Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 125

SITE TO THE REAR OF 5 SAVALMORE COTTAGES
COALPIT ROAD
NEWRY
CO. DOWN

LICENCE NO.: AE/07/86

Brian Sloan

Site Specific Information

Site Name: To the rear of 5 Savalmore Cottages, Coalpit Road Newry

Townland: Saval More

SMR No. : DOW 047:006 and DOW 047:008

State Care Scheduled Other √ [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 1218 3096

County: Down

Excavation Licence No. : AE/07/86

Planning Ref / No. : P/07/0109/RM

Dates of Monitoring: 30th April 2007

Archaeologist(s) Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site to the rear of 5 Savalmore Cottages, Coalpit Road, Newry, Co. Down as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. A scheduled standing stone (DOW 047:006) is located approximately 140m to the north-west of the application site, with the site of an enclosure (DOW 047:008) approximately 80m to the north. It is the proximity of these sites to the application site that prompted the evaluation. The evaluation consisted of the mechanical excavation of three trenches which ranged in size from 20m to 40m in length. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in the evaluation. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of three test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Three trenches each approximately 2m wide and ranging in length from 40m to 20m in length.

Current Land Use: Garden to rear of residential dwelling.

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located to the rear of 5 Savalmore Cottages, Coalpit Road, Newry, Co. Down. The site is just outside the city of Newry, lying approximately 5km north-east of its centre (Figure One). The general area of the application site is on relatively high ground overlooking other drumlins in the area. The application site is located in the north-western corner of a large field, the boundaries of which are defined by a post and wire fence and mature hedgerows (Figures Two, Three and Four). The application site is generally flat although there is a gentle slope towards the south-east of the application site.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Neil Yeaman: Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. It was requested due to the proximity of the application site to the enclosure (DOW 047:008) and the standing stone (DOW 047:006).

Excavation

The original research design for this evaluation stipulated the excavation of four test trenches in the area of the proposed development and access lane. However, three trenches were excavated due to the presence of a post and wire fence to the south of the application site. The trenches were approximately 2m wide and ranged in length form 40m to 20m. All three test trenches were excavated to the subsoil which consisted of an orange glacially derived boulder clay. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at a depth of around 0.3m.

Trench One

Trench One was located parallel to the northern boundary of the application site. Trench One was approximately 2m wide and 40m long and was aligned approximately south-west/north-east (Plate One). The trench was positioned along the proposed access route for the application site and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of loose, light to mid brown, sandy loam. The layer contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20 x 20 x 10mm). The layer was around 0.1m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was a compact, mid to dark brown, sandy loam cultivation soil (Context No. 102) which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 40 x 30 x 20mm). There were no finds recovered from this trench. The cultivation soil (Context No. 102) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 103) (Plate Two).

The subsoil in Trench One (Context No. 103) was an orange compact boulder clay with occasional inclusions of medium to large angular stone, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.3m.

Trench Two

Trench Two was positioned parallel to and approximately 3m to the south of Trench One. The trench was 2m wide and 20m long and was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Plate Three).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of a loose to slightly compact, light to mid brown, sandy loam. The layer contained infrequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). This layer was on average 0.13m thick.

Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) was a cultivation soil of compact, mid brown, sandy loam (Context No. 202) that contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm) and which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil (Context No. 202) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 203) (Plate Four).

The subsoil in Trench Two (Context No. 203) was an orange compact boulder clay with occasional inclusions of medium to large angular stone, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.33m.

Trench Three

Trench Three was positioned parallel to and approximately 4m to the south of Trench Two. The trench was 2m wide and 20m long and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Plate Five).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of a loose to slightly compact, light to mid brown, sandy loam. The layer contained infrequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). This layer was on average 0.15m thick.

Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was a cultivation soil of compact, mid brown, sandy loam (Context No. 302) that contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm) and which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil (Context No. 302) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 303).

