



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 155

**SITE 410M SOUTH-WEST OF 106 CIDERCOURT ROAD
BALLYMACREVAN
CRUMLIN
COUNTY ANTRIM**

LICENCE NO.: AE/08/117

Brian Sloan

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 410m south-west of 106 Cidercourt Road, Crumlin, Co. Antrim

Townland: Ballymacrean

SMR No. : ANT 058:057 (Aerial photograph)

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 1343 7618

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/08/117

Planning Ref / No. : T/2007/0971/RM

Dates of Monitoring: 11th June 2008

Archaeologist(s) Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 410m south-west of 106 Cidercourt Road, Crumlin, Co. Antrim as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. An enclosure identified through aerial photography (ANT 058:057) is located at the eastern end of the proposed development site. The evaluation consisted of six mechanically-excavated test trenches measuring 25m by 2m. The trenches contained some evidence of agricultural activity (such as an old hedge line or field boundary and modern field drains), but nothing of great archaeological significance. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Six trenches each approximately 2m wide and 25m in length.

Current Land Use: Agricultural

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located 410m south-west of 106 Cidercourt Road, Ballymacrean, Co. Antrim. The site is just outside the village of Crumlin, lying approximately 2km west of its centre (Figure One). The general area of the application site is on relatively low ground overlooking the eastern shore of Lough Neagh. The application site is located in the southern end of a large rectangular field. The field boundaries are defined by hedgerows interspersed with mature trees, although the northern end is defined by the meanders of the Crumlin River.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Andrew Gault: Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. It was requested due to the presence of the enclosure identified through aerial photography, and the fact that if the feature proved to be archaeological then the development would impact upon it.

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of the supervision of six mechanically-excavated test trenches. The trenches measured 25m by 2m and their positions are illustrated in Figure Three. All six test trenches were excavated to the subsoil which consisted of stony boulder clay. The surface of the subsoil was encountered at an average depth of around 0.3m.

Trench One

Trench One was located parallel to the eastern boundary of the application site. Trench One was approximately 2m wide and 25m long and was aligned approximately north / south.

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). A single body sherd of possible 'modified carinated bowl' dating to the Neolithic (Naomi Carver *pers comm.*), as well as two struck flint flakes was recovered from the cultivation soil (Context No. 102).

The subsoil in Trench One (Context No. 103) was an orange compact boulder clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and angular stones, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.3m. No features were observed cutting the natural subsoil (Context No. 103).

Trench Two

Trench Two was positioned parallel to Trench One and measured 2m wide and 20m long. The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 205).

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). A single struck flint flake was recovered from the topsoil (Context No. 201) although this is not diagnostic. 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. No finds or features were observed in this layer.

Upon removal of the cultivation soil (Context No.202), a single field drain was observed cutting the subsoil (Context No. 205). This drain ran roughly north-west/south-east, the fill of which consisted of loose gravel (Context No. 203) in a steep sided cut (Context No. 204).

The subsoil in Trench Two (Context No. 205) was an orange compact boulder clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and angular stones, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.25m

Trench Three

Trench Three was situated 5m to the west and parallel to Trench Two. The trench measured roughly 22m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 303)

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of loose, light to mid brown, sandy loam containing infrequent, sub-angular, stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). There were no finds within the sod and topsoil layer, which was 0.1m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was a cultivation soil (Context No. 302) of moderately compact, mid brown, sandy loam. The cultivation soil was 0.15m thick and contained relatively frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). A single sherd of white glazed ceramic was recovered from the cultivation soil (Context No. 302)

The cultivation soil in Trench Three (Context No. 302) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 303). This comprised an orange compact boulder clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and angular stones, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.3m

Trench Four

Trench Four was perpendicular to Trenches One, Two and Three. The trench measured roughly 26m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 405)

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Four (Context No. 401) consisted of loose, light to mid brown, sandy loam containing infrequent, sub-angular, stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). There were no finds within the sod and topsoil layer, which was 0.1m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 401) was a cultivation soil (Context No. 402) of moderately compact, mid brown, sandy loam. The cultivation soil was 0.15m thick and contained relatively frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). A single sherd of white glazed ceramic, as well as a sherd of undiagnostic coarse pottery was recovered from the cultivation soil (Context No. 402).

