



## **Monitoring Report No. 78**

**William Street  
Loughadian  
Poyntzpass  
Co. Down**

**AE/06/158**

Kara Ward

## Site Specific Information

*Site Address:* 9 William Street, Loughadian, Poyntzpass, Co. Down.

*Townland:* Loughadian

*SMR No.:* Near site of 12<sup>th</sup> Century castle  
*State Care*    *Scheduled*    *Other* ✓

*Grid Ref:* J 0625 3942

*County:* Down

*Excavation Licence No:* AE/06/158

*Planning Ref / No.:* Q/2005/1203/F

*Date of Monitoring:* 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006

*Archaeologist Present:* Kara Ward

### *Brief Summary:*

Two test trenches were excavated to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. The applicant proposes to construct a domestic garage on the site which is located approximately 75m east of the site of a 12<sup>th</sup> Century castle (DOW:033:034). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in either of the trenches.

### *Type of monitoring:*

Excavation of two test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision.

### *Size of area opened:*

Two trenches each measuring approximately 15m by 1.65m.

*Current Land Use:* Yard.

*Intended Land Use:* Domestic garage.

## **Account of the evaluation**

A planning application was made for the construction of a domestic garage at 9 William Street, Loughadian, Poyntzpass, Co. Down (Fig. 1 and 2). The proposed development site (Fig. 3, Plate 1) is located approximately 75m east of the site of a 12<sup>th</sup> Century castle (DOW:033:034) (Fig. 4), as indicated on the Sites and Monuments Record map. The site on which the garage is proposed to be built was extensively disturbed during construction of the dwelling house in 1998. Planning permission had been granted for the garage at this time but this permission elapsed and the garage was never constructed (Rodney McCombe pers. comm.). As a result of a fresh planning application for the garage an archaeological evaluation was requested.

There are no visible above-ground remnants of the castle which is said to have been built partly with stones and partly with earthen ramparts. The site of the castle is on a slope with ground falling to the west and with good views to the west and south. The castle was said to be in an advanced ruinous state by the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century (Environment and Heritage Service, Sites and Monuments Record).

An archaeological evaluation was requested by the Environment and Heritage Service: Protecting Historic Monuments Casework Officer, Neil Yeaman, to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any hidden archaeological remains. The evaluation by excavation of test trenches took place on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006. Two test trenches, one measuring 12m by 1.65m and one measuring 13m by 1.65m, were excavated (Fig. 3) within the footprint of the proposed garage. The stratigraphy of the test trenches is described below:

Trench A (Plate 2) measured approximately 12m by 1.65m. The requested length of Trench A was 15m but the northernmost 3m could not be excavated due to the presence of a water pipe and an oil pipe. As mentioned above, the site for the garage had been extensively disturbed during ground works associated with the construction of the dwelling in 1998. This disturbance involved the removal of some of the topsoil and the subsoil also appeared to be slightly truncated. Much of this material was then dumped on the southern part of the evaluation area. These works were presumably associated with the initial preparation of the ground for the construction of the garage. The exposed part of the evaluation area was then covered with a mixture of the disturbed topsoil and subsoil (C105) and then sealed with hardcore (C104). Presumably this area was levelled with the disturbed soil (C105) and hardcore (C104) when it was decided not to build the garage immediately. At the southern end of Trench A (Plate 3), the overburden (C101), which was a mixture of disturbed subsoil, topsoil and quarry dust had a depth of up to 0.70m. Underlying this was the original sod (C102) which was present between 0.70m and 0.94m below the surface. The original sod (C102) overlay the subsoil (C103), an orangey brown, mottled grey, silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. The interface between the original undisturbed ground and the disturbed layers was given the context number (C111). C111 represents the 1998 cut associated with the scarping of topsoil and subsoil.

