



**Monitoring Report No. 274**

**Site 285m South-East of 57 Manse Road  
Ballycarry  
Co. Antrim**

**AE/13/151**

**F/2010/0402/O**

**BRIAN SLOAN**

## Site Specific Information

*Site Name:* Site 285m south-east of 57 Manse Road, Ballycarry, Co. Antrim

*Townland:* North-West Ballycarry

*SMR No. :* ANT 047:064

State Care                      Scheduled                      Other    ✓                      [delete as applicable]

*Grid Ref.:* J4380094120

*County:* Antrim

*Excavation Licence No. :* AE/13/151E

*Planning Ref / No. :* F/2010/0402/O

*Dates of Monitoring:* 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September 2013

*Archaeologist Present:* Brian Sloan & Dermot Redmond

### *Brief Summary:*

The Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork was requested by the NIEA to carry out an archaeological evaluation at this site in advance of its proposed development. The proposed development lies adjacent to the supposed site of a graveyard, reputedly associated with the Battle of Alfracken in the late sixteenth century. As such, the evaluation was carried out in two stages: 1) the manual excavation of test pits (measuring 1m x 1m) along the proposed access route to the site (as this part of the development is closest to the site of the graveyard ANT 047:064) and 2) following nothing of archaeological significance being encountered in the testpits, the mechanical excavation of test trenches along the access lane and over the site of the proposed development. The excavation was continued to the surface of the natural subsoil, which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3 – 0.4m. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the evaluative exercise.

### *Type of monitoring:*

Mechanical excavation of four evaluative trenches following the manual excavation of five 1m x 1m test pits.

### *Size of area opened:*

A single trench along the proposed access lane measuring roughly 47m in length by 2m in width and three trenches measuring roughly 20m in length and 2m in width across the position of the proposed development.

### *Current Land Use:*

Greenfield site

### *Intended Land Use:*

Residential dwelling

## **Brief account of the monitoring**

### *Introduction*

The application site is located approximately 285m south-west of 57 Manse Road, Ballycarry Co. Antrim (Fig.1). The site lies just outside the village of Ballycarry, lying approximately 2km north-west of its centre and at a height of approximately 50m above sea level. The proposed development is located in a roughly rectangular field (Figs 2-3) adjacent to the remains of a possible Post-Medieval graveyard (possibly dating to the sixteenth century Battle of Altfracken), although little remains of this monument are visible today. The application site is currently utilized for pastoral agriculture. It is bounded on all sides by post and wire fences, trees and vegetation.

The monitoring took place as part of the planning application for the construction of a new dwelling and was requested by Andrew Gault: Caseworker with Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It was requested due to the proximity of the application sites to the supposed burial ground (ANT 047:064) and the possibility that there may be previously unrecorded remains associated with this monument.

### *Account of the excavation*

The possibility that human remains could be encountered (on account of the proximity of the proposed development to the burial ground ANT 047:064), dictated the manual excavation of a series of test pits along the access lane of the development (the area closest to the burial ground). The results of this exercise showed that it was unlikely that burials were present in this area and further mechanical investigation was carried out along the access lane and over the site of the proposed development. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the investigation. A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered during the evaluation, which is described in further detail below.

### *Test Pits 1-5 (Fig.4; Plates 1-7)*

A series of test pits were manually excavated along the line of the proposed access lane to the new development as it was deemed that this location would be the most archaeologically sensitive (on account the proximity of this area to the supposed site of the burial ground). A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered in all the test pits with the sod directly overlying topsoil which in turn overlay the natural subsoil. A mixed assemblage of finds was recovered from the topsoil deposits in all the test pits with flint fragments and modern ceramics accounting for the majority of the artefacts. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation apart from a single possible posthole encountered in Test Pit 4 (Plates 4 & 5). This feature (Context No. 404) measured 0.3m north/south by 0.2m east/west and had a maximum depth of 0.18m. It was filled by a sterile silty loam with occasional small angular stones throughout (Context No. 405). Further investigation by the mechanical excavator (during the excavation of Trench 6) showed this feature to be isolated and with the lack of artefactual evidence from the fill (Context N. 405) a date or function of the feature is difficult to ascertain.

