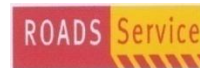


**Interim Report of  
Phase 2 Excavations  
A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road  
Area 9, Site 103**



<b>Ministerial Direction no:</b>	E3788
<b>Chainage:</b>	8710
<b>NGR:</b>	307842E, 315554N
<b>Townland:</b>	Drumad
<b>Parish:</b>	Ballymascanlan
<b>County:</b>	Louth
<b>Country:</b>	Republic of Ireland
<b>Director:</b>	S.J. Turrell
<b>Submitted:</b>	September 2005

**Interim Report of Phase 2 Excavations,  
A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road,  
Area 9 Site 103**

**Chainage:** 8710  
**Townland:** Drumad  
**Parish:** Ballymascanlan  
**County:** Louth  
**Country:** Republic of Ireland  
**NGR:** 307842E, 315554N  
**Author:** Sinclair Turrell  
**Submitted:** September 2005

## Contents

Figures .....	2
Plates .....	2
<i>Abstract</i> .....	3
1 Description of the Site and Location .....	4
1.1 Introduction .....	4
1.2 Site description .....	4
1.2.1 Topography.....	4
1.2.2 Geology .....	5
1.2.3 Archaeological and historical background .....	5
2 A Description of the Works Carried Out.....	6
2.1 Reason for the excavation .....	7
2.2 Excavation methods.....	7
2.2.1 Phasing .....	7
2.2.2 Desk top study .....	7
2.2.3 Phase 1 archaeological testing.....	7
2.2.4 Phase 2 archaeological excavations.....	9
2.2.5 Health and safety documents .....	10
2.2.6 Staff involved .....	10
3 The Excavation-Phase 2 .....	10
3.1 Introduction .....	10
3.2 Results .....	11
3.3 Summary .....	13
4 Discussion and Conclusions .....	13
5 Recommendation.....	14
6 References .....	14
Appendix I Context list .....	15
Appendix II Finds.....	15

## **Figures**

Fig. 1 Location of site.

Fig. 2 Extract of RMP Maps of Louth, Sheets 1 & 4.

Fig. 3 Location of Areas 8 and 9 on RMP Maps of Louth, Sheets 1 & 4.

Fig. 4 Plan showing Areas 8, 9, Site 103 and location of (LH 041-001).

Fig. 5 Plan showing location of main features and box sections in Site 103.

Fig. 6 Plan showing location of main features and box sections in Site 103.

Fig. 7 Box Sections 1 and 2.

## **Plates**

Plate 1 Pre excavation of Area 9 looking west.

Plate 2 Pre excavation of Area 9 looking east.

Plate 3 Plough furrows (010) and (005) looking west.

Plate 4 Section of natural depression (013) from the east.

Plate 5 Post excavation to the east.

Plate 6 Post excavation to the west.

## ***Abstract***

*Louth County Council, the Roads Service NI (Department for Regional Development) and the National Roads Authority are currently proposing a Road Scheme, the A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Road. The route consists of 14.2km of 2-lane dual carriageway with 5.7km of associated link roads from Cloghoge roundabout, south of Newry to the Ballymascanlan interchange north of Dundalk. As part of the road development, a number of archaeological and historic sites were within the construction zone of the road scheme and were determined eligible for excavation before the construction began.*

*This site, (103) was close to a known souterrain at the edge of forestry in a dip on an east-facing slope, providing natural drainage from the hills above. An area measuring 40 by 30m was stripped of topsoil revealing a modern field drain running east to west, cut through stoney material that had been used to infill a natural hollow before 19<sup>th</sup> century cultivation. This dumped material, which was heavily silted, also contained some burnt stoney material, which may be originally be derived from earlier, possibly even prehistoric, activity.*

## **1 Description of the Site and Location**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The National Roads Authority (NRA) for the Republic of Ireland and Department for Regional Development (DRD) for Northern Ireland are the authorities in charge of the proposal to construct a new road between Newry and Dundalk. The proposed scheme involves a 14 km route with 5.7 km of associated link roads (Fig. 1). Upgrading the key transport corridors and associated trunk road links will provide a strategic framework for infrastructure investment, improvement of public transport, future urban and economic development especially for large-scale sites to accommodate industry and commerce and assisting tourist travel around the region.

As part of the road works, Archaeological Development Services Ltd (ADS) was commissioned to perform an archaeological assessment along the proposed Link Road and to mitigate the impacts of any construction on archaeological resources. The following report details the results of the excavation at Site 103. This report describes the results of excavations carried out from May 10 through May 12, 2005. The staff of ADS carried out archaeological work on behalf of the developers under the direction of Sinclair Turrell. This section of the project occurs in Drumad Townland, Ballymascanlan Parish, Co. Louth, Republic of Ireland at National Grid Reference 307842E, 315554N (centre point), Ordnance Datum (OD) of approximately 74.7m and at road scheme Chainage 8710.

### **1.2 Site description**

#### ***1.2.1 Topography***

The existing landscape character of the study area is a result of previous glacial, geological and human impacts (Figs 1, 2 and 3)<sup>1</sup>. The study area is contained within a mountainous backdrop known as the Ring of Gullion. Slieve Gullion defines the western extent of the study area and lies at the centre of the Ring of Gullion. To the north lies Camlough Mountain and Fathom Mountain. The eastern boundary is defined by the western edge of the Carlingford Mountains and specifically Black Mountain. The southern edge of the Ring of Gullion is contained within the study area and includes Feede Mountain and Slievenabolea. Between the mountains of the Ring lies a broad gently undulating agricultural landscape. South of Feede Mountain the study area levels off gently undulating to Dundalk Bay.

---

<sup>1</sup> This information has been taken directly from the A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Environmental Statement/Environmental Impact Statement Non-Technical Summary prepared by RPS Ireland Environmental Sciences

### 1.2.2 Geology

Buckley and Sweetman (1991, 10) identify the dominant bedrock in the site area as granophyre, which is part of the Carlingford Igneous Complex. Granophyre refers to fine-grained granitic material, commonly though not always with graphic intergrowths. Granophyre contains quartz and feldspar crystals, in a fine-grained microgranite. Granophyre is a characteristic result of metamorphic recrystallization in the presence of active fluids, completely changing the texture of a rock while the basic chemical composition changes very little. In composition, granophyre is typical granite, but the texture has been metamorphosed. At Slieve Gullion in Northern Ireland, there was a transformation of very old granodiorite (granite with roughly equal amounts of potassium and soda feldspar) into newer granophyre while in the Northwest Scottish Highlands old Torridonian sandstone has also been found transformed into granophyre.