At the northern end of Trench A (Plate 4), the topsoil and subsoil had been scarped (C111) away and replaced with a layer of disturbed topsoil and subsoil (C105) which was sealed by a layer of hardcore (C104). The hardcore (C104) had a depth of up to 0.2m. The underlying disturbed layer (C105) was present between 0.2m and 0.65m below the surface. It overlay subsoil (C103), an orangey brown, mottled grey, silty clay. A modern, roughly circular spread of dark humic material with a strong oily smell (C106) was found at the southern end of Trench A. It measured approximately 2.4m in diameter and was very shallow, at up to 0.06m deep. Approximately 2.9m from the southern end of the trench was a modern cut (C107), which was

just visible at the western edge of the trench. It measured up to 1.4m by 0.8m wide as it was exposed. It was up to 0.03m deep and it was filled with quarry dust (C108). At 5.8m from the southern end of Trench A, another modern feature was encountered. This was a sub-linear cut (C109) filled with hardcore gravel (C110). It measured 2.1m long and at least 0.45m wide with a depth of 0.07m. It is likely that these features originate from the 1998 groundworks associated with the construction of the dwelling.

Trench B (Plate 5) measured approximately 13m by 1.65m. As in Trench A, there was a difference in stratigraphy between the northern and southern halves of the trench. At the southern end of the trench (Plate 6) there was a layer of overburden (C201) consisting of a mixture of topsoil and subsoil and quarry dust with a depth of up to 0.5m. Underlying this was the original sod layer (C202) which was present between 0.5m and 0.8m. This directly overlay the subsoil (C203), an orangey brown, mottled grey, silty clay. At the northern end of Trench B (Plate 7) a layer of hardcore (C204) sealed a disturbed layer of mixed topsoil and subsoil (C205). The hardcore (C204) was up to 0.5m deep and the disturbed layer (C205) was present between 0.5m and 0.8m below the surface. The subsoil (C203), an orangey brown, mottled grey, silty clay, lay directly underneath the disturbed layer (C205). The interface between the two halves of the trench is represented by the action of scarping (C212) of the topsoil and subsoil which was later spread across the site to level it.

A number of modern features were exposed in Trench B. Approximately 0.9m from the southern end of the trench was a spread of quarry dust (C206). It was not fully exposed but measured at least 0.8m in diameter. Another small spread of quarry dust (C207) was located approximately 0.5m further north along the trench. Again it was not fully exposed but was found to measure at least 0.3m in diameter. Approximately 1.6m from the southern end of the trench, along the eastern edge was a modern cut (C208) filled with quarry dust (C209). It measured up to 1.1m long and had a maximum exposed width of 0.45m. Between 3.1m and 9.8m from the southern end of the trench was a modern linear feature (C210) filled with grey silty clay and quarry dust with inclusions of red brick (C211). It measured up to 0.36m wide and had a depth of up to 0.05m.

The excavation of evaluation trenches has shown that the site has been quite heavily disturbed by modern activity but it was also evident that in the undisturbed areas of the trenches there were no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance.

**Archive:**

*Finds:* n/a

*Photographs:* 10 digital images, held by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

*Plans / Drawings:* n/a

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





Fig. 2: 1:10,000 Map showing location of site (outlined in red)

