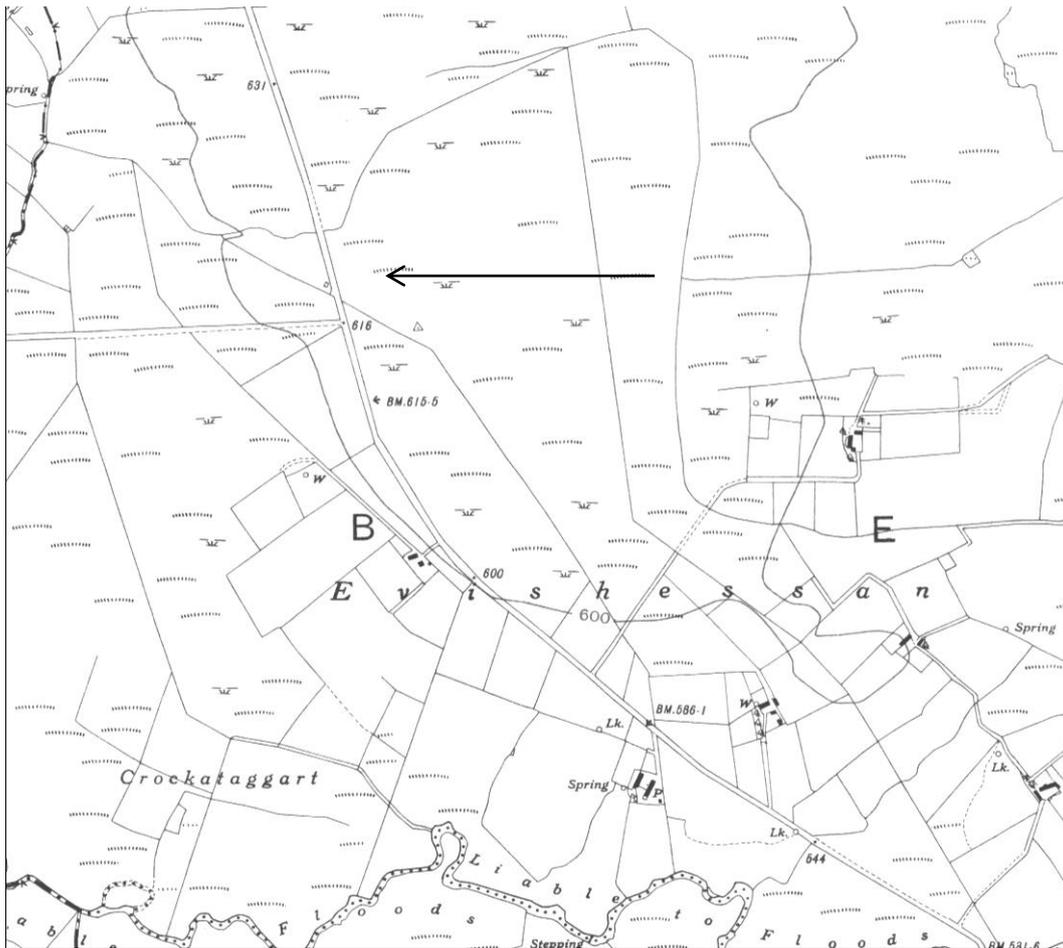


Figure 10: OS County Series, Fourth Edition, Tyrone, Sheet 20 (part of) 1955
Ordnance Survey

2.4 Archiving

Copies of this report have been deposited with the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership and the Ulster Archaeological Society. All site records have been archived by the Ulster Archaeological Society.

