



Monitoring Report No. 200

**160m SE of 34 Glenmakeerin Road
Ballycastle
Co. Antrim**

AE/10/89E

E/2009/0410/F

BRIAN SLOAN

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 160m SE of 34 Glenmakeerin Road, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim

Townland: Glenmakeerin

SMR No. : ANT 009:057-061

State Care Scheduled Other ✓ [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: 1642037466

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/10/89E

Planning Ref / No. : E/2009/0410/F

Dates of Monitoring: Wednesday 5th May 2010

Archaeologist Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

A single trench (measuring 15m by 12m) was mechanically excavated to assess the presence and survival of archaeological strata at the proposed development site. The proposed development site lies in an area of increased archaeological and historical interest. An excavation was carried out by Brian Williams in the area to the north of the proposed development site which exhibited Bronze Age and Medieval activity. Excavation of the test trench revealed nothing of archaeological significance, with no further archaeological work recommended at this development site.

Type of monitoring:

Mechanical excavation of a single area

Size of area opened:

Approximately 15m by 12m.

Current Land Use:

Green field site.

Intended Land Use:

Residential dwelling

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located approximately 160m south-east of Glenmakeerin Road, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim (Fig.1). The site lies just outside the town of Ballycastle, lying approximately 5.5km south-east of its centre and at a height of approximately 200m above sea level. The proposed development is located in a roughly rectangular field adjacent to the remains of Medieval booley houses and Bronze Age cist burials (ANT 009:057-061). The excavation of these monuments took place in the 1980s ahead of the quarrying of the area (Williams & Robinson 1985). The application site is currently a poorly drained boggy area, with extant farm buildings to the south-east.

The monitoring took place as part of the planning application for the construction of a new dwelling and garage and was requested by Adrian McAleenan: Caseworker with Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It was requested due to the proximity of the application sites to the cists and booley houses (ANT 009:057-061) and the possibility that there may be previously unrecorded remains associated with these monuments.

Account of the excavation

The trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which consisted of a pale yellowish orange gritty clay. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the investigation. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered during the evaluation.

Trench One

The trench measured roughly 15m in length by 12m in width and was mechanically excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (Context No. 101) directly overlying the natural subsoil (Context No. 102) was encountered with nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation of this trench.

The topsoil in the excavated area consisted of a peat rich organic loam. Inclusions of small rounded stones were infrequent. The topsoil deposit (Context No. 101) was a maximum of 0.3m thick and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 102). The natural subsoil (Context No. 102) consisted of a pale yellowish orange gritty clay with frequent inclusions of laminated rock. Despite a careful manual cleanup of the excavated area, nothing of archaeological significance was encountered.

Conclusions

The evaluation showed that the application area contained nothing of archaeological significance. 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 either of the development sites. No publication of this work is merited save a short summary in the annual *Excavations Bulletin*.

References

Willians, B & Robinson, P 1985 *The excavation of Bronze Age cists and a medieval booley house at Glenmakeeran, County Antrim, and a discussion of booleying in north Antrim*. UJA 46, 1985, 29-40

Archive:

Finds: A small amount of flint was recovered from the topsoil (Context No. 101). However, upon further inspection at QUB, it is thought that these pieces are thermally shattered lumps and of no archaeological significance. The Flint is currently archived at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast, BT7 1NN

Photographs: 9 photographs (digital files) are currently 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 (yellow).

