



## **Monitoring Report No. 104**

**8 Kearney Road  
Knockinelder  
Portaferry  
Co. Down**

***AE/06/272***

Brian Sloan

### **Site Specific Information**

*Site Address:* 8 Kearney Road, Portaferry, Co. Down

*Townland:* Knockinelder

*SMR No.:* SM11/1/Dow 32:35, 24

*State Care*    *Scheduled*    *Other* ✓

*Grid Ref:* J 6370 5141

*County:* Down

*Excavation Licence No:* AE/06/272

*Planning Ref No.:* X/2002/0703/O

*Date of Monitoring:* 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006

*Archaeologist Present:* Brian Sloan

#### *Brief Summary:*

Two test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed development of a replacement dwelling on any hidden archaeological remains. The proposed development site is located in an archaeologically sensitive area with known prehistoric sites within the immediate vicinity (DOW 032:024 and DOW 032:035). 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 10m by 2m

*Current Land Use:* Dwelling

*Intended Land Use:* Replacement dwelling

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### Introduction

The site of the proposed replacement dwelling is located at 8 Kearney Road, Knockinelder, Portaferry, Co. Down (Fig 1). The site lies 4km east of the town of Portaferry, approximately 100m from the strand at Knockinelder Bay, and at a height of approximately 10m above sea level. The surrounding area is rich in archaeological sites (Fig 2). Two cist burials (DOW 032:024 and DOW 032:035) are known to exist in the immediate vicinity, and three standing stones (DOW 032:006) lie 1 ½ km to the north-east of the site. The surrounding landscape consists of both pastoral and arable land, interspersed with dwelling houses. The trenches were positioned to incorporate the footprint of the replacement dwelling (Fig 3) and was requested by Gina Baban (Case Officer Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage).

### Excavation

The original research design for this programme of works stipulated the two trenches to be excavated parallel to the existing nineteenth-century dwelling. However, on consultation with the landowner, this methodology was revised, and the two trenches were excavated to the north of the existing dwelling. The field boundary in this area consisted of stone and soil, enclosing a roughly rectangular area (Fig. 3).

Trench 1 was located approximately 2m from the western edge of the field boundary and measured 10m by 2m. The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil which was encountered at an average depth of 0.7m

The sod and topsoil in Trench 1 (Context No. 101) consisted of a very light brown sandy loam which had frequent inclusions of small rounded pebbles (average size: 30mm x 20mm x 20mm). The sod and topsoil layer in this trench (Context No.101) had an average thickness of 0.3m. Directly below the sod and topsoil was a relatively thick deposit of a mid to dark brown friable sandy loam (Context No. 102). Again this layer had frequent inclusions of small rounded pebbles (average size 40mm x 30mm x 20mm) which probably originated from the raised beach deposits below the subsoil. The brown sandy loam (Context No. 102) was, on average, 0.4m thick.

Below the sandy loam (Context No. 102) was the natural subsoil (Context 105) (Plate 4) which consisted of orange silty sand. Upon the removal of the entirety of the sandy loam (Context No. 102), a linear feature was observed cutting the subsoil (Plates 2 and 3). The cut of this feature (Context No. 104) was 2.2m in length (north/south), 0.22m (east/west) and had a maximum depth of 0.12m. The fill (Context No. 103) of this linear feature was very similar to the brown sandy loam (Context No. 102) stratigraphically above it. The fill of this feature, being very sterile, was not sampled and the feature is not deemed archaeological. The depth of the strata at this part of the application site suggests that this area had undergone agricultural episodes and this feature probably represents the bottom of a plough furrow. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in this trench.

Trench 2 was located approximately 2m to the west of Trench 1 and measured 10m by 2m. The trench was excavated to the surface of the subsoil, which was encountered at a depth of 0.65m (Plate 5).

