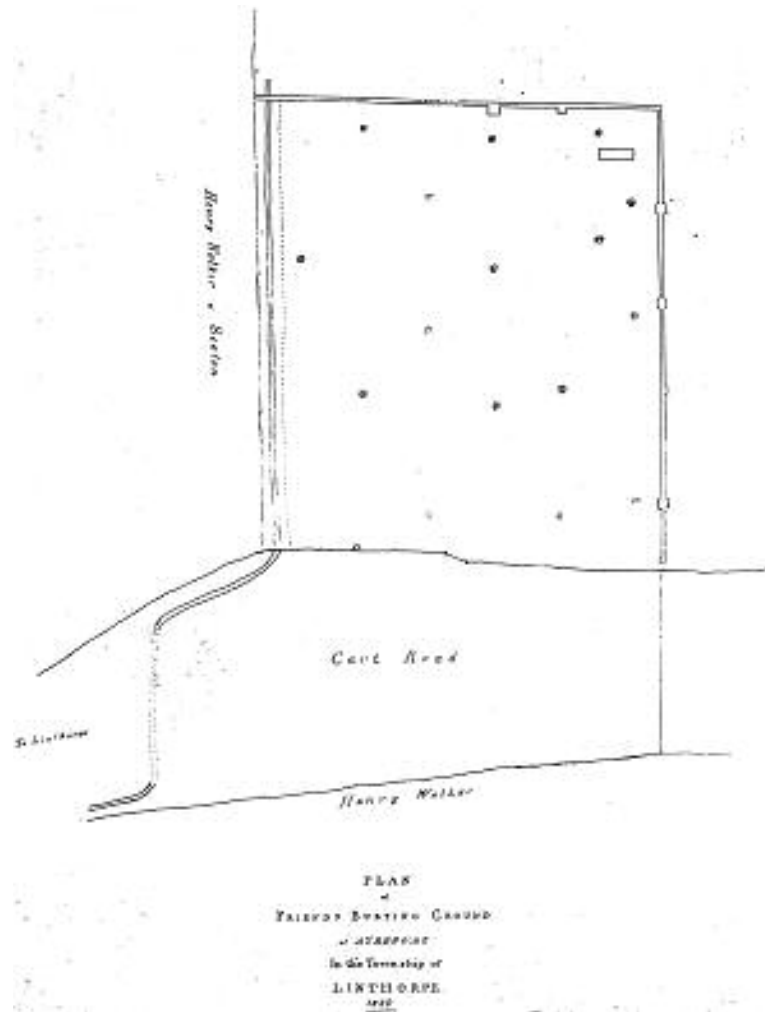


**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
**Quaker Burial Ground, Linthorpe Cemetery**  
**Middlesbrough**



**TEES** ARCHAEOLOGY  
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**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
**Quaker Burial Ground, Linthorpe Cemetery**  
**Middlesbrough**

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Cover: Plan of Friends Burying Ground at Ayersome 1858.

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## **1. Summary**

This report describes the methodology and results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Tees Archaeology Research and Fieldwork Section at the Quaker Burial Ground, Linthorpe Cemetery, Middlesbrough. The site is centred on National Grid Reference NZ 4848 1893. The fieldwork was undertaken in October 2006 following an earlier evaluation in May 2006: the commissioning client was Middlesbrough Council.

The site lies within Linthorpe Cemetery on the west side of the town of Middlesbrough. It originated as a small Quaker burial ground set in an agricultural landscape, but was incorporated into the new Linthorpe Cemetery and engulfed by the rapidly expanding town from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

The archaeological watching brief comprised the recording of several machine cut test pits targeted to assess the degree of survival of the boundaries of the burial ground. The well-preserved northern brick wall was again observed along with the inner western boundary on a stone foundation. No built structures were noted during test pitting to locate the outer western or southern boundaries. It is presumed that these were marked by hedges, trees or trackways.

