



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 117

**SITE 120M NORTH-WEST OF 98 BALLYPOLLARD ROAD
BALLYEDWARD
LARNE
COUNTY ANTRIM**

LICENCE NO.: AE/07/12

Brian Sloan

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 120m north-west of 98 Ballypollard Road

Townland: Ballyedward

SMR No. : ANT 047:060

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 4357 9688

County: Antrim

Excavation Licence No. : AE/07/12

Planning Ref / No. : F/2005/0446/F

Dates of Monitoring: 20th February 2007

Archaeologist(s) Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 120m north-west of 98 Ballypollard Road, Ballyedward, Larne, Co. Antrim as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. Ordnance Survey Memoirs and local place-name evidence suggests that a church site (ANT 047:060) is located in the vicinity of this application site and this prompted the archaeological mitigation. The evaluation consisted of five mechanically-excavated test trenches of varying lengths (see below). The trenches contained some evidence of agricultural activity (such as modern plough furrows), but nothing of archaeological significance. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Trench 1 – 19m in length aligned north-west/south-east
Trench 2 – 42m in length aligned south-west/north-east.
Trench 3 – 10m in length perpendicular to Trench 2's northern edge.
Trench 4 – 10m in length perpendicular to Trench 2's southern edge.
Trench 5 – 30m in length aligned north/south.

Current Land Use: Agricultural pasture.

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located 120m north-west of 98 Ballypollard Road, Ballyedward, Larne, Co. Antrim. The site is just outside the village of Glynn, lying approximately 4km south-east of its centre and at a height of approximately 150m above sea level (Figure One). The application site overlooks Larne Lough which is approximately 1.5 km to the north-east. The application site is located in two fields, the field boundaries of which are defined by hedgerows interspersed with mature trees (Figure Three).

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and garage, and was requested by Andrew Gault: Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. It was requested due to the proximity of the application site to the proposed location of a church site (ANT 047:060) (Figure Two) and the possibility that there may be previously unrecorded remains associated with the church site.

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of the archaeological supervision of five mechanically-excavated test trenches. The trenches varied in length, and all measured approximately 2m in width and their positions are illustrated in Figure Three. All five test trenches were excavated to the subsoil which consisted of a glacially derived orangey sand clay.

Trench One

Trench One was located parallel to the western most boundary of the application site (Figure Three). Trench One was approximately 2m wide and 19m long and was aligned approximately north-west/south-east. Trench One was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Plate 1).

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 deposit.

Following the removal of the cultivation soil (Context No. 102), a linear feature (Context No. 104) was observed cutting the subsoil, roughly aligned north-east/south-west (Plate 2). A small cutting was opened up across this feature to assess its archaeological potential. The cut (Context No. 104) of this feature was shallow, with gently sloping sides and had a maximum depth of 0.15m. The fill (Context No. 105) consisted of a light brown sandy loam with infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size: 40mm x 20mm x 10mm) (Plate 3). This feature is interpreted as being a result of agricultural activity, possibly ploughing or spade cultivation.

The cultivation soil in Trench One (Context No. 102) directly overlay the natural subsoil (Context No. 103) (Plate 4). The subsoil in Trench One (Context No.

103) was an orange/red sandy clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones, and was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m.

Trench Two

Trench Two was positioned approximately 10m to the south of Trench One and was aligned south-west/north-east (Figure Three). The trench was 2m wide and 42m long, and was excavated to the surface of the subsoil (Plate 5).

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 approximately 0.1m 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 0.15m thick. No finds or features were observed in this layer. The cultivation soil in Trench Two (Context No. 202) directly overlay the subsoil (Plate 6).

The subsoil in Trench Two (Context No. 203) was an orange/red sandy clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones, and was encountered at an average depth of 0.25m

Trench Three

Trench Three was positioned perpendicular to Trench Two's northern edge and measured 10m in length by 2m in width (Figure Three). The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Plate 7).

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 nineteenth-century 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) (Plate 8). This comprised an orange/red sandy clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones, and was encountered at an average depth of 0.25m.

Trench Four

Trench Four was positioned perpendicular to Trench Two's southern edge and measured 10m in length by 2m in width (Figure Three). The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Plate 9).

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).

The cultivation soil in Trench Four (Context No. 402) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 403) (Plate 10). This comprised of an orange/red sandy clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones, and was encountered at an average depth of 0.25m.

Trench Five

Trench Five was positioned approximately 40m to the south-west of Trench Two and measured 30m in length and 2m in width (Figure Three). The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Plate 11).