The sod and topsoil in Trench 2 (Context No. 201) consisted of a very light brown sandy loam which had frequent inclusions of small rounded pebbles (average size: 30mm x 20mm x 20mm). The sod and topsoil layer in this trench (Context No.201) had an average thickness of 0.3m. Directly below the sod and topsoil was a relatively thick deposit of a mid to dark brown friable sandy loam (Context No. 202). Again this layer had frequent inclusions of small rounded pebbles (average size 40mm x 30mm x 20mm) which probably originated from the raised beach deposits below the subsoil. The brown sandy loam (Context No. 202) was, on average, 0.35m thick.

Below the sandy loam (Context No. 202) was the natural subsoil (Context 203) which consisted of orange silty sand (Plate 6). Nothing of archaeological significance was 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 bulletin of excavations.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* n/a

*Photographs:* 15 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

*Plans / Drawings:* n/a

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

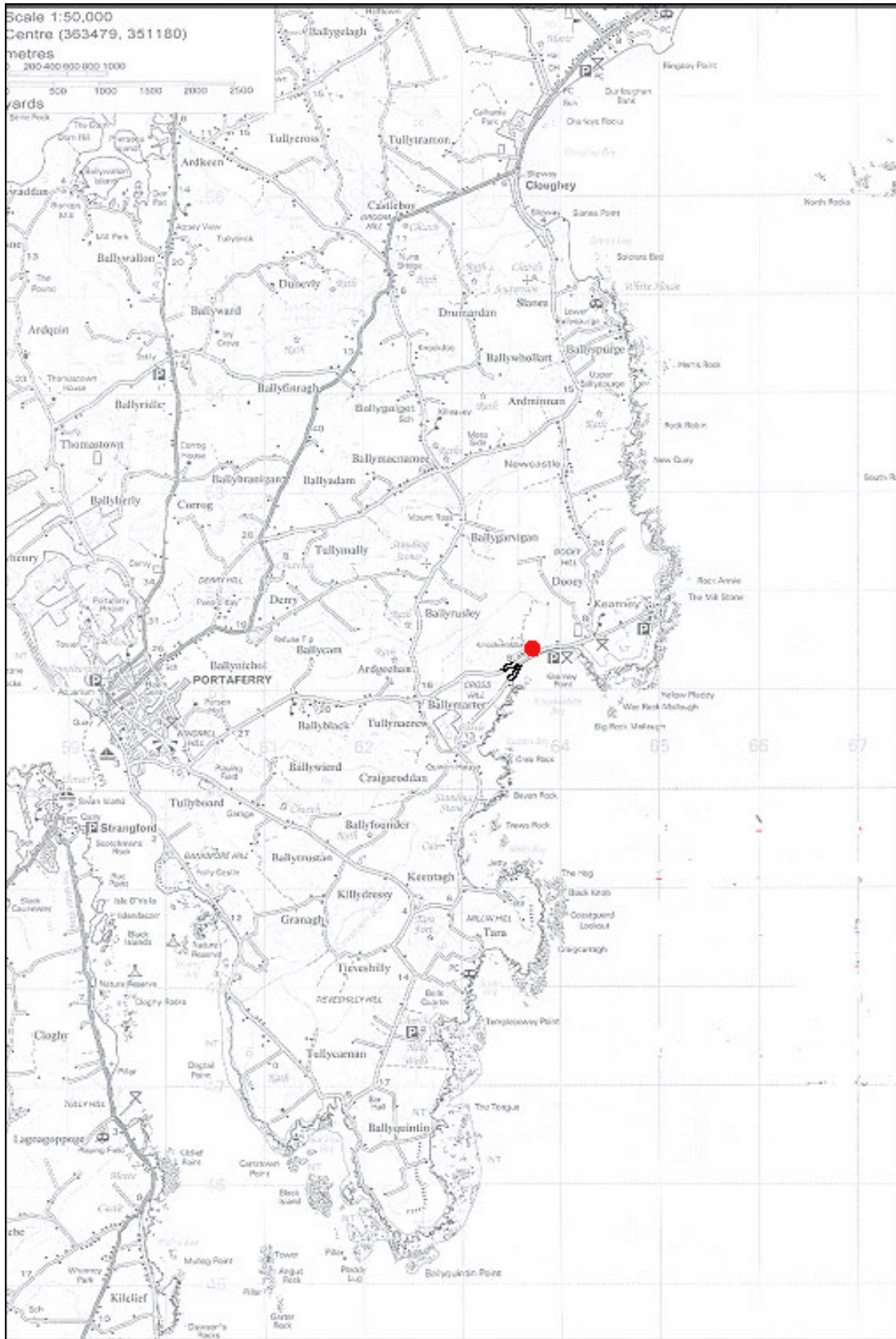


Fig. 1: 1:50,000 Map showing location of site (in red).