The subsoil in Trench Three (Context No. 303) was an orange compact boulder clay with occasional inclusions of medium to large angular stone, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.35m.

The three test trenches excavated at the application site contained nothing of archaeological significance. It is not thought that the development will impact upon previously unrecorded archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. No publication is required save for a short summary in the annual *'Excavations'* bulletin.

Archive:

Finds: N/A

Photographs:

The digital images taken during the evaluation (20 in total) are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed:_____ Date:_____

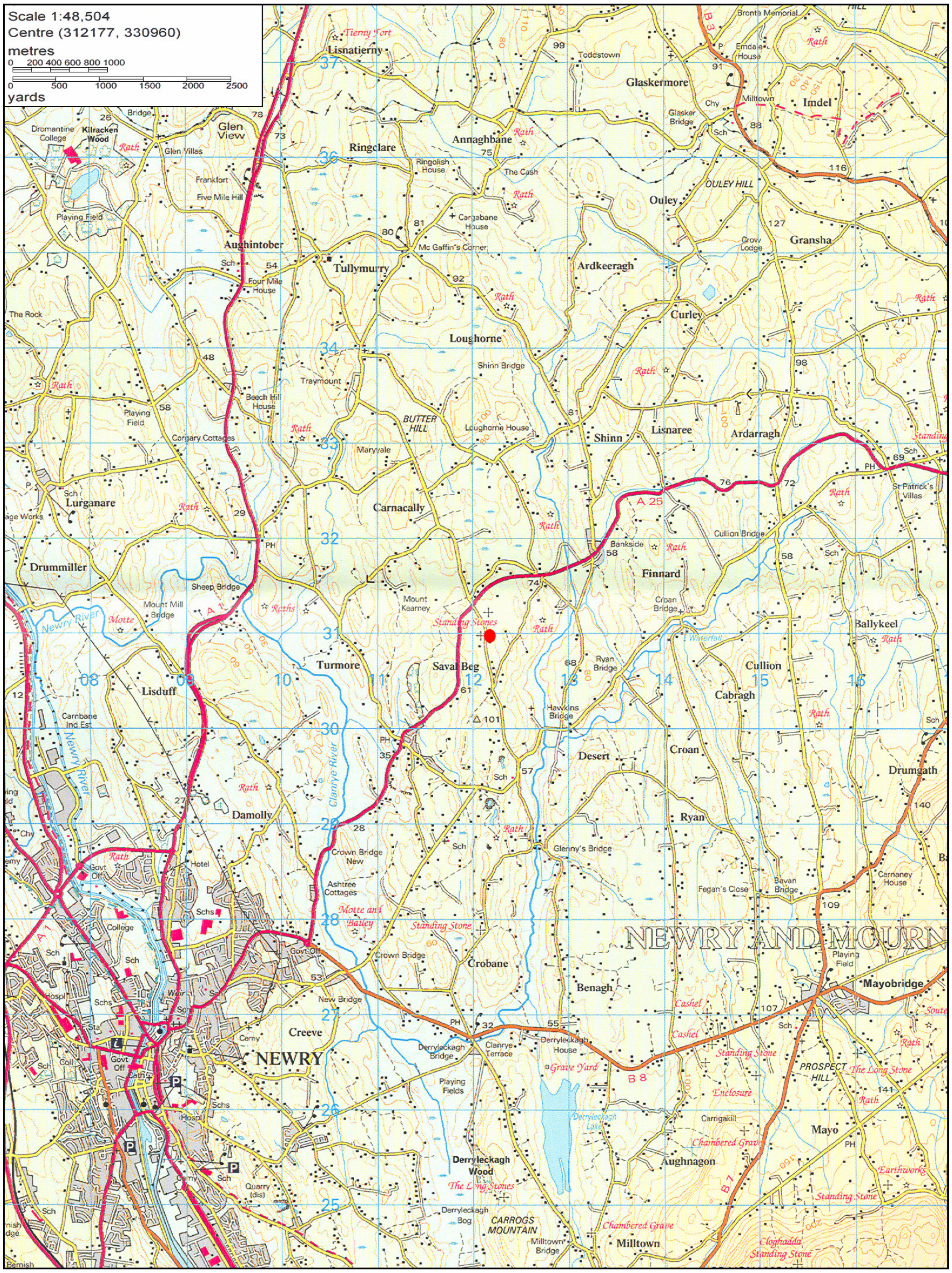

Figure One: 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map showing location of site (red dot)