On removal of the cultivation soil (Context No. 402) a linear ditch like feature (Context No. 403) was observed at the western end of the trench. The width of this feature was approximately 1.3m. The fill of the ditch feature (Context No. 404) consisted of a dark grey sticky clay. Numerous large angular stones were observed in this deposit.

The subsoil in Trench Four (Context No. 405) was an orange compact boulder clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and angular stones, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.35m.

Trench Five

Trench Five was perpendicular to Trench Four. The trench measured roughly 26m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 507).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Five (Context No. 501) consisted of loose, light to mid brown, sandy loam containing infrequent, sub-angular, stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). There were no finds within the sod and topsoil layer, which was 0.15m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 501) was a cultivation soil (Context No. 502) of moderately compact, mid brown, sandy loam. The cultivation soil was 0.15m thick and contained relatively frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm).

On removal of the cultivation soil (Context No. 502) two features were observed cutting the natural subsoil (Context No. 507). These consisted of a field drain and the continuation of the ditch feature encountered in Trench Four. The field drain (Context No. 503) was aligned roughly south-west/north-east and its fill (Context No. 504) consisted of loose gravel stones. A sherd of *Scraffito pottery* was recovered from the fill of this field drain (Context No. 504). A continuation of the linear ditch was encountered in the western extremity of this trench.

The subsoil in Trench Five (Context No. 507) was an orange compact boulder clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and angular stones, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.30m.

Trench Six

Trench Six was perpendicular to Trench Five. The trench measured roughly 24m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 608).

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Six (Context No. 601) consisted of loose, light to mid brown, sandy loam containing infrequent, sub-angular, stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). There were no finds within the sod and topsoil layer, which was 0.15m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 601) was a cultivation soil (Context No. 602) of moderately compact, mid brown, sandy loam. The cultivation soil was 0.15m thick and contained relatively frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm). A flint blade core was recovered from the cultivation soil (Context No. 602). The morphological characteristics of this core would date it to the Early Mesolithic.

On removal of the cultivation soil (Context No. 602) two features were observed cutting the natural subsoil (Context No. 608). These consisted of a field drain and the continuation of the ditch feature encountered in Trenches Four and Five. The field drain (Context No. 603) was aligned roughly east/west and its fill

(Context No. 604) consisted of loose gravel stones. A continuation of the linear ditch was encountered in the western extremity of this trench. A cutting was made across this feature (Context No. 605) in this trench to ascertain its archaeological potential. The feature was found to be quite shallow (approximately 0.4m in depth, and filled by two deposits. The uppermost deposit (Context No. 606) consisted of a dark grey sticky clay which was approximately 0.28m thick. This overlay a stony grey compact clay (Context No. 607) which was 0.2m thick and formed the lowermost fill of the feature (Context No. 606). Numerous large stones were observed in the base of the feature. The ditch feature, due to it being linear and shallow, as well as the presence of the large rounded stones, is not thought to be archaeological but an old hedge line or field boundary. Other redundant field boundaries can be seen in the field adjacent to the development site as linear crop marks.

The subsoil in Trench Six (Context No. 608) was an orange compact boulder clay with frequent inclusions of small rounded and angular stones, and was encountered at a depth of around 0.30m.

