

Archaeological Watching Brief
at the
CHESTERFIELD HOSPITAL,
CLIFTON HILL, CLIFTON, BRISTOL.
for
Nuffield Health



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Archaeological Watching Brief
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CHESTERFIELD HOSPITAL,
CLIFTON HILL, CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 57297 72950

Client: Nuffield Health
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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
HER	Historic Environment Record		

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

December, 2010.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of geotechnical test pits in the grounds of the Chesterfield Hospital, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1BP. The location is the site of Clifton Court and contemporary stable blocks, built in 1742, with additional buildings added in the 19th century. The latest phase of standing structures dates to the 20th century when the property was converted from a hospital to a nursing home. Archaeological supervision was required due to the possibility of earlier mediaeval or post-mediaeval, survival from the development of Clifton Village.

The two geotechnical test pits excavated in the grounds to the north-west of the main manor house revealed a sequence of dumped layers, probably 18th - 19th century in date, deposited to level off the ground surface prior to landscaping.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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Figure 1 Site location plan, scale 1:500

Plates

Cover Excavating Geotechnical Test Pit 1, looking north towards the 1970s extension

Plate 1 Test Pit 1

Plate 2 Test Pit 2

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Kendall Kingscott Ltd. on behalf of Nuffield Health to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical test pitting prior to the re-development of the 20th century hospital complex on the manor grounds at Clifton Hill, Clifton, Bristol.
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned to comply with a condition imposed on planning application no. 10/04593/F and 10/04595/LA and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2010).
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken on the 1st December 2010 under the supervision of Tracey Smith who also compiled this report. The illustrations were prepared by Ann Linge.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2010/71 and a digital copy of the report will be made available to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: BHER No: 24961 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-85807.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 57297 72950) lies within the medieval settlement of Clifton, believed to have been in existence since the 9th century, on Clifton Hill to the west of Brandon Hill.
- 2.2 The geology of the study area comprises Upper Cromhall Sandstone and Hotwells Limestone of the Carboniferous period (British Geological Survey 1956). The study area lies at *c* 70m aOD.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The study area has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (BaRAS Report No. 2206/2009). The full historical and archaeological background to the site is contained within this document. Relevant details are summarised below.
- 3.2 Although located within the medieval village of Clifton, nothing is known of the site until the construction of the grade II listed Clifton Court and stables in 1742, which formed part of the wider re-development of Clifton in the 18th century. The main structures of the manor and stables were added to and extended in the 19th century, while the gardens to the north west of the original complex remained relatively untouched until the construction of Stafford Lodge and the main hospital building in the 1930s and an extra wing in the late 20th century.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2010) and the brief prepared by Bristol City Council's Archaeological Officer (BCC 2010). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of intrusive geotechnical test pitting.
- 4.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring of the mechanical excavation of two geotechnical test pits, each measuring roughly 2.0m x 0.65m, located within the gardens to the north west of the main manor house (see Fig.1). The stratigraphy was recorded from the existing ground surface to the geology due to the methodology employed on site by the geotechnical engineering contractors.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 All groundworks were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator using a toothed excavating bucket.
- 5.2 Test Pit 1 was located directly to the west of the north - south range of the 1970s nursing home extension, 10.50m from the southern outer corner of that building, through the tarmac drive which runs through the gardens to the rear entrance of the extension. It was 2.0m in length, 0.65m in width and was taken to a depth of 4.40m from the modern surface (70.77 aOD). Beneath the modern tarmac and stone-chip bedding layers dating to the 1970s extension (101) and (102) was the remains of an old ground surface (103) which contained no datable evidence. This overlay a thick layer of re-deposited natural red-brown silty-clay with carbon fragments (104) which was probably dumped to make up the ground level. Context 104 contained two bricks, un-frogged and handmade in appearance as well as a single sherd of cream glazed pottery, suggesting a possible early 19th-century date range. This was evident to a depth of 1.52m from ground level below which natural clay and mudstone layers (105) and (106) continued until the final depth of 4.40m (**Plate 1**).
- 5.2 Test Pit 2 was located to the south west of the main hospital building in the gardens, to the south of the tarmac drive and measured 2.30m in length and 0.65m wide (**Plate 2**). It was excavated to a depth of 4.80m from the existing ground surface (69.54 aOD). A modern, dark brown humic loam topsoil (201) was in evidence to a depth of 0.20m, overlying a deeper dump or possibly build-up of loamy soils (202) to a depth of 0.75m from ground surface. Below this was a distinctive layer comprising approximately 60% grey-cream mortar fragments with small lumps of ashy clinker in a grey-brown clay-silt matrix (203). Evident to a depth of 0.94m from ground level, this was likely to have been dumped as levelling but may also have originated as construction debris from the 19th century building additions. A mid brown, silty-clay with few inclusions (204), which may represent an earlier levelling layer for gardens, was beneath this mortar layer to a depth of 1.30m, while below this was a thin lens of pale-grey ash and mortar (205) only 50mm thick. Potentially the most interesting layer in test Pit 2 is (206) which lay below (205) to a final depth of 1.80m from ground surface. This very mixed layer comprised lumps of reddish clay in a very dark grey-brown / black silty deposit, containing common oyster shell, carbon, pink and cream mortar lumps, tile fragments, ashy lenses and 'clinker' with rare animal bone, and glass bottle sherds. A mixture of domestic rubbish and demolition or construction rubble, this deposit would appear to have been dumped to make-up the ground level and is post-mediaeval in date, most likely 18th century and dating to the original landscaping of the grounds. Beneath this layer was a natural orange-red sub-soil (207) to 2.60m depth with natural clays and mudstones (208) and (209) continuing from that point to the final depth of 4.80m.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No structural archaeological remains were uncovered during the investigation. The relevant layers within both test pits, but especially Test Pit 2, suggest the ground was made up during the 18th and 19th centuries for landscaping. No evidence of any earlier archaeological features or deposits was visible during this investigation.