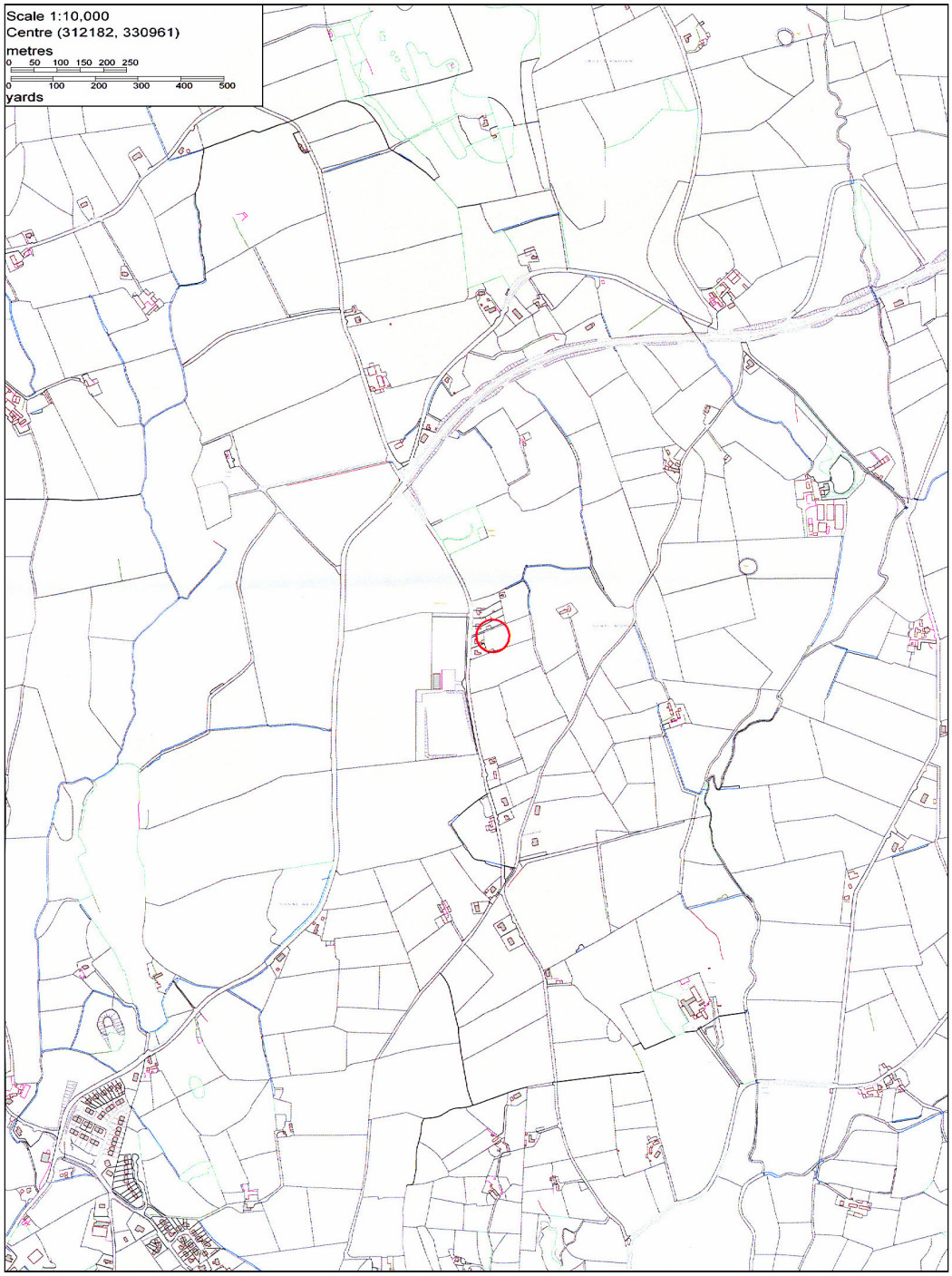

Figure Two: Detailed map of application site (circled in red)

