



**Monitoring Report No. 201**

**Land adjacent to 58 Drumreagh Road  
Drumreagh  
Ballygowan  
Co. Down**

**LICENCE NO.: AE/10/91E**

**BRIAN SLOAN**

**Site Specific Information**

*Site Name:* Land adjacent to 58 Drumreagh Road, Ballygowan, Co. Down

*Townland:* Drumreagh

*SMR No. :* DOW 016:023

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other    ✓                      [delete as applicable]

*Grid Ref.:* 4567660537

*County:* Down

*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/10/91E

*Planning Ref / Nos. :* X/2009/0945/O

*Dates of Monitoring:* Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010

*Archaeologist Present:* Brian Sloan, Ruth Logue

*Brief Summary:*

The manual excavation of four test trenches was undertaken to assess the presence and survival of archaeological strata, in advance of the area being developed for a single dwelling and garage. Due to the possibility of human remains being present in the proposed development area, it was decided to manually excavate the test trenches in the first instance. Evidence of post-medieval agricultural process were observed (stone packed field drains) in two of the trenches. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation.

*Type of monitoring:*

Manual excavation of four test trenches, each measuring 2m in length by 1m in width.

*Size of area opened:*

A total of 8m<sup>2</sup>

*Current Land Use:*

Green field

*Intended Land Use:*

Residential dwelling.

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

The site of the proposed development of a new dwelling and garage is located on land to the north of 58 Drumreagh Road, Ballygowan, Co. Down. The proposed development is located in a roughly rectangular field, immediately adjacent to extant farm buildings associated with 58 Drumreagh Road. The field is enclosed by a wire a post fence interspersed with mature hedgerows. The surrounding area is predominantly used for arable agriculture, interspersed with residential dwellings. The application site is approximately 70m to the north-east of Kilcarn graveyard which could occupy the site of a medieval parish church, listed as 'Dramco' in the 1306 taxation.

The evaluation took place due to the proximity of the application site to the proposed ecclesiastical foundation and the present graveyard. The evaluation was requested by Gina Baban, Casework Officer for the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, due to the possibility that previously unrecognised archaeological strata may be disturbed by the proposed development.

### *Account of the excavations*

The proposed development is situated close to a possible medieval church and graveyard. As such, there was potential that previously unrecorded archaeological strata would be present relating to the church and graveyard. Due to the possibility of human remains being present the methodology was revised with the manual excavation of small test trenches favoured.

A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in each trench. On the whole, the stratigraphy differed little between the trenches and is described below.

### *Trench One*

Trench One was positioned in the south-western corner of the development area and measured 2m in length by 1m in width. It was aligned roughly north/south and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil, which consisted of a stony pale orange clay. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench

The sod layer in this trench (Context No. 101) was manually lifted. On the whole, this layer (Context No. 101) was relatively shallow (a maximum of 0.04m) with little artifact evidence being recovered. The removal of the sod (Context No. 101) revealed a mid brown sandy loam topsoil (Context No. 102). The topsoil layer (Context No. 102) was on average 0.3m thick and produced modern artefacts such as sherds of white glazed ceramics, glass and fragments of plastic. The topsoil (Context No. 102) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 103).

In the north-western corner of the trench, a linear cut (Context No. 104) was observed. This feature was filled with a loose light brown silty loam with numerous angular stones and gravel throughout. Excavation of this feature proved it to be a field drain (roughly aligned north-

west/south-east) of relatively modern date. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in this trench.

#### *Trench Two*

Trench Two was located 9m to the north of Trench One, and was aligned north/south. The trench measured 2m in length by 1m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which consisted of a stony pale orange clay. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod layer in this trench (Context No. 201) was manually lifted. On the whole, this layer (Context No. 201) was relatively shallow (a maximum of 0.06m) with little artifact evidence being recovered. The removal of the sod (Context No. 201) revealed a mid brown sandy loam topsoil (Context No. 202). The topsoil layer (Context No. 202) was on average 0.28m thick and did not produce any artefactual material. The topsoil (Context No. 202) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 203). A pit like feature (Context No. 204) was observed protruding from the western section of this trench. The fills of this feature were a mid greyish brown clay (Context No. 205) overlying a charcoal rich brown clay (Context No. 206). However, no artefacts were recovered from the excavation of the pit that could suggest a function or date for the feature. Due to the undulating nature of the base of the cut (Context No. 204), it is postulated that this represents a tree hole and of limited archaeological significance. Maximum dimensions of this feature were 1m (north/south) by 0.46m (east/west).

#### *Trench Three*

Trench Three was located 12m to the east of Trench Two, and was aligned north/south. The trench measured 2m in length by 1m in width and was excavated to the natural subsoil. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod layer in this trench (Context No. 301) was manually lifted. On the whole, this layer (Context No. 301) was relatively shallow (a maximum of 0.05m). The removal of the sod (Context No. 301) revealed a mid brown sandy loam topsoil (Context No. 302). The topsoil layer (Context No. 302) was on average 0.3m thick, and produced a clay pipe stem, clay marble and sherd of black glazed earthenware, indicative of a nineteenth or twentieth century date. Removal of the topsoil (Context No. 302) revealed the natural subsoil (Context No. 303).

