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A REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS  
AT

West Lodge 2  
Castle Howard Road, Malton.

M R Stephens 3.12.92

COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT		
18 JAN 1993		
PASS TO	INITIALS	DATE
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## **Report on Excavations at West Lodge 2, Malton.**

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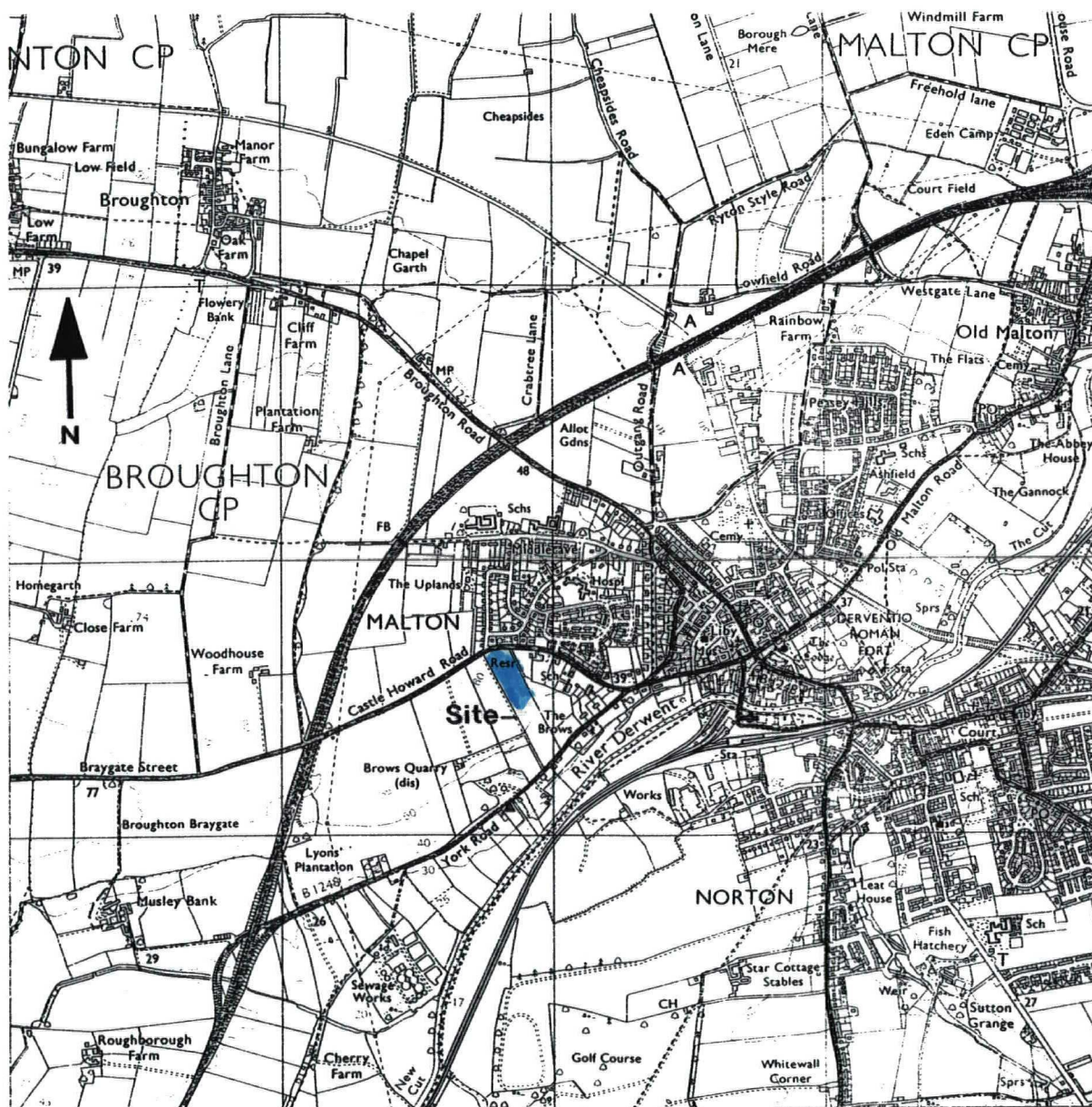


Figure 1. Site Location.