## 2. Introduction

An archaeological watching brief took place at the Quaker Burial Ground, Linthorpe Cemetery, Middlesbrough (Figure 1), undertaken by Tees Archaeology Research and Fieldwork Section between 17<sup>th</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006 for Middlesbrough Council. The fieldwork was carried out by Peter Rowe.

The watching brief was designed to inform the possible reinstatement of some of the burial ground's boundaries as part of the Linthorpe Cemetery Restoration Programme. An earlier programme of archaeological work had revealed the nature and extent of the northern and eastern boundaries, along with the western boundary. The main aims of the watching brief were to locate and characterise the southern boundary and the boundary of an annexe which was added to the west of the cemetery in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century or early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This document provides the results of the watching brief and suggests possible strategies for the reinstatement.

## 3. Location and Geology

The site is located on the west side of Ayresome Green Lane at NZ 4848 1893 (Figure 2). It comprises a sub-rectangle measuring c. 1870m<sup>2</sup>, bound to the east by Ayresome Green Lane and surrounded on all other sides by Linthorpe Cemetery. The site lies on level ground at approximately 10m OD.

The solid geology of Triassic mudstones is overlain by marine alluvium and clayey soils (Jarvis *et al* 1984).

## 4. Historical and Archaeological Background

The Quaker Burial Ground at Linthorpe (HER 5323) was established in the last quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, one of the earliest recorded internments being Elizabeth Watts in 1668. In 1717 the headstones were removed and in 1745 the burial ground fell into disuse until 1856. The headstones standing today date to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The burial ground is now part of the much larger Linthorpe Cemetery (HER 5324), established in 1869 to serve the rapidly expanding town of Middlesbrough. The new cemetery was subdivided into enclaves for particular denominations including Anglican, Roman Catholic, Nonconformist and Hebrew, and the Quaker Burial Ground remained dedicated to the burial of Friends.

Cartographic and historical research demonstrates the following phases of the cemetery (see Fig 3): -

- Circa 1668 – 1745. Initial phase. Layout and boundaries unknown.
- 1745-1856 – Abandonment. The minutes of the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> May 1777 record a bill for the repair of the walls of ‘the burying place at Ayersome’. The area was used for growing trees in this period which were reported as ‘in a thriving condition’.
- Early 19<sup>th</sup> century. A description of the site is given in the reminiscences of Joseph H. Taylor, who had charge of the burial ground. These reminiscences date to 1878 when he was an elderly man. His father had been responsible for the cemetery before him and had planted the grounds with trees. Mr. Taylor states ‘when it came to my charge there was the remains of a stone wall on the north side to the best of my remembrance also on part of the west side which had been built strong and great attention paid to respectability of appearance. I had the wall well repaired, there was scarcely any hedge on the east side joining the land which I had made good and a new gate and posts where there were none’.
- 1856. Brought back into use. A plan of 1858 (Fig. 4) shows the burial ground as a small square enclosure defined by walls to north and west, a former field boundary to the south and green boundary with a gate along Ayersome Green Lane.
- Between 1858 and 1893. The burial ground is expanded on the northern and western sides, perhaps in two phases (see Fig. 3). The northern boundary is also extended beyond the cemetery and to the west, perhaps acting as a boundary to Linthorpe Cemetery as a whole.
- 1893. A plan by the Borough Engineer E.D. Latham shows a much enlarged burial ground with a meeting house in the south-east corner (Fig 5). The plan shows the northern line of the 1856 boundary and later extension to the west. The western boundary of the cemetery has been moved to double the size of the burial ground. Structural walls now bound the east, north and west sides of the cemetery. There is no indication of a structure on the south side suggesting that the field boundary was maintained. The northern boundary oversails the end of the western boundary.
- 1894. The Ordnance Survey plan of the cemetery shows the meeting house but does not show the extended boundaries.
- The 1919-20 Ordnance Survey map of the burial ground shows that a small enclosure has been formed at the rear of the cemetery; it is defined by the overshoot northern wall, the field boundary to the south and a further boundary to the west. The function of this enclosure is not known, it may have been marked out for future expansion or as a garden of remembrance. The meeting house has been demolished.
- 1946. Royal Air Force photography taken on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1946 shows the site with the northern boundary wall clearly visible (Plate 1). The outer western boundary is marked by a footpath. A well stocked hedge line

can be seen defining the southern boundary.

