



Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 097

**Site 150m north of No. 45 Derryleckagh Road
Newry
Co. Down**

LICENCE NO.: AE/06/215

Brian Sloan

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 150m north of 45 Derryleckagh Road, Newry

Townland: Derryleckagh

SMR No. : DOW 051:009

State Care Scheduled Other [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: J 1243 2524

County: Down

Excavation Licence No. : AE/06/215

Planning Ref / No. : P/2004/2942/F

Date of Monitoring: 2nd November 2006

Archaeologist(s) Present: Brian Sloan

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 150m north of No. 45 Derryleckagh Road, Newry, Co. Down in response to a planning application for a new dwelling. A megalithic tomb known locally as 'the long lady's grave' (DOW 051:009) is situated approximately 70m south of the application site. The evaluation consisted of nine test trenches within the area of the proposed development. There were no archaeological features within the test trenches. A single sherd of nineteenth century ceramic and a sherd of a glass bottle were recovered, presumably derived from manuring with midden material. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

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

Size of area opened:

Nine trenches each approximately 2m wide and ranging in length between 45m and 80m.

Current Land Use: Pastoral / Agricultural

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located 150m north of No. 45 Derryleckagh Road, Newry, Co. Down. The site is situated approximately 4km south-east of the centre of Newry and approximately 4km south-west of Mayobridge (Figure One). The site lies 2km from the Derryleckagh Bridge which crosses the Clanrye River, and at a height of approximately 100m above sea level. The surrounding area is rich in archaeological monuments. A megalithic tomb (DOW 051:009), known locally as the 'long lady's grave' lies approximately 70m south of the application site. Other sites in the general vicinity include a rath (DOW 051:001), a 'horseshoe' shaped enclosure of unknown antiquity (DOW 051:010) and an enclosure marked on the 1931 OS 6"map (DOW 051:008) (Figure Two). The surrounding landscape consists predominantly of agricultural land, interspersed with dwelling houses. The field in which the application is situated is uneven. Numerous outcrops of the granite bedrock protrude from the ground surface, and a steep slope exists in the western corner of the field. These topographical aspects of the field affected the excavation of the trenches (in particular the positioning and length of Trenches 8 and 9). Nine trenches were positioned across the proposed application site, testing the area to be affected by the erection of the dwelling, detached garage and orchard (Figure Four).

The evaluation took place in response to a planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Stiofán Ó Cathmhaoil: Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage.

Excavation

The original research design for this project requested the supervision of nine mechanically-excavated trenches, five measuring 2m by 45m and four measuring 2m by 80m (Figure Three). The research design was revised in the field (Figure Four) due to the presence of a steep slope in the western corner of the application site. In all, seven trenches measuring 2m by 45m and two measuring 2m by 80m were excavated in the application site. All nine trenches were excavated to either the subsoil, which consisted of yellow-orange gritty clay, or to the granite bedrock where it came close to the ground surface.

Trench One

Trench One was situated towards the north of the application site. This trench measured 2m by 45m, and was excavated both to subsoil (Context No. 103) and bedrock (Context No. 104), where it came near the ground surface. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.35m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench One (Context No. 101) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This layer was, on average 0.25m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 102) and the granite bedrock (Context No. 104). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 102) was on average 0.10m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 102) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 103).

The subsoil (Context No. 103) in this trench consisted of a yellow orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones (average size 20mm by 15mm by 10mm) and larger pieces of granite (average size 50mm by 100mm by 100mm), which probably originated from the underlying bedrock. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench One.

Trench Two

Trench Two was located approximately 2m south of Trench One and measured 2m by 45m. This trench was excavated both to subsoil (Context No. 203) and bedrock (Context No. 204), where it came closer to the ground surface. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.45m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones (average size 40mm by 25mm by 20mm). A single sherd of nineteenth-century glazed ceramic was recovered from the topsoil in this trench. This layer was, on average 0.30m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 202) and the granite bedrock (Context No. 204). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 202) was on average 0.15m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 202) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 203).

The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 203) consisted of a yellow orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones (average size 30mm by 15mm by 15mm) and larger pieces of granite (average size 50mm by 100mm by 100mm), which probably originated from the underlying bedrock. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Two.

Trench Three

Trench Three was located approximately 2m south of Trench Two and measured 2m by 45m. This trench was excavated both to subsoil (Context No. 303) and bedrock (Context No. 304), where it came closer to the ground surface. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). A single sherd of nineteenth-century glazed ceramic was recovered from the topsoil in this trench. This layer was, on average 0.35m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 302) and the granite bedrock (Context No. 304). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 302) was on average 0.05m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 302) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 303).

The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 303) consisted of a yellow orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones (average size 20mm by 15mm by 10mm) and larger pieces of granite (average size 50mm by 100mm by 100mm), which probably originated from the underlying bedrock. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Three.

