



Monitoring Report No. 136

**50m south-west of 9 Glenview Road
Duncarbit
Glenshesk
Co. Antrim**

AE/10/11

E/2009/0191/F

BRIAN SLOAN

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 50m south-west of 9 Glenview Road, Glenshesk, Armoy, Co. Antrim

Townland: Duncarbit

SMR No. : ANT 009:137

State Care Scheduled Other ✓ [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: 14326 35336

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/10/11

Planning Ref / No. : E/2009/0191/F

Dates of Monitoring: 7th January 2010

Archaeologist Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

Three trenches were mechanically excavated to assess the presence and survival of archaeological strata at the proposed development site. Three sherds of probable pre-historic (possibly 'Western Neolithic') pottery were recovered from the plough soil in Trench One, although despite careful cleaning of the trench showed no features of archaeological significance. Nothing of significance was encountered in the other two trenches.

Type of monitoring:

Mechanical excavation of three evaluative trenches.

Size of area opened:

Three trenches measuring roughly 20m in length and 2m in width (total of 120m²)

Current Land Use:

Greenfield site.

Intended Land Use:

Residential dwelling.

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located approximately 50m south-west of 9 Glenview Road, Duncarbit, Glenshesk, Co. Antrim (Fig.1). The site lies just outside the village of Armoy, lying approximately 6.5km east of its centre and at a height of approximately 100m above sea level. The proposed development is located along the eastern boundary of a large irregular shaped field, and has panoramic views all around, especially to the west where Knocklayd is situated. The surrounding landscape is rich in sites and monuments of historical and archaeological nature, with many sites of a prehistoric nature being located in the vicinity of the application site. The archaeological evaluation was requested due to the proximity of the application site to a castle of uncertain date (ANT 009:137 – ‘The Burnt House’).

The monitoring took place as part of the planning application for the construction of a new dwelling and was requested by Adrian Mc Alleenan: Caseworker with Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It was requested due to the proximity of the application site to the unclassified castle (ANT 009/137) as well as the application site is situated in an area of increased archaeological interest.

Account of the excavation

Three trenches were mechanically excavated across the proposed application site. Trench One was located across the proposed access lane to the development with Trenches Two and Three being excavated across the footprint of the house itself. The trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which consisted of a reddish orange stony clay. The natural bedrock was exposed in the eastern end of Trench One. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered during the evaluation, which is described in further detail below.

Trench One

Trench One was positioned parallel to a mature hedge that separates the application site to 8 Glenview Road. The trench measured roughly 19m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. The natural bedrock was encountered in the eastern end of the trench.

The sod and topsoil (Context No. 101) was a light to mid brown sandy loam. Numerous inclusions of small angular and sub-rounded stones were observed as well as 3 sherds of white glazed ceramics being recovered from this deposit. On average the sod and topsoil was 0.2m thick, and directly overlay a thin layer of plough soil (Context No. 102).

The plough soil (Context No. 102) appeared similar in colour and texture to the topsoil (Context No. 101) although larger stones were noted. Fragments of charcoal and possible clinker (perhaps added to the soil as agricultural manuring) were observed throughout the plough soil

(Context No. 102). Three sherds of probable prehistoric pottery were recovered from the plough soil (Context No. 102). This directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 103) which consisted of a reddish orange stony clay.

Trench Two

Trench Two was located approximately 4m west of, and perpendicular to, Trench One and measured 20m by 2m. This trench was excavated to subsoil (Context No. 203) which consisted of a reddish orange clay. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.45m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones. A single sherd of nineteenth-century glazed ceramic was recovered from the topsoil in this trench. This layer was, on average 0.30m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 202). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 202) was on average 0.15m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 202) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 203). The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 203) consisted of a reddish orange gritty clay. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Two.

Trench Three

Trench Three was located approximately 2m west, and parallel to, Trench Two and measured 21m by 2m. This trench was excavated both to subsoil (Context No. 303) which consisted of a reddish orange clay. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones. This layer was, on average 0.35m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 302) and the granite bedrock (Context No. 304). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 302) was on average 0.05m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones. This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 302) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 303).

The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 303) consisted of a reddish orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Three.

Conclusions

The three evaluative test trenches excavated in the application area contained nothing of archaeological significance. It is postulated that the three sherds of prehistoric pottery are intrusive finds, having been incorporated into the plough soil through manuring of the site. It is not thought that the development of the dwelling will impact upon previously unrecognized and

unrecorded archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication of this work is merited save a short summary in the annual *Excavations Bulletin*.

