

**Glendower, Crowthorne Road,
Bracknell, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Ardgowan Homes Limited**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GCB 06/53

April 2006

Summary

Site name: Glendower, Crowthorne Road, Bracknell, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8660 6840

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24th April 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: GCB 06/53

Area of site: c. 1000 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were observed

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Jo Pine✓ 27.04.06 Steve Preston✓ 29.04.06
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Glendower, Crowthorne Road, Bracknell, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 06/53

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Glendower, Crowthorne Road, Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 8660 6840) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Faulkner of By Plan Associates, on behalf of Ardgowan Homes Limited, Ardgowan, Drift Road, Winkfield, Berkshire, SL4 4RL.

Planning consent (app no 05/00303/FUL) has been granted by Bracknell Forest District Council for the construction of a new block of apartments with associated car parking, subject to a condition (19) relating to archaeology which requires a programme of archaeological works prior to development.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Thomason, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisers to Bracknell Forest District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Colls and Sean Wallis on 24th April 2006, and the site code is GCB 06/53. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of Crowthorne Road, Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 8660 6840). According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology is the sand and gravels of the Bagshot Beds, and this was confirmed in all three trenches (BGS 1981). The site slopes gently down from south to north, and lies at a height of between approximately 83m and 85m above Ordnance Datum. The site is currently occupied by a house, garage and shed, all of which are to be demolished prior to construction of the new block of flats, the remainder of the site being garden.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site derives from its position in an area likely to contain evidence of prehistoric occupation. A Bronze Age round barrow is located on Bill Hill, a short distance to the east of the site and it is possible that settlements of similar age are present in the vicinity (Ford 1987).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. Specifically, these entail:

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine if any deposits of prehistoric occupation are present.

In order to fulfil these aims it was proposed that three trenches, one 18m long, one 12m long and one 6m long, would be excavated using a JCB-type mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket. The excavation was to be carried under constant archaeological supervision, with topsoil and overburden being removed to expose any potential archaeologically relevant levels. Sufficient of any archaeological features revealed were to be hand excavated to ascertain their nature and likely date.

In the event, it was not possible to excavate Trenches 1 and 2 to their full proposed lengths, due to their close proximity to buildings and trees, and the presence of services. However, David Thomason agreed that a sufficient amount of trenching had been opened to satisfy the objectives of the project

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

This trench was 11m long and aligned approximately ENE–WSW. Up to 0.12m of topsoil overlay a layer of redeposited yellow grey sand which was about 0.36m thick. This in turn overlay what appears to be a buried soil horizon, up to 0.4m thick, consisting of grey silty sand which contained fragments of slate and modern brick and tile (not retained). This layer was immediately above the natural sand and gravels. The north-east half of the trench could not be fully excavated due to the presence of a service pipe. No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

Trench 2

Trench 2 could not be excavated to its full intended length of 18m due to the close proximity of a building. However, 15.1m of trench was excavated, aligned approximately NNW–SSE. Turf and topsoil, up to 0.24m thick, were removed to reveal up to 0.32m of greyish brown silty sand subsoil. This lay directly above the natural sand and gravels. There were no archaeological finds or features.

Trench 3 (Plate 2)

This trench was aligned approximately NE–SW, and was 7m long. Up to 0.28m of turf and topsoil overlay a layer of greyish brown silty sand subsoil, which was 0.11m thick. As with Trench 2, the subsoil lay directly above the natural sand and gravels. No archaeological finds or features were revealed.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during this field evaluation.