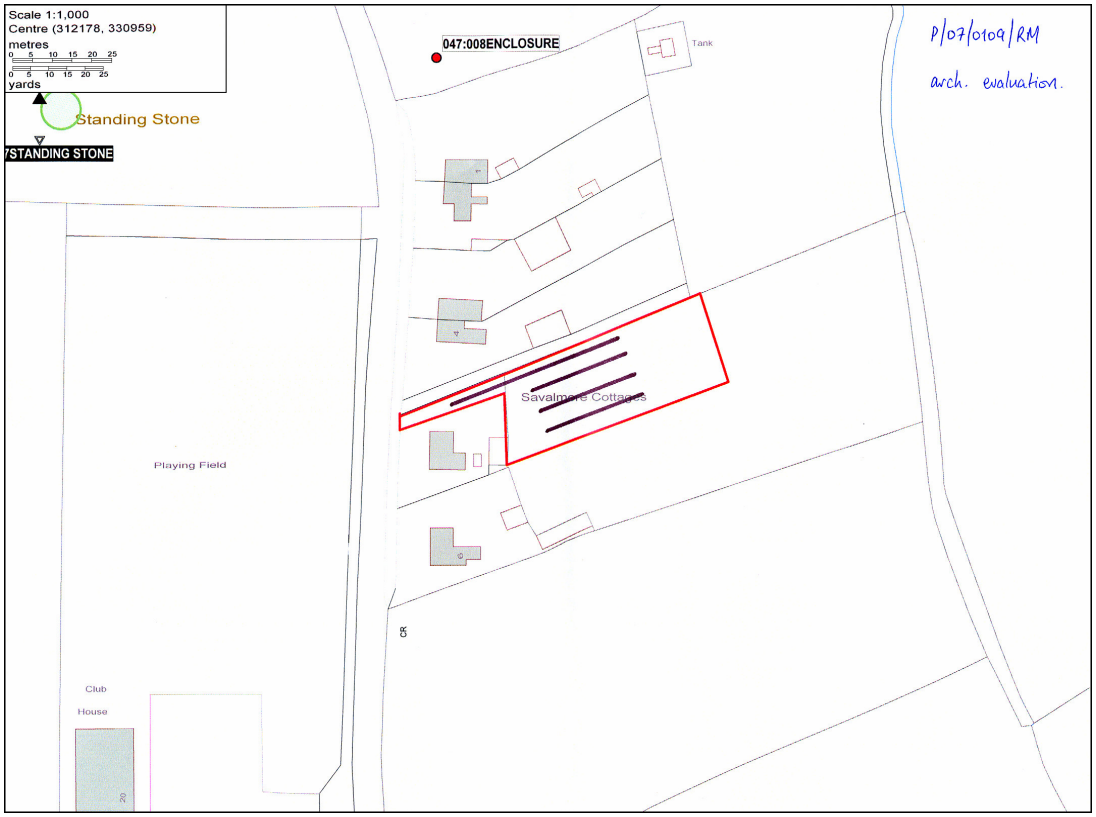

Figure Three: Proposed location of test trenches.

