



Evaluation/monitoring report No. 150

**Dunteige
Co. Antrim**

AE/08/47

Clare McGranaghan

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 255m south of 92 Feystown Road

Townland: Dunteige/ Glenarm

SMR No (if applicable): ANT 35:001; ANT 35:002; ANT 35:030

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref: D 32150818

County: Antrim

Excavation License No (if applicable): AE/ 08/ 47

Planning Ref / No. (if applicable): F/ 2005/ 0302/ O

Dates of Monitoring: 12th March 2008

Archaeologist(s) Present: Clare Mc Granaghan & Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 255m south of 92 Feystown Road, Dunteige, Glenarm, County Antrim, as part of a planning application for a new dwelling. A well preserved Wedge Tomb set within an oval cairn (ANT 035: 002) is situated 300m south-southeast of the application site, and approximately 300m NE of the site is another megalithic tomb (ANT 035: 030). This tomb is in a ruinous state and maybe the remnants of a Neolithic court tomb.

A polygonal flat topped boulder (ANT 035: 001), 0.71m high, bearing a Latin cross on the top and on the north face, is situated 300m southeast of the site. The NISMIR states that there is no tradition of this ever being a church site. It is commonly referred to as the 'mass rock', and may date to the Penal times.

The evaluation consisted of five mechanically-excavated test trenches, one measuring 30m by 1.5m, two measuring 25m by 1.5m, and two measuring 20m by 1.5m.

Two trenches contained some evidence of agricultural activity, such as 'lazy beds', and field drains, but nothing of archaeological significance. It is therefore 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:

One test trench approximately 1.5m wide and 30m in length.

Two test trenches each approximately 1.5m wide and 25m in length.

Two test trenches each approximately 1.5 m wide and 20m in length.

Current Land Use: Agriculture- mainly livestock husbandry

Intended Land Use: Construction of a residential dwelling

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located 255m south of 92 Feystown Road, Dunteige, Glenarm, County Antrim (Figure 1). The site is approximately 4km east of the town of Cairncastle (Figure 1). The site is located on high ground, increasing in gradient towards the east at an O.D of 240-260m. The underlying geology is the Upper Basalt Formation of the Antrim Lava Group. The proposed access lane is situated along the southern boundary of an 'L-shaped' field. To the west the boundary is defined by the Feystown road, the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries are defined by wire fencing, interspersed with stone walls and mature trees (Figure 2). The proposed main site of the dwelling is located in a trapezoid shaped field to the east of the access lane. The field boundary is defined by wire fencing; the western boundary is partially defined by a stone wall and mature trees.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new residential dwelling and was requested by Andrew Gault: Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Historic Monuments Unit. It was requested due to the sites proximity to the surrounding megalithic tombs (Figure 2).

Excavation

The evaluation consisted of the supervision of five mechanically-excavated test trenches. The trenches measured 1.5m wide varying in length between 20m-30m, and their positions are illustrated in Figure 3. All test trenches were excavated to the natural subsoil which consisted of orange boulder clay.

Trench One

Trench One was located perpendicular to the eastern boundary of Feystown Road, at the western end of the proposed access lane. Trench One was approximately 1.5m wide and 25m long, and was aligned approximately southwest-northeast (Plate 2).

The sod (grass and reeds) and topsoil layer (C.101) had an approximate depth of 0.06m. Below this layer was a thin cultivation layer (C.102) consisting of a mid-dark brown loam; depth 0.35m. Following the removal of this cultivation layer, the natural subsoil (orange boulder clay, C.103) was exposed. No archaeological features were located in this trench and no finds were recovered.

Trench Two

Trench Two was located to the east of Trench One along the route of the proposed access lane. It was approximately 1.5m wide and 25m in length and was aligned southwest- northeast (Plate 3).

The sod (grass and reeds) and topsoil layer (C.201) was of an average depth of 0.10m. Below this layer was a thin cultivation layer (C.202) consisting of a mid-dark brown loam; depth 0.20m. Following the removal of this cultivation layer, the natural subsoil (orange boulder clay with decayed stone, C.203) was exposed. No archaeological features were located in this trench and no finds were recovered.

Trench Three

Trench Three was situated in the footprint of the proposed dwelling. It was aligned north-south and measured approximately 1.5m wide by 30m in length (Plate 4). The sod and topsoil layer (C.301) consisted of a loose mid brown loam. This layer had an average depth of 0.08m. Below this layer was a cultivation layer, consisting of a dark brown loam; depth 0.30m.