2.5 Credits and Acknowledgements

The surveys were led by Harry Welsh and included Michael Catney, David Craig, June Welsh, Lee Gordon, Ian Gillespie, Sarah McCalmont, Liz McShane, Colin Boyd, Hilary Boyd, Janna McDonald, Pat O'Neill, George Rutherford, Randal Scott, Kate Crane, Ian Forsythe, Olive Campbell, Paula Sandford, Chris Stevenson and Ana Copeland. The Ulster Archaeological Society is particularly grateful to Sean Clarke who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site and facilitating access. The Survey Group is particularly grateful to the members of the local community who provided refreshments for the group on the days of the surveys and made us particularly welcome. We would also like to express our thanks to Mr Christopher

Slane, landowner of the *Cairn Field*, who facilitated access and accompanied the members of the survey group in their investigations at this site.



Figure 11: Survey Group members at work at Broughderg

3. 2017 UAS Survey

3.1 Methodology

It was decided that the surveys would take the form of the production of plan drawings, accompanied by a photographic survey. An aerial drone survey was also undertaken of the survey site and land adjacent. This report was compiled using the information obtained from these sources, in addition to background documentary material.

3.2 Production of plan drawings

Plan drawings were completed, using data obtained from the field survey. Measurements were obtained by using the society's *Leica Sprinter 100* electronic measuring device. Sketch plans at 1:200 scale were completed on site by recording these measurements on drafting film secured to a plane table and backing up the data on a field notebook for subsequent reference. Field plans were later transferred to a computer-based format for printing. A drone survey was also carried out and data captured was recorded in digital format.