- 1948. Royal Air Force photography taken on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1948 (Plate 2) shows the burial ground although largely obscured by the mature tree canopy. The annexe to the west of the cemetery is clearly visible as a separate compound.
- 2006. The northern boundary has been demolished but can be traced along its entire length. There are brick piers at intervals of approximately three metres. There is no trace of the inner western boundary. The line of a path can be seen representing the outer western boundary. The eastern boundary is a standing wall with gate piers and buttresses. The southern boundary can be made out as a shallow curving bank to the rear of the Quaker headstones on this side of the burial ground. There are distinct pits or hollows at approximate intervals of 3m along much of the line. There is no trace of the meeting house, although this area is clear of grave markers.

In May 2006 an archaeological evaluation took place at the burial ground (Grahame, 2006). This established the survival of the northern brick boundary wall and also the internal western boundary running at right angles to it, built in brick but on a stone foundation. The report for the work also summarised the available Ordnance Survey mapping for the cemetery.

## **5. Aims and Objectives**

The primary aim of the watching brief was to assess the degree of survival of the boundaries of the burial ground, and in particular the outer western and southern boundaries. The objective of the project was to excavate, clean and record any archaeological deposits encountered in the machine excavated test pits in order to assess their archaeological significance.

The results of the watching brief will form part of a permanent archive of the site. The archive will be held by Tees Archaeology under the site code MLC06.

## **6. Methodology**

### ***Health and Safety***

Tees Archaeology Research and Fieldwork Section are expected to comply with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. In this respect the SCAUM manual on archaeological health and safety is followed for site works, and as normal practice, First Aid boxes, an Accident Book and a telephone is provided for each project. Where required, Personal Protective Equipment is also provided. It is normal practice for a vehicle to be available on site for emergency purposes and site staff must be appropriately equipped in terms of bad weather gear. The site director is normally nominated as site safety officer and all supervisory staff have undertaken a first

aid training course. Site specific risk assessments are undertaken in advance of the commencement of any archaeological works.

## **7. Trial Trenches**

On the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Peter Rowe was invited to a meeting to discuss the reinstatement of the boundaries to the Quaker Burial Ground. Two test pits (Trenches A-B) were found to have been excavated by the cemetery ground's staff. These were expediently photographed on a Nokia 6310i 1.3 megapixel phone and backfilled immediately for safety purposes. It was agreed that no further excavations would take place without archaeological supervision.

A formal watching brief was arranged to commence at noon the following day. On arrival five further machine excavated pits (Trenches F-J) had been excavated by the cemetery ground's staff.

Three further pits were excavated under archaeological supervision. Trench C was excavated at the junction of the northern brick wall boundary and the outer western boundary. Trench D was excavated in the south-eastern corner of the site to pick up the southern boundary. Trench E was also excavated across the line of the southern boundary.

The trenches were excavated by machine, in locations away from marked graves (Figure 6). Subsequent excavation and recording was undertaken following the methodology set out in Tees Archaeology Research and Fieldwork Section's recording manual. The trenches were recorded by written observation on a pro-forma sheet and by a 5.1 megapixel digital image. All photographs include a graduated metric scale. The photographic record forms part of the project archive. The location of each trench was established using taped measurements from known points.

Trench A was situated on the northern boundary of the burial ground orientated E-W and was 3.00m long and 1.45m wide (see Plate 3). The trench was excavated without archaeological supervision. The trench was positioned on the inside of the brick boundary wall and exposed it to five courses of brick in depth, overlying three corbelled soldier courses. A second wall was noticed in this trench. This ran at right angles to the brick wall and consisted of two courses of dressed sandstone. This probably acted as a foundation for a brick wall and was also picked up in the evaluation in May 2006. This wall was found to butt against the northern boundary and overlie its foundation courses. There was no evidence of a brick superstructure on the stone foundation but this may have been removed in the machining. Four of the large stone blocks were removed for storage and possible re-use.