Following the manual excavation of the test pits and the lack of archaeological deposits encountered, it was decided that the mechanical excavation of the test trenches could proceed.

*Trench 6 (Fig 4; Plates 8 & 9)*

Trench 6 was aligned south-west/north-east and measured 47m in length by 2m in width. The trench was located along the proposed access lane to the development and incorporated test pits 1-5. The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 603) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m and consisted of a reddish orange clay with the occasional protrusion of the bedrock visible. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (Context No. 602) directly overlying the natural subsoil (Context No. 603), with nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation of this trench.

*Trench 7 (Fig 4; Plate 10)*

Trench 7 was positioned approximately 6m to the north-east of Trench 6 and measured 19m in length by 2m in width. The trench was aligned south-west/north-east and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (a reddish orange clay - Context No. 703), which was encountered at an average depth of 0.35m. Again a simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (Context No. 702) directly overlying natural subsoil (Context No. 703) was encountered. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in this trench.

*Trench 8 (Fig 4; Plate 11)*

Trench 8 was positioned approximately 4m to the north-west of, and parallel to Trench 7. The trench measured roughly 21m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (a reddish orange clay – Context No. 803) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.25m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (Context No. 802) directly overlying the natural subsoil (Context No. 803) was encountered. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation of this trench.

*Trench 9 (Fig 4; Plate 12)*

Trench 9 was positioned approximately 3.5m to the north-west of, and parallel to Trench 8. The trench measured roughly 20m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil (a reddish orange clay – Context No. 903) which was encountered at an average depth of 0.2m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil (Context No. 902) directly overlying the natural subsoil (Context No. 903) was encountered. Occasional protrusions of the bedrock were noted in this trench. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during the excavation of this trench.

*Conclusions*

The manual test pits as well as the four evaluative test trenches excavated in the application area contained nothing of archaeological significance. It is not thought that the development of the dwelling will impact upon previously unrecognised and unrecorded archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that

no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out at either of the development sites. No publication of this work is merited save a short summary in the annual *Excavations Bulletin*.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* The artefacts recovered during the evaluative investigation are temporarily archived at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

*Photographs:* The photographs taken during the evaluative investigation are temporarily archived at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

*Plans / Drawings:* No plans or drawings were generated during the evaluation.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

