



Monitoring Report No. 37

**Bright Road
Bright
Co. Down**

AE/05/181

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Bright Road

Townland: Bright

SMR Nos: (I) Dow 045:001 (Castle Bright)
State Care *Scheduled* ✓ *Other*
(II) Dow 045:002 (Bright Parish Church)
State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: J 5055 3790

County: Down

Excavation License No: AE/05/181

Planning Ref / No.: R/2005/0170/O

Date of Monitoring: 5th January 2006

Archaeologist Present: Kara Ward

Brief Summary:

Six test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of six test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision

Size of area opened: Six trenches measuring 25m by 2m each

Current Land Use: Agricultural field

Intended Land Use: Residential

Account of the monitoring

The proposed development site is located to the south of Bright Road in Bright townland (Fig. 1). Bright Parish Church (Dow:045:002) is approximately 120m to the north and Castle Bright (Dow 045:001) is a further 120m north of the church (Fig. 2). The application site is located on an elevated ridge with good views toward Killough and the sea to the south-east and the Mourne Mountains to the south-west. The field is gently undulating with a rock outcrop in the middle of the development site.

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 5th January 2006. Six test trenches were excavated as requested by the PHM Casework Officer, Edith Gowdy, on the site plan (Fig. 3). The trenches measured 25m by 2m each.

The stratigraphy of the test trenches is described below. The trenches are numbered 1-6 from north to south. In Trench 1 the topsoil (C101) was approximately 0.28m deep. The underlying subsoil (C102) was a grey brown silty clay with shale inclusions (Plate 1). The topsoil (C101) in Trench 2 had an average depth of 0.28m. The underlying subsoil (C103) was a grey brown silty clay with shale inclusions (Plates 2 and 3). The topsoil became progressively shallower towards the rock outcrop. In Trench 3, the topsoil (C101) was up to 0.20m deep, the subsoil (C102) was a grey brown silty clay with seams of exposed shale bedrock (Plate 4). The topsoil (C101) in Trench 4 had an average depth of approximately 0.10m. This trench was positioned directly on the rock outcrop consequently the material underlying the topsoil was mainly shale bedrock with some orange brown silty clay (C103) (Plate 5 and 6). Trench 5 was located on the southern side of the rock outcrop. The topsoil (C101) here was up to 0.20m deep. The underlying subsoil was an orange silty clay with shale bedrock intrusions (C103). A modern agricultural feature (C104) was noted approximately 4.8m from the western end of the trench (Plate 7). It measured 0.24m wide by 0.11m deep. The fill (C105) was a dark brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions. In Trench 6, the topsoil (C101) had an average depth of 0.33m. The subsoil was an orange brown silty clay with frequent fragments of shale (Plates 8 and 9).

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

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 14 digital images, held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Fig. 1: Map showing location of site (red).