Following the removal of the cultivation soil (C.302), two features running roughly east-west were visible in the subsoil (orange boulder clay, C.303) of Trench Three. The first of these features (C.304) was a furrow from a 'lazy bed' with a dark brown fill similar in texture and consistency to the cultivation layer; it measured 1.5m x 0.79 x 0.10m (Plate 7). No finds were recovered from this feature.

The second feature (C.310) was situated 3m to the south of C.304, and appears to be another 'lazy bed' which was later cut through by a stone lined field drain (C.306), both were filled by a gritty mid brown loam (C.309 & 310 respectively). The stones within the drain were sub-angular with average dimensions 0.30m x 0.19m x 0.26m (Plate 8); overall this feature measured 1.5m x 0.84m x 0.48m.

Trench Four

Trench Four was situated perpendicular to Trench Three, located approximately 15m along Trench Three and aligned east-west (extending from the eastern boundary of trench three). It measured approximately 1.5m wide and 20m in length (Plate 5).

The sod and topsoil layer (C.401) was approximately 0.08m deep, and below this layer was a thin cultivation layer of a mid brown loam (C.402) measuring 0.28m in depth. Following the removal of this cultivation layer, the natural subsoil, (orange boulder clay with decayed stone, C.403), was exposed. No archaeological features were located in this trench and no finds were recovered.

Trench Five

Trench Five was situated perpendicular to Trench Three, located approximately 4m along from the southern end of Trench Three and aligned east-west (extending from the eastern boundary of Trench Three). It measured approximately 1.5m wide and 20m in length (Plate 6).

The sod and topsoil layer (C.501), 0.05m in depth overlay a cultivation layer (C.502) approximately 0.27m deep. No finds were recovered from either context.

Following the removal of the cultivation soil, two features running parallel to one another, approximately 1.68m apart, and aligned southeast-northwest were visible in the subsoil (orange boulder clay with decayed stone, C.503). These features (C.504 & 506) both appeared to be the remnants of 'lazy beds'; measuring 1.5m x 1.5m x 0.10m. Their fills (C.505

& 507 respectively) comprised of a silty mid brown loam. No finds were recovered from either of these features.

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 a short summary in the annual 'Excavations' bulletin.

Archive:

Context Register

Trench 1

Context Num#	Description
101	Topsoil
102	Cultivation layer
103	Natural subsoil

Trench 2

Context Num#	Description
201	Topsoil
202	Cultivation layer
203	Natural subsoil

Trench 3

Context Num#	Description
301	Topsoil
302	Cultivation layer
303	Natural subsoil
304	Cut for 'lazy bed'
305	Fill of 304. loose, gritty mid brown loam
306	Cut for drain
307	Fill of 306. loose, gritty mid brown loam
308	Large sub-angular stones within 306, surrounded by 307
309	Fill of C.310. Gravel brown loam
310	Cut for 'lazy bed'

Trench 4

Context Num#	Description
401	Topsoil
402	Cultivation layer
403	Natural subsoil

Trench 5

Context Num#	Description
501	Topsoil
502	Cultivation layer
503	Natural subsoil
504	Cut for 'lazy bed'
505	Fill of 504. loose gritty mid brown loam
506	Cut for 'lazy bed'
507	Fill of 504. loose gritty mid brown loam

Finds:

