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EXCAVATION AT DIVIS BARN, DIVIS, COUNTY ANTRIM

Data Structure Report: Divis Barn, Divis, County Antrim

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The site of the 2013 excavation was in Divis townland, parish of Shankill and within the National Trust Divis and Black Mountain property, immediately to south of the present Warden's Base and Visitor Centre, also known as the Long Barn. The excavation site was also immediately to the west of *Divis Lodge*, an unoccupied farmhouse which is thought to have formed part of a nineteenth to twentieth-century upland farm (Plate 13). The excavation site was a field, bounded to the east by a stone wall and concrete lane, to the south and west by a post and wire fence, and to the north by a silo ramp with access to yards at each side of it. The site is not recorded in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record and is located at National Grid Reference J 2725 7435.
- 1.2 The excavations were part of a wider project undertaken by the Belfast Hills Partnership, in association with the National Trust, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Built Heritage (NIEA) and the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology at the Queen's University of Belfast (CAF). The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the NIEA. The aim of the project was to provide local people with an opportunity to participate in an archaeological excavation and in doing so, encourage greater awareness of the archaeological resource in the Belfast Hills area.
- 1.3 The National Trust planned to extend the car park to the south of the Warden's Office to include part of an adjacent green-field site, thereby providing visitor car parking facilities for eighty cars. The project also required minor alterations to the existing roadside entrance from Mast Road. During the construction of walking trails elsewhere on the property, sods had been taken from this green-field site in March and April 2012 for use in associated landscaping. During the removal of the sods it was noticed that there were large amounts of flint fragments on the surface of the field and in the topsoil. Stones with a regularity, or alignment, were also visible protruding through the vegetation at the south-east of the field, suggesting the presence of sub-surface structural remains. Planning approval had already been given for the car-park (Planning Application Number Z/2011/0535/F) without archaeological conditions, but the National Trust, in keeping with their own conservation principles, decided to undertake an archaeological excavation to investigate the possibility of any archaeological features or artefacts.
- 1.4 Immediately prior to the commencement of the excavation, a geophysical survey (earth resistivity) was undertaken of the site by staff from CAF and a number of anomalies were identified. The results of this survey, along with visual inspection, informed the placement of four excavation trenches. The aims of the excavation were to identify and record any archaeological features that might be present in the proposed development site and to provide local people with an opportunity to take part in an archaeological excavation.

- 1.5 A total of 987 people participated in the excavation, including 16 schools, community groups and members of the general public. While the excavation was on-going, an archaeological survey training course was held and 22 members of the public attended. It is hoped that this group will form the nucleus of a Belfast Hills archaeological survey group. The dig attracted widespread media attention, from BBC and UTV television to radio and local newspapers (Plate 18).

- 1.6 The excavation revealed the presence of a previously unknown vernacular building at the south-east and evidence for spade cultivation, or lazy-beds, across the site. A wide range of artefacts were recovered, including prehistoric flint and stone tools, post-medieval ceramics and Victorian ceramics and glassware. Many metal objects were also recovered. It is recommended that a programme of post-excavation analysis is conducted, in order to bring the project to completion and publication. Details will be provided on a separate costed assessment.

2. Introduction

2.1 General

This report details the preliminary results of the archaeological excavation at Divis Barn, Divis, County Antrim, undertaken by CAF between 23 April and 17 May 2013. This work was undertaken on behalf of the Belfast Hills Partnership and National Trust, in association with the NIEA. The excavation was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the NIEA.

2.2 Background

- 2.2.1 Prior to the excavation, there were no known archaeological monuments at the site at Divis Barn and therefore not recorded in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). It was located at National Grid Reference J 2725 7435. The excavation took place as part of a wider project, organised by the Belfast Hills Partnership. The project was designed to provide local people with an opportunity to participate in an archaeological excavation and through this promote a greater awareness of the rich heritage of the Belfast Hills, encouraging people to value, engage with and look after the hills area and its heritage.
- 2.2.2 Three townlands are present in the National Trust Divis and Black Mountain property, Divis, Black Mountain and Altigarron. Six archaeological monuments have been recorded in these townlands on the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (Figure 01). Since the National Trust acquired the Divis and Black Mountain property in 2004, an increasing number of archaeological monuments have been discovered and recorded. The National Trust has added these to its own Sites and Monument Record.
- 2.2.3 Several monuments have been archaeologically surveyed by the Survey Group of the Ulster Archaeological Society and the reports have been published on their website (Figure 02).
- 2.2.4 Several monuments have been recorded on the Ordnance Survey County Series maps.

2.3 Reason for excavation and research objectives

- 2.3.1 Apart from the public outreach element of the project designed by the Belfast Hills Partnership, the excavation also had research potential. Despite their numbers in the Irish landscape, very few vernacular buildings have been archaeologically excavated. As far as is known, no previous excavation has taken place at the Divis and Black Mountain National Trust property.

2.3.2 Even though the site was not a scheduled monument under the terms of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, the overall aim was to gain valuable information whilst retaining as much of the archaeological material at the site as possible. As limited excavation was to take place, a number of key objectives were decided upon, addressing the issues relevant to this particular site. One of the main objectives was to identify any evidence of prehistoric occupation, perhaps associated with the flint scatters. As the site was an area of elevated flat ground, it was anticipated that it would have been an ideal location for a dwelling from any time period and that evidence would be located in one or more of the excavation trenches. Thirdly, if the stony area at the south-east proved to be the remains of a vernacular building it was hoped to identify its size, method of construction and use, along with some dating evidence such as artefacts. Last, it had been suggested that the field wall that formed the eastern boundary of the excavation area was an extension of a field wall that extended to the north, where it came in contact with the monument known as Divis Cashel, so it was decided to investigate this during the excavation.

2.4 Archiving

2.4.1 Copies of this report have been deposited with the NIEA, the National Trust and the Belfast Hills Partnership. All site records and finds are temporarily archived within the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University, Belfast.

2.5 Credits and acknowledgements

2.5.1 Malachy Conway of the National Trust and Lizzy Pinkerton of the Belfast Hills Partnership managed the project from its inception to its conclusion and made arrangements for groups and members of the public to visit the site. From CAF, the excavations were directed by Harry Welsh and Ruth Logue, supported by Grace McAlister and illustrations were prepared by Sapphire Mussen. Paul Logue, Senior Inspector with NIEA, provided assistance and advice. Access to the site and permission to excavate was facilitated by staff from the National Trust, including Malachy Conway (Archaeologist), Mike Dobson (Property Manager) and Dermot McCann (Warden). A significant part of the excavating was carried out by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society and its Survey Group carried out a site survey as part of their contribution to the project. Undergraduate and post-graduate students from Queen's University, Belfast, provided significant assistance, particularly Francis Woods, Aoife Torpey and Laura Mallon and many members of the general public also participated in the excavations.

3. Excavation

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The excavation was undertaken by hand and a site context record was created using the standard context recording method. Individual features were planned (scale 1:200, 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 where appropriate) and photographed. No structural positive features were dismantled or removed. Individual negative features were excavated by putting a box-section through the feature to recover information about profile and fills and were recorded with a section drawing (Scale 1:10). In addition to the photography and illustration, the principal site records consisted of context sheets augmented by a site diary. Separate registers of samples that are taken and field drawings were also maintained.
- 3.1.2 A resistivity survey of the excavation site was carried out by staff from CAF on Monday 22 April 2013 and the results indicated the sub-surface presence of several sub-surface anomalies (Figure 08). Following a number of site visits and discussions with Paul Logue from NIEA, it was decided that four main trenches would be required to address the research questions posed by the site. The first trench (Trench 1) would be positioned close to and across a section of the eastern field wall to confirm if this wall also continued to the north. Trench 2 was located over the stony area to the south-east of the site and Trench 3 was located to the south-east of Trench 1, to investigate a further geophysical anomaly. Trench 4 was located over an area of flint scatter at the northern end of the excavation site, to the east of the silo (Figure 07).

3.2 Account of the excavations

- 3.2.1 Originally Trench 1 was to be 1m by 4m and located across the stone wall that formed the eastern boundary of the excavation site, with the long side perpendicular to the bank (Figure 07). The bank ran alongside a concrete path, which led to *Divis Lodge*. It was intended to investigate the construction of the bank and recover possible dating evidence, as it appeared that this bank continued to the north, where it came into contact with the monument known as *Divis Cashel*. However, closer inspection of the bank prior to marking out the excavation trench confirmed that the dimensions and methods of construction were quite unlike the bank located adjacent to *Divis Cashel*. It was determined that the bank to the east of the excavation site was probably modern in date, associated with *Divis Lodge* and therefore did not warrant investigation.
- 3.2.2 Trench 1 was instead opened just to the north-west of the centre of the excavation area over an anomaly thought to be a possible post-hole, identified by the geophysical survey. The trench measured 3m by 3m (Figure 10) and was initially de-sodded, but excavation was then temporarily suspended in order to make it available for school

groups and the public to excavate as part of the outreach project. When public activity ceased, the trench was then fully excavated by professional archaeologists.

