



**Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 093**

**SITE 80M NW OF 112 MOUNTJOY ROAD  
MOUNTJOY/MAGHERALAMFIELD  
DUNGANNON  
COUNTY TYRONE**

**LICENCE NO.: AE/06/206**

**NAOMI CARVER**

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* 80m north-west of 112 Mountjoy Road

*Townland:* Mountjoy/Magheralamfield

*SMR No. :* TYR 047:002

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other                       [delete as applicable]

*Grid Ref.:* H 8997 6856

*County:* Tyrone

*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/06/206

*Planning Ref / No. :* M/2006/0770/F

*Dates of Monitoring:* 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006

*Archaeologist(s) Present:* Naomi Carver

### *Brief Summary:*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 80m north-west of 112 Mountjoy Road, Mountjoy/Magheralamfield, Dungannon, County Tyrone as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. The ruins of Mountjoy Castle (TYR 047:002) lie approximately 50m to the south-east of the application site. The evaluation consisted of four mechanically-excavated test trenches ranging in length from 36m to 60m. The trenches contained some evidence of agricultural activity, but nothing of great archaeological significance. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

### *Type of monitoring:*

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

### *Size of area opened:*

Four trenches each approximately 2m wide and ranging in length between 36m and 60m.

*Current Land Use:* Agricultural

*Intended Land Use:* Residential

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

The application site is located 80m north-west of 112 Mountjoy Road, Mountjoy/Magheralamfield, Dungannon, County Tyrone. The site is just outside the village of Brockagh and is approximately 5km south-east of Stewartstown (Figure One). The general area of the application site is on high ground overlooking the shores of Lough Neagh to the east. The site is located in the south-eastern corner of a large field (approximately 1.2 hectares in size: Figure Two). The site itself is approximately 0.25 hectares in size. The main entrance to the field is in the south-eastern corner and this will be used for access to the proposed dwelling (Figure Three: Plate One). The field boundaries are defined by hedgerows interspersed with mature trees. The field is more-or-less, flat although there is a barely noticeable incline from south to north. There are good views from the west around to the north-east (Plate Two). A dwelling house and associated outbuildings is located immediately to the south-east of the site. Beyond this lie the ruins of Mountjoy Castle (TYR 047:002), a monument in State Care.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Paul Logue: Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. It was requested due to the proximity of Mountjoy Castle and the possibility that there may be previously unrecorded remains associated with the castle.

### *Excavation*

The evaluation consisted of the supervision of four mechanically-excavated test trenches. The trenches varied in length from 36m to 60m and all were around 2m in width (Figure Four). All four test trenches were excavated to the subsoil which consisted of boulder clay. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at a depth of around 0.4m.

### *Trench One*

Trench One was located parallel to the north-west/south-east boundary of the site which was also the field's northernmost boundary. The trench was approximately 4.0m from the field boundary. Trench One was approximately 1.8m wide and 40.0m long (Plates Three and Four).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of loose, mid brown, silty loam. The layer contained occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 20x20x10mm). Several sherds of glass were found within the sod and topsoil. The layer was around 0.2m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was a compact, mid to dark brown, silty loam cultivation soil (Context No. 102) which was 0.2m thick. The cultivation soil contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 40x30x20mm). There were no finds within the cultivation soil.

Following the removal of the cultivation soil, two features were visible in the subsoil (Context No. 108) of Trench One. Running parallel to the south-western limit of excavation was a linear feature which was probably a plough furrow (Plate Five). The cut of the feature (Context No. 103) was approximately 0.8m wide and

0.1m deep. It continued more or less the full length of the trench (40.0m). The fill (Context No. 104) of the linear feature (Context No. 103) consisted of loose, greyish brown, gritty loam containing abundant angular stone inclusions (average size: 10x10x5mm). There were no finds from the fill of the linear feature.

Near the middle of Trench One, beside the south-western limit of excavation, was a possible pit (Context No. 105: Plate Six). The possible pit was sub-circular in plan with irregular edges. It was approximately 0.7m in diameter and 0.08m deep. The possible pit (Context No. 105) was cut into the fill (Context No. 104) of the linear feature (Context No. 103) and was filled with two distinct fills. The upper fill (Context No. 106) consisted of loose, dark brownish black, silty loam which contained abundant lumps of charcoal along with burnt tree roots. The upper fill was 0.05m deep and contained a sherd of modern glass. Below the upper fill (Context No. 106) was a lower fill (Context No. 107) consisting of loose, light brown, clay loam which also contained tree roots. No finds were recovered from the lower fill (Context No. 107) which was 0.03m deep. The looseness of the fills and the presence of roots and modern glass suggest that the possible pit was probably modern and may have been cut from a higher level although this was not recognizable.

