

Rec 24/09/03

NYCC HER	
SNY	8556
ENY	2169
CNY	
Parish	4899
Rec'd	24/09/03

NYE 2169  
NYS 8556  
4/899

**Scarborough Castle  
Scarborough  
North Yorkshire  
NGR TA 0510 8930  
SAM No. 0557**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**MAP  
Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.**

**July 2003**



**Scarborough Castle  
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North Yorkshire  
NGR TA 0510 8930  
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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
List of figures	2
List of plates	2
Non-technical summary	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Methodology	3
3. Results	4
4. Discussion	5
5. Conclusion	5

**List of figures**

	<b>Page</b>
1. Site location. Scale 1:25,000	6
2. Watching Brief Trench Location. Scale 1:500	7

**List of plates**

	<b>Page</b>
1. Trench 1. Facing South	8
2. Trench 2. Facing South-west	8
3. Trench 3. Facing North West	9
4. Trench 4. Facing South West	9
5. Trench 5. Facing South	10

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*Non-technical summary*

*A series of five trenches were excavated in the Inner Bailey of Scarborough Castle, prior to the installation of floodlight housing. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.*

**1.0 Introduction**

A series of ground works were undertaken in the Inner Bailey of Scarborough Castle during July 2003, prior to the installation of five floodlights (Fig. 1&2). A total of five trenches, which were located immediately to the east, west and south of the castle keep, were manually excavated to accommodate the floodlight housing. All of the trench locations had some obvious modern disturbance due to the previous installation of less substantial floodlights.

All excavation was monitored by MAP Archaeological Consultancy, on behalf of English Heritage.

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**2.0 Methodology**

Five trenches, each measuring 1.08m x 1.08m in area and 0.38m in depth, were excavated manually by building contractors under the supervision of the

archaeologist (Fig. 2). Each trench was inspected for archaeological features or artefacts, and a record made of the soil profile.

### 3.0 Results

#### *Trench 1 (Fig.2; Pl.1)*

The deposits encountered in Trench 1 comprised a yellowish brown friable sandy clay deposit, which was not excavated, beneath a mixed deposit of dark brown friable sandy silt with frequent moderate limestone and sandstone fragments, small rounded pebbles, and occasional clay inclusions. Finds from this deposit included frequent fragments of post-medieval pottery, animal bone and fragments of clay tobacco pipe and ceramic brick and tile. This deposit was 0.23m in depth, and was overlain by a turf and topsoil layer 0.15m in depth.

#### *Trench 2 (Fig.2; Pl.2)*

The deposits encountered in Trench 2 comprised a dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional moderate limestone fragments, measuring 0.23m in depth. Finds included frequent brick and mortar fragments, post-medieval glass and clay tobacco pipe. Above this deposit, which was not excavated to its' full depth, was a turf and topsoil layer of 0.15m in depth.

#### *Trench 3 (Fig.2; Pl.3)*

In Trench 3, a deposit of brick and limestone fragments within a dark brown sandy silt matrix, a minimum of 0.28m in depth, lay beneath by a turf and topsoil layer 0.10m deep. Finds from the lower deposit, which was not excavated to its' full depth, comprised several fragments of clay tobacco pipe and animal bone, in addition to a number of brick fragments.

#### *Trench 4 (Fig.2; Pl.4)*

The lower deposit encountered in Trench 4 was a mottled, yellowish brown friable sandy clay, containing pockets of pea gravel and clay tobacco pipe. This deposit was not excavated. Immediately above was a deposit of dark

brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone and sandstone inclusions, and small fragments of coal or coke. Finds from this deposit included fragments of post-medieval white glazed pottery, and clay tobacco pipe. It measured 0.28m thick, and lay beneath a turf and topsoil layer of 0.10m in depth.

#### *Trench 5 (Fig.2; Pl.5)*

The deposits encountered in Trench 5 comprised primarily of a dark brown friable sandy silt with frequent small sandstone inclusions and small rounded pebbles. This deposit measured 0.23m in depth, and finds recovered included frequent fragments of coal or coke, mortar, ceramic tile and brick, bone, clay pipe and post-medieval pottery. A layer of turf and topsoil 0.15m in depth lay immediately above this deposit.

