



Monitoring Report No. 191

**Adjacent to 7a Lower Ballinderry Road
Brackenhill
Lisburn
Co. Antrim**

AE/10/16

S/2009/0594/O

BRIAN SLOAN

Site Specific Information

Site Name: Adjacent to 7a Lower Ballinderry Road, Lisburn, Co. Antrim

Townland: Brackenhill

SMR No. : ANT 063:080

State Care Scheduled Other ✓ [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: 15360 67252

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/10/16

Planning Ref / No. : S/2009/0594/O

Dates of Monitoring: Monday 21st December 2009

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. Excavation of the test trenches revealed nothing of archaeological significance, with no further archaeological work recommended at this development site.

Type of monitoring:

Mechanical excavation of three evaluative trenches

Size of area opened:

Three trenches measuring roughly 20m in length and 2m in width

Current Land Use:

Greenfield site

Intended Land Use:

Residential dwelling

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located adjacent to 7a Lower Ballinderry Road, Lisburn, Co. Antrim (Fig.1). The site lies just outside Upper Ballinderry, lying approximately 1km north-west of its centre and at a height of approximately 70m above sea level. The proposed development is located in a roughly triangular field close to the site of a seventeenth-century church (ANT 063:080). The application site is bounded on all sides by a wire and post fence interspersed with a mature hedgerow.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for the construction of a new dwelling and was requested by Gina Baban: Caseworker with Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It was requested due to the proximity of the application sites to the church site (ANT 063:080) and the possibility that there may be previously unrecorded remains associated with this monument.

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of the archaeological supervision of three mechanically-excavated test trenches. The trenches varied between 18-20m in length by 2m in width and their positions are illustrated in Figure Three. All three test trenches were excavated to the subsoil which consisted of an orangey yellow gravelly boulder clay.

Trench One

Trench One measured 19m by 2m and was aligned approximately east/west. Trench One was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Plate 2).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of mid to dark brown, silty clay loam. The layer contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20 x 20 x 10mm). The layer was around 0.2m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was a compact, mid to dark brown, sandy loam cultivation soil (Context No. 102) which was 0.1m thick. The cultivation soil contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 40 x 30 x 20mm).

The cultivation soil in Trench One (Context No. 102) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 103) (Plate 2). The subsoil in Trench One (Context No. 103) was an orangey yellow gravelly clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones (average size 50mm x 30mm x 10mm) as well as larger angular stones (average size 100mm x 80mm x 50mm), and was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m.

Trench Two

Trench Two was positioned approximately 3m to the north of Trench One and was aligned east/west (Fig. 3). The trench was 18m long and 2m wide, and was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Plate 3).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of mid to dark brown, silty clay loam. The layer contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20 x 20 x 10mm). The layer was around 0.2m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) was a compact, mid to dark brown, sandy loam cultivation soil (Context No. 202) which was 0.15m thick. The cultivation soil contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 40 x 30 x 20mm).

The cultivation soil in Trench Two (Context No. 202) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 203) (Plate 4). The subsoil in Trench Two (Context No. 203) was an orangey yellow gravely clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones (average size 50mm x 30mm x 10mm) as well as larger angular stones (average size 100mm x 80mm x 50mm), and was encountered at an average depth of 0.35m.

Trench Three

Trench Three was positioned approximately 2m to the north of, and parallel to, Trench Two and measured 20m in length by 2m in width (Fig. 3). The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Plate 4).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of mid brown, silty clay loam. The layer contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20 x 20 x 10mm). The layer was approximately 0.1m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was a compact, mid to dark brown, sandy loam cultivation soil (Context No. 302) which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 40 x 30 x 20mm).

The cultivation soil in Trench Three (Context No. 302) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 303) (Plate 6). The subsoil in Trench Three (Context No. 303) was an orangey yellow gravely clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones (average size 50mm x 30mm x 10mm) as well as larger angular stones (average size 100mm x 80mm x 50mm), and was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m.

Conclusions

The three evaluative test trenches excavated in 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*.

Archive:

Finds: No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Photographs: The photographs taken during the evaluation 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 (red dot).