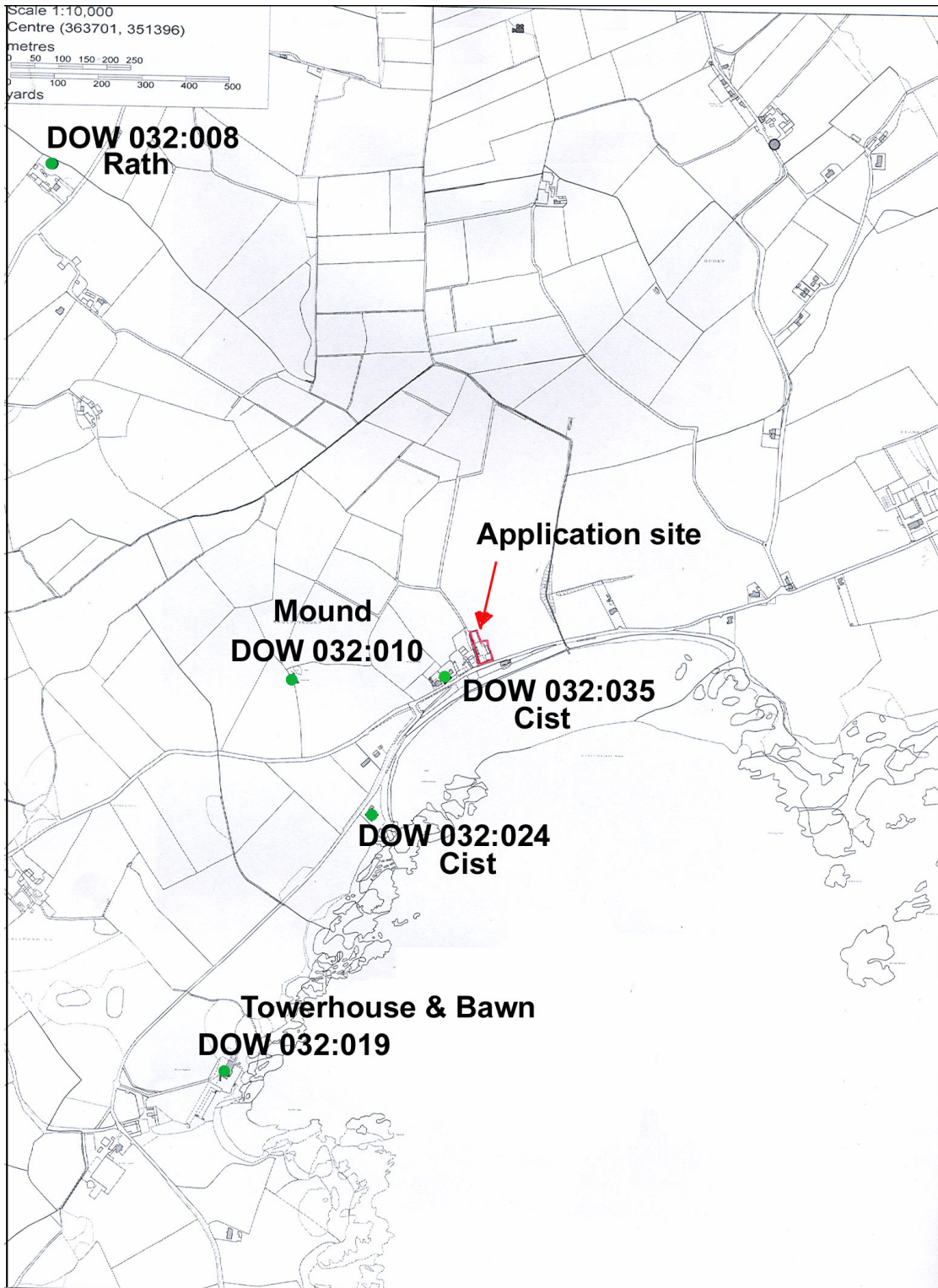


Fig. 2: Location of site (red line) and archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity (green dots).



