

CAMBRIDGE INDEPENDENT ARCHAEOLOGY – CIA30 (NWW19)

NWW19 – Trench 28 North and South Corners' interim report

The North Corner

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Initial investigations to the east of the section originally taken in 2018 revealed the same layers as in that year with little in the way of significant finds apart from mainly bone and the odd examples of CBM, pot and snail. The initial post winter cleaning was 1901 and followed by contexts 1903 and 1909.



Figure 1 - Contexts 1901 and 1903

Context 1912 is the fill over the North West and North East chalk areas and 1915 is the layer exposed over the whole of the north corner once that level was reached. The significant find here were 2 groups of large bones (horse?).

Plan 1902 shows these initial excavations and their relationship to the chalk edges and plan 1903 where the whole North corner was excavated to the same level.

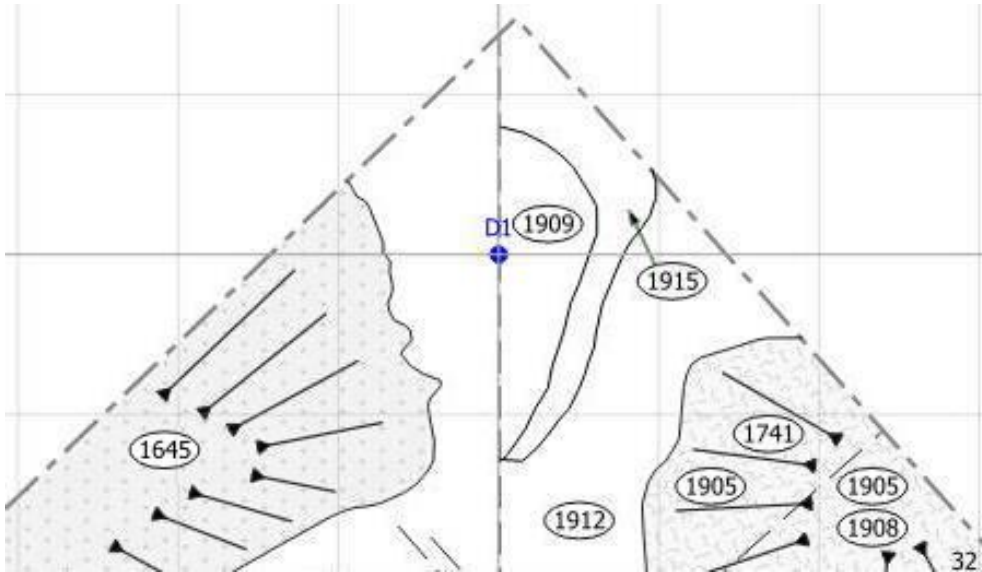


Figure 2 - Plan 1902 (Part)



Figure 3 - Bone Group 3



Figure 4 - Bone Group 4

Plan 1903 shows the North corner once the excavations had reached the level overall

