

**Little Gight, Methlick, Aberdeenshire, AB41 7HU
Data Structure Report (DSR)**



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23 May 2018**



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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: top trench with location of souterrain (below Dutch barn); Bottom: flint blade from topsoil

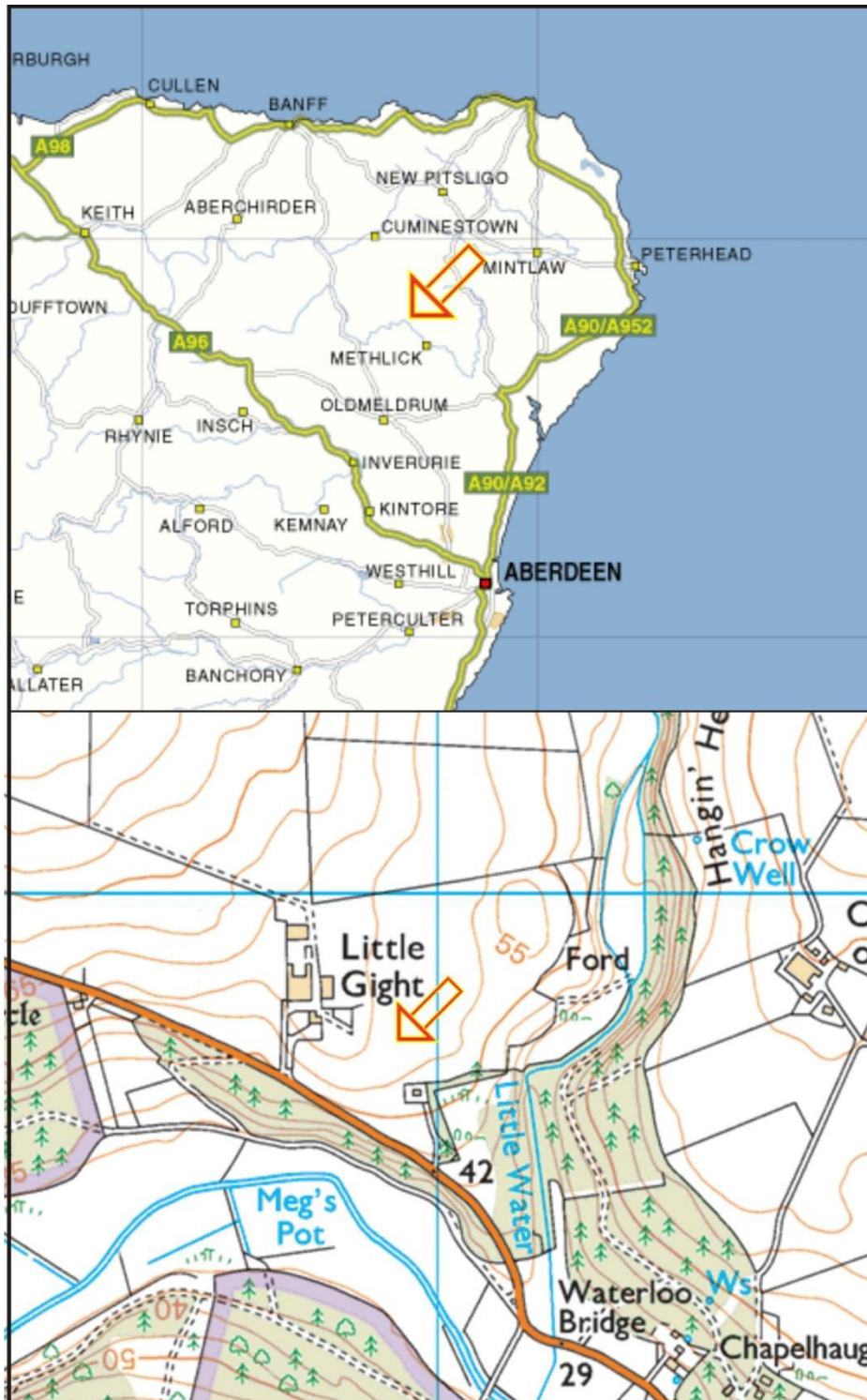
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SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out on 20 May 2018 during the excavation of a trench for a new underground electric supply to a cottage and a shed. Although there is a possible souterrain known in the NE of the field (on the E side of the Dutch barn), no archaeological features were identified during the watching brief. Two flints and a sherd of medieval pottery were recovered and the excavation of the trench is now complete.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located to the SE of Little Gight. It is at NGR NJ 83837 39918 (N end) NJ 84039 39632 (S end), at 45-65m OD in the parish of Fyvie.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by SSE. Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service require a watching brief during the excavation of the cable trench.
- 1.3 The work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.