- 3.2.3 When the sod layer was removed, a layer of topsoil (C100) was exposed, which extended across the trench. This was a mid to dark brown clay loam, which was found to be between 0.14m and 0.2m in thickness. Finds included fragments of brick, clay pipe, coal/clinker and a large quantity of flint fragments, including several that had been burnt. Also recovered were fragments of glass, iron objects, fragments of plastic and some pottery fragments, including several provisionally dated to the seventeenth-century (Ruairí Ó Baoill pers. comm.). Several pieces of quartz and slate and a water-rolled stone were also recovered.
- 3.2.4 When the topsoil layer (C100) was removed, a number of features were observed. Two linear features were present, aligned roughly north-east/south-west and spaced approximately 1.4m to 1.6m apart. The linear feature to the west of the trench extended from the western section face to the northern section face and was 0.5m in width. It was interpreted as being the remains of a cut (C108) and fill (C104) associated with spade (ridge and furrow) cultivation. C104, a compact mid-brown clayey loam, was found to contain some burnt and unburnt flint and pieces of pottery and quartz. The linear feature to the east extended into the southern section face and terminated at the north-east of the trench and was 0.3m in width. This was interpreted as being the remains of a cut (C105) and fill (C101), a compact mid-brown clayey loam, also associated with spade (ridge and furrow) cultivation. C101 was found to contain fragments of brick, flint and quartz.
- 3.2.5 Two small pit-like features were also uncovered in the trench, located between the two linear features. One, (cut C106 with fill C102) was located to the south-west of the trench and the other (cut C107 with fill C103) was located to the north-west of the trench. Both fills (C102 and C103), compact mid-brown clayey loam, contained some flint fragments only and these features were interpreted as being associated with the digging of furrows, probably to remove larger stones. These pit-like features were interpreted as being the geophysical anomaly identified here by the geophysical survey. When these features had been fully excavated, a compact light-brown sandy clay surface was revealed, which was interpreted as sub-soil. Excavations terminated at this point.
- 3.2.6 Trench 2 was initially to be located at the south-east corner of the excavation site over an area where several worked flints had been observed. However, following the results of the geophysical survey and observations of visible regularly-placed stones, the location of the trench was realigned slightly to the north-west of its original location. Initially 3m by 3m in size, the sod layer was removed to reveal a layer of topsoil (C200), which extended across the trench. This was a mid to dark brown clay loam and when this was excavated at the eastern part of the trench, a stony platform (C201) was revealed. C200 was found to contain animal bone, fragments of brick, clay pipe,

glassware, mortar and plastic. Also found were two sherds of pottery, provisionally dated to the seventeenth century (Ruairí Ó Baoill pers. comm.). Also recovered were some fragments of metalworking slag, quartz, slate, tiles and a water-rolled stone. Of particular interest was a complete glass bottle, probably an ink pot (Plate 10).

- 3.2.7 The trench was initially extended to 4m by 4m in an attempt to determine the extent of the stone platform C201, with subsequent extensions before this was achieved. The final dimensions of the trench were 8m in length east/west and 6m in width north/south. The stone platform C201 had a maximum length of 5m [16 feet 4 inches] east/west and a maximum width of 4.3m [13 feet 9 inches] north/south, with a centrally-placed external outshot to the north, 3m [9 feet 10 inches] east/west and 0.8m [2 feet 7 inches] north/south. A number of the stones had a distinct alignment, or facing, at the east and west perimeter of the structure, but this was less evident at the south and entirely absent at the north (Plate 09).
- 3.2.8 There was no evidence of a floor surface adhering to the upper face of the stone platform, but several broken ceramic floor tiles were present on the stone surface and scattered around the excavation trench. It is possible that the stone platform was a foundation for these tiles, which had later been removed for use elsewhere, leaving behind mainly broken fragments, although one complete example was recovered. These were 12 inches [0.3m] square and 1.5 inches [0.04m] in depth. The stone platform C201 was not excavated, as the National Trust was considering leaving it in situ as a visitor attraction.
- 3.2.9 There was no evidence of walls or wall foundations around the perimeter of stone platform C201, suggesting that C201 was either just a purpose-built platform, or more likely that the walls of the building were made from building materials, such as timber or clay, that had either been removed or had completely decayed. A box-section (1m in width, 0.5m in depth and 0.3m in depth, aligned east/west) was excavated at the north-eastern corner of the feature to look for evidence of foundation cuts, foundation courses or residual construction materials, but no such evidence was found. The box section did reveal a layer of mid-brown clayey loam (C204) immediately beneath the stony layer, approximately 0.2m in thickness. This was observed to rest on the sub-soil and was interpreted as being either a clay floor or a clay base for the stony layer C201. Further excavation would be required here in order to be more definitive.
- 3.2.10 The stone platform C201 was disturbed at the centre of the northern edge, leaving a sub-rectangular gap, 1m in width and 2.25m length, aligned east/west. The soil in this area was heavily flecked with charcoal and it is possible that a hearth stone had been removed from this area to leave the gap. Behind this, to the north, a further sub-rectangular platform was uncovered. This was 1.25m in width and 2.8m in length and aligned east/west. This was interpreted as being an extension, or outshot, to C201, in order to provide a fire-resistant support for a chimney flue.

- 3.2.11 To the west of the excavation trench, three irregular groups of stones (C202, C205 and C206) were uncovered immediately below the sod layer. C202 measured 0.95m east/west by 1.1m north/south and was located to the west of stone platform C201; C205 measured 1.3m east/west by 1.3m north/south and was located to the north-west of stone platform C201 and C206 measured 1.1m east/west by 1.06m north/south and was located at the south-west corner of the trench. These were interpreted as being residual deposits following the demolition of the building. A deposit of greyish-brown gravelly clay (C203) was uncovered to the east of C206. This deposit was rich in charcoal and fragments of coal and coke. It was interpreted as being the residue from a fire, probably dumped there from elsewhere, as there were no indications of in-situ burning in the immediate area (Figure 11). Finds from the topsoil around these stony deposits (C202, C205 and C206) included fragments of brick pottery and slate, with some metal objects and possible slag.
- 3.2.12 It was initially proposed that Trench 3 should be opened in the south-west corner of the excavation site (Figure 07) where several worked flints had been observed, with the intention of identifying and recording any areas of flint working. However, while on-site, further information was obtained from Malachy Conway (National Trust Archaeologist) that a strip of land c. 8m in width running along the western boundary of the excavation site was no longer required for the construction of the car park and therefore did not have to be included in the area investigated. The original location of Trench 3 had been in this strip of land. In consultation with the National Trust archaeologist and informed by the results of the geophysical survey, it was decided to relocate Trench 3 over a linear anomaly which appeared in the results of a resistivity survey. The trench, measuring 3m by 3m, was opened to the south-east of the centre of the amended excavation area. (Figure 09).
- 3.2.13 When the sod layer had been removed, a layer of topsoil (C300) was revealed, which extended across the trench. This was a mid to dark brown clay-loam with a depth of 0.14m to 0.26m. Following the removal of the topsoil, sub-soil and weathered bedrock was exposed, with a feature cut into the sub-soil. This was a shallow linear feature, which was most likely to have been the remains of a cultivation furrow. The cut (C301) was aligned north-east to south-west and ran into the south-facing section. It was filled by C302, a compact mid-brown clayey loam, which contained flint, pottery and slate. The anomaly which had been highlighted in the resistivity survey results was the weathered bedrock located when the topsoil (C300) had been removed (Figure 12).
- 3.2.14 It was initially proposed that Trench 4 should be opened in the north-west corner of the excavation site (Figure 07) where several worked flints had been observed, with the intention of identifying and recording any areas of flint working. However, while on-site, further information was obtained from Malachy Conway (National Trust Archaeologist)

that a strip of land c. 8m in width running along the western boundary of the excavation site was no longer required for the construction of the car park and therefore did not have to be included in the area investigated. The original location of Trench 4 had been in this strip of land. In consultation with the National Trust archaeologist and informed by the presence of flint scatters at the north-east of the excavation site, it was decided to relocate Trench 4 to this area (Figure 09).

