



Monitoring Report No. 174

**Cliff Road
Belleek
Co. Fermanagh**

AE/09/61

Brian Sloan

Site Specific Information

Site Address: Cliff Road, Belleek, Co. Fermanagh

Townland: Belleek

SMR No.: FER 170:037

State Care *Scheduled* *Other* ✓

Grid Ref: 9392 5908

County: Fermanagh

Excavation Licence No: AE/09/61

Planning Ref / No.: L/2008/1261/F

Date of Monitoring: 27th April 2009

Archaeologist Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

Two test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed development of a residential dwelling on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed development site is located in the middle of the plantation settlement of Belleek. The trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil with nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in either of the trenches.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of two test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-edged 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Two trenches one measuring approximately 30m by 2m and one measuring approximately 13m by 2m.

Current Land Use: Waste ground

Intended Land Use: Residential dwelling

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The site of the proposed dwelling is located at Cliff Road, Belleek, Co. Fermanagh (Fig 1). The site lies in the centre of the plantation town (FER 170:037), at an approximate height of 70m above sea level. The application site is within the confines of the developed town of Belleek, and the surrounding landscape consists of both pastoral and arable land, interspersed with dwelling houses as well as the town itself. The trenches were positioned to incorporate the footprint of the proposed dwelling (Fig 3) and was requested by Paul Devlin (Case Officer Northern Ireland Environment Agency).

The original evaluation request stipulated the mechanical excavation of three trenches across the development footprint. However, on arrival at the site, it was clear that only two trenches could be excavated because of restricted space due to the presence of mature trees and an upstanding property division. The methodology was changed onsite and two trenches were mechanically excavated to subsoil level.

Excavation

Trench 1 was positioned at the north of the application site and measured approximately 30m by 2m. The trench was aligned roughly east/west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 103) (Plate 1) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.4m. In places the natural bedrock was encountered rather than subsoil. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench (Plate 2).

The sod and topsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 101) consisted of a mid to dark brown clay loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm) and active tree roots were observed within it. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 101) had an average depth of 0.2m. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 101) lay directly above a dark brown cultivation soil (Context No. 102).

The cultivation soil in Trench 1 (Context No. 102) consisted of a dark brown, compact clay loam. This deposit had frequent inclusions of rounded and sub-angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The cultivation soil (Context No. 102) lay directly above the natural subsoil (Context No. 103), and was approximately 0.2m thick.

The natural subsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 103) consisted of mid orange sandy clay. During the excavation of this trench, it became clear that the natural bedrock was undulating as it was encountered in patches throughout the trench. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 2 was positioned approximately 2m south of Trench 1. The trench was aligned roughly east/west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 203) (Plate 3) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench (Plate 4).

The sod and topsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 201) consisted of a mid to dark brown clay loam. This deposit had infrequent inclusions of rounded and angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm) and active tree roots were observed within it. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) had an average depth of 0.2m. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) lay directly above a dark brown cultivation soil (Context No. 202).

The cultivation soil in Trench 2 (Context No. 202) consisted of a dark brown, compact clay loam. This deposit had frequent inclusions of rounded and sub-angular stones (average size: 30 x 30 x 40mm). The cultivation soil (Context No. 202) lay directly above the natural subsoil (Context No. 203), and was approximately 0.1m thick.

The natural subsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 203) consisted of mid orange sandy clay. The bedrock was also encountered in patches in this trench, again illustrating its undulating nature. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the evaluation. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication is required, apart from a short summary in the annual *Excavations Bulletin*.

Archive:

Finds: n/a

Photographs: 9 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: n/a

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Fig. 1: General location map showing Belleek (highlighted in green).



Fig. 2: Detailed location map showing application site (highlighted in red).