### 1.2.3 Archaeological and historical background

The road follows a natural route way through mountainous terrain that may have been in use from the prehistoric period. The previously known monuments recorded near the route date from the Neolithic period to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century AD (Buckley and Sweetman 1991).

**Previously known sites within 1km of the current site.** A search of the “Archaeological Survey of County Louth” (Buckley and Sweetman 1991) and of the SMR shows that there are three sites within 1km of this location, all are in the Republic of Ireland (Fig. 3).

A known souterrain (LH 004-001) lies within the immediate vicinity of Site 103. Although the proposed road will not directly affect this monument, it has been fenced off from the road take.

SMR:	LH004-001 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991: 122 Survey No. 319)
Townland:	Drumad
Parish:	Ballymascanlan
Barony:	Lower Dundalk
County:	Louth
Country:	Republic of Ireland
NGR:	307830E, 315510N
Description:	Souterrain situated on a slight hummock on the W slope of valley. The souterrain consists of a drystone built, slightly corbelled passage (L 19m, W c. 1.3m, H c. 1.7m) curving gently ENE-W. A creep (L 0.7m, W 0.7m, H 1.1m) in the middle of the N wall of the passage gives access to a subrectangular chamber (L 3.8m, W 2.1m, H 1.5m).
SMR:	LH004-002 (01), (02) (Buckley and Sweetman 1991: (01) 71 Survey No. 174, (02) 81 Survey No. 219)
Townland:	Ravensdale Park
Parish:	Ballymascanlan
Barony:	Lower Dundalk

County: Louth  
 Country: Republic of Ireland  
 NGR: 308320E, 315560N  
 Description: (01) Stone circle (possible) eight regularly spaced stones enclosing an oval area (7m by 4m), reputedly exposed by Lord Clermont c. 1840 (*CLAJ* 1906, 96). The OS 25" sheet (1907) shows five stones, concentric with the circle to the E. The sites of four standing stones lie 40m SW of the monument. Tempest (*CLAJ* 1942, 128-32) suggests that the origins of the monument may be doubtful owing to the small area of the circle, the surface mobility of the stones and their regular spacing. This may be partly explained by the original lowering of the ground level around the stones to reveal them and their constant resettling by estate workers.  
 Borlase (1897, vol 2, 421) records the location of the site, or one exactly similar, as being at Dromiskin. This was also a Clermont estate, and thus confusion may have arisen. The site has been suggested as part of landscaping by Lord Clermont, but equally may be part of a genuine prehistoric site, though Davies (*UJA* 1939, 13) does note that it does not conform to any known circle type.  
 NGR: 308290E, 315550N  
 Description: (02) Standing stone (possible) (*CLAJ* 1942, 130-2).  
 SMR: LH004-128 (Buckley and Sweetman 1991: Survey No. Not Listed)  
 Townland: Ravensdale Park  
 Parish: Ballymascanlan  
 Barony: Lower Dundalk  
 County: Louth  
 Country: Republic of Ireland  
 NGR: 308110E, 315360N  
 Description: Court tomb no further information.

**Sites within 1km, known from the current project.** There is one site from the current project within 1km of this site.

**Site 102** was approximately 100m north of the current site at the edge of forestry in a dip on an east-facing slope, providing natural drainage from the hills above. In the Phase 1 testing excavations, a linear feature (**045**) was located along the east of trench 11. This measured 2.5m wide and lay close to the present N1. It consisted of grey sand and redeposited subsoil mix. A second linear spread of grey sand (**043**), 10m wide was uncovered to the immediate south of (**045**). These deposits were thought to be part of a larger feature but their relationship was unclear having been cut through by a stone filled drain (**044**). Nothing dateable was recovered from the upper surface of either (**043**) or (**045**) and it is uncertain whether they were associated with the present N1 (an infilled sheugh?) or are of antiquity.

## 2 A Description of the Works Carried Out



## **2.1 Reason for the excavation**

The principal objectives of the Roads Service in implementing the scheme are to improve the conditions for road users by reducing journey times between the major commercial centres, together with an improvement in road safety. The specific objectives are:

- To contribute to the improvement of the Regional Strategic Transport Network and major transport links with Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland;
- To reduce vehicle operating times and costs;
- To facilitate freight transport;
- To improve road safety and improve pedestrian and cycle access and safety.

## **2.2 Excavation methods**

### ***2.2.1 Phasing***

The road works have been divided into 2 phases: Phase 1 included (a) the archaeological evaluation of known sites, possible sites and areas of archaeological potential and (b) the recording and evaluation of standing buildings/structures at identified locations. Phase 2, reported here, includes the resolution of any sites identified by the works.

### ***2.2.2 Desk top study***

A desktop study of archaeological and cultural heritage sites was reported in the Environmental Impact Statement for the project (RPS 2002a, 236; 2002b). A particular emphasis was paid to sites with 1km of what was then the proposed route alignment.

### ***2.2.3 Phase 1 archaeological testing***

As part of the road works, ADS was commissioned to perform an archaeological assessment along the proposed Link Road and to mitigate the impacts of any construction on archaeological resources.

Area 9 was an isolated spot within the larger Area 8, which is located within the eastern edge of Drumad Wood (Figs 1, 2, 3 and 4). The testing in this area was carried out from the 15<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2004. It consisted of a centre line trench, running in a north to south direction, 218m long by 2m wide that was exclusively within Area 8 (McConway and O'Rourke 2005, Fig. 6). This trench curved along the northern end following the line of the present N1. Set perpendicular to this centre trench were 11 offset trenches, again of varying lengths, set at 20m intervals and 2m wide. Only Trench 3 cut through Area 9 where a linear stone arrangement was recorded running in a northwest to southeast direction between the entrance to the souterrain (LH 004-001) and the western end of Trench 3. Testing indicated that the relationship, if any between these groups of stone and the

souterrains was unclear. They may indicate the presence of a second souterrain here or they may be the coincidental result of field clearance (McConway and O'Rourke 2005).

