



Chichester City Football Club Chichester West Sussex

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





Chichester City Football Club, Chichester

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Figure 1: Site location showing reduced area and test pits

Figure 2: Plate 1: South-west facing section, Test pit 1

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Front cover: View of Site after reduction from the north

Back cover: View of Site after excavation from the north

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by DN Associates, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording on land at Chichester City Football Club, Oaklands Way, Chichester, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 486283 105465. The watching brief was carried out between the 21st – 23rd and the 28th September 2009 during the excavation of foundation trenches and other associated groundworks prior to the construction of a new club house along the western touchline.

No trace of the Chichester Entrenchment line N-S2 or any evidence of Roman burials associated with the Northgate Roman cemetery were found during the watching brief. However, the cemetery could still extend further north and east into the area of the Site. The relatively shallow depth of the strip within the Site footprint and the limited nature of deeper excavation within the foundation trenches and soakaways, in which the subsoil and natural geology could be observed, means that the potential for undisturbed burials and other archaeological features could exist within the Site and its surrounding area.

The only potential archaeological feature observed was undated and may be a natural feature, either a tree throw or a natural hollow.

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Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Steve Gustar and David Norville of DN Associates for their on Site help and for commissioning the watching brief. The help and assistance of James Kenny, Chichester District Council Archaeology Officer, is also gratefully acknowledged.

The report was compiled by Naomi Hall and edited by Damian De Rosa. The illustrations were prepared by Liz James.

The watching brief was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa. The watching brief was undertaken by Naomi Hall and Matthew Kendall.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by DN Associates (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording on land at Chichester City Football Club, Oaklands Way, Chichester (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 486283 105465; (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Conditional planning permission has been granted (CC/09/01414/FUL) for the demolition of the existing club house at the south east corner of the football pitch and reconstruction of a new club house and amenities (including parking), new ground maintenance facilities and a toilet block along the western touchline.
- 1.1.3 A programme of archaeological observation and recording was requested by James Kenny, Chichester District Council Archaeology Officer, in order to satisfy Condition 14 of the planning permission.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2009) setting out the manner in which Wessex Archaeology would implement the archaeological work was submitted to the Client and the Chichester District Council Archaeology Officer for approval prior to the commencement of the fieldwork programme.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief was carried out between the 21st – 23rd and on 28th September 2009 to monitor the excavation of foundation trenches and other associated groundworks prior to the construction of the new club house, and associated works, along the western touchline of the existing football pitch.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Site Location, Description, Topography and Geology

- 2.1.1 Chichester Football Club lies to the north of Oakland Way and the walled extent of Roman Chichester. It is bounded to the east by College Lane, to the south and east by tennis courts and to the north by Oaklands Park. The location of the new clubhouse lies to the west of the existing football pitch (**Figure 1**).
- 2.1.2 The Site comprises a rectangular area approximately 312m² in size.
- 2.1.3 The topography of the Site is fairly flat and is located at a height of approximately 14.8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.1.4 The underlying geology consists of Valley Gravel deposits (British Geological Survey, sheet 317).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Archaeological Background

- 3.1.1 North of Chichester there are a series of linear earthworks called the Chichester Entrenchments. Excavations on different sections of the Entrenchments have tended to suggest a late Iron Age date for the major part of the system, with the suggestion that the Entrenchments might have enclosed a number of discrete Late Iron Age estates, rather than being seen as defining an oppidum, or the predecessor of Noviomagus Reginorum (Chichester). However, it has been suggested that some of the Entrenchments may date to the medieval period or later (Manley et al. 2008).
- 3.1.2 There was the potential that the projected line of Chichester Entrenchment N-S 2 may pass through the Site. William Sabatiers survey of 1797 has the line of N-S 2 terminating to the north of the Site. The Sussex antiquarian Hay (1804) traces the line to the south of the Site as far as the north east corner of the City (Bradley 1971).
- 3.1.3 Excavations undertaken in 1973 in advance of the Northgate circulatory road system (Oaklands Way) to the south of the Site revealed evidence of a Roman cemetery. Six inhumations were recorded along with eleven cremations. One of the cremations had grave goods, which included a silver ring with a denarius of Caracalla dating to AD200, but nothing further was recorded with the other burials (CE 1974 - Volume 3).
- 3.1.4 A watching brief undertaken at the Lawn Tennis Club immediately to the south of the Site revealed the remains of a single Roman cremation (James Kenny – *pers comm.*). This evidence indicates that the cemetery lies further north than previously recorded and burials could be present within the Site.
- 3.1.5 The line of a medieval lead pipe, piping water in to medieval Chichester was recorded to the north and south of the Site during observations in the 1950s (James Kenny – *pers comm.*). Although the line of the pipe is unclear there is the possibility that it may run through the Site.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Work

- 3.2.1 No previous archaeological works or studies are known to have been carried out on the Site.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, nature, character and relationships of any surviving archaeological remains observed during the groundworks for the construction of the club house.
- 4.1.2 Specifically the aims of the watching brief were to:
- Identify whether evidence of the supposed line of Chichester Entrenchment N-S 2 was present on the Site.

