

# Manorbier Castle, Manorbier, Pembrokeshire Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Tree and Sons

November 2015



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By

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Trysor

Trysor Project No. 2015/446

For: Tree and Sons

November 2015

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*Cover photograph: Collapsed revetment removed and foundation trench hand dug, looking northeast.*

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**DYDDIAD** 27<sup>ain</sup> Tachwedd 2015

**DATE** 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.**

**This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.**

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*Jenny Hall*

**PAUL SAMBROOK MCIFA**

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*Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.*

*We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.*

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Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, and watching briefs.

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 In February 2015, Trysor undertook a watching brief on repairs to a revetment wall in the ditch external to the east of Manorbier Castle.

1.2 Two contexts were recorded, the makeup of the revetment wall itself (001) and a layer below it (002). Neither context contained any dating evidence, although the layer contained coal and mortar fragments.

## **2. Copyright**

2.1 Trysor hold the copyright of this report and of the paper and digital archive. Further paper copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figures 2, 3 and 4 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

## **3. Introduction**

3.1 Tree and Sons Ltd of The Bungalow Workshop, Edward Street, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 2HY commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavation of a foundation trench to reinstate a later wall at Manorbier Castle, Scheduled Ancient Monument PE004.

3.2 Trysor prepared a specification for the watching brief, see Appendix A, which was approved by the Polly Groom, Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology, (South West Wales).

## **4. The development**

4.1 A revetment wall within the Scheduled area of Manorbier Castle collapsed and was to be reinstated. A foundation trench, 6 metres long, 0.50 metres wide and 0.20 metres deep was excavated by Tree and Sons Ltd in order to do this.

## **5. Historical and Archaeological Overview**

5.1 Manorbier Castle was first mentioned in 1146. Giraldus Cambrensis was born there at about that time and later described the stone castle and its surroundings. Whether there was an earthwork precursor to the castle is not known. Much of the castle is still medieval in date, although there have been later additions internally as the castle continued to be used as a dwelling.



## 6. Methodology

6.1 In February 2015, the collapsed section of the revetment wall on the eastern side of the ditch external to the eastern side of the castle was removed and a shallow trench dug for the new foundations. This process was observed by Trydor.

6.2 The foundation trench was 2.75 metres long and 0.30 metres deep. At either end of the trench the lowest course(s) of the revetment wall was still sound and left in place, although the collapse above was removed and to be replaced. This additional area of collapse extended 1.40 metres to the north and 1.1 metres to the south of the foundation trench.



