



## **Monitoring Report No. 222**

**40m south-west of 19 Longstone Road  
Barnmeen townland  
Rathfriland  
County Down**

**AE/11/25E**

Ruth Logue

## Site Specific Information

*Site location:* 40m south-west of 19 Longstone Road, Rathfriland

*Townland:* Barnmeen

*SMR number:* DOW 041:056

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other

*Grid reference:* J1751433289

*County:* Down

*Excavation licence number:* AE/11/25E

*Planning reference number:* P/2007/0136/O

*Date of monitoring:* 25 March 2011

*Archaeologist present:* Ruth Logue

### *Brief summary:*

Monitoring of five 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: 25.0m by 1.5m  
Trench B: 25.0m by 1.5m  
Trench C: 25.0m by 1.5m  
Trench D: 25.0m by 1.5m  
Trench E: 20.0m by 1.5m

*Current land use:* Pasture

*Intended land use:* Retirement dwelling

## **Account of the monitoring**

The application site was located in a field adjacent to 19 Longstone Road, Barnmeen townland, near Rathfriland in County Down (Figure 1). The proposed development was for a dwelling. The application site was beside the site of an enclosure, DOW 041:056 (Figures 1 and 2), of which there are no visible remains. In the vicinity of the application site was another enclosure, a rath, a standing stone and a souterrain.

An archaeological evaluation was requested to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains; there was potential that the development could reveal previously unrecorded below-ground archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 25 March 2011. Five test trenches (A to E) (Figure 3) were excavated in the area requested by the Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker, Gail Howell.

The topsoil was uniform in all five trenches, a mid brown clay-loam; it ranged in depth from 0.25m to 0.40m. The topsoil lay directly above the subsoil, a buff coloured clay, with gravelly patches (decayed stone).

Trenches A, B, C and D were all 25.0m long, they were aligned north-north-west/south-south-east; Trench E was 20.0m long, it was aligned east-north-east/west-south-west. The trenches were excavated using a smooth edged bucket 1.5m wide. (Plates 1 to 5)