Archive:

Finds: The finds recovered during the evaluation are temporarily archived at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast BT7 1NN.

Photographs: The photographs taken during the evaluation are temporarily archived at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast BT7 1NN.

Plans / Drawings: No plans or drawings were generated during the evaluation.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

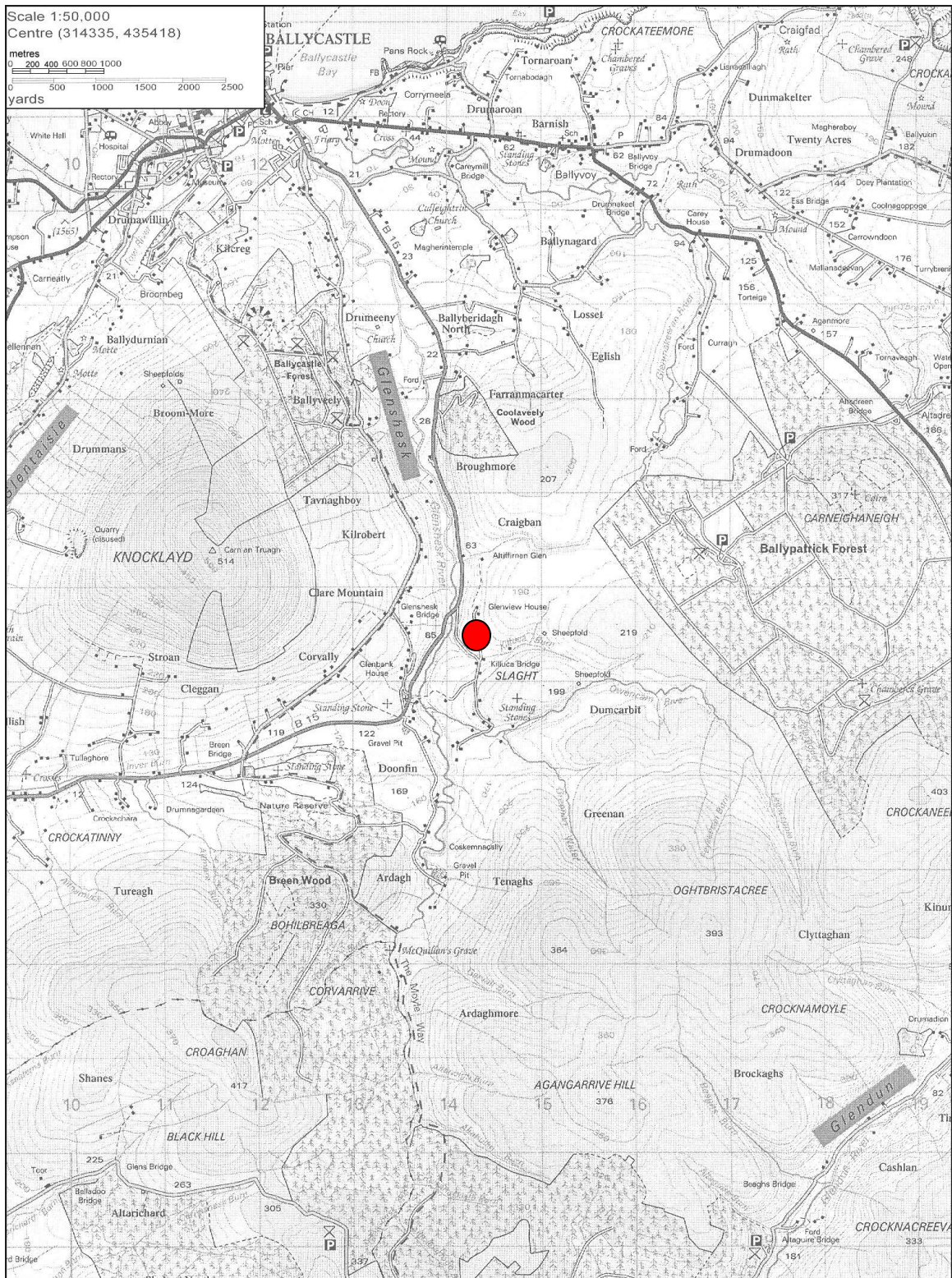


Fig.1: General location map showing location map showing proposed development site (red dot).

