Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 075

7 KILLEEN ROAD
KILLEEN
VICTORIA BRIDGE
COUNTY TYRONE

LICENCE NO.: AE/06/134

NAOMI CARVER

Site Specific Information

Site Name: 7 Killeen Road

Townland: Killeen

*SMR No. :*TYR 016:032

State Care Scheduled Other √ [delete as applicable]

Grid Ref.: H 3302 8743

County: Tyrone

Excavation Licence No. : AE/06/134

Planning Ref / No. : J/2005/0933/O

Dates of Monitoring: 30th June 2006

Archaeologist(s) Present: Naomi Carver

Brief Summary:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at a site 320m north-west of 7 Killeen Road, Killeen, County Tyrone as part of the planning application for a new dwelling. The site of a standing stone (TYR 016:032) is located around 45m to the west of the application site. The evaluation consisted of six test trenches which ranged in length from 10m to 20m. Disturbance of a modern nature was evident, but there were no remains of archaeological significance. It is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out.

Type of monitoring:

Excavation of six test trenches by mechanical excavator equipped with a 'sheugh' bucket under archaeological supervision.

Size of area opened:

Six trenches each approximately 2m wide and ranging in length between 10m and 20m.

Current Land Use: Wasteland

Intended Land Use: Residential

Brief account of the monitoring

Introduction

The application site is located 320m north-west of 7 Killeen Road, Killeen, County Tyrone. The site is 2.0km west of the village of Ardstraw and 3.5km south-west of Victoria Bridge (Figure One). It is situated on the northern side of the valley of the River Derg and lies at a height of approximately 60m above sea level. The application site occupies a corner of land which opens onto the Killeen Road (Figure Two). The site is sub-triangular in plan and approximately 0.2 hectares in size. Prior to the evaluation the application site was overgrown with dense vegetation and bordered by mature trees (Plate One). There was a dwelling house on the site within living memory, which the landowner remembered as a tin shack. The building is not shown on the first or second editions of the Ordnance Survey Map. A broken concrete platform towards the eastern side of the site may be all that remained of the dwelling. To the north-west and north-east of the site is agricultural land interspersed with isolated dwelling houses.

There are no visible remains of the standing stone (TYR 016:032) in the field to the west of the site. The Environment and Heritage Service Sites and Monuments Record notes that the Ordnance Survey Field Report recorded the stone being removed in 1879.

The evaluation took place as part of the planning application for a new dwelling and was requested by Edith Gowdy: Protecting Historic Monuments Caseworker with Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage.

Excavation

The original research design outlined the excavation of six trenches: two 10m by 2m, two 15m by 2m and two 20m by 2m (Figure Three). The actual length of the trenches varied due to the presence of dense vegetation and trees on the site (Figure Three, Plates One and Three). All six trenches were excavated to the subsoil which consisted of boulder clay.

Trench One

Trench One was parallel to the north-south field boundary and was approximately 19.5m long and 2.0m wide (Plate Three). There was a large amount of dumped material at the top of the trench, comprising the upper deposits. There was a thin sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) consisting of humic, dark brown, sandy loam. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was loose and contained large stone rubble (average size: 500x300x100mm) which may have originated from the house mentioned in the introduction. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) was 0.1m deep and contained rubbish such as plastic bags, glass bottles and modern corroded iron objects. In parts the sod and topsoil layer physically overlay the subsoil (Context No. 106). At the southern end of the trench the sod and topsoil layer was not present at all. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 101) at the southern end of the trench was a deposit of dumped material consisting of gravel and tar (Context No. 105). This deposit may have been derived from tarring of the nearby road. It was

up to 0.75m thick. The deposit contained finds of a modern nature such as glass, plastic bottles and corroded iron objects.

Stratigraphically below the dumped material (Context No. 105), at the northern end of the trench, was a layer of ashy loam (Context No. 102). The ashy loam was greyish green in colour and approximately 0.2m thick. It may have been derived from successive dumps of material cleared out from a hearth, possibly associated with the house. There were no finds within the ashy loam. Below the ashy loam (Context No. 102) was a layer of loose, dark brown, humic loam (Context No. 103) which was 0.25m thick. The humic loam (Context No. 103) contained a few sherds of late nineteenth century pottery. At the southern end of the trench the humic loam (Context No. 103) was physically above the subsoil.

