

Site Specific Information

Site Name: No. 25 Kilmoody Church Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co. Down, BT23 6SA

Townland: Kilmoody and Ballybunden

SMR No. : SM 11/1 DOW 016:040

State Care Scheduled Other ✓ [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: IJ 46939 62796 *County:* Down

Excavation Licence No: AE/10/153

Planning Ref / No.: X/2010/0265/F

Dates of Monitoring: Monday 13th- Wednesday 15th September 2010

Archaeologist Present: Ruairí Ó Baoill

Brief Summary:

Monitoring took place of ground reduction at the proposed development site between Monday and Wednesday 13th-15th September 2010. The dwelling is in close proximity to the 19th century St Mary's Church that might occupy the site of an earlier ecclesiastical foundation. No archaeological strata, features, artefacts or masonry were observed during the lowering of ground levels for the extension to the existing dwelling and the digging of the foundations for the same. All the strata revealed seemed to be of very recent date and included layers of stones, sand, hard core and uncut (quarry?) stone with modern finds, all sitting directly on subsoil (creamy yellow-brown clay). It seems very likely that the disturbance took place when No. 25 Kilmoody Church Road and the adjacent dwelling were constructed approximately ten years ago. All *in situ* stratigraphy appears to have been removed in the area of the extension at that time and replaced, for the new back garden, with re-deposited material. Monitoring of the groundworks for the proposed extension to the existing dwelling revealed nothing of archaeological significance, with no further archaeological work recommended at this development site.

Type of monitoring: Mechanical excavation of ground reduction for the proposed development and the excavation of foundation trenches for the same.

Size of area opened: Area of ground reduction down to floor level of proposed extension roughly 10m, north-south, by 8m, east west. Within this area the foundations trenches for the extension were dug to sunsoil level and covered an area roughly 6.5m x 6.5m.

Current Land Use: Back garden/ lawn.

Intended Land Use: Single storey extension to residential dwelling.

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located at No. 25 Kilmoody Church Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co. Down. The proposed development is located in the back garden of a dwelling built approximately 10 years ago. The dwelling is in close proximity to the 19th century St Mary's Church that might occupy the site of an earlier ecclesiastical foundation (DOW 0016:040). The application site is currently within a green lawn at the back, eastern side, of the current dwelling.

The monitoring took place between Monday 13th-Wednesday 15th September 2010 as part of the planning application for the construction of a single storey extension to the existing 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 church and graveyard (DOW 016:040) and the possibility that there may be previously unrecorded remains associated with this monument.

Account of the excavation

The area of ground reduction down to floor level and external path of the proposed extension was roughly 10m, north-south, by 8m, east-west and was located immediately to the east of the existing dwelling. Within this area the foundations trenches for the extension walls were dug by a toothed mechanical digger down to subsoil level and covered an area roughly 6.5m x 6.5m. Subsoil was observed as being creamy brown clay. Six distinct horizons were noted during the monitoring of the ground works. These were, from most modern to earliest:

1. the grass sod of the modern lawn/ back garden.
2. a thick layer of brown clay with high large and medium-sized uncut stone content. Artefacts included fragments of red brick, plastic pipe, bathroom tiles, polythene sheeting, wooden slats and planks, tins and electrical insulating tape.
3. a layer of grey rubble containing stone, concrete blocks, red brick and polythene sheeting.
4. a layer of sand and hardcore containing strips of plastic, cement blocks and a modern workman's boot.
5. another thick layer of sticky brown with many large, medium and small uncut stones, red brick, modern glass and plastic.
6. creamy-brown subsoil clay.

Interpretation

It is hard not to come to the conclusion that all *in situ* stratigraphy in the area of the 2010 extension was removed when No. 25 Kilmoor Church Road and the adjacent dwelling were constructed approximately ten years ago. The original strata appear to have been removed at that time and were replaced, for the construction of the new back garden, with re-deposited material. This is the evidence recorded from the 2010 monitoring of the new extension and also the oral testimony of the digger driver of the 2010 groundworks, Mr Harry Spratt, who was also involved in the construction works of No. 25 Kilmoor Church Road a decade ago.

Conclusion

No *in situ* deposits of any antiquity were observed during the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the proposed extension to the No. 25 Kilmoor Church Road. It is not, therefore, probable 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 the development site. No publication of this work is merited save a short summary in *Excavations Bulletin 2010*.