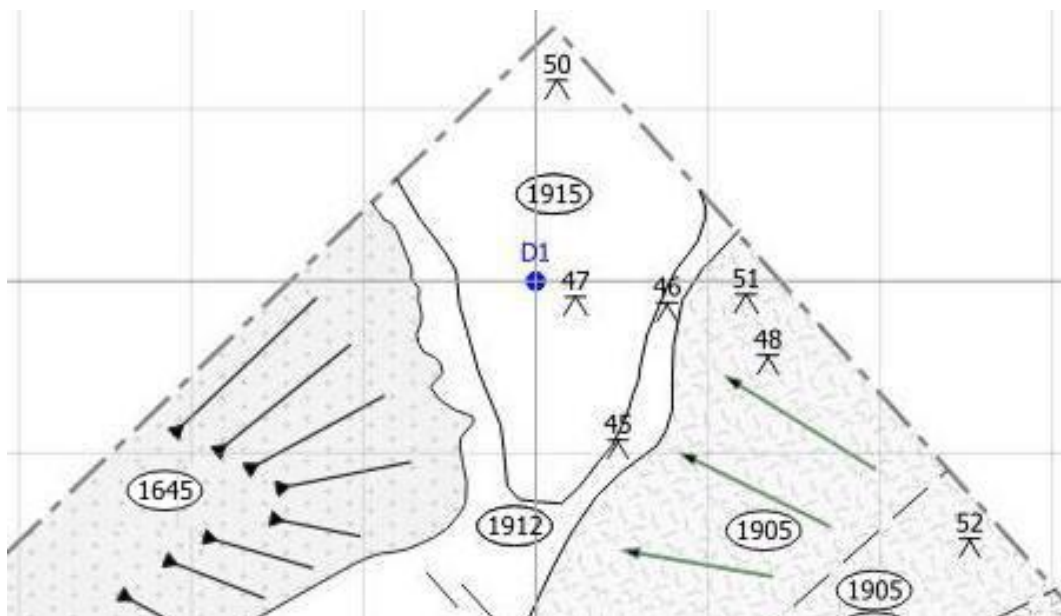


Figure 5 - Plan 1903 (Part)



Figure 6 - Contexts 1912/15

Once context 1915 was reached, the exposed finds (bone & CBM) on the surface appeared to be sloping to be sloping down slightly towards the North corner. While care was been taken, excavating the various mixed layers of sandy, earthy and a layer of sand with fine gravel mixed in, little else of significance has been found and the layers were almost level without any significant slope towards the North as originally expected. As the layers were removed, several bones together with a significant number of ironstone nodules were found embedded and lay on top of the chalk surface (Jayne, can you confirm this?). These may be of significance since there has been some evidence of industrial processes in 2018 with the 'concretions' and some probable kiln material.

Relevant contexts are 1932, 1934, 1935, 1942, 1943 1944, 1945 and 1946.



Figure 7 - Contexts 1943/44

Plan 1907 shows the sandy/small gravel layer which is just above the chalk surface.