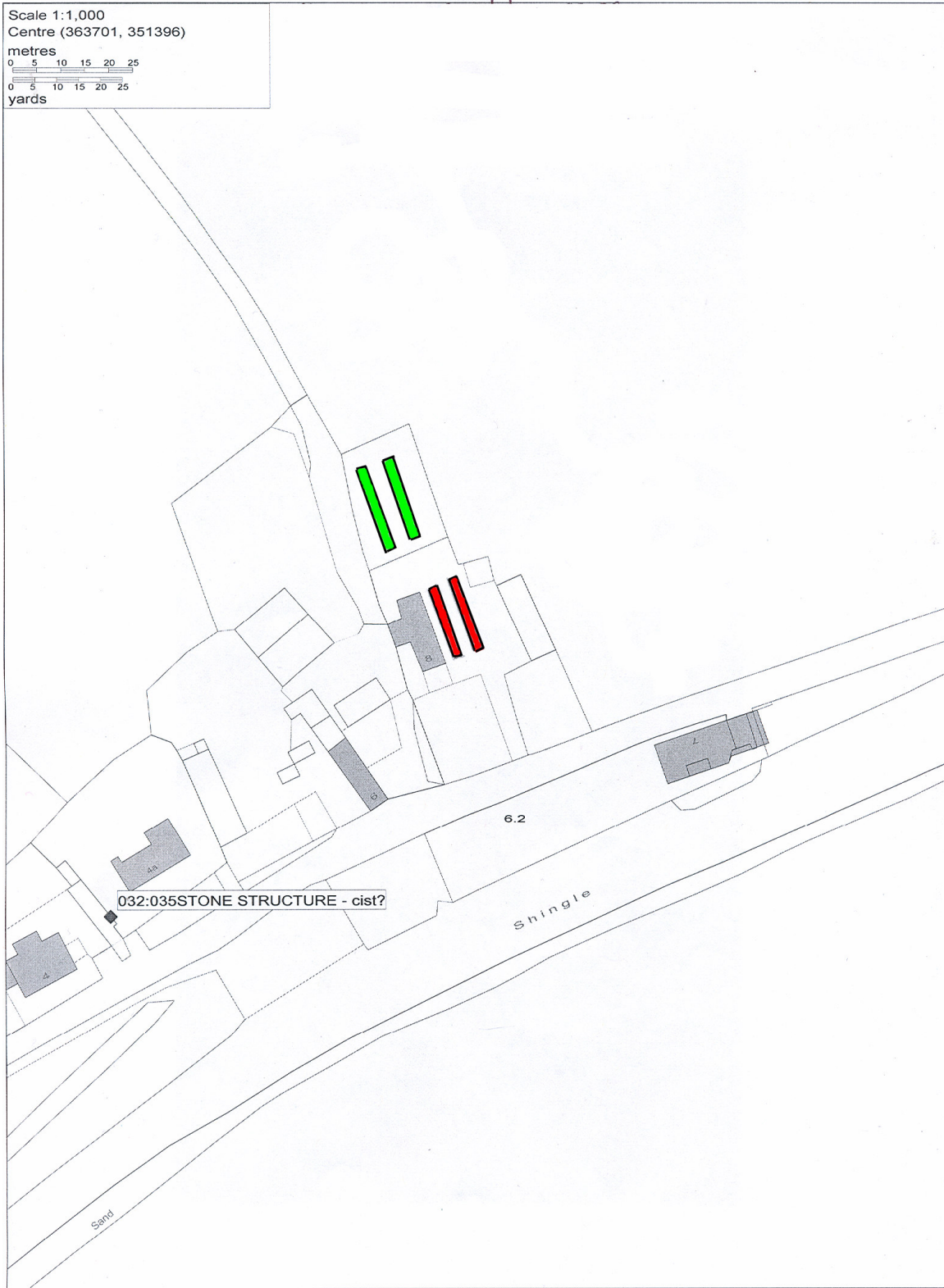


Fig. 3: Original location of test trenches (in red), and revised position of trenches (in green).



Plate 1: Excavation of Trench One, looking East



Plate 2: Linear feature (Cut Context No. 103, Fill Context No. 104), looking south