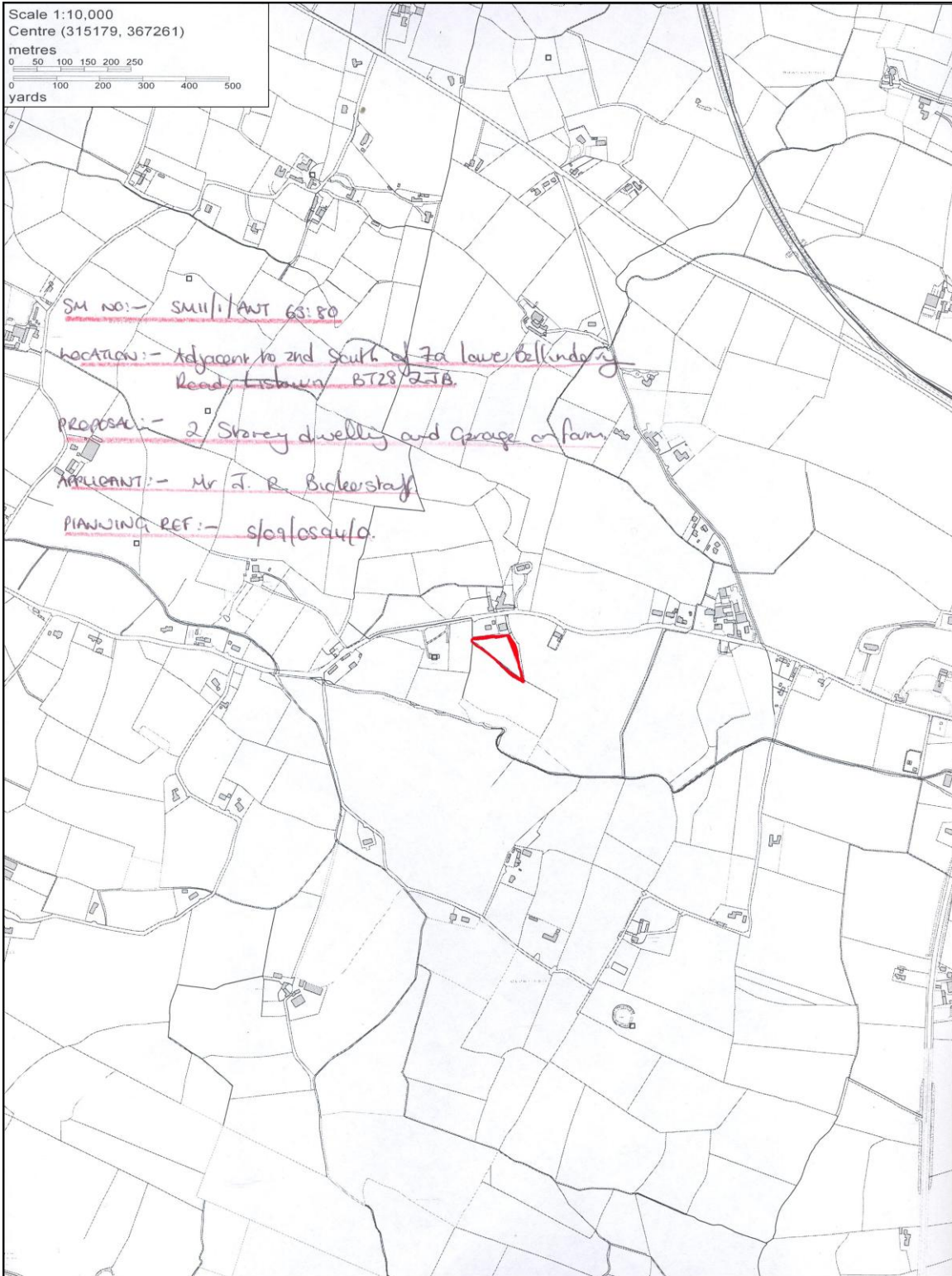


Fig. 2: Map showing proposed application site (outlined in red).



Fig. 3: Map showing proposed application site (red outline) and evaluation trenches (in green).



Plate 1: Application site prior to the evaluation, looking south.



Plate 2: Trench One following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil, looking west.



Plate 3: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil, looking west.



Plate 4: Trench Three following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil, looking west.



Plate 5: Application site following the excavation of the three evaluative test trenches, looking south.