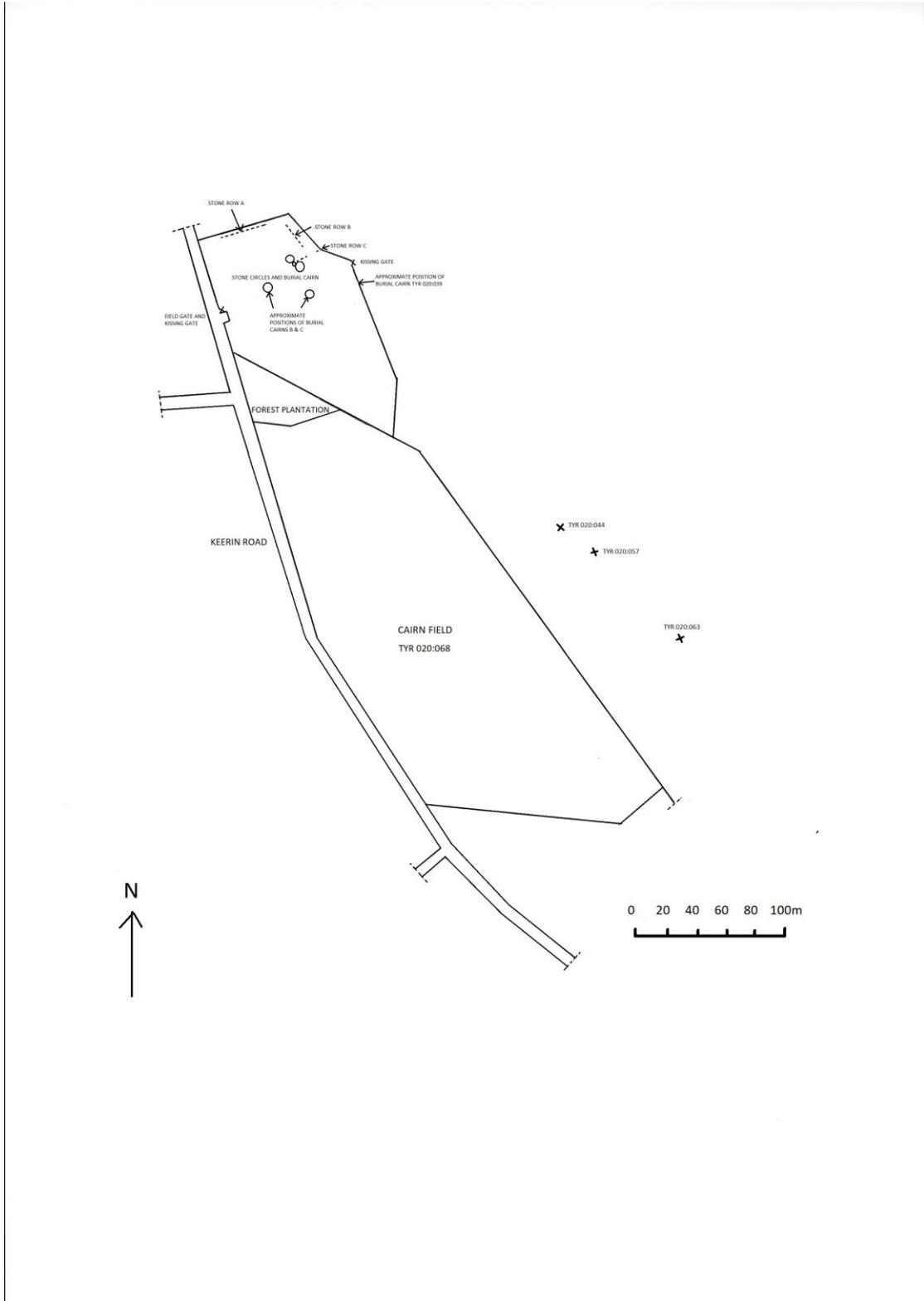


Figure 12: Plan of site

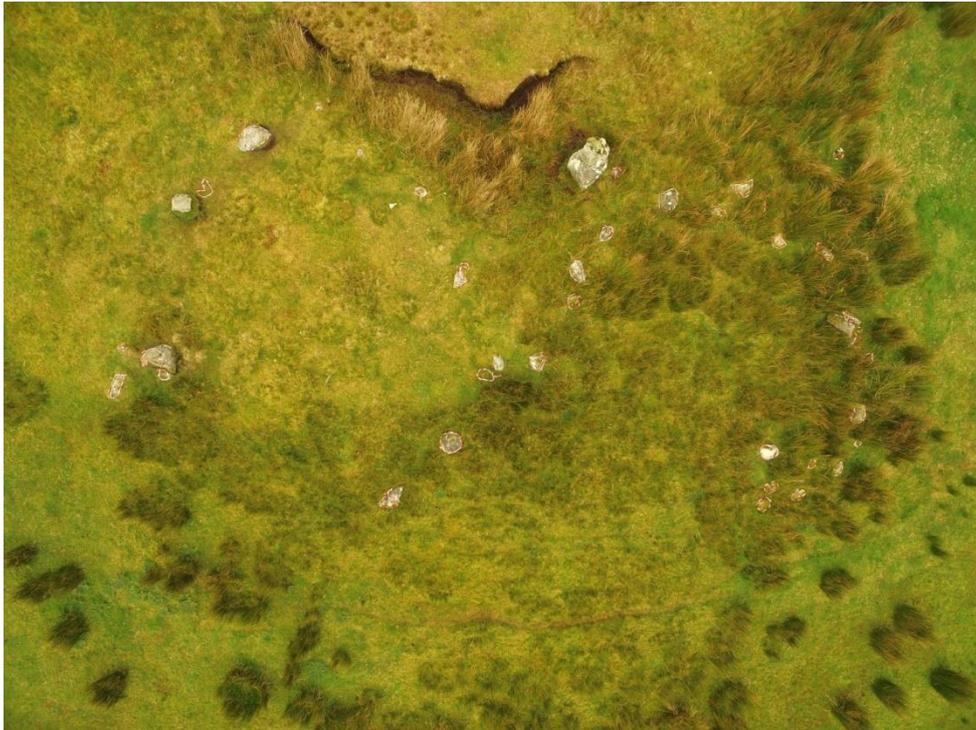


Figure 13: Aerial view of stone circles

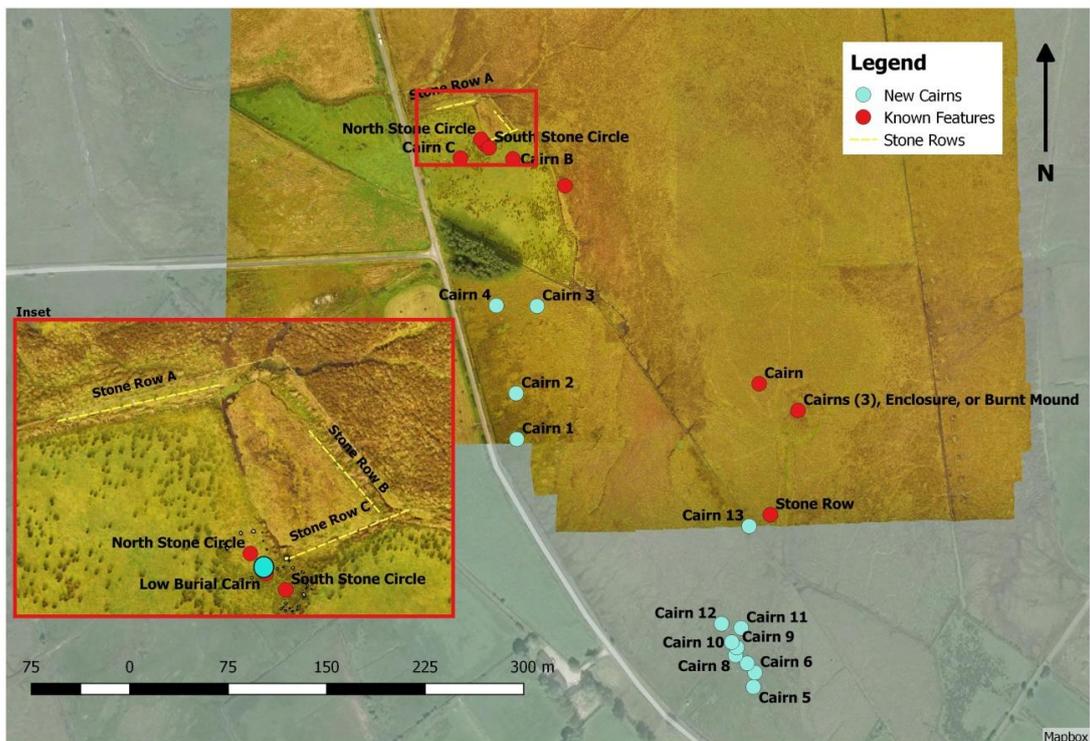


Figure 14: Plan of site from drone survey

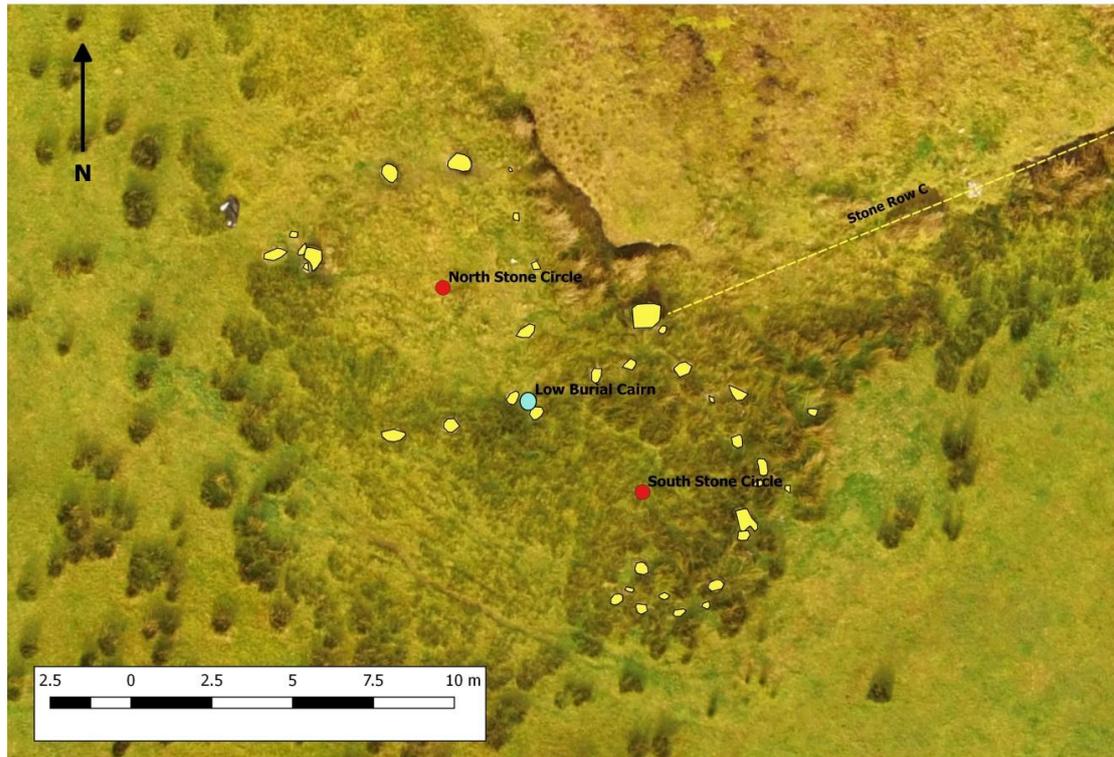


Figure 15: Plan of stone circles and adjacent stone row, from drone survey

3.3 Photographic archive

A photographic record of the site was taken by using a *Ricoh G600* 8 megapixel digital camera and others. A photographic record sheet was employed, corresponding to photographs taken during the site surveys on 25 March and 26 August 2017. The archive has been compiled in jpeg format and saved to compact disc.



Figure 16: North stone circle and *Standing Stone*, looking south-east