- Identify whether there was evidence of any burials associated with the Northgate Roman cemetery present on the Site, which would help to indicate the extent of the cemetery.
- Identify if evidence of the medieval lead water pipe was present on the Site.

5 METHODS

- 5.1.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2009), this is summarized below:
- 5.1.2 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. A full photographic record was compiled utilising digital images. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20. Features were surveyed and located using a Leica GPS 1250 SmartNet utilising Ordnance Survey heights and co-ordinates.
- 5.1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).
- 5.1.4 A unique Wessex Archaeology project code **72500** was allocated to the Site, prior to work commencing.

6 RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 6.1.2 The location of the Site and the area observed is shown on **Figure 1**.

6.2 Fieldwork

- 6.2.1 After an initial reduction of the Site footprint to 14.55m aOD, footing trenches 0.60m wide and 0.70m deep were excavated in order to accommodate the concrete foundations of both external and internal walls. Three 1m squared areas of over 1m deep were also excavated within this to support more substantial concrete pads. Two soakaways (Test pits 1 (**Plate 1**) and 2) immediately to the north and south of the reduced area were also observed as well as a shallow drainage run to the south of the Site (**Figure 1**).
- 6.2.2 The majority of the observed area was under tarmac (**101**) constructed on top of a layer of disturbed, built up ground (**102**) (both layers together equivalent to (**1001**) and (**2001**) in the test pit areas). This overlay the original subsoil level (**106**) / (**1002**) / (**2002**). Around the margins of the Site the original topsoil could still be observed (**105**). Beneath the subsoil was a fairly homogeneous, clay rich layer (**103**) / (**1003**) / (**2003**). This overlay the natural gravel (**104**) / (**1004**) / (**2004**).
- 6.2.3 One possible archaeological or natural feature (**107**) was observed in the west-facing section of the footing for the eastern wall (**Plate 2**). The shallow

feature had irregular sides and could only be partially exposed and excavated. It was filled with a deposit (**108**) very similar to the subsoil (**106**). No dating evidence was obtained from **108** and it is likely to be a natural feature, either a tree throw or a natural hollow.

7 FINDS

- 7.1.1 Only post medieval and modern material was found during the course of the watching brief. Since it was of demonstrably recent date and from unstratified contexts this material was not retained, although its presence was noted on the original records.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 8.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the watching brief.

9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1.1 No trace of the Chichester Entrenchment N-S 2 was found during the course of the watching brief although there is the potential for it to run further to the east or west of the area under observation.
- 9.1.2 No evidence for Roman inhumations or cremations associated with the Northgate Roman Cemetery was identified during the groundworks. However, this cannot be taken as evidence that the cemetery does not extend into the area of the football club as a whole or the surrounding area. The relatively shallow depth of the strip within the Site footprint and the limited nature of deeper excavation within the foundation trenches and soakaways, in which the subsoil and natural geology could be observed, means that the potential for undisturbed burials and other archaeological features could exist within the Site and its surrounding area.
- 9.1.3 Only one potential undated feature was observed that may be a natural feature, either a tree throw or a natural hollow.

10 ARCHIVE

10.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 10.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990). It comprises a ring-bound file containing the written records and a copy of the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code 72500. In due course the complete archive will be deposited with the Chichester Museum.

10.2 Copyright

- 10.2.1 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the

report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.

10.3 Security Copy

- 10.3.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

11 REFERENCES

Bradley, Richard, 1971. *A Field Survey of the Chichester Entrenchments in Cunliffe, Barry - Excavations at Fishbourne 1961 – 1969, Volume 1: The Site, p17-36.*

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Institute for Archaeologists 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Manley et al, 2008. *The Archaeology of Fishbourne and Chichester. A framework for its future.*

Wessex Archaeology. 2009. *Chichester City Football Club, Oaklands Way, Oaklands Park, Chichester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.* Unpublished project design. Ref 72500.01.