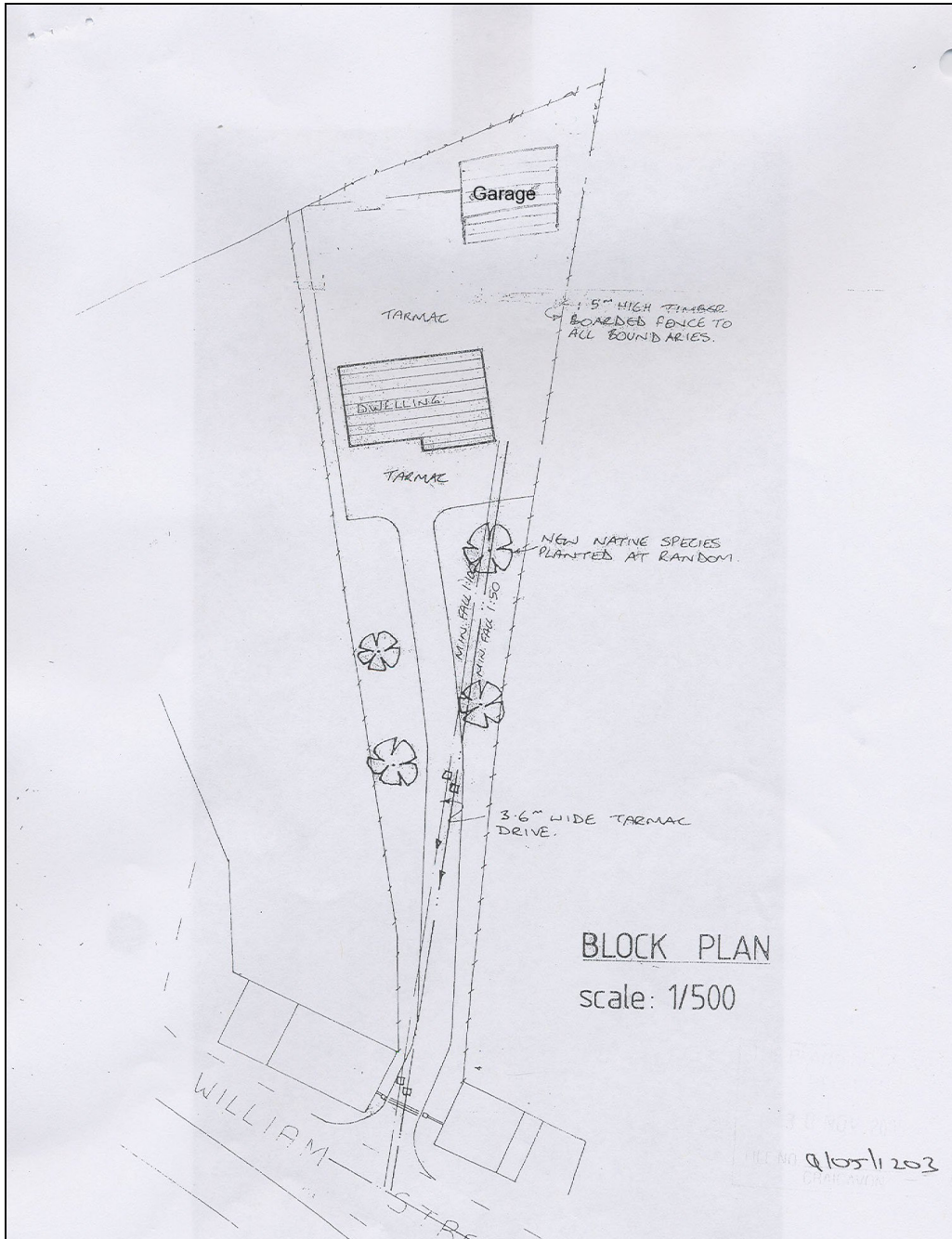


Fig. 3: Plan of development showing location of garage.







Plate 1: Overall view of site from north-west prior to excavation of evaluation trenches.

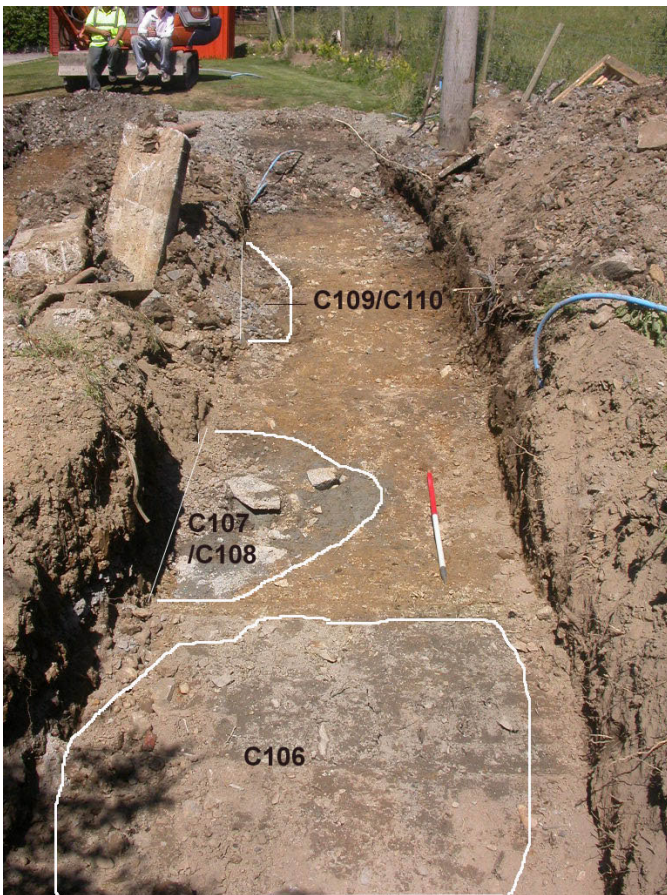


Plate 2: View of Trench A from south, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C103).