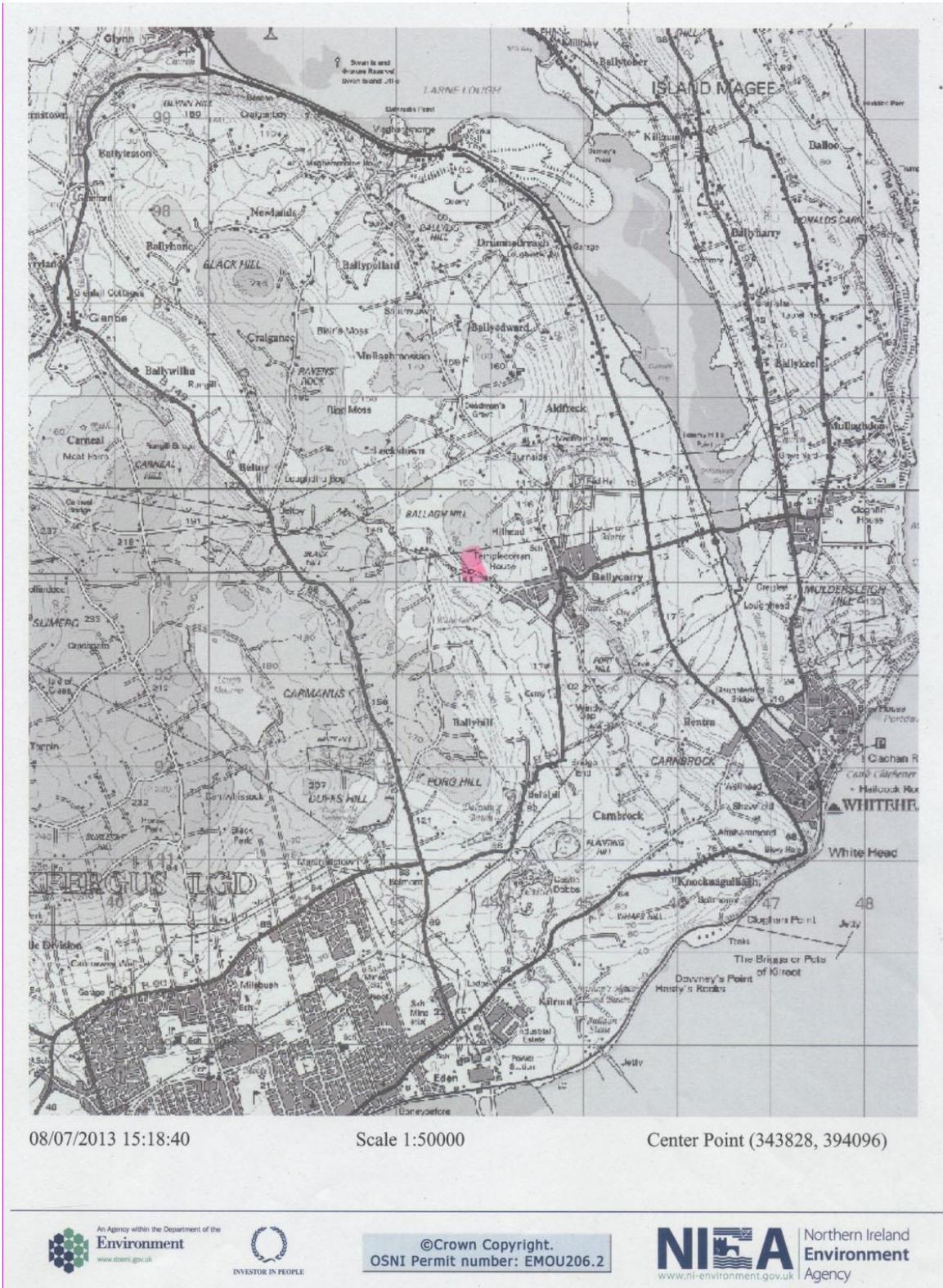


Figure 1: General map showing the location of the proposed development (F/2010/0402/O) (highlighted).