The subsoil in Trench One (Context No. 108) was encountered at a depth of around 0.4m.

### *Trench Two*

Trench Two was located 2.5m to the south-west of Trench One and ran parallel with it. The trench was 1.9m wide and 60.0m long (Plates Seven and Eight).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of compact to loose, mid brown, silty loam. The layer contained infrequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30x20x10mm). There were no finds within the sod and topsoil which was 0.2m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil of compact, mid brown, silty clay loam that contained frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30x20x10mm) and which was 0.2m thick. A large rimsherd of nineteenth century pottery was recovered from the cultivation soil.

Below the cultivation soil (Context No. 202) was the subsoil (Context No. 203) which in Trench Two was encountered at a depth of 0.4m. The surface of the subsoil contained several shallow and apparently natural depressions filled with the overlying cultivation soil (Context No. 202), but no cut features.

### *Trench Three*

Trench Three was situated 3.8m to the south-west of Trench Two. It ran parallel with the latter and was 1.8m wide and 36.0m long (Plates Nine and Ten).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of loose, mid brown, silty loam containing infrequent, sub-angular, stone inclusions (average size: 30x20x10mm). There were no finds within the sod and topsoil layer, which was 0.2m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was a cultivation soil (Context No. 302) of compact, mid brown, silty clay loam. The cultivation soil was 0.2m thick and contained relatively frequent sub-rounded stone

inclusions (average size: 30x20x10mm). Two pieces of struck flint were found within the cultivation soil.

Below the cultivation soil (Context No. 302) was a linear feature (Context No. 303) which was probably a plough furrow. The feature ran north-south and was round 8.0m long, 0.7m wide and 0.06m deep. The fill (Context No. 304) of the linear feature (Context No. 303) consisted of loose, mid brown, silty clay loam that contained some sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 10x10x5mm) and no finds.

The linear feature (Context No. 303: Plate Eleven) was cut into the subsoil (Context No. 305) which was encountered at a depth of 0.4m. There were no other features cut into the subsoil in Trench Three.

#### *Trench Four*

Trench Four was located 3.8m to the south-west of Trench Three and ran parallel to the latter. The trench was 1.8m wide and 36.0m long (Plates Twelve and Thirteen).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Four (Context No. 401) consisted of loose, mid brown, silty clay loam. The layer was 0.15m thick and contained infrequent, sub-rounded, stone inclusions (average size: 50x40x20mm) but no finds. Below the sod and topsoil layer was a cultivation soil (Context No. 402) of compact, mid brown, silty clay loam that contained frequent stone inclusions (average size: 30x20x20mm), but no finds.

Following the removal of the cultivation soil (Context No. 402), two linear features cut into the subsoil were observed. At the north-western end of the trench was a probable plough furrow (Context No. 403: Fourteen) running north-south from the north-western limit of excavation. The feature petered out to the south. The visible part of the feature was 2.6m long, 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep. The fill (Context No. 404) of the linear feature (Context No. 403) consisted of loose, grey, sandy clay. No finds were recovered from the fill of the linear feature.

The second linear feature (Context No. 405: Fifteen) was located at the south-eastern end of Trench Four and ran north-south for a distance of approximately 9.0m. It was 0.7m wide and 0.08m deep and filled with compact, mid brown, sandy clay (Context No. 406), which contained some sub-angular stone inclusions (average size: 5x5x2mm).

The two linear features were cut into the subsoil (Context No. 407) which was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.4m. There were no other subsoil cut features.

