



## **Monitoring Report No. 197**

**Drummenagh Beg  
Church Hill  
Co. Fermanagh**

**AE/10/20**

Brian Sloan

L/2009/0339/F

## Site Specific Information

*Site Address:* Drummenagh Beg, Church Hill, Co. Fermanagh

*Townland:* Drummenagh Beg

*SMR No.:* FER 172:034

*State Care*   *Scheduled*   *Other* ✓

*Grid Ref:* IH 11287 55669

*County:* Fermanagh

*Excavation Licence No:* AE/10/20

*Planning Ref / No.:* L/2009/0339/F

*Date of Monitoring:* 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010

*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 adjacent to an early ecclesiastical site (FER 172:034). 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 each measuring approximately 20m in length by 2m in width.

*Current Land Use:* Pastoral agriculture

*Intended Land Use:* Residential dwelling

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### Introduction

The site of the proposed dwelling is located at Drummenagh Beg, Church Hill, Co. Fermanagh (Fig 1). The site lies at the south of the historic foundation of Church Hill (FER 172:053), at an approximate height of 80m 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).

### Excavation

Trench 1 was positioned parallel to the southern boundary of the application site and measured approximately 20m by 2m. The trench was aligned roughly east/west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 102) (Plate 1) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench consisting of topsoil (Context No. 101) directly overlying natural subsoil (Context No. 102).

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 plant roots were observed within it. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 101) had an average depth of 0.3m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 102).

The natural subsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 102) consisted of yellowish orange clay. There were no finds or features of an archaeological nature encountered in this trench.

Trench 2 was positioned approximately 4m to the north of Trench 1. The trench was aligned roughly east/west and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil

(Context No. 202) (Plate 2) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in this trench.

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 plant roots were observed within it. The sod and topsoil (Context No. 201) had an average depth of 0.3m and directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 202).

The natural subsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 202) consisted of yellowish orange clay. 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 Church Hill (circled).