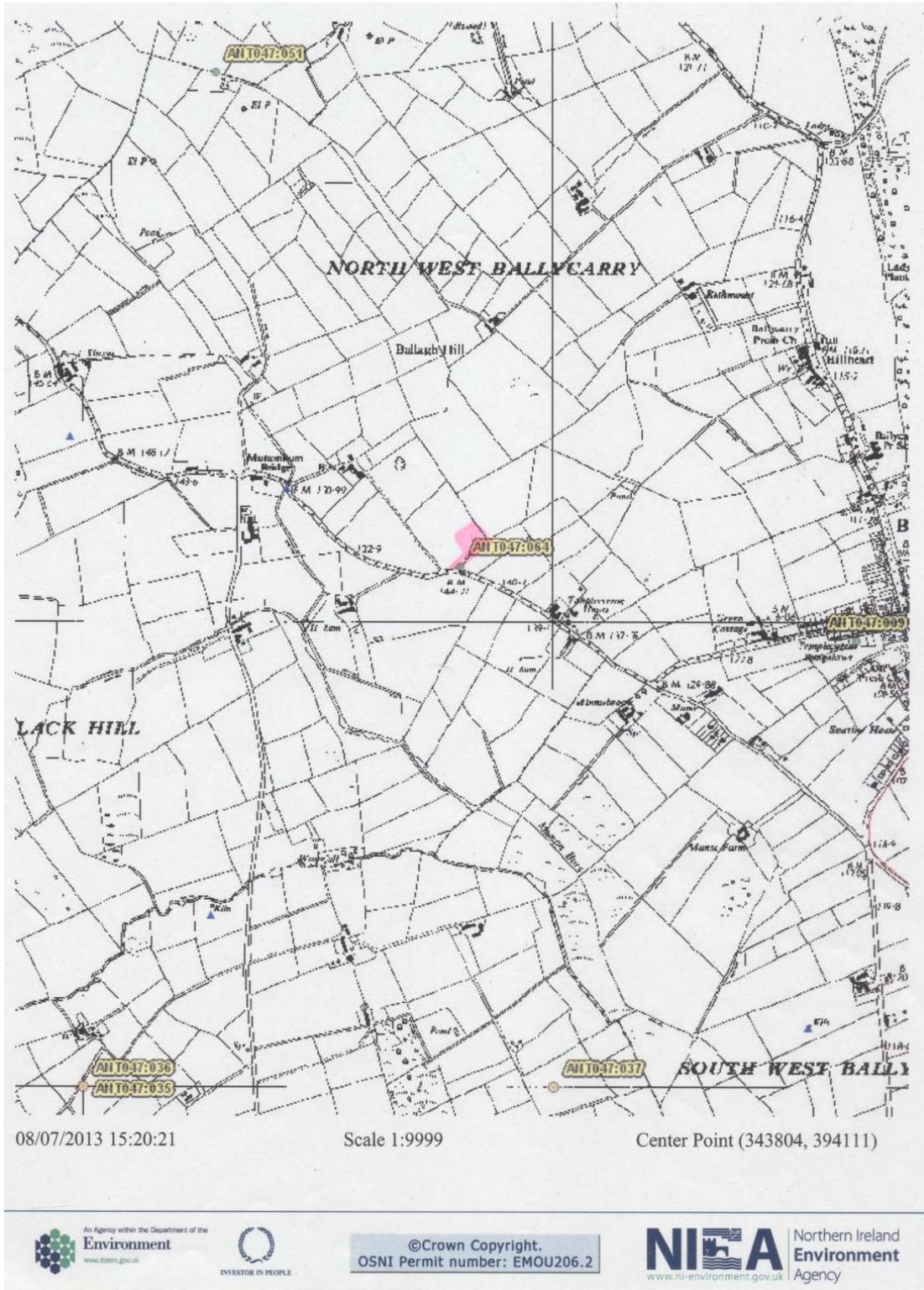
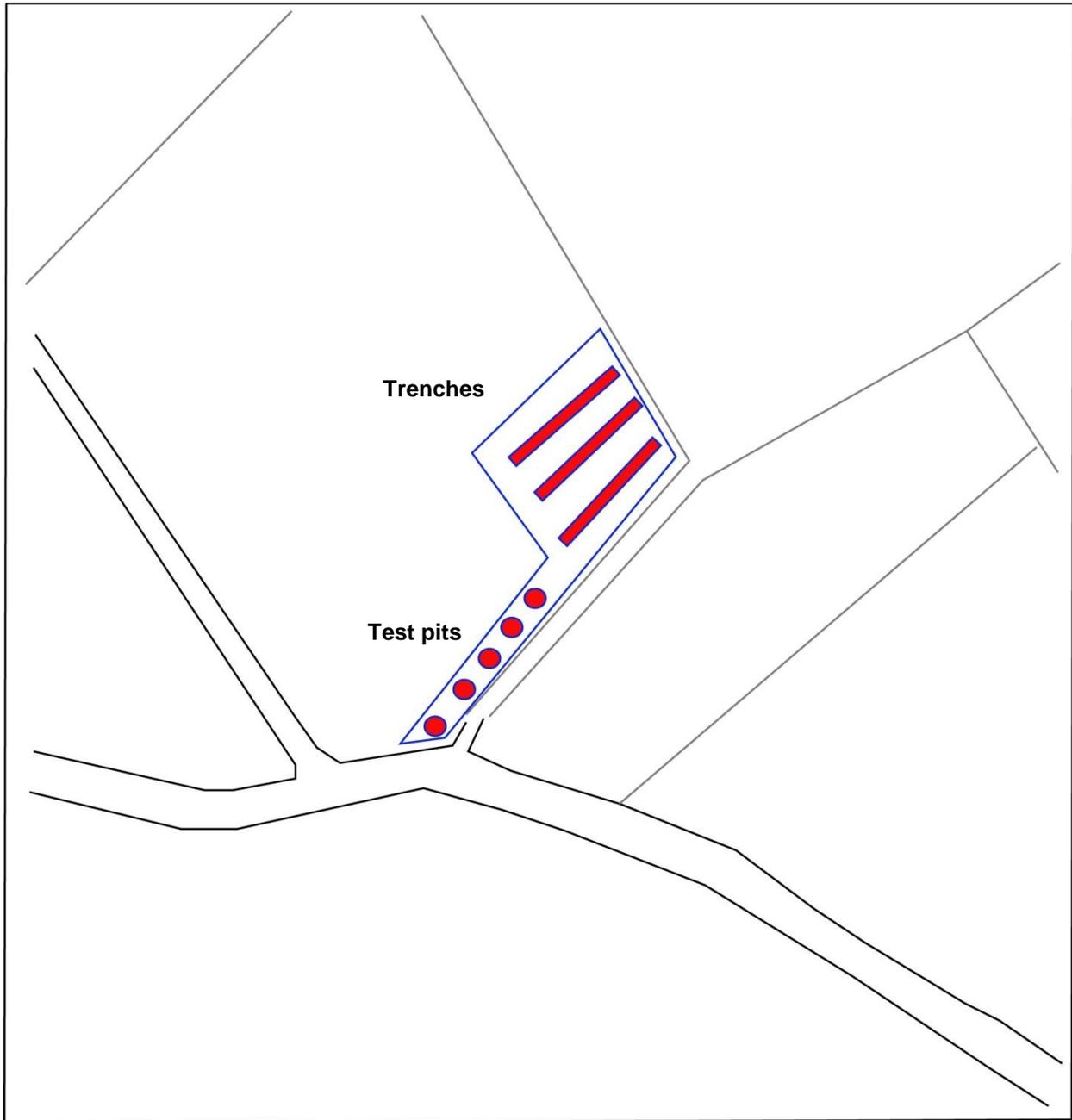