The six test trenches excavated at the application site contained nothing of archaeological significance, apart from a small assemblage of unstratified prehistoric finds. 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:

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: _____

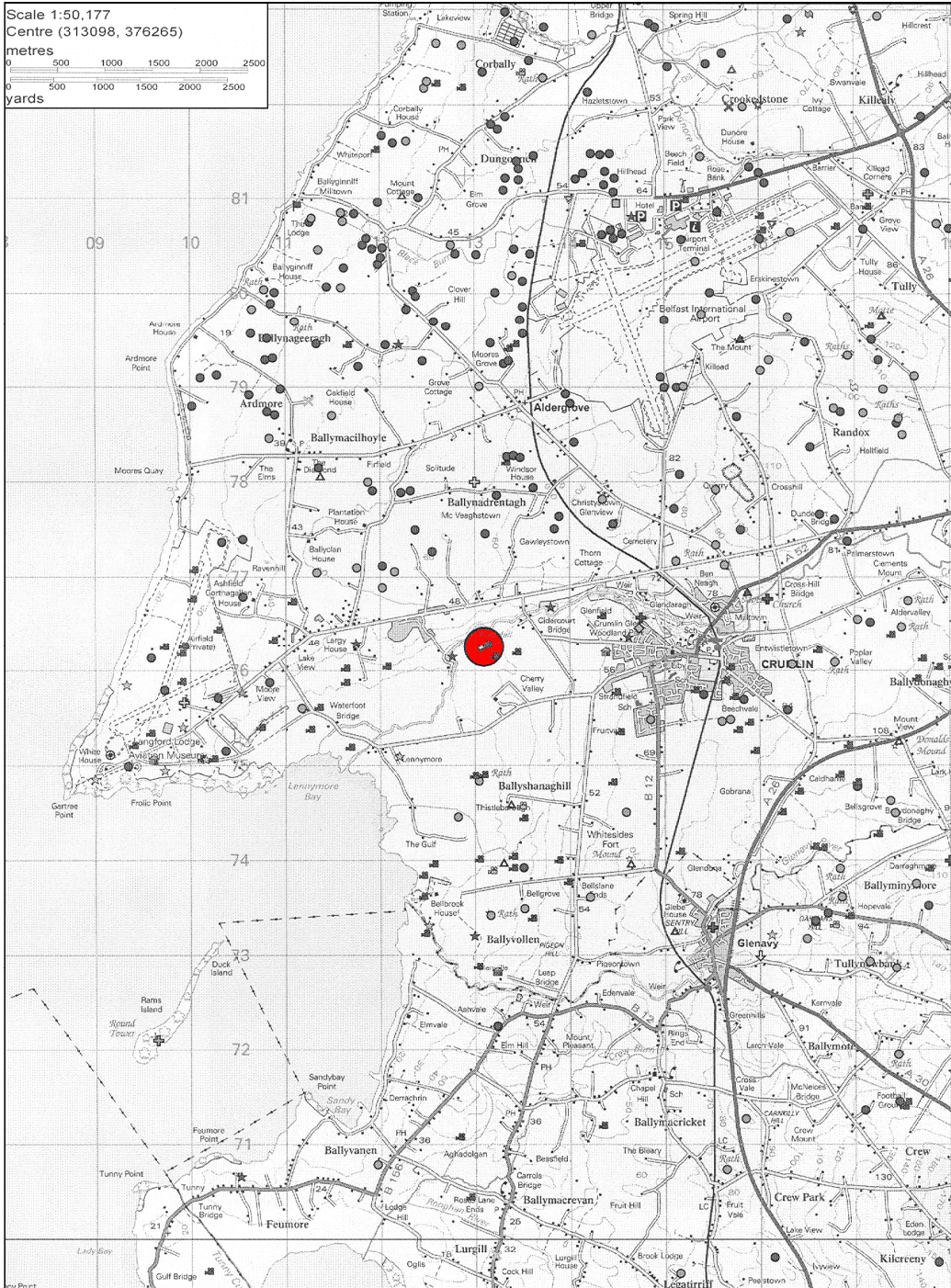


Figure One: General location map showing application site (red circle).