- 3.2.15 Initially it had been thought that a trench 3m by 3m in size would be sufficient to meet the needs of the school groups that were programmed to visit the site to participate in the excavations. However, it soon became apparent that there was significantly more interest in the excavation than had been anticipated. It was therefore decided to open a 5m by 5m trench, but this was eventually extended to 6m by 6m to create sufficient space for public participation during the public open days.
- 3.2.16 When the sod layer was removed, a layer of topsoil (C400) was revealed, which extended across the trench. This was a mid to dark brown clayey loam with a depth of between 0.04m and 0.17m. It was found to contain fragments of brick, burnt bone, clay pipe, a modern coin, flint and burnt flint, glassware including a glass bead, metal objects (including a metal button and part of an electrical battery) and pottery, quartz and slate.
- 3.2.17 In the north-east corner of the trench an oval-shaped pit feature (C404) was uncovered in the topsoil. This was 0.8m east/west by 0.6m north/south and 0.2m in maximum depth. The pit was found to contain a deposit of dark brown charcoal-rich gravelly clay (C405) and was interpreted as a single-use camp fire.
- 3.2.18 When the topsoil (C400) layer had been removed, a number of features were visible in the trench. At the north-east corner, it was found that the camp fire feature (C404) had been excavated into the subsoil to a depth of 0.05m. Three parallel linear features, each approximately 0.2m in width, were visible (C401, C402 and C403), all aligned north-east/south-west. To the west of the trench, C401 extended into the western section face and the northern section face, while C402 and C403 extended across the entire trench and into the north and south section faces (Figure 13). These were interpreted as being the bases of furrows associated with ridge and furrow spade cultivation.

3.3 Phasing of the stratigraphic sequences

- 3.3.1 The Harris matrix for the site has been provisionally phased (see Appendix 2). Three phases of activity were represented by deposits within the excavation trenches.
- 3.3.2 Phase 1 saw the deposition of a large number (3055) of flint fragments in all four excavation trenches at the site, with an additional 779 being recovered during

subsequent monitored topsoil stripping. While most are probably naturally occurring, several flakes and flint tools were recovered and these may be contemporary with the Neolithic flint-working site recorded approximately 1.75km to the east in the adjacent townland of Black Mountain (ANT 060:072) and the many Bronze Age burial cairns within the Divis and Black Mountain National Trust property. Expert analysis will be required in order to provide more specific dating information.

- 3.3.3 The Phase 2 activity was associated with the construction of the vernacular building uncovered in Trench 2. This was constructed of a stone platform (C201), contained within clay or timber walls of which no trace was uncovered in the 2013 excavations. A ceramic tile floor surface was probably applied on top of the stone platform during the life of the vernacular building. It is unclear if the ridge and furrow cultivation trenches were associated with this vernacular building, or with the later Divis Lodge farm. Further excavation would be required in the area of Trench 2 in order to investigate the relationship between the cultivation trenches and the vernacular house.
- 3.3.4 Phase 3 involved the destruction of the vernacular house and construction of the nearby *Divis Lodge* farm buildings. While there was no evidence of ploughing at the excavation site, the topsoil was quite uniformly distributed across the site and there was no visible evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation as there is at many other parts of the Divis and Black Mountain National Trust property. The area of ground in and around the excavation site is reasonably level and well-drained and it must be assumed that it has been used extensively for cultivation by the occupants of *Divis Lodge*.

3.4 Artefactual dating

A quantity of lithics, pottery and other finds were recovered during the excavation (see Appendix 4). Provisional analysis of the artefacts suggests they are consistent with a range of cultural phases, dated by the presence of Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork, post-medieval and Victorian pottery and early modern finds.

4. Discussion

- 4.1.1 From the large amount of flint fragments present, it would appear that the excavation area was initially visited by prehistoric people in connection with flint-working activities. No evidence for prehistoric settlement was found at the excavation site, although a possible prehistoric village has been recorded some 300m to the north-east (Gillespie 2011(b)).
- 4.1.2 Prior to the 2013 excavations, the presence of a vernacular building in the excavation site was unknown and it had been thought that the nearby *Divis Lodge* and associated out-buildings were the earliest structures on this part of the Divis and Black Mountain National Trust property.
- 4.1.3 Cartographic evidence (Ordnance Survey County Series, First Edition Sheet 60, 1833) (Figure 03) indicated the presence of a vernacular building in the area of the excavation site, but did not record the presence of the *Divis Cashel* monument as a convenient reference point. The 1833 map does indicate an area of improved grassland to the west of the vernacular building, extending to the south across the Colin River, while the remainder of the area is marked unimproved. Vernacular buildings are also marked to the south, adjacent to the river and one of these is probably the building currently referred to as the *Hatchet House* by the National Trust. Presumably the occupants of these two dwellings were maintaining this area of improved grassland.
- 4.1.4 The Second Edition map (1957) (Figure 04) did record *Divis Cashel* and the same vernacular building, located approximately 280m to the south-east. A trackway, which is now known as Mast Road, is marked, providing access to the vernacular building from Divis Road to the west. While the area of improved grassland remained much the same as it had been in 1833, a system of field boundaries is also present, indicating that farming activities in the immediate area have become much more regulated, but clearly focused more on pastoral rather than arable use. By the time of the Third Edition map (1901) (Figure 05), the vernacular building has been annotated as *Divis Lodge*. This was marked at a distance of 278m south-east of *Divis Cashel* and is probably the same building as recorded on the two earlier maps.
- 4.1.5 Cartographic evidence would therefore suggest that the vernacular building located in the 2013 excavations was not marked on any of the Ordnance Survey maps and must have been removed some time previously, leaving no recordable trace on or after 1833. Post-excavation analysis would be required in order to provide possible dates, but the presence of possible seventeenth-century ceramics seems to suggest occupation from this time. Similar ceramics were recovered during an excavation of a vernacular house at

Ballyaghagan, Cave Hill, in 2011, suggesting a mid-seventeenth century date for the initial occupation there also (Welsh 2011).

- 4.1.6 A visitor to the excavation site informed excavation staff that his grandfather had worked at *Divis Lodge* farm and thought that the building in Trench 2 was used as a stable, but this is more likely to be another of the outbuildings adjacent to *Divis Lodge*. He also referred to the farmhouse (*Divis Lodge*) as a hunting lodge and said that the buildings around the farm were where the beaters (for grouse hunting) had lived. Another visitor to the site, an elderly man in his 90s who still grazed cattle on the mountain and who used to own the land on which *Divis Lodge* now stands, was asked about the vernacular building in Trench 2 but had no recollection of it.
- 4.1.7 The remains of several more recent vernacular buildings are present in the National Trust Divis and Black Mountain property and while none have been archaeologically excavated, some have been surveyed by the Ulster Archaeological Society. Several of these are recorded in the Griffiths Valuation, suggesting an increasing population at the Divis site during the nineteenth century.

5. Recommendations for further work

5.1 Programme of post-excavation analysis of materials recovered

- 5.1.1 It is proposed that a programme of post-excavation analysis of material recovered during the 2013 excavations should be undertaken. The proposed post-excavation programme is required to meaningfully publish the results of the excavation and successfully bring the project to completion.
- 5.1.2 Various materials recovered from the 2013 excavation require analysis prior to full publication of the excavation. These include processing of the lithic material, ceramics, ferrous objects, glass and stone objects. One soil sample and a complete ceramic tile were also retained for analysis. All of these materials are listed in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5.

5.2 Further investigation at the site

- 5.2.1 Following the 2013 excavations, the remainder of the proposed site was topsoil-stripped under the supervision of the National Trust Archaeologist, Malachy Conway. Further artefacts were recovered, but no other archaeological features were observed. By November 2013, initial work had been undertaken to construct the car park and access road at the site.
- 5.2.2 The exposed vernacular building uncovered in Trench 2 has been preserved in situ by National Trust staff as a visitor attraction. The CAF geophysical survey at the site indicated the sub-surface presence of a possible surface immediately to the south, which could be a possible access path to the building. It is recommended that further excavation be carried out in this area to confirm this and to establish any relationship between the vernacular house and the ridge and furrow cultivation system identified in Trenches 1, 3 and 4, as discussed at Section 3.3.3 above. Further small-scale excavation of the stone platform C201 is recommended in order to identify any earlier floor surface and to confirm the function of deposit C204, observed immediately below C201.
- 5.2.3 Archaeological survey and research is continuing at the Divis and Black Mountain National Trust property and this should inform our knowledge about human activity in this area in due course. The discovery of a hitherto unknown vernacular house confirms that the picture of settlement here remains poorly understood at present.

5.3 Publication

- 5.3.1 It is hoped that a full report on the 2013 excavations will be prepared on completion of the post-excavation analysis outlined at item 5.2 above and submitted for publication in an archaeological journal, such as the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*.

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Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Built Heritage. SM7 Files.

