



Evaluation Report No. 112

**Ardshane Lodge
5 Bangor Road
Holywood
Co. Down**

Licence No. AE/08/85

David McIlreavy

Site Specific Information

Site Name : Ardshane Lodge, 5 Bangor Road

Townland : Holywood

County : Down

Grid Ref. : J 40177930

SMR No. : DOW 01:002 S

Current Land Use : Garden

Intended Land Use : Residential

State Care : Scheduled []
Other []

Excavation Licence No : AE/08/85

Planning Ref / No. : W/2007/0275/F

Dates of Monitoring : 19/05/08

Archaeologist Present : David McIlreavy

Brief Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a potential development site in Holywood, Co. Down, as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. The development site was located within 100m of Holywood Friary (DOW 01:002 S), of which the original building phase dates to the 13th century AD. The proposed development site is located on a low rise adjacent to the site of the friary, within the garden of the present Ardshane Lodge.

The area of the proposed development was under heavy shrub planting, and several mature trees had been marked by Planning Service for preservation on site. Because of the heavy planting present on site, the original methodology was modified to allow for the removal of protected planting before mechanical excavation was undertaken. Once all protected planting had been preserved or removed the proposed development area was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

No features of potential archaeological interest were uncovered during the archaeological evaluation, and no further fieldwork was recommended in relation to the development of this site.

Type of monitoring

The development footprint (12 x 8 metres) of the proposed building was archaeologically excavated to glacial subsoil using a back acting mechanical excavator.

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The development area is located in the townland of Holywood, Co Down. The proposed development site is located on a small rise above the Holywood Friary site (DOW 01:002 S), in the garden of the existing building at Ardshane Lodge. The proposed development site is sub rectangular in shape, delineated by mature planting to three sides of the area, and a tarmacadam driveway.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for the construction of a new dwelling, and was requested by Neil Yeaman (Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage) due to the proximity of the proposed development site to the site of Holywood Friary (DOW 01: 002 S). The proposed development site is also situated within the Holywood Area of Archaeological Potential.

Excavation

The monitoring consisted of archaeological excavation to glacial subsoil level, by back acting mechanical excavator.

Trench 1

An area 12m x 8m was mechanically excavated to glacial subsoil level. The trench was located on a low rise, with approximately a 0.50 metre rise from NW – SE. The stratigraphy encountered on site indicated a severe modern discontinuity (Context No. 102), consistent with the removal of the sod layer and cultivation soil in a single event.

After removal of the sod layer a dark brown topsoil (Context No. 101) was encountered, approximately 0.15 cm in depth, which exhibited some signs of organic improvement. It is considered that the organic improvement of the topsoil was due to wash from the planting beds at the higher SE area of the proposed development site. The topsoil soil layer directly overlay the modern discontinuity noted above (Context No. 102). Underneath the topsoil was the glacial subsoil (Context No. 103), a reddish orange boulder clay with some stony inclusions. Some late 19th century/early 20th

century terracotta drainage pipe was encountered on the surface of the glacial subsoil (Context No. 103), however this was considered residual.

No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered from the test trench.

Interpretation

The stratigraphy encountered in the course of the excavation indicated that the site had experienced a serious modern discontinuity, most likely late 19th century/early 20th century. It would appear that after the pre 19th century stratigraphy had been removed, the site was heavily landscaped, especially in the area closest to the existing building at Ardshane Lodge.

Recommendations

It is not thought that the scale and location of development will impact significantly upon previously unrecorded archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. No further publication is recommended, except for a short summary should be prepared for the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

Table 1

Context Register

Context No.	Description
101	Dark brown topsoil
102	Modern discontinuity
103	Reddish orange boulder clay