## **4.0 Discussion**

In all five trenches a mixed deposit comprised primarily of building demolition material and post-medieval household waste was encountered directly beneath the turf and topsoil layer. This may represent the accumulation of waste material over time, but is most likely the result of landscaping activity during post-medieval renovations of the Castle.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

The excavation of five small trenches in the Inner Bailey of the Castle to accommodate new floodlight housing revealed a deposit of post-medieval demolition and household waste, with some modern disturbance by previously installed floodlight cables in each trench. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

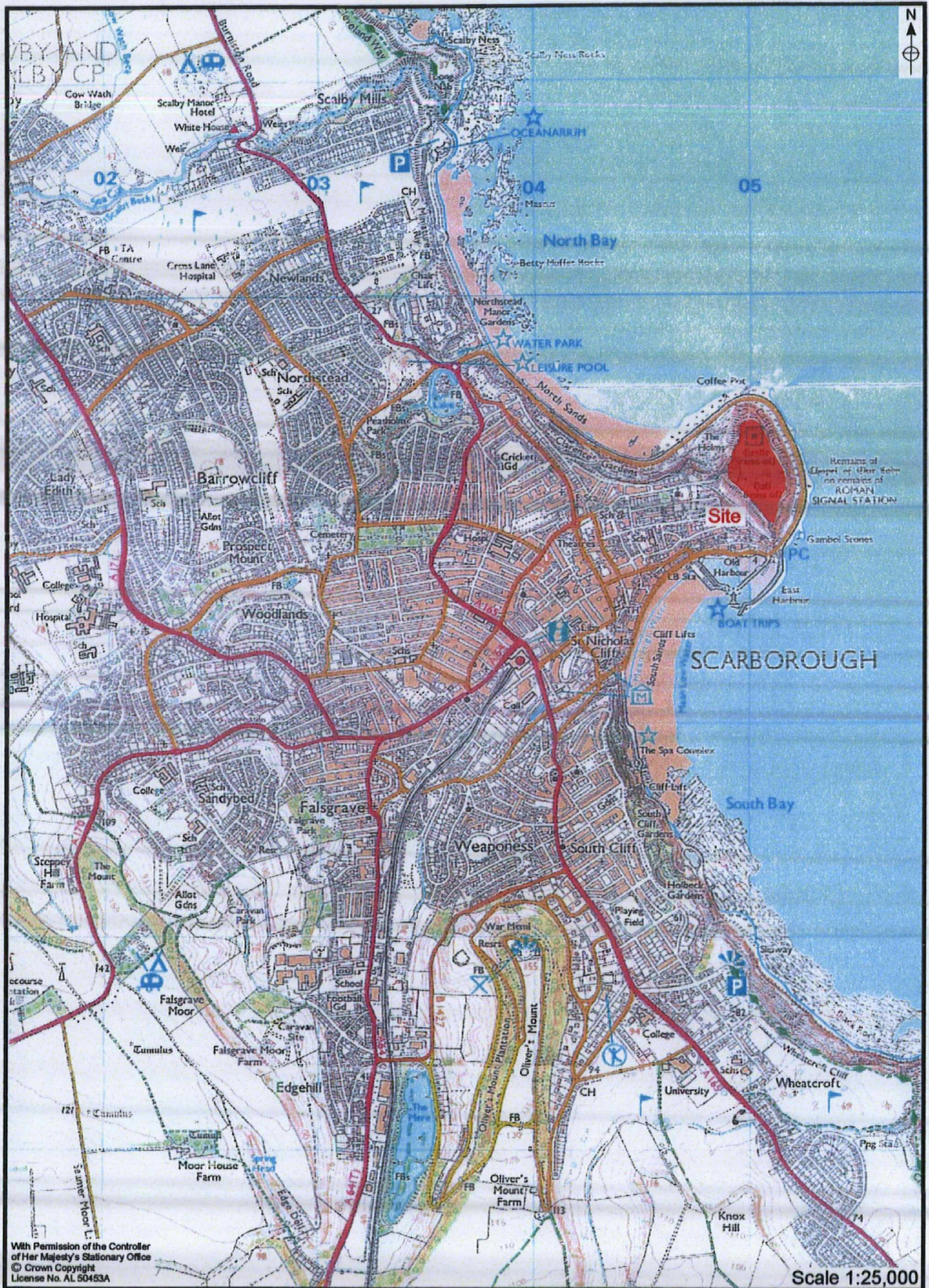


Figure 1. Site location



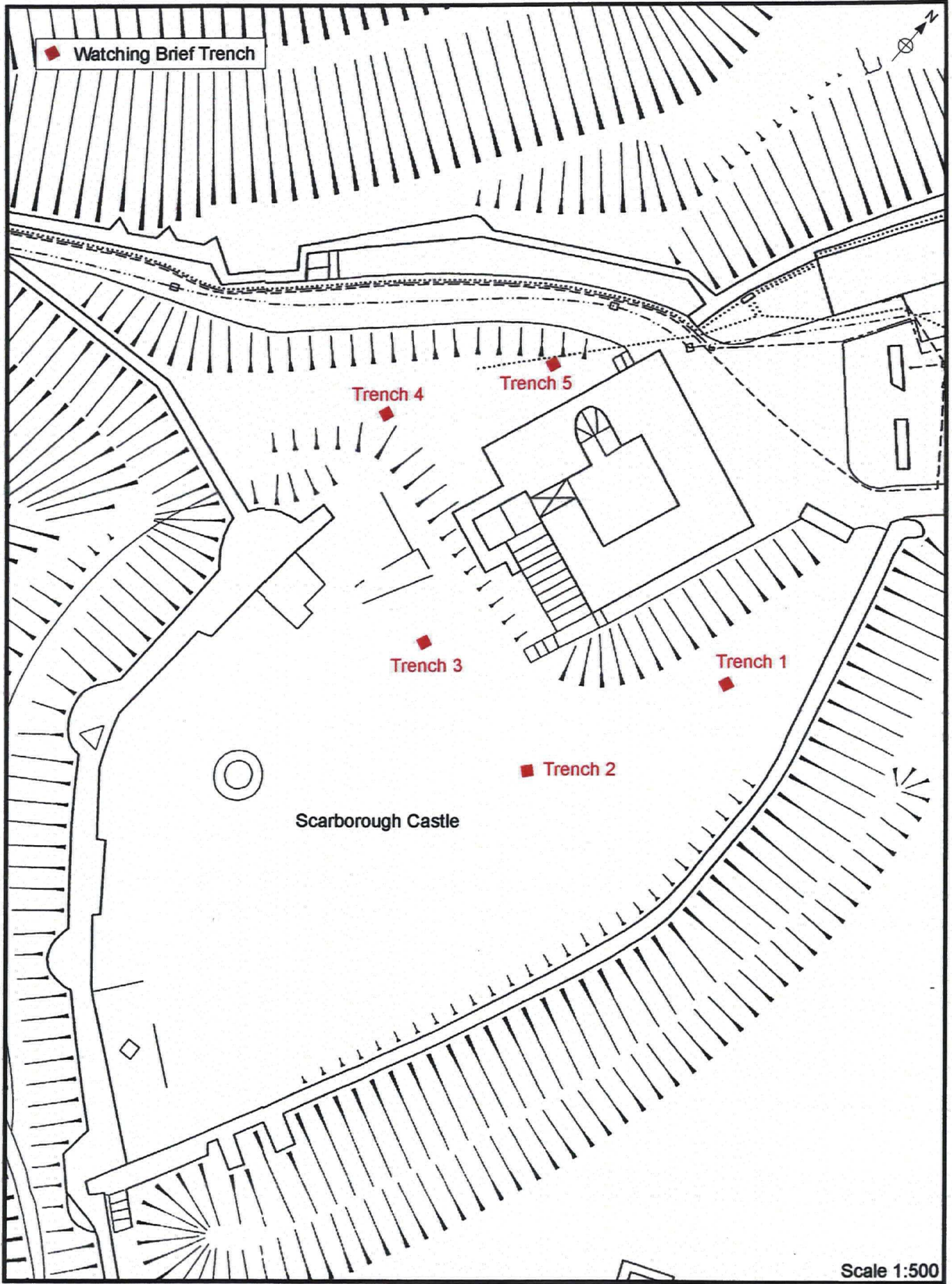


Figure 2. Watching Brief Trench Location