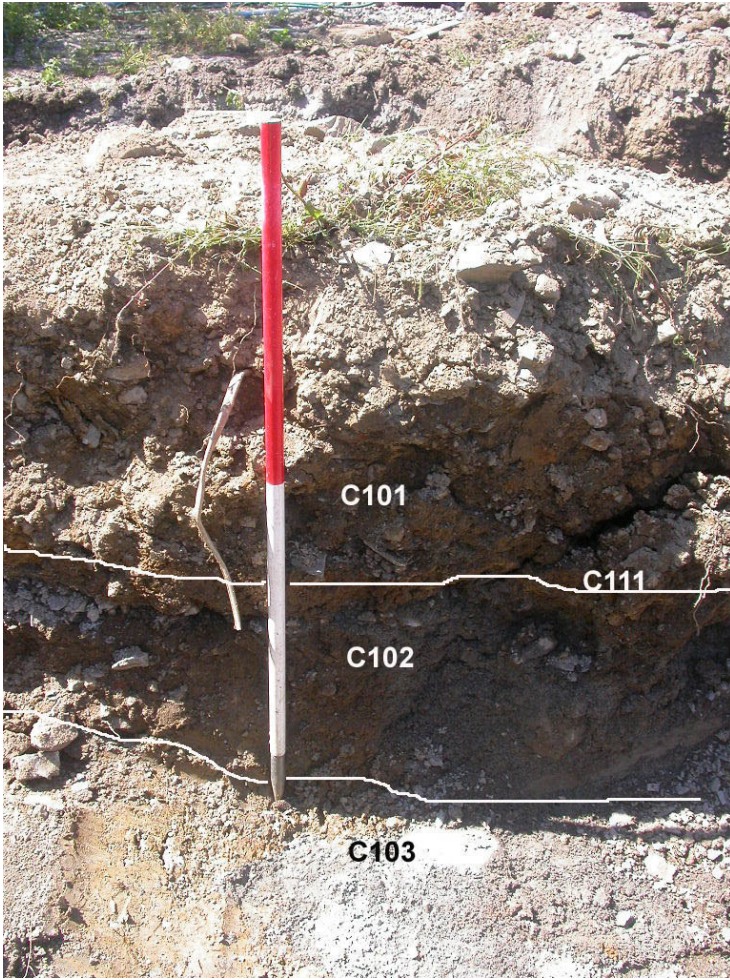


Plate 3: View of west-facing section in southern part of Trench A, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C103).