The purpose for and the methodology employed in the Phase I testing included:

- To fully expose, investigate, record and resolve archaeological deposits uncovered in and all deposits associated with these.
- Resolution of the archaeological features described above was carried out by a licenced director, a supervisor, two assistants and four general operatives.
- A 100 by 40m area was appropriately opened over the features under archaeological supervision to the latest archaeological horizon or to the upper surface of natural geology, whichever occurs first. The area will be manually cleaned and examined for further archaeological deposits.
- All archaeological deposits were surveyed in to a site grid and in relation to their position on the road.
- All deposits were recorded and investigated by methods appropriate to their nature and complexity using best archaeological practice.
- Methods used included sectioning, planning and photographing the deposits, investigating the stratigraphic relationship with other deposits if appropriate, compiling a written record of the deposits via a context sheets

**Recommendations derived from the testing.** No further work was recommended for Area 8; in Area 9, a burnt stone deposit was uncovered to the northeast of a recorded souterrain (LH 004-001), which has been interpreted as burnt mound material. A linear stone spread was also uncovered in close proximity of this souterrain and may indicate a second, previously unknown souterrain. Due to the proximity of the recorded souterrain and the archaeologically sensitive nature of the area, it was recommended that the topsoil is stripped here under archaeological supervision and the full extent of the deposits defined. It is recommended that all deposits uncovered are fully investigated and recorded.

As it was determined likely that additional subsurface archaeological deposits would be associated with the known features it was also recommended that an appropriate area around each feature be topsoil stripped. All features exposed from the stripping were to be fully investigated. If it became apparent that these features form part of a more extensive archaeological landscape then it was recommended that an appropriate area be opened up on plan in order to fully investigate and record any discovered features.

#### **2.2.4 Phase 2 archaeological excavations**

**Recording strategy.** Recording was by means of 'best archaeological practise'. The primary records of these excavations consist of written and drawn records, photographs, survey data, finds and samples. The stratigraphic record was primarily made on context record sheets, of the standard type used by ADS. These are supplemented by information from the site diary and notebooks. Field surveying equipment consisted of an Ashtech DGPS surveying suite, which allowed real-time data collection with horizontal accuracy of 0.005m +1ppm and vertical accuracy of 0.010m +2ppm.

All Phase 2 archaeological excavations were carried out in accordance with the Specification for Archaeological Rescue Excavation on Known Sites document (ADS 2005). Field methods included:

- An appropriately sized area around each of the deposits was fenced off and access to these areas by machinery and personnel denied until they have been resolved.
- The removal of topsoil was by judicious use of a machine fitted with a toothless bucket under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- All trenches were excavated to the latest archaeological horizon or to the upper surface of natural geology, whichever occurred first. If archaeological features were revealed these deposits were in the first instance, cordoned off using high visibility tape and access to these areas by machinery denied.
- All deposits were hand investigated using methods appropriate to their composition, nature and date and time was allowed for the archaeologist to undertake the appropriate level of recording.
- The level of recording depended on the nature and extent of the archaeological remains encountered. All deposits were recorded on plan (in relation to the site grid), photographed and if appropriate, their location surveyed in advance of hand excavation.
- Excavation of deposits was carried out by sectioning using methods appropriate to their composition and nature.
- Contexts were sampled for palaeobotanical material, radiocarbon dating, soil micromorphology, petrology, wood identification, etc.
- All sections and cut features were photographed and drawn.
- The position of all finds and samples were recorded in three-dimensions (when practicable) in relation to the site grid.
- Sampling strategies depended upon the dimensions, make up and complexity of the archaeological remains encountered.

- A day book was maintained where all archaeological features were recorded in writing utilizing ADS context sheets, scaled field illustrations and by both slide and digital photography.
- All finds were logged according to context, bagged and catalogued.
- A contract conservator was on call if necessary.
- All finds are stored in our post excavation unit at Kells, Co. Meath and will ultimately be stored in whatever facility the State will provide.
- Excavation or preservation by record was carried out on archaeological deposits that will be impacted on by the construction of the road scheme.

#### ***2.2.5 Health and safety documents***

It is the policy of ADS to comply with the Health & Safety at Work Acts and the Construction Safety, Health & Welfare Regulations and to ensure so far as reasonably practicable the safety, health and welfare of all employees whilst at work, and to provide such information, training and supervision needed for this purpose. To comply with these acts and regulations the works were conducted following the procedures and principles laid out in the company health and safety document (ADS 2003). Special attention to health and safety will be paid in areas close to rivers, streams, woodland, marshy ground and overhead power lines. ADS can confirm that the excavation crews all hold a valid safe pass certificate.

#### ***2.2.6 Staff involved***

ADS staff involved in the excavation were the Director Sinclair Turrell; Supervisor Mary O'Brien; Site Assistants Feilim MacGabhann, Brendan Malone, Colm O'Brien and Emma Taylor and General Operative Oisín O'Brien.

### **3 The Excavation-Phase 2**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This site, which is situated within the immediate vicinity of a known souterrain (LH 004-001), was discovered during Phase 1 testing (Figs 1, 2, 3 and 4; Plates 1 and 2). The site lies in a dip on an east-facing slope at the edge of forestry. The initial impression given by the testing was of a circular deposit of burnt stone, 3m in diameter, underlying a grey, silty sand. A linear stone arrangement running northeast-southwest was also noted and it was suggested that this may have represented stone dumped from the disturbance of the souterrain by as nearby forestry track, or even be an infilled

souterrain passage. In the course of the excavation, twenty-three (one was a duplicate) contexts consisting of four cuts and nineteen fills or spreads were investigated (Appendix I).

### 3.2 Results

An area measuring 40 by 30m was stripped of topsoil by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and then cleaned by hand. The southwestern corner was not stripped because of its proximity to the souterrain and a waterlogged area on the eastern edge of the site could not be hand cleaned (Figs 4 and 5). The depth of topsoil removed varied from 0.4m to around 1m, suggesting that the ground here had been evened out at some time. Finds from the topsoil included various sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, including blackware, as well as a piece of thick, opaque green glass and four fragments of flint (Appendix II). The natural subsoil was a compact, orange-brown, very stoney, sandy silt (**024**), covered in places, particularly on the northern side of the site, by an alluvial layer of compact, orange-brown, stoney, slightly sandy, silt clay (**004**).

After cleaning, several features were revealed, which were all, with one exception, concentrated in the northern half of the site. The most striking of these was a stone-filled linear feature running east-west and appearing to cut a large spread of very stoney, light grey, silty sand which filled a slight, but distinct, damp hollow. There was a small patch of burnt stone within this spread, the remnants of that found during the testing phase. The nature of these features and their relationship was investigated by two box sections (Fig. 5).

Box Section 1 was excavated through the western end of the linear feature. It revealed that the feature was 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep here, with steep sides and a flattish base (**011**), cut through the alluvium. The fill consisted of medium to large stones in a loose, dark brown, gritty, silty loam matrix that contained one fragment of white unglazed crockery (**005**) (Fig. 6; Plate 3; Appendix II). This material, from which a small sherd of white-glazed pottery was recovered, also filled the feature in Box Section 2, where it was of a similar profile, 1.9m wide and 0.54m deep, here cut through the large spread (Fig. 7). This linear feature, almost certainly a modern field drain, could be traced for 33m across the site before it became indistinct, close to the eastern limit.