Conclusion

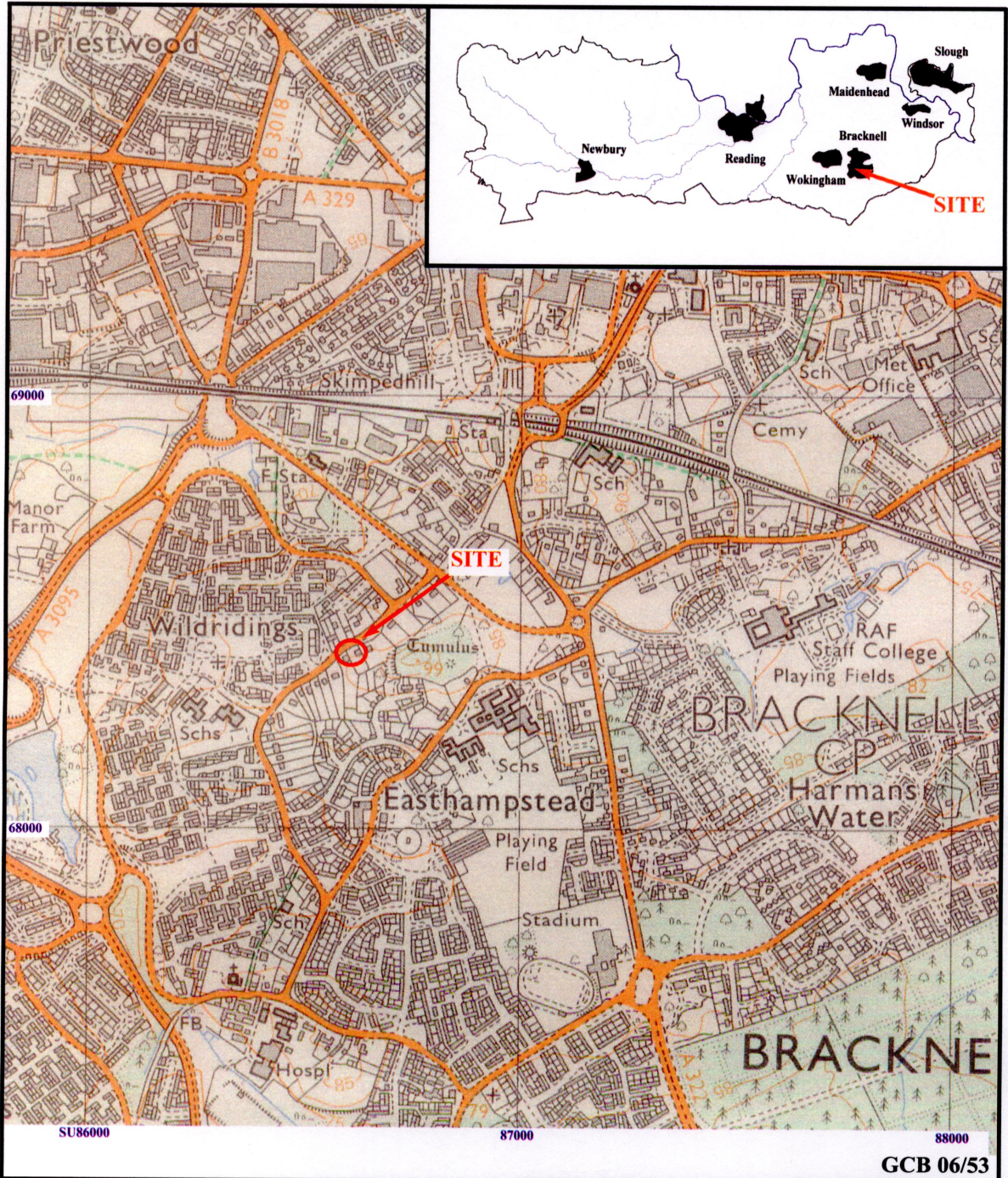
Despite the site's close proximity to the Bronze Age round barrow on Bill Hill, no archaeological deposits were recorded during the evaluation. The site therefore appears to have little or no archaeological potential.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning
Occas Pap 1, Reading
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	11.0	1.6	0.95	0-0.12m topsoil onto 0.12-0.48m redeposited yellow grey sand onto 0.48-0.88m grey silty sand buried soil onto 0.88-0.95m natural sand and gravels. No archaeology. [Plate 1]
2	15.1	1.6	0.71	0-0.24m turf and topsoil onto 0.24-0.56m subsoil onto natural sand and gravels. No archaeology.
3	7.0	1.6	0.48	0-0.28m turf and topsoil onto 0.28-0.39m subsoil onto natural sand and gravels. No archaeology. [Plate 2]



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Berkshire, 2006**
An archaeological evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Bracknell
and Berkshire.