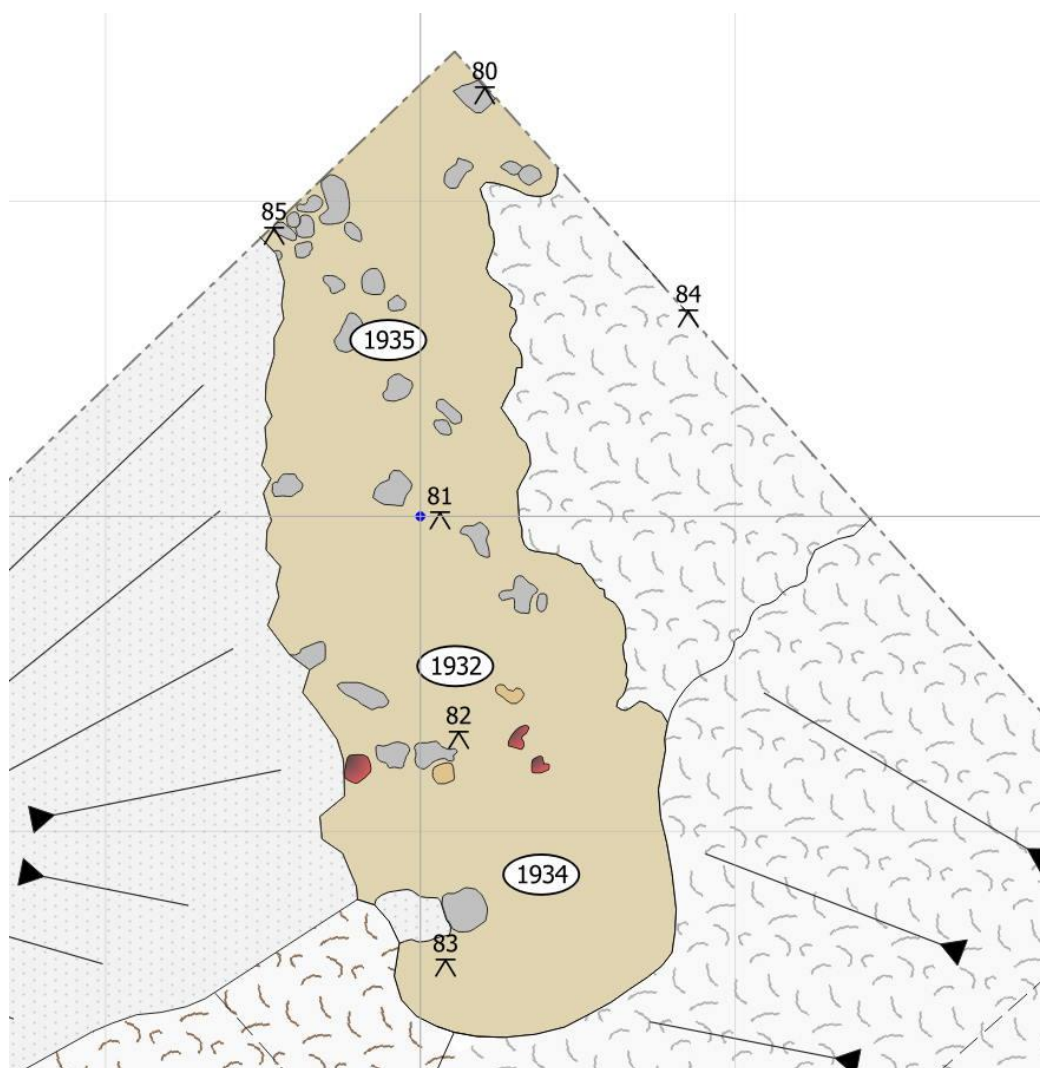


Figure 8 - Plan 1907

The final excavation for 2019 have been the partial removal of the chalk below 1946. At this stage there appeared to be a slightly looser area of chalk (context 1970) around one of the larger bones first seen in context 1945/6. This was found to be yet another virtually intact horse skull. While the skull is being left in-situ until 2020, the redistributed chalk in the rest of the north corner (context 1972) was excavated down to the same level over the rest of the North corner (see following photos). It is now assumed that contexts 1970 and 1972 are in fact the same context.

During excavations, the datum point D1 pin had to be moved as it was not possible to lower it into the ground due to something hard below the surface. What this is, has not yet been ascertained, but it does suggest the redistributed chalk continues down by at least 10cm.