Appendix 1: Context Lists*Trench 1*

Context No.	Description
C100	Topsoil
C101	Fill of C105
C102	Fill of C106
C103	Fill of C107
C104	Fill of C108
C105	Cut of cultivation furrow
C106	Cut of pit
C107	Cut of pit
C108	Cut of cultivation furrow

Trench 2

Context No.	Description
C200	Topsoil
C201	Stone feature
C202	Sub-circular stone feature
C203	Clinker deposit
C204	Deposit under C201
C205	Irregular group of stones
C206	Irregular group of stones

Trench 3

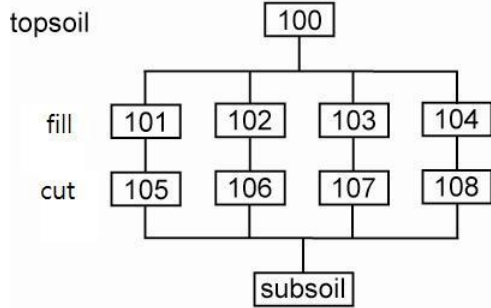
Context No.	Description
C300	Topsoil
C301	Cut
C302	Fill of C301

Trench 4

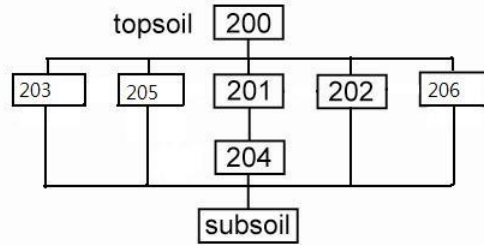
Context No.	Description
C400	Topsoil
C401	Cut of cultivation furrow
C402	Cut of cultivation furrow
C403	Cut of cultivation furrow
C404	Fire pit north-east corner
C405	Fill of C404

Appendix 2: Harris matrices

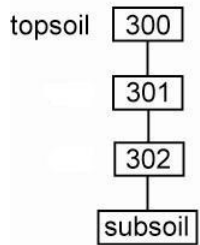
Trench 1



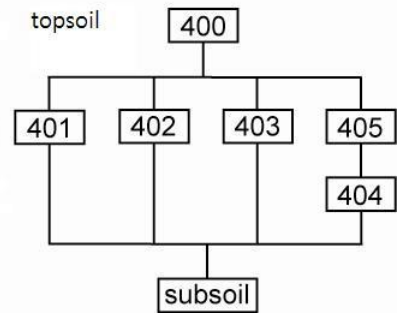
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



Appendix 3: Field Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Scale	Type	Date	Description
1	1:20	Plan	24/04/13	Plan of Trench 1
2	1:20	Plan	24/04/13	Plan of Trench 2 extension, with C201, C202 and C203
3	1:20	Plan	04/04/13	Plan of Trench 3, with C301 AND C302
4	1:50	Plan	15/05/13	Post-excavation plan of Trench 4, with C401, C402, C403, C404 and sub-soil
5	1:10	Section	15/05/13	North-facing section of box-section in Trench 2, with C201, C204 and subsoil
6	1:10	Section	15/05/13	South-west facing section of Trench 3, with C300, C301 and C302
7	1:20	Plan	16/05/13	Post-excavation plan of Trench 3, with C301, subsoil and bedrock
8	1:10	Section	16/05/13	South-facing section of Trench 4, with C401, C402 and C403
9	1:10	Section	17/05/13	Trench 1, north-west facing section across cut C105, with C101, C106 and C102
10	1:10	Section	17/05/13	Trench 1, north-west facing section across cut C107, with C103, C108 and C104
11	1:20	Plan	17/05/13	Post-excavation plan of Trench 1, with C101, C102, C103, C104, C105, C106, C107 and C108
12	1:10	Section	17/05/13	Trench 1, south-facing section, with C101, C104 and C108
13	1:200	Plan	11/05/13	Plan of excavation site with trenches and Divis Lodge

Appendix 4: Small finds register*Trench 1*

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
Surface	Bone	1	0.9
Surface	Flint (including flint arrowhead)	75	630.8
Surface	Iron	3	596
Surface	Pottery	1	159.2
C100	Brick	7	53.8
C100	Clay pipe	4	3.5
C100	Coal/clinker	5	7.7
C100	Flint	697	2458.1
C100	Glass	24	28.0
C100	Iron	2	2.0
C100	Plastic	1	0.5
C100	Pottery	28	76.0
C100	Quartz	28	117.3
C100	Slate	31	364.2
C100	Stone (water-rolled)	1	21.5
C101	Quartz	3	39.9
C101	Flint	108	339.5
C101	Pot	3	7.8
C102	Flint	11	17.3
C103	Flint	8	5.4
C104	Brick	1	8.1
C104	Flint	66	172.9
C104	Quartz	1	1.4

Trench 2

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
C200	Animal bone	6	128.8
C200	Stone axe head (fragment)	1	35.8
C200	Brick	47	1112.4
C200	Glass button	1	1.2
C200	Clay pipe bowl (including 1 whole decorated, 2 decorated fragments, 1 with heel)	11	43.5
C200	Clay pipe stem (fragment)(including 2 decorated)	6	23.1
C200	Coal	42	193.9

C200	Flint	156	990.4
C200	Glass bottle (possible ink pot)	1	55.4
C200	Glass	236	1310.4
C200	Iron	155	31.8.5
C200	Iron lock	1	1315.7
C200	Metal (including 4 possible machine parts)	6	26.2
C200	Mortar	5	404
C200	Plastic	3	9.2
C200	Pottery (including 2 possible seventeenth-century)	172	1706.6
C200	Quartz	2	6.1
C200	Slag	2	49.6
C200	Slate	5	46.0
C200	Stone (water-rolled)(possibly granite)	1	222.0
C200	Ceramic tile	4	-
C200	Ironwork	36	1952.4
C200	Decorated metalwork	1	6.0
C203	Flint	54	83.7
C203	Pottery	1	2.8
C203	Quartz	7	13.0
C204	Brick	2	53.2
C204	Clinker	3	11.7
C204	Flint	8	31.3
C204	Metal	1	5.9
C204	Pottery	5	15.3
C204	Slate	1	4.5

Trench 3

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
C300	Metal foil	6	2.1
C300	Flint	295	761.2
C300	Glass	2	0.7
C300	Iron	2	21.3
C300	Pottery	11	29.2
C300	Quartz	10	63
C300	Slag	1	2.0
C300	Slate	4	12.8
C300	Coal/clinker	7	14.6
C302	Flint (including 1 arrowhead blank)	19	145.0
C302	Pottery	1	2.9
C302	Slate	1	5.1

Trench 4

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
C400	Brick	19	913.9
C400	Burnt bone	3	1.7
C400	Clay pipe bowl (including 4 decorated)	5	11.5
C400	Clay pipe stem	6	13.2
C400	Coal and charcoal	2	8.0
C400	Coin (modern 2 pence)	1	8.1
C400	Flint	1667	12218.8
C400	Glass	24	147.4
C400	Glass bead	1	1.6
C400	Iron	10	297.2
C400	Metal	1	1.5
C400	Metal button	1	2.2
C400	Plaster	10	43.7
C400	Pottery (including 2 seventeenth-century)	61	535.0
C400	Quartz	20	677.8
C400	Slate	4	47.2
C400	Metal (possible tractor parts)	2	22.9
C405	Brick	1	251.7
C405	Flint	15	177.3

Finds recovered during topsoil stripping of site (August 2013)

Context No.	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
N/A	Glass	8	150
N/A	Metal (pen knife)	1	40
N/A	Metal (bullet case)	1	5
N/A	Metal	1	60
N/A	Clay pipe fragments	5	3
N/A	Pottery	72	700
N/A	Flint	779	11670
N/A	Quartz	12	480

Appendix 5: Samples Record

Bulk samples taken

Sample Number	Sample Material	Context	Number of bags
1	Soil (hearth deposit)	C203	2
2	Ceramic floor tile	C200	1

Appendix 6: Photographic Record*Ricoh Caplio 500 G wide, 8 Megapixel and Nikon Coolpix 950, 4.9 megapixel*

Frame No.	Details
001	Excavation area, looking north
002	Divis Lodge, looking north-east
003	Surface artefacts
004	Divis Lodge boundary looking, north-east
005	Access lane, looking north
006	Access lane, looking north
007	Divis Lodge, looking north-west
008	Divis Lodge out-building, looking north
009	Divis Lodge, looking west
010	View of Black Mountain, looking south
011	Concrete lane to east of excavation site, looking north
012	Stone boundary wall along eastern side of excavation site, looking north
013	Pasture to south of Divis Lodge, looking south-west
014	Pasture to south of Divis Lodge, looking south
015	Southern limit of excavation area, looking west
016	Pasture to south of excavation area, looking south
017	Western limit of excavation area, looking north
018	Excavation area, looking north-east
019	Stone wall boundary along eastern side of excavation site, looking east
020	Excavation area, looking west
021	Area with high concentration of flint surface finds, looking north-west
022	Long Barn Visitor Centre and yard, looking north-west
023	Curved stone boundary wall, looking south-east
024	Long Barn yard, looking south
025	Long Barn yard, looking south
026	Excavation area, looking south-east
027	Excavation area, looking south
028	Excavation area, looking south
029	Long Barn Visitor Centre and silo, looking north
030	<i>Divis Archaeology Dig</i> advertising banner
031	Entrance to Divis and Black Mountain National Trust Property
032	De-sodding Trench 1, looking south
033	Stone feature in Trench 2, looking south
034	Stone feature in Trench 2, looking west
035	Possible plough mark in Trench 3, looking south-west
036	Trench 3 mid-excavation, looking south
037	Trench 3 mid-excavation, looking south
038	Recording feature C201 in Trench 2