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

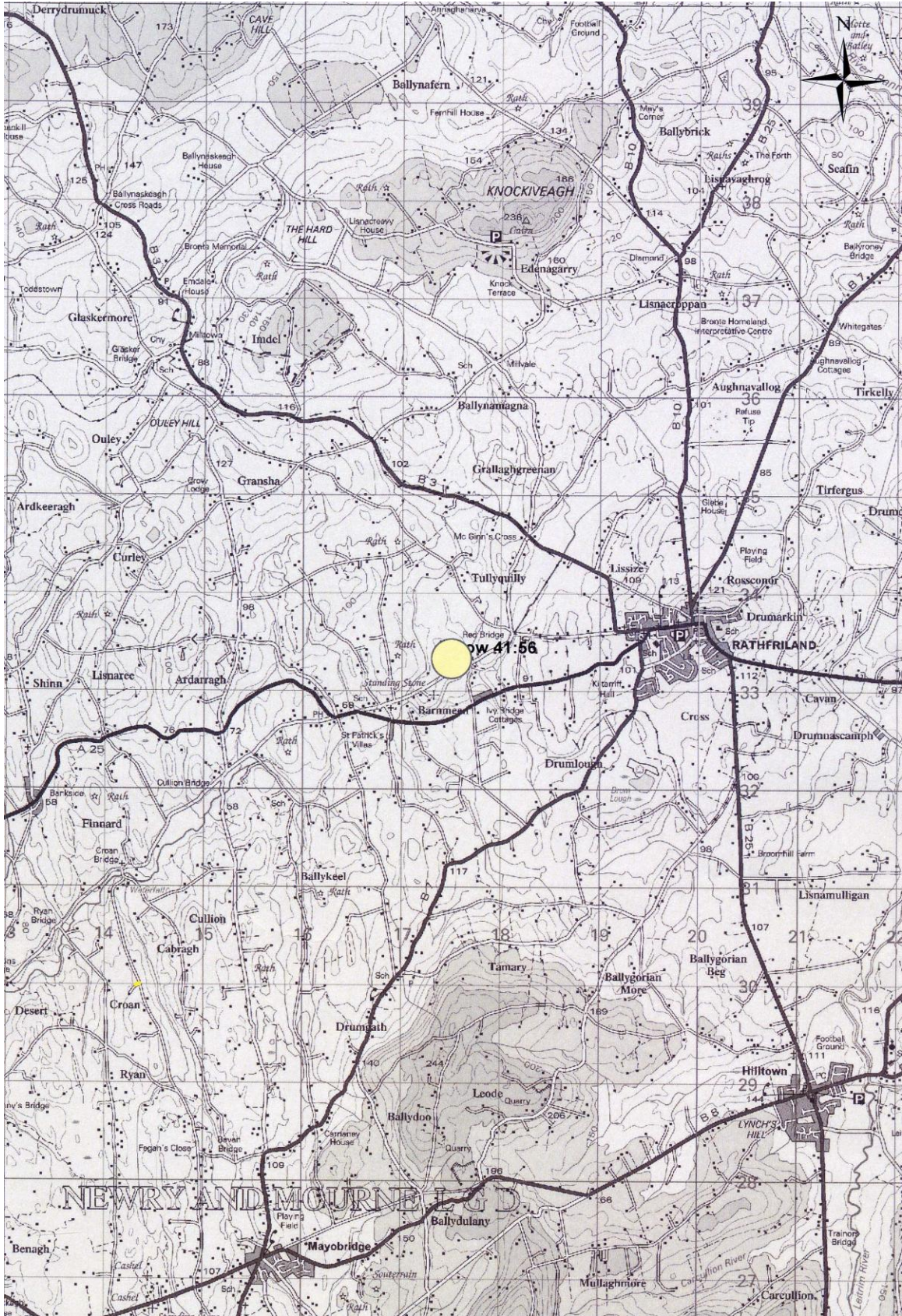


Figure 1: Map showing site (highlighted) and surrounding area.

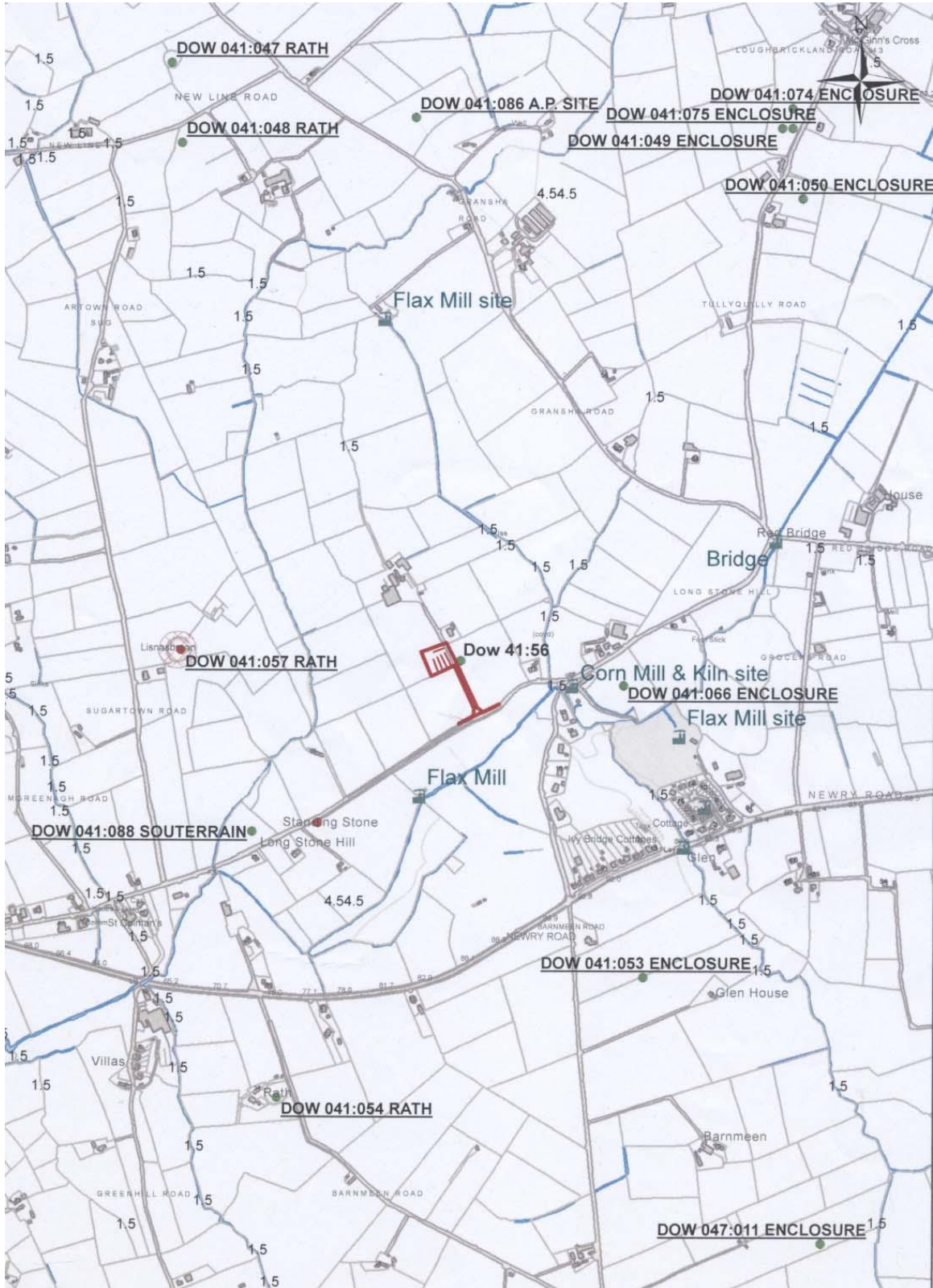


Figure 2: Map showing location of application site (highlighted), DOW 041:056 and sites of archaeological interest in the surrounding area.