Figure 2: Proposed development site (F/2010/0402/O) (highlighted) with surrounding archaeological sites and monuments.



**Figure 3: Proposed development site (F/2010/0402/O) in relation to the location of a supposed burial ground (ANT 047:064).**



**Figure 4: Schematic plan of the development site (blue outline) showing the approximate location of the manual test pits (red circles) and mechanical test trenches (red rectangles).**



**Plate 1: Post-excavation view of Test Pit 1 looking west.**



**Plate 2: Post-excavation view of Test Pit 2, looking north.**



**Plate 3: Post-excavation view of Test Pit 3, looking south.**



**Plate 4: Post-excavation view of Test Pit 4, looking east.**



**Plate 5: Post excavation view of the possible posthole (Cxt No. 404) encountered in Test Pit 4.**



**Plate 6: Post-excavation view of Test Pit 5, looking north.**



**Plate 7: Overview of the manually excavated test pits, looking south-west.**



**Plate 8: Trench 6 mid excavation, looking north-east. Test Pit 1 is visible in the middle of the picture.**



**Plate 9: Trench 6 following mechanical excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Cxt. 603), looking north-east.**



**Plate 10: Trench 7 following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 703), looking north-east.**



**Plate 11: Trench 8 following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Context No. 803), looking north-east.**



**Plate 12: Trench 9 following excavation to the surface of the natural subsoil (Cxt. 903), looking north-east.**



**Plate 13: Overview of the proposed development site (F/2010/0402/O) following the evaluation, looking south.**