Trench Four

Trench Four was located approximately 1.5m south of Trench Three and measured 2m by 45m. This trench was excavated to subsoil (Context No. 403). The granite bedrock was not observed in this trench. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.30m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Four (Context No. 401) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones (average size 25mm by 25mm by 15mm). This layer was, on average 0.25m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 402). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 402) was on average 0.05m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 402) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 403).

The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 403) consisted of a yellow orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones (average size 20mm by 10mm by 15mm). Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Four.

Trench Five

Trench Five was located approximately 2m south of Trench Four and measured 2m by 45m. This trench was excavated both to subsoil (Context No. 503) and bedrock (Context No. 504), where it came close to the ground surface. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.35m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Five (Context No. 501) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones (average size 20mm by 30mm by 20mm). A single fragment of a glass bottle was recovered from the topsoil in this trench. This layer was, on average 0.30m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 502) and the granite bedrock (Context No. 504). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 502) was on average 0.05m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 502) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 503).

The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 503) consisted of a yellow orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones (average size 20mm by 15mm by 10mm) and larger pieces of granite (average size 50mm by 100mm by 100mm), which probably originated from the granite bedrock. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Five.

Trench Six

Trench Six was located approximately 2.5m south of Trench Five and measured 2m by 80m. This trench was excavated both to subsoil (Context No. 603) and bedrock (Context No. 604), where it came close to the ground surface. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.45m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Six (Context No. 601) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This layer was, on average 0.40m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 602) and the granite bedrock (Context No. 604). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 602) was on average 0.05m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 602) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 603).

The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 603) consisted of a yellow orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones (average size 20mm by 15mm by 10mm) and larger pieces of granite (average size 50mm by 100mm by 100mm), which probably originated from the granite bedrock. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Six.

Trench Seven

Trench Seven was located approximately 2m south of Trench Six and measured 2m by 80m. This trench was excavated both to subsoil (Context No. 703) and bedrock (Context No. 704), where it came close to the ground surface. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.45m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Seven (Context No. 701) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub angular stones (average size 35mm by 20mm by 20mm). This layer was, on average 0.40m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 702) and the granite bedrock (Context No. 704). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 702) was on average 0.05m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 702) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 703).

The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 703) consisted of a yellow orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones (average size 20mm by 15mm by 10mm) and larger pieces of granite (average size 50mm by 100mm by 100mm), which probably originated from the granite bedrock. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Seven.

Trench Eight

Trench Eight was located approximately 3m south of Trench Seven and measured 2m by 45m. The original research design for this project called for a total of four 80m long trenches in this area of the application site. However, this was revised in the field due to the presence of a steep slope and large outcrops of bedrock towards the south-western corner of the site. This trench was excavated both to subsoil (Context No. 803). The trench had a maximum depth of 0.30m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Five (Context No. 801) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This layer was, on average 0.23m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 802). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 802) was on average 0.07m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 802) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 803).

The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 803) consisted of yellow orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones (average size 30mm by 25mm by 10mm). Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Eight.

Trench Nine

Trench Nine was located approximately 3m south of Trench Eight and measured 2m by 45m. The research design had originally requested the length of the trench to be 80m. This was revised in the field due to the topography of the application site. This trench was excavated both to subsoil (Context No. 903) and bedrock (Context No. 904), where it came near the ground surface. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.38m.

The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Nine (Context No. 901) consisted of a compact, light brown sandy loam which contained frequent angular and sub-angular stones (average size 25mm by 25mm by 10mm). This layer was, on average 0.26m thick. The sod and topsoil directly overlay a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (Context No. 902) and the granite bedrock (Context No. 904). The orange brown sandy loam (Context No. 902) was on average 0.12m thick and contained infrequent inclusions of small rounded stones (average size 20mm by 25mm by 15mm). This deposit was interpreted as plough soil. The plough soil (Context No. 902) directly overlay the subsoil (Context No. 903).

The subsoil in this trench (Context No. 903) consisted of a yellow orange gritty clay with infrequent inclusions of small angular stones (average size 20mm by 15mm by 10mm) and larger pieces of granite (average size 50mm by 100mm by 100mm), which probably originated from the granite bedrock. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in Trench Nine.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the nine test trenches. The nineteenth century ceramics are consistent with manuring with midden material. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at the development site. No publication is required, apart from a short summary in the annual bulletin of excavations.