Below the humic loam (Context No. 103) at the northern end of the trench was a layer of dark brown, charcoal-flecked, silty loam (Context No. 104). The charcoal flecked silty loam was 0.15m deep and contained a few sherds of nineteenth century ceramics. Below the charcoal-flecked loam (Context No. 104) was the subsoil (Context No. 106). The surface of the subsoil in Trench One was present at a depth of between 0.75m and 1.00m (Plate Four). There were no features cut into the subsoil (Context No. 106).

Trench Two

Trench Two ran parallel with Trench One and was situated approximately 4.2m to the west. The trench was 16.9m long and 2.0m wide (Plate Five). Trench Two exhibited a similar stratigraphy to Trench One, consisting predominantly of dumped material. The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Two (Context No. 201) consisted of loose, dark brown, sandy loam containing rubble (average size: 500x200x100mm). The sod and topsoil layer was around 0.2m thick and contained finds of a modern nature such as glass and plastic bottles. At the southern end of the trench the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) was physically above a layer of charcoal-flecked humic loam (Context No. 204). However, stratigraphically below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 201) was a deposit of loose, dark brown, silty loam (Context No. 202), containing rubbish such as plastic bags and bottles. The dark brown silty loam (Context No. 202) was 0.3m thick. It may have been the equivalent to the dumped deposit (Context No. 105) in Trench One. Below the dark brown silty loam was a layer of ashy loam (Context No. 203), probably the equivalent of the ashy layer in Trench One (Context No. 102). The ashy loam was greyish green in colour and friable. It was around 0.2m thick and contained no finds.

Below the layer of ashy loam (Context No. 203), at the northern end of the trench, was a layer of dark brown, humic loam (Context No. 204). The humic loam was loose and contained finds of a modern nature such as glass bottles, plastic bags and a few sherds of late nineteenth century pottery. The layer was 0.25m thick. The humic loam was above the subsoil (Context No. 205), the surface of which was present at a depth of 0.76m at the southern end of the trench and 1.04m at the northern end (Plate Six). There were no features cut into the subsoil.

Trench Three

Trench Three was located approximately 4.7m to the west of Trench Two and ran parallel to the latter. The trench was 14.5m long by 2.0m wide (Plate Seven). Trench Three contained similar deposits and layers to those excavated in Trenches One and Two. The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Three (Context No. 301) consisted of loose, mid brown, sandy loam containing modern finds such as plastic bags and bottles, and sherds of glass. The sod and topsoil layer also contained some large stone rubble (average size: 500x300x100mm). The layer was 0.2m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 301) was a layer of loose, light green, sandy silt, which was present at the northern end of the trench only. The sandy silt contained some angular stone inclusions, which ranged in size from 10x5x2mm to 100x50x20mm. There were no finds within the sandy silt (Context No. 302), which was 0.25m thick.

Stratigraphically below the sandy silt (Context No. 302) was a layer of light greyish brown silty sand (Context No. 303). The silty sand contained some small stone inclusions (average size: 10x10x1mm) and was 0.27m thick. There were no finds within the silty sand, which was present towards the southern end of the trench. Below the silty sand (Context No. 303) was a layer of compact humic loam (Context No. 304). The humic loam was dark brown in colour and contained flecks of charcoal. It was probably equivalent to Context Nos. 104 and 204 in Trenches One and Two respectively. The humic loam in Trench Three (Context No. 304) was 0.25m thick and contained no finds.

Below the humic loam (Context No. 304) was the subsoil (Context No. 305). The surface of the subsoil in Trench Three was an average of 0.68m deep (Plate Eight). There were no features cut into it.

Trench Four

Trench Four ran parallel to Trench Three and was located approximately 2.6m to the west of the latter. The trench was 13.4m long and 2.0m wide (Plate Nine). It too contained similar deposits to the first three trenches. The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Four (Context No. 401) consisted of loose, greyish brown, sandy loam containing small sub-angular stone inclusions (average size 50x50x20mm). The sod and topsoil layer contained finds of a modern nature, such as plastic bottles and bags. It was 0.27m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 401) was a layer of light green silty sand (Context No. 402), similar to the layer observed in Trench Three (Context No. 302). The silty sand (Context No. 402) was present at the northern end of the trench and contained no finds. It was 0.36m thick.

