



Monitoring Report No. 207

**15m north-east of 16 Ballintogher Road
Ballysugagh
Downpatrick
County Down**

AE/10/155E

Ruth Logue

Site Specific Information

Site location: 15m north-east of 16 Ballintogher Road, Downpatrick, BT30 7LB

Townland: Ballysugagh

SMR number: Saul Abbey – DOW 031:042
Saval-Bregagh - DOW 031:047

State Care Scheduled Other

Grid reference: 5121746542

County: Down

Excavation licence number: AE/10/155E

Planning reference number: R/2010/0431/F

Date of monitoring: 20 September 2010

Archaeologist present: Ruth Logue

Brief summary:

Monitoring of three test trenches excavated to subsoil to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any previously unrecorded below-ground remains. Nothing of archaeological significance found.

Type of monitoring: Mechanical back-acting digger

Size of area opened: Trench A: 4.0m by 1.2m
Trench B: 8.0m by 1.3m
Trench C: 9.0m by 1.25m

Current land use: Pasture

Intended land use: Domestic dwelling and garage

Account of the monitoring

The application site was located in a field 15m north-east of 16 Ballintogher Road, Ballysugagh townland, County Down (Figure 1). The proposed development was for a domestic dwelling and garage. The site was in close proximity to Saul Abbey (DOW 031:042), a scheduled ecclesiastical site. Saval-Bregagh (DOW 031:047) is a graveyard, with stone-lined graves and building foundations, which remains currently unlocated. This graveyard is recorded as being north-east of the modern church at Saul and in Ballysugagh townland so could potentially have been located within the application site. Other sites of archaeological interest were also within the vicinity. (See Figure 2)

An archaeological evaluation was requested to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 20 September 2010. Three test trenches (A, B and C) (Figure 3) were excavated in the area requested by the Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker, Gina Baban.

The topsoil was uniform in all three trenches, a mid-brown silty loam; it averaged 0.2m in Trench A and 0.3m in Trenches B and C. The topsoil lay directly above the subsoil, a orange silty clay with high shale content.

Trench A was 4.0m long and 1.2m wide; it was located within the footprint of the proposed garage and aligned north-west/south-east. (Plate 2)

Trench B was 8.0m long and averaged 1.3m wide, Trench C was 9.0m long and averaged 1.25m wide. Both trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed dwelling and aligned north-east/south-west. (Plates 1 and 3)

No features or finds of archaeological significance were found in any of the test trenches.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 4 digital photos, held in Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork offices