Appendix 1: Excavated Context Summary

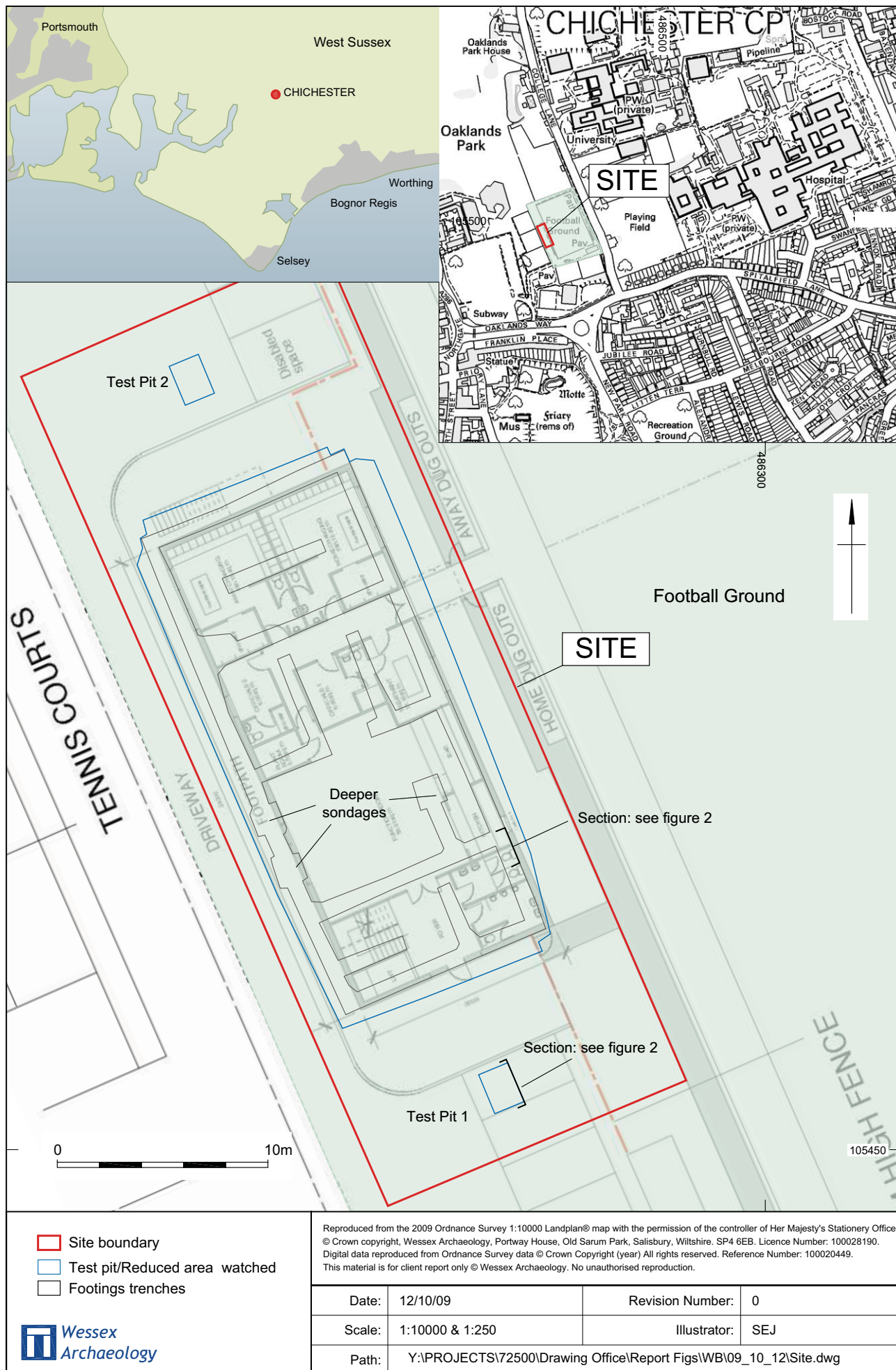
bgl= below ground level

Initial reduction and footings			Type:	Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 26.00x12.00m		Max. depth: 1.25m		Ground Level: 14.71-14.89m aOD	
Context	description			depth	
101	Layer	Surface of car park: tarmac and chippings. Overlies majority of the site. Overlies (102). With (102) is equivalent to (1001) and (2001).			0.00-0.17m bgl
102	Layer	Disturbed/built up ground beneath (101). Dark orange-brown clay with frequent well defined patches of mid grey clay. Overall 10% stone and gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. However includes concentrations of gravel. Also includes modern glass, metal, plastic, CBM and pottery. Compact. Overlies (103).			0.17-0.30m bgl
103	Layer	Mid orange-brown clay, possible alluvial layer. 2% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies (104). Equivalent to (1003) and (2003).			0.29-0.89m bgl
104	Natural	Natural gravel geology. Mid orange brown clay. 90% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Compact. Homogeneous. Equivalent to (1004) and (2004).			0.81m+ bgl
105	Topsoil	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silty clay. 5% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Fairly compact. Fairly homogeneous. Bioturbated. Directly under grass. Includes modern CBM, pottery and metal objects. In some areas overlain by thin skim of chippings. Overlies (106).			0.00-0.32m bgl
106	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown clay. 2% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Compact. Fairly homogeneous. Some bioturbation. Occasional charcoal flecks. Occasional modern CBM, pottery and clay pipe. Overlies (103). Equivalent to (1002) and (2002).			0.30-0.65m bgl
107	Feature	Cut of shallow pit or natural feature. Seen in west facing section of footing trench for external east wall. Not fully excavated/exposed. Shallow, concave sides. 1.75m wide. Filled with (108). Cuts (104).			0.18m+ deep
108	Deposit	Fill of (107). Mid yellow/orange-brown clay. <1% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Compact. Slightly mixed with diffuse mid yellow-brown mottles. Some bioturbation. Very diffuse interface with (106).			0.18m+ deep