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 0.25m thick and contained relatively frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions (average size: 30 x 20 x 10mm).

The cultivation soil in Trench Five (Context No. 502) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 503) (Plate 12). This comprised of an orange/red sandy clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded and sub-angular stones, and was encountered at an average depth of 0.4m.

The five 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:

The single sherd of white glazed ceramic found during the evaluation is temporarily housed within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Photographs:

The digital images (60 in total) 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 Two: Detailed map of application site (in red) showing surrounding archaeological sites.

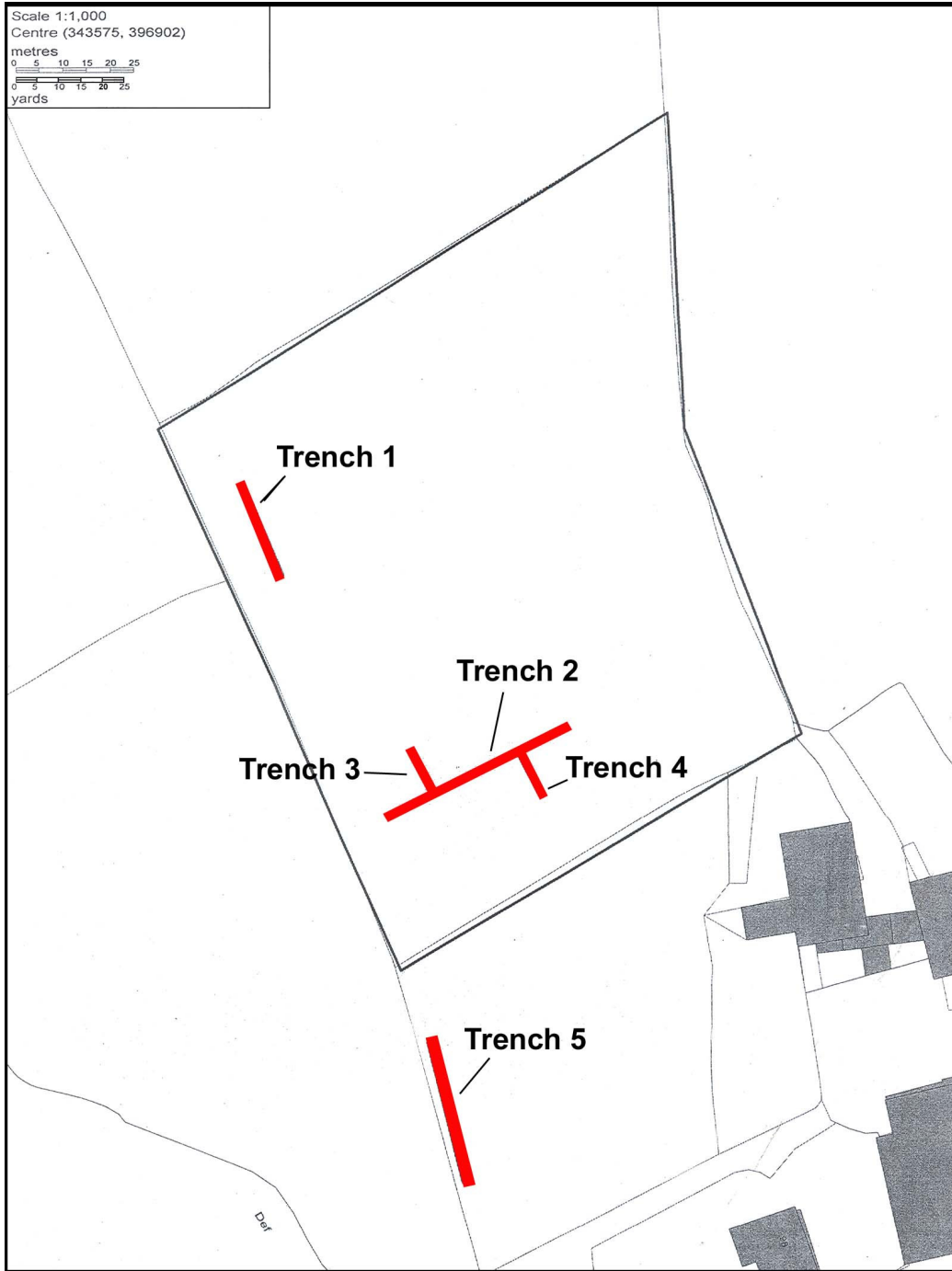


Figure Three: Plan showing location of Trenches.