039	Pre-excavation of Trench 4, looking south-west
040	Pre-excavation of Trench 4, looking south-east
041	Trench 4 after removal of sods, looking north-west
042	Trench 3 mid-excavation and UAS volunteer, looking north
043	Putting up gazebos for school groups
044	Trench 1 fenced, looking south-east
045	Excavation area, looking south-east
046	School group excavating Trench 4
047	Excavation area, looking south
048	Cleaning of feature C201, looking north-east
049	School group excavating Trench 4
050	Cleaning of Trench 2, looking east
051	C203 in Trench 2, looking north
052	Cleaning of feature C20, looking north
053	Sub-angular stones comprising part of C201, and floor tiles
054	School group excavating Trench 4
055	Trench 1, open day
056	Trench 1, open day
057	Trench 3, open day
058	Trench 4, open day
059	Trench 4, open day
060	Trench 1, open day
061	Trench 1, open day
062	UTV filming Trench 2
063	UTV filming Trench 2
064	Trench 4, open day
065	Trench 4, open day
066	Trench 3, open day
067	Trench 3, open day
068	Trench 2, open day
069	Trench 1, open day
070	Trench 3, open day
071	Trench 2, open day
072	Trench 3, C301, C302, subsoil and weathered bedrock, looking north
073	Trench 3, C301, C302, subsoil and weathered bedrock, looking north
074	Trench 3, C301, C302, subsoil and weathered bedrock, looking north
075	Cultivation ridge in south-facing section of Trench 3
076	Cultivation ridge south-facing section of Trench 3
077	North-facing section of Trench 3, with C302
078	North-facing section of Trench 3, with C302
079	Trench 2, stone feature C201, looking west
080	Trench 2, stone feature C201, looking south-west
081	Trench 2, stone feature C201, looking south-west
082	North-east corner of C201, looking south
083	North-east corner of C201, looking south
084	East perimeter face of C201, looking south
085	Trench 2, stone feature C201, looking west
086	Trench 2, stone feature C201, looking west
087	South perimeter face of C201, looking north
088	South-west perimeter face of C201, looking north-east

089	South-west corner of C201, looking east
090	Western perimeter of C201 and C202, looking east
091	South-east corner of C201, looking north
092	South-east corner of C201, looking north-west
093	Eastern perimeter of C201, looking west
094	Close-up of iron lock, Trench 2
095	Close-up of iron lock, Trench 2
096	Close-up of iron lock, Trench 2
097	North-east corner of C201
098	Open day 11 May
099	Open day 11 May
100	Planning Trench 2, open day 11 May
101	Planning Trench 2, open day 11 May
102	UAS Survey Group, open day 11 May
103	Open day 11 May
104	Open day 11 May
105	Open day 11 May
106	Open day 11 May
107	Open day 11 May
108	Open day 11 May
109	Trench 4, after cleaning mid-excavation, looking north-east
110	Post-excavation of Trench 3, looking north-west
111	Post-excavation of Trench 3, looking south-west
112	Post-excavation of Trench 3, looking south-west
113	Post-excavation of Trench 3, looking north-west
114	Post-excavation of Trench 3, looking north-west
115	Trench 4, school group
116	Working shot of volunteers in Trench 1, looking south-west
117	Trench 4, after cleaning mid-excavation, looking east
118	Trench 4 after cleaning mid-excavation, looking east
119	Trench 4 after cleaning mid-excavation, looking north
120	Trench 4 after cleaning mid-excavation, looking north-west
121	Trench 4 after cleaning mid-excavation, looking north-west
122	Trench 4 after cleaning mid-excavation, looking north
123	Box-section in Trench 2 pre-excavation, looking south
124	Box-section in Trench 2 pre-excavation, looking south
125	Box-section in Trench 2 showing C204, looking south
126	Trench 1 after half-sectioning of features, looking north
127	Pre-excavation of cut C106 with fill C102, looking west
128	Pre-excavation of cut C106 with fill C102, looking west
129	Pre-excavation of cut C106 with fill C102, looking south
130	South-west-facing section of cut C105 with fill C101
131	South-west-facing section of cut C107 with fill C103
132	Post-excavation of box-section Trench 2, looking west
133	Post-excavation of box-section Trench 2, looking south
134	Post-excavation of box-section Trench 2, looking south
135	Partially truncated northern perimeter face of 201, looking west
136	C201, looking south
137	North-east corner of C201, looking south
138	Partially truncated northern perimeter face of C201, looking north

139	Partially truncated northern edge of C201, and Divis Lodge and out-building, looking east
140	Partially truncated northern edge of C201, and Divis Lodge, looking south-east
141	Trench 4, looking south-east
142	Trench 4, looking south-east
143	Trench 4, looking north
144	Trench 4, looking south
145	Trench 4, looking west
146	Trench 4, looking west
147	Trench 1, after half-sectioning of C105, C106, C107 and C108, looking north
148	Trench 1, after half-sectioning of C105, C106, c107 and C108, looking east
149	Trench 1, after half-sectioning of C105, C106, C107 and C108, looking south
150	Trench 1, after half-sectioning of C105, C106, C107 and C108, looking west
151	Trench 1, after half-sectioning of C105, C106, C107 and C108, looking west
152	South-west-facing section of Trench 3
153	South-west-facing section of Trench 3
154	Post-excavation of Trench 3 showing weathered bedrock and subsoil, looking north-west
155	Post-excavation of Trench 3 showing weathered bedrock and subsoil, looking north-east
156	Post-excavation of C105, looking north-east
157	Post-excavation of C105, looking north-east
158	South-west-facing section of C107 and C108
159	East-facing section of Trench 1
160	Trench 1 after full excavation of C105 and C106, looking east
161	Trench 1 after full excavation of C105 and C106, looking north-east
162	Trench 1 after full excavation of C105 and C106, looking north
163	Paving tiles, similar to those from Trench 2, reused in Divis Lodge farm buildings
164	Paving tiles, similar to those from Trench 2, reused in Divis Lodge farm buildings
165	Paving tiles, similar to those from Trench 2, reused in Divis Lodge farm buildings
166	Paving tiles, similar to those in Trench 2, reused in Divis Lodge farm buildings
167	Trench 3 post-excavation, looking south
168	Trench 2 post-excavation, looking south
169	Trench 2 post-excavation, looking south
170	Trench 2 post-excavation, looking east
171	Trench 2 post-excavation, looking east
172	North-east corner of C201, looking south
173	West edge of C201, looking east
174	West edge of C201, looking east
175	West edge of C201, looking east
176	South edge of C201, looking east
177	South edge of C201, looking north
178	East edge of C201, looking west
179	East edge of C201, looking west
180	East edge of C201, looking west
181	Trench 4 post-excavation showing C401, C402, C403 and C404, looking north
182	Trench 4 post-excavation showing C401, C402, C403 and C404, looking north
183	Trench 4 post-excavation showing C401, C402, C403 and C404, looking north
184	Trench 4 post-excavation showing C401, C402, C403 and C404 looking north
185	Trench 4 post-excavation showing C401, C402, C403 and C404 looking north

Figures

TOWNLAND	SMR NUMBER	CLASSIFICATION	IRISH GRID REFERENCE
Black Mountain	ANT 060:072	Neolithic Flint-Working Site	J 2914 7452
Black Mountain	ANT 060:075	Neolithic Occupation Site	J 2854 7277
Divis	ANT 060:038	Findspot of Flint Arrowhead	J 2903 7489
Divis	ANT 060:055	Circular Enclosure (A.P. Site)	J 2727 7418
Divis	ANT 060:061	Cairn	J 2935 7481
Divis and Altigarron	ANT 060:015	Cairn	J 2690 7560

Figure 01: Table of monuments in SMR. *NIEA*

Townland	Irish Grid Reference	Site Type	Details
Divis	J 2857 7490	Burial Cairn	Referred to as <i>Cairn 2</i> by NT. Surveyed by UAS in 2006.
Divis	J 2808 7558	Burial Cairn	Referred to as <i>Summit Cairn</i> by NT. Surveyed by UAS in 2006.
Divis	J 2741 7471	Enclosure	Referred to as <i>Cell-Bay Enclosure</i> by NT. Surveyed by UAS in 2008.
Divis	J 2885 7516	Vernacular House	Referred to as <i>House Site 1</i> by NT. Surveyed by UAS in 2008.
Divis	J 2747 7456	Settlement Site	Surveyed by UAS in 2009.
Divis	J 2636 7453	Vernacular House	Referred to as <i>Divis Farm</i> by NT. Surveyed by UAS in 2010.
Divis	J 2750 7450	Burial Cairn	Referred to as <i>Cairn 3</i> by NT. Surveyed by UAS in 2011.
Divis	J 2700 1050	Enclosure	Referred to as <i>Divis Cashel</i> by NT. Surveyed by UAS in 2012.
Divis	J 2825 7450	Vernacular House	Referred to as <i>Johnston's Green</i> by NT. Surveyed by UAS in 2012.
Divis	J 2721 7391	Vernacular House	Referred to as <i>Hatchet House</i> by NT. Surveyed by UAS in 2013.

