



**Monitoring Report No. 199**

**30m west of 21 Tyrella Road  
Carricknab  
Downpatrick  
Co. Down**

**AE/10/80E**

**R/2009/0847/F**

**BRIAN SLOAN**

**Site Specific Information**

*Site Name:* 30m west of 21 Tyrella Road, Downpatrick, Co. Down

*Townland:* Carricknab

*SMR No. :* DOW 044:020

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other    ✓                      [delete as applicable]

*Grid Ref.:* J 4411338167

*County:* Down

*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/10/80E

*Planning Ref / No. :* R/2009/0847/F

*Dates of Monitoring:* Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010

*Archaeologist Present:* Brian Sloan

*Brief Summary:*

Three trenches were mechanically excavated to assess the presence and survival of archaeological strata at the proposed development site. The proposed development is located next to a modern graveyard that has traditions of being the site of a medieval church (DOW 044:020). Excavation of the test trenches revealed nothing of archaeological significance, with no further archaeological work recommended at this development site.

*Type of monitoring:*

Mechanical excavation of three evaluative trenches

*Size of area opened:*

Three trenches measuring roughly 3m in length and 2m in width

*Current Land Use:*

Waste ground.

*Intended Land Use:*

Residential dwelling

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

The application site is located approximately 30m west of 21 Tyrella Road, Downpatrick, Co. Down (Fig.1). The site lies just outside the village of Ballykinler, lying approximately 1.5km north of its centre and at a height of approximately 20m above sea level. The proposed development is located in a roughly rectangular field adjacent to the remains of a modern graveyard with the tradition that it stands upon the remains of a medieval church (DOW 044:020). The application site is currently waste ground/car breakers yard. It is bounded on all sides by a post and wire fence and extant buildings to the south.

The monitoring took place as part of the planning application for the construction of two new dwellings and was requested by Gina Baban: Caseworker with Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It was requested due to the proximity of the application site to the graveyard (DOW 044:020) and the possibility that there may be previously unrecorded remains associated with this monument.

### *Account of the excavation*

Due to the condition of the application site (with broken down cars and other detritus), only three trenches could be excavated (the original research design obtained from NIEA requested 5 trenches). These were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which consisted of an orange boulder clay with numerous inclusions of small angular and sub-rounded pebbles and stones. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the investigation. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered during the evaluation, which is described in further detail below.

### *Trench One*

Trench One measured roughly 3m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at an average depth of 0.52m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (Context No. 101) directly overlying the natural subsoil (Context No. 102) was encountered with nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation of this trench.

### *Trench Two*

Trench Two was positioned parallel to Trench One, measured roughly 3m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil, which was encountered at an average depth of 0.5m. Again a simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (Context No. 201) directly overlying natural subsoil (Context No. 202) was encountered. A shallow depression in the natural subsoil (Context No. 202) was observed, although this is considered to be a natural undulation in the subsoil that has become filled with topsoil. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in this trench.

*Trench Three*

Trench Three was positioned parallel to Trench Two. The trench measured roughly 3m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at an average depth of 0.48m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (Context No. 301) directly overlying the natural subsoil (Context No. 302) was encountered. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation of this trench.

*Conclusions*

The three evaluative test trenches excavated in the application area contained nothing of archaeological significance. The depth of the topsoil (in all cases being approximately 0.5m deep) is surprising, although it is assumed that this deposit has been filled up with various episodes of dumping detritus in the proposed developments area. It is not thought that the development of the dwelling will impact upon previously unrecognized and unrecorded archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at either of the development sites. No publication of this work is merited save a short summary in the annual *Excavations Bulletin*.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

*Photographs:* 12 images (digital files) currently archived with Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast, BT7 1NN

*Plans / Drawings:* No plans or drawings were generated during the evaluation.