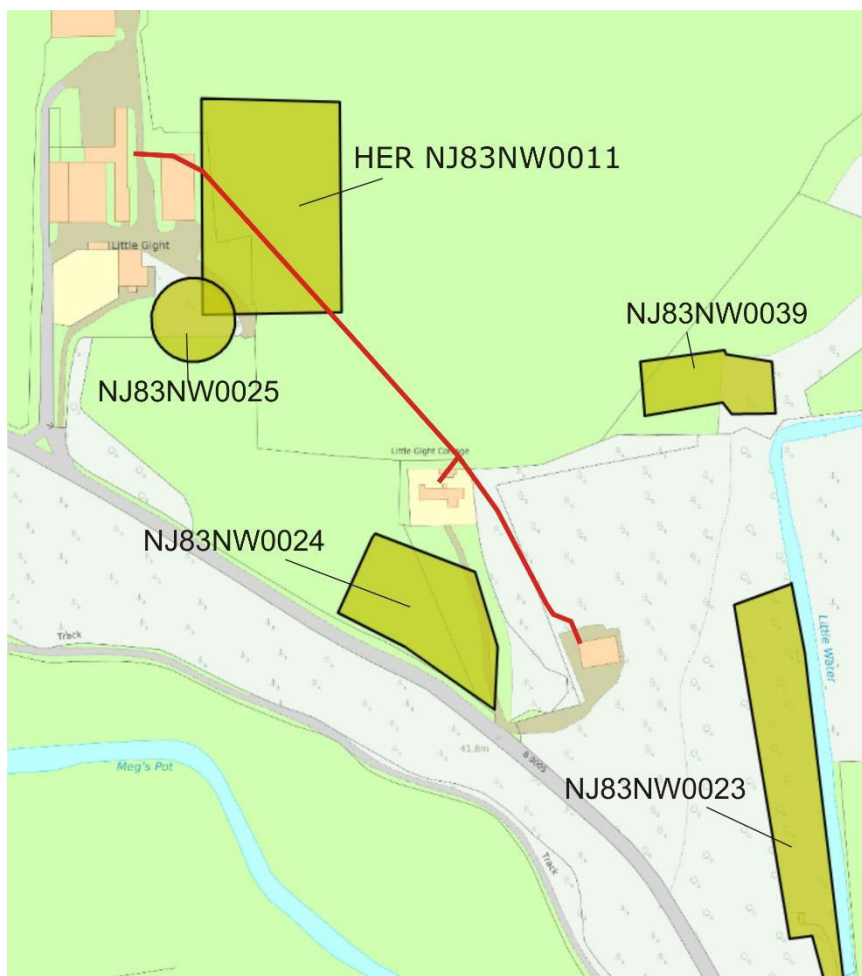


Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Historic Environment Record (HER) and Canmore (HES) were consulted online within 1km of the proposed development.

