



## **Monitoring Report No. 98**

**2 Kearney Road  
Knockinelder  
Portaferry  
Co. Down**

**AE/06/234**

Brian Sloan

### **Site Specific Information**

*Site Address:* 2 Kearney Road, Portaferry, Co. Down

*Townland:* Knockinelder

*SMR No.:* SM11/1/Dow 32:35, 24

*State Care*    *Scheduled*    *Other* ✓

*Grid Ref:* J 3495 1215

*County:* Down

*Excavation Licence No:* AE/06/234

*Planning Ref / No.:* X/2003/0336/F

*Date of Monitoring:* 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006

*Archaeologist Present:* Brian Sloan

#### *Brief Summary:*

Two test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed development of a replacement dwelling on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed development site is located in an archaeologically sensitive area with known prehistoric sites within the immediate vicinity (DOW 032:024 and DOW 032:035). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in either of the trenches.

#### *Type of monitoring:*

Excavation of two test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-edged 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

#### *Size of area opened:*

Two trenches each measuring approximately 10m by 2m

*Current Land Use:* Dwelling

*Intended Land Use:* Replacement dwelling

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### Introduction

The site of the proposed replacement dwelling is located at 2 Kearney Road, Knockinelder, Portaferry, Co. Down (Fig 1). The site lies 4km east of the town of Portaferry, approximately 200m from the strand at Knockinelder Bay, and at a height of approximately 10m above sea level. The surrounding area is rich in archaeological sites (Fig 2). Two Bronze Age cist burials (DOW 032:024 and DOW 032:035) are known to exist in the immediate vicinity, and three standing stones (DOW 032:006) lie 1 ½ km to the north-east of the site. The surrounding landscape consists of both pastoral and arable land, interspersed with dwelling houses. The trenches were positioned to incorporate the footprint of the replacement dwelling (Fig 3) and was requested by Gina Baban (Case Officer Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage).

### Excavation

Trench 1 was positioned to the south of the present dwelling and measured approximately 9m by 2m due to the presence of an electricity pylon in the area. The sod and topsoil layer in this trench (Context No. 101) consisted of a very sandy light brown loam with few inclusions of small rounded, probably water-rolled pebbles (average size 40mm x 20mm x 10mm). This layer had an average depth of 0.4m.

Below the sod and topsoil (Context No.101) was the subsoil (Context No. 102). This consisted of a yellow orange sand with few inclusions of small rounded beach pebbles (average size 60mm x 40mm x 15mm). An electricity cable was encountered cutting the sandy subsoil. The cut for this cable (Context No. 103) ran approximately north-west / south-east and the fill (Context No.104) consisted of the cable itself and a matrix of angular stones and gravel. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 2 was positioned to the east of the present dwelling and measured 10m x 2m. The sod and topsoil layer in this trench (Context No. 201) consisted of a very light brown sandy loam with the same inclusion as was encountered in Trench 1. This layer had an average depth of 0.35m towards the south of the trench, shelving up to approximately 0.19m towards the north, where it overlay a thin lens of orange sand (Context No. 202) which

presumably originated from the subsoil and has been redeposited here. This deposit had an average thickness of 0.05m and was only present as a discreet lens 0.7m in length. This overlay a light brown sandy loam (Context No. 203) which presumably represents the remaining depth of topsoil as observed in the southern area of Trench 2 and also in Trench 1.