Archive:

Finds:

The artefacts found during the evaluation are temporarily archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Photographs:

The digital images taken during the evaluation are currently archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed: _____ Date: _____

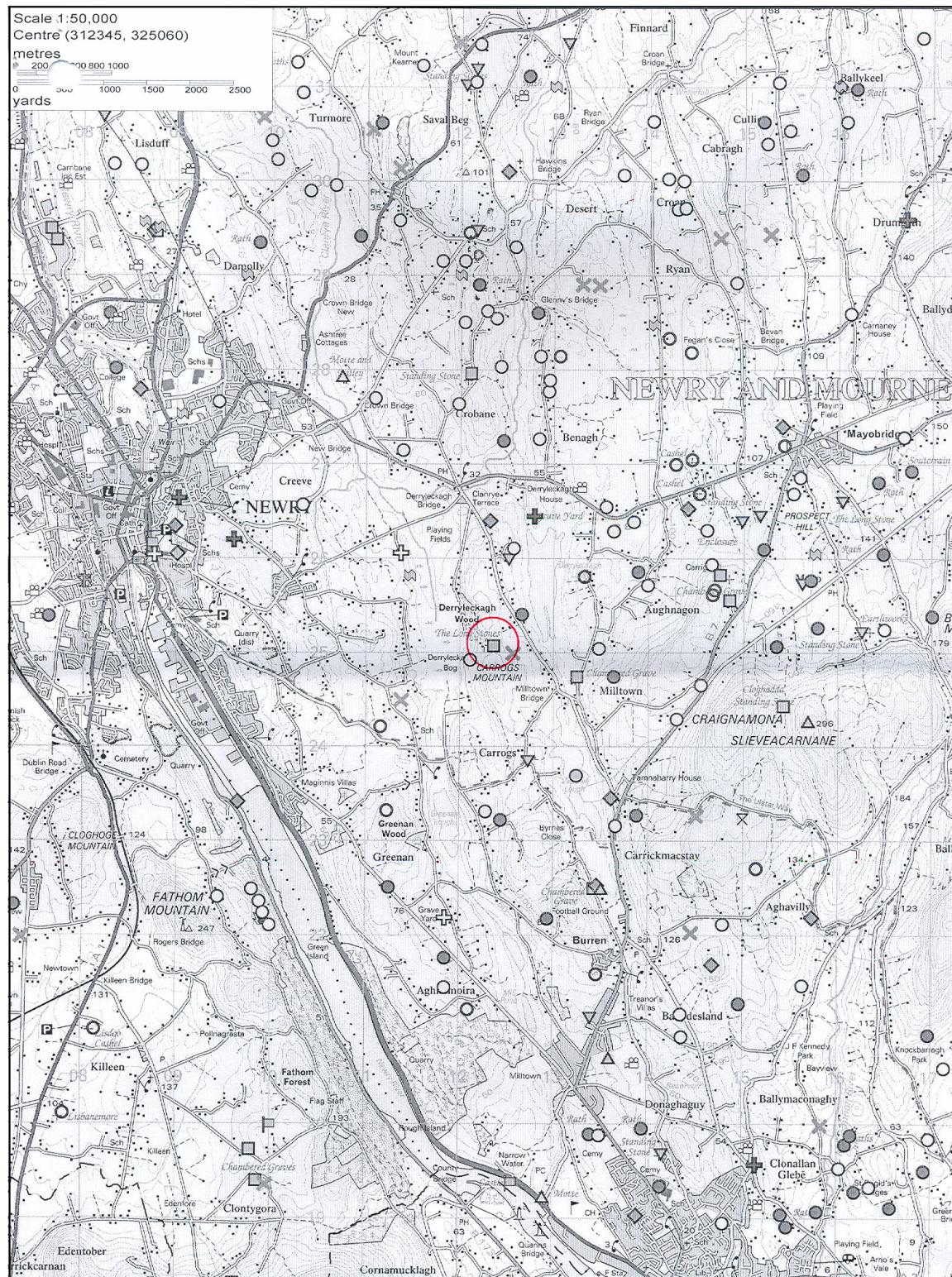


Figure One: General location map showing site (circled in red)



Figure Two: Detailed location map showing location of application site and archaeological sites in the surrounding area