The four test trenches excavated at the application site contained evidence of agricultural activity as well as disturbance of modern date. It is not thought that the excavated features were of archaeological significance and the development will probably not 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:*

The artefacts found during the evaluation are temporarily housed within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

*Photographs:*

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

*Plans / Drawings:* N/A

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

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

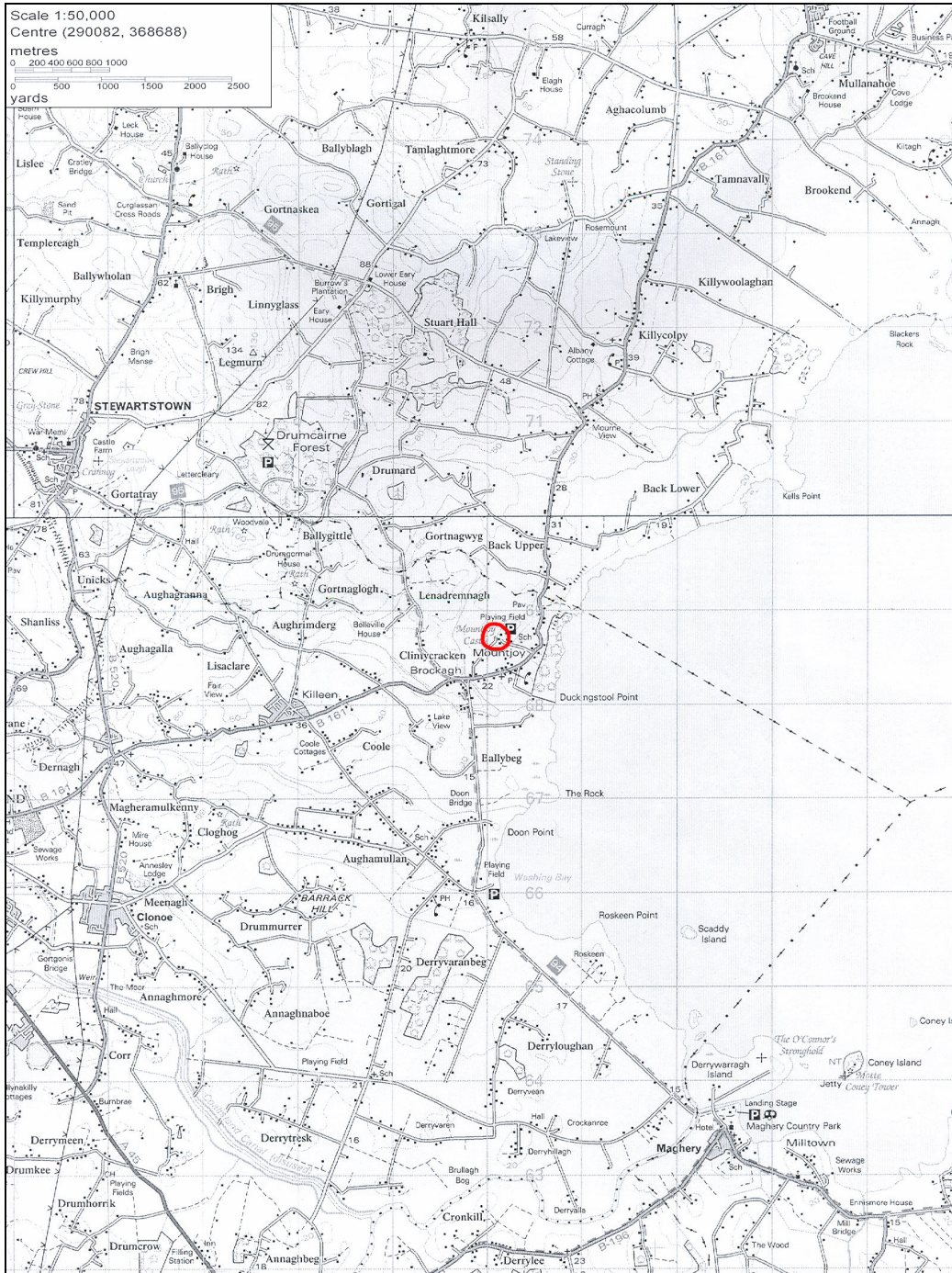


Figure One: 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map showing location of site (circled in red)





