



Monitoring Report No. 206

**100m north-west
of Mourne Presbyterian Church,
Greencastle Street,
Kilkeel,
Co. Down**

AE/10/146E

Brian Sloan

P/2010/0201/F

Site Specific Information

Site Address: 100m north-west of Mourne Presbyterian Church, Greencastle St. Kilkeel

Townland: Magheramurphy

SMR No.: DOW 056:026

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: J 3031714454

County: Down

Excavation Licence No: AE/10/146E

Planning Ref / No.: P/2010/0201/F

Date of Monitoring: Wednesday 15th September 2010

Archaeologist Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

Five test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed extension of the current graveyard on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed development site is located within the Kilkeel Area of Archaeological Potential and the site of Mourne Abbey and graveyard is located approximately 300m to the south-west.). The trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil with nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in either of the trenches.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Five trenches each measuring approximately 15m in length by 2m in width.

Current Land Use: Waste ground

Intended Land Use: Proposed graveyard extension

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The site of the proposed graveyard extension is located approximately 100m north-west of Mourne Presbyterian Church, Greencastle Street, Kilkeel, Co. Down (Fig 1). The site lies at the centre of the town of Kilkeel, at an approximate height of 30m above sea level. The application site is within the confines of the developed town, and the surrounding landscape consists of both pastoral and arable land, interspersed with dwelling houses as well as the town itself. The evaluation was requested by Gail Howell (Case Officer Northern Ireland Environment Agency) due to the location of the proposed application site within the Kilkeel Area of Archaeological Potential, as well as the proximity of Mourne Abbey and Graveyard (DOW 056:026), approximately 300m to the south-west.

At the time of the evaluation, the site existed as an area of waste ground, enclosed on all sides by a concrete wall. The site had previously been utilised as a builder's yard, whereby the upper strata had previously been stripped from the entirety of the site and a matrix of coarse sand and pebbles had been laid down. There were subtle differences within this modern strata and it was mechanically removed as a single stratigraphic unit.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was positioned along the north-eastern boundary of the application site and measured approximately 15m by 2m. The trench was aligned roughly north-west/south-east and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 102) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.15m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench consisting of topsoil (Context No. 101) directly overlying natural subsoil (Context No. 102).

The natural subsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 102) consisted of orange gravelly clay. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was positioned approximately 4m to the south-west of Trench 1. The trench was aligned roughly north-west/south-east, measured approximately 18m in length, and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 202) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.2m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The natural subsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 202) consisted of orange gravelly clay. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was positioned approximately 2m to the south-west of Trench 2. The trench was aligned roughly north-west/south-east, measured approximately 16m in length, and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 302) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.25m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The natural subsoil in Trench 3 (Context No. 302) consisted of orange gravelly clay. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was positioned approximately 7m to the south-west of Trench 3 (due to the presence of a pile of broken machinery on site). The trench was aligned roughly north-west/south-east, measured approximately 20m in length, and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 402) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.1m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The natural subsoil in Trench 4 (Context No. 402) consisted of orange gravelly clay. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was positioned along the south-eastern boundary of the proposed application site. The trench was aligned roughly north-east/south-west, measured approximately 15m in length, and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 502) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

The natural subsoil in Trench 5 (Context No. 502) consisted of orange gravelly clay. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the evaluation. 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 *Excavations Bulletin*.

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs: 9 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Fig. 1: General location map showing Kilkeel (circled).

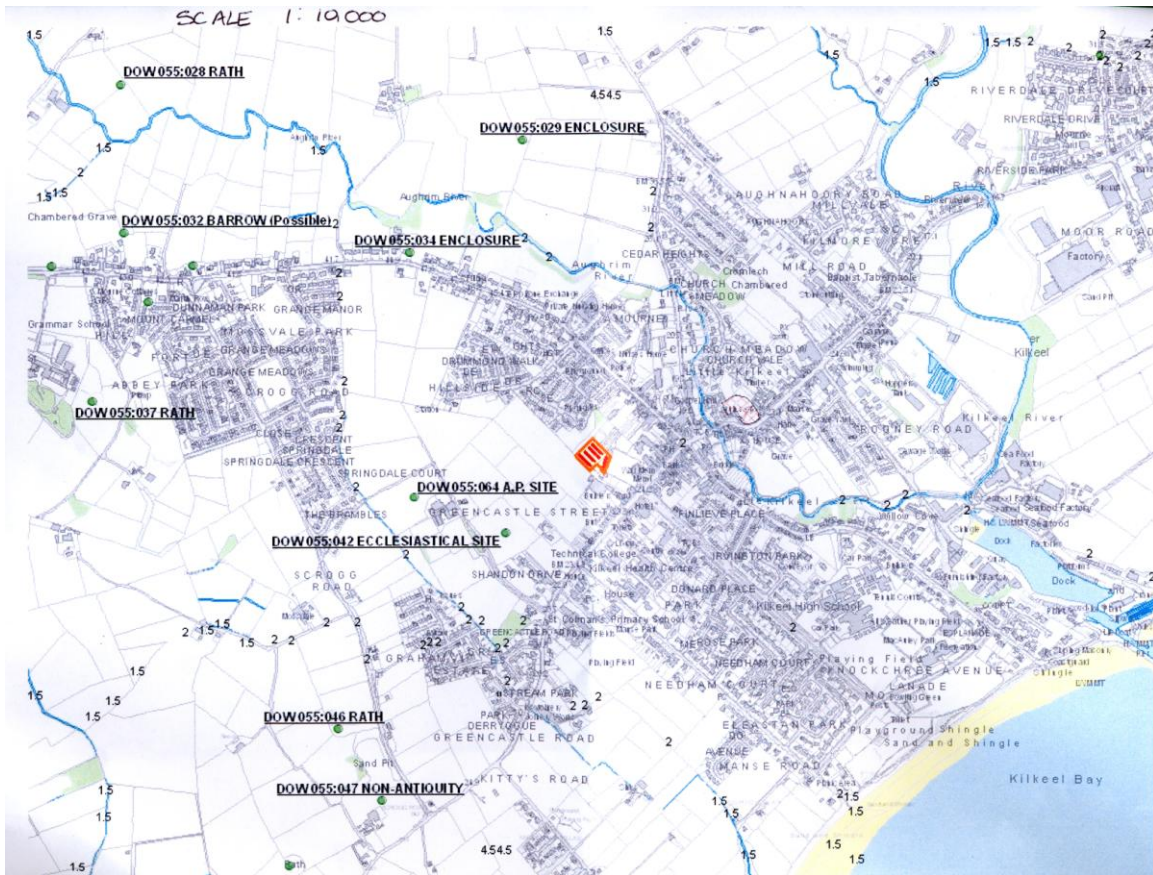


Fig. 2: Detailed location map showing application site (highlighted in red), and surrounding monuments of archaeological and historical interest.



Fig. 3: Detailed location map showing application site (highlighted in red) and approximate location of test trenches.



Plate 1: Trench One following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 102) looking south-east.



Plate 2: Mid-excavation shot of Trench 2, looking north-west.



Plate 3: Trench 3 following excavation to the natural subsoil (Context No. 302), looking south-east.



Plate 4: Trench 4 following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 402), looking north-west.



Plate 5: General view of the application site with Trench 5 in the foreground, looking north.