Box Section 2 was placed through the centre of the spread of grey sandy material, positioned so that it also cut through the deposit of burnt stone. It revealed that this spread was the result of successive episodes of dumping and silting (Fig. 7). Above the alluvium (**004**) to the south of the drain was a thin layer (average of 0.02m) of gritty silt with a large proportion of charcoal (**023**). This appeared to be an *ex situ* deposit that underlay a 0.3m thick deposit of soft, brown-beige, slightly sandy clay (**015**). This material was very clean with no stones and probably represents a water-borne deposit. Above this was a 0.16m thick deposit of black, gritty, greasy charcoal, which contained frequent

small burnt stones **(016)**. It was partly covered by soft, brown-grey, silty sand, 0.16m thick, with no inclusions **(017)**, probably deposited by water. This layer was discovered because of investigating **(016)** back from the section face and is probably localised.

Above these layers was a spread of clean, light grey, very sandy silt, packed with small to large stones **(001)** and covering an area some 22 by 5m, south of the drain. Although appearing homogenous in plan, in the section this deposit was 0.3m thick and contained pale orange and brown sub-layers. The stones must have been dumped here, while the clean, sandy silt matrix probably represents subsequent silting. Apart from its generally pale grey colour, this silt is very similar to the subsoil, and is probably derived from it, perhaps with the iron colouring washed out. Above **(001)** was a second layer of black, gritty, charcoal laden silt, containing burnt stones and one flint pebble with a possible flake removal **(002)** (Appendix II). This patch, the remnants of the area of burnt stone noted during the testing, was around 0.07m thick and covered an area 1.5m by 1m. It was very similar, if not identical to **(016)**, from which it was separated by the dumped stone **(001)**, suggesting that these episodes of dumping may have occurred in quick succession. A small chunk of flint, which may have been struck, was recovered from **(002)**. To the southwest of **(001)** was a deposit of moderately compact, yellow-brown, silty sand containing some occasional small pebbles **(020)**, probably washed in material, which contained a small pocket of soft, light grey, gritty silt **(019)**.

Above the alluvium to the north of the drain there was a deposit of compact light grey, gritty silt **(021)**, probably washed in, and a small dump of sandy charcoal with stones **(018)**. These deposits were overlain by a spread of compact, light grey, sandy, silty clay containing frequent patches of small to medium sized stones **(006)**. This was up to 0.15m thick and covered an area of 5.3 by 3m. Adjoining to the east was another spread of similar material, with smaller, more densely packed stones **(003)** (Fig. 5). These deposits are probably also the result of dumping and silting.

South of the drain there were two narrow, parallel, linear features also running east to west (Fig. 5). One **(008)** was 2.25m long and truncated by the hollow; the other **(009)** ran for 13m, both features being 0.5m wide and some 0.09m deep. They were both filled by a friable, mid-brown, sandy silt, containing frequent small stones and occasional flecks of charcoal **(007)** and **(010)**. These features can be safely interpreted as plough furrows.

The only feature on the south side of the site was an oval deposit, 2.75 by 1.65m of loose, brown, sandy silt with occasional small to medium sized stones and some charcoal flecks **(012)**. This filled an irregular hollow some 0.12m deep **(013)**, almost certainly the result of disturbance by tree roots (Fig. 5; Plate 4).

### 3.3 Summary

This site, close to a known souterrain, was situated at the edge of forestry in a dip on an east-facing slope, providing natural drainage from the hills above. An area measuring 40 by 30m was stripped of topsoil revealing a modern field drain running east to west, cut through stoney material, which had been used to infill a natural hollow prior to 19<sup>th</sup> century cultivation (Plates 5 and 6). This dumped material, which was heavily silted, also contained some burnt stoney material, which may be originally be derived from earlier, possibly even prehistoric, activity.

### 4 Discussion and Conclusions

The features found here lie in a dip in the slope, providing natural drainage for the hillside above. There was a natural gully at the edge of the forest to the west of the site, on the same alignment as the large linear feature, which must have continued across site and seems to have broadened out to form a damp hollow. It seems that this hollow was filled in with stone, probably prior the 19<sup>th</sup> century cultivation that is evidenced by the vestigial plough furrows and the pottery found in the topsoil. This infilling would have removed an obstacle to ploughing, while at the same time allowing the clearance of fieldstones and providing the area with drainage. This stone-filled hollow later silted up and a large field drain was cut through it, probably during forestry works. This may have happened around the time that the nearby forestry track was constructed. It is unlikely, however, that the fill of the drain is derived from the destroyed portion of the souterrain because the hill beyond the track rises steeply and it is unlikely that the souterrain extended into it. The small quantity of stone obtained from any destruction would be insufficient to fill the drain.

The dumped material includes two layers of charcoal-rich material containing burnt stone, which may have been contemporary but could also possibly be archaeological in origin. This material may have had a connection with the souterrain or could, since it contains burnt stone, be derived from a burnt mound, which may have previously existed close by. The flint, possibly stuck, found in this material could indicate a prehistoric origin and the pieces of flint found in the subsoil may be further evidence of prehistoric activity here. Whatever the case, this material was *ex situ* and all the activity here relates to 19<sup>th</sup> Century and later, with no evidence of any structures or activities connected with the nearby souterrain. All the archaeological issues relating to this site may therefore be considered resolved.

## 5 Recommendation

No further archaeological work is recommended for Site 103.

## 6 References

ADS

2003 Archaeological Development Services Ltd Health and Safety Manual. Compiled by Fergus Cooney.

2005 Archaeological Method Statements To facilitate Phase 2 works On the A1/N1 Newry – Dundalk Link Road Project Number A002/000, April 2005.

Borlase, W.

1897 *The dolmans of Ireland*. London.

Buckley, V. and P. Sweetman

1991 *Archaeological Survey of County Louth*. The Office of Public Works, Dublin.

Louth County Council

1997 Louth County Development Plan. Louth County Council, Dundalk.

McConway, L. and M. O'Rourke

2005 *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Volume 1 Archaeological Assessment Areas 7, 8 & 9*. Archaeological Development Services Ltd for Department for Regional Development, Roads Service. Belfast

RPS Ireland Environmental Services (RPS)

2002a *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Environmental Statement Environmental Impact Statement*, Volume 1 Main Text.

