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SM. 7 / ANT 9: 24

GLENMAKEERAN

Dual Court Grave - Ballypatrick Forest

GLENMAKEERAN

CS 9; IG 16

BALLYPATRICK FOREST

DUAL COURT TOMB

800 ft + OD

D 1845 3503

Now in a small clearing in Ballypatrick Forest, quite high up on the NW-facing slope of a hill, with views to the N. and W. (and elsewhere) obscured by trees. This is the remains of a dual court tomb, as planned by E Estyn Evans. No visible trace of a cairn now survives, and the two galleries face NE. and SW. respectively. Only one stone of the court at the NE. survives standing at least 0.75 m high on the SE. side. The NE. gallery comprises two large matching portals, four stones on the NW side (with a possible fifth sidestone just visible), and three stones on the SE. side, with a possible fourth sidestone also just visible at the rear of the gallery. These stones range from 0.55 m to 1.25 m above the current ground surface. No backstone is visible and the gallery measures either 5.5 m long or 6.8 m long and is on average 0.80 m to 1.0 m wide. It is divided into at least two chambers as indicated by a sill stone 1.5 m from the entrance. Four stones of the court at the SW. survive, three on the SE. side (at least 0.80 m, 0.60 m and 1.11 m high) and one stone at least 0.10 m high on the NW. side. This latter stone could also have doubled as part of the facade. The entrance to this gallery is again framed by two large matching portals (at least 0.93 and 0.97 m high), but is closed by a septal slab at least 0.20 m high. The gallery measures 5.0 m long by 0.92 m wide on average, and is divided into two chambers. Chamber one is formed by the portals and by two orthostats, both at least 0.90 m high, set transversely at the rear of the chamber. The sill stone shown on Evans' plan in the narrow gap between these two stones is not now visible. This chamber measures 2.0 m long. Chamber two is formed by one sidestone on the SE. side (at least 0.20 m high), and a grass-covered stone on the NW side (at least 0.40 m, high), and measures 2.5 m long. A displaced stone overlies the area of the backstone, which is not now visible. A further displaced stone (probably a capstone and measuring 1.5 m long by 0.9 m wide) rests against the NW. portal stone. Most of the stones in the tomb are schist with quartzite inclusions. A curving path traverses the site running between the two galleries to a small bench at the SE, and a narrow, shallow drain has been cut across the site from NE. to NNW. The tomb is scheduled under the Historic Monuments Act (NI) 1971, and is signposted on Ballypatrick Forest Drive. The forest encroaches to within 5 m of both courts.

SMR 9:24

September 1992

Scheduled

OS Memoirs for the Parish of Culfeightrin Fagan 1838-39, Box 8, 4, 3, 148;
O'Laverty 1887, 494-495; Evans 1945, 21-23 inc. Plan.

Single Spacing

GLENMAKEERAN: DUAL COURT TOMB

800 ft + OD

CS 9; IG 16

Centre

D 1845 3503

Now in a small clearing in Ballypatrick Forest, quite high up on a NW-facing slope of a hill, with views to the N and W (and elsewhere) obscured by trees. This is the remains of dual court tomb as planned by Evans. No visible trace of a cairn now survives, and the two galleries face NE and SW respectively. Only one stone of the court at the NE survives standing at least 0.75 m high on the SE side. The NE gallery comprises two large matching portals, four stones on the NW side (with a possible fifth sidestone just visible), and three stones on the SE side, with a possible fourth sidestone also just visible at the rear of the gallery. These stones range from 0.55 m to 1.25 m above the current ground surface. No backstone is visible and the gallery measures either 5.5 m long or 6.8 m long and is on average 0.80 m to 1.0 m wide. It is divided into at least two chambers as indicated by a sill stone 1.5 m from the entrance. Four stones of the court at the SW survive, three on the SE side (at least 0.80 m, 0.60 m and 1.11 m high) and one stone at least 0.10 m high on the NW side. This latter stone could also have doubled as part of the facade. The entrance to this gallery is again framed by two large matching portals (at least 0.93 and 0.97 m high), but is closed by a septal slab at least 0.20 m high. The gallery measures 5.0 m long by 0.92 m wide on average, and is divided into two chambers. Chamber one is formed by the portals and by two orthostats, both at least 0.90 m high, set transversely at the rear of the chamber. The sill stone shown on Evans' plan in the narrow gap between these two stones is not now visible. This chamber measures 2.0 m long. Chamber two is formed by one sidestone on the SE side (at least 0.20 m high), plus a

grass-covered stone on the NW side (at least 0.40 m, high), and measures 2.5 m long. A displaced stone overlies the area of the backstone, which is not visible. A further displaced stone (probably a capstone and measuring 1.5 m long by 0.9 m wide) rests against the NW portal stone. Most of the stones in the tomb are schist with quartzite inclusions. A curving path traverses the site running between the two galleries to a small bench at the SE, and a narrow, shallow drain has been cut across the site from NE to NNW. The tomb is scheduled under the Historic Monuments Act (NI) 1971, and is signposted on Ballypatrick Forest Drive. The forest encroaches to within 5 m of both courts.