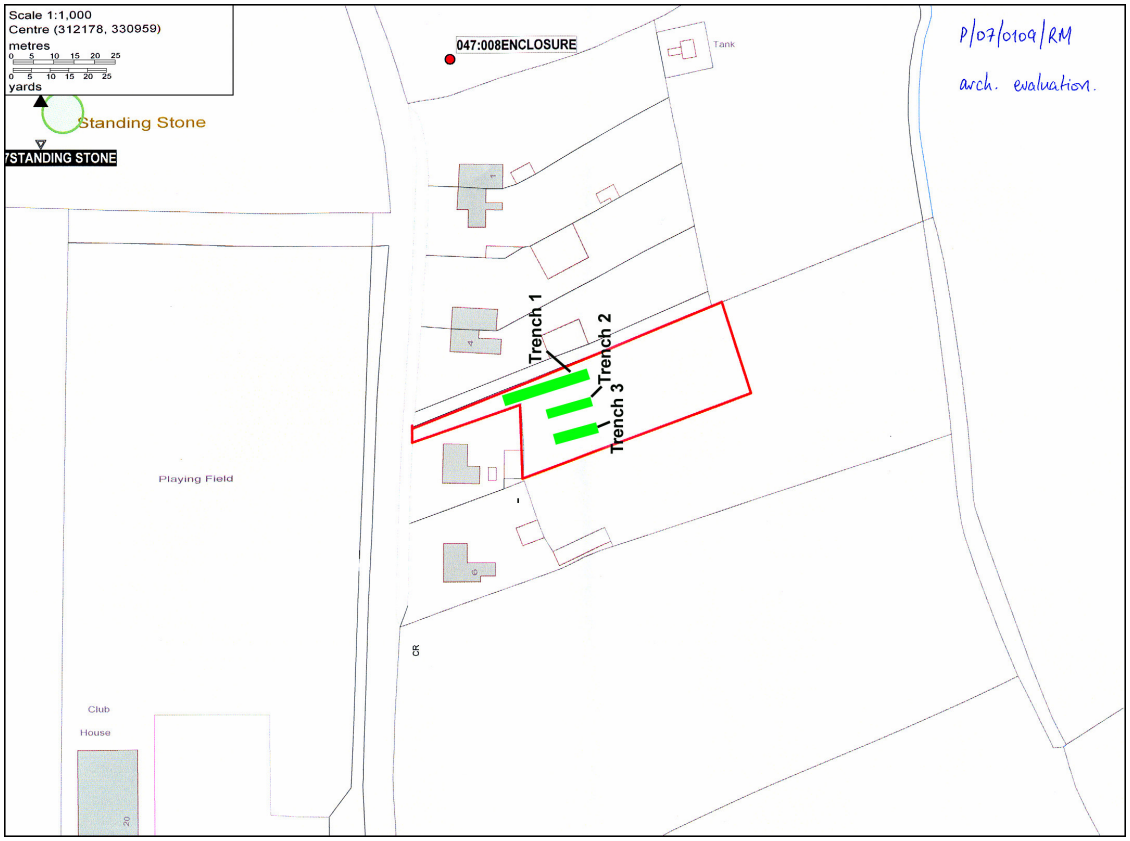

Figure Four: Actual location of test trenches..

Plate One: Trench One following excavation to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 103, looking south-west.