Trench B was also situated on the northern boundary of the burial ground orientated E-W along the outside of the wall. It was approximately 2.00m long



and 1.00m wide. It was excavated without archaeological supervision. Five courses of wall were noted overlying the three corbelled foundation courses.

Trench C was excavated with archaeological supervision at the western terminus of the northern boundary in order to test the relationship with any outer western boundary. The wall was found to terminate without any sort of dressing, such as a pier, and had a plain western end. The wall was seen to survive to the same extent as observed in trenches A and B. There was no evidence for a western return to the wall, or any other structural feature.

Trench D was excavated with archaeological supervision on the southern boundary of the site. It was lined up with the southern pier of the extant eastern boundary and aligned n-s to cut across the southern boundary. The trench was 4.00m long and 0.60m wide. The trench was cut to a depth of 0.80m. The stratigraphy of the trench was found to be a very thin topsoil overlying a sandy brown loam with brick flecks, perhaps representing a demolition layer from the former cemetery lodge that stood in this location. There was no trace of any boundary feature.

Trench E was excavated with archaeological supervision to confirm the results of Trench D, on a potentially less disturbed part of the boundary. The trench was started to the immediate rear of the grave of Samuel Lithgow (Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 1917). It was 4.20m long and 0.60m wide. The topsoil was found to be deeper in this location with approximately 0.20m of humic soil overlying a clean sandy brown loam. The trench was cut across a shallow depression in the ground, forming one of a series of such hollows, regularly sited along the southern boundary at approximately every 3.00m. This hollow was filled with modern rubbish such as plastic bags and food wrappers. It is interpreted as a dug out root ball from a former mature tree.

Trenches F-I were excavated without archaeological supervision in areas marked by hollows on the southern boundary. The pits were each roughly square (approximately 1.20m x 1.20m) and excavated to depths of between 0.50m and 0.70m. Each of these pits revealed evidence of the poisoned roots of mature trees.

Trench J was excavated without archaeological supervision at the western end of the southern boundary. This was approximately 1.20m square and excavated to 0.10m in depth to reveal an asphalt layer, marking the line of a grassed over footpath.

### ***Finds***

Finds of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and glass sherds were numerous and were not retained. Several pieces of grave ephemera such as broken fragments of urns and flower holders were collected by Pherenice Worsey-Buck of Middlesbrough Borough Council for educational purposes.

## 8. Conclusions and Recommendations

### **Conclusions (Figure 8)**

The earlier phase of archaeological intervention recovered evidence for the northern and inner western boundaries of the burial ground. This was supplemented by information from Trenches A-C which provided further opportunities to inspect the northern boundary and the inner western boundary. The construction of the northern boundary was found to be standard along its entire length suggesting that it was built in a single phase in 1893. At this time the internal western boundary was also consolidated. The use of stone blocks as foundations suggests re-use of earlier walls, possibly those shown on the 1858 plan (Fig. 4) which would have been cleared when the burial ground was extended. The eastern wall, gates, piers and meeting house were also constructed at this time.

The watching brief confirms that the southern boundary was marked by a hedge, a former agricultural feature. This would have been punctuated by mature trees that have been removed, probably fairly recently.

The outer western boundary appears to have been marked by a footpath. The purpose of this rear enclosure is not clear. There is no evidence for its use for burial and it may have been a garden of remembrance.

### **Recommendations**

As the wall forming the northern boundary of the burial ground survives to a depth of seven courses in addition to the foundation, this boundary has potential for reinstatement as a solid structure flush with the existing ground surface. The surviving wall would form a suitable foundation for a capping of brick: this would have the advantage of being in keeping with the existing wall to the east, and should not form a trip hazard or an attractive target for vandals.