N/A

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: _____

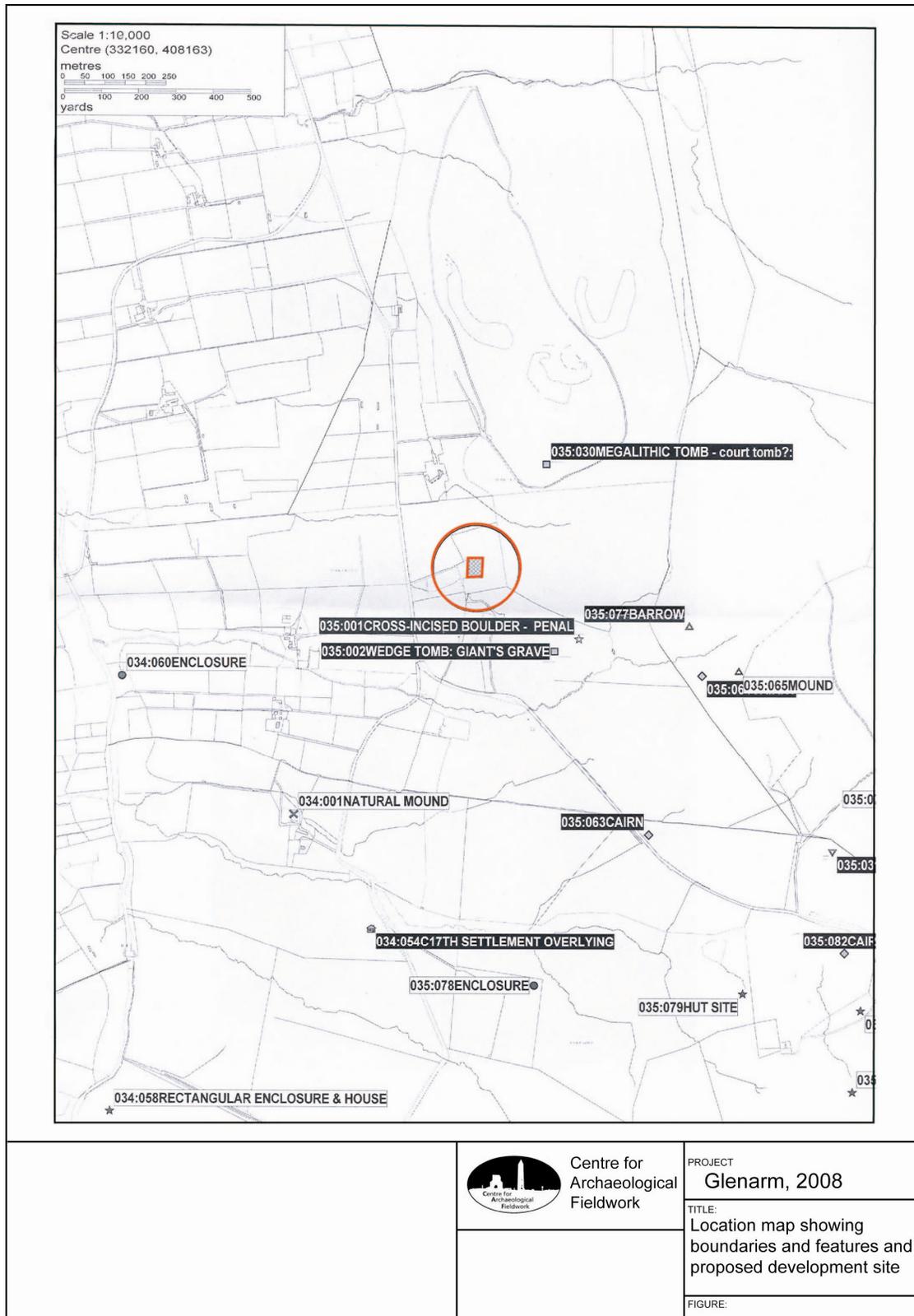


Figure 2: Detailed map of application site showing surrounding archaeological sites.