Below the silty sand (Context No. 402) was a layer of humic loam (Context No. 403). The humic loam was dark brown in colour and contained some charcoal flecks. It was 0.34m thick. Below the humic loam (Context No. 403) was the subsoil (Context No. 404), which in Trench Four was present at a depth of 0.97m (Plate Ten). There were no features cut into the subsoil in Trench Four.

Trench Five

Trench Five was located approximately 3m to the west of Trench Four. The trench was 13.6m long (north-south) by 2.0m wide (Plate Eleven). Although the stratigraphy in Trench Five was similar to that excavated in Trenches One to Four, there was not the same depth of dumped deposits. The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Five (Context No. 501) consisted of loose, greyish brown, sandy loam. There were no finds within the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 501) which was 0.19m thick. Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 501) was a layer of loose, light green, silty sand (Context No. 502). The silty sand was 0.30m thick and was present at the northern end of the trench only.

Stratigraphically below the silty sand (Context No. 502), at the southern end of the trench, was a layer of dark brown, humic clay loam (Context No. 503). The humic clay loam contained some small stone inclusions (average size: 50x20x20mm) and contained no finds. It was 0.30m thick. Below the humic loam (Context No. 503) was the subsoil (Context No. 504). The depth of the surface of the subsoil varied from 0.52m at the southern end of the trench to 0.79m at the northern end (Plate Twelve). There were no finds cut into the subsoil.

Trench Six

Trench Six was located approximately 5m to the west of Trench Five and 1m to the north of the Killeen Road. The long axis of the trench was aligned north-south. Trench Six was approximately 9m long and 2m wide (Plate Thirteen). The sod and topsoil layer in Trench Six (Context No. 601) consisted of loose, dark brown, humic sandy loam. The layer contained some small stone inclusions (average size 20x10x5mm), which were angular to sub-angular in shape. Within the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 601) were finds of a modern nature such as glass bottles and plastic sheeting. The sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 601) was approximately 0.2m thick.

Below the sod and topsoil layer (Context No. 601) was a layer of loose to compact silty clay loam (Context No. 602). The silty clay loam was orangeish brown in colour and contained some small rounded stones (average size: 5x3x2mm). There were no finds within the silty clay loam (Context No. 602), which was 0.37m thick. The orangeish brown silty clay loam (Context No. 602) overlay the subsoil (Context No. 603). The subsoil in Trench Six was present at a depth of 0.57m (Plate Fourteen). There were no subsoil-cut features.

The six test trenches excavated at 7 Killeen Road contained dumped deposits of a relatively modern nature (late nineteenth century onwards). The dumping was most evident towards the eastern end of the site where the trench stratigraphy was deeper. The layers of humic loam present in all of the trenches (Context Nos. 103, 204, 304, 403, 503 and 602) may have been the remains of a buried soil profile, which was sealed by a sequence of modern deposits associated with upgrading the road or perhaps demolishing the house. The dumped deposits were not of archaeological interest or significance and therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is carried out. No publication is required, apart from a short summary in the annual '*Excavations*' bulletin.

Archive:

Finds:

The artefacts found during the evaluation are temporarily housed within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Photographs:

The digital images taken during the evaluation are archived within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