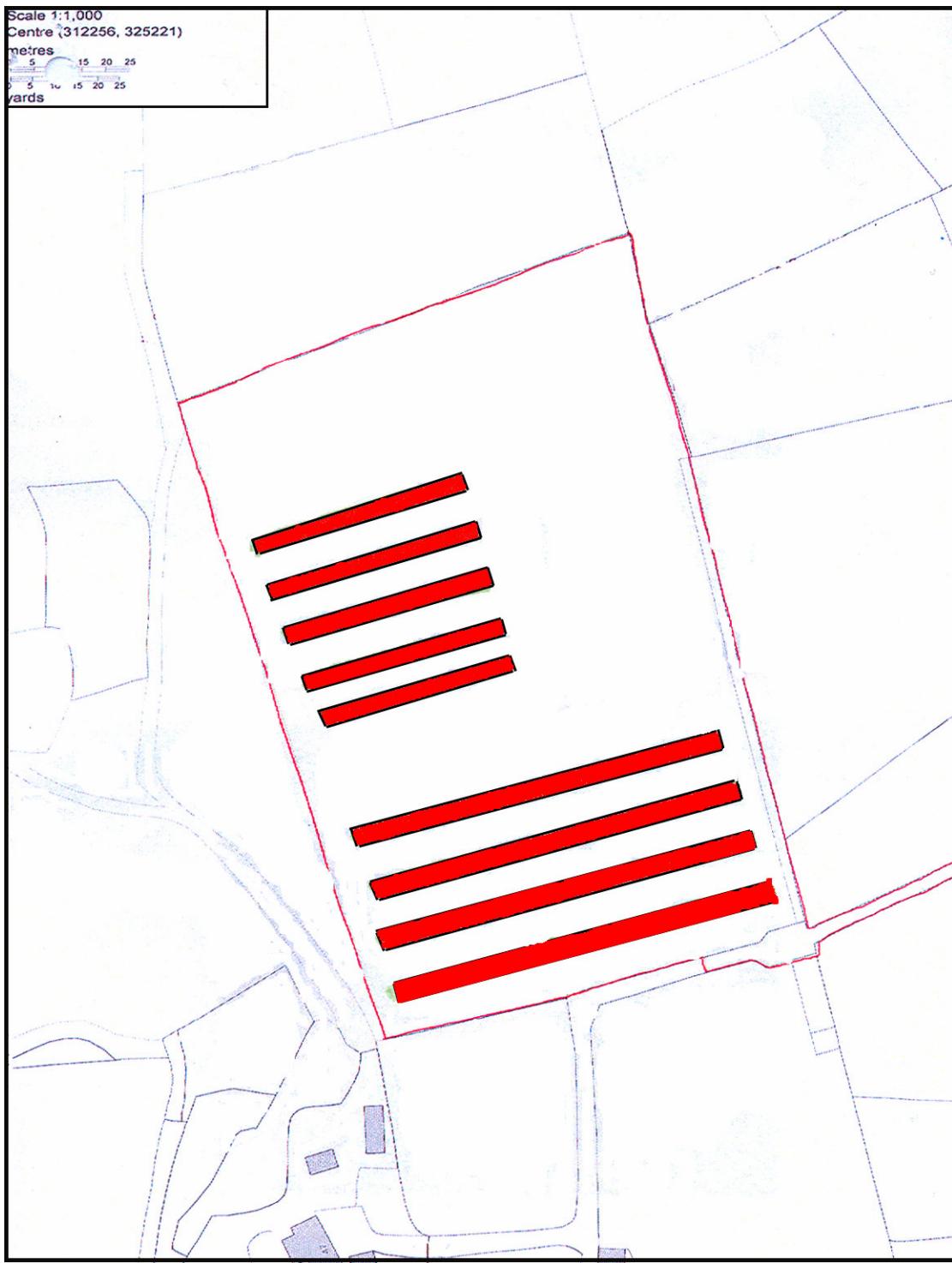


Figure Three: plan of application site showing proposed position and sizes of trenches.