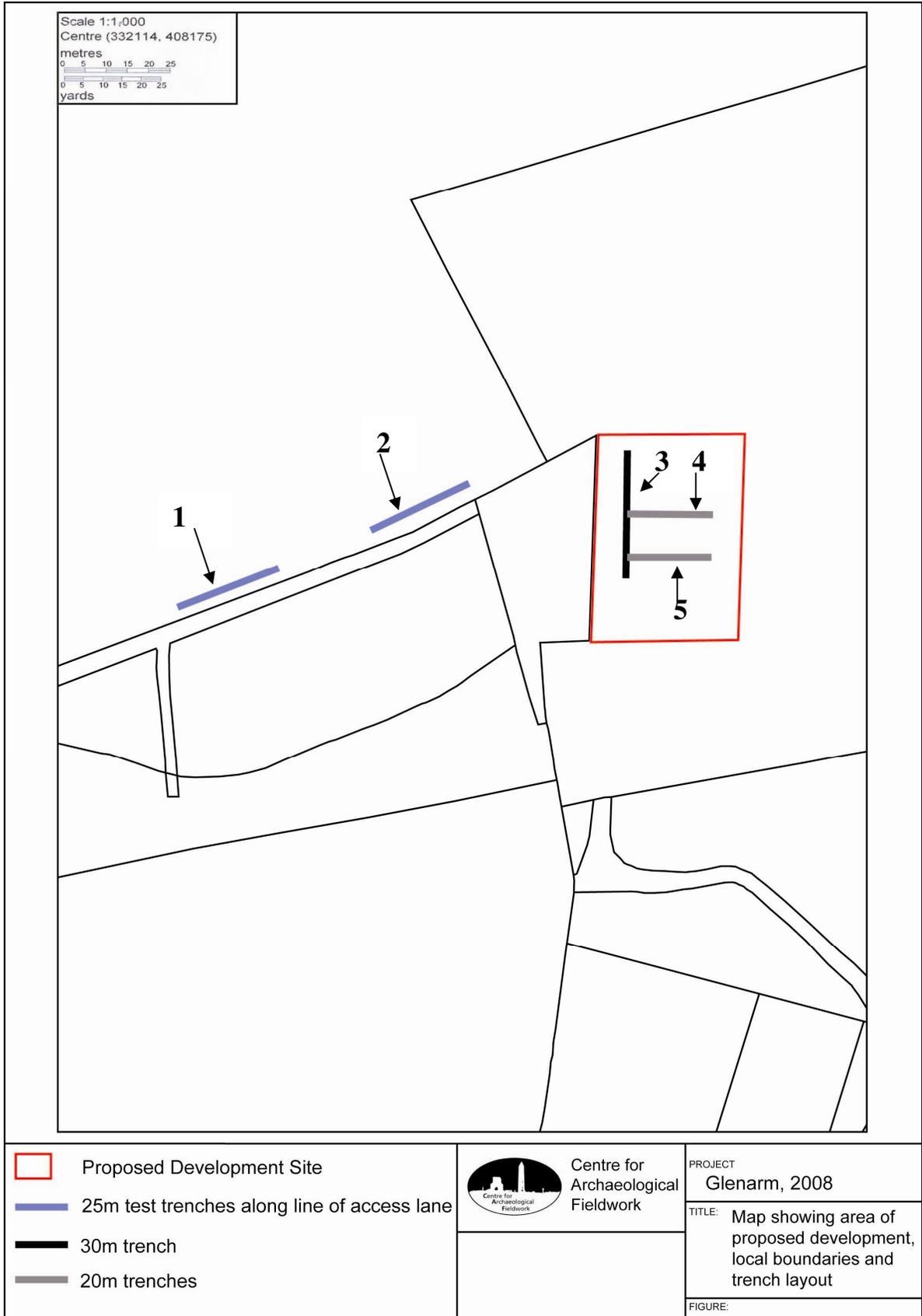


Figure 3: Plan showing location of trenches one-five.



Plate1: General overview of the application site, looking north.



Plate 2: Trench One, looking west.



Plate 3: Trench Two, looking east.



Plate 4: Trench Three, looking south.



Plate 5: Trench Four, looking east.