Plans / Drawings: N/A

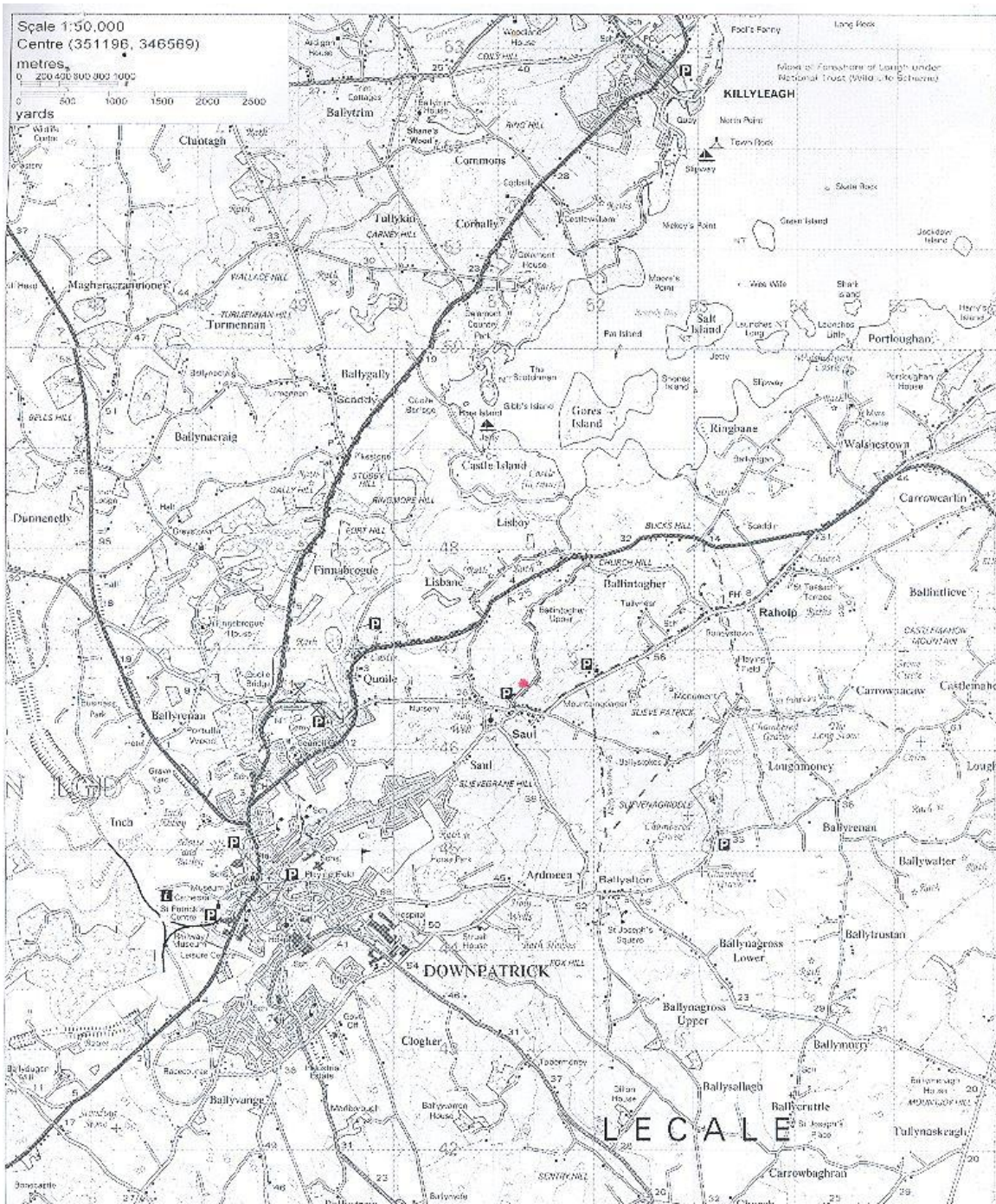


Figure 1: 1:50,000 map showing site (highlighted) and surrounding area.