A modern field drain was observed running across the trench, roughly aligned north-west/south-east. This measured roughly 1.85m in length by 0.33m in width and contained numerous loose angular stones and gravel (Context No. 305). The feature was not excavated due to the modern nature of the fill (Context No. 305).

#### *Trench Four*

Trench Four was located 10.5m to the south of Trench Three, and was aligned north/south. The trench measured 2m in length by 1m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The sod layer in this trench (Context No. 401) was manually lifted. On the whole, this layer (Context No. 401) was relatively shallow (a maximum of 0.1m). The removal of the sod (Context No. 401) revealed a mid brown sandy loam topsoil (Context No. 402). The topsoil layer (Context No. 402) was on average 0.15m thick and produced modern artefacts such as sherds of black glazed earthenware fragments of glass.

The topsoil (Context No. 402) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 403) which consisted of a orange stony slay. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in this trench.

#### *Conclusions*

The evaluation showed no evidence of archaeologically significant deposits present in the evaluation area. Evidence of post-medieval agricultural drainage was observed in two of the trenches. It is thus not thought that the development of the area through its use as a graveyard will impinge upon previously unknown archaeological deposits. It is recommended that no further archaeological work is carried out at the site and that publication of the results of the evaluation is not merited, save a short summary in the annual Excavations Bulletin.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* All finds recovered during the evaluation are currently housed at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

*Photographs:* The photographs taken during the evaluation are currently housed at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

*Written Archive:* The written archive generated during the evaluation is currently housed at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

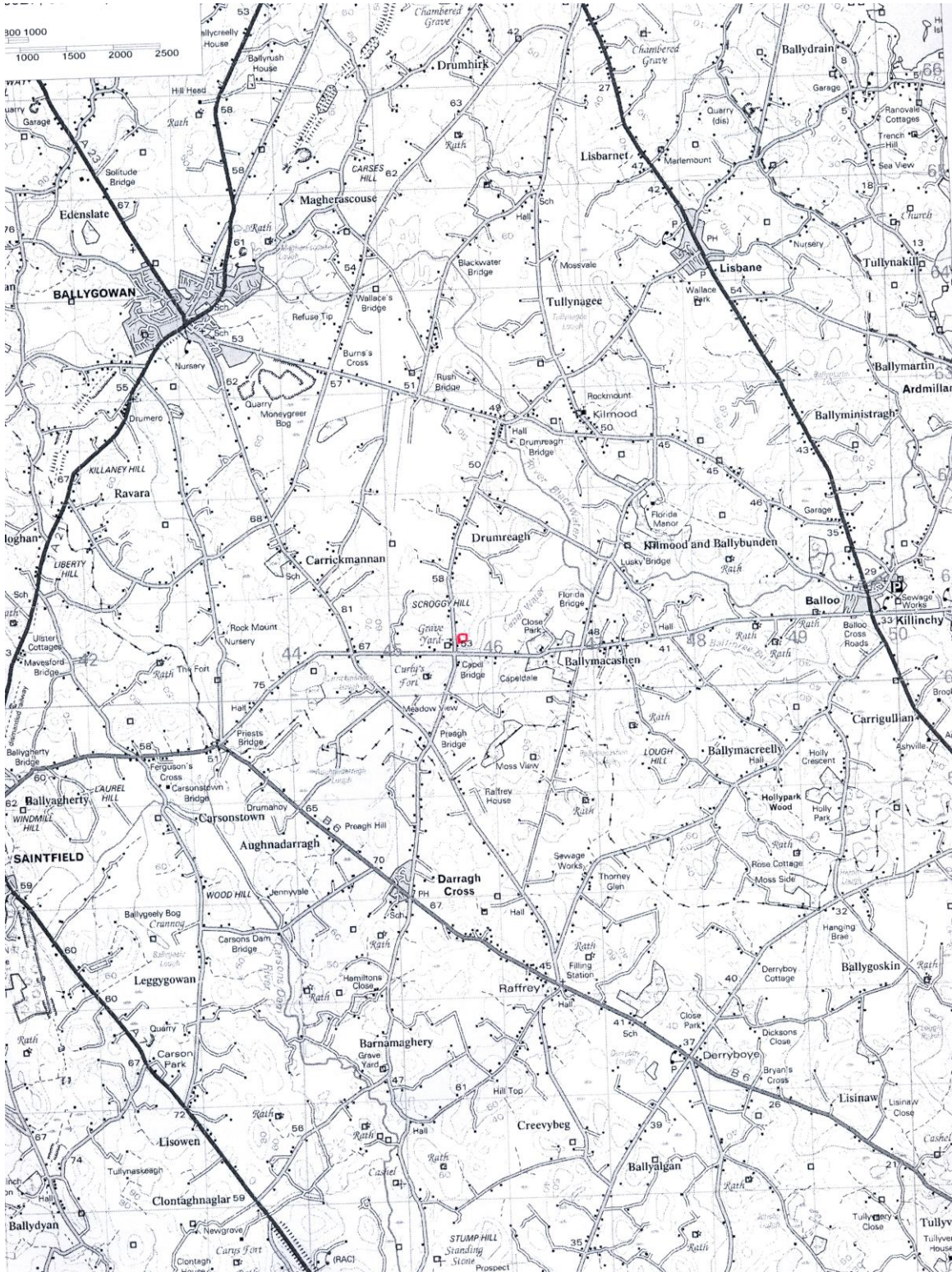


Fig.1: General location map showing proposed development site (red).