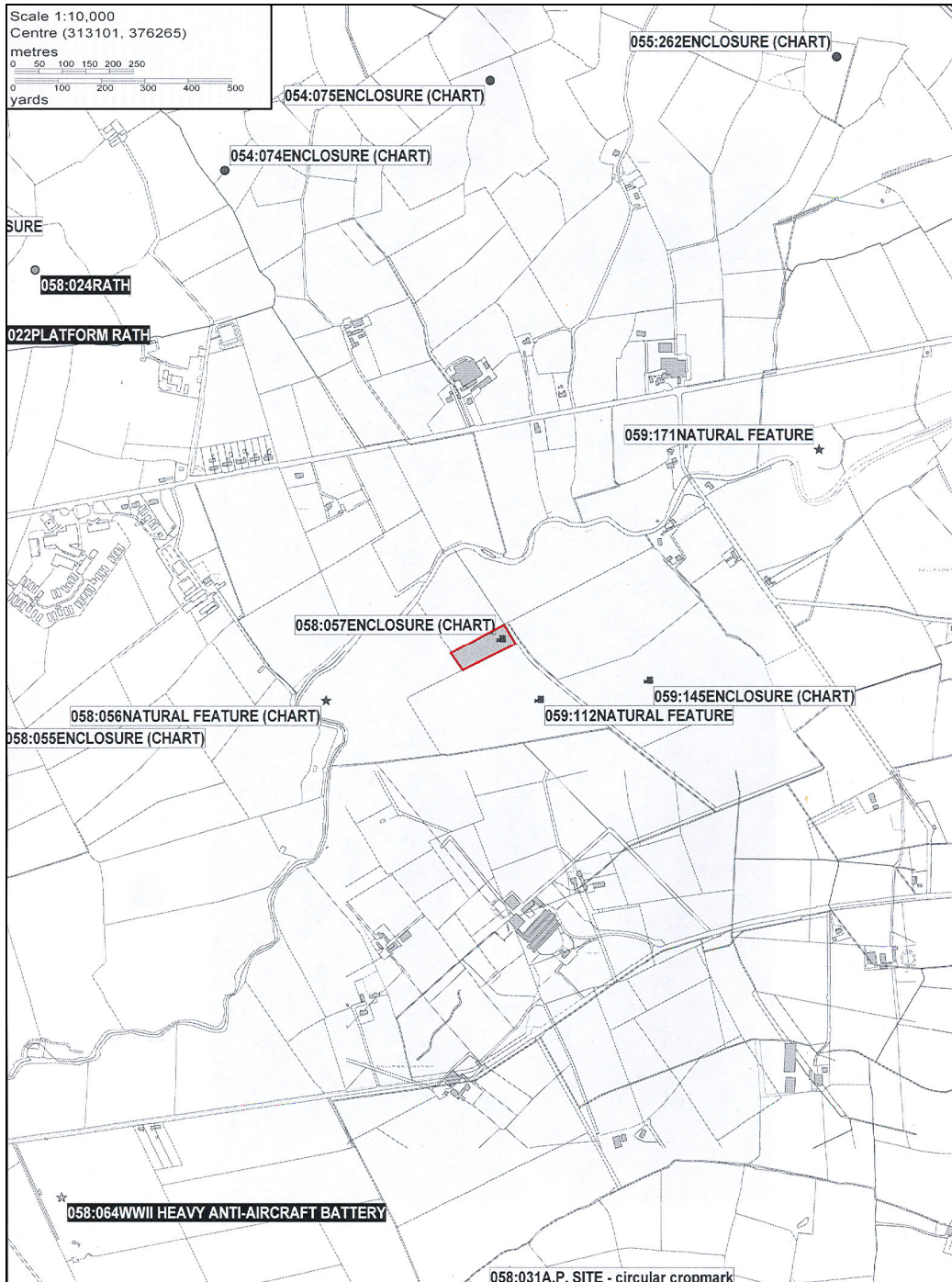


Figure Two: Detailed location map showing application site (red border) and archaeological sites in the general vicinity.