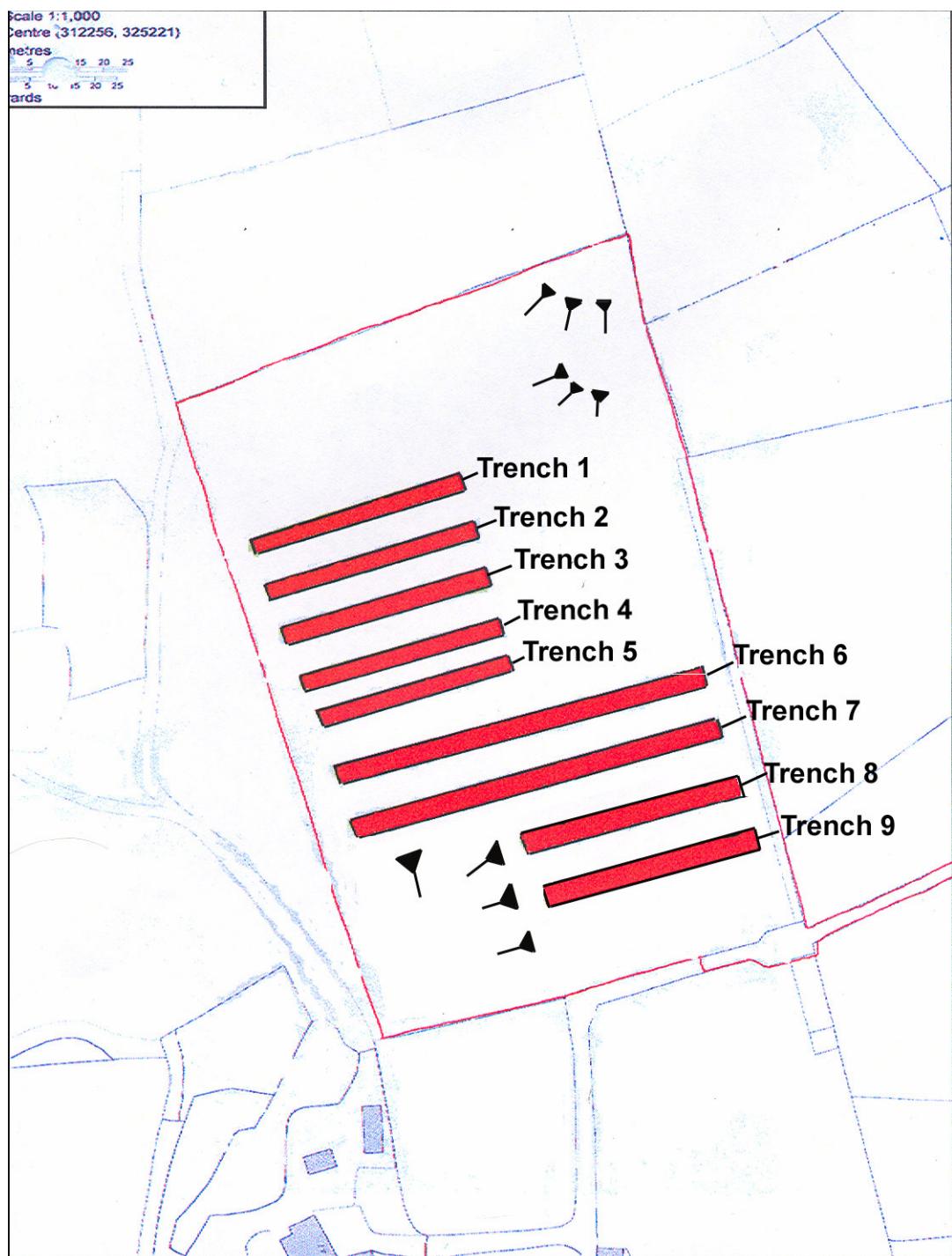


Figure Four: plan of application site (red line) with amended positions and sizes of trenches



Plate One: Trench One following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 103) looking west.

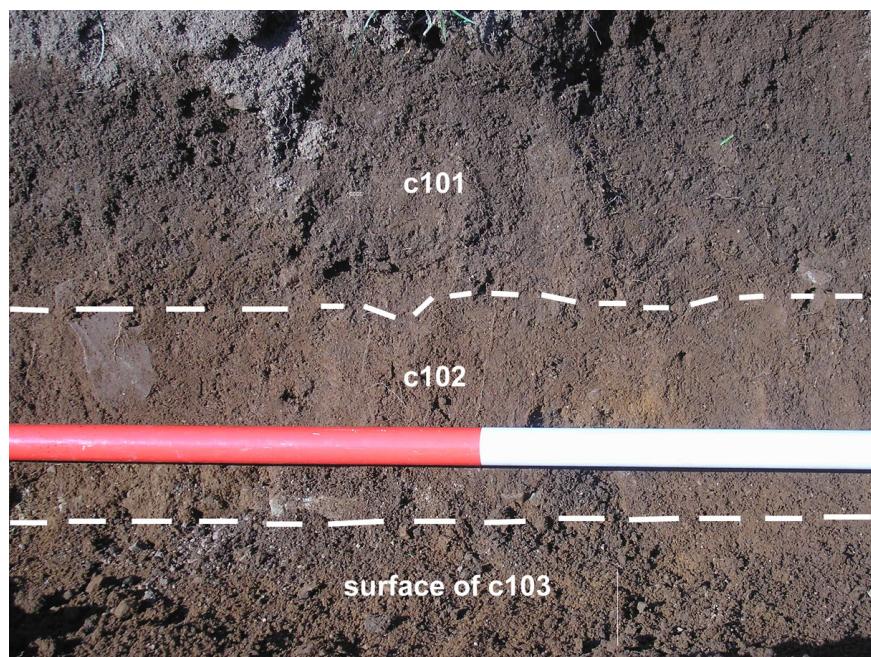


Plate Two: South-facing section of Trench One.



Plate Three: Trench Two following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 203), looking west.