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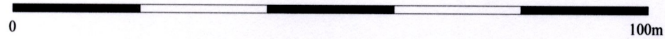
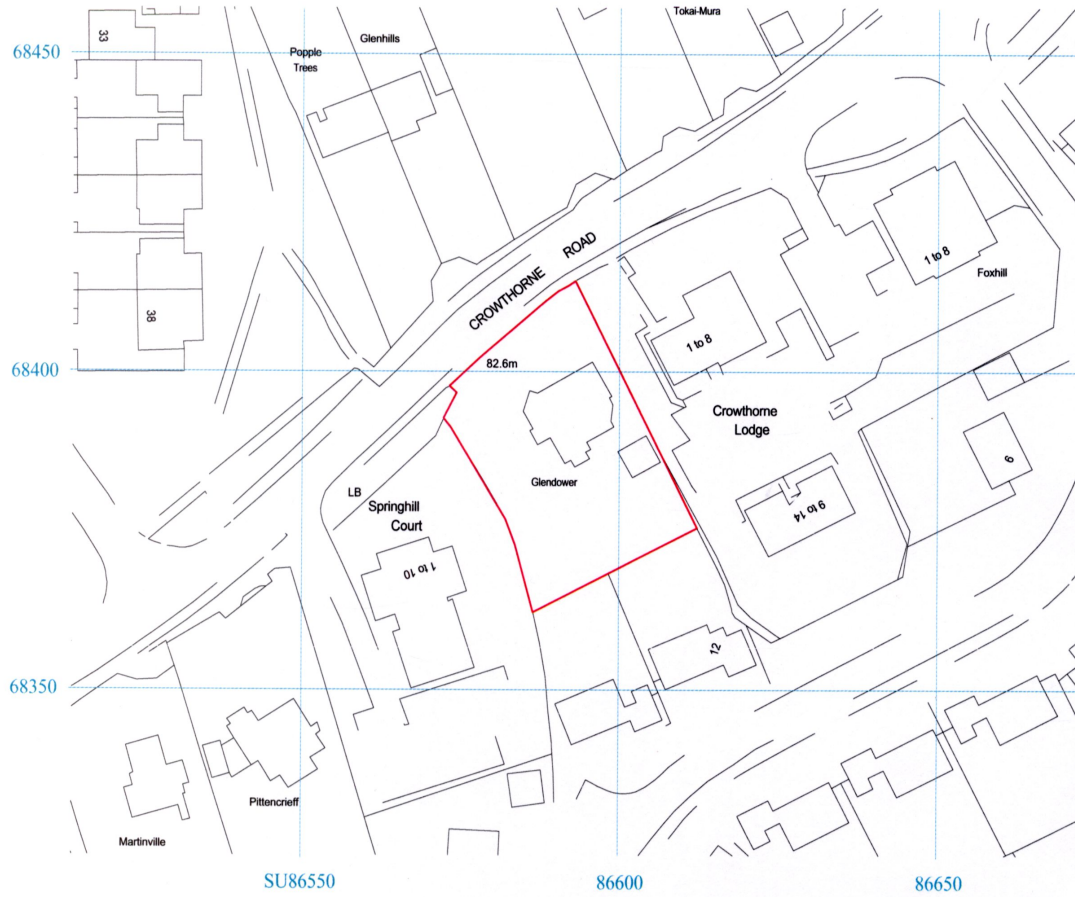


Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Crowthorne Road

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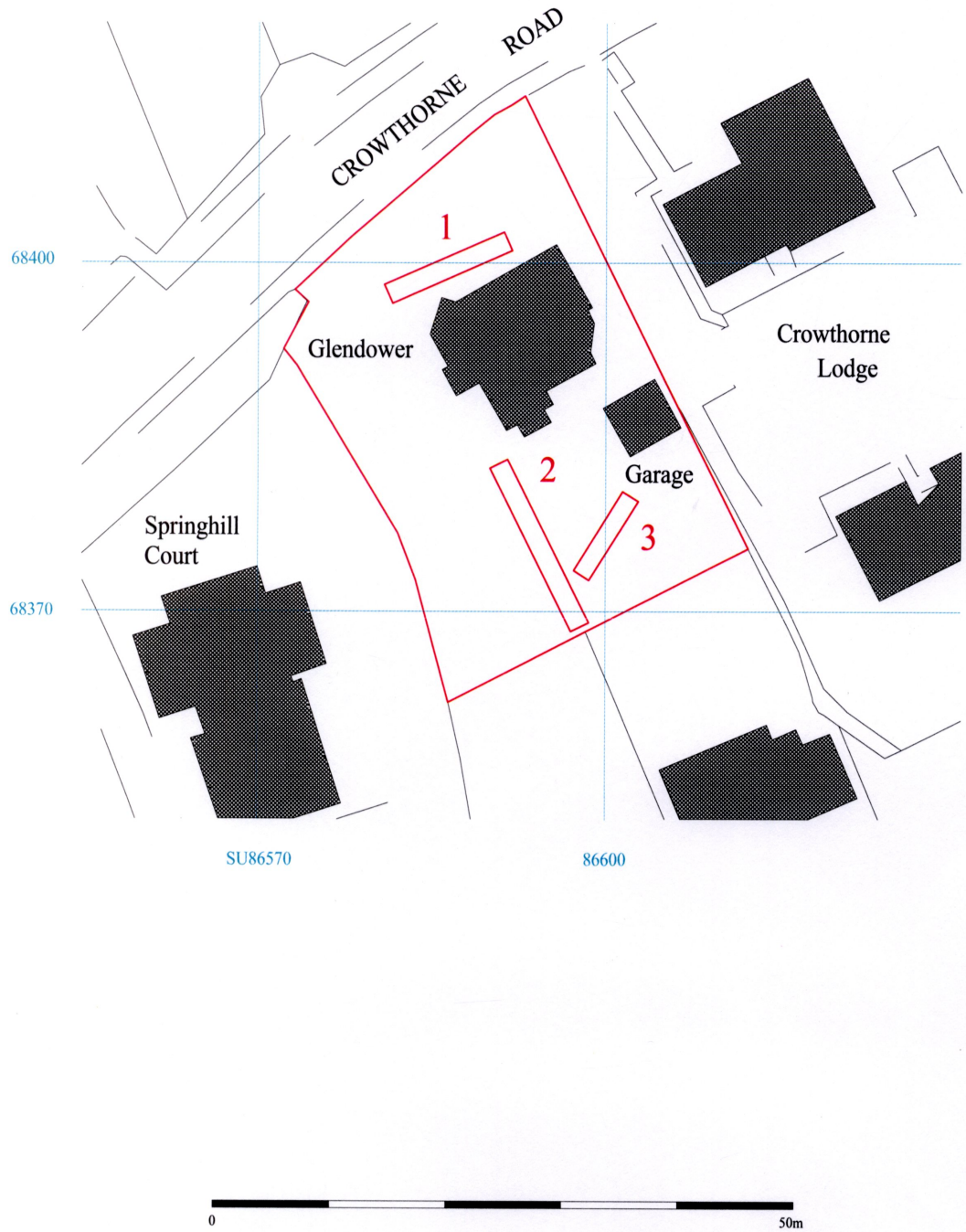