Figure 17: Quartz seams in *Standing Stone*, looking north



Figure 18: Stone row A, looking north-east

During the 2017 survey, several interesting features were observed in the face of the exposed turf cutting at a pre-bog level. These appeared to be the remains of a tree root and deposits of fibrous material.



Figure 19: Stone row B, looking north



Figure 20: Pre-bog tree root

3.4 Measurements of Stone Circles and Standing Stone

North Circle	Stone No.	Height	Width	Thickness
	N1	18	30	57
	N2	30	30	50
	N3	29	45	46
	N4	22	75	36
	N5	60	50	46
	N6	48	36	40
	N7	42	77	46
	N8	3	20	15
	N9	15	35	25
South Circle	Stone No.	Height	Width	Thickness
	S1	28	40	22
	S2	24	51	72
	S3	30	46	25
	S4	11	42	54
	S5	8	20	16
	S6	10	36	46
	S7	5	18	6
	S8	27	49	18
	S9	12	36	22
	S10	15	13	30
	S11	17	30	23
	S12	12	16	27
	S13	5	27	18
	S14	10	14	25
	S15	36	66	21
	S16	23	12	25
	S17	42	66	34
	S18	10	18	30
	S19	21	45	38
	S20	46	50	62
	S21	17	31	18
	S22	18	18	42
	S23	13	24	21
	S24	20	22	44
	S25	12	38	22
	S26	22	29	47
	S27	15	29	48
	S28	22	34	41
	S29	25	48	36
	S30	28	43	26

Figure 21: Table of dimensions of stones surveyed

The feature known as the standing stone was examined and it was found that three seams of quartz were present (Figure 13), approximately 30mm in thickness, extending throughout the stone and aligned about 45 degrees from horizontal. To observe the presence of quartz in prehistoric stone monuments is not entirely unexpected, as many contain similar seams of quartz. In one example of a stone circle at Castleruddery in County Wicklow (RMP reference WI:021-032), two of the orthostats are entirely composed of quartz.