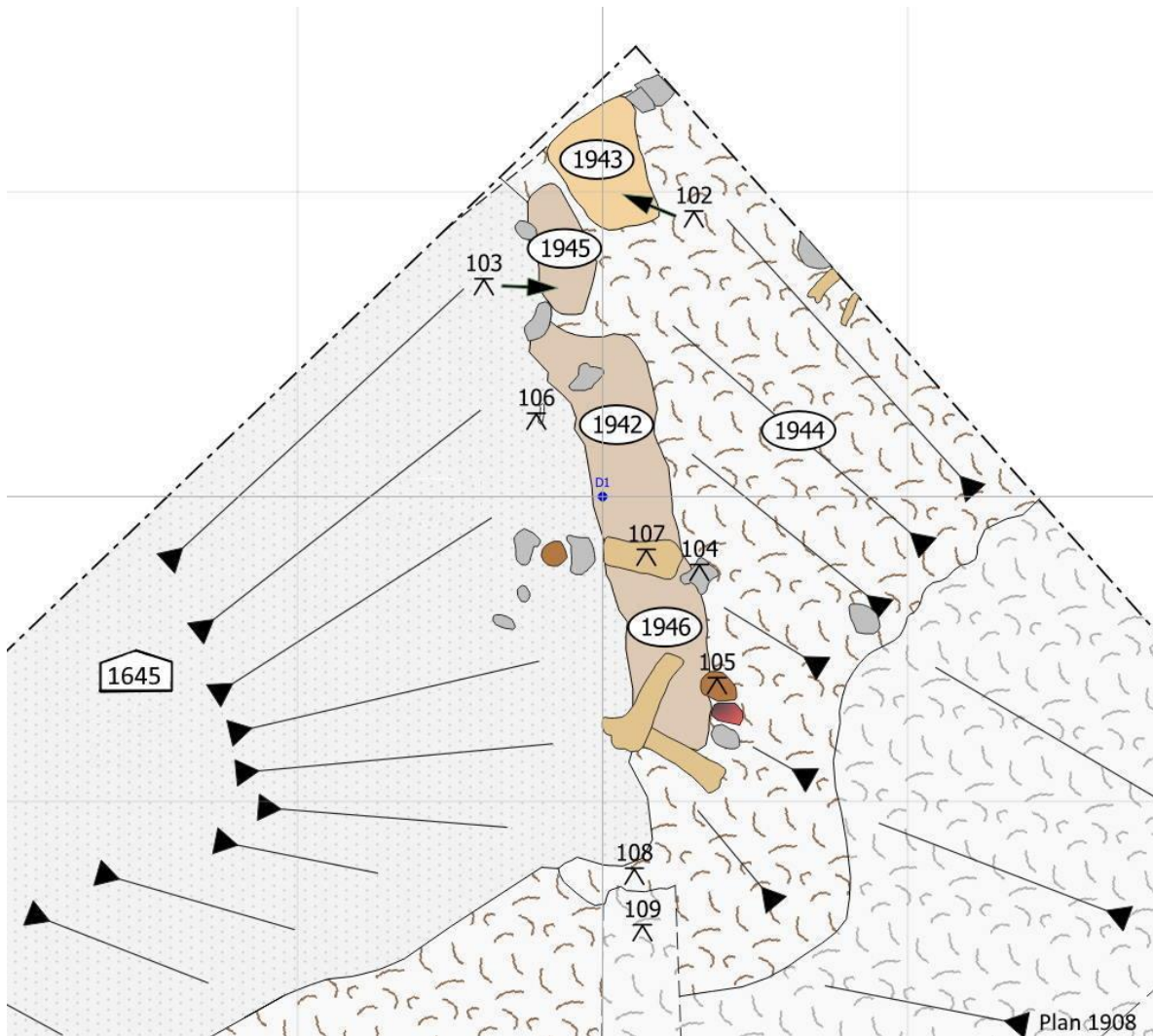


Figure 9 - Plan 1908

Plan 1908 shows the appearance of another collection of bones as well as ironstone and a small shallow fill of very sandy soil (context 1943). The bone under level 107 turned out to be yet another horse's skull. As this was only just starting to be revealed at the end of excavations, it was left in-situ and covered for later excavation in 2020. Further excavation post Plan 1908 revealed that the whole of the north corner to be completely redeposited chalk. Excavations were concluded at this stage for 2019.

The sections of the North corner show the slope towards the North and the expectation of the pit continuing in that direction. Further excavations are needed to determine how the natural (context 1645 is currently considered to be natural) extends.