SMR 9:24

September 1992

OS Memoirs for the Parish of Culfeightrin Fagan 1838-39, Box 8, 4, 3, 148; O'Laverty 1887, 494-495; Evans 1945, 21-23 inc. Plan.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch DOENI

SMR 9:24	Td GLENMAKEDAN	Type DUAL COURT TOMB	
A No.	Site Name	Parish	Alt 80ft+
IG 16	GR D1849 3503	Barony	DC
OS			
NB			
Condition Substantial Remains	Threat None Apparent	Check/Action See Brn's Plan	Schedule d Yes.
Land use Woods/Rough Grazing Forest	Field boundaries —		
Site description	Photos? X Raining		
<p>Now in a small clearing in Ballypatrick Forest quite high up on a NW-facing slope of a hill with views to N and W obscured by trees ^(and clear trees?). This is the remains of a dual court tomb planned by Evans. No visible trace of a cairn survives and the two galleries face NE and SW respectively. Only one ^{wight} stone of the court at the NE survives on the SE side. The gallery is formed by two ^{large} matching portals, by four stones on the NW side (with a possible fifth sidestone just visible), and by three stones on the SE side, with a possible fourth sidestone also just visible near the rear of the gallery. The gallery is divided into at least 2 chambers (probably more) by a lateral sillstone 1.5 m from the entrance. No backstone is visible however the gallery measures on average ^{1.0m} 0.8 m wide by 6.8 m long. Four stones of the court at the SW skull-surrowe, three on the SE</p>			
Visited by MMS/Adg	Date of visit 17/9/92	SM.2	Input

OVER

Site description

side, and one on the NW side which could also have doubled as a facade stone. The entrance to the gallery is again framed by two ^{large} matching portal stones, but is closed on this side by a septal slab. The gallery measures 5.0 m long by 0.92 m wide on average and is divided into two chambers. The first chamber is formed by the two portals at the rear of which on either side are two lateral stone set transversely. A narrow gap ^(sub-stone block in gap on plan not visible) between the lateral stones leads into the second chamber ^{which is} formed by one side stone on the SE side and a grass covered stone on the NW side. A displaced stone overlies the area of the back stone which is not visible. Chamber 1 is 2.0 m long, chamber 2, 2.5 m long. A large ^{displaced} slab measuring 1.5 m long by 0.9 m wide rests against the NW portal stone. Most of the stones are schist with ^{and could be} a displaced capstone quartzite inclusions. A walking path runs between the two galleries leading to a small bench at the SE of the site. A ^{shallow, narrow} modern drain has been cut across the site from NE - NW. The forest encroaches to within 5 m of both courts. Tombs scheduled. See Evans plan for stone heights. Tombs well signposted on Ballypatrick Forest Drive.

3

OS Memoirs Cullightrin
Fagan 1838-1839, box 8, IV, 35

TEXT

9:25
9:26

*Carnicaneigh signifies a giant's cairn. On the north-east side of the above hill stands a small rock on the surface of which are engraven several letters, marks and figures, but don't seem to be of great antiquity, though it is frequently visited by strangers. Informants %John %Butler, %John %Martin, and others ^p147.

END

F5 Altars, Druids'
F6 %William %Butler, %John %Stewart

TEXT

9:24

In the south-east end of %Glenmakeeran mountain and holding of %Archy %McGugan, and contiguous to %Glenmakeeran river, there stands the ruins of a druidical erection locally called %Cloughdrandan or the chiming stones, so-called from a hollow sound caused by the rocking of the canopy or altar stones that formerly covered the existing columns. However, the erection was nearly in a straight line and stood 24 x 4 yards from out to out, but the main buildings was situated at either end, affording a vacant space in the middle. The south-east of the altars, or perhaps graves, measures 13 feet long and from 3-5 feet wide on the inside and is enclosed by stones of large size standing from 2-3 feet high. The north-west end is 12 feet long, 3-5 feet wide inside and enclosed by columns standing from 1 and a half to 3 feet above the surface. This building is divided into 2 apartments. One of the canopy or altar stones that formerly covered the latter building and now on the premises, measures 5 feet long, 3 feet broad and 1 and a half feet thick. All other parts of the building is much disfigured. It would appear by a few detached standing stones still in the place that the main buildings were formerly enclosed by a circle of small standing stones. Informants %William %Butler, %John %Stewart and others ^p148.