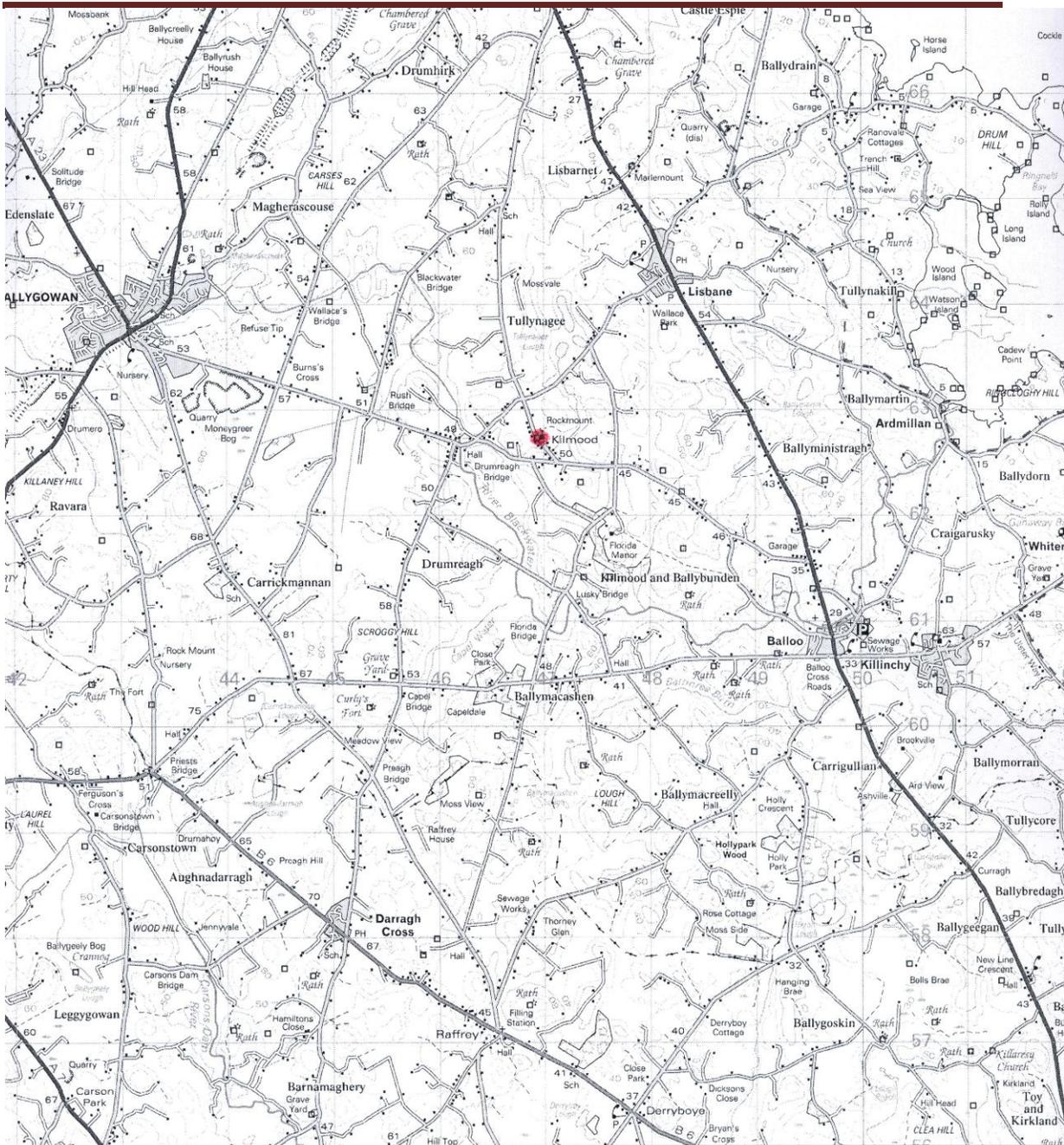
Archive:

Finds: No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Photographs: 108 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: _____



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25 Kilmoody Church Road, Killinchy, Newtownards.
Soil Stone extension to provide sitting area.

Fig 1. 25 Kilmoody Church Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, County Down.
Location map for proposed development (site marked in red).



Fig 2. 25 Kilmoor Church Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, County Down. Detail of proposed development.



Fig 3. 25 Kilmoed Church Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, County Down.
Archaeological sites in the environs of the proposed development .



Plate 1. The outline of the extension to No. 25 Kilmoody Church Road before ground works commenced. 13/09/10. From the north.



Plate 2. Modern tiles and wood in Horizon 2, in the northern half of the site.



Plate 3. Horizon 3 being exposed in the northern half of the site.
From the east.



Plate 4. Modern workman's boot in Horizon 3, in west of site. From north.



Plate 5. Modern service pipes in the west of site and Horizon 3. From the south-east.



Plate 6. Spoil from Horizon 5, containing many large stones, in the west of site. From the north-west.



Plate 7. Subsoil clay (Horizon 6) exposed below Horizon 5, in the base of the southern foundation trench for the walls of the extension to No. 25 Kilmood Church Road. From the east.



Plate 8. Completed ground works at the extension to No. 25 Kilmoor Church Road- ground reduction and wall foundation trenches. 15/09/10. From the north-east.