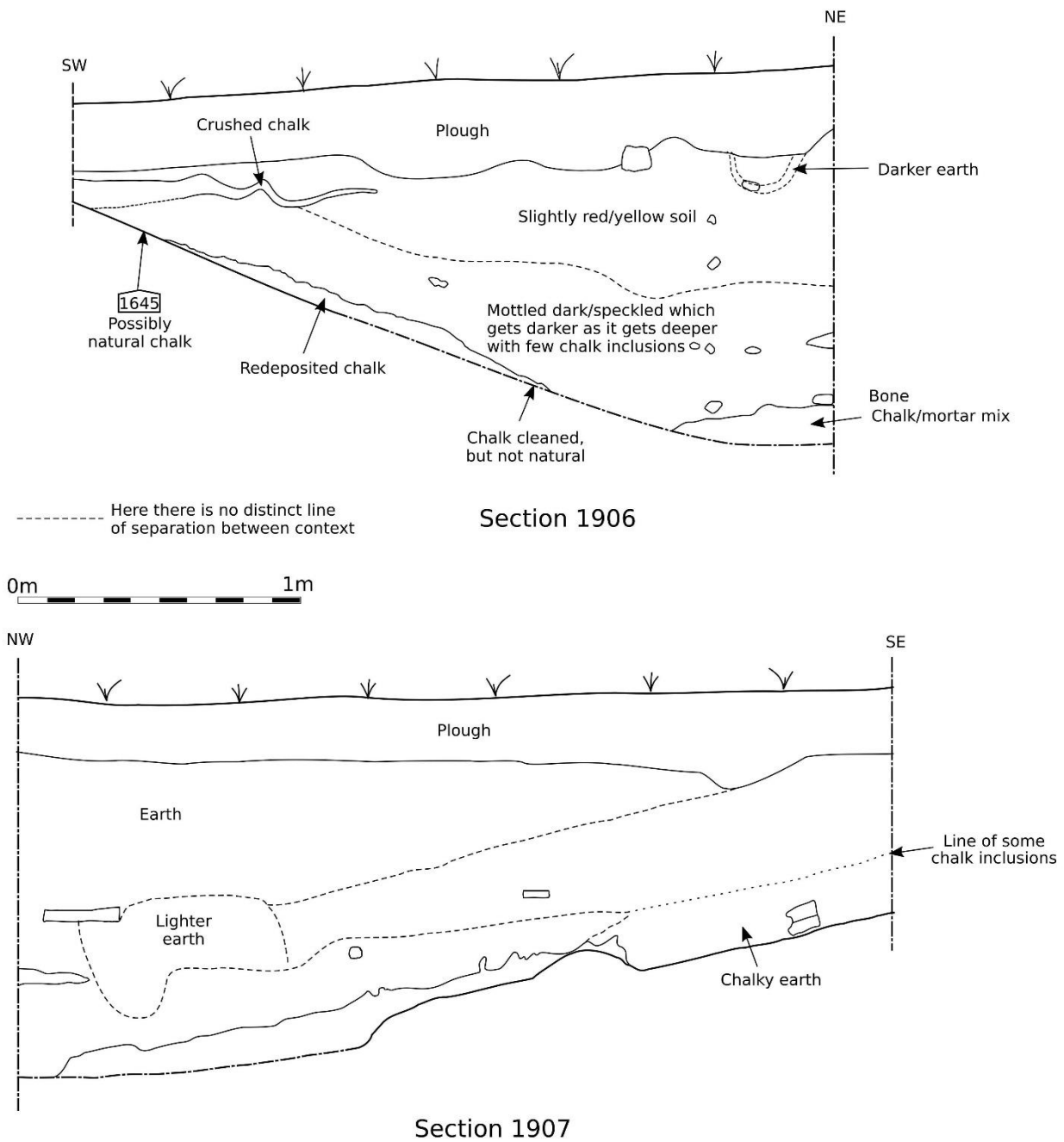


Figure 10 – South corner sections



Figure 11 - NW view at the end of the excavations for 2019. Note that horse's skull is hidden by the terram.



Figure 12 - NE view at the end of the excavations for 2019



Figure 13 - NE view at the end of the excavations for 2019

Contexts:

