



Monitoring Report No. 35

**Phil's Fort
Ballynaris
Co. Down**

AE/05/169

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Phil's Fort

Townland: Ballynaris

SMR No: DOW 020:054

State Care *Scheduled* ✓ *Other*

Grid Ref: J 1786 5373

County: Down

Excavation License No: AE/05/169

Scheduled Monument Consent: Ref. B118/86

Date of Monitoring: 9th December 2005

Archaeologist Present: Kara Ward

Brief Summary:

Excavation by hand of two small trenches for gateposts and strainers. Excavations were required to facilitate road safety improvement works. The work was carried out for the Roads Service.

Size of area opened: Two trenches, each measuring 0.80m by 0.50m by 0.50m.

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Boundary between road verge and scheduled monument.

Account of the excavation

Excavation of two small trenches was required to facilitate road safety improvement works on the B2 Lurgan to Dromore Road. The trenches were necessary for the insertion of two gateposts and two strainers. An archaeologist was required to carry out these excavations on behalf of the Roads Service as this section of the road safety improvement works impacts on the scheduled area of Phil's Fort (DOW 020:054). This was to allow the investigation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits impacted upon by the insertion of the gate posts and strainers. As the works were to be carried out within the scheduled area of the monument a Scheduled Monument Consent was required (B118/86).

The monument is a large oval mound with a rounded profile and the vestiges of a possible outer bank at the north east. The monument type is not clear but it is thought to be a motte, raised rath or prehistoric burial mound.

The trenches were excavated by hand on 9th December 2005 by Kara Ward. The dimensions of the trenches were 0.80m by 0.50m by 0.50m each. The topsoil (C101) was extremely shallow at only 0.09m deep. The underlying subsoil (C102) was a very compact orange brown gritty clay with intrusions of slate bedrock. Following the removal of the topsoil the trenches were cleaned to aid identification of archaeological features or deposits (Plates 1 and 2). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered. The trenches were subsequently excavated to the required depth of 0.50m (Plates 3-7).

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs: 7 prints held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____