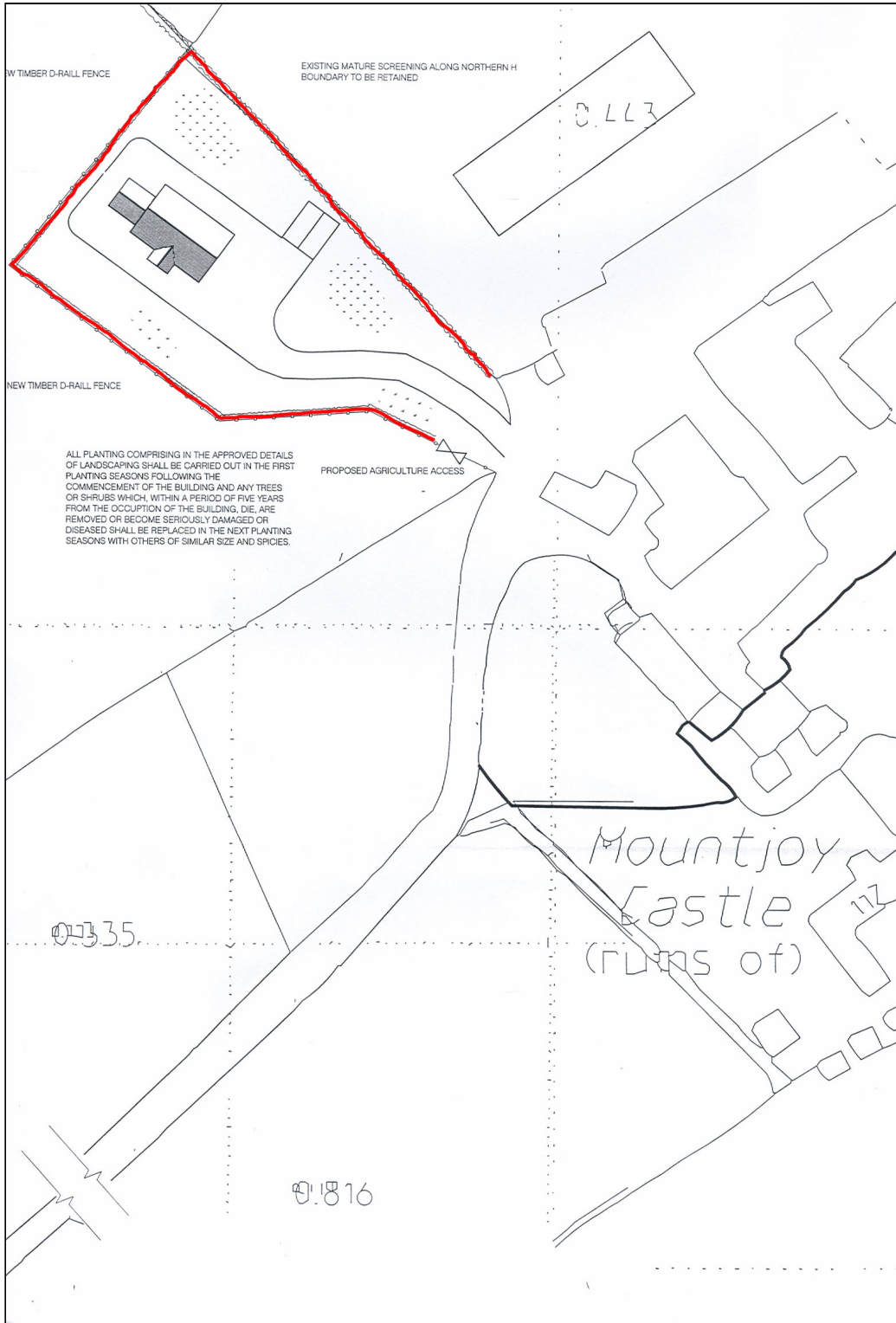


Figure Three: Architect's plan showing proposed location of dwelling house and site outline