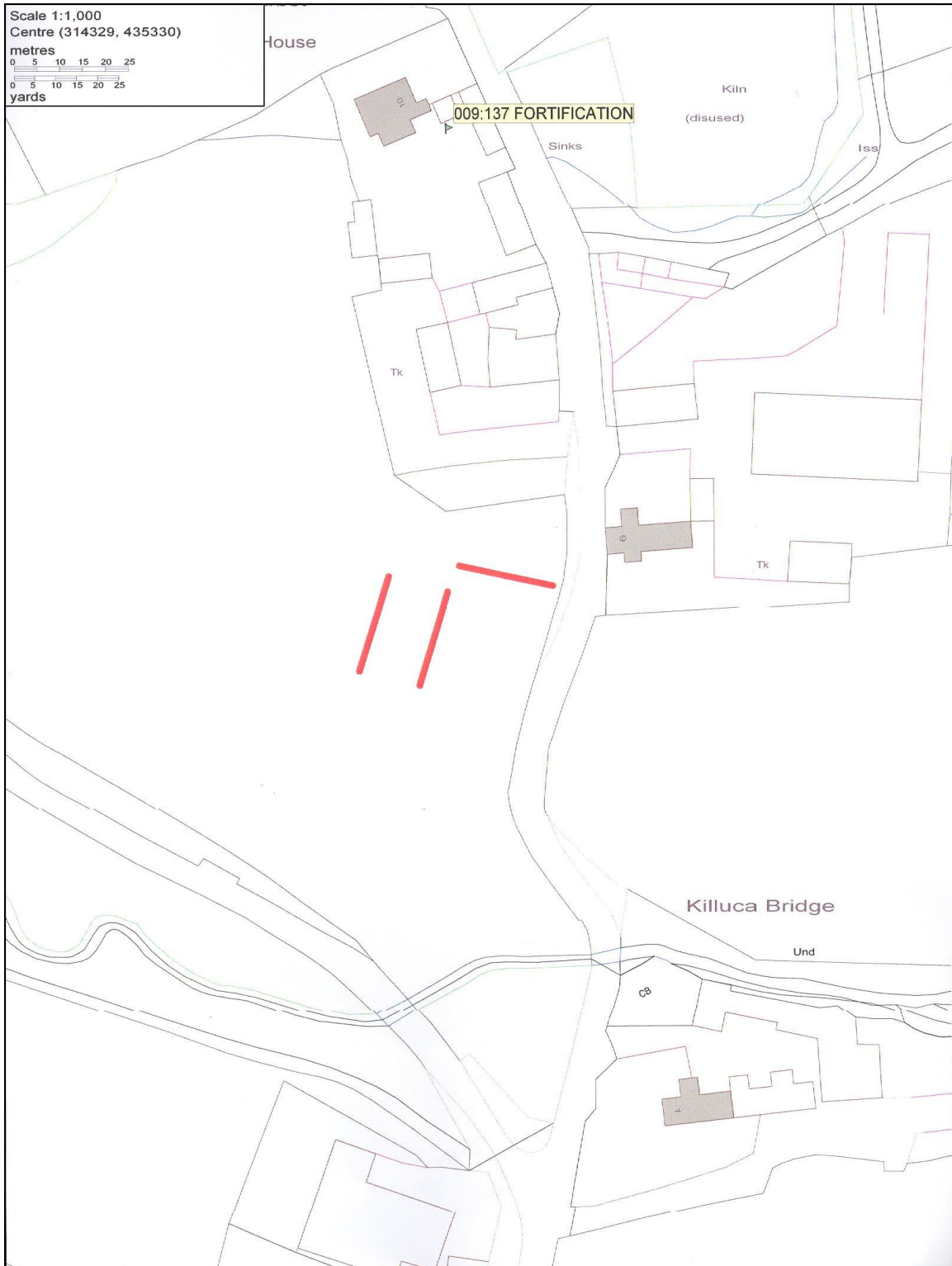


Fig. 3: Map showing location of evaluative test trenches.



Plate 1: View of the application site showing summit of Knocklayd, looking west.



Plate 2: Trench One following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 103), looking west.



Plate 3: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 203), looking north.



Plate 4: Trench Three following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 303), looking south.



Plate 5: View of the application site following the excavation of the three evaluative test trenches, looking north-east.



Plate 6: sherds of Neolithic pottery recovered from the plough soil in Trench One