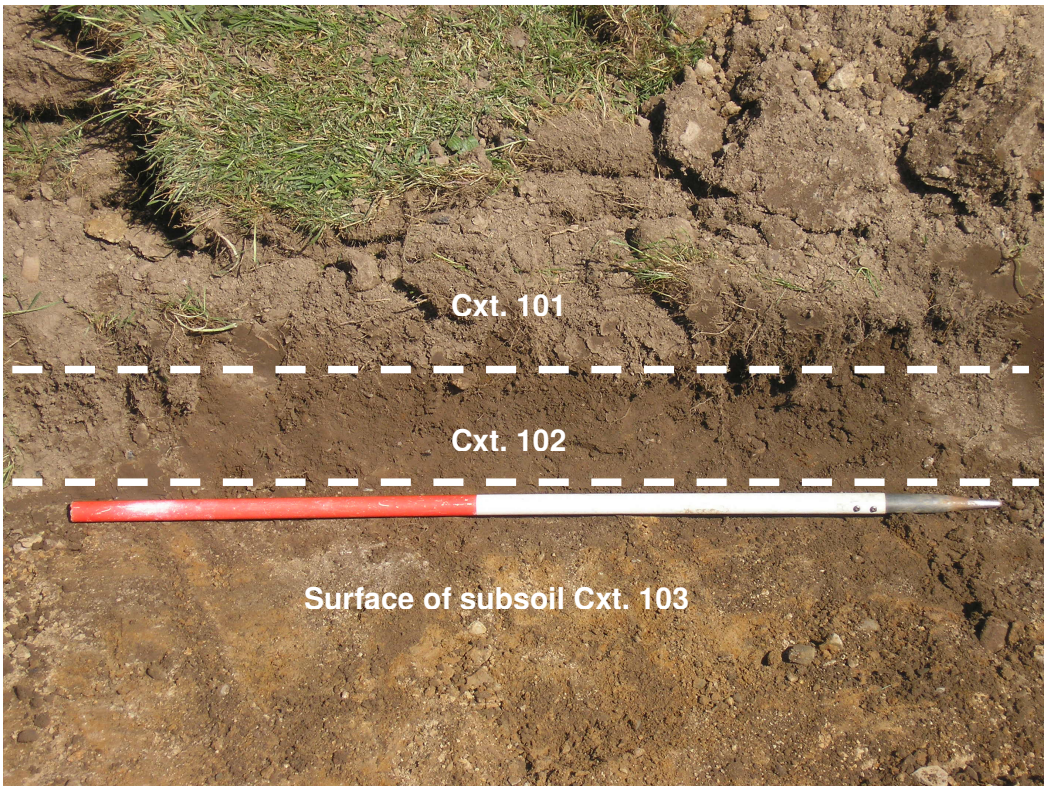

Plate Two: South-east facing section of Trench One.

Plate Three: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 203) looking north-east.