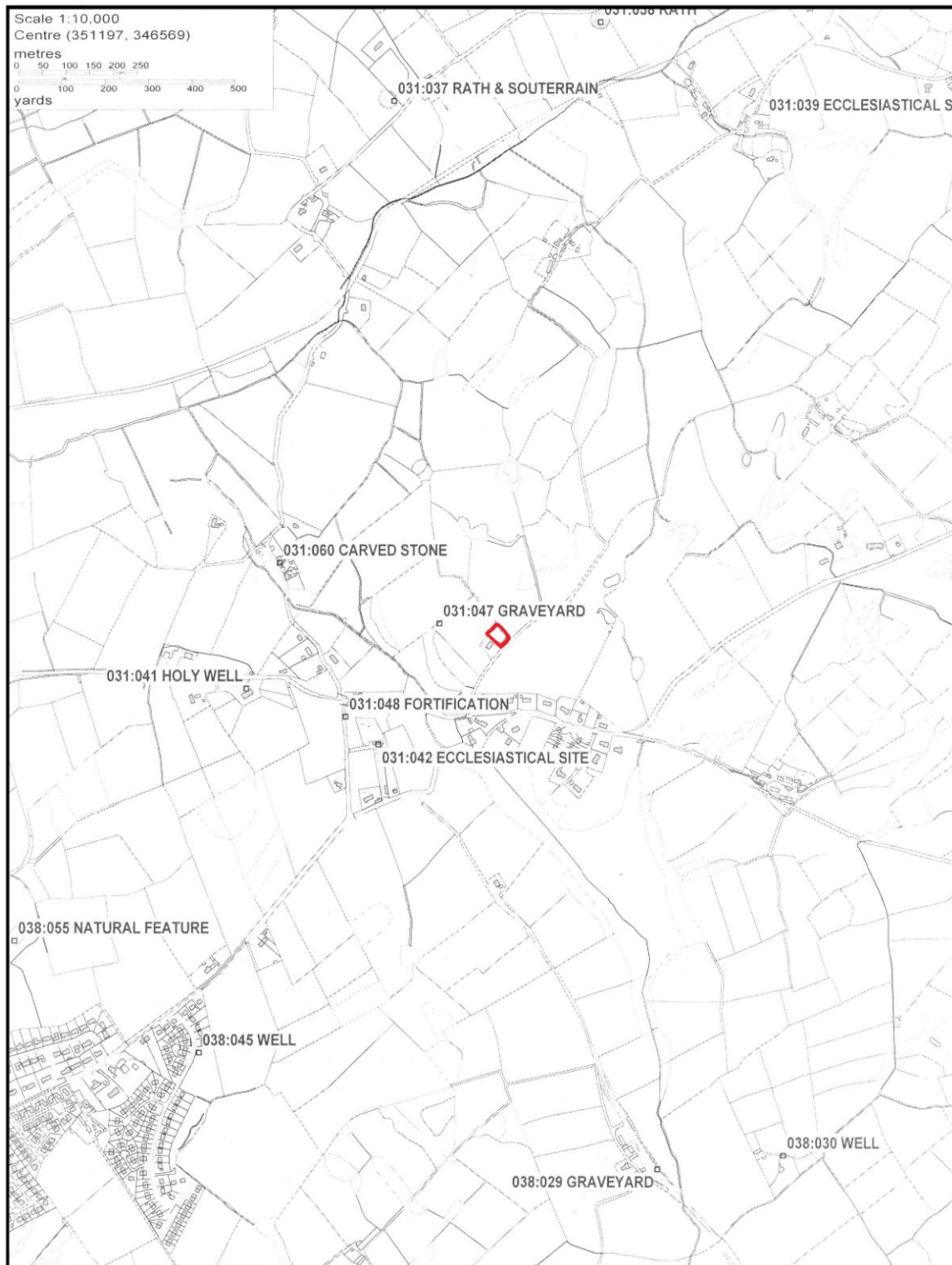


Figure 2: 1:10,000 map showing location of application site (highlighted), sites of archaeological interest in the surrounding area, and Downpatrick in south-west corner.

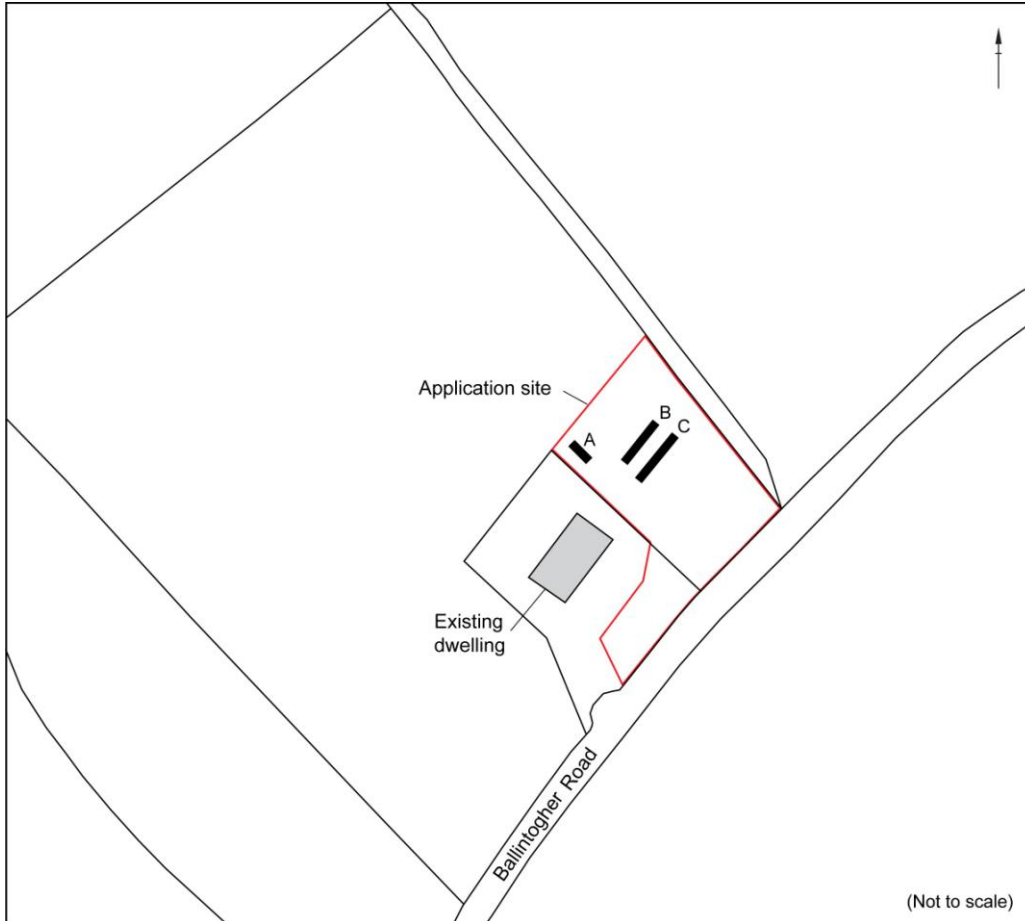


Figure 3: Plan showing application site and test trenches.



Plate 1: Trench B, post-excavation, looking north-east.



Plate 2: Trench A, post-excavation, looking south-east.



Plate 3: Trench C, post-excavation, looking north-east.