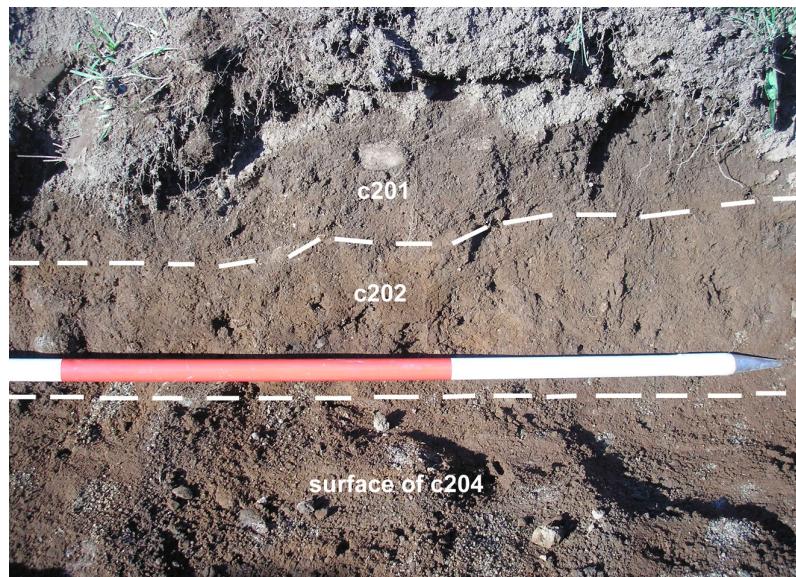


Plate Four: South-facing section of Trench Two.



Plate Five: Trench Three following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 303), looking west.

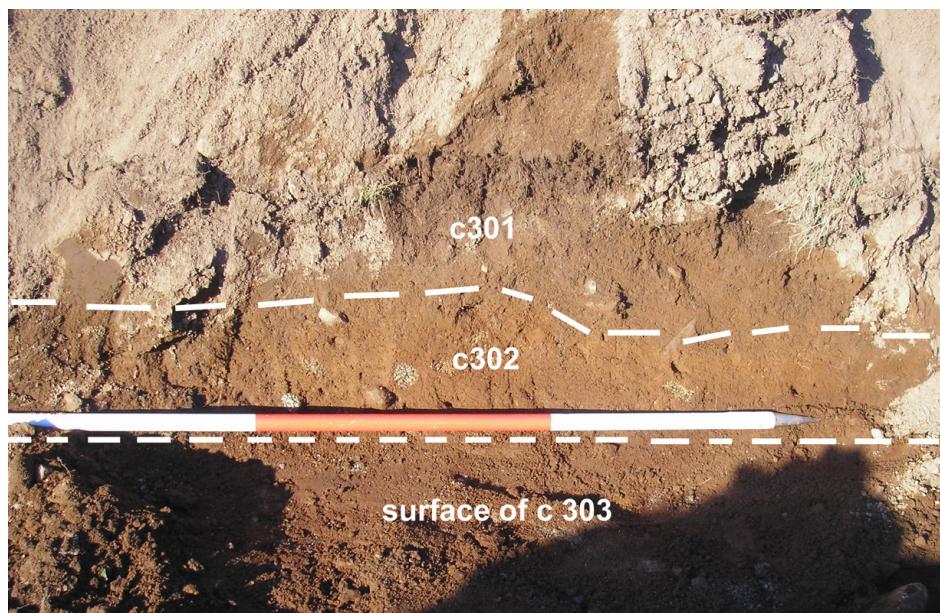


Plate six: South-facing section of Trench Three.



Plate Seven: Trench Four following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 403), looking west.

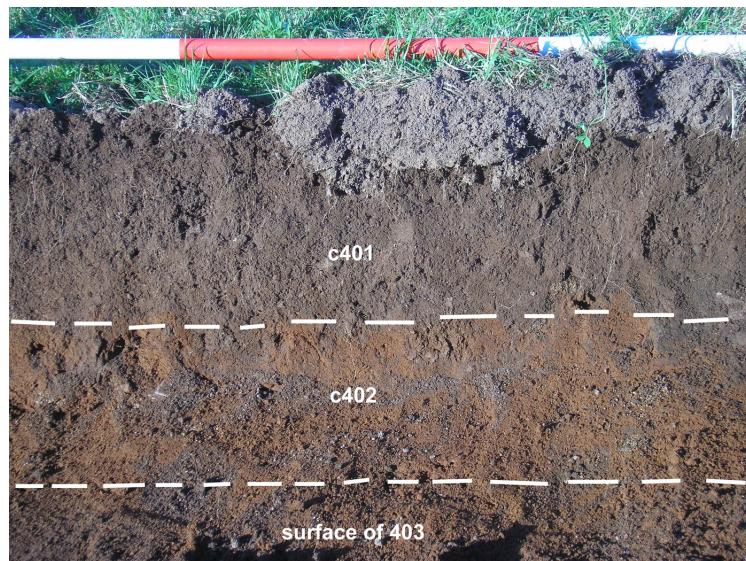


Plate Eight: South-facing section of Trench Four.



Plate Nine: Trench Five following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 503), looking west.