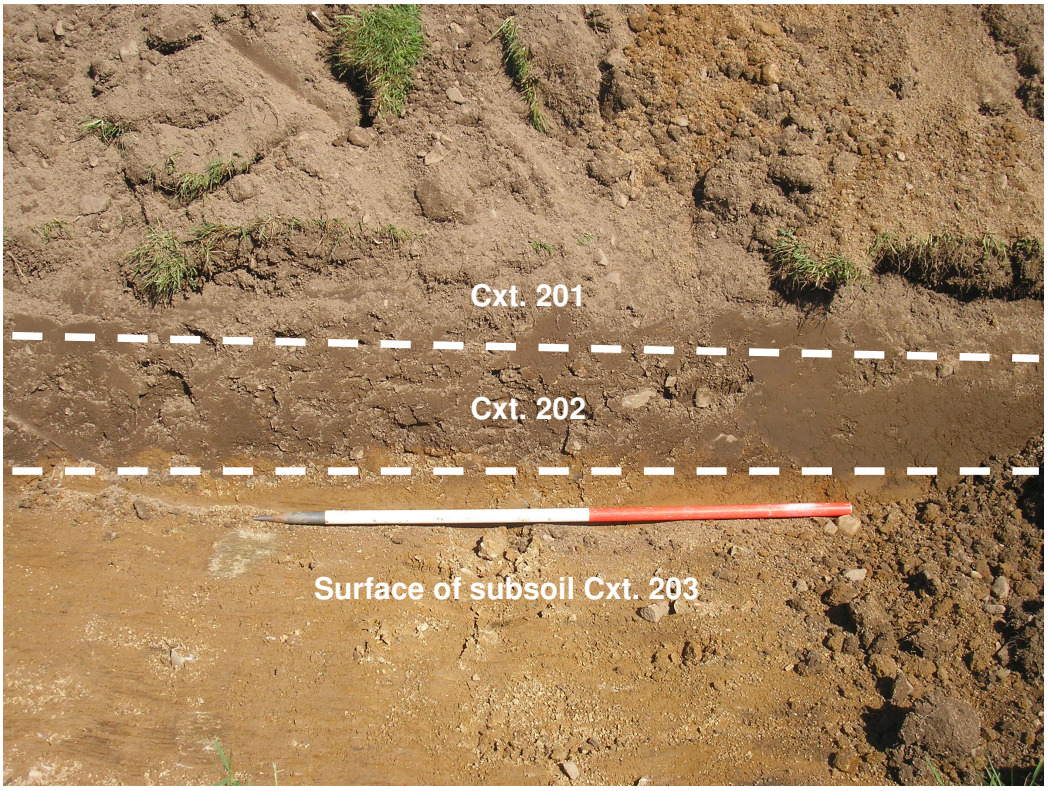

Plate Four: South-east facing section of Trench Two.

Plate Five: Trench Three following excavation to the surface of the subsoil (Context No. 303), looking north-east.

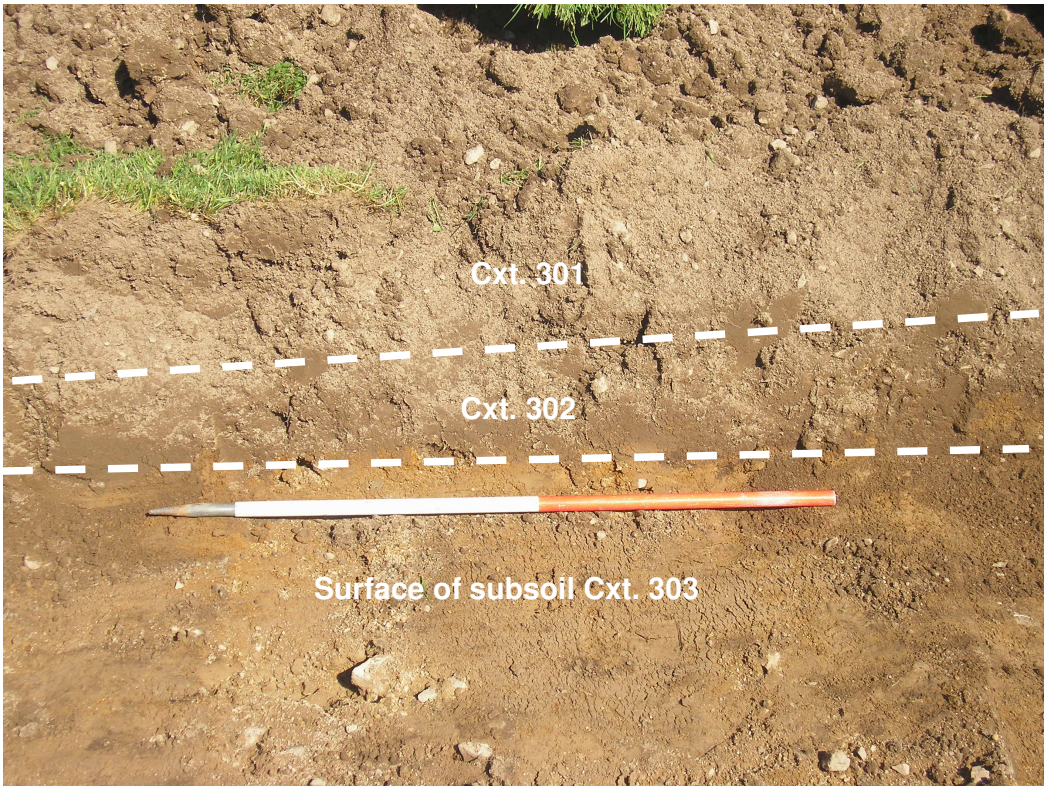

Plate Six: South-east facing section of Trench Three.

Plate Seven: General view of the application site following the excavation of the test trenches, looking south-east.