



Monitoring Report No. 63

**Redhall
Ballycarry
Co. Antrim**

AE/06/122

Kara Ward

Site Specific Information

Site Address: 48 Island Road

Townland: Redhall

SMR No.: near ANT:047:008 (Medieval church and graveyard site)

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: J45419432

County: Antrim

Excavation License No.: AE/06/122

Planning Ref. / No.: F/2005/0097/F

Date of Monitoring: 22nd May 2006

Archaeologists Present: Kara Ward and Thom Kerr, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Brief Summary:

Monitoring of ground works was necessary during mechanical excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to an existing dwelling. The development is in close proximity to the site of a Medieval church and graveyard (ANT:047:008). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered.

Type of monitoring:

Archaeological monitoring of ground works including excavation of trenches for foundations and services.

Size of area opened:

One foundation trench within an area measuring approximately 3m by 8m. The foundation trench itself was approximately 0.8m wide.

Current Land Use: Access to rear garden

Intended Land Use: Residential

Account of the monitoring

Archaeological monitoring was required during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to an existing dwelling. The existing dwelling and site of extension are located approximately 30m south-east from the site of Laghnalitter Medieval church and graveyard (ANT:047:008) (Fig.s 1, 2 and 3). The graveyard and foundations of the church are reported in the Sites and Monuments Record as having been removed in the 19th century. The Ordnance Survey Memoirs for the parish of Templecorran record an extract from a terrier of the see of Down and Connor, dated 1622. The extract states: "Ecclesia de Laghnalitter, noe church, or walls, but a small thing to Templecorran rectory, inappropriate to the abbey of the Inche, possessed by Mr Edmonstone, by the right of John Dalway Esquire, deceased. Vicarage possessed by the said Mr Brice, as a member of the prebend. Rated with the rest. Noe church nor able to keep one. The people repayres to the next church, which is Templecorran". The Ordnance Survey memoirs also state that the church of Laghnalitter occupied a peaceful and retired situation in a little hollow. At the time of the surveys in the 1830s, not a trace of the church remained and the foundations were said to have been dug up between 30 and 40 years prior. They are said to have been of considerable extent and of massive thickness. It is also recorded that in cultivating the ground in the 40 years previous, immense quantities of decayed human bones, fragments of massive oak coffins and some shaped headstones without any inscription were discovered. One of the only headstones with marks of sculpture was apparently reused in Templecorran burial ground (ANT:047:010) about half a mile to the south-west of (O.S. Memoirs Templecorran: Boyle, 1839, 51-2, 58).

Archaeological monitoring was requested by the Environment and Heritage Service: Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Andrew Gault, to assess the potential impact of the development on any below ground archaeological remains. Monitoring of ground works was carried out by Kara Ward and Thom Kerr on 22nd May 2006. After clearance of a dividing wall, vegetation and other superficial material (Plate 1), the machine began breaking some of the underlying concrete yard to allow the excavation of a single foundation trench which would also allow for insertion of services. The trench extended from the existing building for up to 3m and then ran parallel to the gable wall for approximately 9m, roughly 1m beyond the front of the existing building, it then returned to meet the corner of the existing building (Plates 2, 3 and 4). The trench was approximately 0.8m wide. A large section of concrete was left intact as a base for the new extension, consequently a large area of the site will not be disturbed by the development. The concrete (C101) had a depth of up to 0.10m and had been set on a layer of hardcore (C102) up to 0.05m deep . It appeared that prior to the laying of the hardcore (C102) and concrete (C101) the subsoil (C103) had been truncated with the result that the hardcore now lies directly over the subsoil, a red boulder clay (C103). The foundation trench was excavated up to 0.40m below the concrete and into the subsoil.

The existing building and the neighbouring properties are located on an east-facing slope, with the extension to be built on the western side and slightly upslope of the existing building. The driveway of the neighbouring building to the west was located approximately 1.25m above the level of the concrete base on the extension site. The retaining wall between these properties was removed during the clearance. The material underlying the neighbouring driveway was modern build up (C104) and overlay the red boulder clay subsoil (C103) (Plate 5).