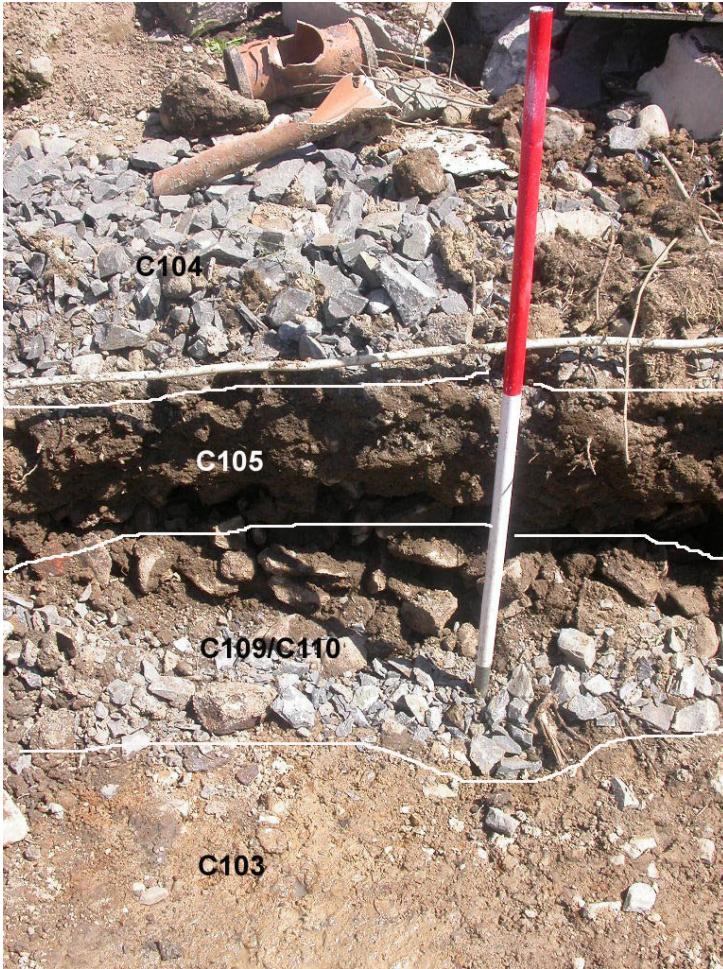


Plate 4: View of east-facing section in northern part of Trench A, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C103).

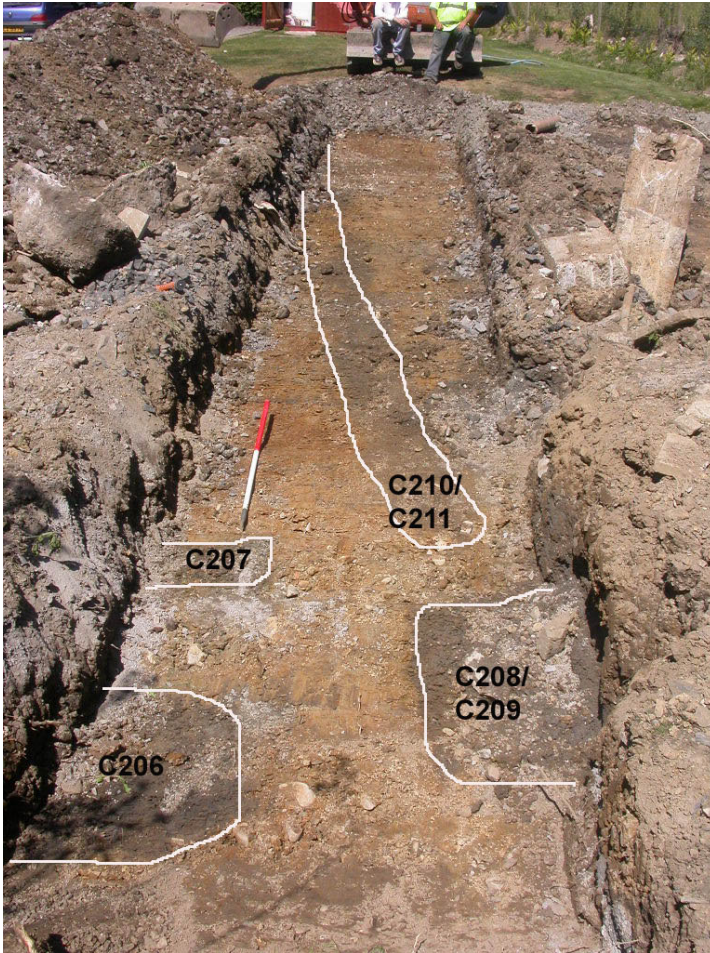


Plate 5: View of Trench B from south, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C203).