Figure 02: Table of monuments surveyed by UAS Survey Group. *Ulster Archaeological Society*

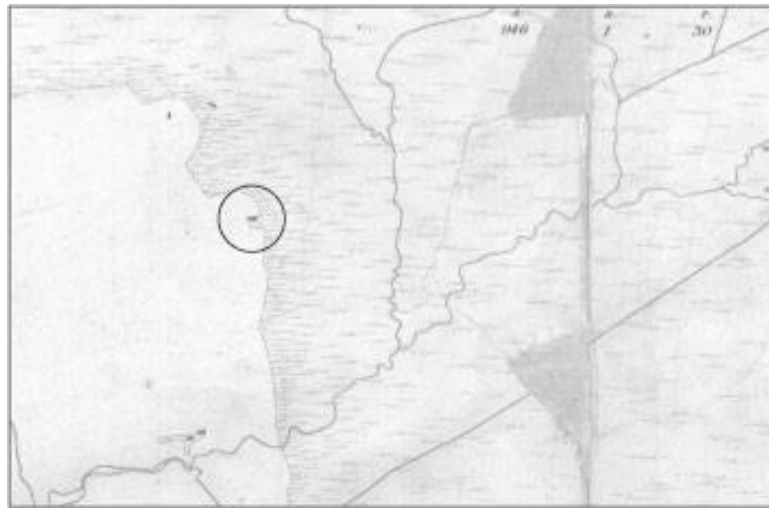


Figure 03: First Edition 1833 Ordnance Survey map, County Series Sheet 60 (part of) showing vernacular building (circled)



Figure 04: Second Edition 1857 Ordnance Survey map, County Series, Sheet 60 (part of), showing vernacular building (circled) and *Divis Cashel* to the north-west

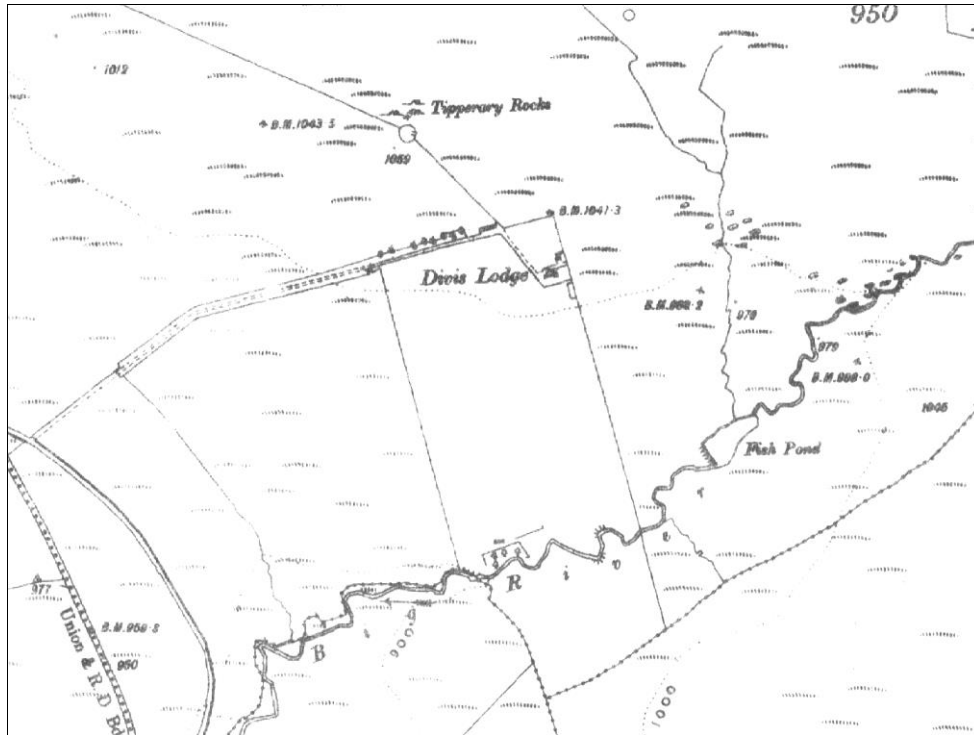


Figure 05: Third Edition 1901 Ordnance Survey map, County Series, Sheet 60 (part of) showing vernacular building annotated as *Divis Lodge*

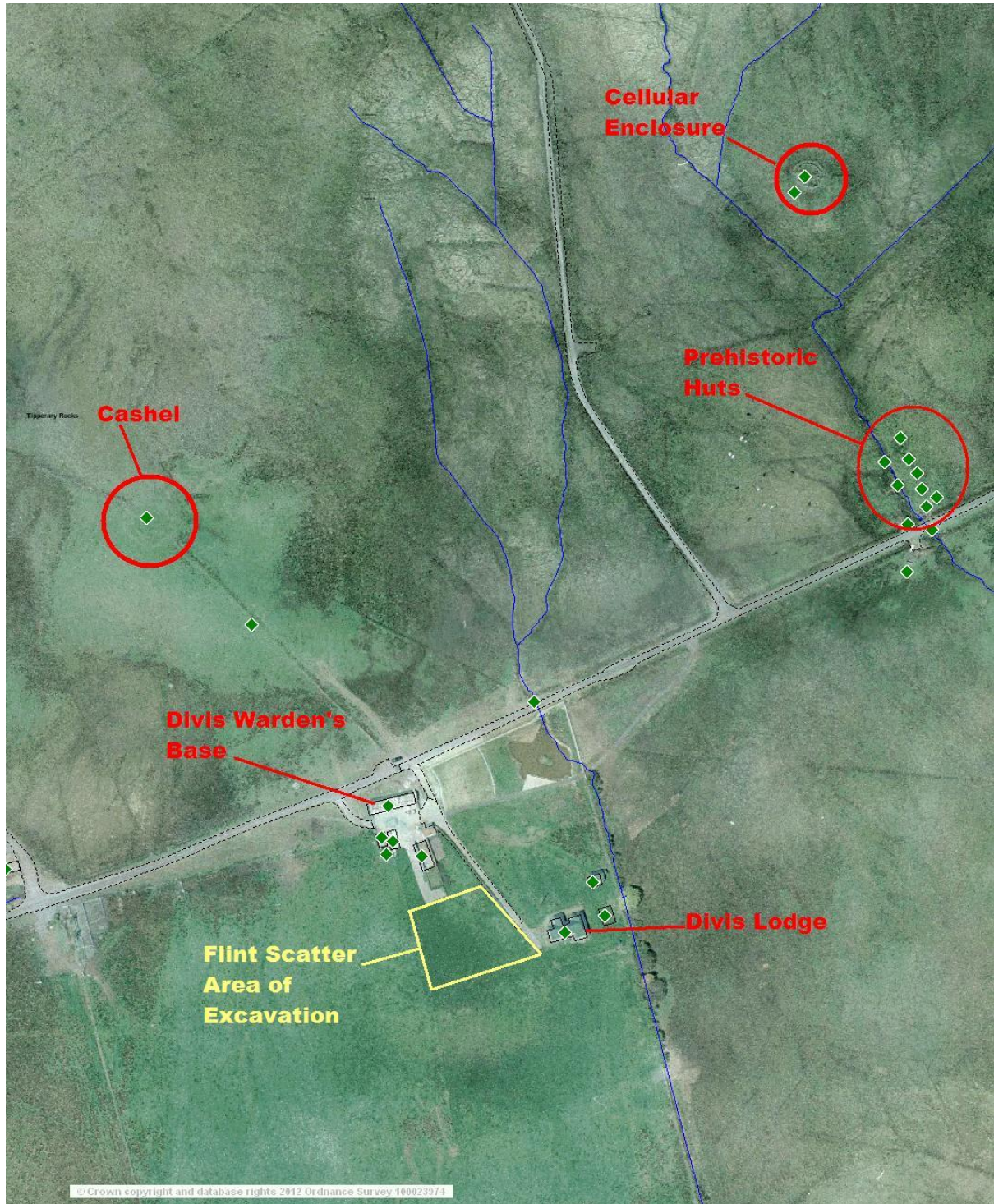


Figure 06: Image of excavation area with nearest archaeological monuments. *National Trust*