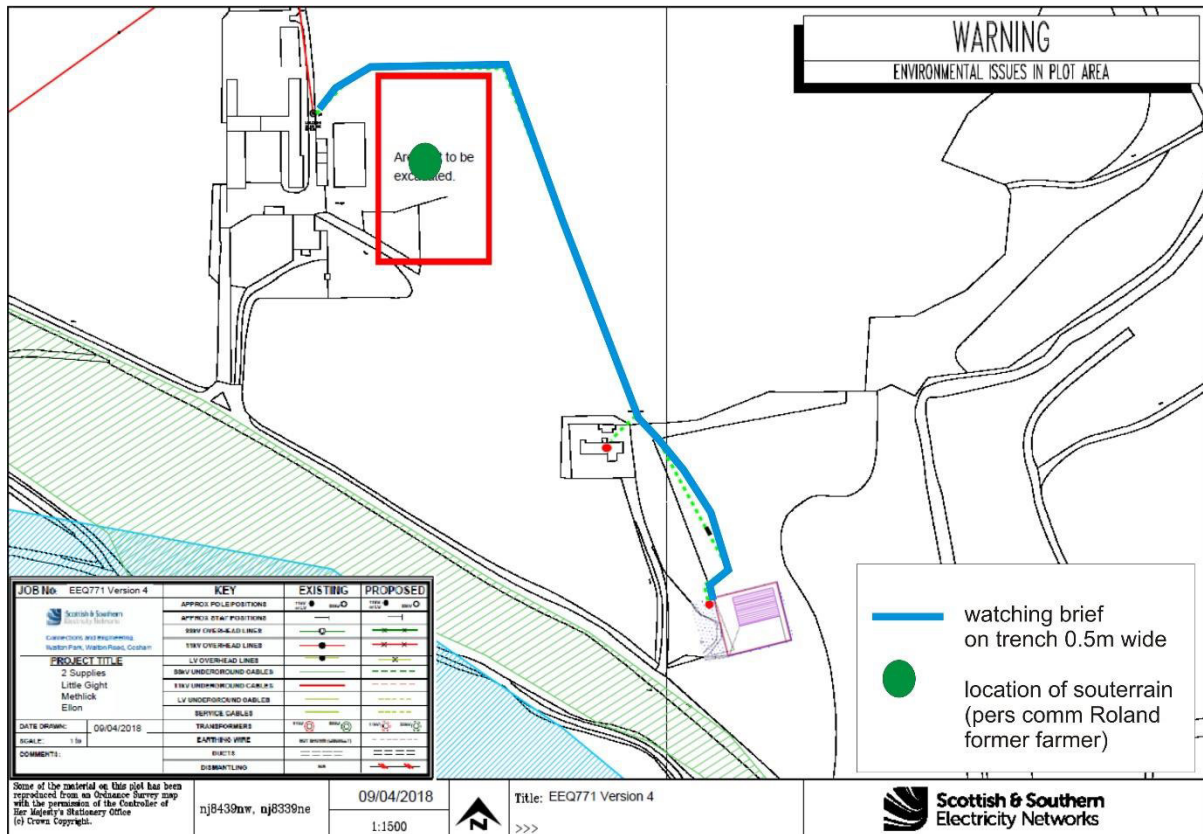
- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the proposed trench. There are several archaeological sites within the immediate vicinity of the trench. Immediately to the E of Little Gight, a souterrain (HER NJ83NW0011) was found c1869 then closed off; it was rediscovered in 1988 during ploughing when the plough dislodged a roof slab. A small excavation trench revealed walling on the E side and massive over slabs, the roofing apparently appears to be still in situ supported by walling (Shepherd, Barclay and Murray 1989, 19). A stony patch c3m in diameter lies 10m to NE. A spindle whorl (NJ83NW0025) was found in vicinity.
- 2.2 A number of flints have been found in field including thumbnail scrapers, suggesting a Mesolithic occupation site (HER NJ83NW0024); there is a particularly high concentration of microliths in an area to the SE.
- 2.3 Site of a now destroyed croft (HER NJ83NW0039) that is depicted as being roofless on the 1867 1st edition OS map (Illus 5). The map shows two rectangular buildings with an attached garden. By 1888 on the 2nd edition OS map (Illus 6) the buildings are once again roofed.
- 2.4 There is the remains of a sawmill at Little Gight (HER NJ83NW0023); one gable end and entry for shaft plus the wheel-pit is all that survives; mill race above stream (Shepherd 1989, 19).



Illus 2 Sites on the Aberdeenshire HER (copyright HES)

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was carried out on 20 May 2018 (Illus 3) during the excavation of a trench for a new underground electric supply to a cottage and a shed. A 14 ton tracked machine with 0.5m toothless ditching bucket removed the topsoil along the full length of the trench (Illus 3). The topsoil was shallow at the N end of the trench and the underlying geology is rock. The centre of the trench is rusty brown sand and rock natural with topsoil up to 0.5m deep; two flints and a sherd of very abraded 13-14th-century East Coast redware (Illus 4) were recovered from the S end of this field. The S field had very shallow topsoil with numerous rocks and a rock subsoil; this field is on a steep slope and has not been ploughed often (if at all). No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.



Illus 3 Site plan showing watching brief area (copyright SSE)



Illus 4 Two flints (left) and sherd of 13th to 14th-century east coast redware (right, very abraded) from topsoil

4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A watching brief was carried out on 20 May 2018 during the excavation of a trench for a new underground electric supply to a cottage and a shed. Although there is a possible souterrain known in the NE of the field (on the E side of the Dutch barn), no archaeological features were identified during the watching brief. Two flints and a sherd of medieval pottery were recovered but the trench is now complete.

5 REFERENCES

Shepherd, I A G. (1989) *Little Gight (Fyvie parish), sawmill'*, *Discovery Excav Scot*, 1989.