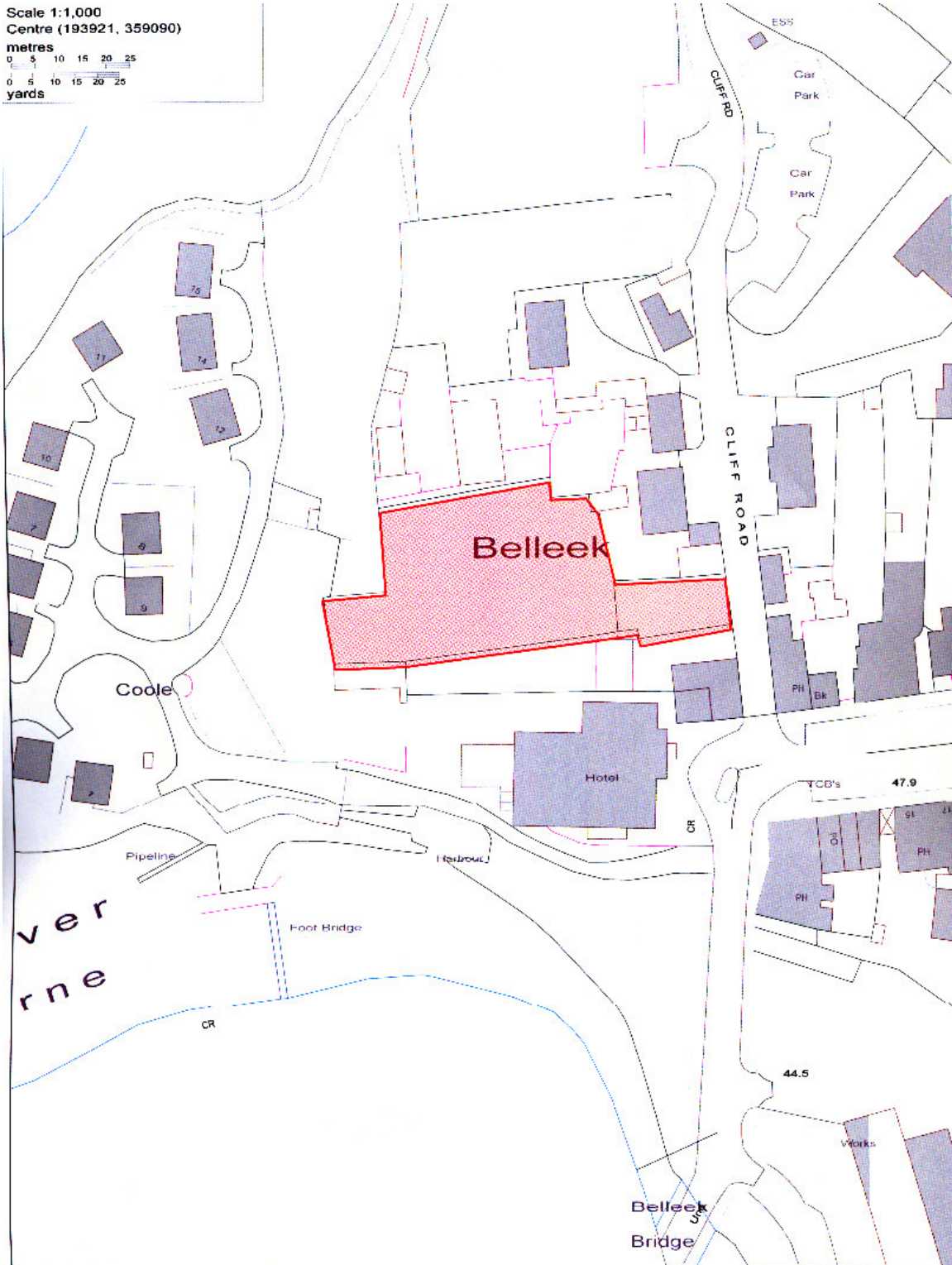


Fig. 3: Detailed location map showing application site (highlighted in red).