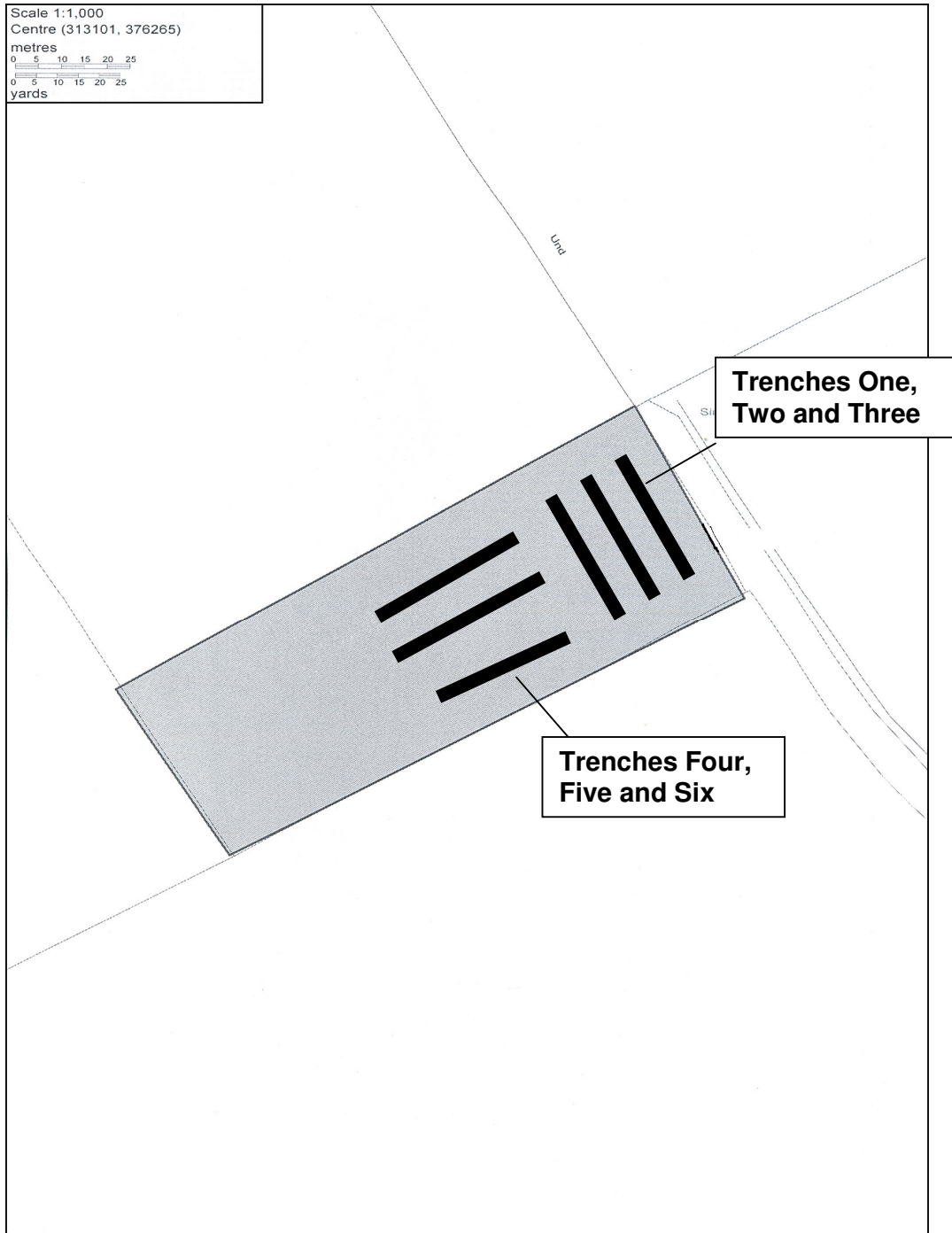


Figure Three: Location of the trenches in the application site.



Plate One: Trench One following excavation to the surface of the subsoil, looking north.



Plate Two: West facing section of Trench One.



Plate Three: Trench Two following excavation to the surface of the subsoil, looking north.



Plate Four: Trench Three following excavation to the surface of the subsoil, looking north.



Plate Five: Trench Four following excavation to the natural subsoil, looking west.