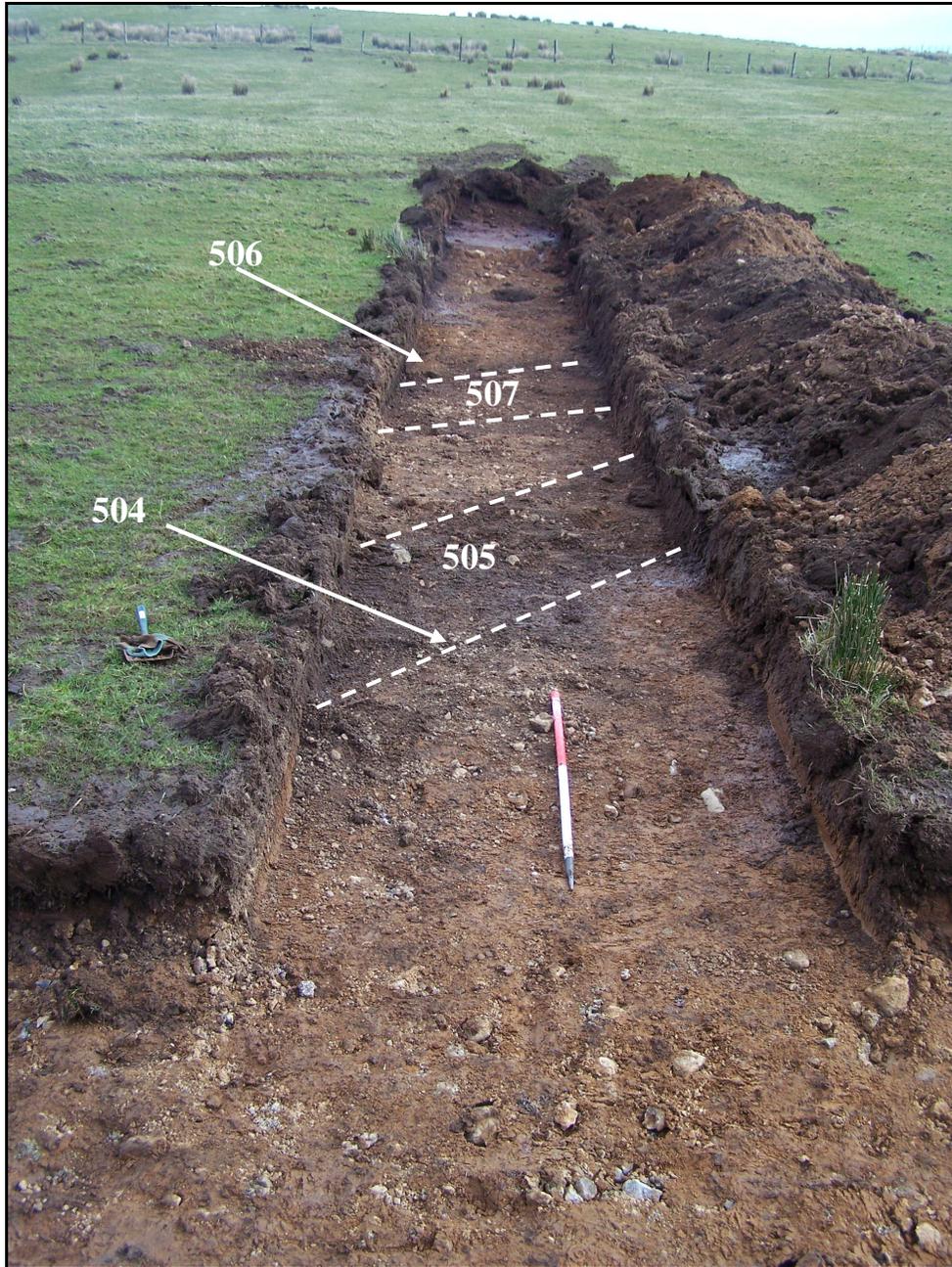


Plate 6: Trench Five, looking east.