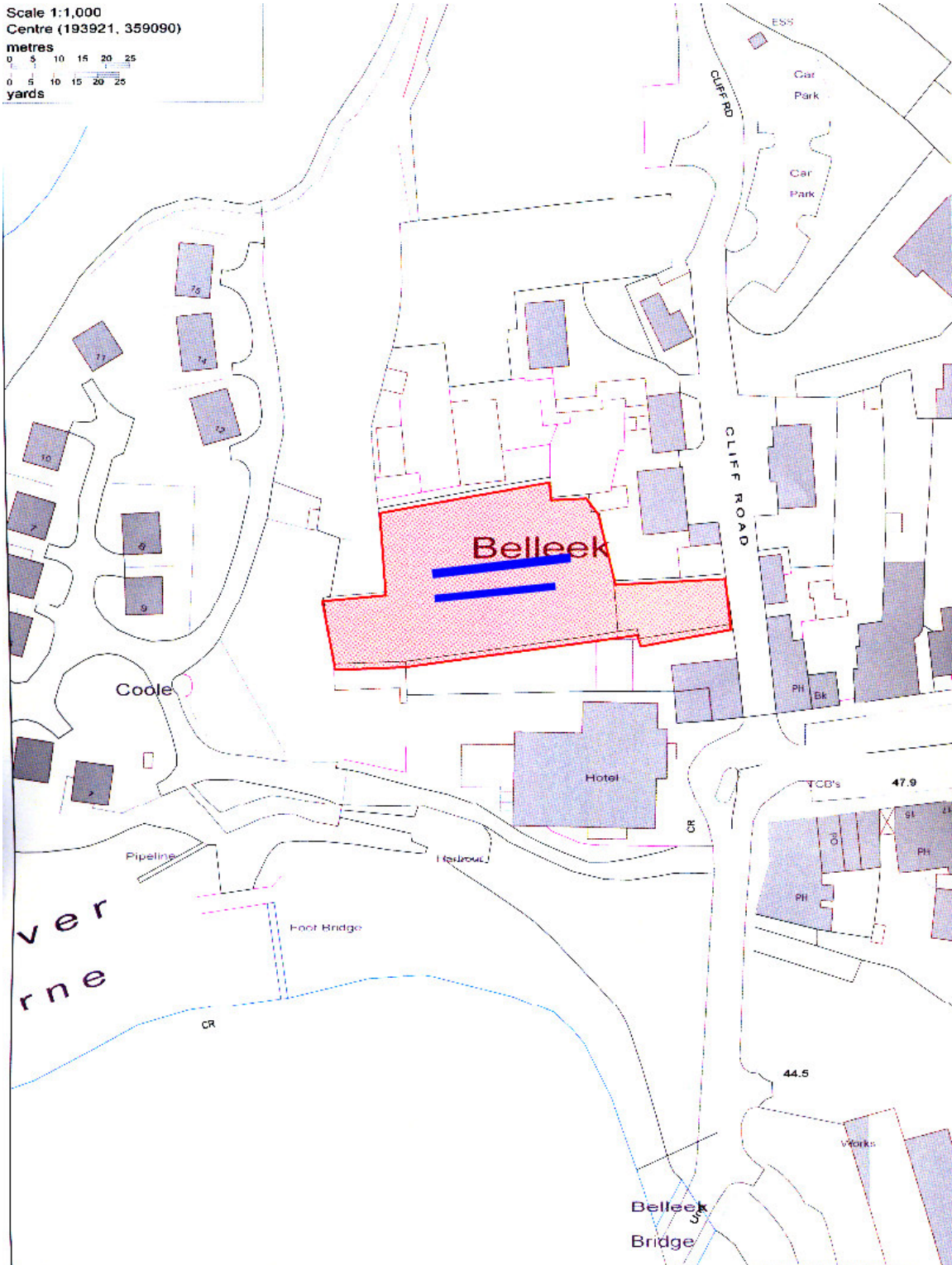


Fig 4: Approximate location of test trenches



Plate 1: Application site before excavation, looking south-west.



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



Plate 3: South facing section of Trench One.



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



Plate 5: North facing section of Trench Two.