4. Discussion

Broughderg is a large townland and one of several in Mid-Ulster in which multiple prehistoric monuments have been recorded in the SMR (Figure 18). These probably date to the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, but no dating evidence has been yet obtained from any of these monuments. There are six known megalithic tombs and an anomalous stone group, which probably represents another. Twenty-nine further sites, some containing several monuments, are usually ascribed to the Bronze Age, although very few have been scientifically dated. These are typically burial cairns, cist burials, burnt mounds, stone circles, standing stones and stone rows. Also present are two field systems and an enclosure that are thought to be prehistoric, but for which no dating evidence has been obtained. Extensive areas of bog are present in the townland and many stones can be observed protruding from the surface. It is very probable that many more prehistoric monuments remain hidden in these areas.

Type of Monument	Grid Reference	SMR Number
Court Tomb (Dual)	H 6465 8623	TYR 020:006
Burial Cairn	H 6522 8571	TYR 020:011
Burial Cairn	H 6534 8417	TYR 020:012
Stone Circle	H 6670 8620	TYR 020:015
Standing Stone	H 6690 8610	TYR 020:016
Stone Circle & Stone Row	H 6594 8714	TYR 020:019
Stone Circles (2) Stone Row & Burial Cairn	H 6498 8614	TYR 020:020
Standing Stone Burial Cairns (3) & Stone Circles (2)	H 6532 8440	TYR 020:021
Stone Circle	H 6511 8585	TYR 020:025
Cist Burial	H 6447 8655	TYR 020:029
Standing Stone	H 6666 8717	TYR 020:030
Burial Cairn and Field Walls	H 6472 8613	TYR 020:033
Anomalous Stone Group	H 6516 8604	TYR 020:034
Burial Cairns	H 6458 8639	TYR 020:035
Burial Cairn	H 6424 8652	TYR 020:036
Unclassified Megalithic Tomb	H 6438 8636	TYR 020:037
Burial Cairn	H 6538 8436	TYR 020:039
Burial Cairn	H 6751 8463	TYR 020:040
Burial Cairn	H 6791 8625	TYR 020:041
Burial Cairns (6)	H 6590 8710	TYR 020:042
Standing Stone	H 6634 8371	TYR 020:043
Burial Cairns (3)	H 6556 8419	TYR 020:044

Burial Cairn	H 6724 8725	TYR 020:045
Cist Burial & Stone Row	H 6772 8697	TYR 020:048
Unclassified Megalithic Tomb	H 6766 8708	TYR 020:049
Burial Cairn	H 6510 8570	TYR 020:050
Standing Stone	H 6536 8602	TYR 020:051
Unclassified Megalithic Tomb	H 6524 8593	TYR 020:052
Standing Stone	H 6452 8544	TYR 020:053
Standing Stone	H 6434 8557	TYR 020:054
Unclassified Megalithic Tomb	H 6585 8420	TYR 020:055
Stone Circle	H 6546 8459	TYR 020:056
Unclassified Megalithic Tomb	H 6539 8472	TYR 020:061
Stone Row	H 6554 8411	TYR 020:063
Burial Cairns (3)	H 6536 8519	TYR 020:066
Burial Cairns [cairn complex]	H 6552 8398	TYR 020:068
Field System	H 6516 8604	TYR 020:034
Field System	H 6723 8726	TYR 020:038
Enclosure	H 6556 8419	TYR 020:044
Hut Site, Stone Circle & Burnt Mound	H 6541 8521	TYR 020:062