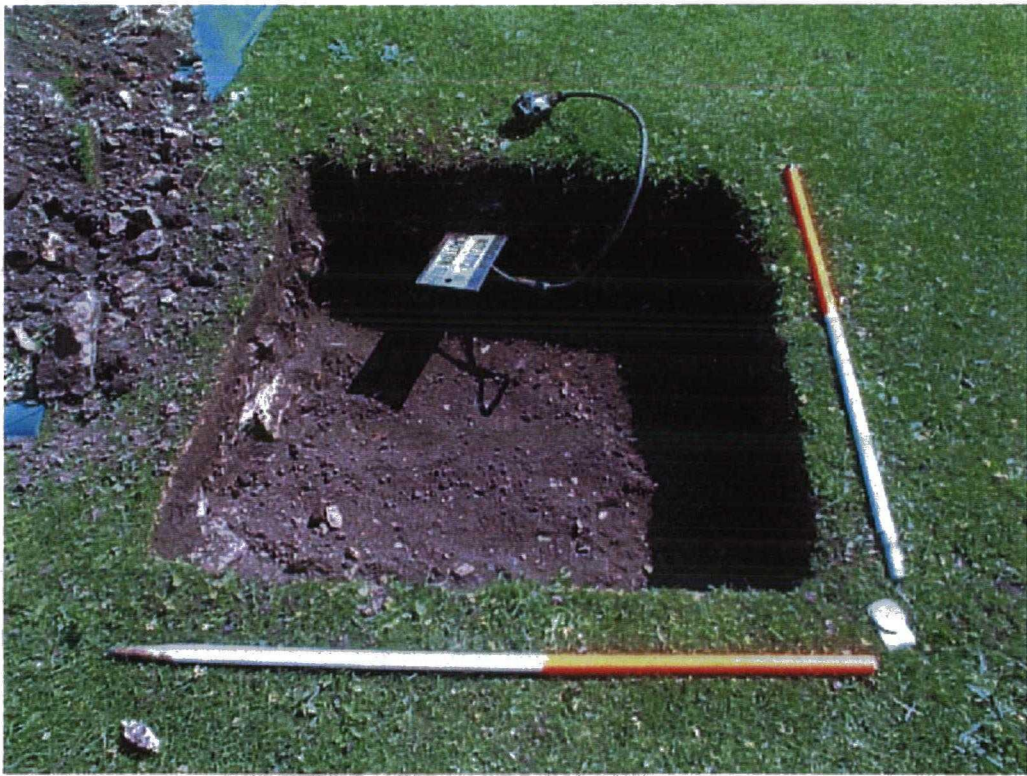


Plate 1. Trench 1. Facing South



Plate 2. Trench 2. Facing South West

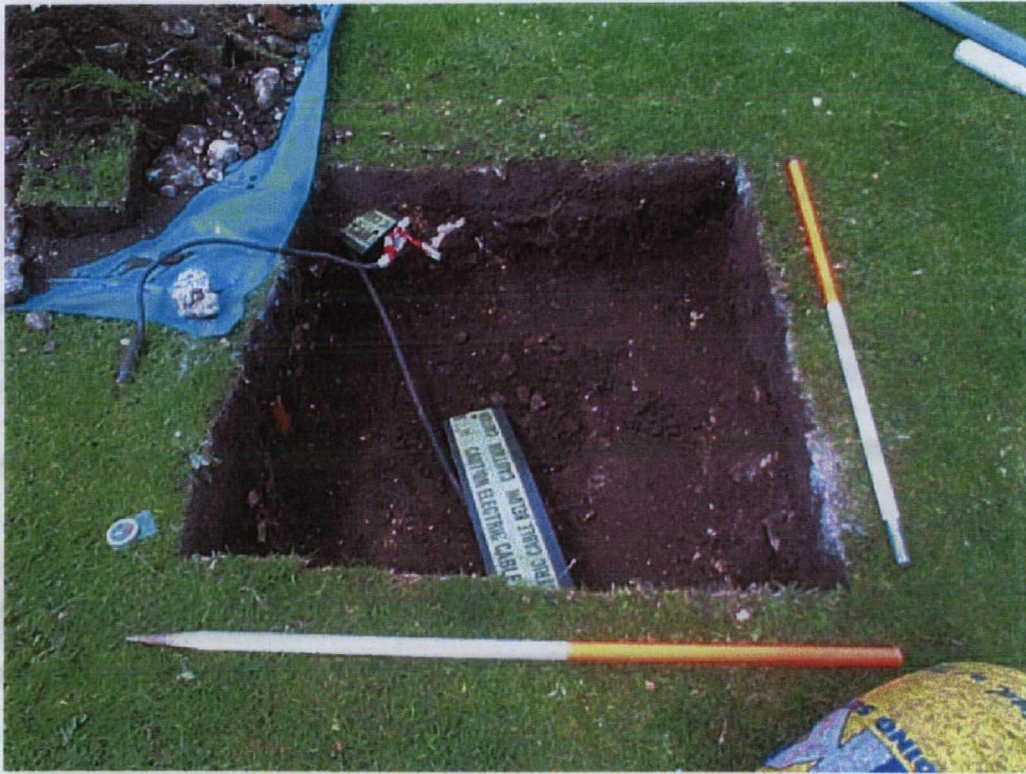


Plate 3. Trench 3. Facing North West

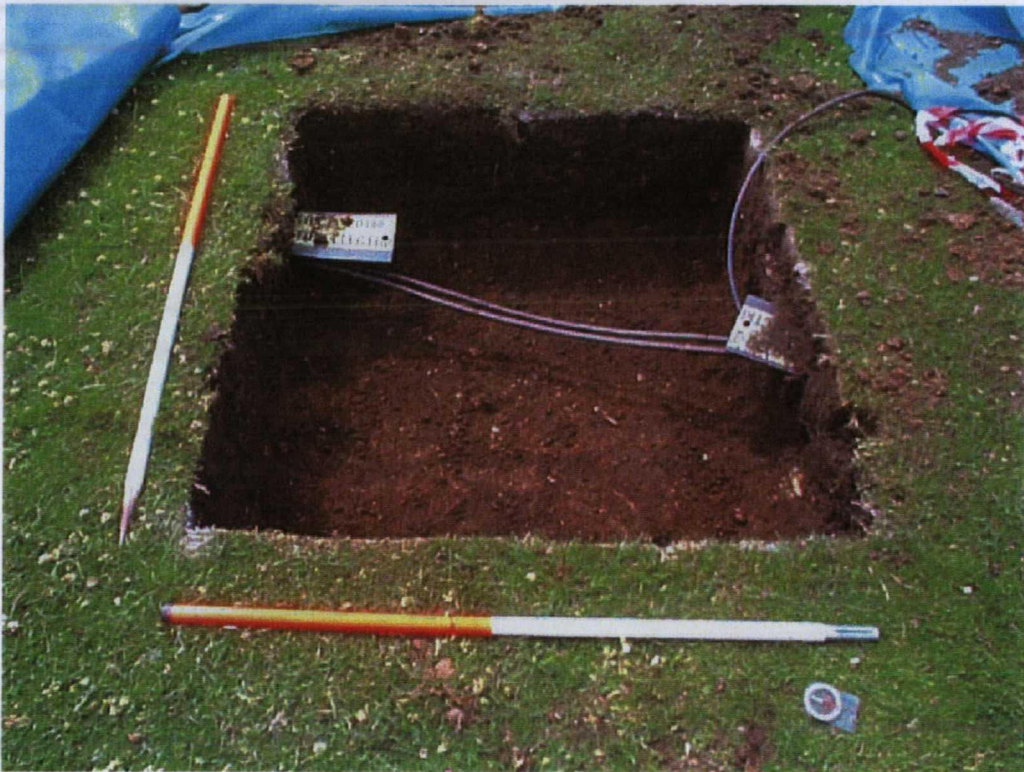


Plate 4. Trench 4. Facing South West



Plate 5. Trench 5. Facing South