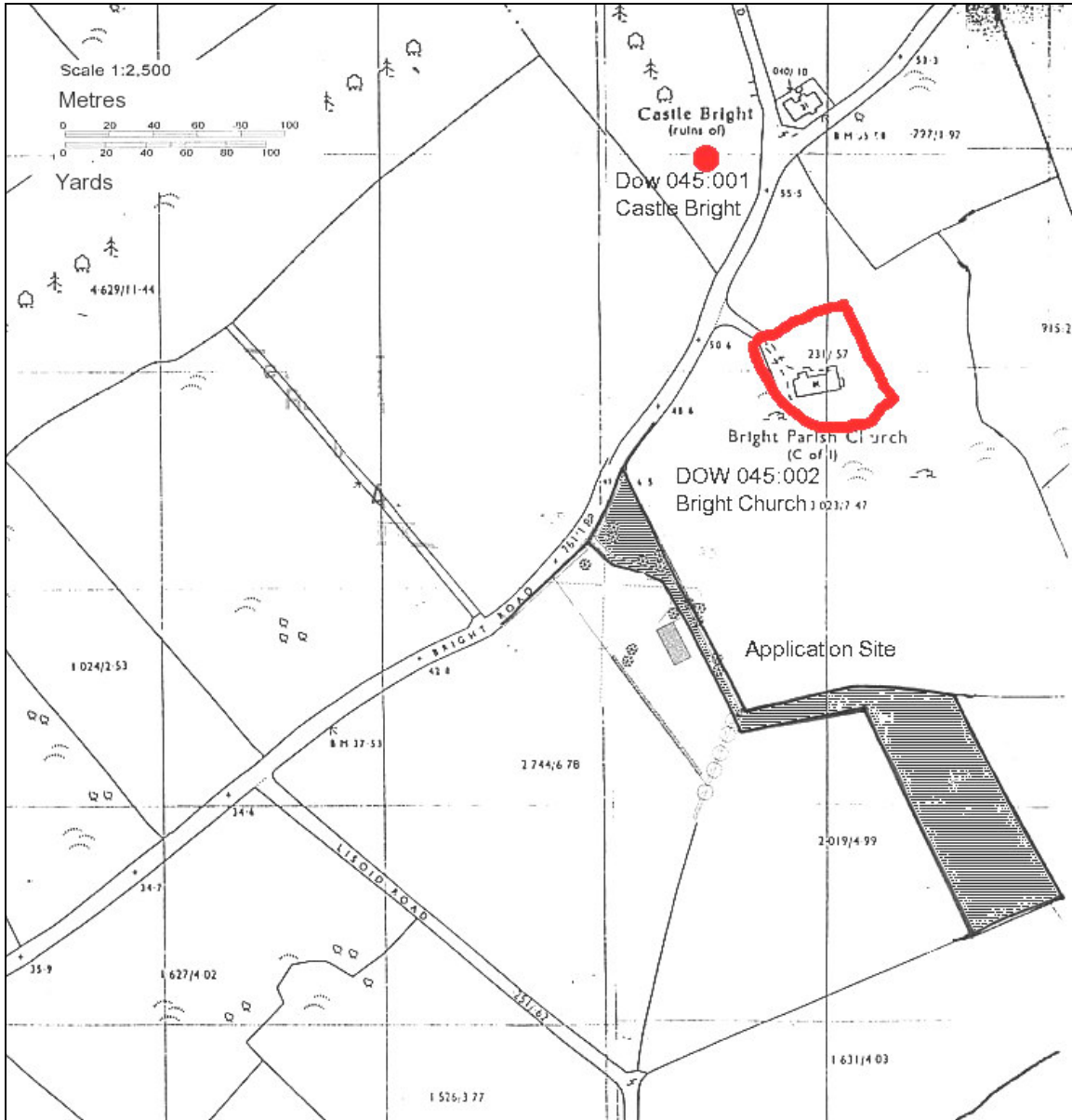


Fig. 2: Application site (hatched) and archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity (red).

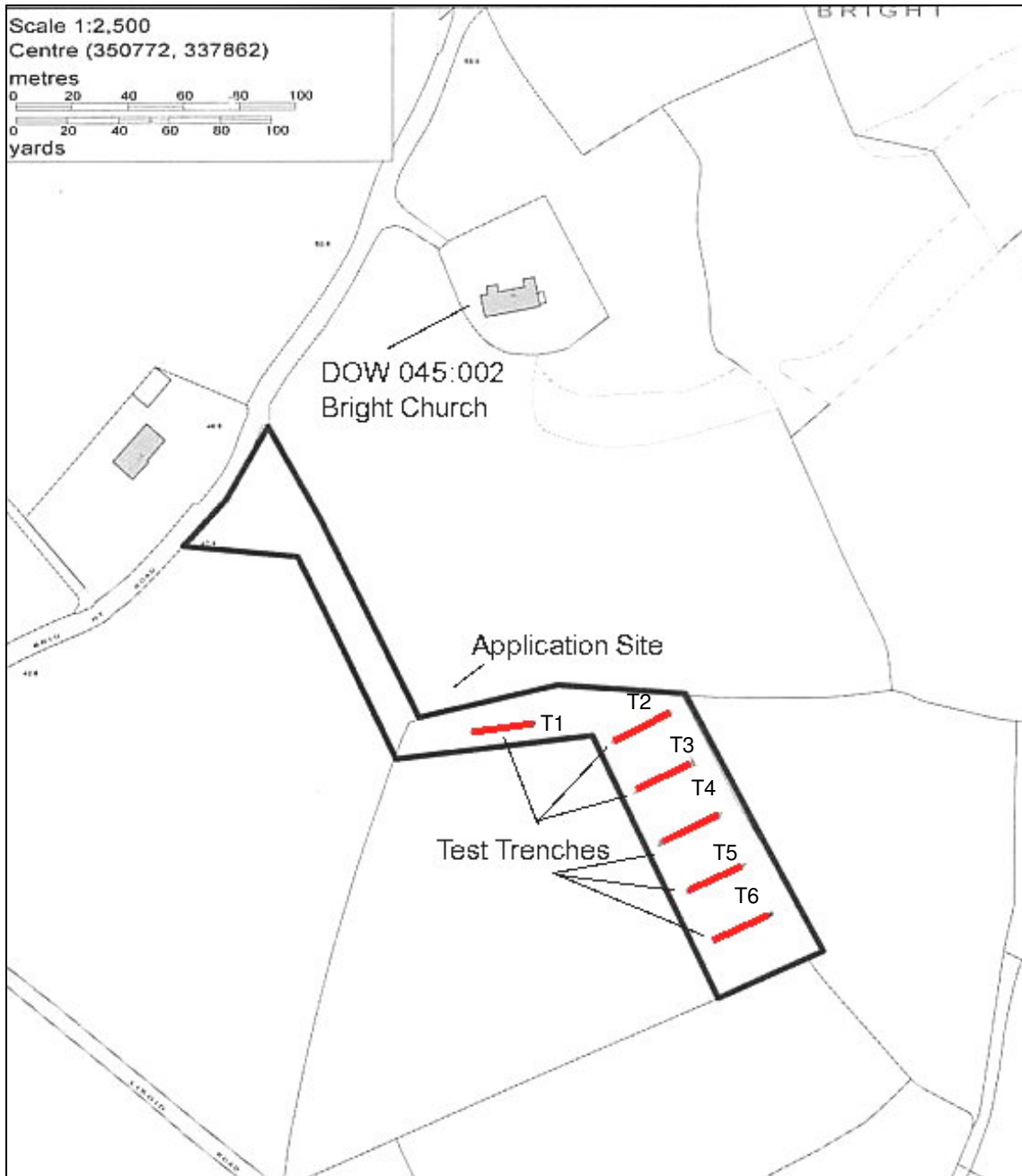


Fig. 3: Development site and location of test trenches (marked in red).



Plate 1: Trench 1
from west



Plate 2: Trench 2
from west



Plate 3: Section of
Trench 2, with Bright
Parish Church in
background



Plate 4: Trench 3
from west



Plate 5: Trench 4 from west, showing exposed bedrock (C103)



Plate 6: Trenches 2, 3 and 4 with Bright Parish Church in the background



Plate 7: Trench 5
from west, showing
C104, a modern
agricultural feature



Plate 8: Trench 6
from west



Plate 9: Trenches 5 and 6 from north