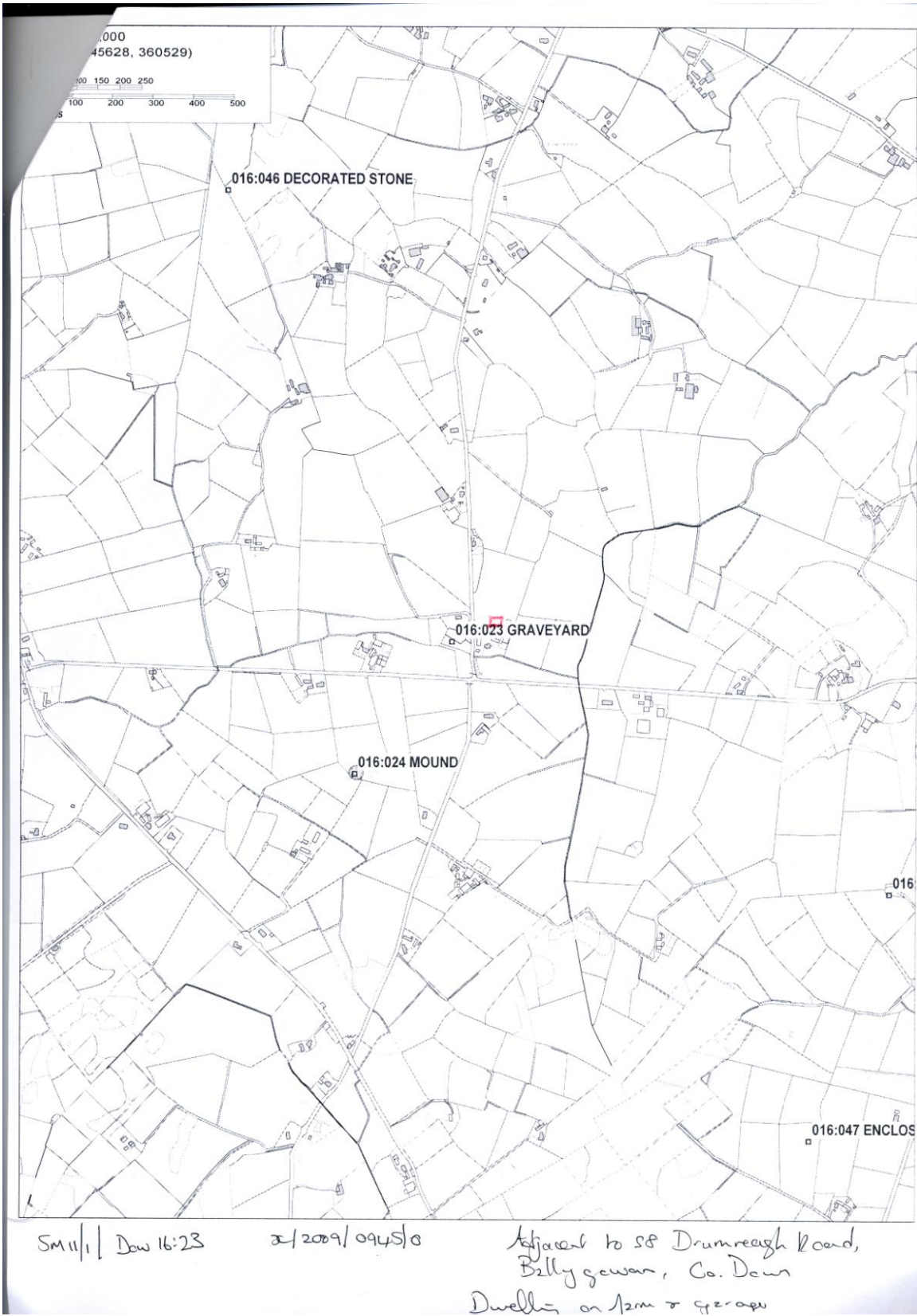


Fig. 2: Map showing application site (red) and surrounding archaeological monuments.





**Fig. 3:** Site plan showing development area (highlighted in red). The approximate location of the trenches is depicted by green dots.



**Plate 1: Trench 1 following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil, looking north. The modern field drain (Context No. 104) is visible in the north-western corner of the trench.**



**Plate 2: Trench 2 following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil, looking south. The irregular pit/possible tree hole is visible along the western edge of the trench.**



**Plate 3: East facing section of Trench 2 showing the irregular pit feature (Context No. 203).**



**Plate 4: Trench 3 following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil, looking south. The modern field drain (Context No. 303) is visible about the middle of the trench.**



**Plate 5: Trench 4 following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil, looking north.**