Figure 2: The location of the collapsed revetment wall

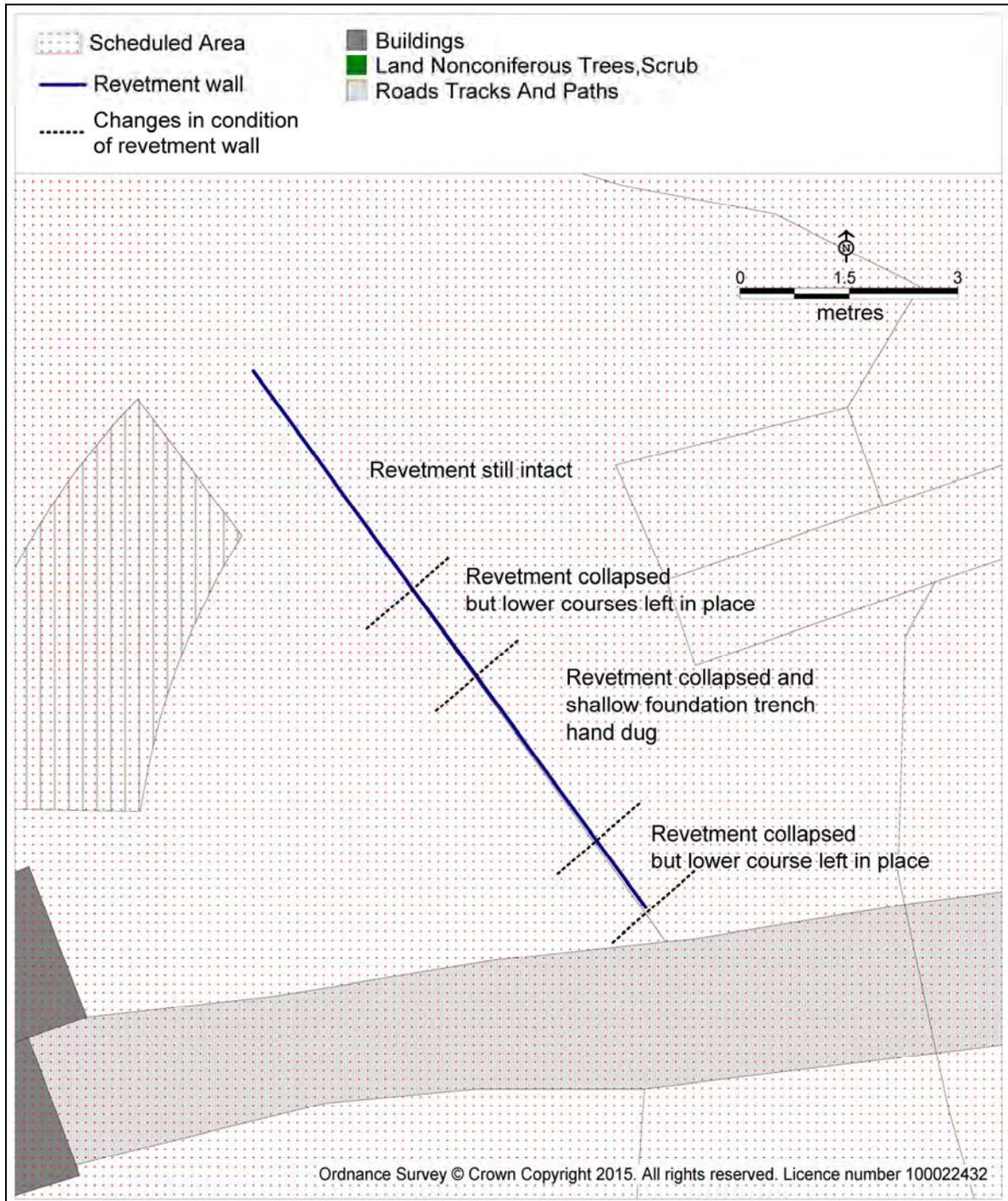


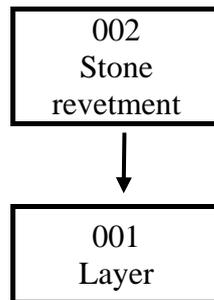
Figure 3: The detail of the collapsed revetment wall

## 7. Site Stratigraphy

7.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). The hand excavation of the foundation by Tree and Sons was watched by Trysor and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

### 7.2 Context Catalogue

| Context Number | Depth                      | Description  | Interpretation     |
|----------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 001            | 0.20 metres to 0.25 metres | 5YR 3/3 clay with coal fragments and mortar mixed within it  | Layer              |
| 002            | Variable                   | Remains of stone revetment facing, at ground level in section where wall had collapsed. The revetment was on the eastern side of the ditch outside the eastern end of the castle. The revetment stands up to 1.8 metres high and is at least 0.70 metres deep, but the full width was not exposed. It has unmortared, roughly coursed stone facing with stone rubble fill behind it. | Revetment of ditch |



## 8. Photographs

8.1 Colour digital photographs were taken of topsoil stripping and excavation of trenches using a 16M pixel camera. The following table describes the content of each photograph included in the project archive and their locations are provided in the following map, see Figure 4. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

| <b>Photo Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Date Taken</b> | <b>Direction</b>        |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>MBC2015_101</b>  | Towards the gatehouse   | 02/02/2015        | Looking west            |
| <b>MBC2015_102</b>  | In ditch east of the gatehouse, south of the footbridge.                              | 02/02/2015        | Looking north           |
| <b>MBC2015_103</b>  | The collapsed section of revetment after cleaning and excavation of foundation trench | 02/02/2015        | Looking northeast       |
| <b>MBC2015_104</b>  | The collapsed section of revetment after cleaning and excavation of foundation trench | 02/02/2015        | Looking northeast       |
| <b>MBC2015_105</b>  | The collapsed section of revetment after cleaning and excavation of foundation trench | 02/02/2015        | Looking southeast       |
| <b>MBC2015_106</b>  | The northwestern end of the collapsed section of revetment wall.                      | 02/02/2015        | Looking north northeast |
| <b>MBC2015_107</b>  | The collapsed revetment after cleaning and foundation trench excavated.               | 02/02/2015        | Looking northwest       |
| <b>MBC2015_108</b>  | The northwestern end of the collapsed revetment after cleaning.                       | 02/02/2015        | Looking northwest       |