Plans / Drawings: N/A

Signed:_____ Date:_____

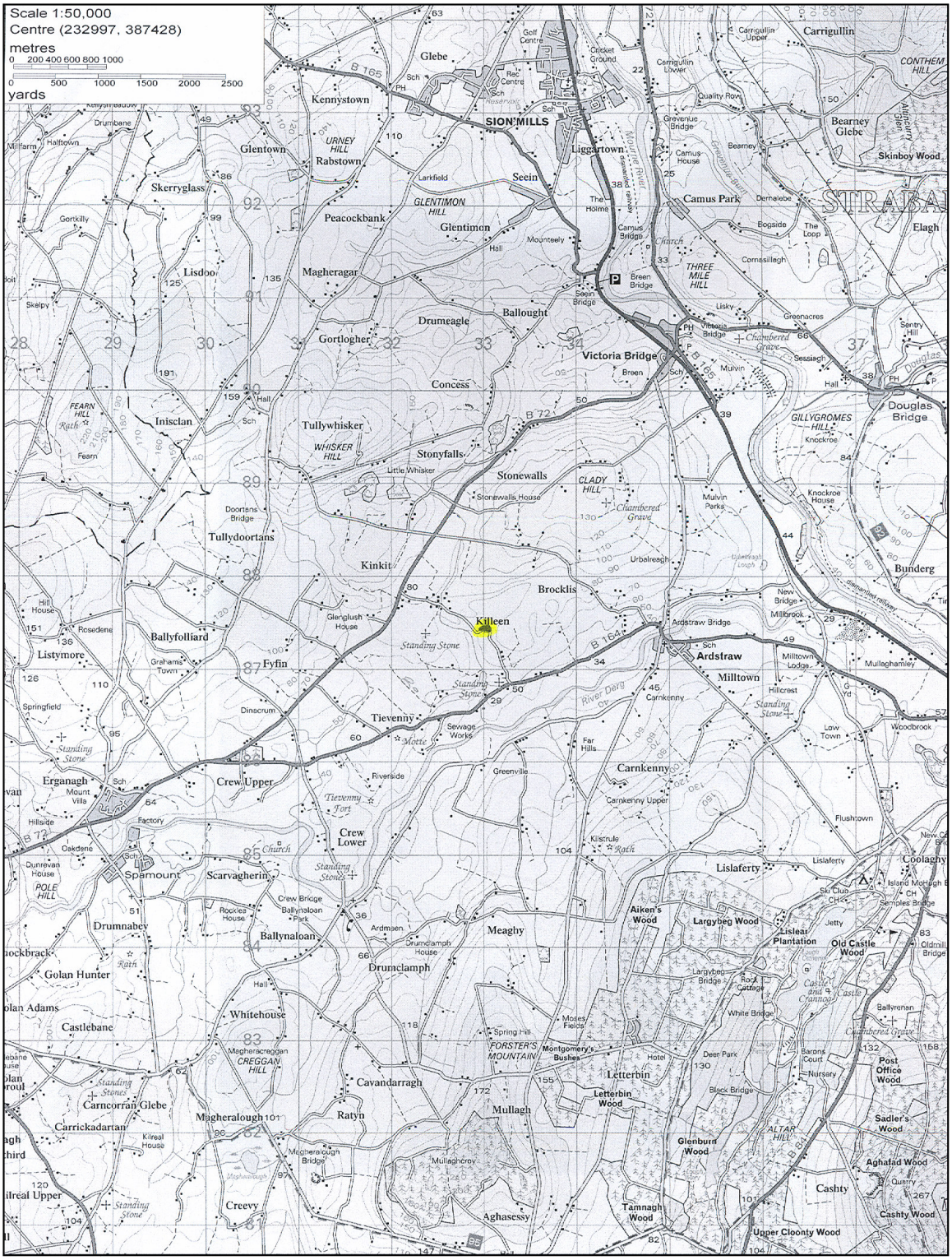

Figure One: General location map (site highlighted in yellow)