Context	Same as	Type	Description
1903		Fill	Top fill investigation - Pit in North quadrant
1905	1908	Fill	Chalk near North East baulk
1908	1905	Fill	Brown fill near North East chalk (probably same as 1905)
1909		Fill	Soil in North corner over 1903
1912	1834	Fill	Chalk/earth between East chalk and C1903/9
1913	1921	Layer	Possible natural chalk layer under 1905/8
1915		Fill	Fill below 1909
1921	1913	Layer	Layer under 1905 just West of section line (same as 1913)
1932		Fill	Fill under 1912/15
1933		Fill	Darker fill to South of 1905/8 and on top of 1913
1934		Fill	Softer fill in 1932, probably residue of 1912/15 (JN has dimensions)
1935		Layer	Cleaning from corner to clarify area in North corner
1942		Fill	North corner soil centring on grid point D1
1943		Fill	Hard sandy material. Very buff, typical sand colour and no inclusions. Adjacent SW of N corner against NW baulk
1944		Fill	Under 1942. Generally redeposited chalk, but with some earth and bone embedded
1945		Fill	Loose earth fill South West of 1944 to North West baulk
1946		Fill	Probably the same as 1942, but coarser with small gravel inclusions. Under 1942
1970		Fill	Chalk/earth layer under 1942/46
1972		Fill	Soft fill in context 1970 with embedded horse skull (probably the same as context 1970)

The South Corner

Excavated by Debbie Duggan and Muriel James

After the over wintering cover was removed, the excavation of the South corner was initially a cleaned (context 1823) to remove any debris and deposits. It had not been possible to remove the horse's skull in 2018 had been covered and protected as much as possible and remained essentially intact.



Figure 14 - The South quadrant after initial cleaning (Note: the horse's skull is under the protective mesh)

The horse's skull was found to be in a slight depression in the chalk surface (Note: at this stage it has not been confirmed if it is natural or redeposited chalk). Careful excavation around the skull was carried out and the skull removed and placed into a solid container. The skull itself proved to be far more fragile than anticipated and broke into several pieces during this process and will be processed in due course.



Figure 15 - The horse's skull before removal

Excavation in the South corner continued with determining the relationship between the chalk surface by the skull and the corner itself. As mentioned previously, the skull was in a depression on its own and the chalk surface in the corner is cut (context 1979) steeply with a soft earth fill (context 1941). There were not many finds within these contexts, apart from animal bones and a few small fragments of pot and CBM. The only significant find (**NOTE: This is the case until all finds are processed**) is a piece of Derbyshire grit presumably from a quern stone.

The most significant discovery was a hard lump of what we have called 'concretion', which is a deposit of various materials that have fused together to form a very hard, but lightweight mass. This was identical to

Further excavation of this corner in 2019 was not possible due to the trench limits dictated by the crop margin. It is hoped to extend this corner on 2020 to determine the full relationship between this and 2016's trench 20 and the wall.