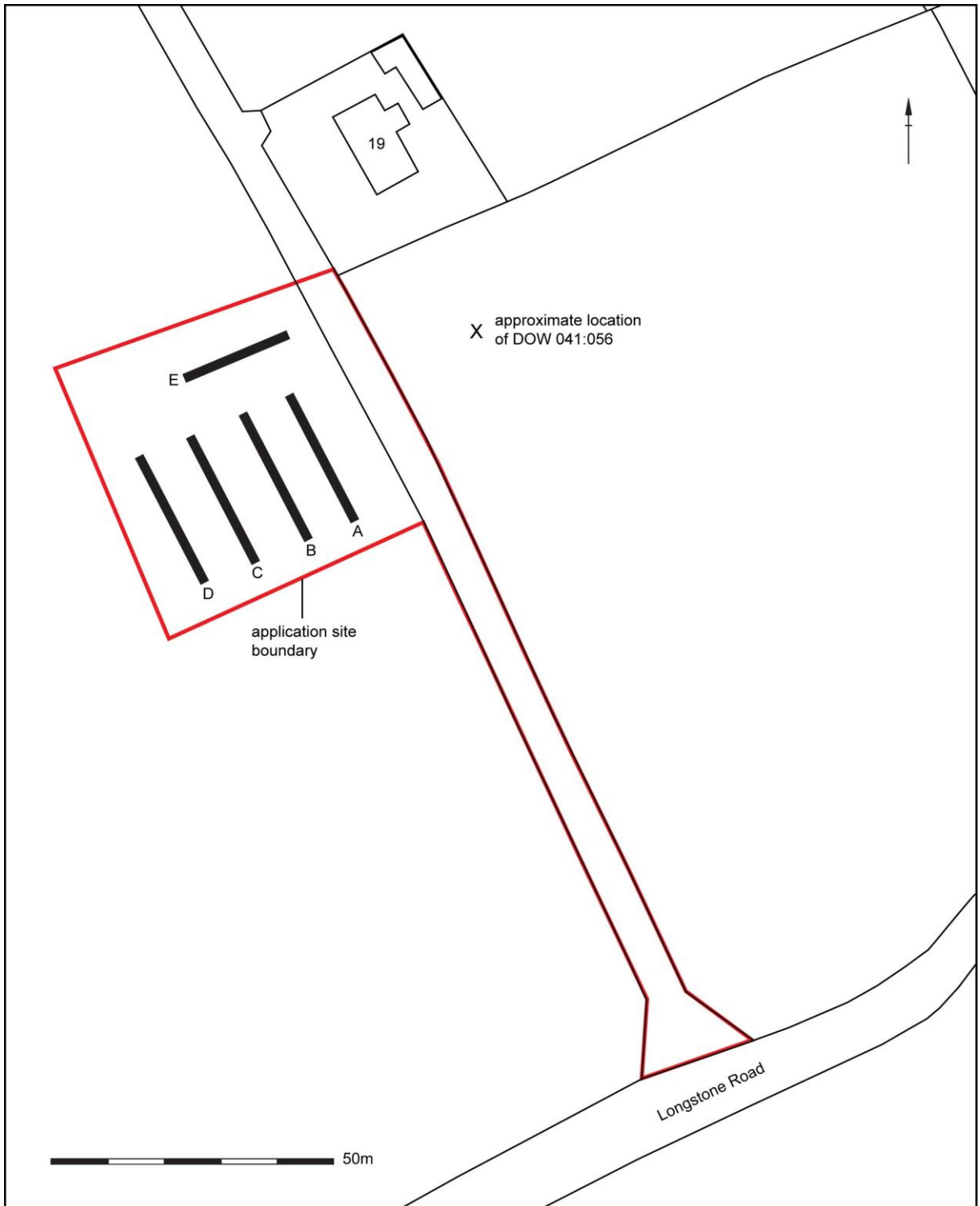


Figure 3: Plan showing application site and test trenches.



Plate 1: Trench A, post-excitation, looking south-south-east.



Plate 2: Trench B, post-excitation, looking south-south-east.



Plate 3: Trench C, post-excitation, looking north-north-west.



Plate 4: Trench D, post-excitation, looking north-north-west.



Plate 5: Trench E, post-excitation, looking east-north-east; the raised area beyond the hedge and to the side of the house is the approximate location of DOW 041:056.