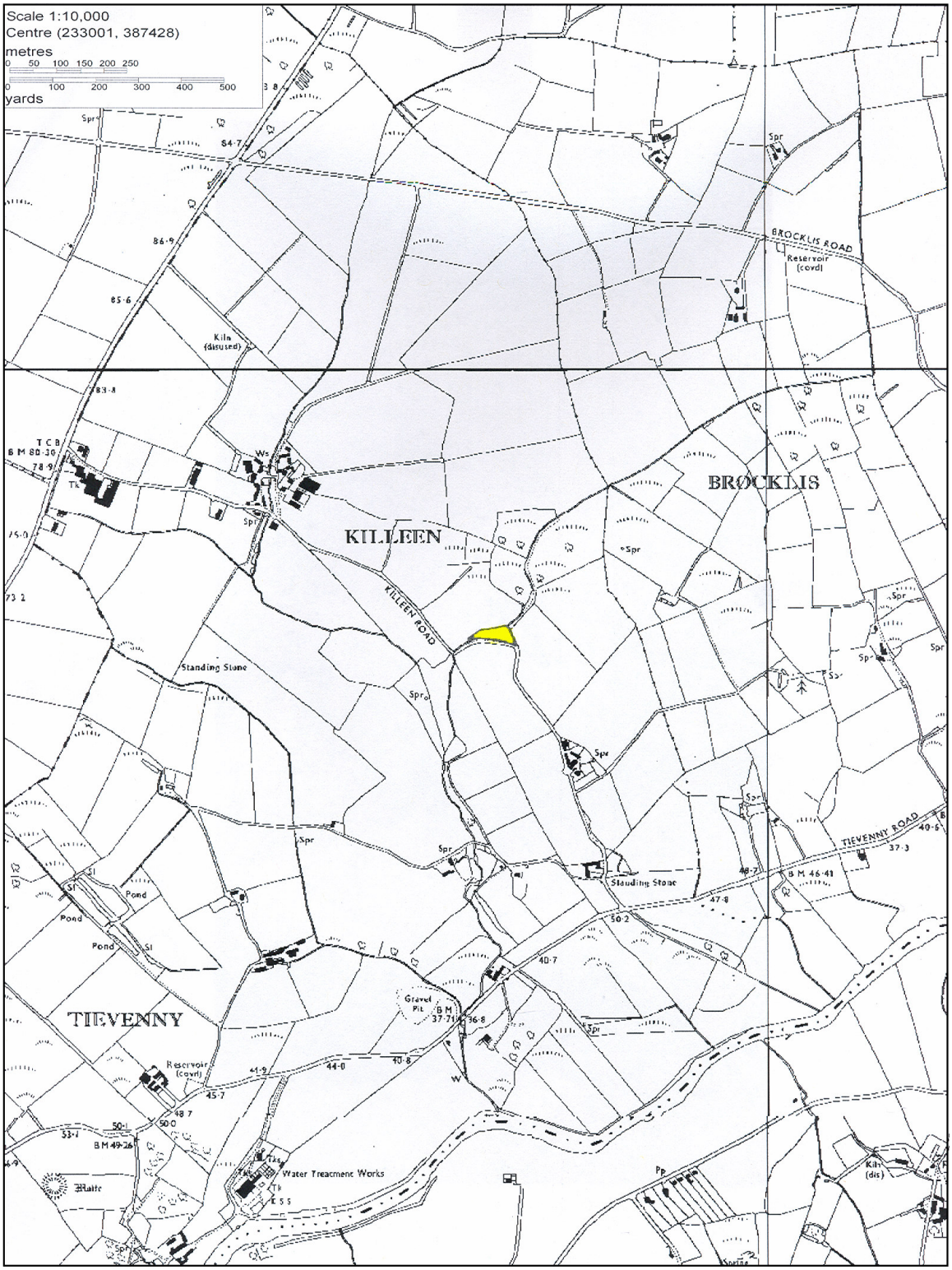

Figure Two: Detailed location map showing application site (highlighted in yellow)