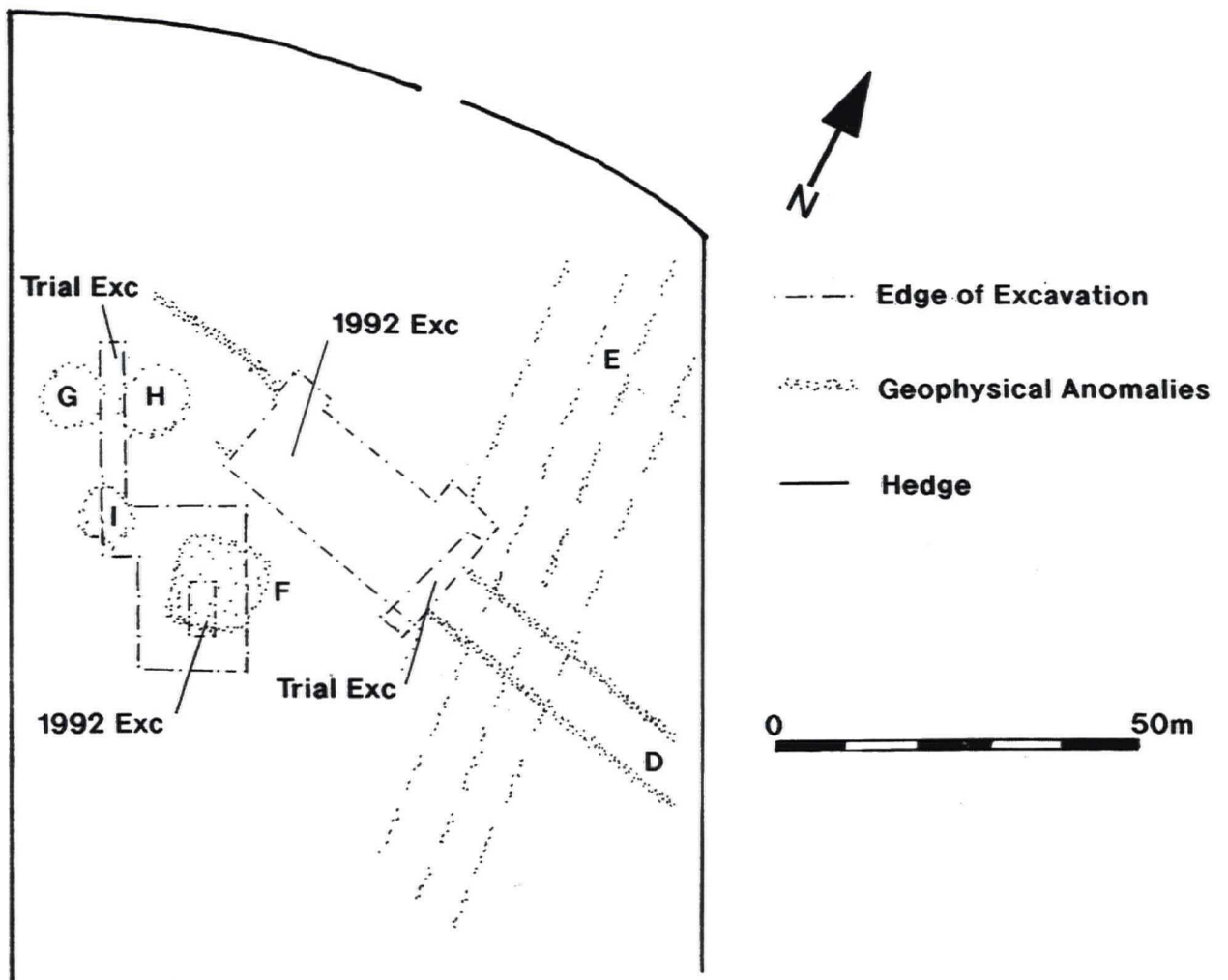


Figure 2 – Location of trenches and Geophysical Anomalies.