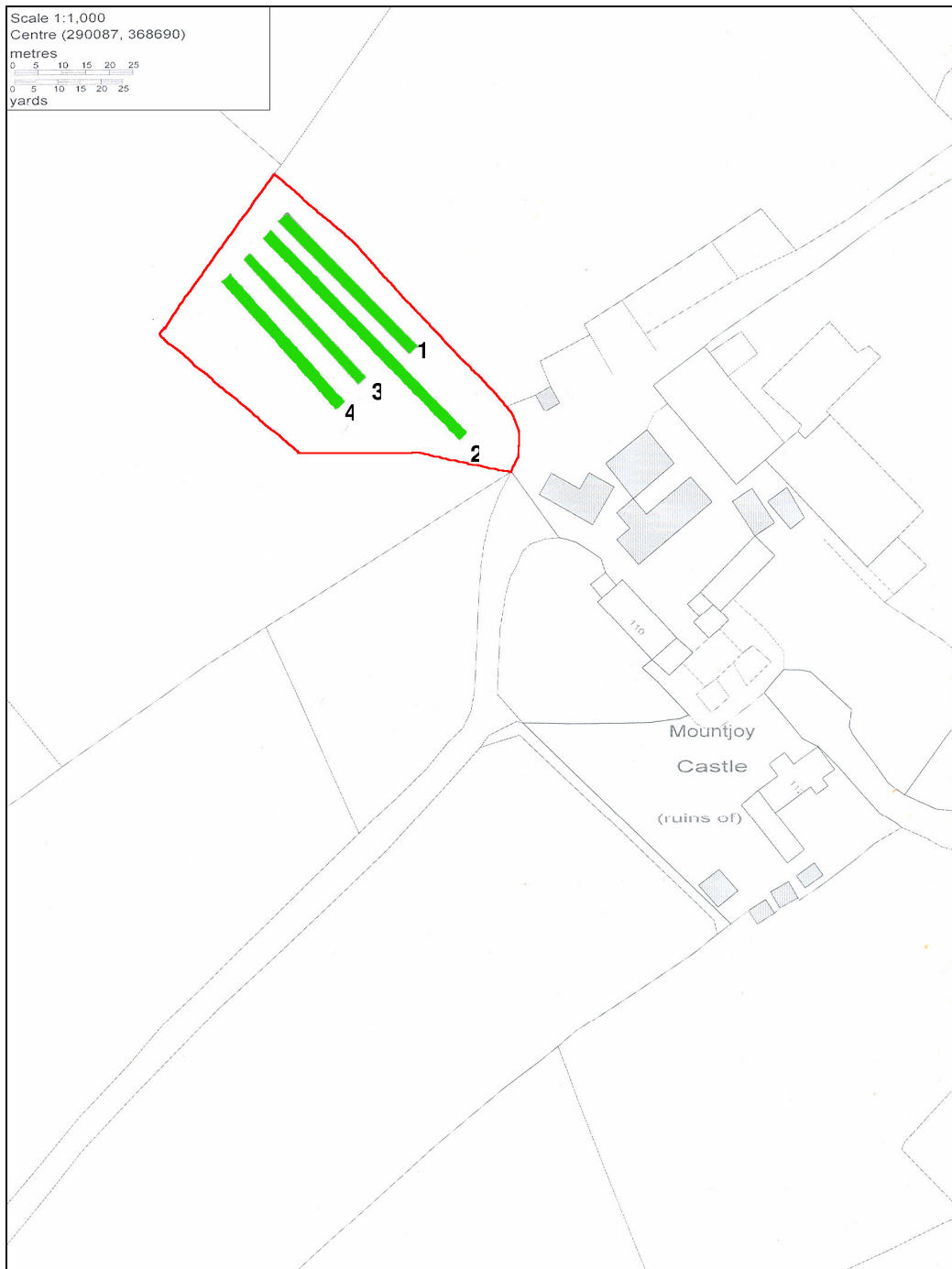


Figure Four: Site plan showing location of test trenches (in green)



*Plate One: General view of site prior to excavation, looking south-east*



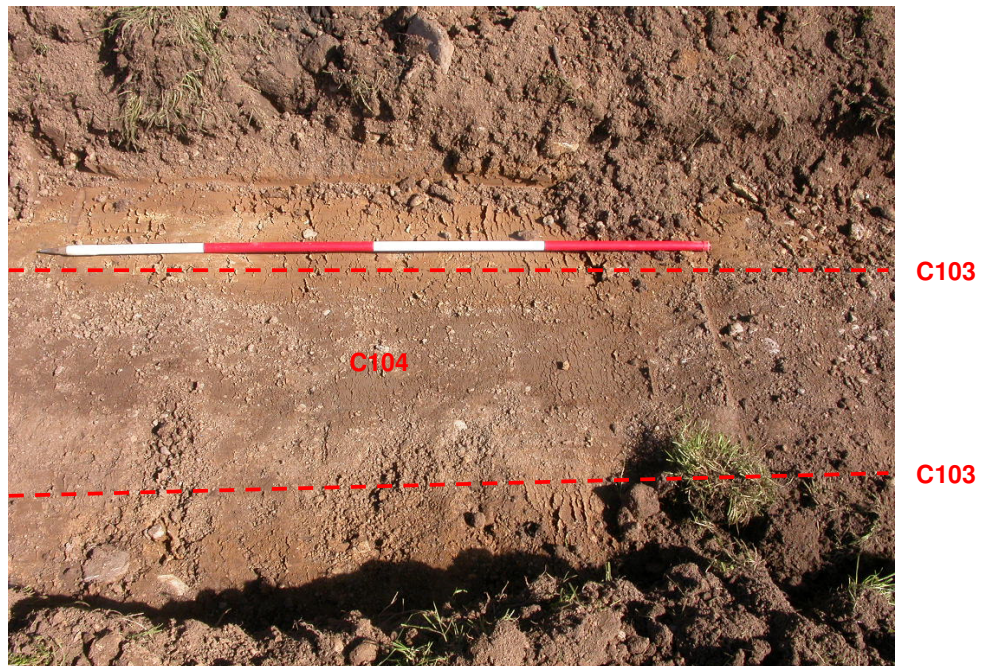
*Plate Two: General view of site prior to excavation, looking north*