7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Tracey Smith who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Tracey Smith. The project was managed by John Bryant.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Published Works

IfA 2008[a] *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Revised 2008).

IfA, 2008[b] *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Adopted 2001; revised 2008.

IfA, 2009 *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Adopted October 2009.

Unpublished Material

BaRAS Report No. 2206/2009 Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at Chesterfield Hospital, Clifton, Bristol. Simon Roper, October 2009.

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Nuffield Health, Kendall Kingscott and Geotechnical Engineering for their assistance and co-operation and BCC Archaeological Officer Peter Insole for their advice.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a SAM.

GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.

Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Applications for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets

HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets

HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

DISTRICT POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document (2006) states (policy SPD No.7, p4):

- (i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.
- (ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
Test Pit 1	
101	Modern tarmac drive surface.
102	Stone chipping, bedding for tarmac drive.
103	Mid Brown clay-silt, compact, common carbon flecks, occasional very small CBM fragments. OGS?
104	Reddish-brown silty-clay, compact, occasional carbon flecks, 2 unfroged handmade bricks, single sherd of cream glazed pottery. Make-up.
105	Mid yellow-pink silty clay, deeper at Northern end of the TP. Natural.
106	Red-brown clay and sandstone fragments, changing to a mud stone nearer TP base. Natural.
Test Pit 2	
201	Topsoil. Dark brown, loamy soil, humic.
202	Very dark brown silty-loam, humic, occasional small lumps of reddish silty clay. Made-up ground?
203	Dark grey layer of approximately 60% grey mortar fragments in a silty matrix with ash and 'clinker', small occasional stone lumps and occasional CBM fragments. Construction debris?
204	Mid brown silty-clay, occasional small flecks of mortar (bioturbation). Make-up for ground surface?
205	Thin layer of greyish –cream mortar fragments.
206	Very dark grey-brown / black clay-silt with occasional orange-red clay lumps, common mortar lumps (cream and pink), lenses of smashed tile fragments, occasional ashy 'clinker' fragments, common oyster shell, occasional glass bottle fragments. Levelling layer, 18th century?
207	Orange-red silty-clay with intermixed bands of browner silty-clay. Natural subsoils.
208	Natural grey clays
209	Mudstone