Plate 1: Trench One following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 103), looking south-east.



Plate 2: Plough furrow (Context No. 104) in Trench 1, looking south-west.

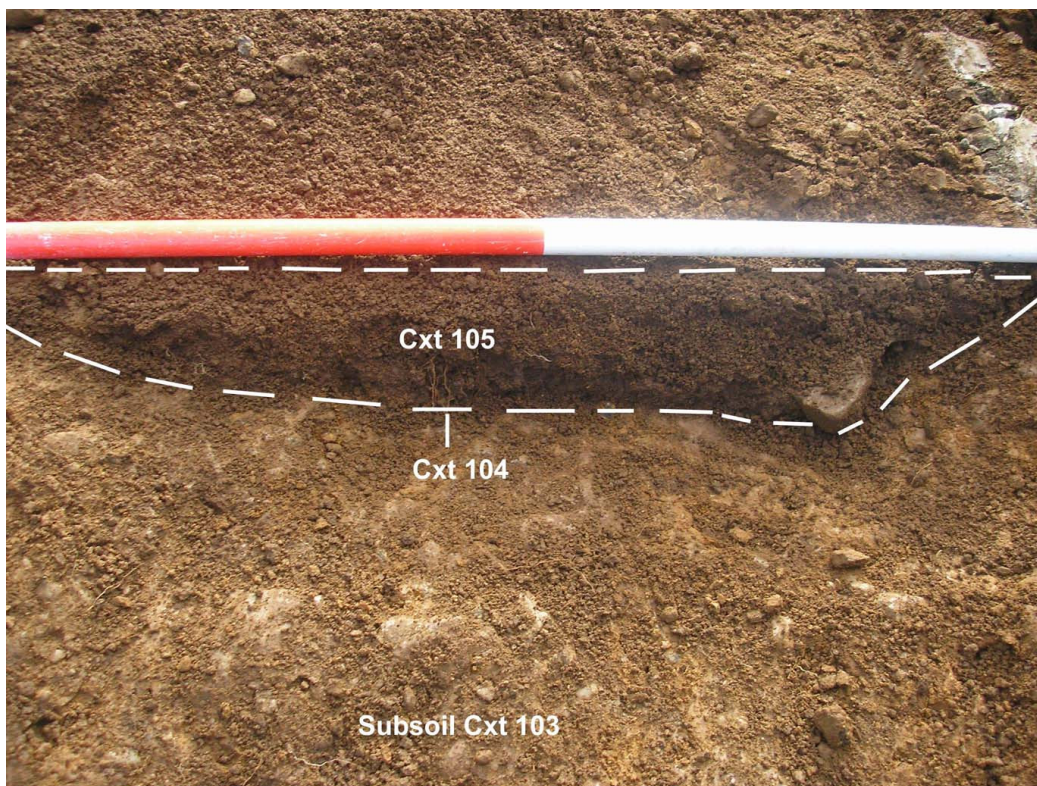


Plate 3: Plough furrow following excavation of cutting, showing cut (Context No. 104), and fill (Context No. 105), looking south-east.