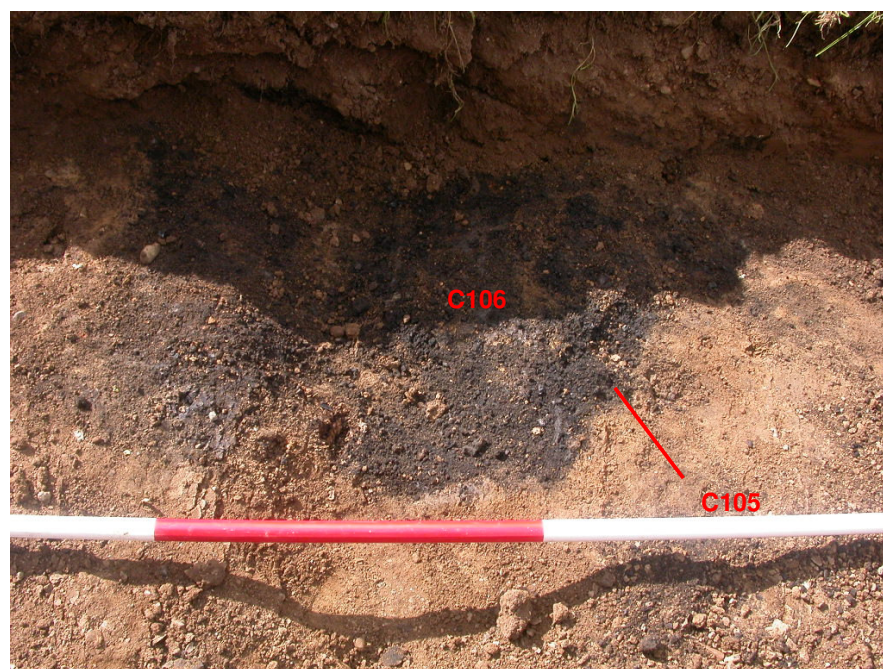
*Plate Three: Trench One following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 108), looking south-east*



*Plate Four: South-west facing section of Trench One, looking north-east*



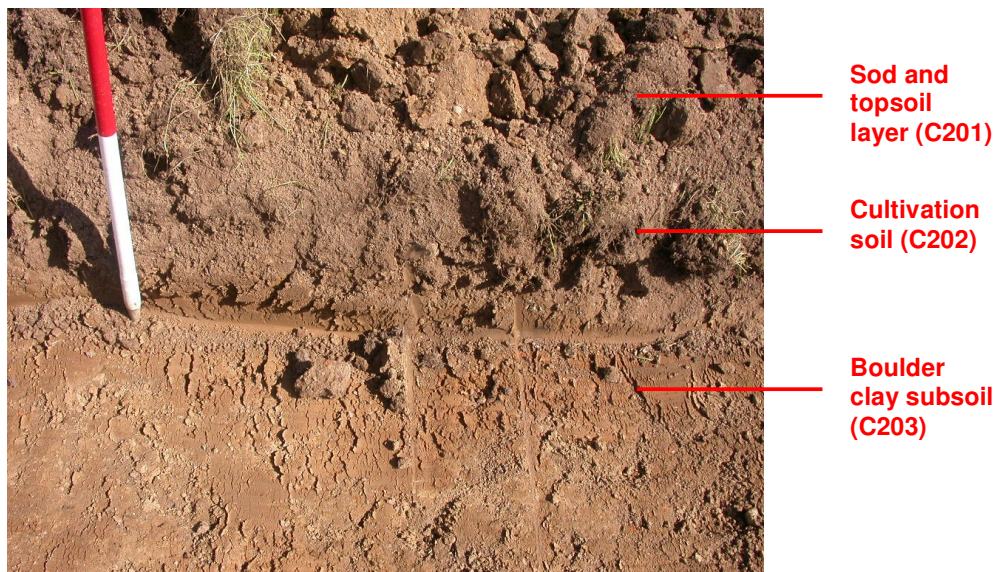
*Plate Five: Close-up of linear feature (Context No. 103), looking north-east*