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

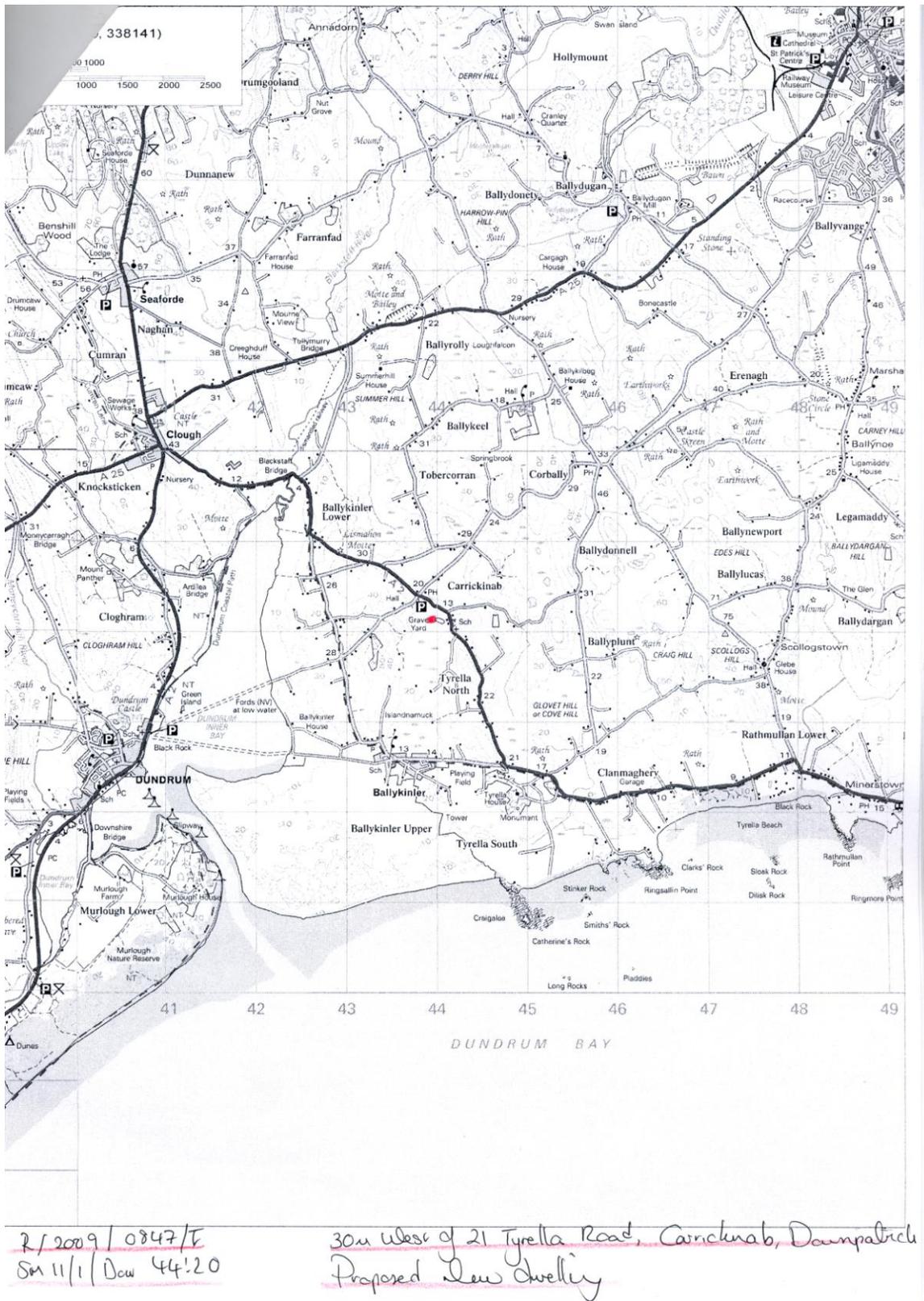


Fig.1: General location map showing location map showing proposed development site (red dot).

