



**Monitoring Report No. 187**

**Ardglass Harbour,  
Ardglass,  
Co. Down.**

**AE/07/237**

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* Ardglass

*Townland:* Ardglass

*SMR No:* Down 45:021

*Grid Ref:* Grid Ref. J5616 3712

*County:* Down

*Excavation License No:* AE/07/237

*Dates of Monitoring:* Several occasions between 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007

*Archaeologist Present:* Cormac McSparron, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB.

*Brief Summary:* No archaeological artifacts or features uncovered during excavation of trench.

*Type of monitoring:* Monitoring of mechanical excavation of trench for drainage pipe at Nendrum car park.

*Size of area opened:* 21m by 11.5

## **Introduction**

As part of the renovations of a warehouse at Ardglass Harbour, which was located close to Ardglass Castle, and the south wall of which was included in the scheduled area around the castle, the NIEA requested the archaeological monitoring of the removal of the old floor to subsoil level. The CAF was asked by the NIEA to carry out this monitoring. The work was carried out over several days from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007. No archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered during the excavations.

## **Location**

The site of the excavation was a warehouse, located along the harbour front at Ardglass Co. Down ( Grid Ref. J5616 3712)(Figure 1 and 2). The warehouse was located approximately 30m north of Ardglass Castle (Dow 45:021).

## **Methodology**

The excavation of the floor and the hard core fill beneath it was accomplished by a mechanical excavator. The nature of the floor material meant that it was not possible to solely use a toothless "seugh" bucket. On occasion the digger driver had to use the toothed bucket also. Excavation continued until the level required by the new floor, about 40cm from the level of the previous floor, was reached. In places this meant excavating natural bedrock.

## **Results**

No archaeological features or artifacts were uncovered during the excavation. In the north and the southwest of the building a thin, patchy, loam layer sat above an orange sand containing late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century building rubble (Photo 1). Beneath this was beach sand which seemed undisturbed. Excavation continued into this natural beach sand until the required building level was reached. In the southeast corner of the building the level of the bedrock was high, just under the modern floor, with a little levelling gravel apparent in places (Photo 2).

Although the scheduled south wall of the building did not appear to be harmed, undermined or compromised, as far as can be determined without an architect's opinion, its base was exposed by the removal of the floor. It was evident that this wall was not a single entity but in fact two walls, one keyed into the other. The eastern 12.4m of wall was constructed upon bedrock and had an apparent batter at its base. The remaining five metres of wall had a very different character, being without a batter and in places constructed upon the same sandy rubble fill of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date found under the floor of much of the southwest of the building (Photo 2 to 3). It seems likely that this unbattered section of wall is a later addition to the battered section.

## **Conclusions**

There were no archaeological structures or artifacts found during the monitoring of the excavations at this site. The monitoring however did allow for an examination of the base of the scheduled wall at the south of the building. This showed that the western portion of the wall is probably of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century construction, probably dating to the time of the construction of the rest of the warehouse. The easterly portion of the wall however was probably significantly older.



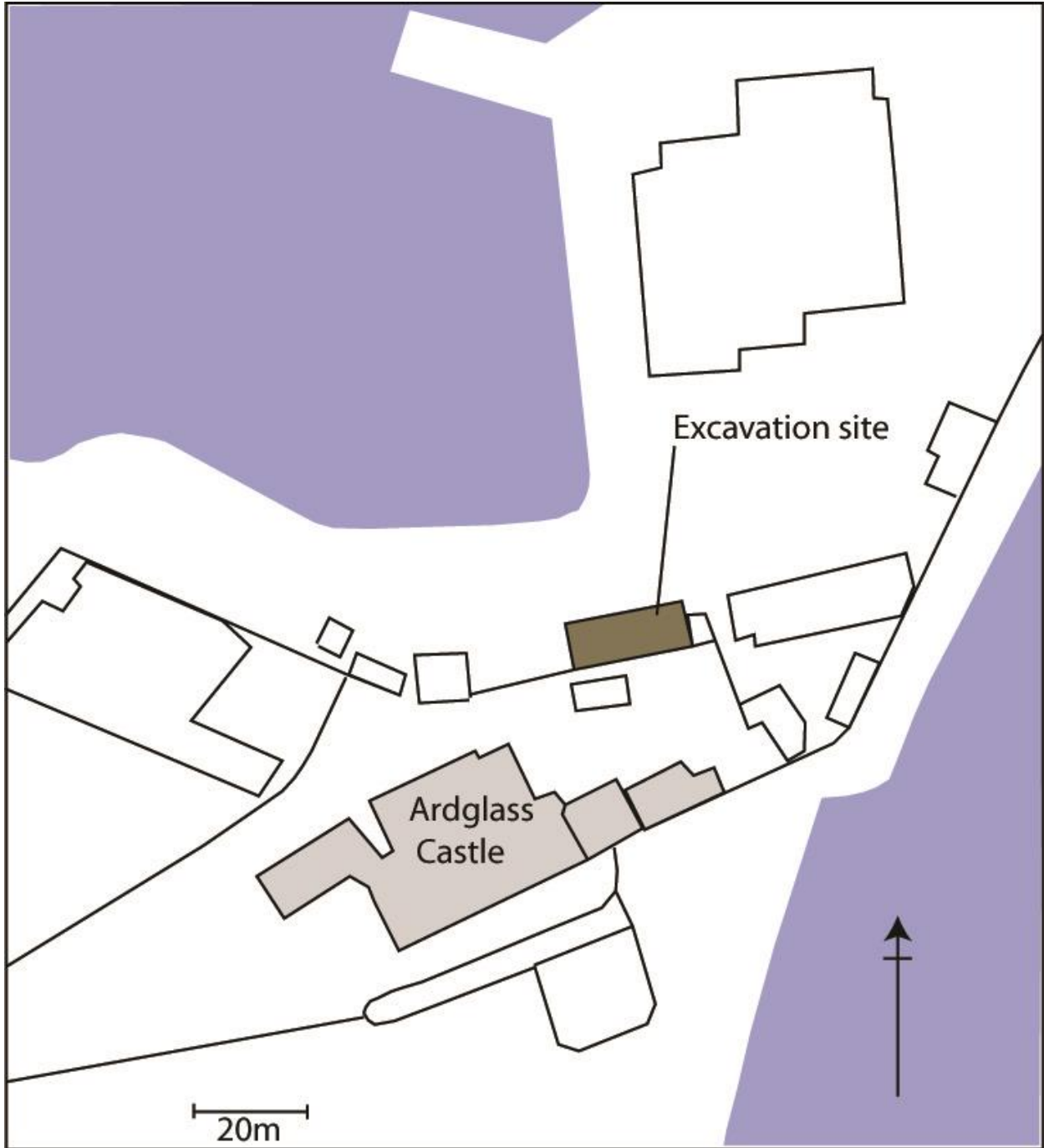


Figure 2: Location map of Ardglass Harbour area showing excavation site.



Photo 1: West end of building after removal of floor and reduction of ground level.





Photo 2: View of east end of building after removal of floor showing bedrock. Note change in wall type from battered wall sitting on bedrock, at east end, to plain wall founded on rubble infill at west





Photo 3: View of the interface between the battered wall (left of photo) and the plain wall (right of photo). Note the difference in the foundation materials of the two sections of wall.