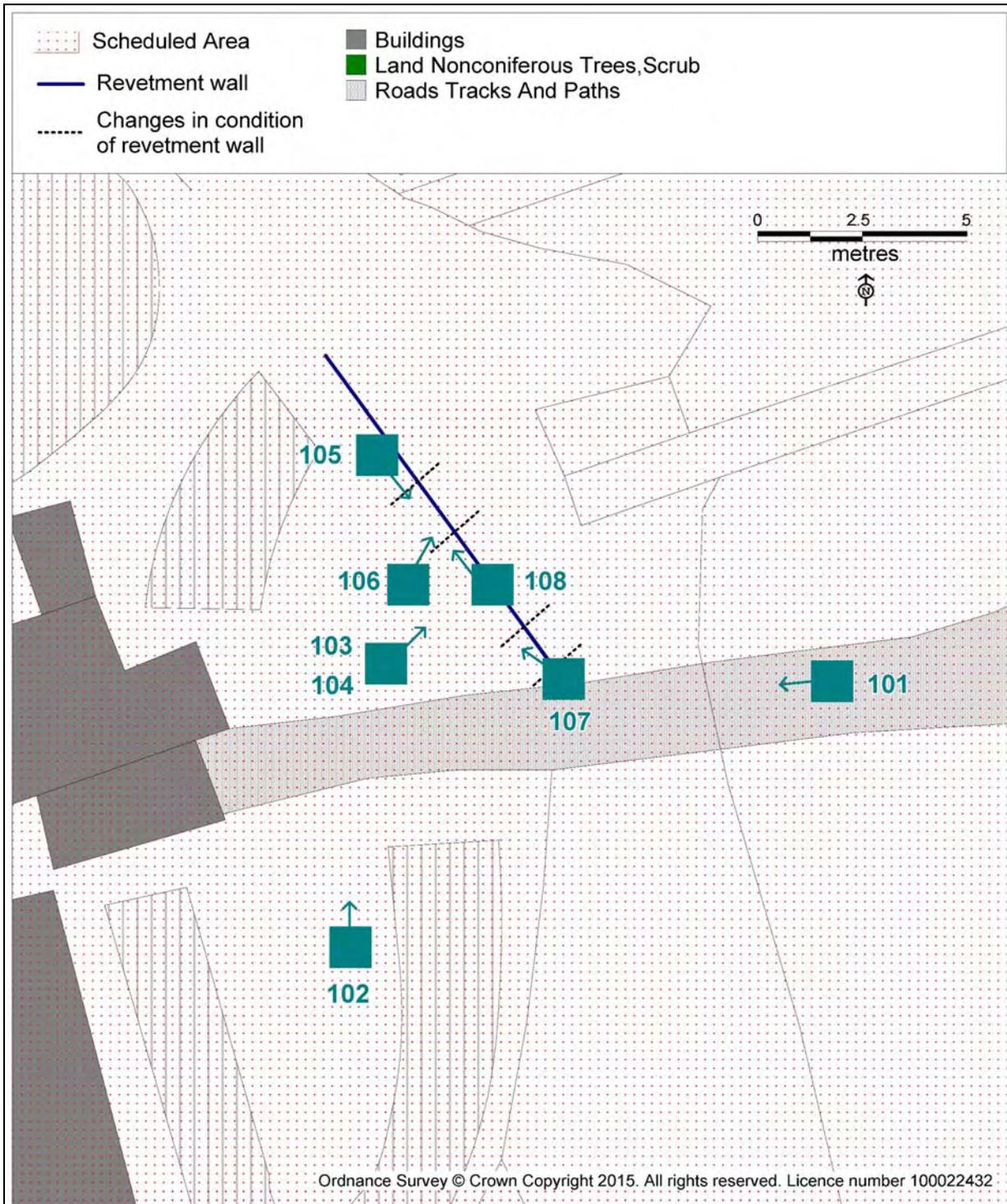


Figure 4: Location of photographs

## **9. Conclusion**

9.1 Two archaeological contexts were observed during removal of the collapsed revetment. These are the revetment itself (001) and a layer below it (002) which has flecks of coal and mortar within it. Neither contained any dating evidence.