Test pit 1			Type:	Machine excavated	
Dimensions: 1.50x2.00m		Max. depth: 1.50m		Ground Level: 14.89m aOD	
Context	description			depth	
1001	Layer	Surface of car park: tarmac and chippings. Overlies majority of the site. Overlies (1002). Same as (101/102) and (2001).			0.00-0.27m bgl
1002	Subsoil	Modern subsoil. Dark brown silty clay. 2% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Compact. Fairly homogeneous. Some bioturbation. Occasional modern CBM and clay pipe. Overlies (1003). Equivalent to (106) and (2002).			0.27-0.72m bgl
1003	Layer	Mid red-brown silty clay, possible alluvial layer. 1% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded. <1-4cm. Compact. Fairly			0.72-1.08m bgl

		homogeneous. Overlies (1004). Equivalent to (103) and (2003).	
1004	<i>Natural</i>	Natural gravel geology. Dark brown clay. 90% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-15cm. Compact. Homogeneous. Equivalent to (104) and (2004).	1.08m+ bgl

Test pit 2		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 1.50x2.00m		Max. depth: 1.50m	Ground Level: 14.81m aOD
Context	Description	depth	
2001	<i>Layer</i>	Surface of car park: tarmac and chippings. Overlies majority of the site. Overlies (2002). Same as (101/102) and (1001).	
2002	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Dark brown silty clay. 1% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Compact. Fairly homogeneous. Some bioturbation. Occasional modern CBM. Overlies (2003). Equivalent to (106) and (1002).	
2003	<i>Layer</i>	Mid red-brown silty clay, possible alluvial layer. <1% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Compact. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies (2004). Equivalent to (103) and (1003).	
2004	<i>Natural</i>	Natural gravel geology. Dark yellow-brown clay. 90% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-15cm. Compact. Patches of pale yellow-brown silty sand appearing at limit of excavation. Equivalent to (104) and (1004).	



Site location showing reduced area and test pits

Figure 1



Plate 1: South-west facing section, Test pit 1

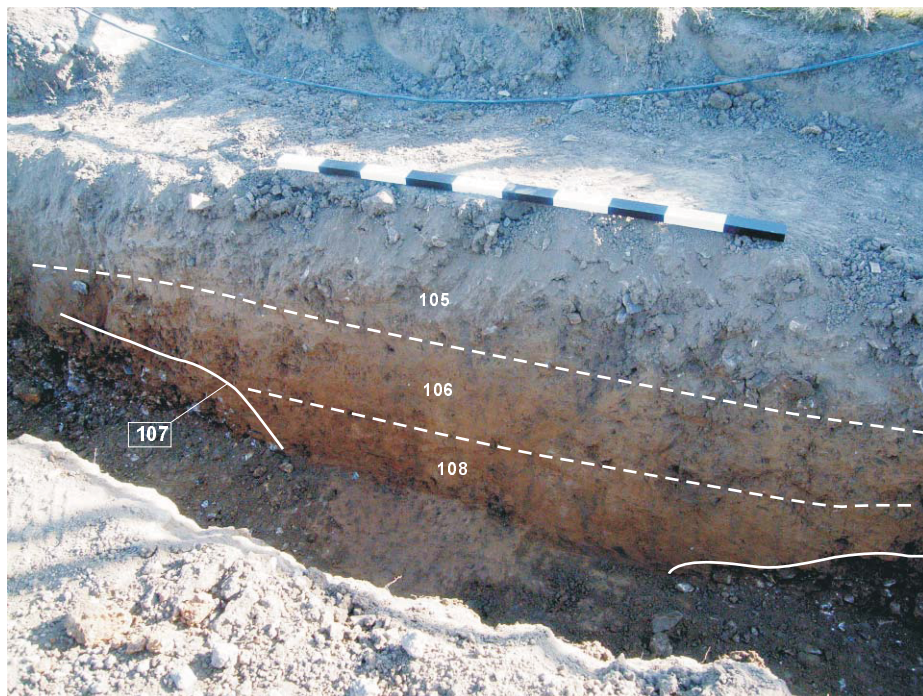



Plate 2: West facing section, feature **107**, oblique view

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