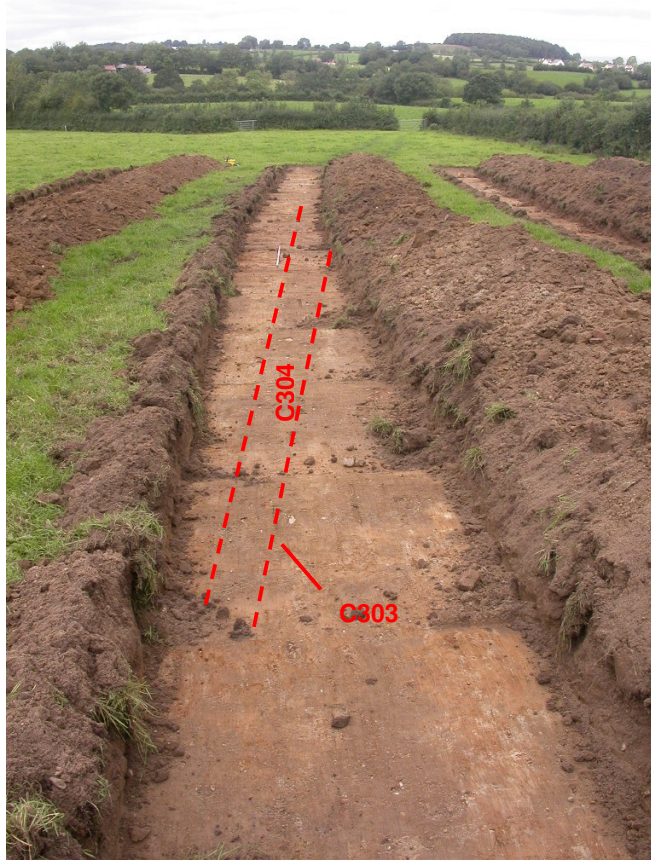
*Plate Six: Possible pit (Context No. 105), looking south-west*



*Plate Seven: Trench Two following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 203), looking north-west*



*Plate Eight: South-west facing section of Trench Two, looking north-east*



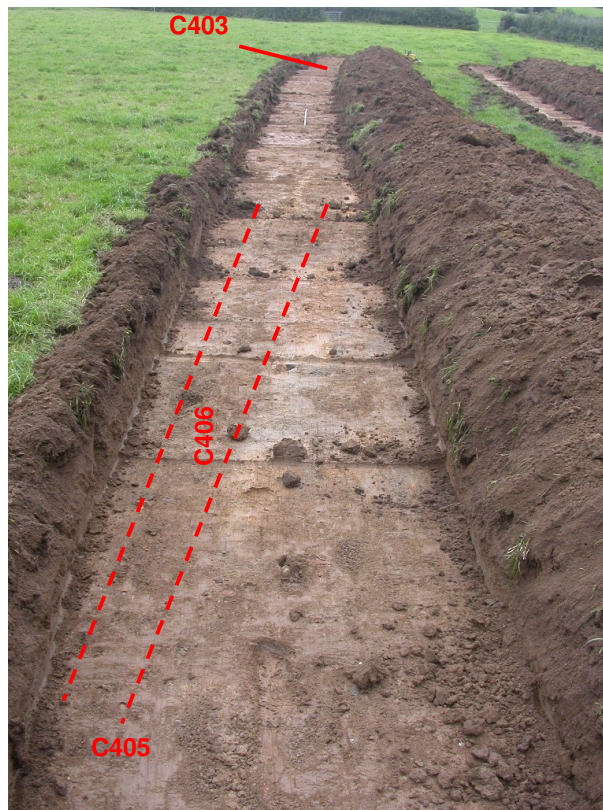
*Plate Nine: Trench Three following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 305), looking north-west*