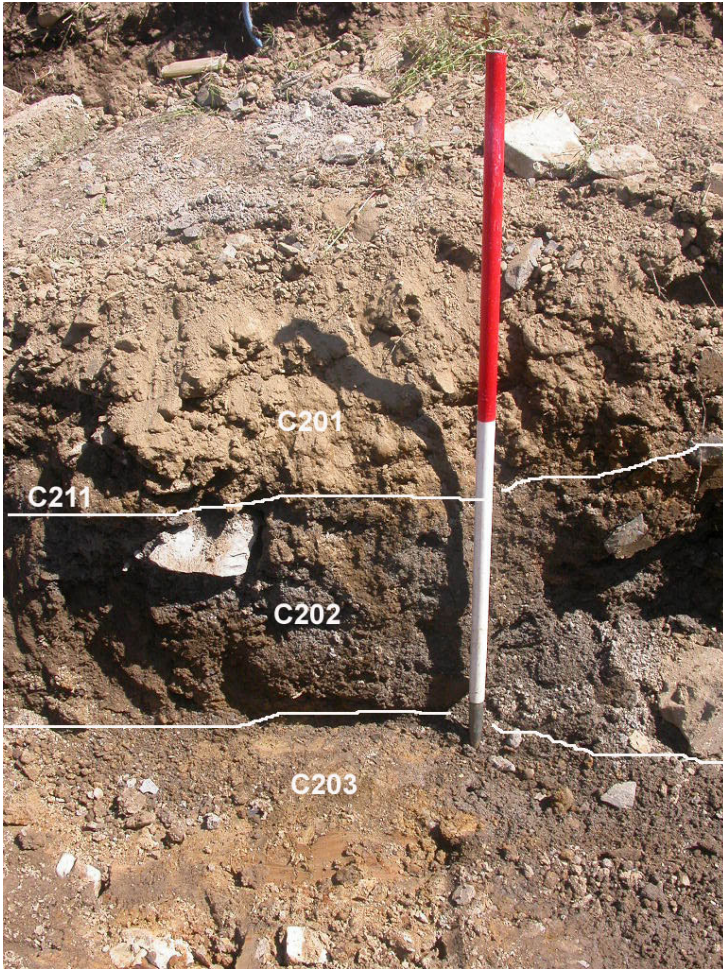


Plate 6: View of west-facing section at southern end of Trench B, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C203).

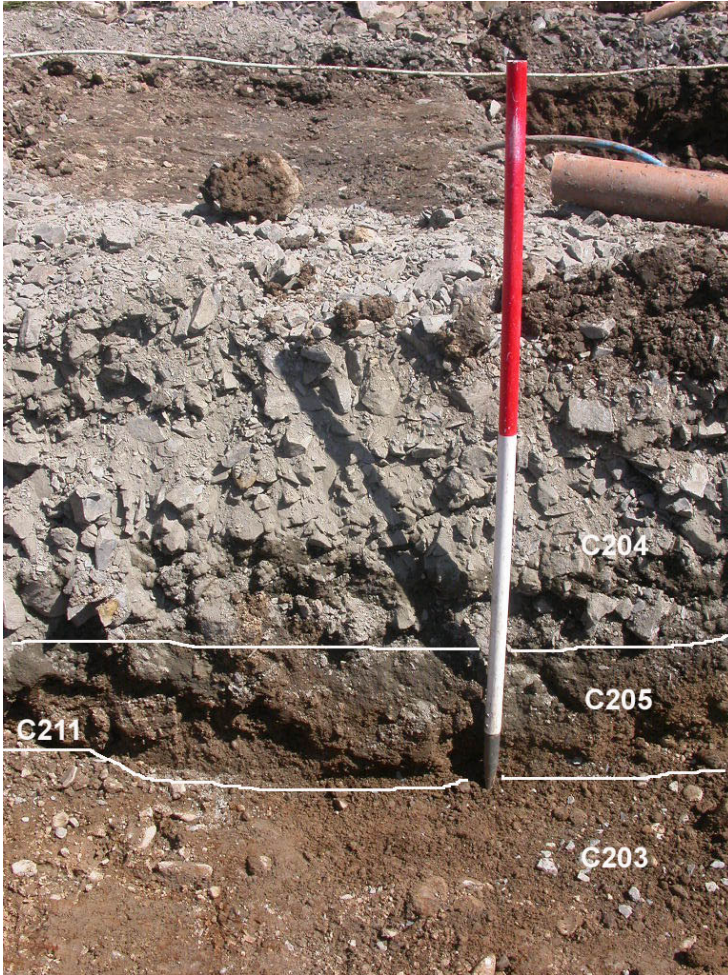


Plate 7: View of west-facing section at northern end of Trench B, after excavation to surface of subsoil (C203).