Figure 22: Table of Broughderg prehistoric monuments recorded in SMR

The site surveyed at Broughderg was initially thought to contain two stone circles and a standing stone, but subsequent interrogation of the SMR files revealed that three burial cairns had been recorded at the site. Two of these burial cairns have since been destroyed and no visible trace of them was observed during the UAS surveys. A third burial cairn, TYR 020:000, had previously been located and examined by HED inspectors, but no visible evidence of this was noted in the UAS surveys. Two stone rows, referred to as Row A and Row B by the survey crew, were identified during the UAS surveys and indicated on the site plan (Figure 11). Row A consists of 15 earth-fast boulders and is aligned roughly east/west along the northern boundary of the survey site. Row B consists of 9 earth-fast boulders and is aligned roughly north/south at the western edge of a section of un-cut bog that is situated at the north-east corner of the survey site. As many of these stone rows are found to align with burial cairns at other sites (including at nearby Beaghmore, TYR 020:004), where a burial cairn is located between Circles A and B, with two stone rows aligned on it (Figure 23). At the UAS survey site, it was thought that Row B might possibly align with burial cairn TYR 020:039, but in the absence of a firm location for the cairn, this must remain speculative. In the case of Row A, an associated burial cairn may remain hidden in the adjacent bog to the east.



Figure 23: Beaghmore (TYR 020:004), with stone circles B (on left) and A, with burial cairn and two stone rows in centre of image

During the survey of 26 August 2017, a possible burial cairn was identified 3m to the west of the standing stone. This was circular, 2.5m in diameter and 0.3m in height and situated between the two stone circles. In addition, four earthbound boulders were identified to the east of the standing stone, extending roughly east/west as far as the exposed bog bank in this direction. It is considered that these and the standing stone form part of another stone row, focused on the small burial cairn and that the standing stone has been incorrectly classified. This arrangement of monuments is very similar to that associated with Circles A and B at nearby Beaghmore (Figure 19). It is therefore suggested that the inventory of monuments for this particular field should be:

Monument Classification	Monument Name	Irish Grid Reference	SMR Number
Stone Circle	North Circle	H 6530 8437	TYR 020:012
Stone Circle	South Circle	H 6531 8437	TYR 020:012
Burial Cairn	Cairn B	H 6534 8438	TYR 020:012
Burial Cairn	Cairn C	H 6530 8438	TYR 020:012
Burial Cairn	Not named	H 6538 8436	TYR 020:039
Burial Cairn	Not named	H 6532 8437	Not in SMR
Stone Row	Row A	H 6528 8440	Not in SMR
Stone Row	Row B	H 6530 8439	Not in SMR
Stone Row	Row C	H 6532 8437	Not in SMR

Figure 24: UAS inventory of monuments in survey field

The adjacent field to the south was investigated during the UAS survey of 26 August 2017. This field had been inspected by Claire Foley of HED in 1996 (Figure 05), when it was described as a ‘Possible Cairn Field’, containing 12 visible cairns. This area was collectively recorded as TYR 020:068 in the SMR and it is likely that the burial cairn recorded by Oliver Davies (TYR 020:012) is one of these monuments. At the time of the UAS survey, the field was found to be unimproved bog land, used only for grazing sheep and these 13 burial cairns were identified (Figure 21). As this field has not been subject to invasive agricultural practices, it can be assumed that the visible remains represent the tops of much larger cairns that still remain buried below the present ground surface. The inventory of monuments was found to be:

Monument Classification	Monument Name	Irish Grid Reference	Remarks
Burial Cairn	Cairn 1	H 65346 84165	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 2	H 65345 84200	Stony mound near gate
Burial Cairn	Cairn 3	H 65360 84267	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 4	H 65329 84267	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 5	H 65529 83978	Grassy cairn
Burial Cairn	Cairn 6	H 65530 83989	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 7	H 65524 83996	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 8	H 65515 84002	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 9	H 65516 84008	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 10	H 65512 84012	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 11	H 65519 84023	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 12	H 65504 84026	
Burial Cairn	Cairn 13	H 65524 84101	Centre robbed out

Figure 25: UAS inventory of monuments in the *Cairn Field*



Figure 26: View of typical burial cairn in the *Cairn Field*

During the UAS survey, it was found that access was not possible to the small plantation of forest that lies between the main survey site and the ‘cairn field’ to the south. It may be that further burial cairns lie undetected in this plantation, but these may have been damaged or destroyed in the planting process. The landowner, Christopher Slane, informed the Survey Group that this plantation had been created approximately twenty years ago [1997].