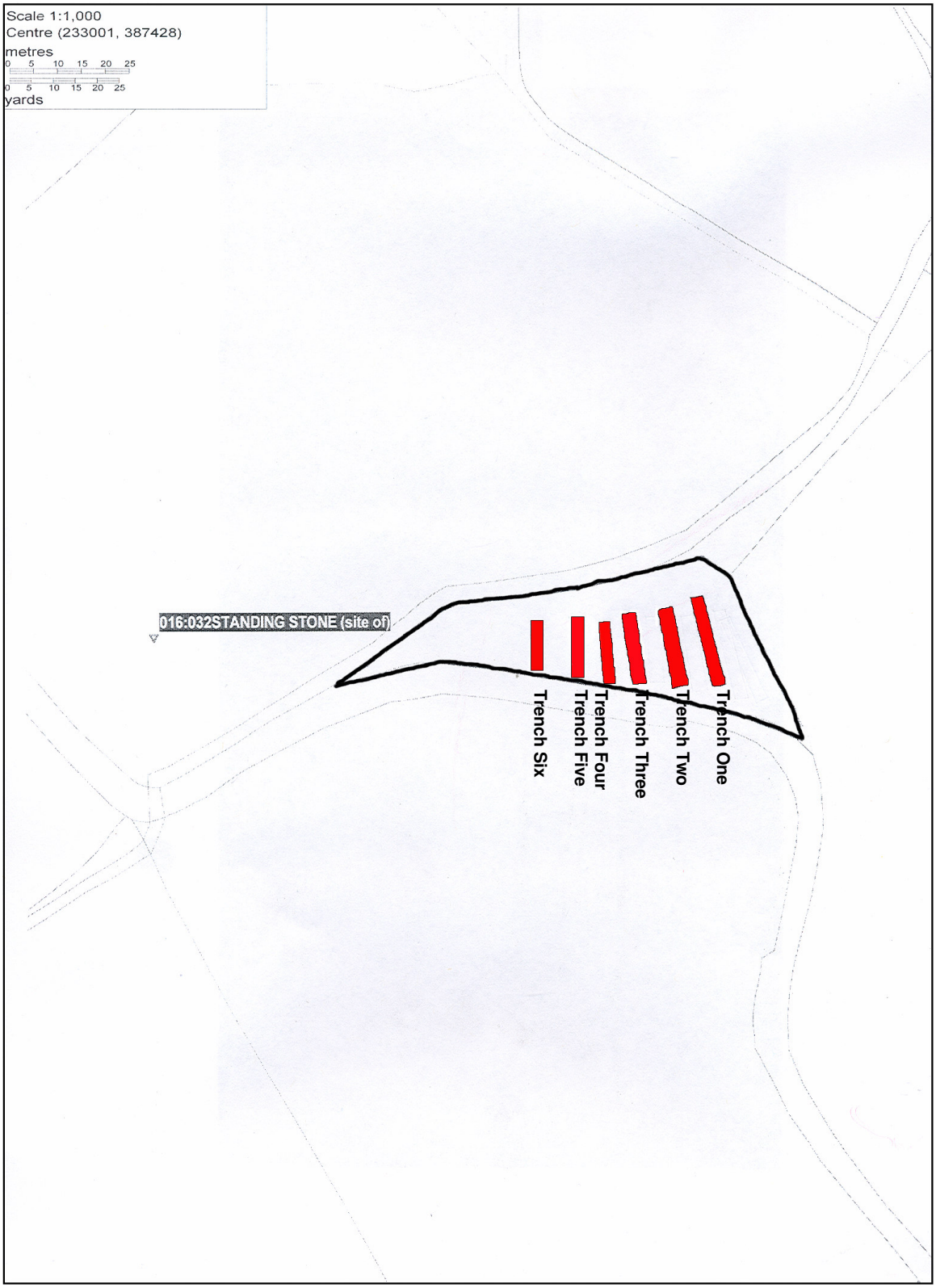

Figure Three: Site plan showing location of test trenches (in red)

Plate One: Application site prior to evaluation, looking north-east

Plate Two: Application site prior to evaluation, looking north-west

Plate Three: Trench One following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 106), looking north