Figure 07: Image of excavation area and initial location of trenches. *National Trust*

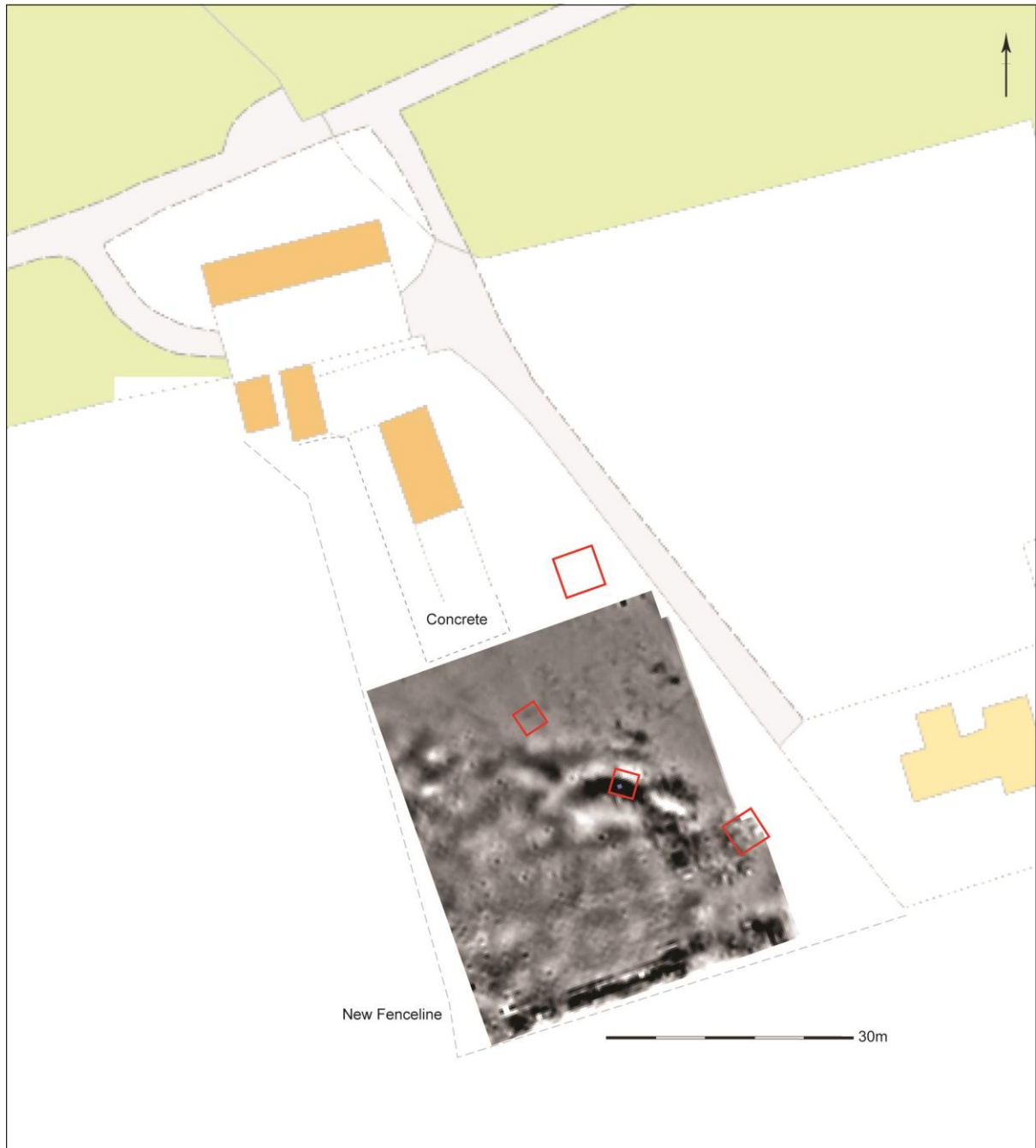


Figure 08: Geophysical survey data on base map of site

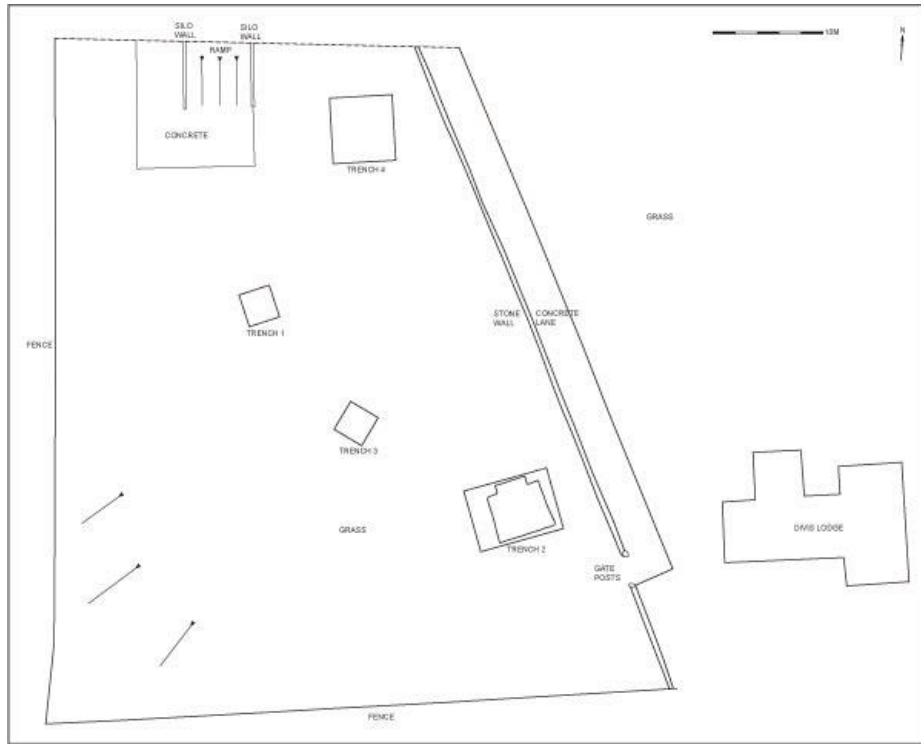


Figure 09: Plan of excavation area with final trench locations. *Ulster Archaeological Society*