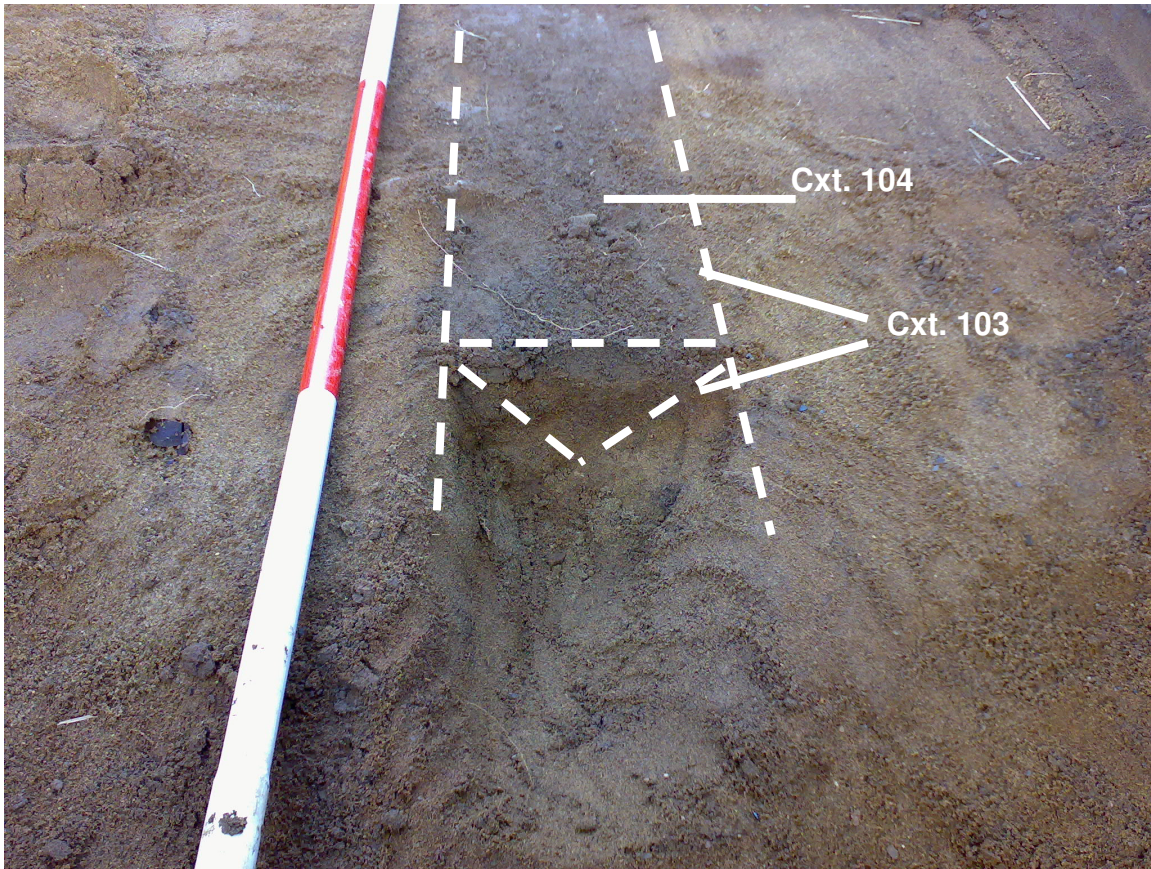


Plate 3: Linear feature following excavation of box section, looking south.