The wall forming the inner western boundary of the burial ground is less well preserved, this might be more suitably marked with regularly spaced blocks acting as marker stones. Sandstone might be an authentic material with the possibility of reusing some of the stones removed during the watching brief. However these may have suffered from water penetration during burial and may deteriorate rapidly if used.

The outer western boundary was marked by a trackway. This might be formalized as part of the restoration.

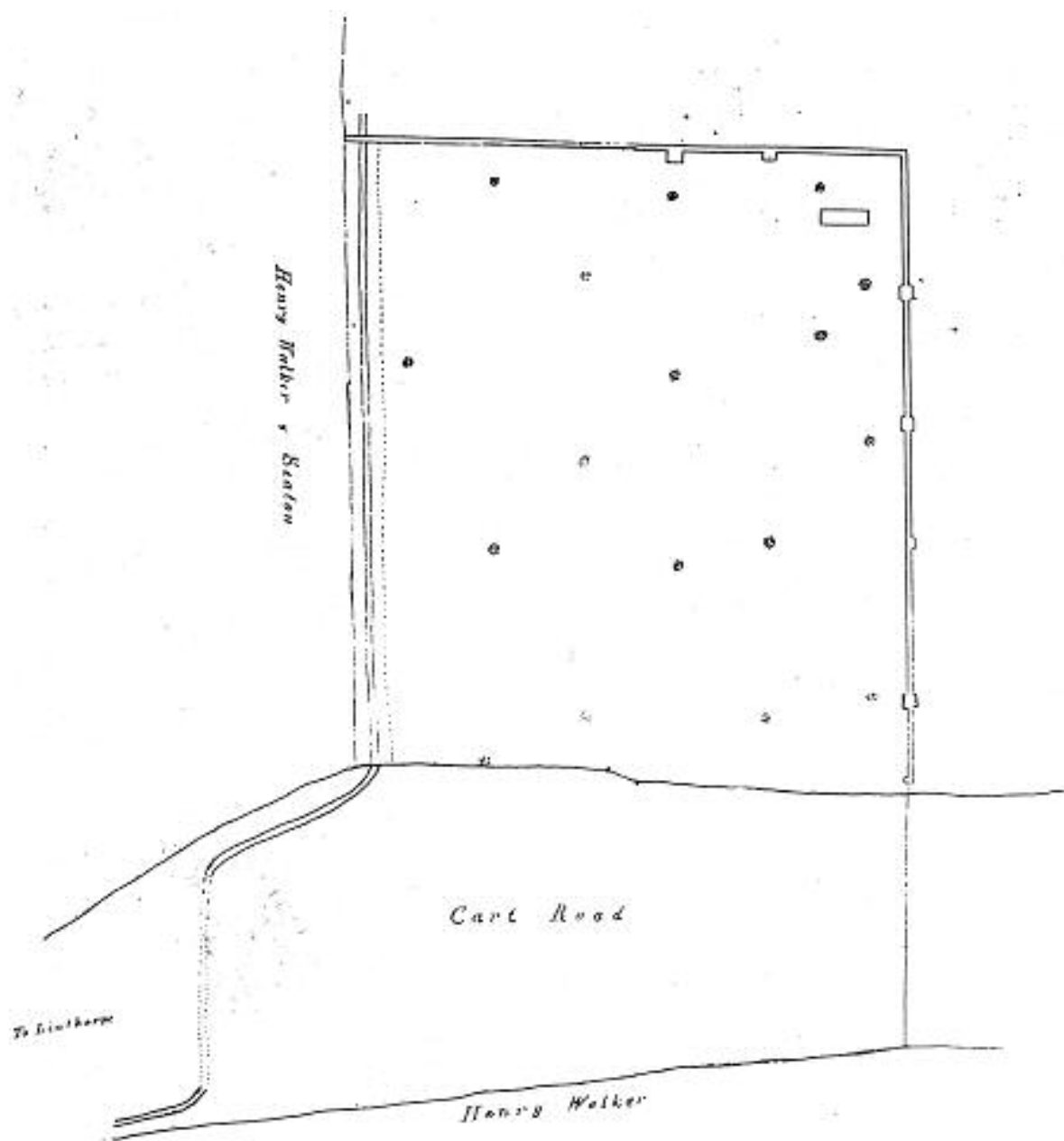
The southern boundary could be authentically reinstated as a green boundary.