*Plate Ten: North-east facing section of Trench Three, looking south-west*



*Plate Eleven: Linear feature (Context No. 303), looking north-east*

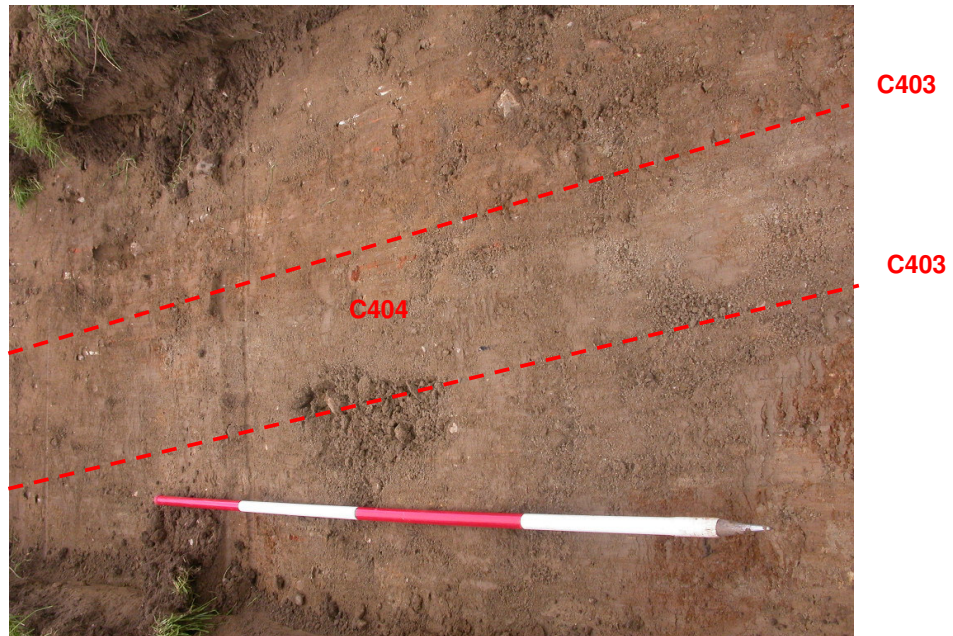


*Plate Twelve: Trench Four following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 407),  
looking north-west*

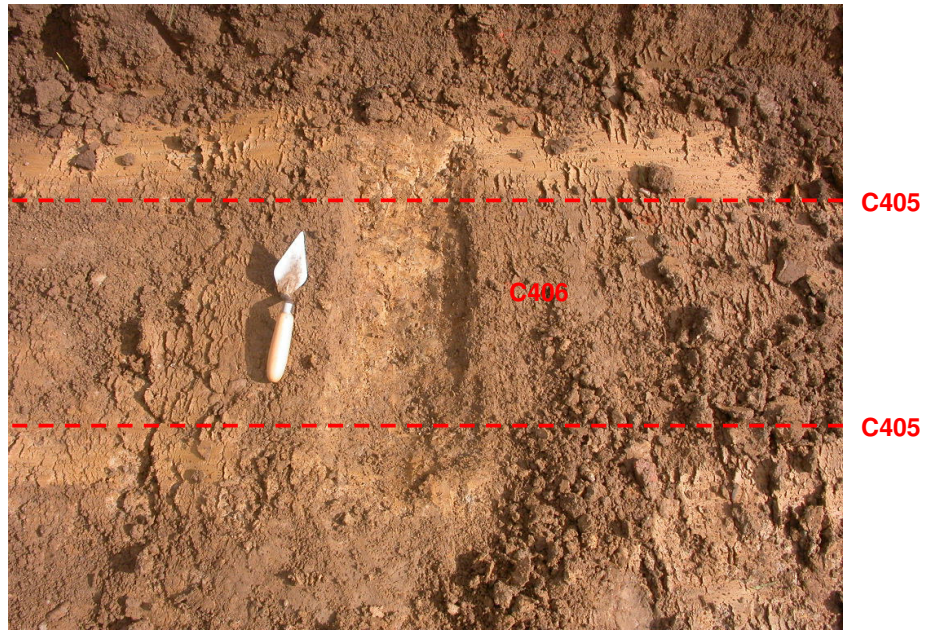




*Plate Thirteen: North-east facing section of Trench Four, looking south-west*



*Plate Fourteen: Linear feature (Context No. 403), looking north-west*



*Plate Fifteen: Linear feature (Context No. 405), looking north-west*