2002b *A1/N1 Newry-Dundalk Link Road Environmental Statement Environmental Impact Statement*, Volume 2 Appendices.



## Appendix I Context list

Context	Type	Description
(001)	Deposit	Light grey sandy silt alluvial layer under topsoil.
(002)	Deposit	Black compact burnt stoney layer, possible fulacht material.
(003)	Deposit	Dark brown silty top soil north of gully (011).
(004)	Deposit	Yellow-orange compact sub soil.
(005)	Deposit	Stoney fill of gully or drain (011).
(006)	Deposit	Mixture of (001) and (003) on north side of covering northern side of gully or drain. Stoney layer probably dumped material with silting.
(007)	Deposit	Fill of a possible agricultural furrow (008), brown silty.
(008)	Cut	Furrow east to west.
(009)	Cut	Furrow east to west.
(010)	Deposit	Fill of (009) dark brown silty with small pebbles.
(011)	Cut	Natural gully running east to west across the site filled by (005)
(012)	Deposit	Fill of tree root not of archaeological significance.
(013)	Cut	Tree root not of archaeological significance.
(014)	Deposit	Top soil.
(015)	Deposit	Light grey sandy silty fill.
(016)	Deposit	Black compact fill with stone sandwiched between (017) and (015), fills a natural depression.
(017)	Deposit	Light brown silty sandy fill below (001) and above (016) in a natural depression.
(018)	Deposit	Black burnt material under (006), small dump of burnt materials.
(019)	Deposit	Pocket of light grey silty clay within (020)
(020)	Deposit	Redeposited natural.
(021)	Deposit	Light grey silty gritty clay below (006).
(022)	-	Void same as (004).
(023)	Deposit	Black compact gritty fill below (015) appears dumped.
(024)	Deposit	Subsoil.

## Appendix II Finds

Context	Type	Description
(002)	Lithic	One flint pebble, with one possible flake removal (indeterminite)
(005)	Pottery	Fragment of white unglazed pottery.

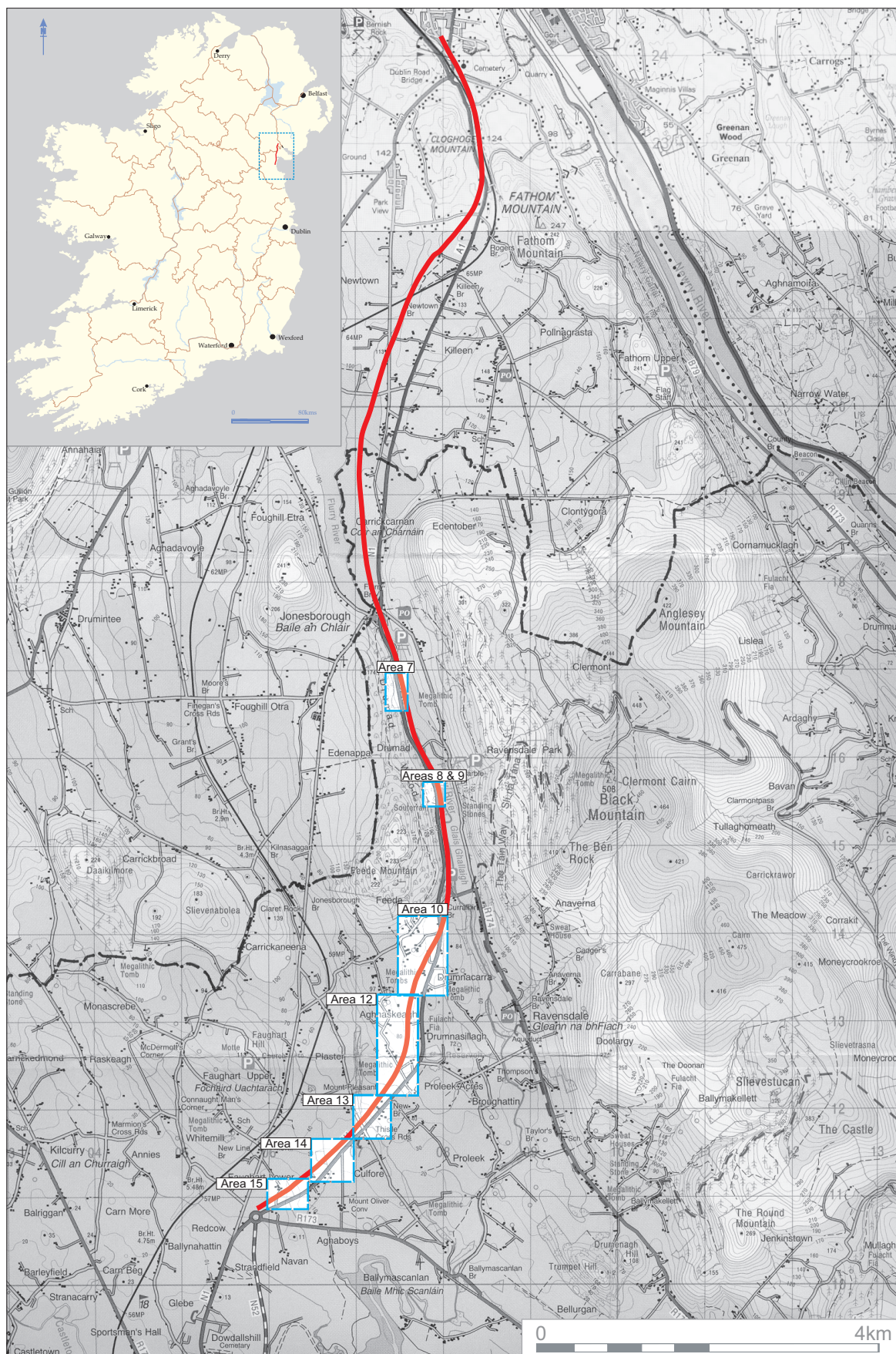
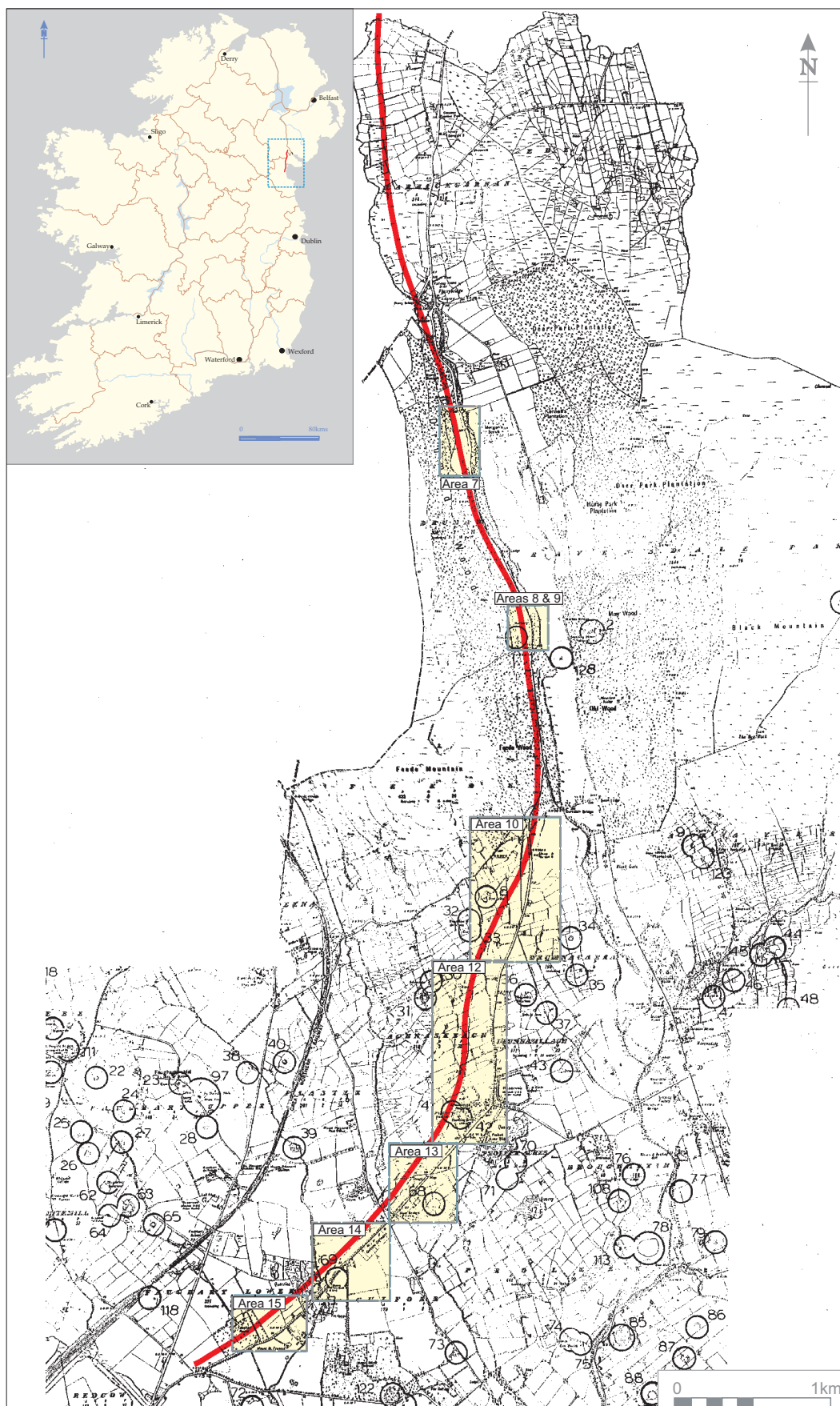