## **10. Archive**

10.1 The archive and a copy of the report and photographs will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

10.2 A further copy of the report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

## **11. Sources**

11.1 CIfA Standard and Guidance

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, available online from the IfA website, [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)

**MANORBIER CASTLE, MANORBIER, PEMBROKESHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION**

Scheduled Monument Consent

**1. Introduction**

Tree and Sons Ltd of The Bungalow Workshop, Edward Street, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, SA73 2HY has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavation of a foundation trench to reinstate a later wall at Manorbier Castle.

**2. The development**

A wall collapsed at Manorbier Castle and is to be reinstated. A foundation trench 6 metres long, 0.50 metres wide and 0.20 metres deep needs to be excavated by Tree and Sons Ltd in order to do this.

**3. Nature of the archaeological resource**

Manorbier Castle was first mentioned in 1146. Giraldus Cambrensis was born there at about that time and later described the stone castle and its surroundings. Whether there was an earthwork precursor to the castle is not known. Much of the castle is still medieval in date, although there have been later additions internally as the castle continued to be used as a dwelling.

The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, PE004.



Figure 1: Location of Manorbier Castle

#### **4. Field methodology**

The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA, 2014a)

A two-person team will watch the excavation of foundation trench 6 metres long, 0.50 metres wide and 0.20 metres deep. The hole will be examined and features of archaeological interest recorded.

#### **5. Contingency arrangements if archaeological features are discovered**

In the event that archaeological remains are encountered, where appropriate investigation falls outside the scope of this watching brief specification, a meeting between Trysor, the applicant, Cadw and the Local Planning Authority case officer will be convened in order to agree a course of action. The applicant will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary.

#### **6. Health & Safety**

Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy.

#### **7. Recording**

A plan of the groundworks, and representative sections if appropriate, will be drawn, at an appropriate scale, recording all features of archaeological interest. The plan will be based on the applicants' survey drawings of the development area.

A written record of all activity will be kept in a project specific notebook. If archaeological contexts are encountered they will be recorded following the *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986, using a consecutive numbering system.

Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA, 2014b). Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant.

Should any human remains be encountered, the Coroner and Regional Archaeological Trust will be immediately informed and the remains left *in situ*.

Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 14M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

#### **8. Reporting**

A report on the watching brief will be prepared according to the requirements of Section 3.8 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA, 2014a, p.14) following the completion of the work. Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record.

## **9. Dissemination**

A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*, the annual review of archaeological work in Wales collated by the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales)

## **10. Archive**

The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report in accordance with the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA, 2014c). This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW for Upland Survey (RCAHMW, 2011).

## **11. Resources to be used**

Two members of staff will undertake the watching brief. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits.

Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

## **12. Qualification of personnel**

Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. Since 2004 she has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

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## **13. Insurance & Professional indemnity**

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

## **14. Project identification**

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2015/446

## **15. Sources**

### **16.1 Maps**

#### **15.2 Non-published**

Central Excavation Unit, 1986, *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986

RCAHMW, 2011, *Form AB12: "Notes for Guidance" in the preparation of applications for Uplands Archaeology Initiative projects 2012-13*

#### **15.3 Published**

CIfA, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

CIfA, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

CIfA, 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

#### **15.4 Web based materials**

Historic Wales

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Trysor

January 2015

**APPENDIX B**



*Plate 1: MBC2015\_101, Looking west towards the gatehouse. The revetment wall lay in the ditch to the north side of the footbridge that crossed the ditch into the castle.*



*Plate 2: MBC2015\_102, looking north in the ditch to the east of the castle, south of the footbridge crossing into the gatehouse. Collapsed revetment wall to the north of the footbridge.*



*Plate 3: MBC2015\_103, the area of collapsed revetment after cleaning and foundation trench excavated, looking northeast.*



*Plate 4: MBC2015\_104, the section of collapsed revetment after cleaning and foundation trench excavated, looking northeast.*



*Plate 5: MBC2015\_105, the collapsed revetment after cleaning and foundation trench excavated, looking southeast.*



*Plate 6: MBC2015\_106, the northwestern end of the collapsed section of revetment wall, looking north northeast.*



*Plate 7: MBC2015\_107, the collapsed revetment after cleaning and foundation trench excavated, looking northwest.*



*Plate 8: MBC2015\_108, the northwestern part of the collapsed section of revetment after cleaning. This section did not need a new foundation trench as the lower part of the revetment was still in situ, looking northwest.*