This overlay the subsoil (Context No. 204) which consisted of a yellow orange sand with few inclusions of small rounded beach pebbles. A cut of a pit (Context No. 205) was observed cutting the sandy subsoil. This pit was approximately 1.6m in length and spanned the 2m width of the trench. The fill of this pit (Context No. 206) consisted of a matrix of mangled metal, wood and motorcycle components. The stratigraphic sequence detailed above for Trench 2 probably came about due to the insertion and back filling of the pit (Context No. 205 and Context No. 206). There were no features or artefacts of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the evaluation. The pit observed in Trench 2 (Context No.205) shows that a certain degree of modern disturbance has occurred on site. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication is required, apart from a short summary in the annual bulletin of excavations.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* n/a

*Photographs:* 15 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

*Plans / Drawings:* n/a

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

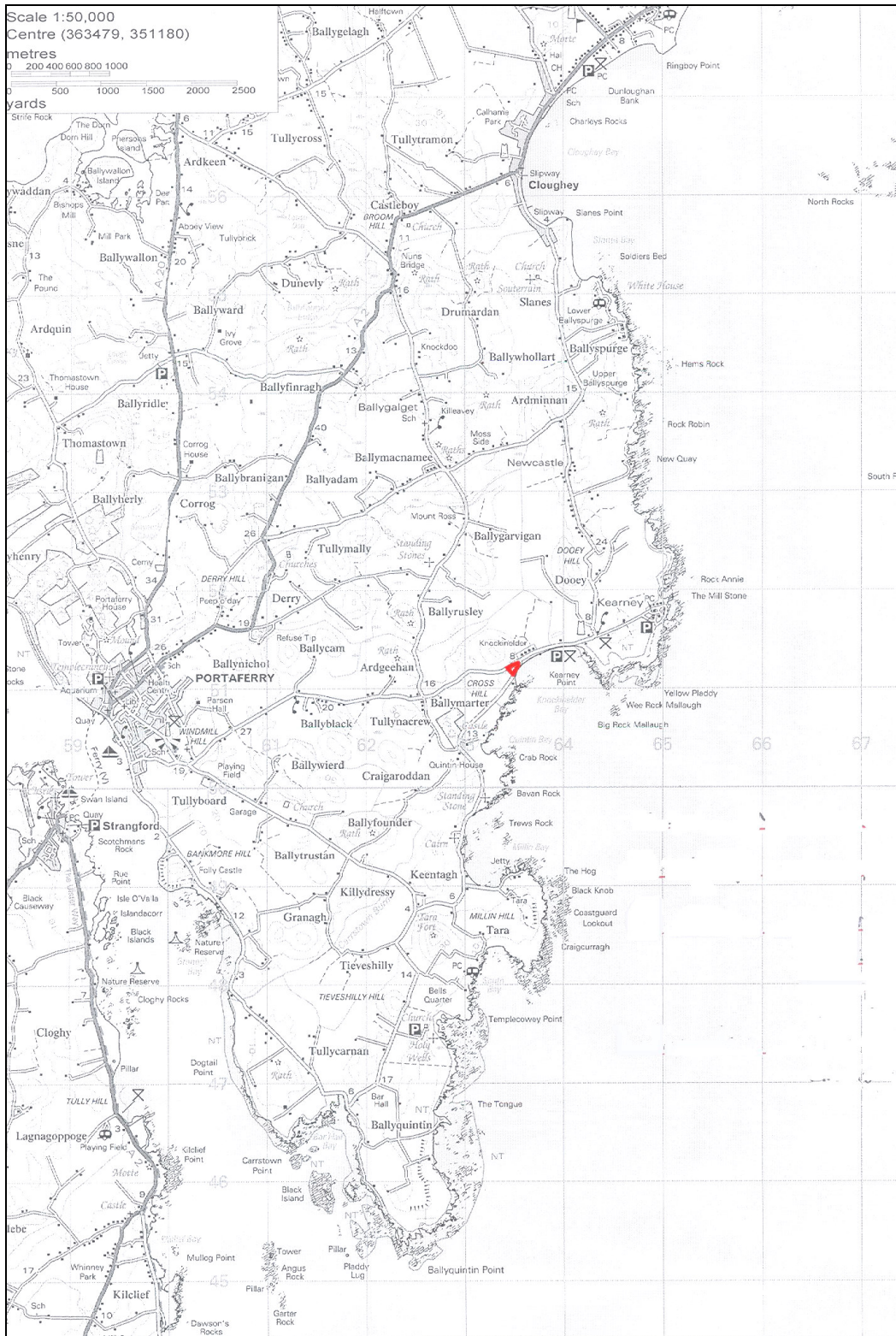


Fig. 1: 1:50,000 Map showing location of site (in red).