## 9. Bibliography and Sources

Grahame R 2006 Archaeological Evaluation Quaker Burial Ground Linthorpe Cemetery Middlesbrough Tees Archaeology Report TA 06/06

Jarvis *et al* 1984 *Soils and Their Use in Northern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No 10: Harpenden

In addition to the above access was kindly provided by Richard Waldmeyer to a collated historical archive for the burial ground. This included the plans reproduced in this report as Fig's 4 & 5 along with some of the historical details in section 4, particularly the memories of Joseph H. Taylor.



PLAN  
 of  
 FRIENDS BURYING GROUND  
 at AYERSOME  
 In the Township of  
 LINTHORPE.  
 1858

Figure 4: Plan of Friend's Burying Ground at Ayersome in the Township of Linthorpe 1858.

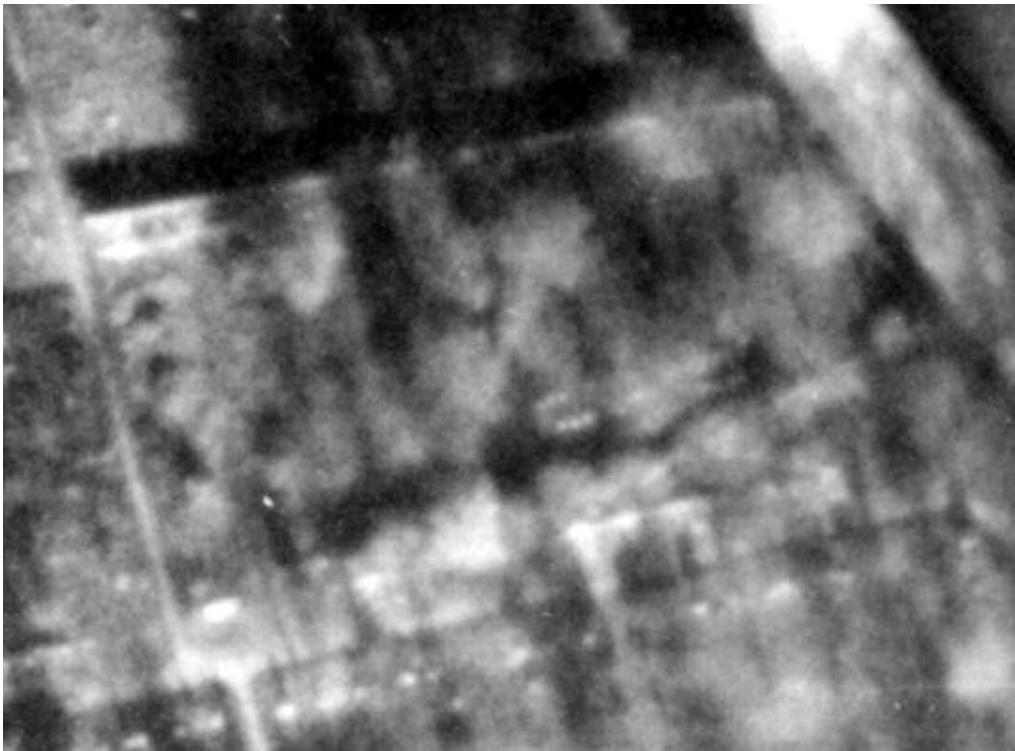


Plate 1: RAF Aerial Photograph CPE/UK 1835. 13<sup>th</sup> November 1946. Frame 4209



Plate 2: RAF Aerial Photograph CP541/23. 16<sup>th</sup> May 1948. Frame 3178



Plate 3: Trench A, looking NE (provided by Simon Green)