Shepherd, IAG, Barclay GJ and Murray JC (1989) *Little Gight (Fyvie parish), souterrain'*, *Discovery Excav Scot*, 1989

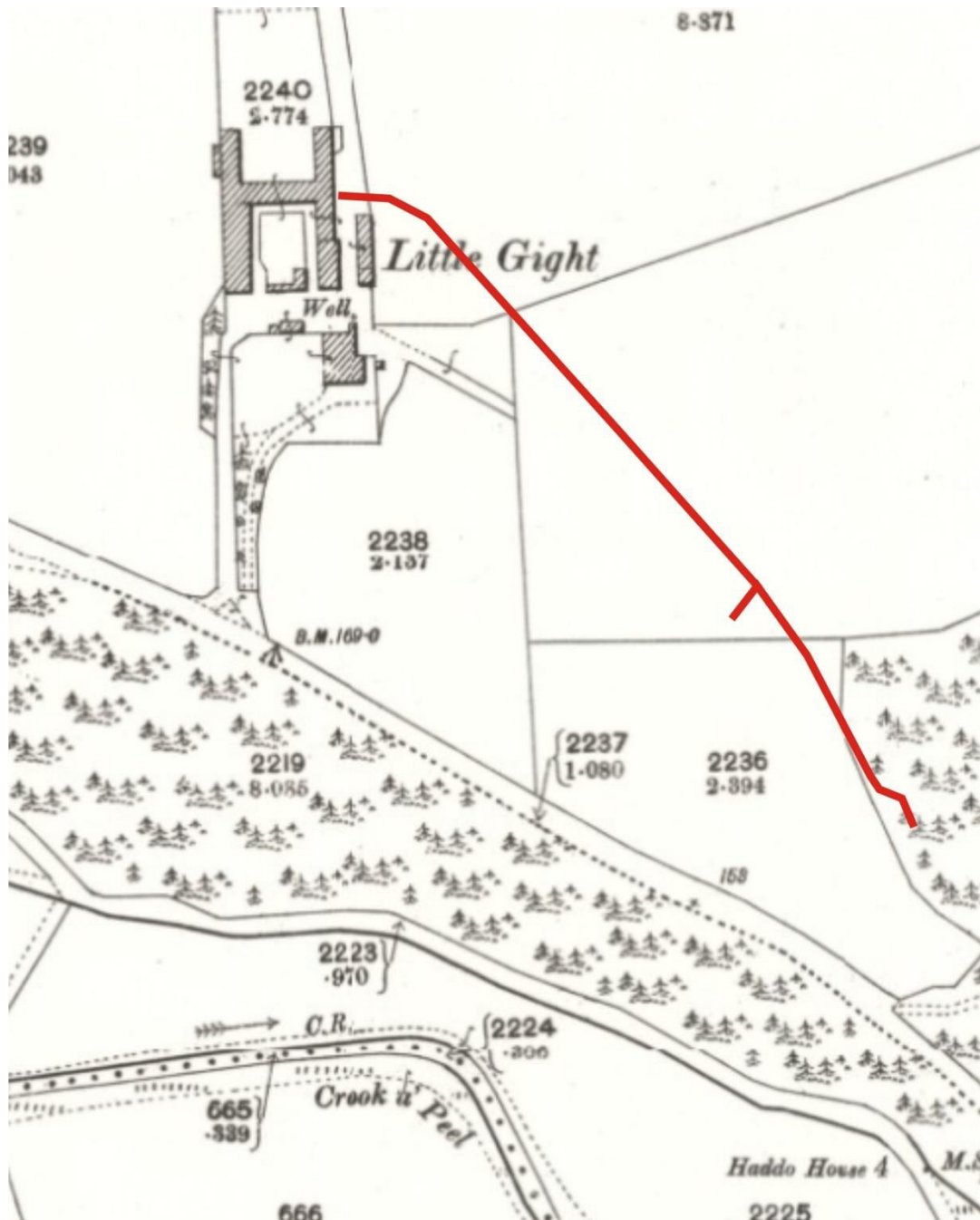
6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Nikki Black and Gavin Morrice, SSE for initiating this project, to farmer Alan Stewart and Ian Smith, Walter Smith & Sons on site and to Caroline Palmer, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during this work.