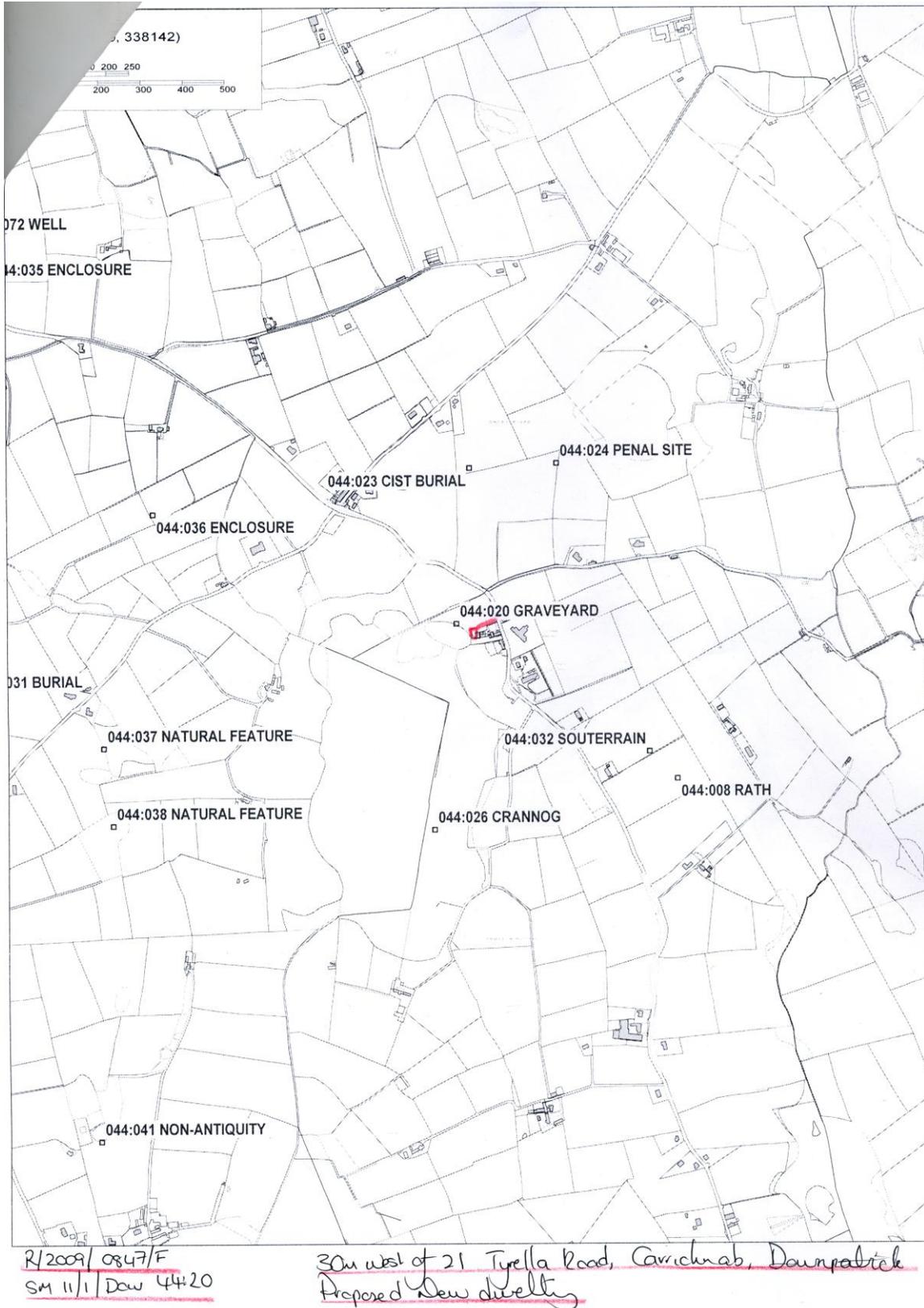


Fig. 2: Map showing proposed application site (outlined in red) and surrounding archaeological monuments.



Fig. 3: Map showing proposed application site (red outline) and evaluation trenches (in black).



Plate One: Trench One following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 102), looking west.



Plate Two: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 202), looking west.



Plate Three: Trench Three following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 302), looking north-west.



Plate Four: Proposed development area showing its current use as waste ground, looking north-west.



Plate Five: View of Trench Three showing modern dumped detritus in vicinity of trench, looking south-west.