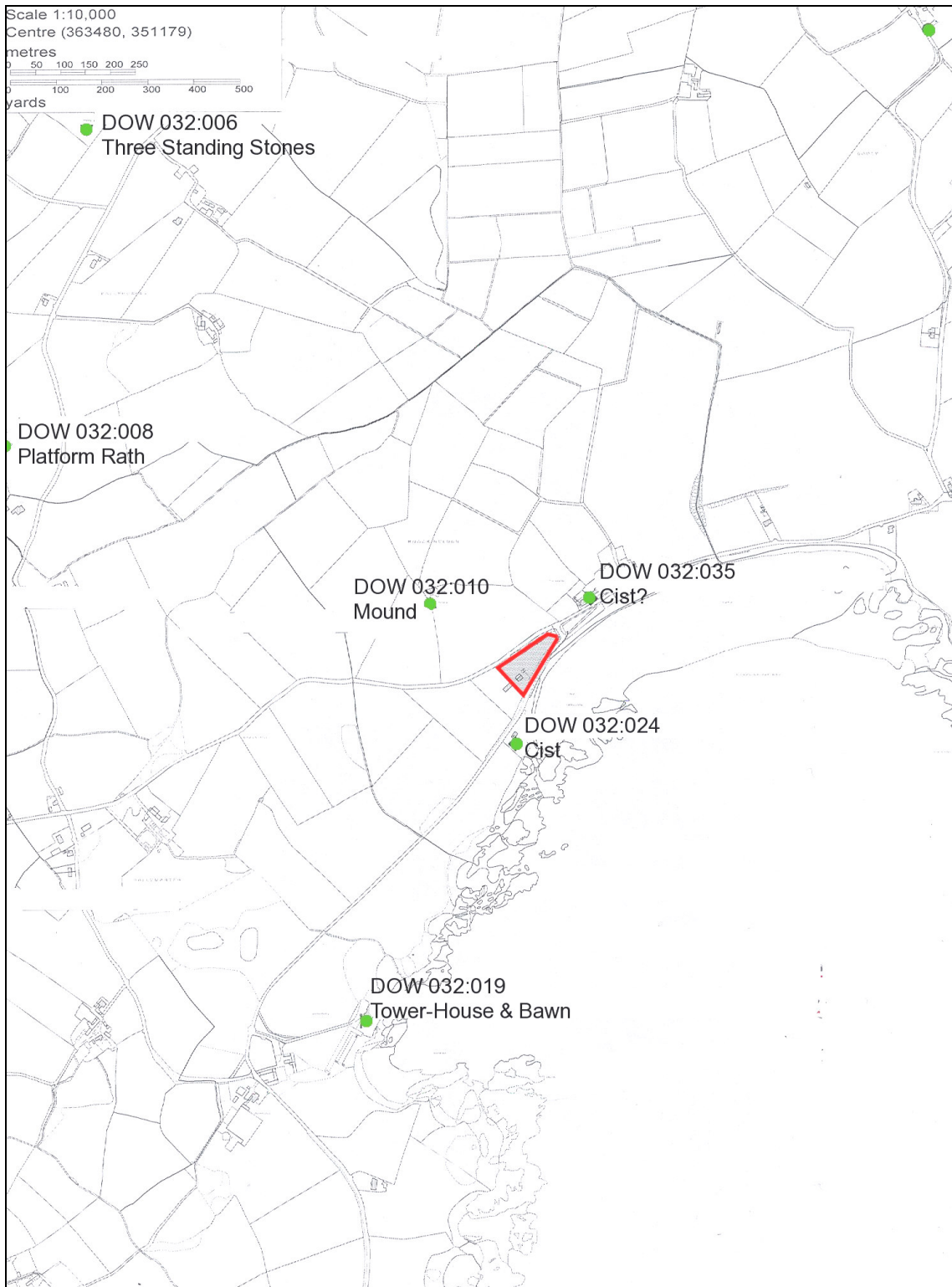


Fig. 2: Location of site (red line) and archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity (green dots).