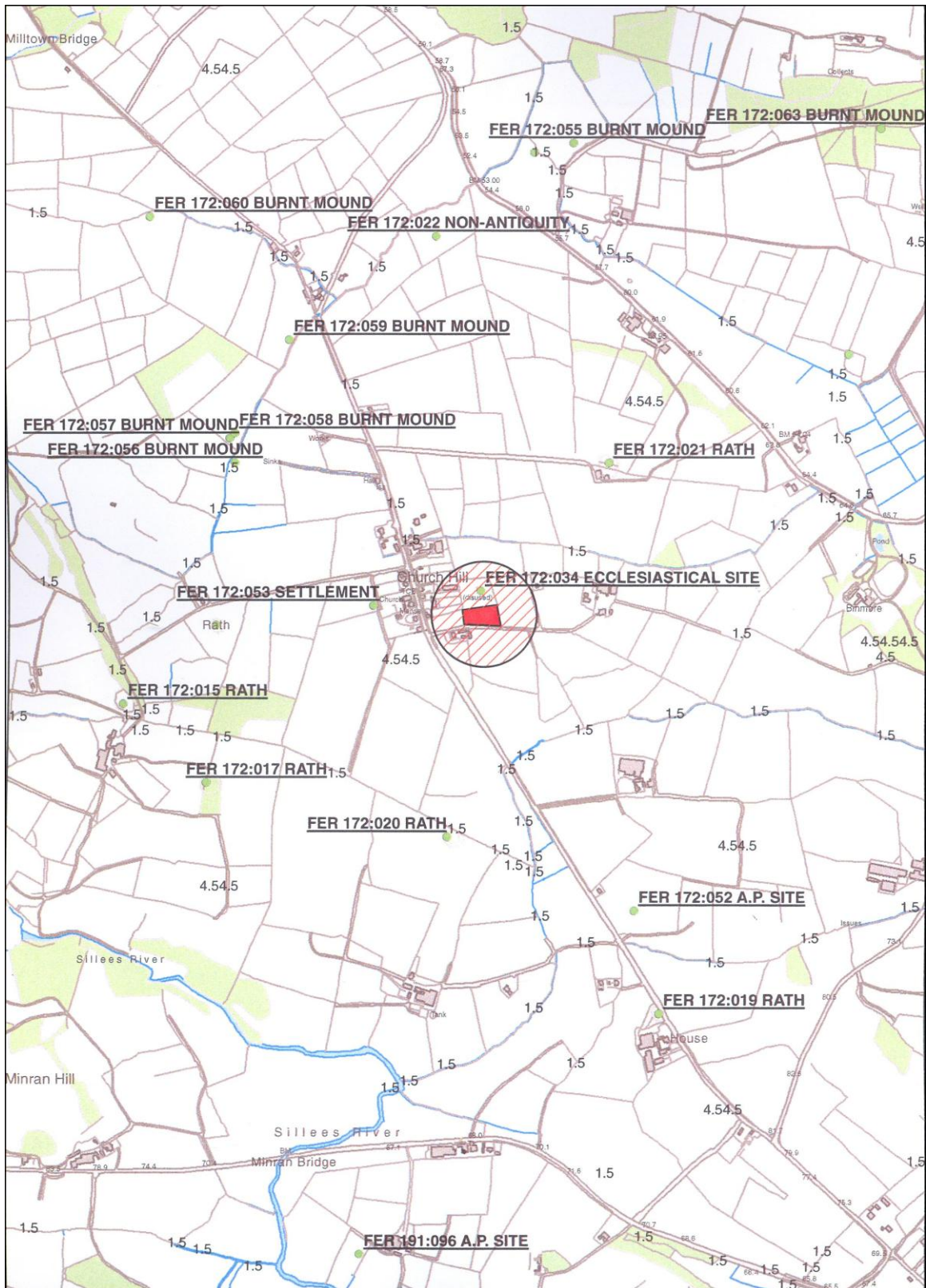


Fig. 2: Detailed location map showing application site (highlighted in red), and surrounding monuments of archaeological and historical interest.



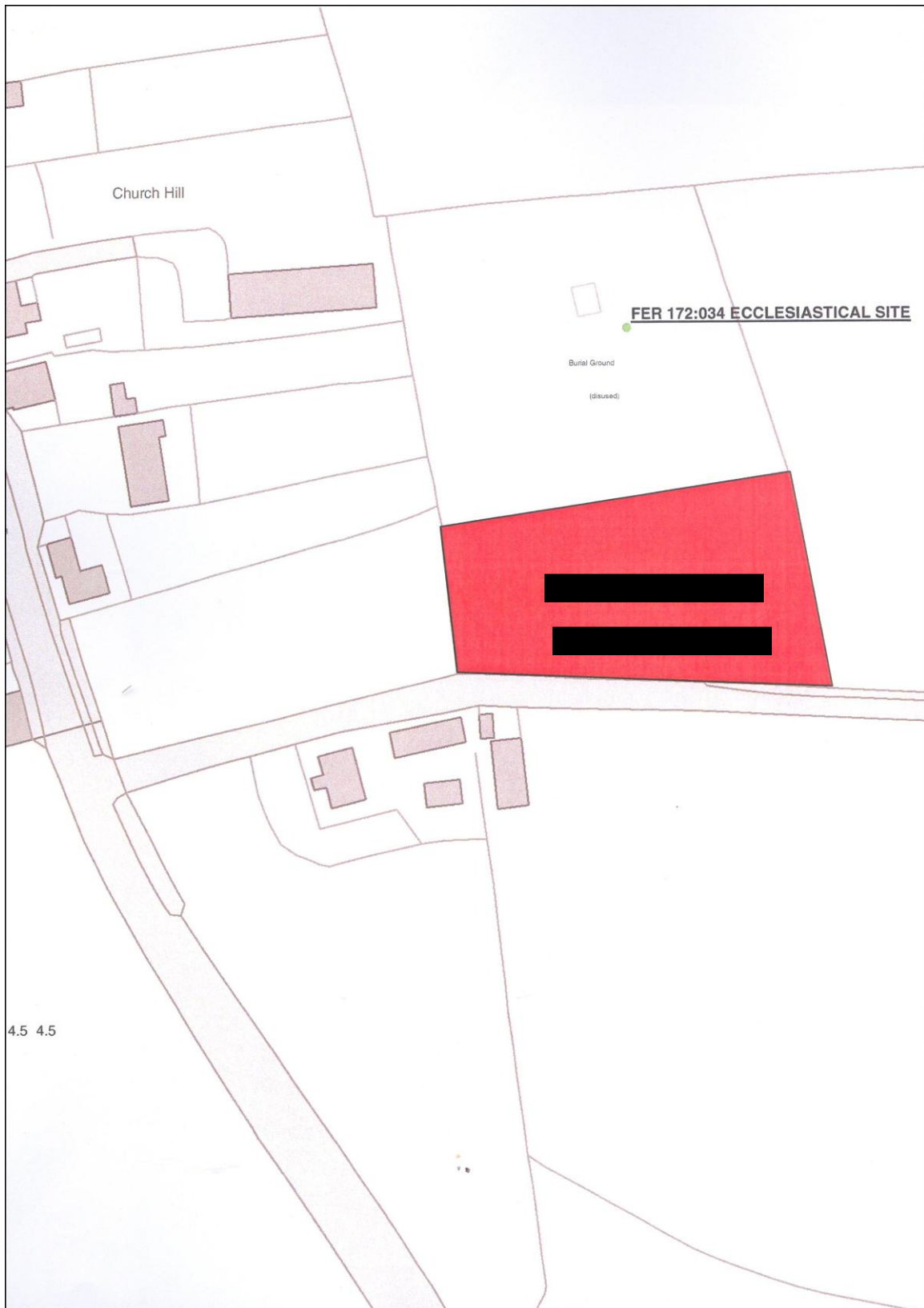


Fig. 3: Detailed location map showing application site (highlighted in red) and approximate location of test trenches (in black) .



Plate 1: Trench One following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 102) looking east..



Plate 2: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 202), looking east.