Date: _____

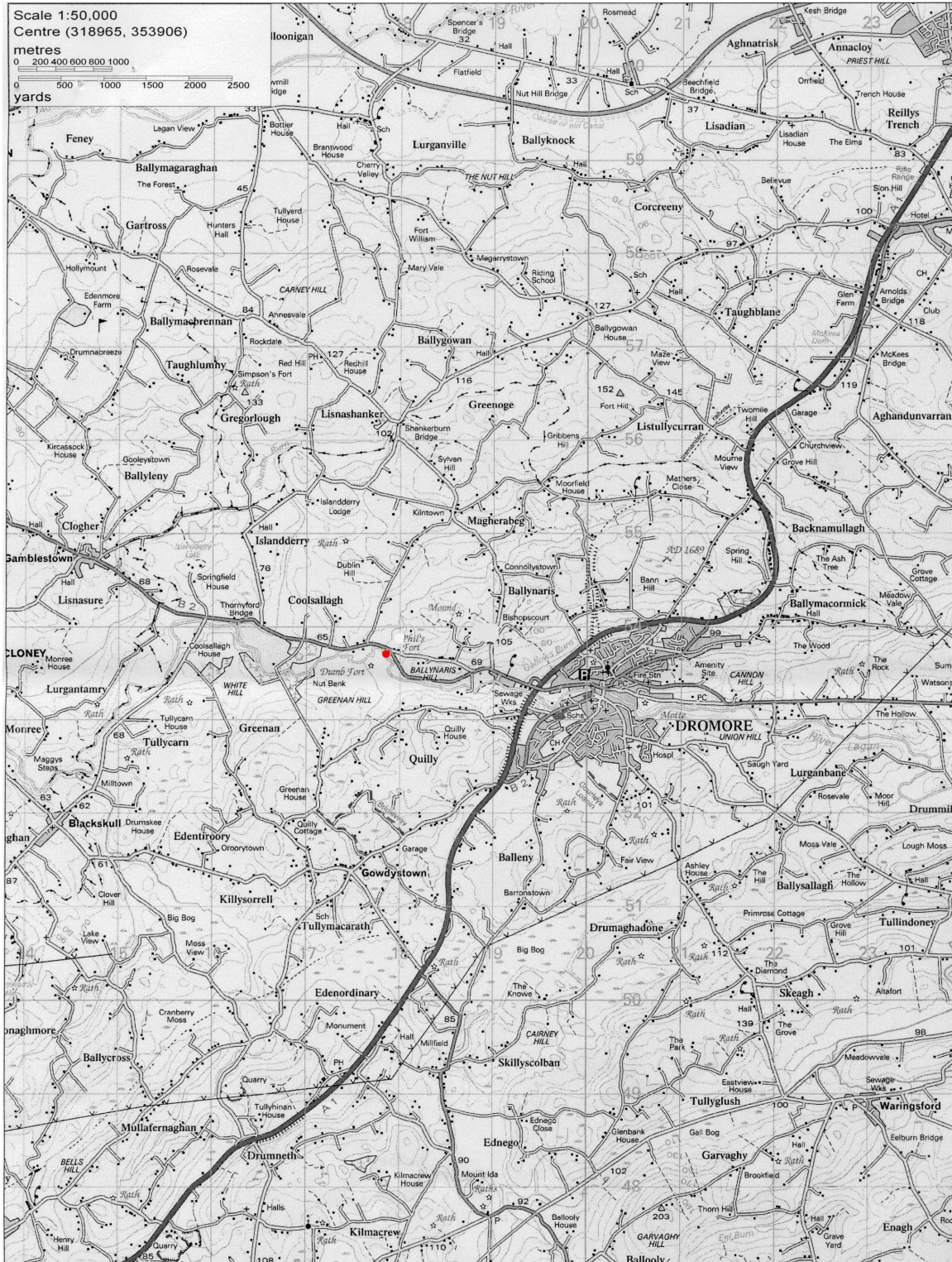


Figure 1: Map showing location of site (red).

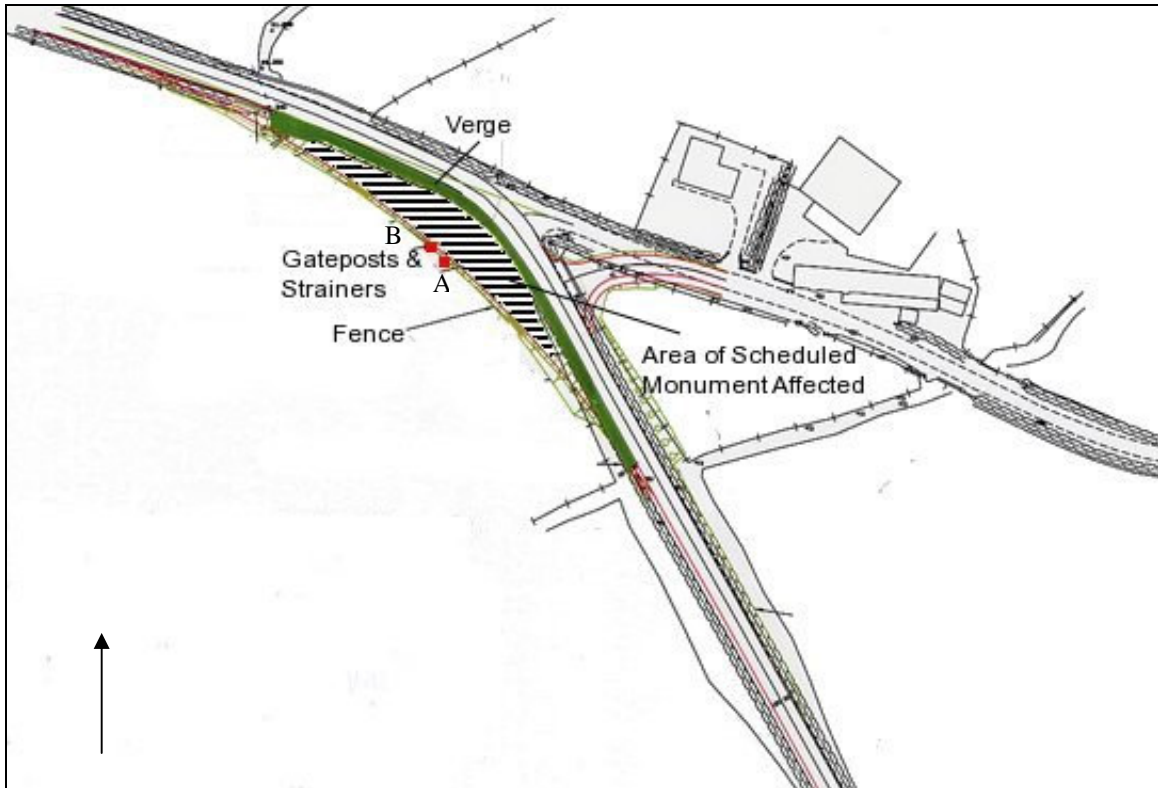


Figure 2: Plan of road safety Improvement works showing location of trenches for the gateposts and strainers.



Plate 1: Trench A after topsoil removal, showing surface of C102.



Plate 2: Trench B after topsoil removal, showing surface of C102.



Plate 3: Post-excavation view of Trench A from the southwest, with Phil's Fort in the background.



Plate 4: Post-excavation view of Trench B from the southwest, with Phil's Fort in the background.



Plate 5: Post-excavation view of Trench A.



Plate 6: Post-excavation view of Trench B.



Plate 7: Post-excavation view of Trenches A and B from the southwest, with Phil's Fort in the background.