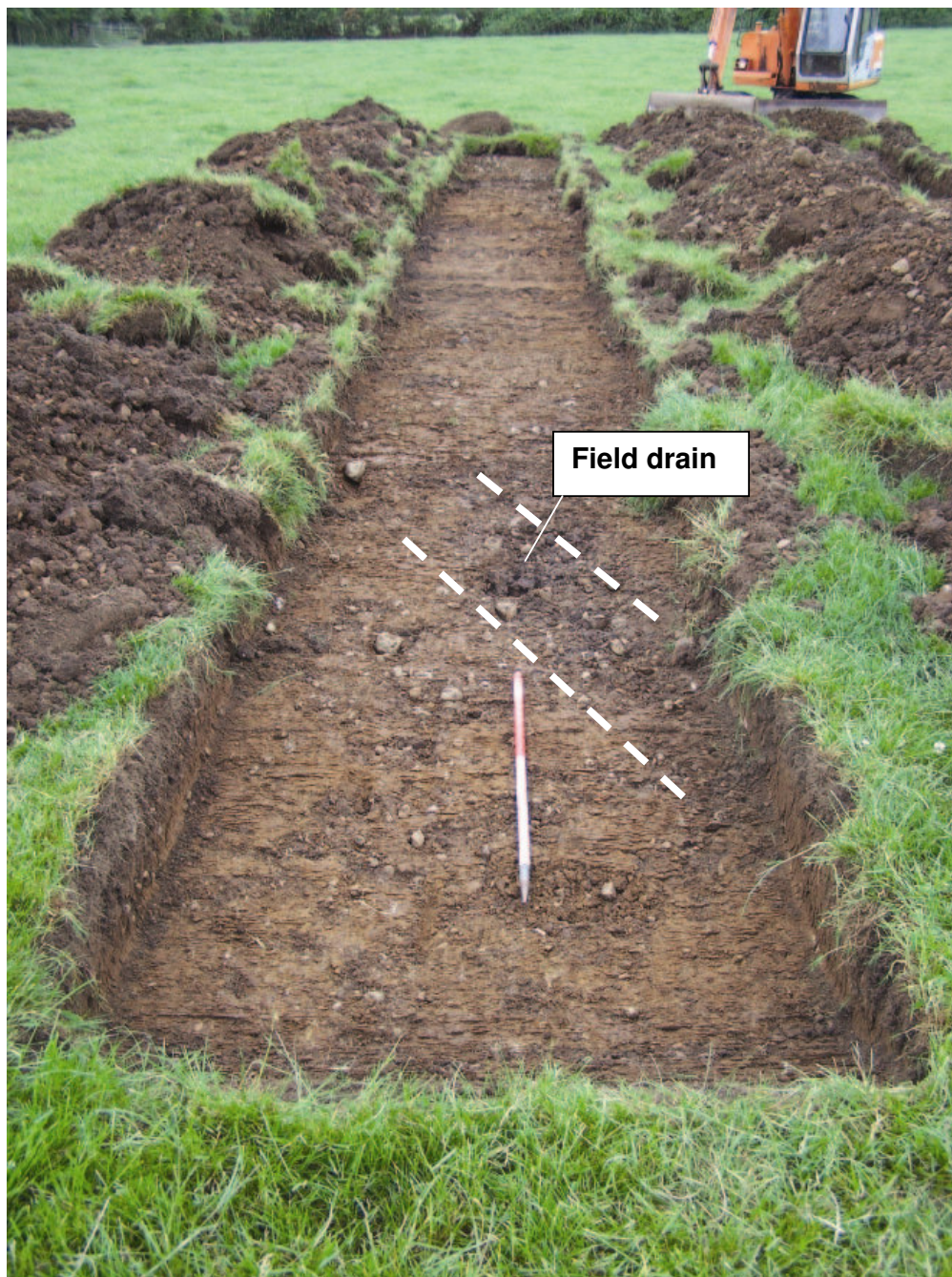


Plate six: Trench Five following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil, looking west.



Plate seven: Detail of field drain in Trench Five.



Plate Eight: Linear ditch/hedge line in Trench Five, looking west.