ENDTEXT

END

F5 Altar, Druids'
F6 %Daniel %O'Harran, %William %Butler

TEXT

9:20

In %Sallyvennacht and mountain farm of %Henry %Butler, east of and contiguous to the old road leading through that townland to %Cushendall, there stands the ruins of a Druids' Altar called %Clougha-%Vance or the %Recluse's %Stones. The altar stone, which is now split in 2 divisions and removed from its original berth, approaches to square or oblong shape and measures 7 and a half feet long, 4 feet broad and 2 feet thick. It was formerly supported on a number of large columns, 3 of which are still on the premises. One of these columns now standing is 5 feet high, 4 and a half feet broad and 1 and a half feet thick. One of those lying is 5 and a half feet long, 3 and a half feet broad and 1 foot 9 inches thick. The third, which is also lying, is of inferior size. This altar was formerly surrounded by a cairn of stones, the chief part of which have been

9:16 the road is another fort of earth and stones, 27 feet in diameter and from 4 to 10 feet high. In the same farm is a cave at present closed. In 1830 Charles Sharp removed a mound in which he found a cinerary urn, enclosed in a stone cask. In the same townland there was an ancient church in the farm of Archibald Jolly, the walls were of grouted stone and lime, and of great thickness; it was supposed to have been the first Protestant church in the parish, but it is probably of a much more ancient date. See *Ord. Surv. MS.*

9:17 The Cairn of Carneighaigh occupies the summit of the mountain in Ballypatrick, which it gives name to, and is 1,036 feet above the level of the sea. The cairn was about 13 yards in diameter, and was composed of about one hundred loads of stones of various sizes, which must have been carried from a great distance, as there was no quarry nor land-stones near the place: the cairn is now greatly injured. Some letters and marks are cut on a small rock on the north-east of the hill; they are of no antiquity though they are visited by many. In Glenmakeeran, about a quarter of a mile north of John Stuart's house, are the ruins of a "Giant's Grave," called *Cuisidla*; it is 30 feet long and 9 feet broad, divided into 4 divisions, 3 of which are each 7 feet long and the fourth is 5 feet; it is bounded and divided by stones of large size sunk on their ends in the earth. In this townland are many foundations of ancient structures called "Danes' Houses." A large glass bead, "beautifully striped," was found in the farm of Daniel M'Kinley; it was given to Dr. M'Donnell of Belfast. At the south-east end of this mountain, close to Glenmakeeran river, are the ruins of a great stone monument; it stood 24 by 4 yards from out to out. The principal erections, at least in late days, were

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EVANS WJA 8(1945)

Together, round cairns and long cairns make a circle of megalithic sites (or more exactly a horse-shoe, open at the Ballycastle end) around the heavily drifted lower courses of the Carey and Glenshesk Rivers. Nothing has impressed me as evidence of the reality of climatic change more than the sight of some of these long cairns buried in peat bogs on the intermediate peneplains. In Ballyvennaght, at the head of the Carey River, one looks *down* from a peat-face on to the top of an 8-foot high megalithic chamber. One naturally connects this post-megalithic (? sub-Atlantic) peat with that, to be mentioned later, which is now weathering away on the chalk downs above Murlough Bay. Here is an excellent field for pollen-analytical research.

Ant. 9:22
or 9:21

An important addition to the megaliths listed in the *Preliminary Survey* and *Supplementary Lists*¹⁵ was made in 1944. The discovery stands to the credit of Mr. A. H. Davison, whose sketch-plan convinced me that he had found one of the monuments described in the O.S. Memoirs,¹⁶ which I had searched for in vain the previous year. It lies in the Td. of Glenmakeeran, nearly 1½ miles due south of the summit of Carneighaneigh, so that the location given in the O.S. account (taken from O'Laverty, *loc. cit.*) is misleading. "At the *south-east end* of the mountain (Carneighaneigh) close to Glenmakeeran river, are the ruins of a great stone monument: it stood 24 yards by 4 from out to out. The principal erections, at least in late days, were at the ends: that at the south-east was 18 ft. by 5 ft. (interior), enclosed by large stones standing 2 to 5 ft. high: that at the north-east is 12 ft. by 3 to 5 ft. (interior) divided into two compartments. One of the covering stones of the north-east end is lying on the ground and measures 5 by 3 by 1½ ft. It would appear that the monument was once surrounded by a circle of small standing stones."