APPENDIX 1

Archaeological and historical sites within 1km of the proposed site (HES and Aberdeenshire HER online)

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name	OS NGR	Classification
HERABER	NJ83NW0039	Little Gight	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0025	Little Gight	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0011	Little Gight	-	Regionally Significant
HERABER	NJ84SW0028	Crow Well	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ84SW0021	St Devenick's Well	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ84SW0015	Mill Of Gight	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0016	Wood Of Wardford	-	Regionally Significant
HERABER	NJ83NW0050	Wardford	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0044	Chapelhaugh	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0002	Waterloo Bridge	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0023	Little Gight	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0024	Little Gight	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0057	Meikle Ardo	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0001	Badiebath Wood	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0048	Badiebath Wood	-	Standard
HERABER	NJ83NW0014	Badiebath Wood	-	Regionally Significant
HERABER	NJ84SW0046	Woodside	-	Standard
RCAHMS	19906	Mill Of Gight	NJ 84060 40690	Watermill (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	346878	Badiebath Wood	NJ 83180 39580	Hollow Way (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	19790	Glenhead	NJ 83190 39830	Hut Circle (prehistoric)
RCAHMS	347026	Badiebath Wood	NJ 83467 39662	Quarry Pit (roman), Rig And Furrow (medieval), Track (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	19795	Wood Of Wardford	NJ 83500 39100	Rig And Furrow (medieval), Braes Of Gight
RCAHMS	76155	Little Gight	NJ 83800 39800	Spindle Whorl
RCAHMS	173621	Little Gight	NJ 83800 39870	Farmhouse (period Unassigned), Farmstead (period Unassigned), Haddo House Estate
RCAHMS	19785	Little Gight	NJ 83900 39900	Souterrain (prehistoric)
RCAHMS	76156	Little Gight	NJ 83900 39600	Microlith(s), Unidentified Flint(s) (flint)
RCAHMS	19799	Waterloo Bridge	NJ 84080 39360	Arrowhead(s) (flint)
RCAHMS	76157	Little Gight, Sawmill	NJ 84100 39600	Watermill (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	19902	St Devenick's Well	NJ 84400 40410	Holy Well (period Unassigned)
RCAHMS	347701	Meikle Ardo	NJ 84777 39747	Farmstead (period Unassigned)



Illus 6 Second Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire XXIX.7 (Fyvie; Methlick; Monquhitter)
 Publication date: 1901 Revised: 1899

APPENDIX 3 PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo no	Description
DSC9657-9673	2 flints and medieval pottery
P5200902-909	N leg of trench with 0.2m topsoil on bedrock
P5200910-11	Middle section of trench in N field
P5200912	Trench location with Dutch Barn (left)
P5200913-14	Stones dumped on raised ground on E side of field S of Dutch barn
P5200915-19	N field S half of trench
P5200920-24	S field rocky shallow topsoil on rock



DSC_9657.JPG



DSC_9658.JPG



DSC_9659.JPG



DSC_9660.JPG



DSC_9661.JPG



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DSC_9666.JPG



DSC_9667.JPG



DSC_9668.JPG



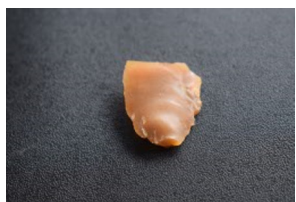
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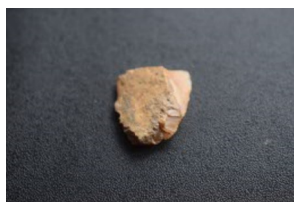
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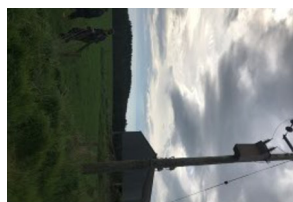
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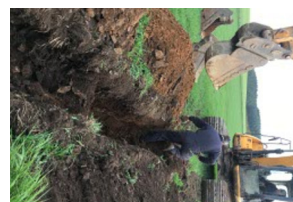
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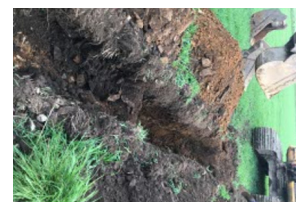
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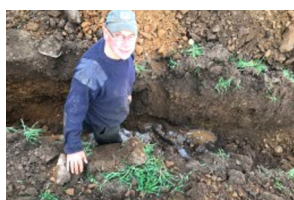
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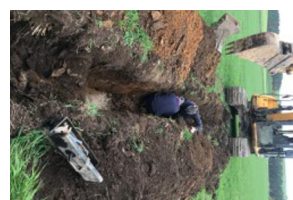
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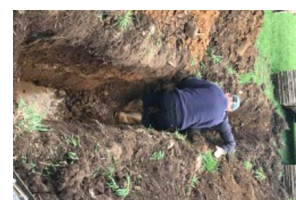
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