Figure 16 – South corner looking South East



Figure 17 - South corner looking South West

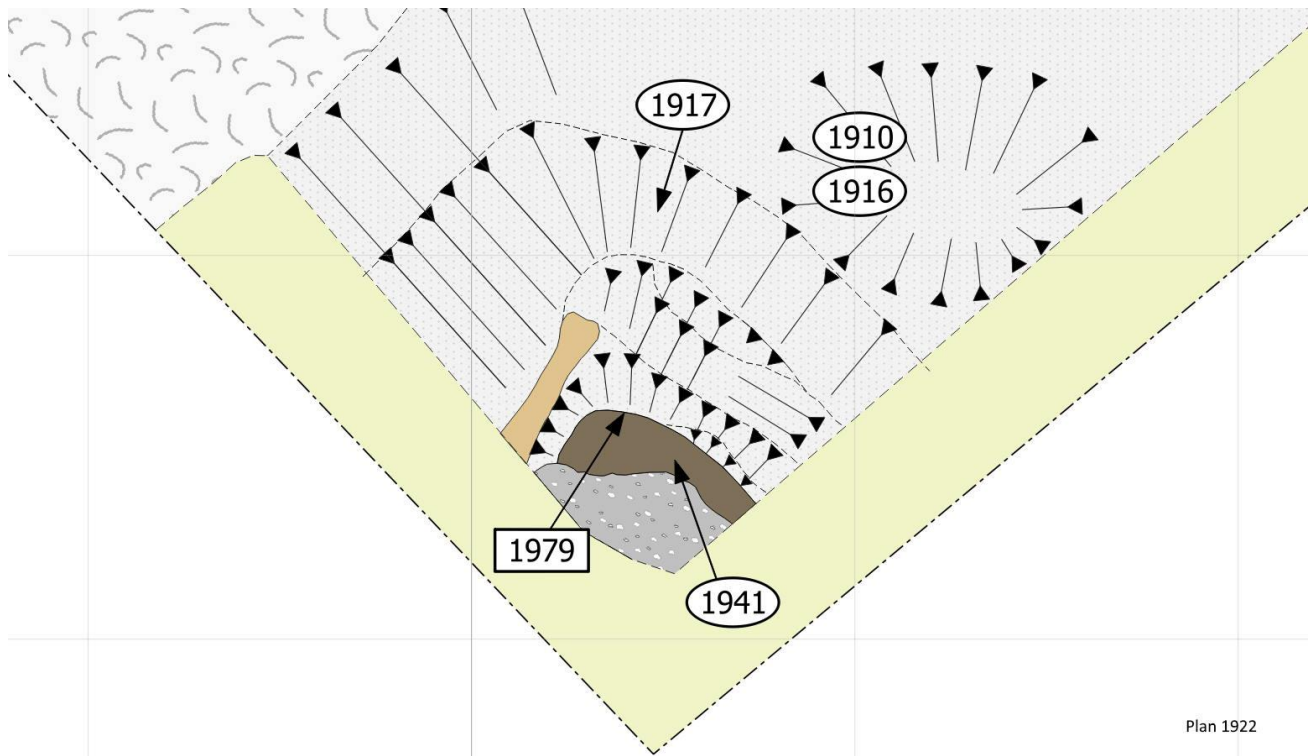


Figure 18 – Plan 1922

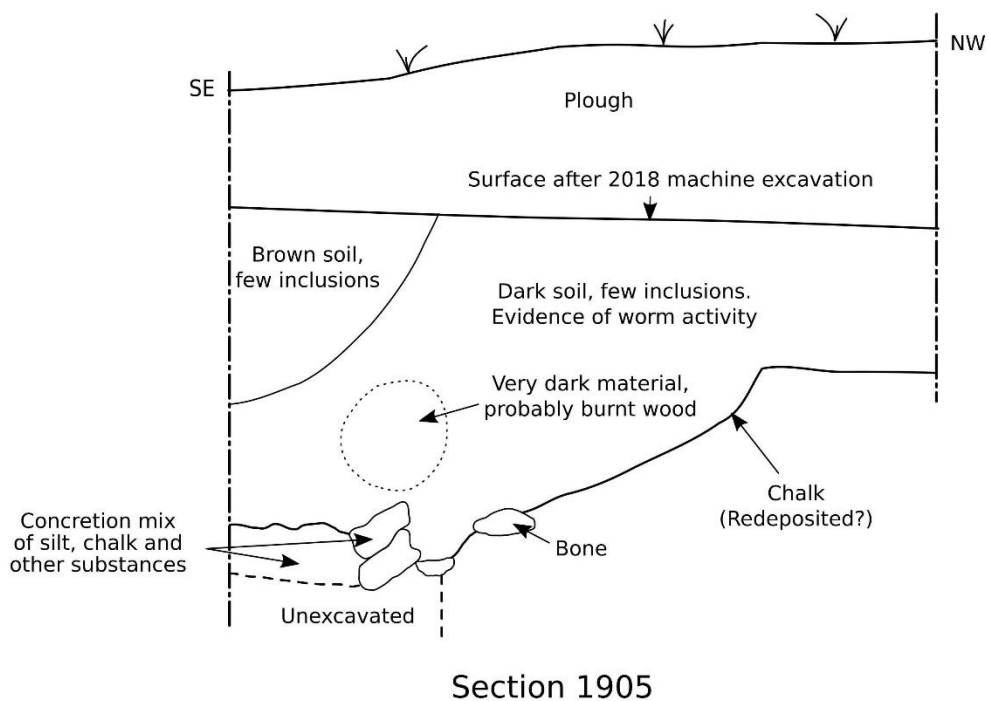
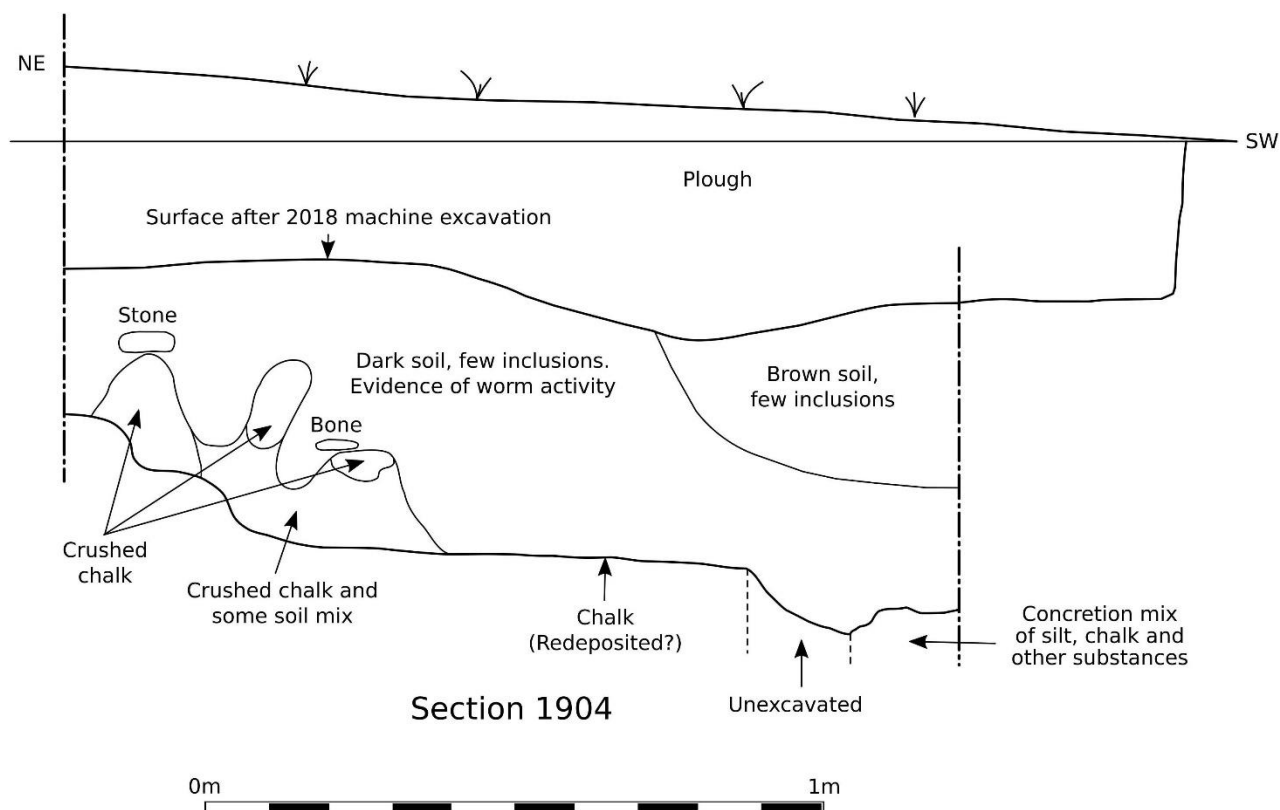


Figure 20 – South corner sections

Contexts

Context	Type	Description
1823	Layer	SW quadrant - Trowelling 3
1910	Fill	Fill in South corner by horse's head
1916	Fill	Redeposited chalk that the horse head sits in, in South corner
1917	Fill	Cleaning to determine whether this deposit was over redeposited chalk context 1916 or vice versa
1941	Fill	Dark soil in South corner over redistributed chalk context 1916
1979	Cut	Cut in South corner chalk in context 1917

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