Fig. 1 Location plan for A1/N1.





**Fig. 2** Extract from RMP Maps of Louth, Sheets 1 & 4. A1/N1 in red. Scale as indicated.

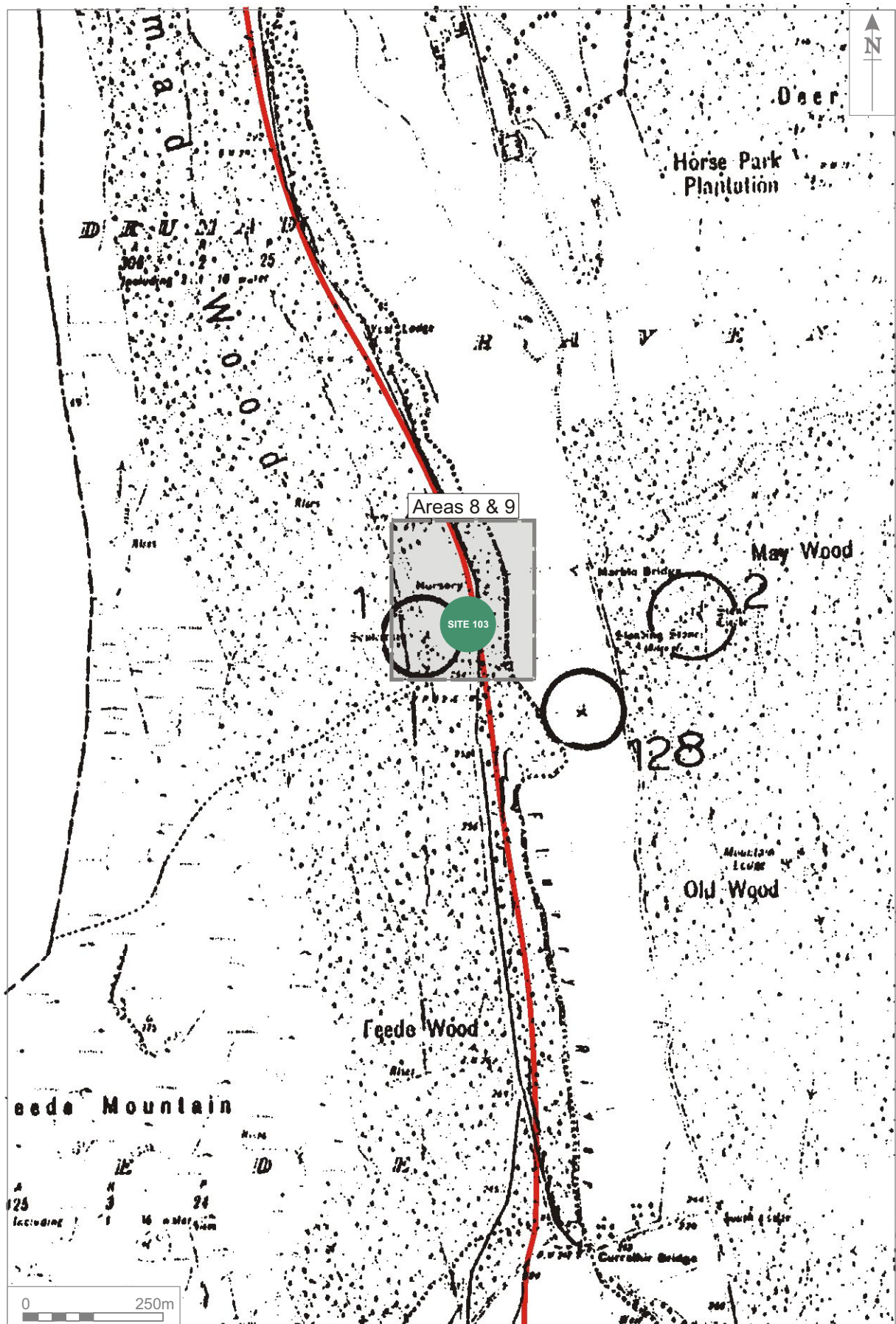
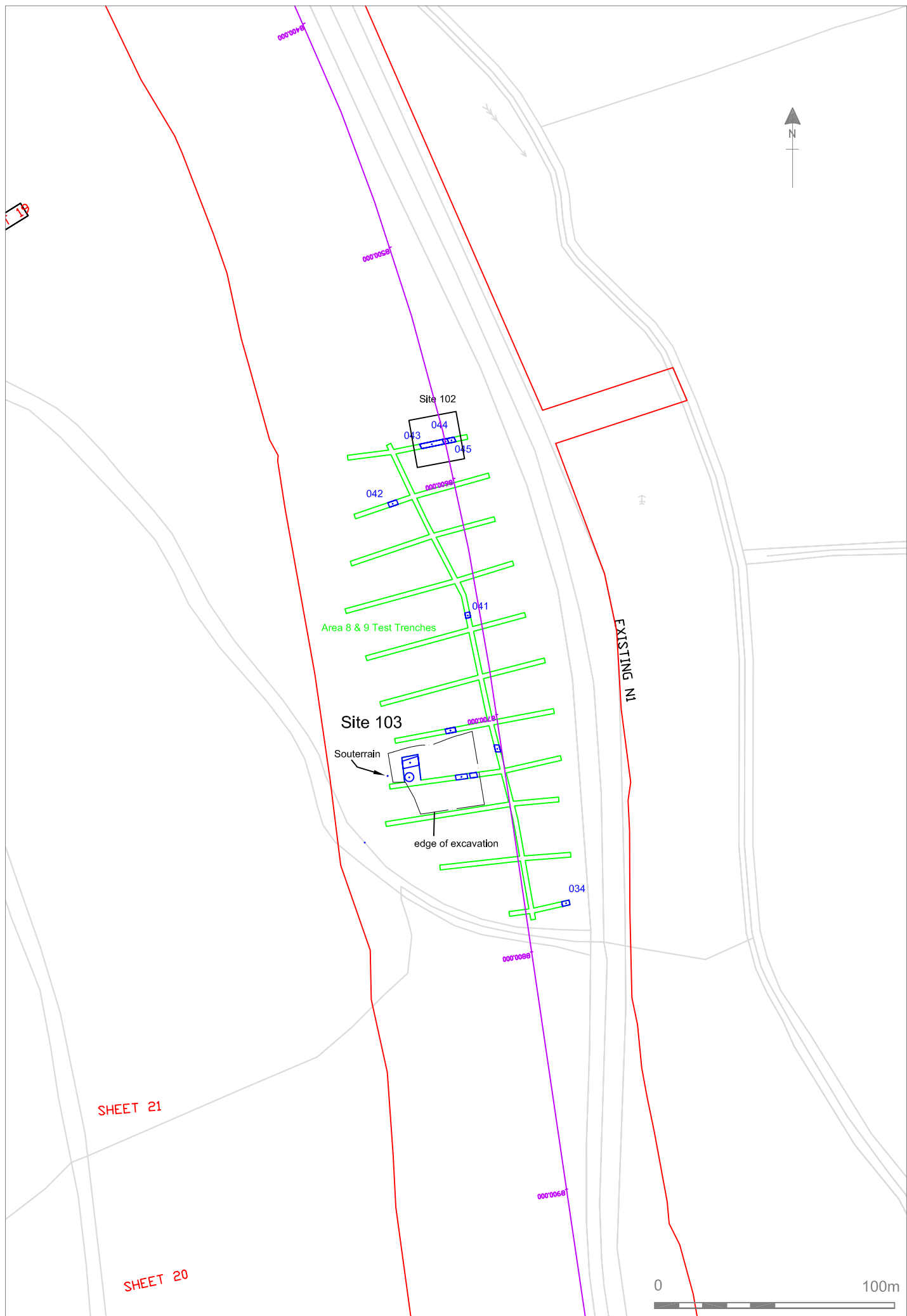


Fig. 3 Location of Areas 8 & 9 and Site 103 on RMP Maps of Louth, Sheets 1 & 4. A1/N1 in red. Scale 1:10,000.