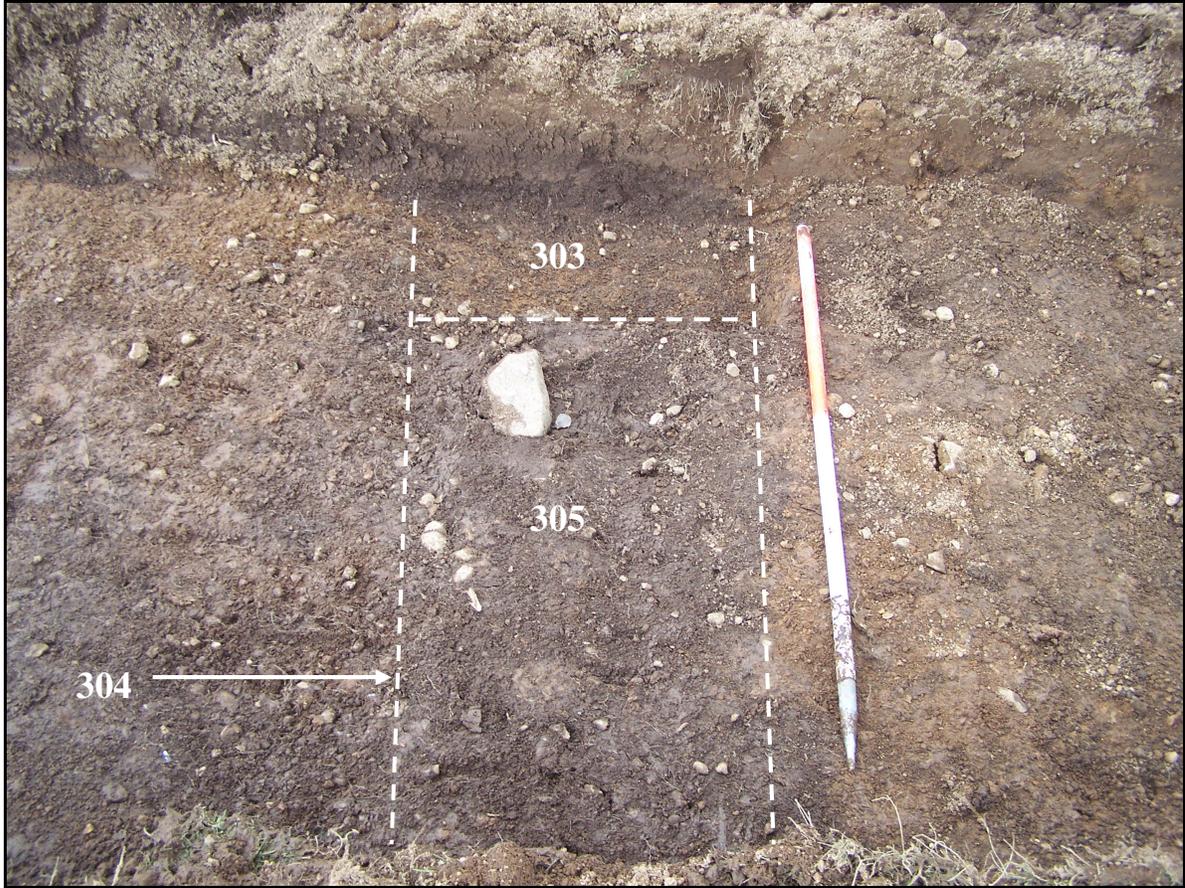


Plate7: C.304 & 305, looking west

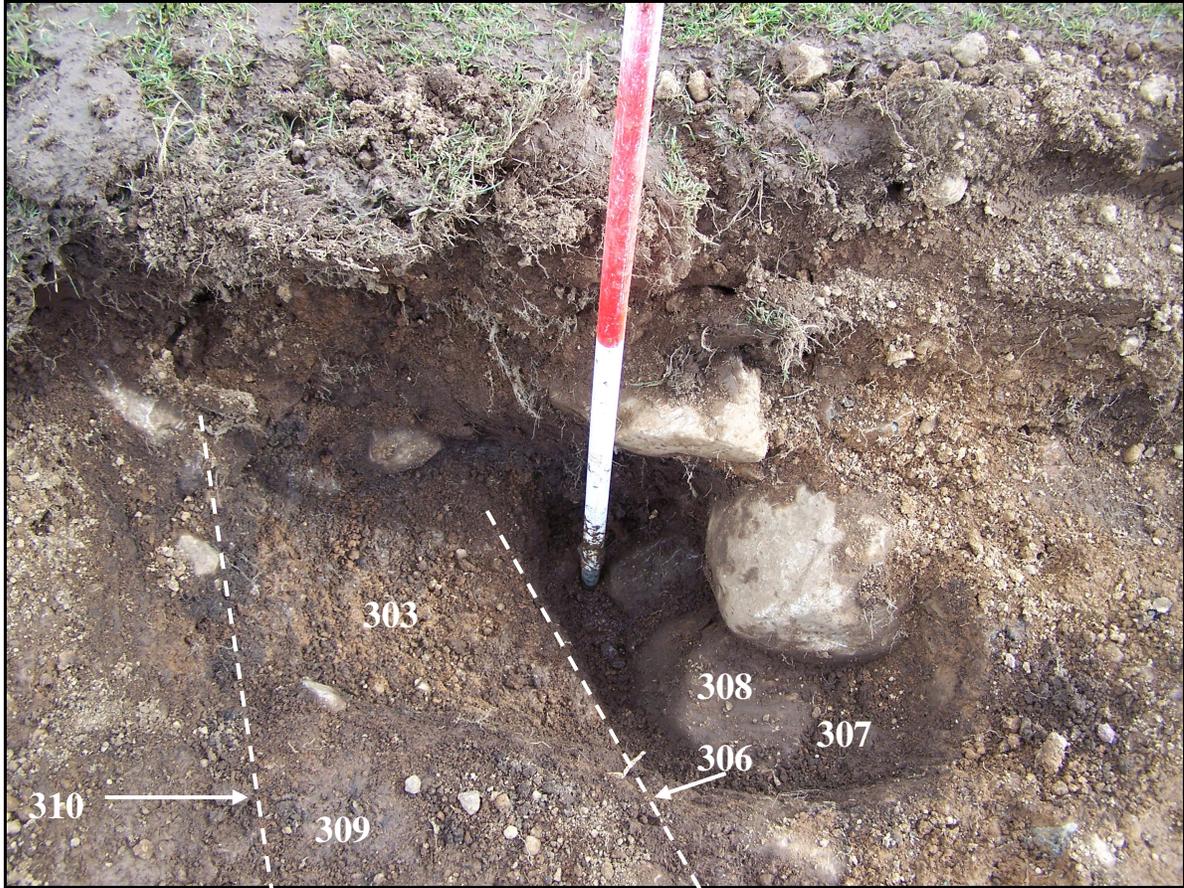


Plate 8: C.310 (left) and C.306-308, looking east/ southeast.