



Monitoring Report No. 53

**204 Ballycairn Road
Ballycairn
Co. Derry**

AE/06/58

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: 204 Ballycairn Road

Townland: Ballycairn

SMR No.: near LDY:003:008 (motte and bailey)

State Care *Scheduled* ✓ *Other*

Grid Ref: C8340034208

County: Derry

Excavation License No: AE/06/58

Planning Ref / No.: C/2005/0757/F

Date of Monitoring: 5th April 2006

Archaeologists Present: Kara Ward and Thom Kerr

Brief Summary:

Three test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in any of the trenches.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of three test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened: Three trenches; Trench A measuring approximately 50m by 2m, Trench B measuring approximately 10m by 2m, and Trench C measuring approximately 50m by 2m.

Current Land Use: Pasture

Intended Land Use: Erection of new agricultural building and associated slurry midden.

Account of the monitoring

A planning application was made for the construction of a new cattle shed and associated slurry midden at Cairn Farm in Ballycairn townland on the outskirts of Coleraine (Fig. 1 and 2). The proposed development site is located approximately 55m north-west of a Scheduled motte and bailey (Plate 1). There was, therefore, the possibility of the existence of previously unrecorded below ground archaeological remains in the proposed development area.

An archaeological evaluation was requested by EHS: Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Paul Logue, to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. Monitoring of test trench excavation took place on 5th April 2006. Three test trenches were excavated (Fig. 3, Plate 2); Trench A measured approximately 50m by 2m, Trench B measured approximately 10m by 2m and Trench C measured approximately 50m by 2m. The stratigraphy of the test trenches is described below.

Trench A had a topsoil (C101) with a depth of approximately 0.28m. The topsoil was a uniform mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of unstruck flint and a few sherds of modern pottery. The underlying subsoil (C102) was an orange brown silty clay. A number of plough furrows were visible cutting through the subsoil and a modern drain was cut into subsoil at the eastern end of the trench (Plates 3 and 4).

In Trench B the topsoil (C101) was a mid-brown silty clay and had an average depth of 0.32m. It directly overlay the subsoil (C102), which was an orange brown silty clay (Plates 5 and 6).

The topsoil (C101) in Trench C had a depth of approximately 0.31m, again it was a mid-brown silty clay. Underlying this was the subsoil (C102), an orange brown silty clay (Plates 7 and 8).

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were apparent in any of the trenches.

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs: 10 digital images, held by CAF

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Fig. 1: 1:50,000 Map showing location of site (red dot).