**Fig. 4** Plan showing Areas 8 & 9, Site 103 and location of recorded souterrain (LH 041-001).



**Fig. 5** Plan showing Site 103. Scale 1:250

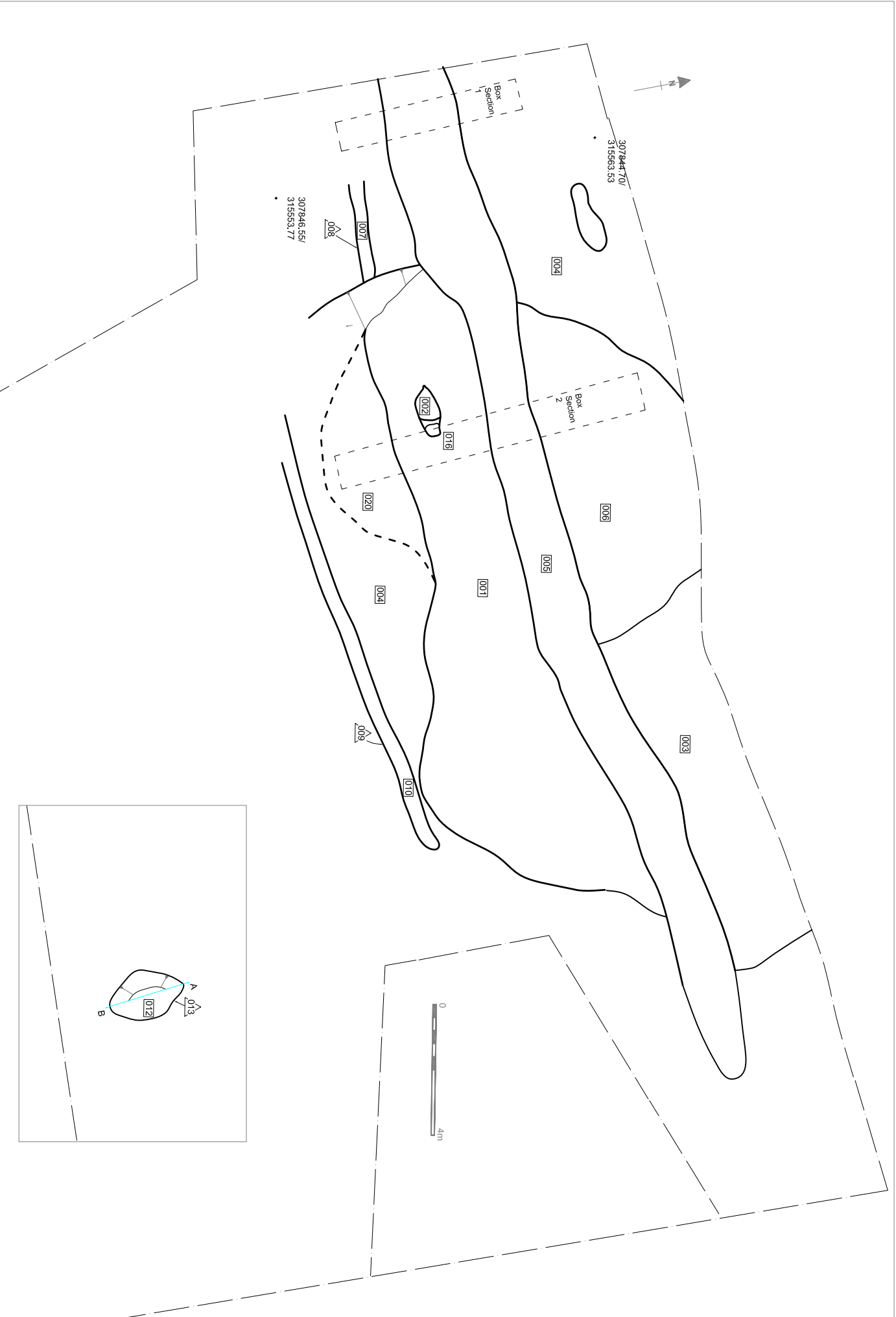


Fig. 6 Plan showing Site 103. Scale 1:150

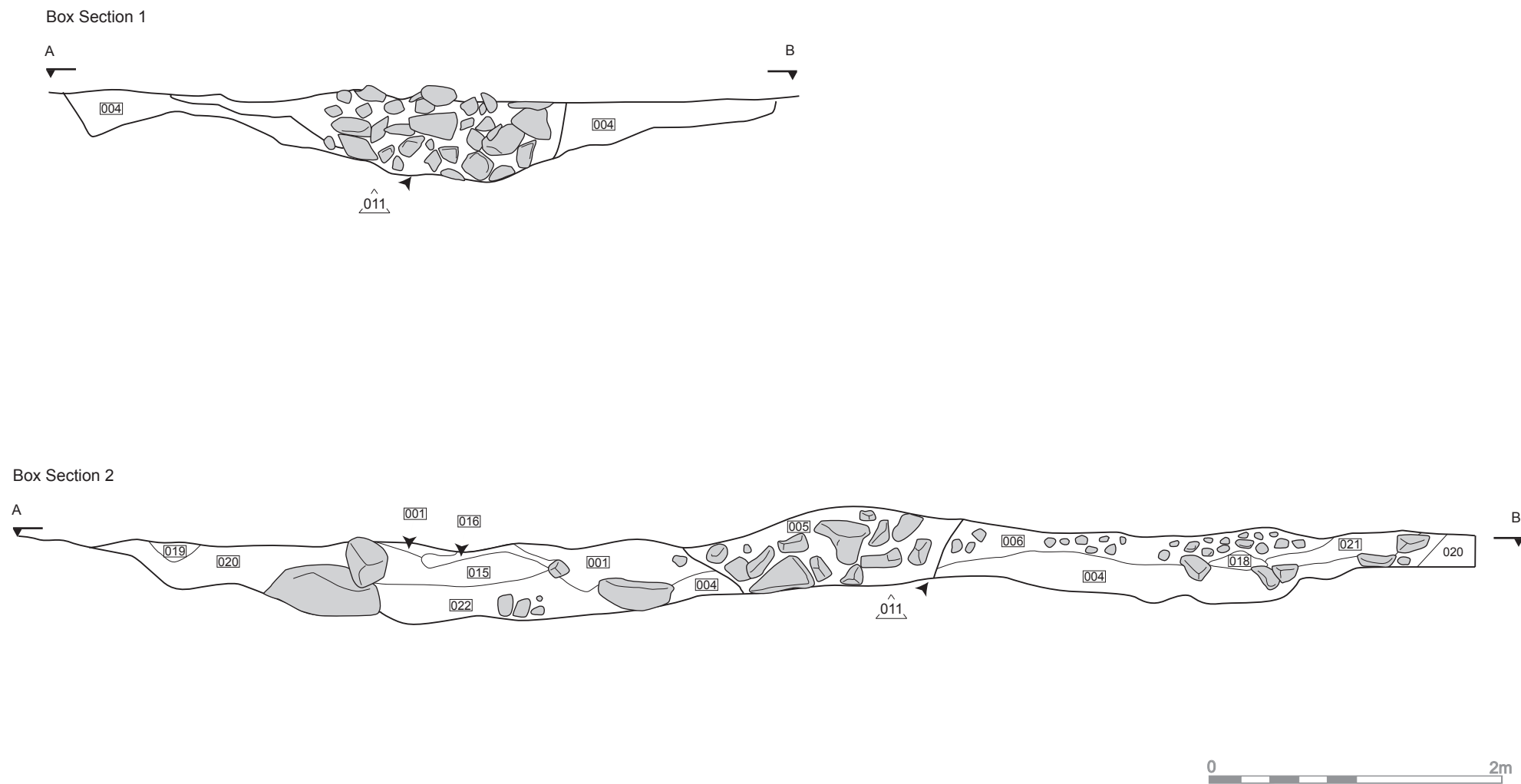


Fig. 7 Box section 1 and 2.





**Plate 1** Pre-excavation of Area 9 looking west.



**Plate 2** Pre-excavation of Area 9 looking east.



**Plate 3** Plough furrows (010) and (005) looking west.



**Plate 4** Section of natural depression (013) from the east.



**Plate 5** Post excavation to the east.



**Plate 6** Post excavation to the west.