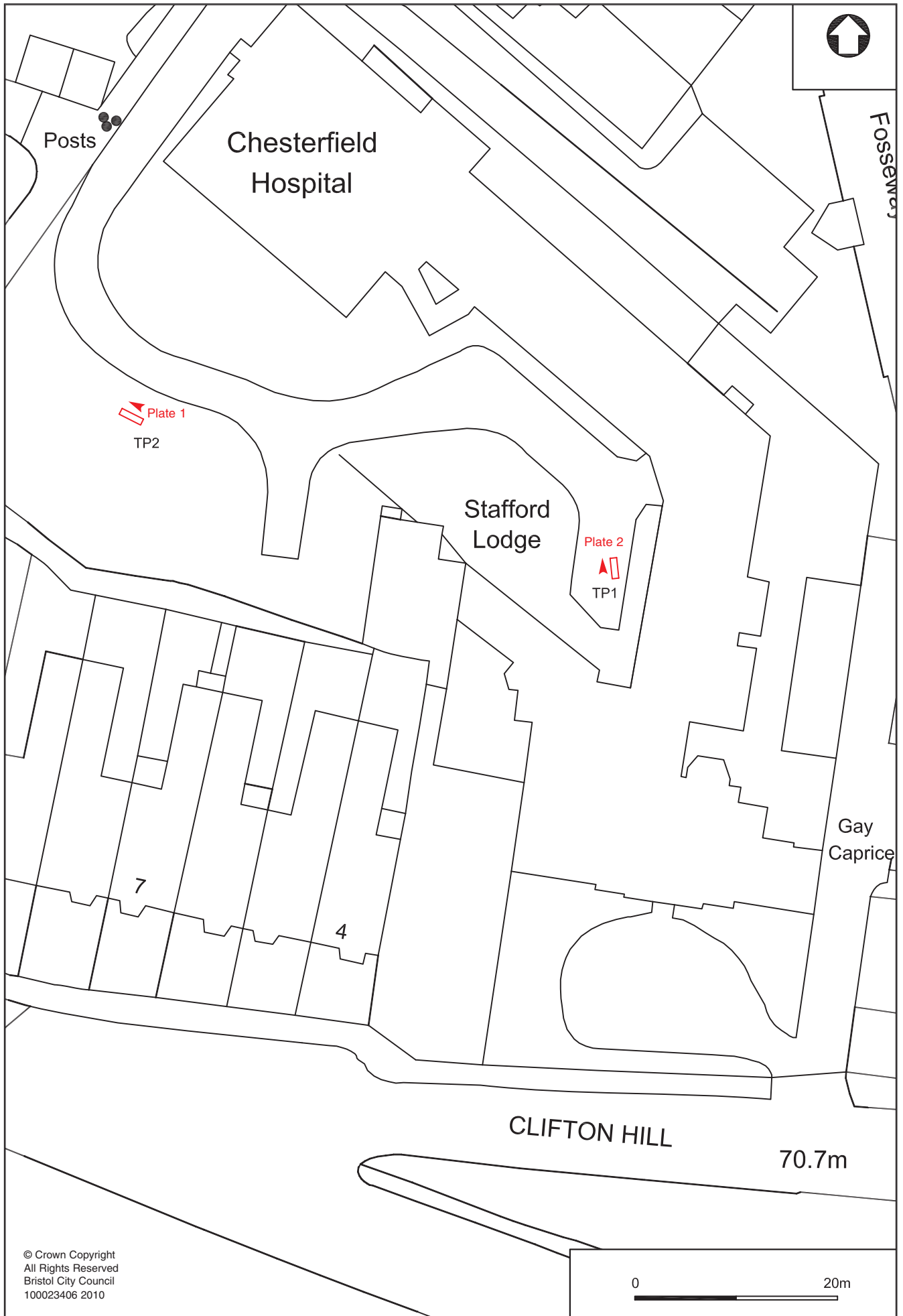


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:500

Plate 1
Test Pit 1, looking north