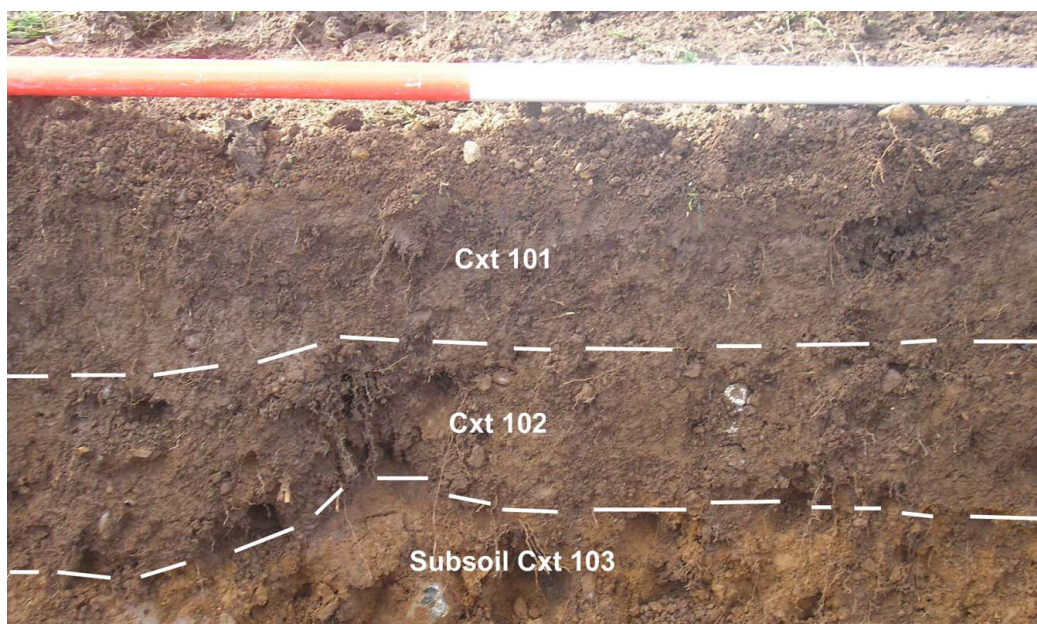


Plate 4: North-east facing section of Trench 1.



Plate 5: Trench Two following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 203), looking north-east.

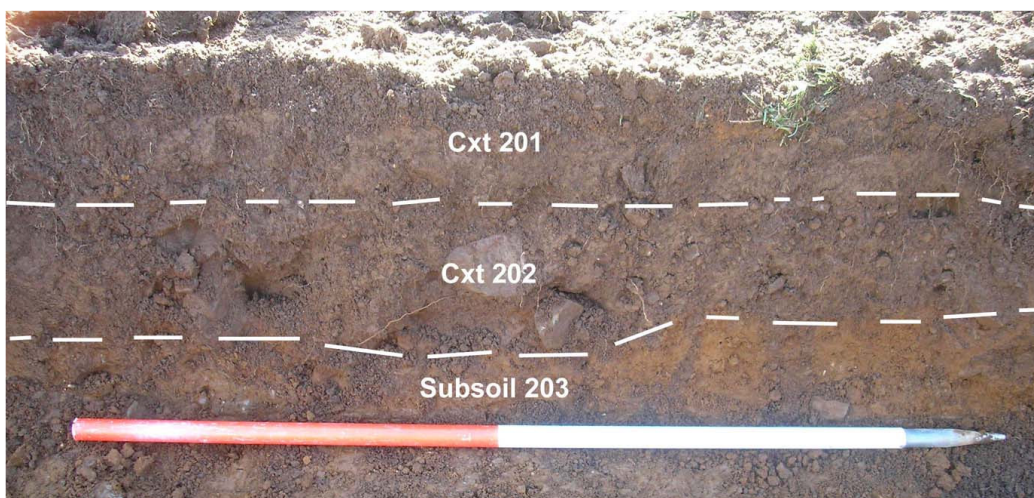


Plate 6: North-west facing section of Trench Two.



Plate 7: Trench 3 following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 303), looking north-west.

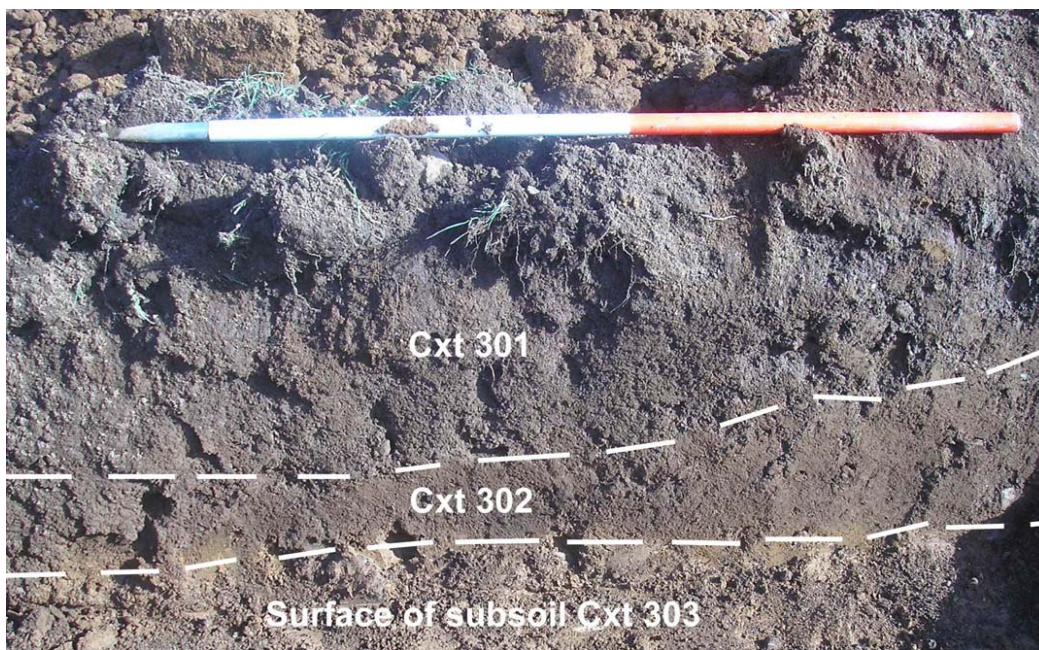


Plate 8: South-west facing section of Trench Three.