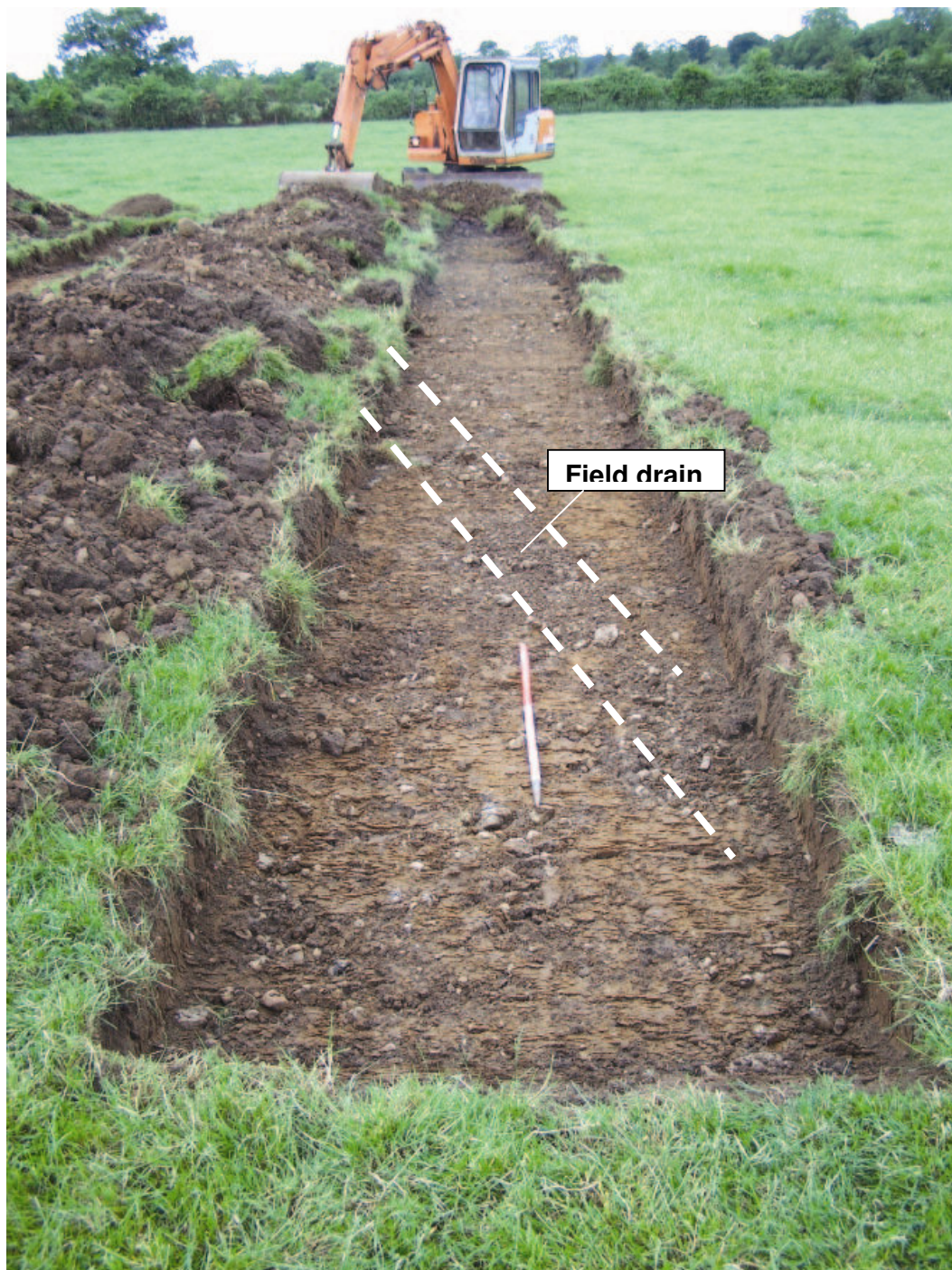


Plate Nine: Trench Six following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil, looking west.



Plate Ten: North facing section of cutting through linear ditch.



Plate Eleven: Post-excavation shot of the application area, looking north-west.