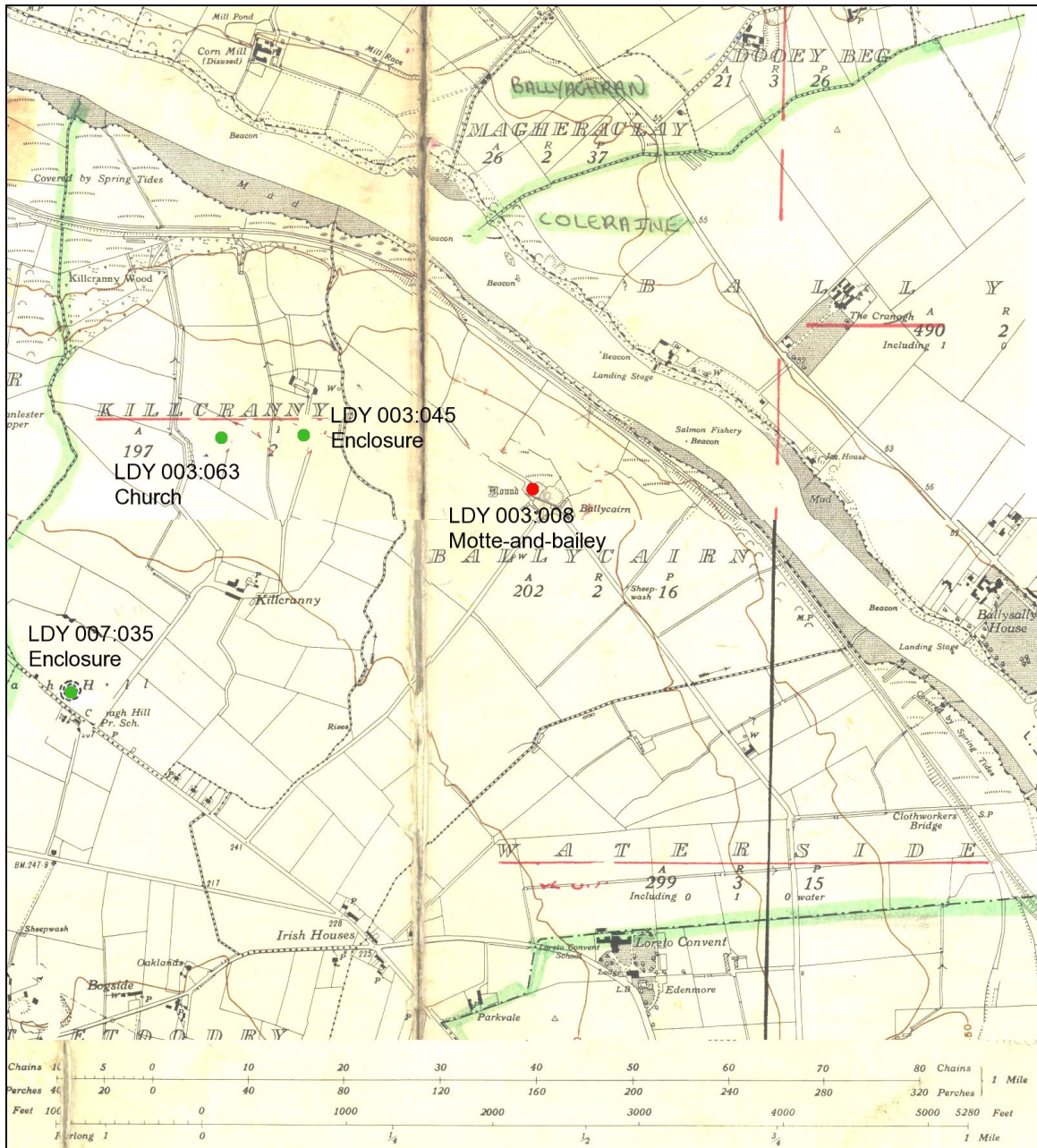


Fig. 2: Location of site (red dot) and archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity (green circles).

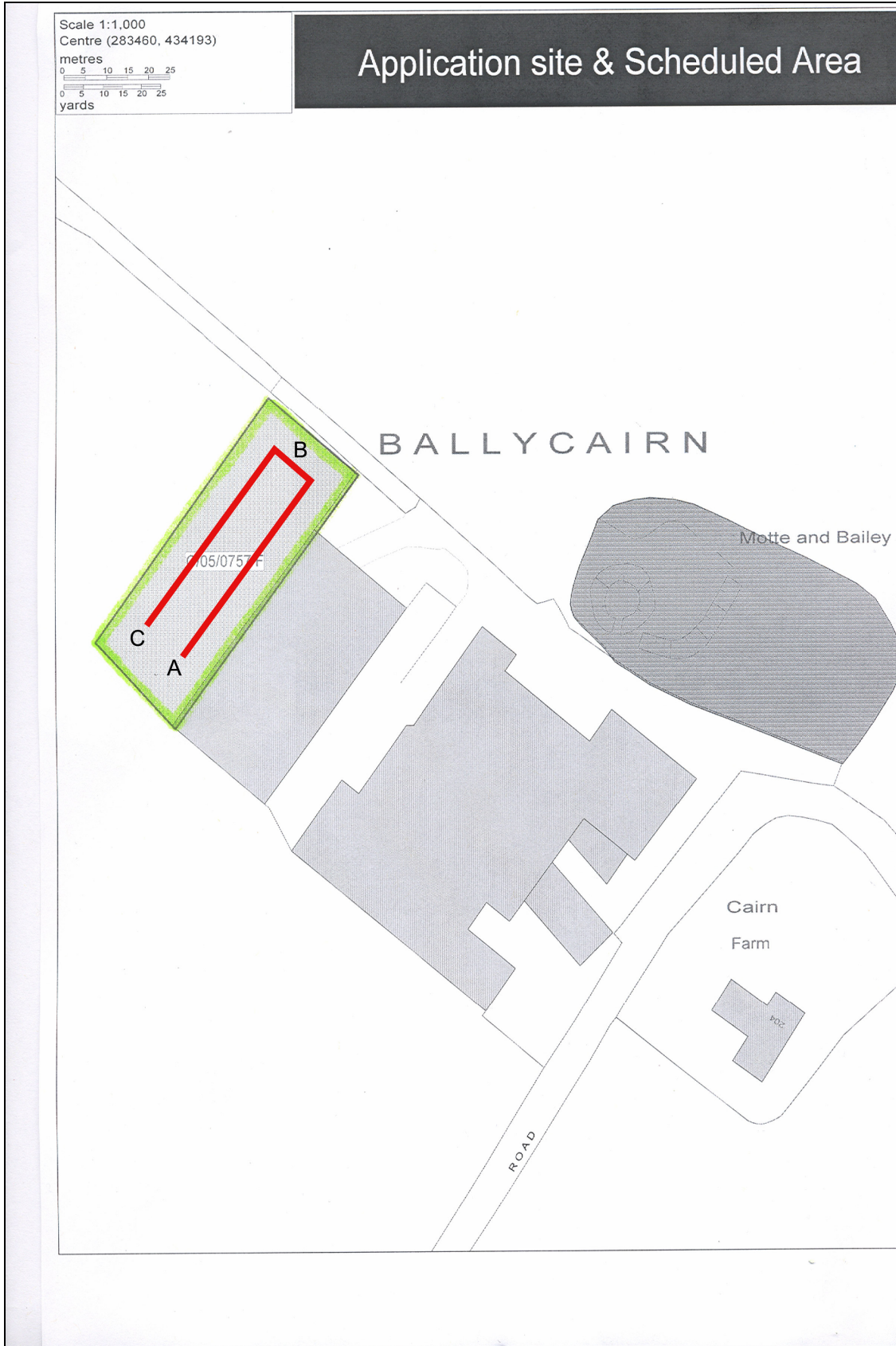


Fig. 3: Location of test trenches (marked in red) within proposed development site (marked in green).



Plate 1: View of Ballycairn Motte and Bailey (ANT:003:008) from west.



Plate 2: View of proposed development site from north-east after excavation of test trenches.



Plate 3: View of Trench A from north-east, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).



Plate 4: View of south-west facing section in Trench A, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).



Plate 5: View of Trench B from south-east, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).



Plate 6: View of north-east facing section in Trench B, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).



Plate 7: View of Trench C from north-east, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).



Plate 8: View of north-west facing section in Trench C, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C102).