In addition to the monuments located in the UAS survey field and the cairn field to the south, there are several monuments recorded in the immediate area, all within the area of bog land to the east. These are:

Monument Classification	Irish Grid Reference	SMR Number	Location relative to survey sites
Cairns (3), Enclosure, or Burnt Mound	H 6556 8419	TYR 020:044	250m to south-east
Cairn	H 6553 8421	TYR 020:057	280m to south-east
Stone Row	H 6554 8411	TYR 020:063	360m to south-east
Cairn	H 6557 8405		
Cairn	H 6554 8417		

Figure 27: Monuments recorded in SMR, adjacent to survey area

5. Conclusions and Recommendations for further work

The townland of Broughderg is one of the largest in Northern Ireland and also has one of the largest recorded concentrations of prehistoric monuments (Figure 18). A significant concentration of monuments have already been recorded at the UAS survey site, the cairn field to the south and in bog to the east, so it is clear that the survey site forms part of a much larger concentration of prehistoric monuments here, probably with many more awaiting discovery. During the UAS survey, it was clear that the remains of pre-bog plants have been preserved in this area and should provide much information on dating the growth of the bog and the types of plants growing there before it formed, thus helping to date the creation of the monuments in the area. The archaeological significance of this area has been recognised by the HED in its designation as an Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI), covering an area of 3,715.28 hectares. Large areas of the townland are covered in blanket bog, with the tops of many buried stones protruding. This is one of several townlands in the area, along with others such as Beaghmore, Davagh Lower, Crouck and Keerin that are also known to contain multiple prehistoric sites. While the area has achieved ASAI status, it has so far not attracted any meaningful scientific investigation. The establishment of the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership is an important step towards improving information about the area and stimulating awareness of its archaeological importance, hopefully establishing a research strategy as part of its planning. It is hoped that the Ulster Archaeological Society will be able to contribute to this in time to come.

The area has so far escaped substantial interference from invasive development, such as road schemes, housing and infrastructure projects, although there are currently

plans to construct a large-scale wind farm there. It is of great concern that an area of such archaeological sensitivity and importance might be damaged or lost through short-term economic gain.

6. Bibliography

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Websites:

NI Sites and Monuments Record (communities-ni.gov.uk/services/sites-and-monuments-record)

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Site: Broughderg Stone Circles

Date: 25 March and 26 August 2017

Make and model of camera: *Ricoh G600* & others

Frame Number	Viewed From	Details
N1	West	A1 Towards standing stone
N2	North-west	A2
R1	South	Photo team circle A
N3	North	A3
N4	North	A4
N5	West	A5 Cluster of 4 stones
N6	North	A6
N7	West	A7
N8	West	A8
N9	West	A9
N10	South	Standing Stone
N11	West	B1
N12	West	B1
N13	West	B2
N14	West	B3
N15	East	B3
N16	West	B4
N17	West	B5
N18	West	B6
N19	West	B7
N20	West	B8/B9
N21	West	B10
N22	West	B11
N23	East	B12
N24	East	B13
N25	East	B14
N26	East	B15/B16/B17/B18
N27	South	B19
N28	West	B20
N29	West	B21
N30	North	B22
N31	North	B23
N32	East	B24
N33	East	B25/B26
R2	East	Circle A (Raised bank)
R3	South	Circle B
N34	North	B27
R4	East	Sprinter team
N35	West	Pine trunk in peat bank
R5	West	Pine trunk in peat bank
N36	West	Plant fibre in bog bank
R6	West	Site of A+B
R7	West	Site of A+B
R8	West	Site of A+B
R9	West	Sprinter team
N37	South	B28
N38	North	B29/B30/B31 (B31 just exposed)
R10-17	Various	East boundary (4-east, 4 to west)