Fig. 3: Location of test trenches (marked in red).



Plate 1: Excavation of Trench 1, looking east.



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking west, after excavation to surface of subsoil (Context No.102), showing cut (Context No. 103) for electric cable (white dashed line).



Plate 3: Detail of stone fill (Context No.104) of the cut (Context No. 103) for the electric cable.



Plate 4: South facing section Trench 1



Plate 5: Excavation of Trench 2 to subsoil (Context No.204) showing pit cut (Context No. 205) as white dashed line, looking north.



Plate 6: Detail of fill (Context No.206) of pit, looking west.

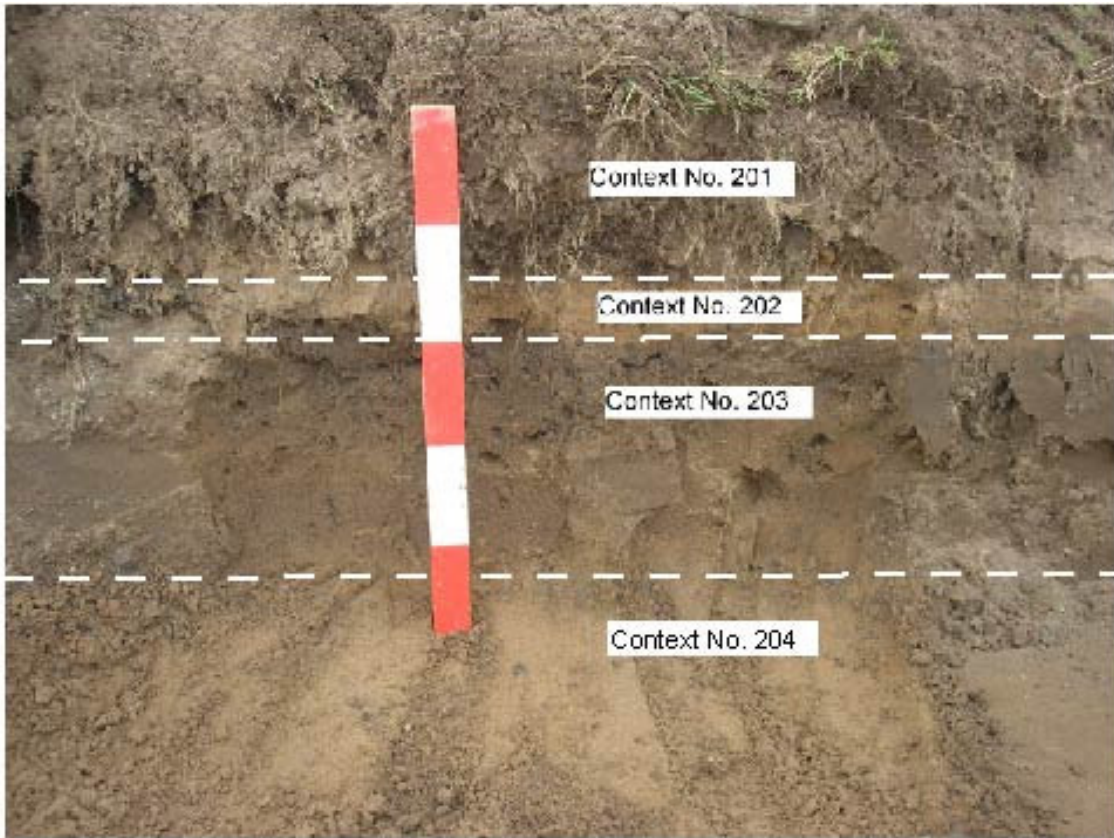


Plate 7: East facing section Trench 2.