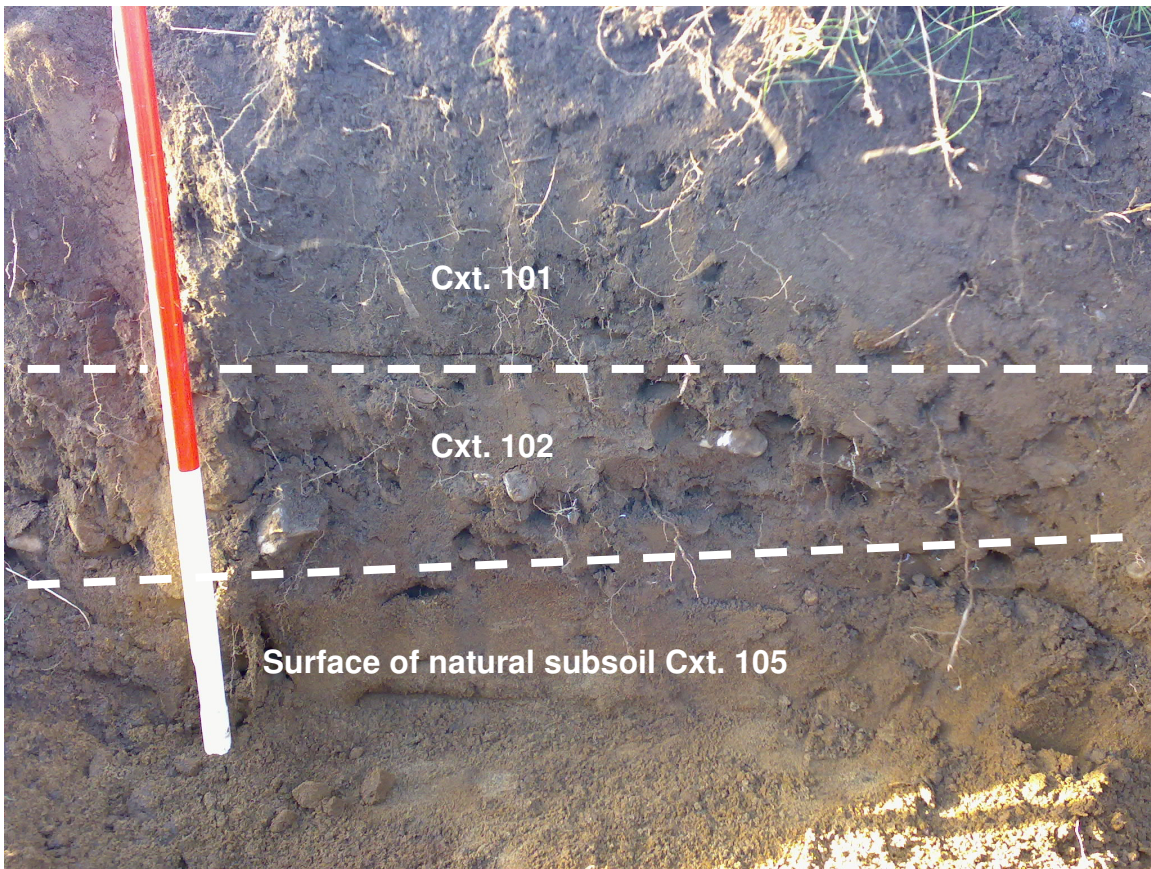


Plate 4: West facing section of Trench One.