Figure 3. Location of Trenches

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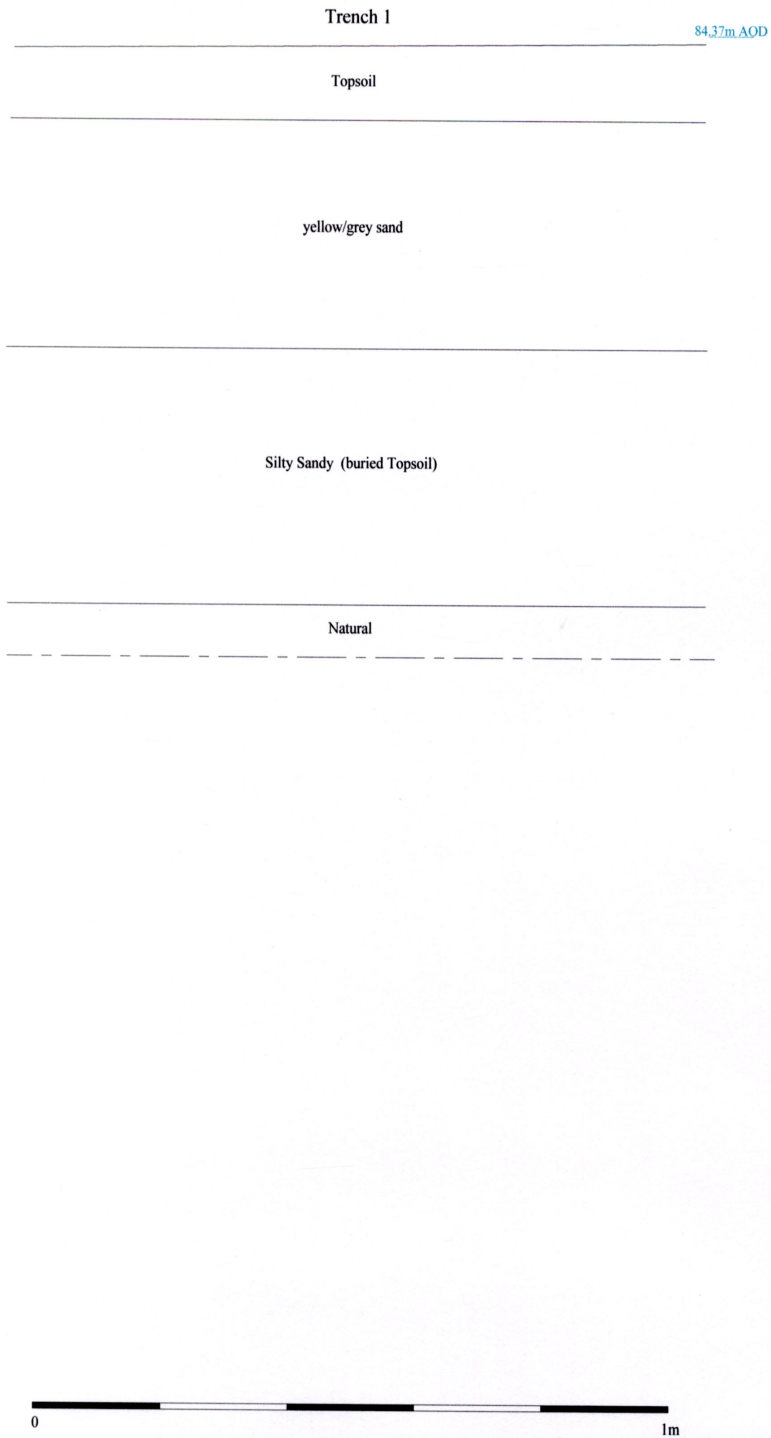


Figure 4. Representative Section



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking west, horizontal scales 2m and 1m.

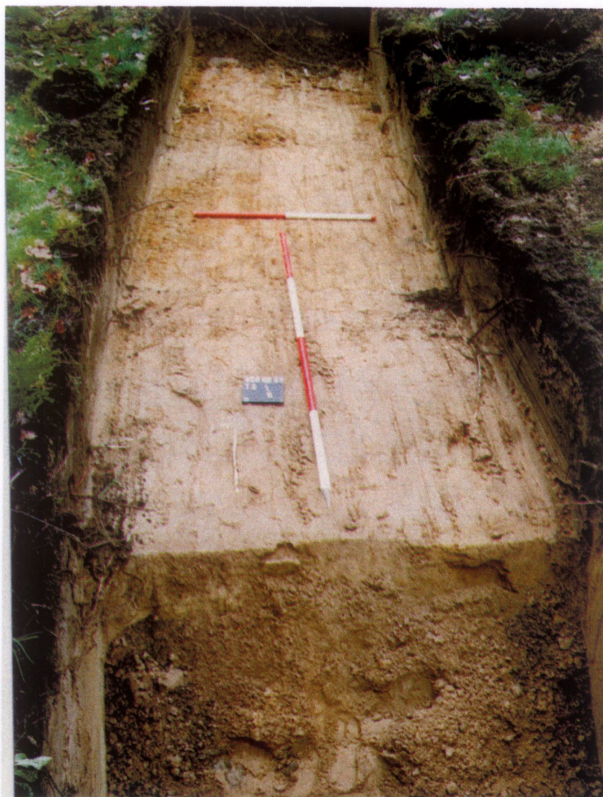


Plate 2. Trench 3 looking south, horizontal scales 2m and 1m.