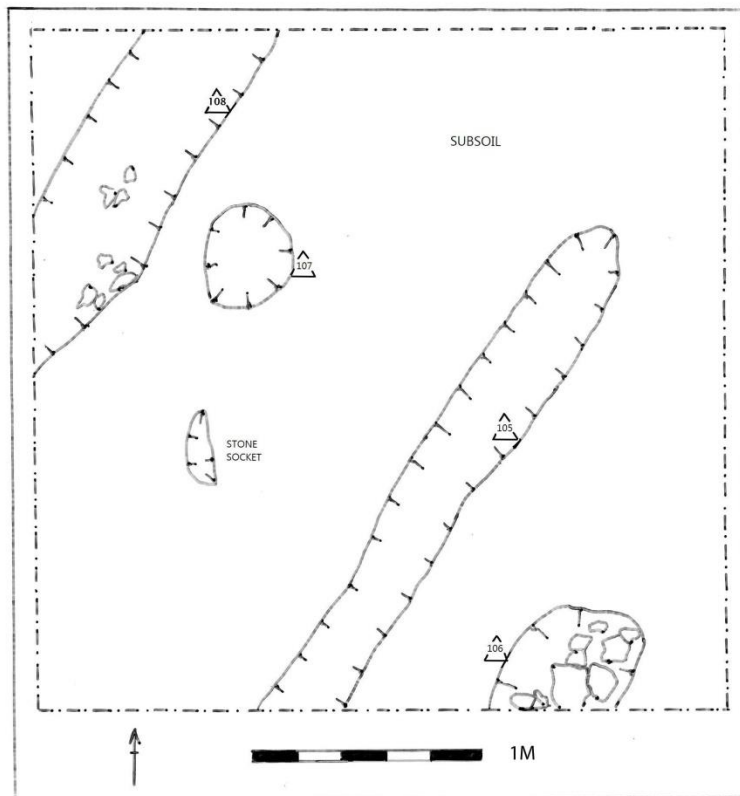


Figure 10: Post-excavation plan of Trench 1

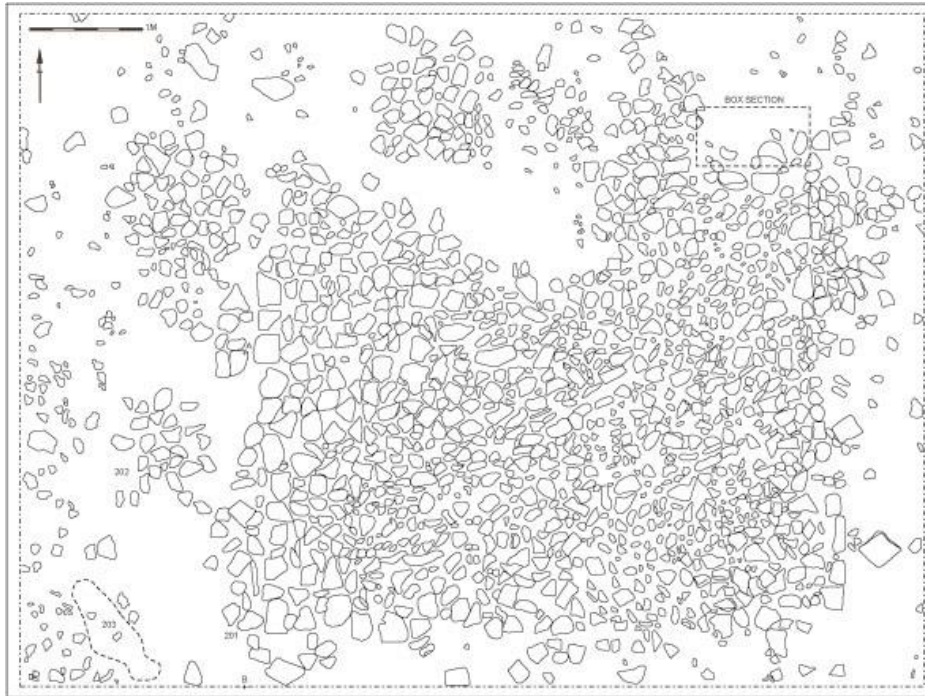


Figure 11: Post-excavation plan of Trench 2, showing stone feature C201, location of box-section, and C202, C203, C205 and C206.

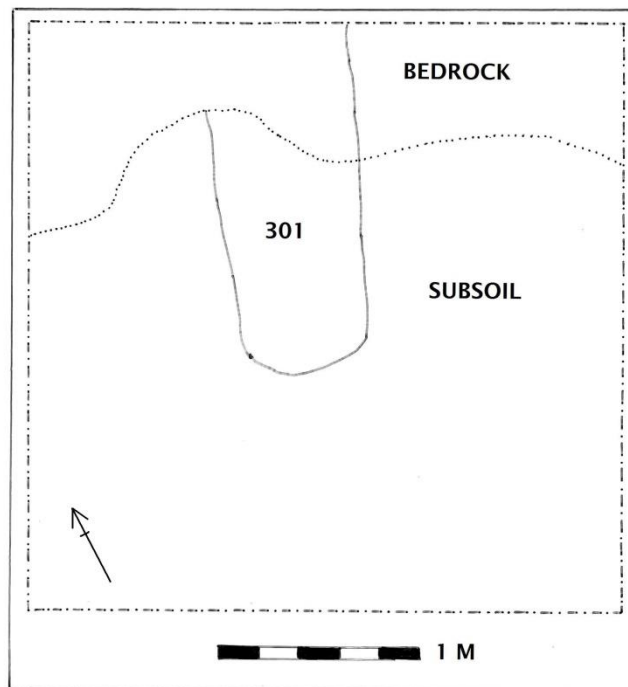


Figure 12: Post-excavation plan of Trench 3

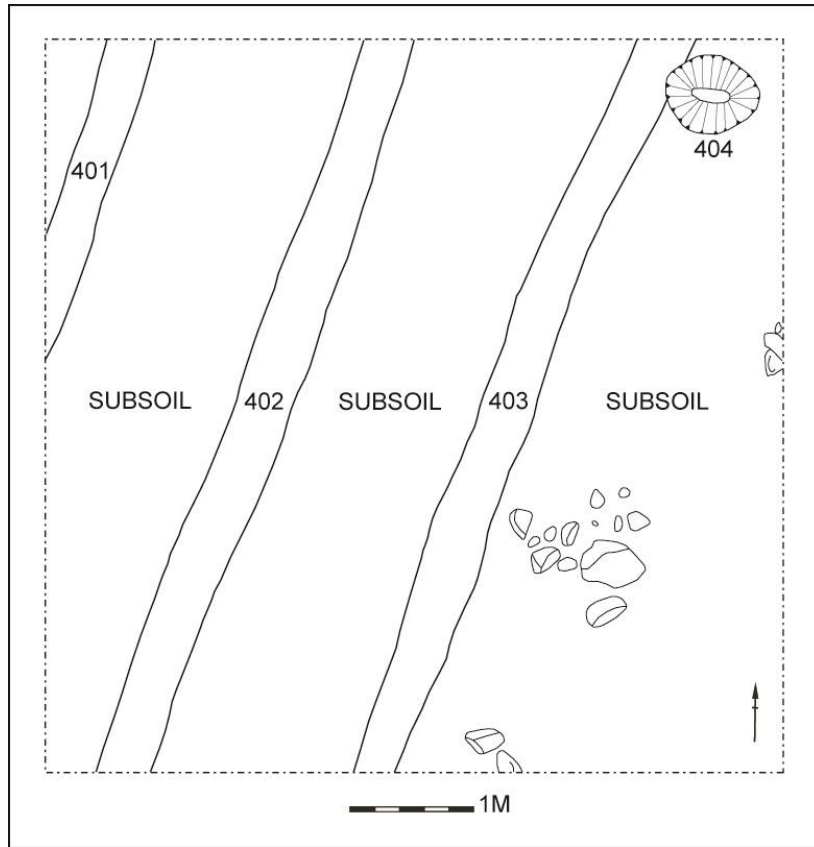


Figure 13: Post-excavation plan of Trench 4, showing subsoil and cuts C401 to C404

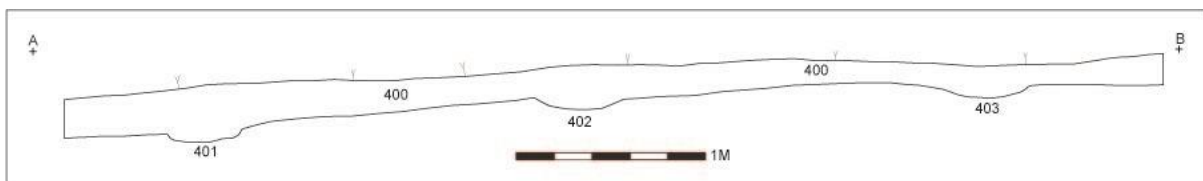


Figure 14: South-facing section of Trench 4, showing topsoil C400 and cuts C401, C402 and C403

PLATES



Plate 01 (Photo 001): Excavation site viewed from the south-east, with the silo and Mountain Rescue Station



Plate 02 (Photo 018): Excavation site viewed from the south-west, with silo to left and Divis Mountain



Plate 03 (Photo 028): Excavation site looking south from top of silo ramp



Plate 04 (Photo 022): Long Barn Visitor Centre and yard, looking north-west



Plate 05 (Photo 047): Excavation area, looking south from silo ramp, showing trench locations



Plate 06 (Photo 162): Trench 1 post-excitation, showing lazy bed furrows, looking north (scale 2m)



Plate 07 (Photo 134): Trench 2, post-excitation, with box section, looking south (scale 1m)



Plate 08 (Photo 169): Trench 2 post-excitation, showing stone platform fully exposed, looking south (scale 2m)



Plate 09 (Photo 171): Trench 2, post-excavation, looking east, with Divis Lodge and an out-building in background (scale 2m)



Plate 10: Glass ink pot recovered from Trench 2 *Ulster Archaeological Society*



Plate 11 (Photo 074): Trench 3, mid-excitation, showing subsoil and weathered bedrock, looking north-east (scale 2m)



Plate 12: Post-excitation view of Trench 3, looking north-east



Plate 13 (Photo 142): Trench 4, mid-excavation, with Divis Lodge and an out-building in the background. The hedge behind the trench marks the limit of the excavation area. Looking south-east (scale 2m)



Plate 14 (Photo 185): Trench 4, post-excavation, showing lazy bed furrows, looking north (scale 2m)



Plate 15 (Photo 115): A school group excavating in Trench 4



Plate 16 (Photo 104): Volunteers in Trench 4



Plate 17 (Photo 102): UAS Survey Group planning the excavation site



Plate 18 (Photo 063): Television crew filming UAS volunteers in Trench 2.