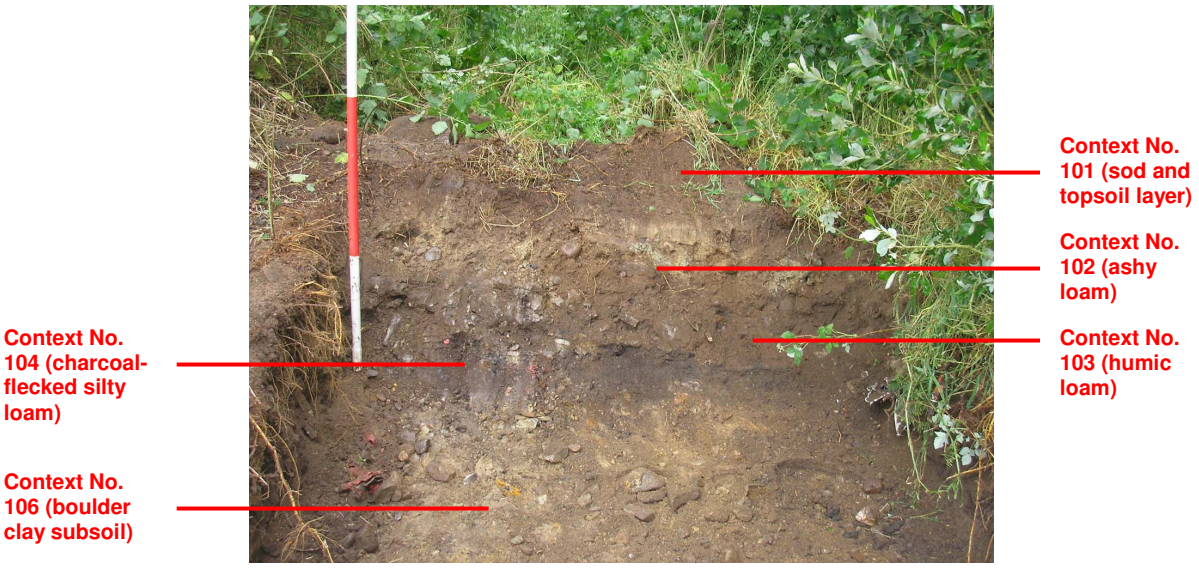

Plate Four: South-facing section of Trench One showing dumped deposits, looking north)

Plate Five: Trench Two following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 205), looking north

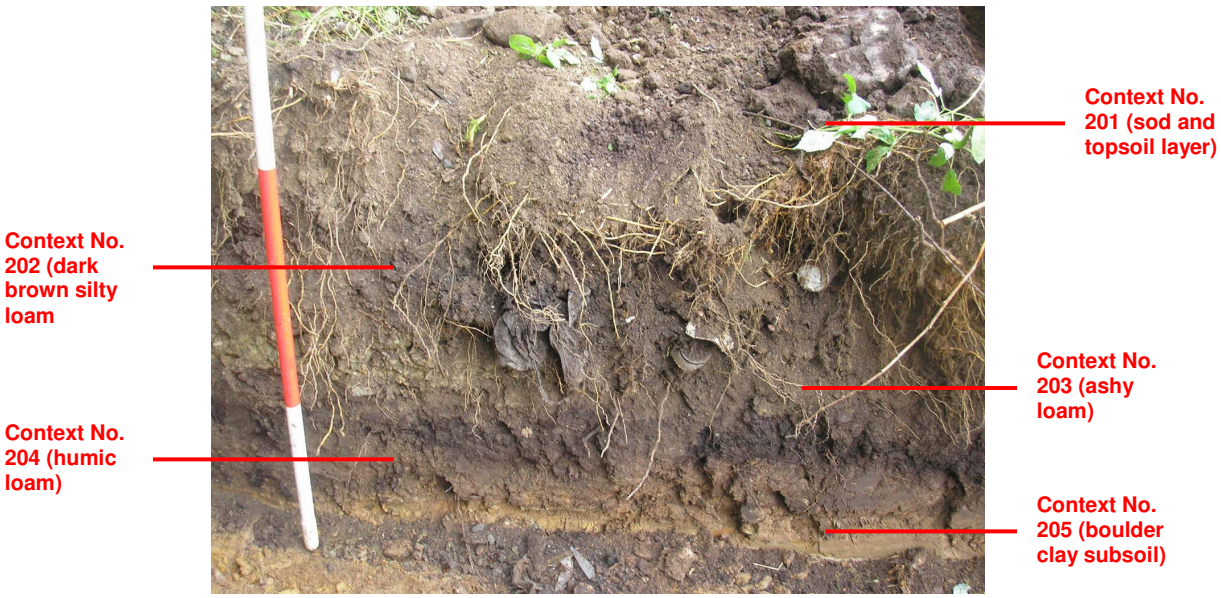

Plate Six: West-facing section of Trench Two showing dumped deposits, looking east

Plate Seven: Trench Three following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 305), looking north

Plate Eight: West-facing section of Trench Three showing dumped deposits, looking east

Plate Nine: Trench Four following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 404), looking north

Plate Ten: South-facing section of Trench Four, looking north

Plate Eleven: Trench Five following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 504), looking north

Plate Twelve: South-facing section of Trench Five, looking north

Plate Thirteen: Trench Six following excavation to subsoil (Context No. 603), looking north

Plate Fourteen: West-facing section of Trench Six, looking east