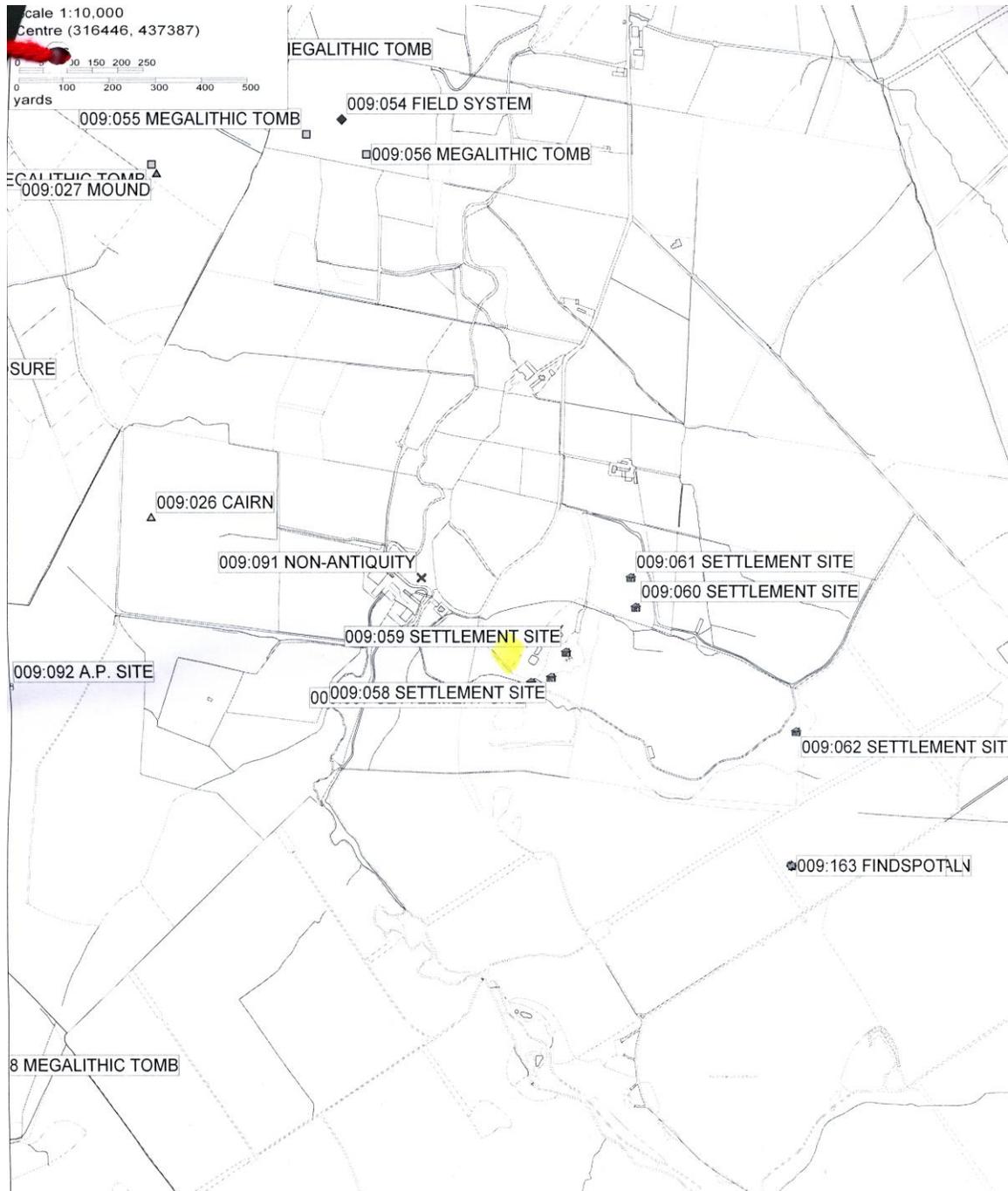


Fig. 2: Map showing proposed application site (yellow) and surrounding archaeological monuments.

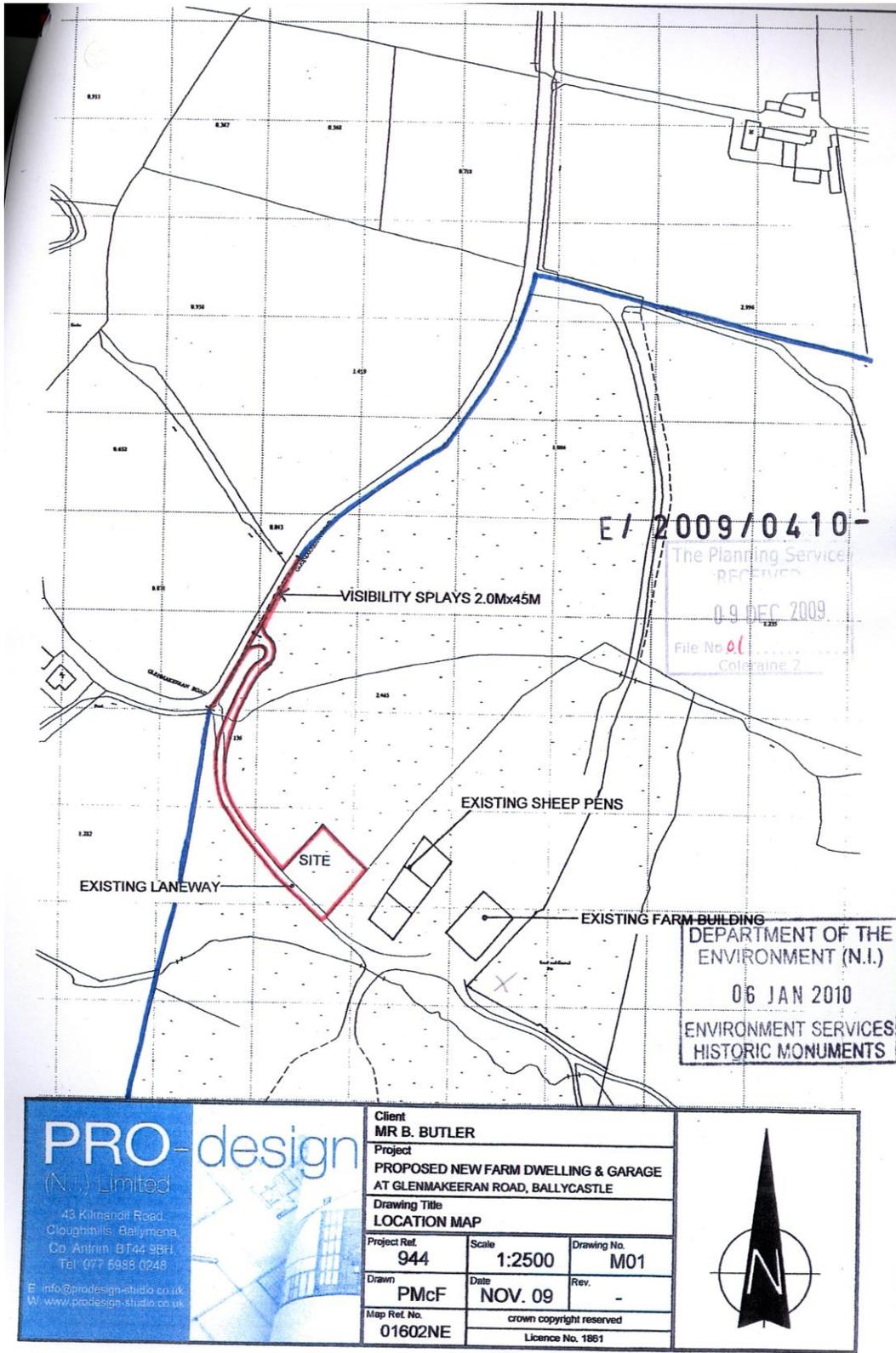


Fig. 3: Architects map showing proposed development area (outlined in red).



Plate One: Proposed development site following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 102), looking north-east.