Plate 9: Trench 4 following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 403), looking north-west.

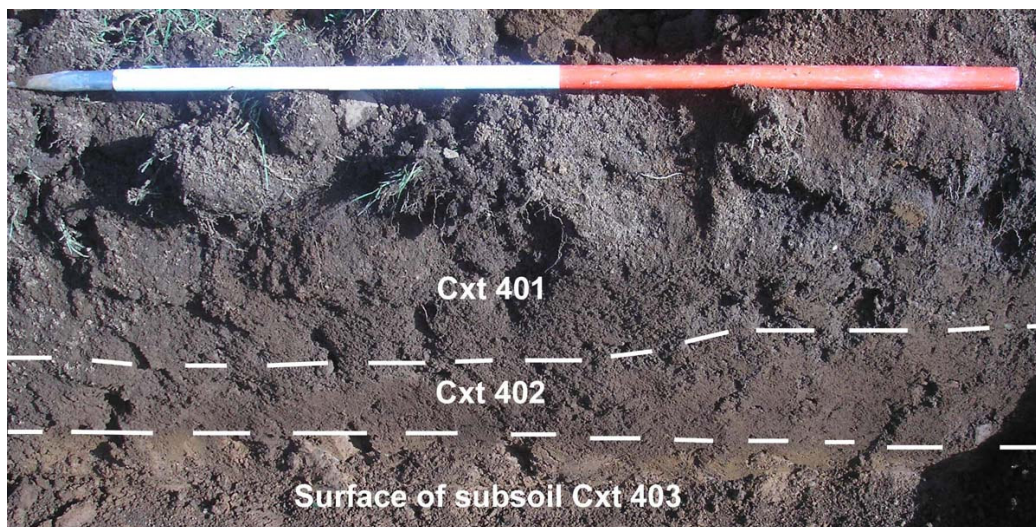


Plate 10: South-west facing section of Trench Four.



Plate 11: Trench 5 following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 503), looking north.

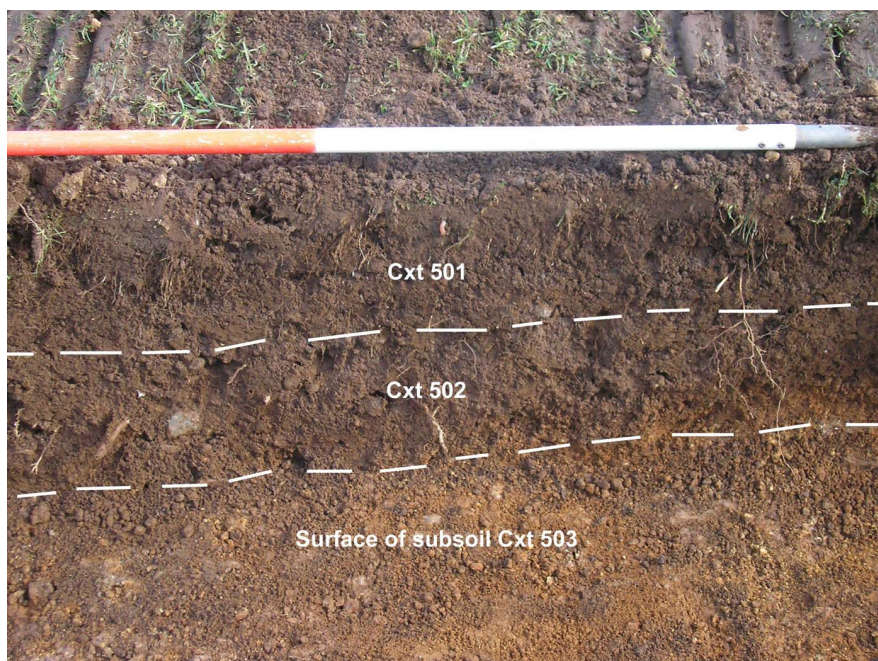


Plate 12: West facing section of Trench Five.