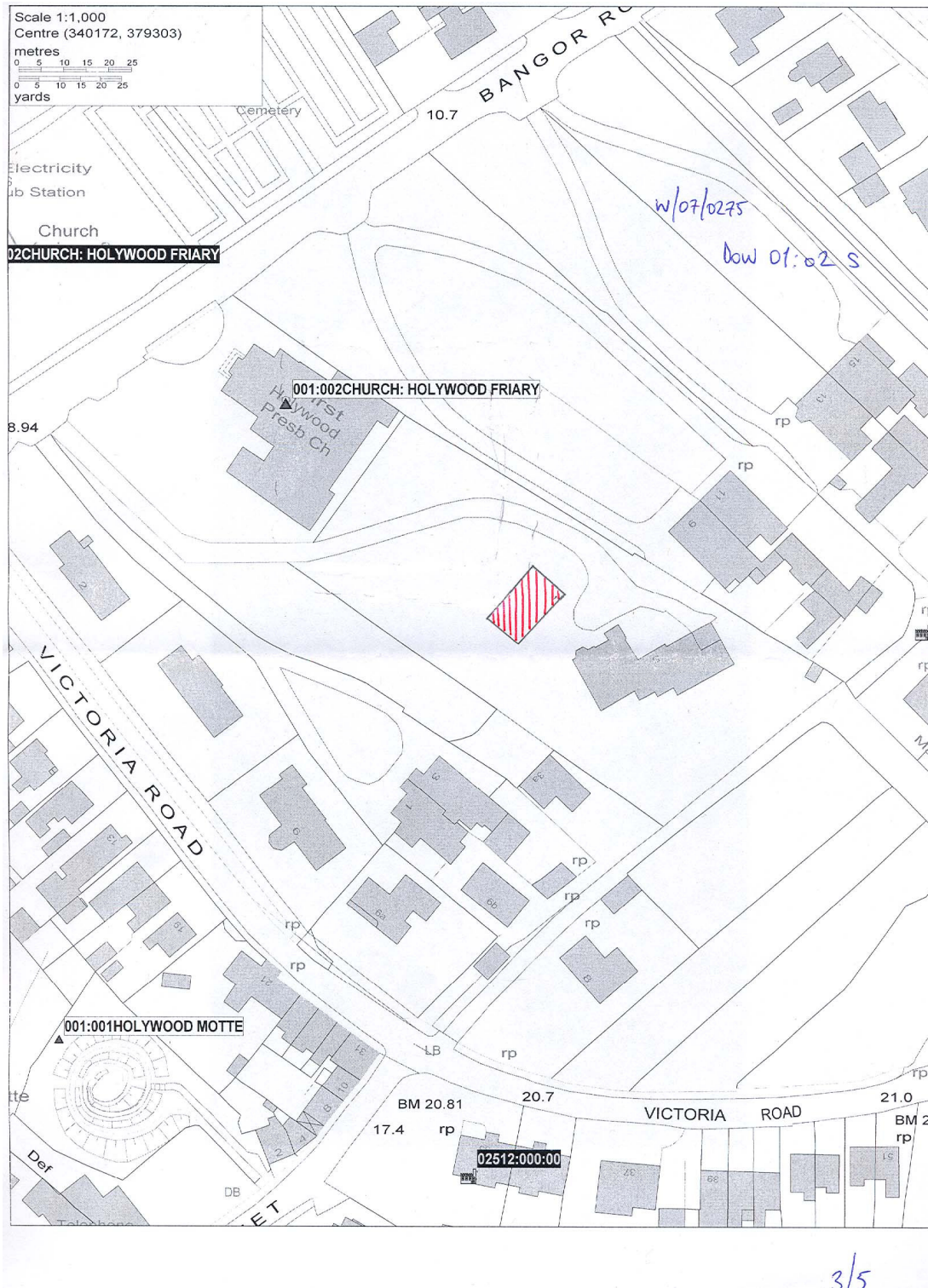


Fig. 1 Location of the proposed development site in relation to the Hollywood Friary (DOW 001:002). The mechanically excavated area is indicated by red striping.



Plate 1 General shot showing scale of the mature planting. Looking NW.



Plate 2 General shot showing the reddish orange glacial subsoil (Context No. 103)



Plate 3 Shot looking NE showing the depth of modern landscaping towards the existing building at Ardshane Lodge.



Plate 4 General shot looking SW showing the proposed development site after topsoil stripping.