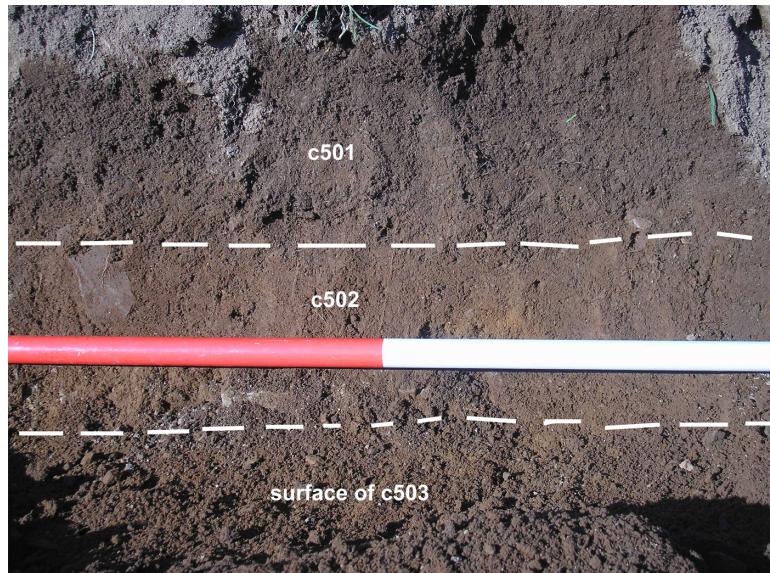


Plate Ten: South-facing section of Trench Five.



Plate Eleven: Trench Six following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 603), looking west.



Plate Twelve: Bedrock exposed in Trench Six, looking east.

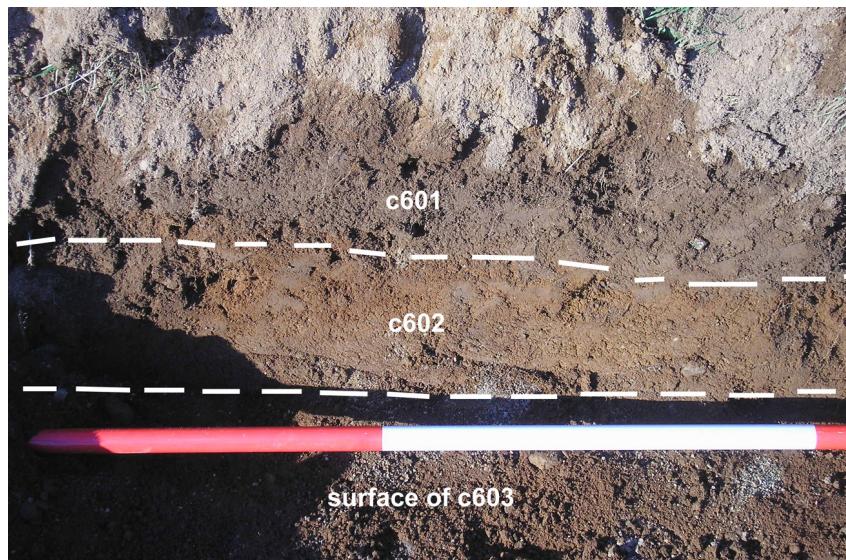


Plate Thirteen: South-facing section of Trench Six.



Plate Fourteen: Trench Seven to subsoil (Context No. 703), looking west.



Plate Fifteen: Bedrock exposed in Trench Seven, looking west.

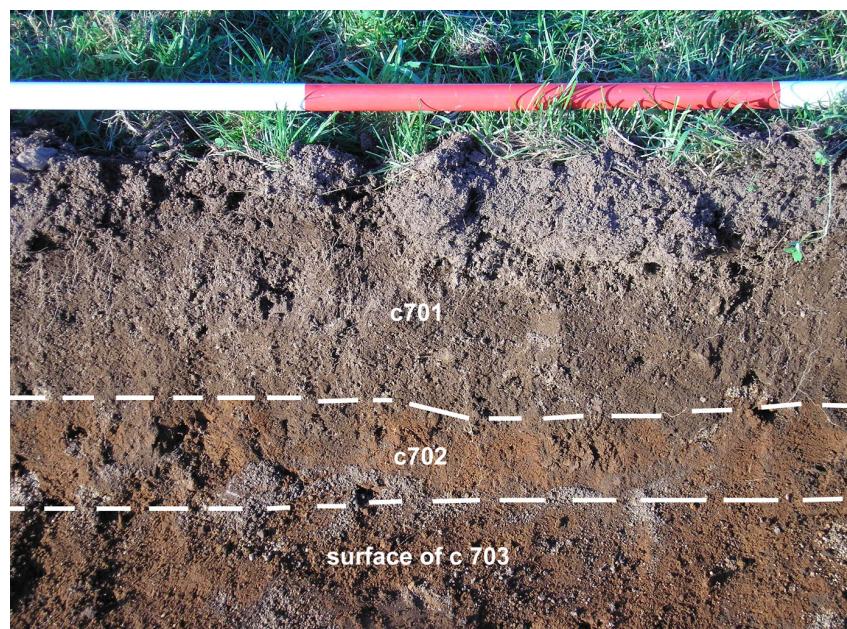


Plate Sixteen: South-facing section of Trench Seven.