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered during monitoring of ground works.

Bibliography:

Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland, Parishes of County Antrim X, Vol. 26 Templecorran: Boyle, 1839, 51-2, 58. Edited by: Day, A., McWilliams, P., Dobson, N. (1994). The Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University Belfast.

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs:. 16 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Fig. 1: Map showing location of site at Ballycarry.

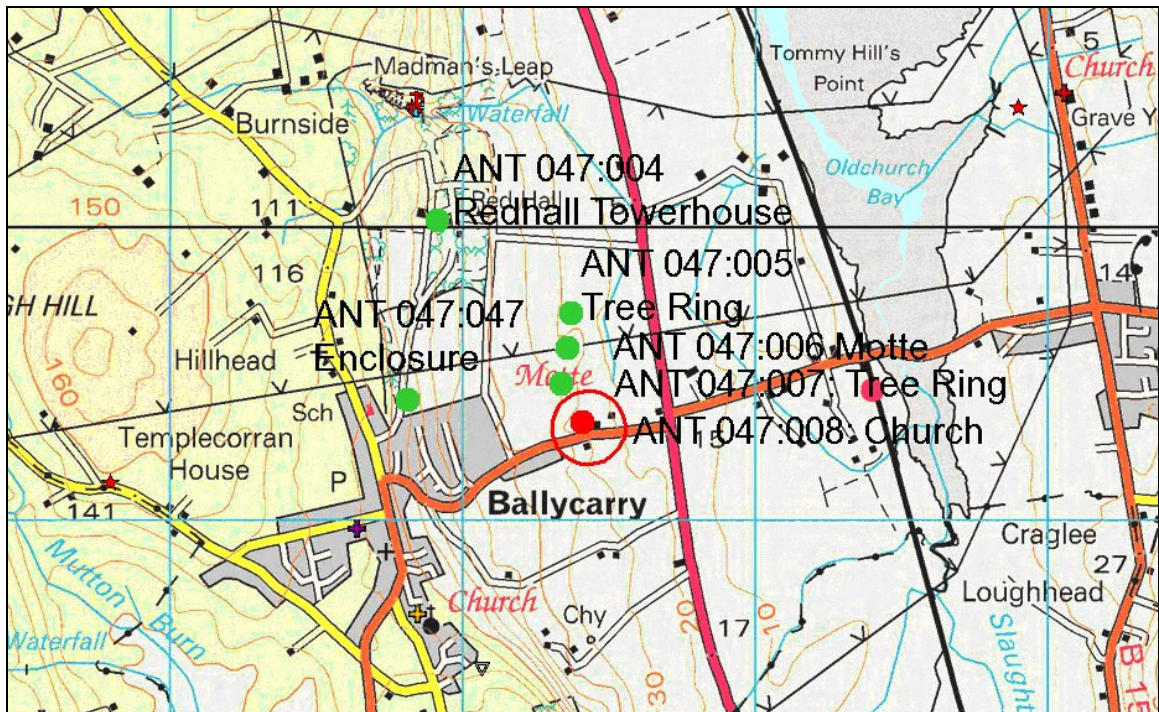


Fig. 2: Map of area surrounding development site (red circle) showing other archaeological monuments (green circles).



Fig. 3: Location of development site (hatched in red) and proximity to Medieval church and graveyard (ANT 047:008)



Plate 1: View of site from north after clearance and prior to excavation of foundation trench.



Plate 2: View of site from west after excavation of foundation trench.



Plate 3: View of excavated foundation trench from south-east.



Plate 4: View of excavated foundation trench from south.



Concrete (C101)/hardcore (C102)

Modern build-up (C104)

Truncated surface of boulder
clay (C103)

Boulder clay (C103)

Plate 5: View of east-facing section underlying neighbouring driveway.