9:24

The megalith, as I had long suspected, turns out to be a double-horned cairn—the first example to be recorded from Co. Antrim. Fig. 4 is the plan I was able to make when I visited it, on behalf of the Ancient Monuments Advisory Council, in August, 1944.¹⁷ It lies at a height of nearly 800 ft., overlooking a wide stretch of unbroken bog stretching north-westwards for three miles over the schist peneplain of Glenmakeeran. Not a habitation is in sight in any direction, and the nearest approach lies across 1½ miles of wet bogland from Loughaveema (Carey Lough). The clusters of grey stones occupy the centre of a circular grassy area surrounded by heather and rushes, which appears to be the foundation of a cairn rather more than 20 yds. in diameter. Two or three kerb-stones were seen, but the "circle of small standing stones," if it ever existed, must be buried in heather and peat. Neither of the graves is complete, and both lack their roofs, though a large slab, perhaps a slipped coverstone, leans against the portal of the megalith on the

15. *U.J.A.*, 3rd Ser., iv (1941), pp. 35-44, 139-44; vii (1944), pp. 117-121.

16. Quoted in O'Laverty, *op. cit.*, iv, p. 494.

17. The position as near as I was able to locate it is 6 ins. Antrim, Sh. 9, 11.25 ins. west, .3 ins. north of the south-east corner.

EVANS WJA 8(1945)

22

E. E. EVANS

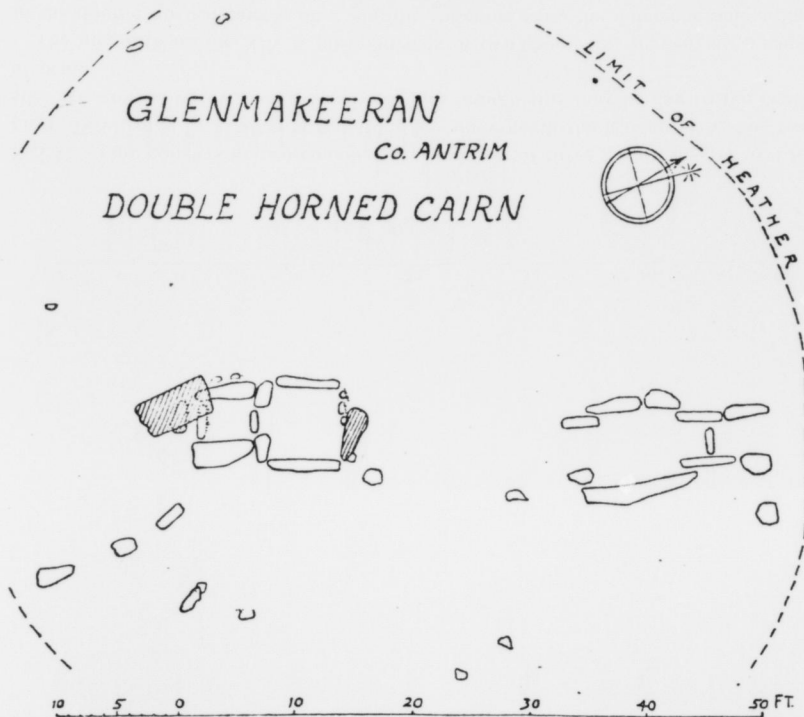


Fig. 4.

9:24

S.S.W. This consists of two chambers and one set of three horn-stones, 2 to 3 ft. high. What may be a fallen portal-stone lies underneath the leaning slab. The two sills are unusually low, being barely visible, though this may be due to the depth of peat.

The megalith on the N.N.E. also consists of two chambers, aligned, as is usual in the double horned cairns, on a slightly different axis, the difference amounting to between 5 and 10 degrees. The first chamber, however, is rather in the nature of an ante-chamber (5 ft. by 3 ft.) and it is clear from the plan that another chamber once existed at the rear. The sill is again flush with the surface of the ground. Only one horn-stone (3 ft. high) remains, set almost squarely to the portal. The tallest stone, that flanking the sill on the west, is 4½ ft. high, but in general the orthostats of both galleries average only 2 to 3 ft. in visible height.

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EVANS UJA 8(1945)

A curious feature of this megalith is the divergence in plan between the two sets of chambers, e.g., one has its jambs set transversely, the other longitudinally, their long axes in line with the sill. The ante-chamber can be matched in the chambered grave of Ballycleagh,¹⁸ some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the east on the other side of the mountain rim, where also the cairn approaches a circle in plan. The possibility of contacts with the round-cairn passage-grave culture must be borne in mind in this connexion.