Plate Seventeen: Trench Eight following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 803), looking west.

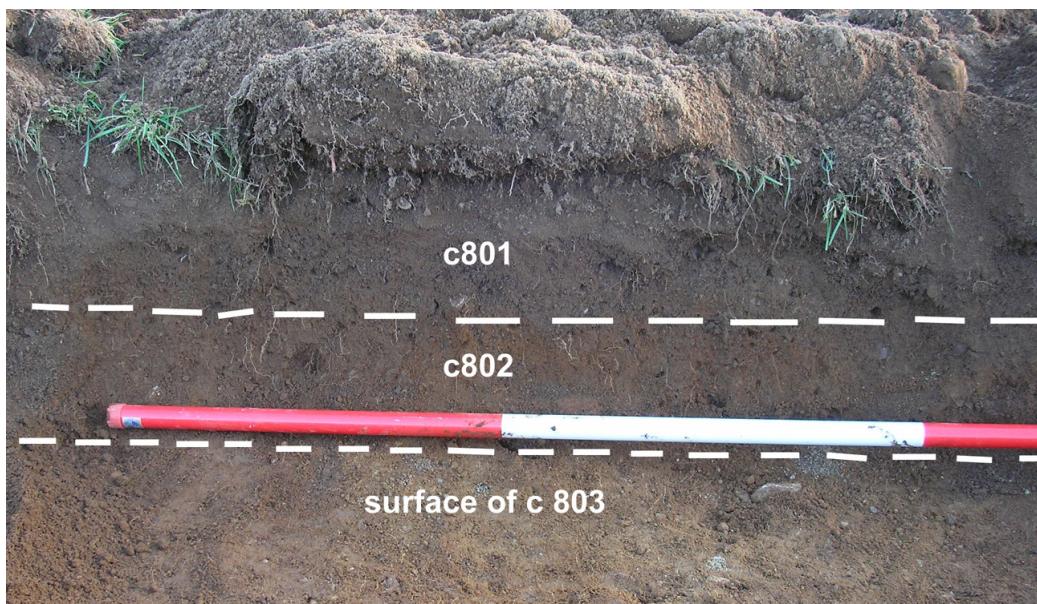


Plate Eighteen: North facing section of Trench Eight.



Plate Nineteen: Trench Nine following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 903), looking west.

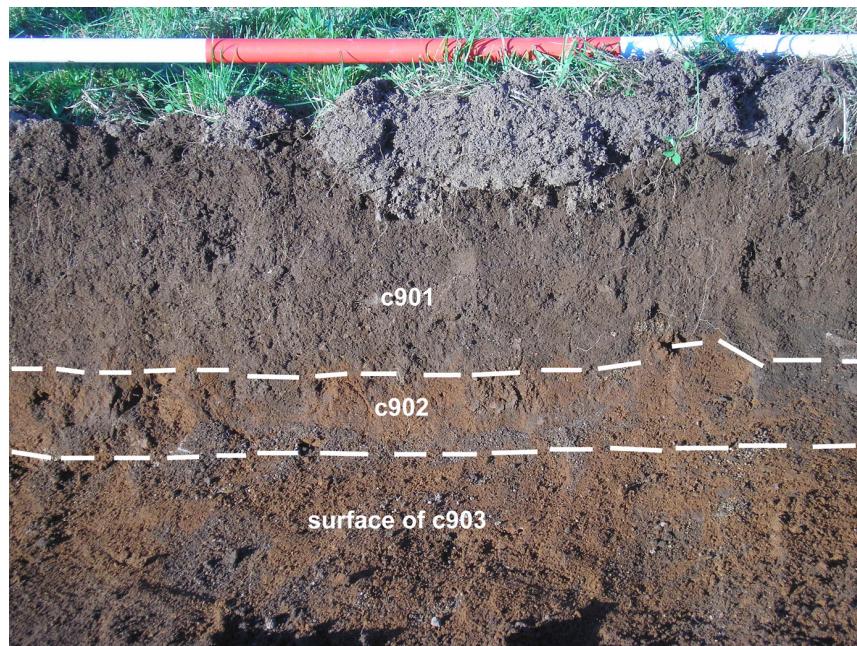


Plate Twenty: South-facing section of Trench Nine.