Plate 5: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 203)

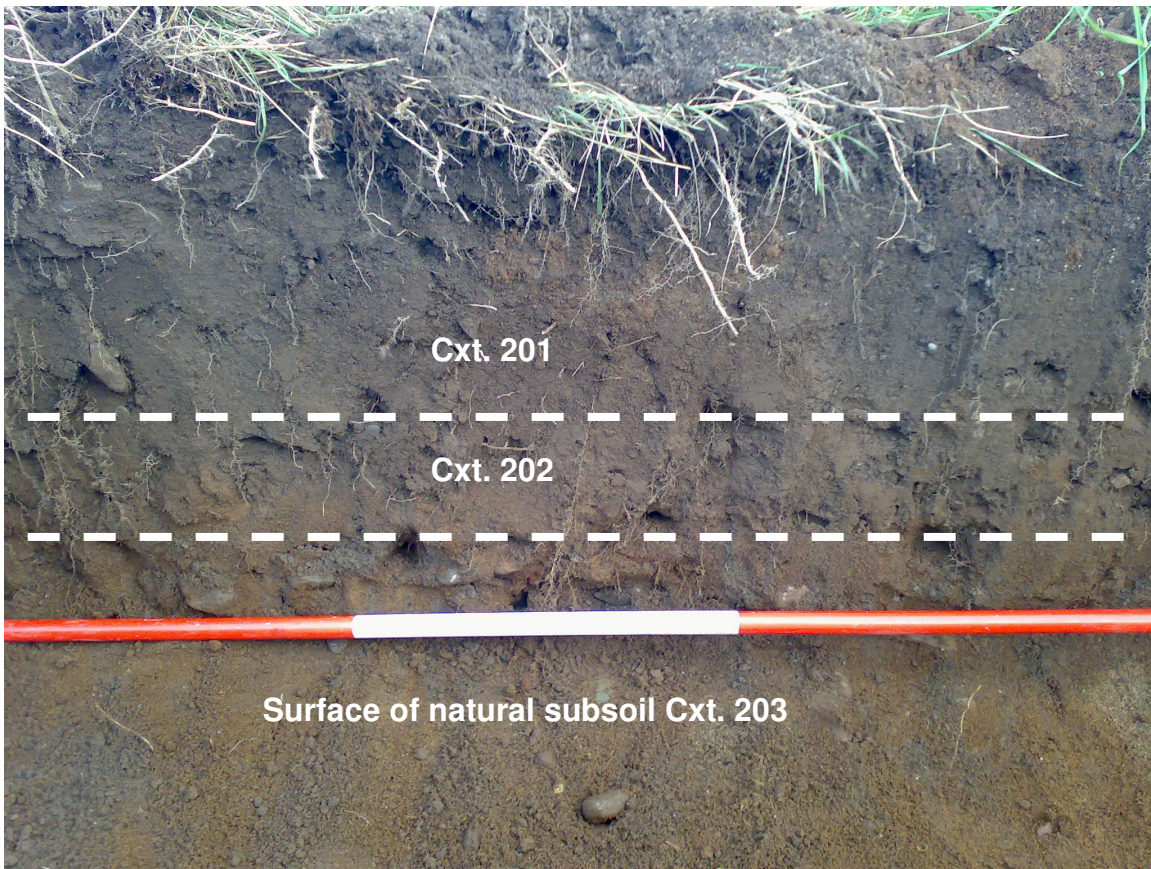


Plate 6: West facing section of Trench Two.