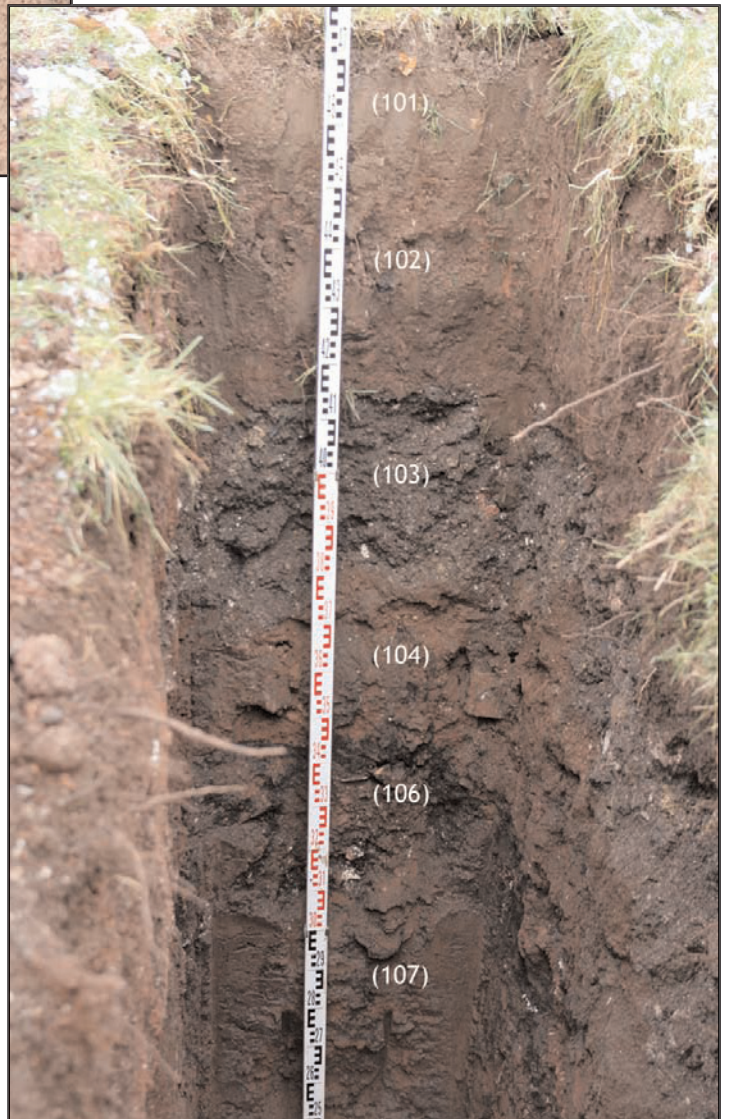
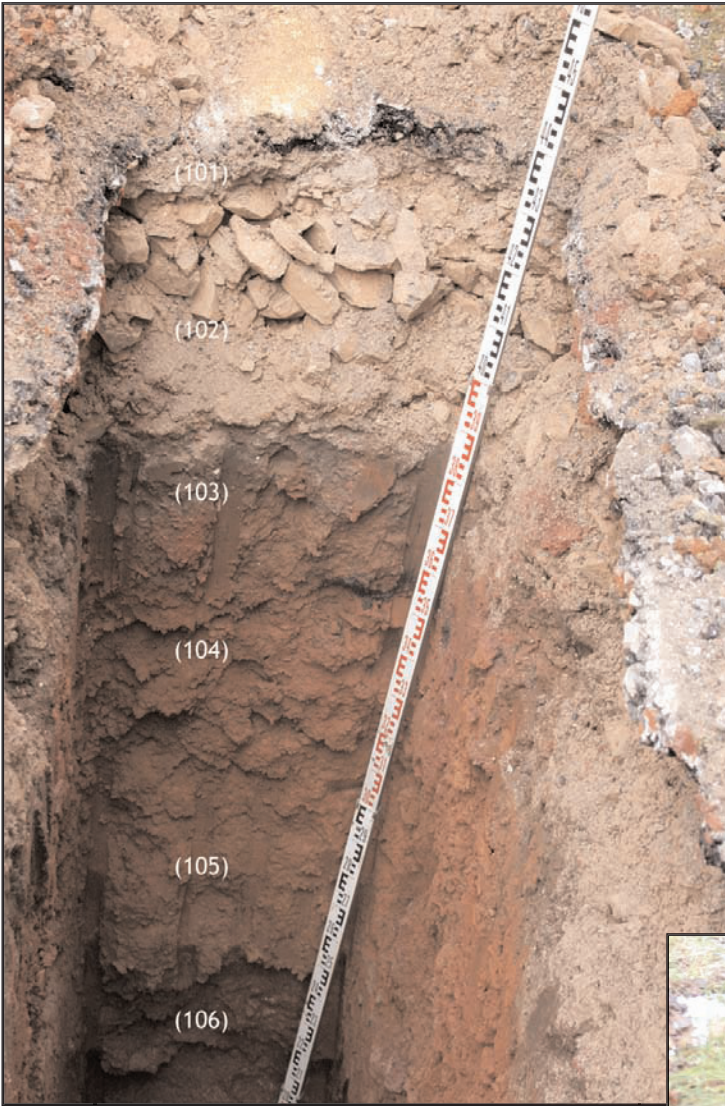


Plate 2
Test Pit 2, looking west