9:24

I have no doubt that some of the other "lost megaliths" of the O.S. Memoirs may yet be found. Mr. Watson has recently located two of them on the lower slopes of Knocklayd,¹⁹ and in the same area, Td. of Broommore, I lately came upon a truly monumental standing stone, near the 900 ft. contour,²⁰ at the upper limit of the schist platform on which the basalt dome of Knocklayd rests. It stands fully $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high and measures 5 ft. square. It is on the edge of a low cairn-like platform some 14 ft. in diameter.

9:53

Not a Standing Stone - erratic!
I can add little to the archaeological story of White Park Bay, which still has to be studied and written up in the light of modern science. Unfortunately the loot from its sandhills is scattered in scores of private collections. Among the finds I have seen recently are fragments of a food-vessel of the Irish bowl type, handsomely decorated with comb-stamp ornament, in the collection of antiquities and curios bequeathed by Mr. R. McCahan of Ballycastle to the Presbyterian College, Belfast. Portions of two similar vessels from White Park Bay are in the possession of Dr. Agatha Crawford of Belfast, who also found the fragments of a Neolithic pot which I have tried to reconstruct in Fig. 5. The paste is hard, shewing small white grits, red-brown at the core and dark brown outside. The upper portion, which carries a plain lug, is carefully smoothed and in places burnished with a fine fluting, both inside and out: the lower portion is not so well finished but carries oblique rows of bird-bone impressions varied by pits, also made with a bird-bone, and in one place by fine cord-impressions. I was not able to obtain joins between the fragments from upper and lower parts of the pot, but am satisfied that only one vessel is represented. Dr. Crawford has also shown me some discoveries which she made in the sandhills at Bushfoot, Portballintrae, where worked flints have previously been reported by Gray, Knowles and Hewson,²¹ who also refers to unornamented pottery. They include two grey flint flakes of Bann type, a fine leaf-shaped arrowhead, broken, and several scraps of plain-rimmed pottery of Neolithic character. I have searched the Bushfoot area on several occasions without success. The floors are now presumably buried, and may yet be revealed for future collectors and researchers.

Among my own casual pickings from White Park Bay is a small ingot of silver

18. P.S.A.M., p. 16.

19. U.J.A., 3rd Ser., vii (1944), 117.

20. Sheet 9, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. east, $9\frac{1}{2}$ ins. north.

21. J.R.S.A.I., lxx (1935), p. 240. Other references here.

Co ANTRIM FIELD RECORD

SITE NO	24	Td.		TYPE		ALT.	
O.S. 6"	9						
I.G.	16		GLENMAKEERAN	MEGALITH		800'±	

PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS

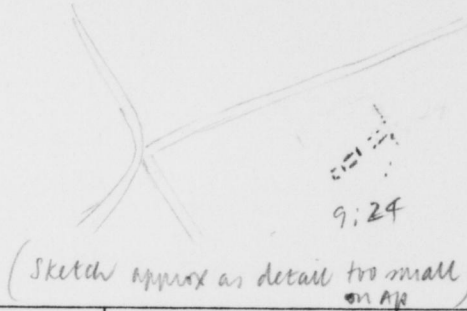
GRID REF. D 1845 3502

SM : megalith : Dual Corridor

DOE (NI) Ap (1983) 2904/5/6.

situated in Ballypatnick Forest
(entrance via 'shooting lodge'?)

K.D.



THREATS AND/OR CHECKS	FURTHER ACTION

SITE REPORT

CONDITION

Td.

Co.

PAR.

G.R.

O.S. 6"
I.G.

Mr Coates (Forestry Division)
Room 32

Dundonald Ho.

Wants Ballypatrick Forest double contour
cannon dug. Could offer free labour.

ANT 9.24



DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Dundonald House Upper Newtownards Road Belfast BT4 3SB

Telephone Belfast 650111 ext

Mr Collins
Archaeological Survey
66 Balmoral Avenue
BELFAST

Your reference

Our reference

Date **18** July 1974

Dear Mr Collins

In confirmation of my telephone call, it would be very much appreciated if it were possible to excavate the Double Horned Cairn site at Ballypatrick Forest during the next few months. This site is convenient to a scenic drive which is being established in Ballypatrick Forest and which is due for opening next June.

If it were possible to provide supervision we could certainly provide as many careful workers as you could use to actually do the work.

What we would really like would be the excavation of the whole site and its reinstatement in as near its original condition as possible if this type of project is acceptable to you.

Yours sincerely

[Handwritten signature: J. Coates]

Replied turning down offer 20/8/74

* = COATES

SH7 ANT 9.24