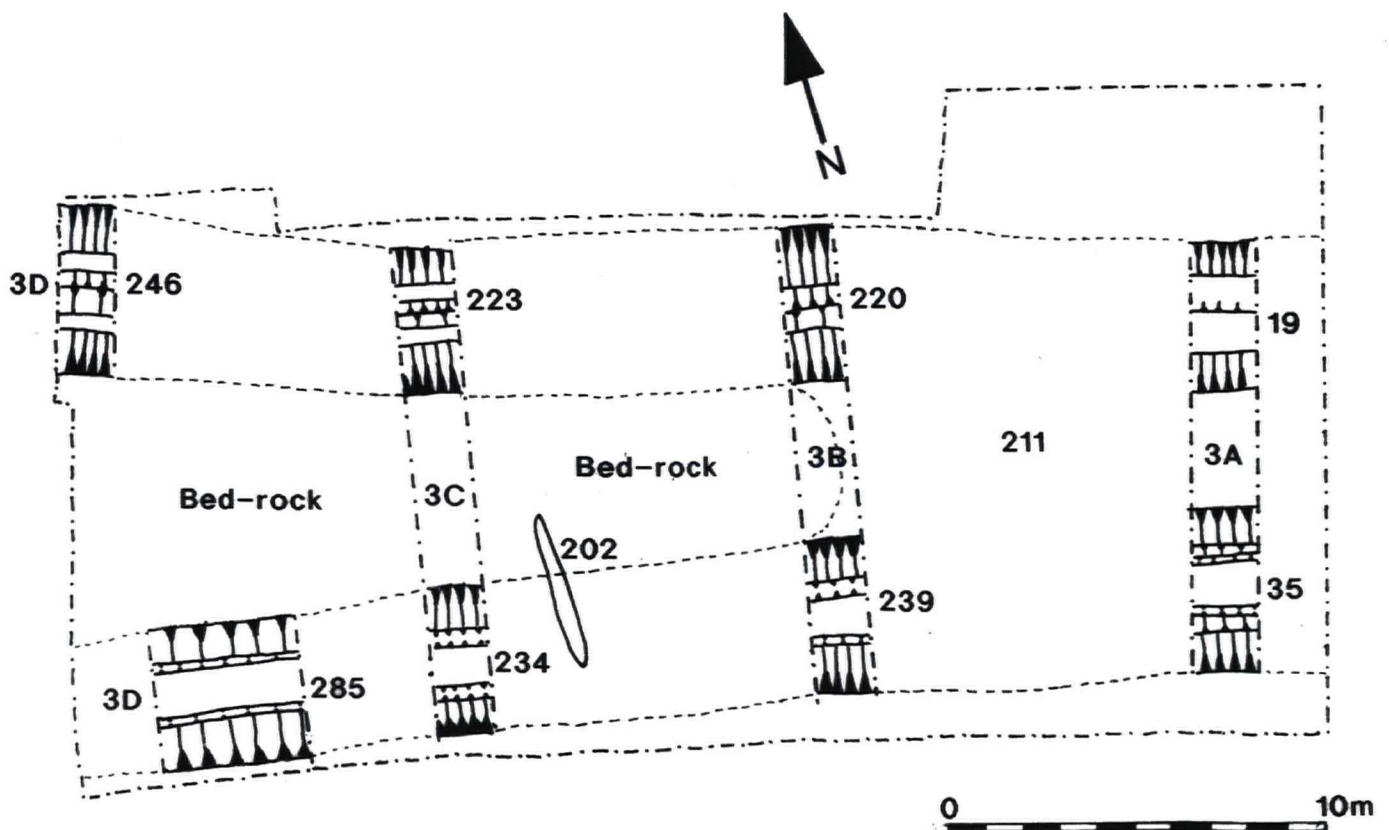


Figure 3 – Plan of Area 3

## Introduction

This report concerns the results of an Archaeological Excavation at a development site situated on the western fringes of Malton, to the south of Castle Howard Road, Malton parish, North Yorkshire, SE 778 716 (Fig 1).

The site lies on a south-east facing spur of the Howardian Hills. The solid geology consists of Coralline Oolitic limestone of the Middle Lias (OS 1960). The maximum height of the area, at the crest of the limestone ridge, is c60m AOD; the excavation took place just south of the crest at c56m AOD.

Attention had been drawn to the archaeological significance of the site through Planning Control at the Archaeology Section, North Yorkshire County Council. A Desk-top Study, conducted by the writer (Stephens 1991a), followed by a Magnetometry survey, undertaken by the Landscape Research Trust (Stephens 1991b), had identified areas of interest, notably a double-ditched feature ('D') and a group of anomalies of less clear form ('F', 'G', 'H' and 'I', Fig 2). The archaeological potential of these areas was confirmed by Trial Excavations in the winter of 1991-2, the results of which suggested that one element of the double-ditched feature had been a trackway, with the other element existing as a ditch. In addition, a human cremation and an area of Romano-British activity were located in the large anomaly 'F' (Stephens 1992). The Trial Excavation enabled the formulation of a Research Design to discharge the obligations of the developer in regard to the archaeological deposits at the site.

The Research design called for the excavation of three further segments into the double-ditched feature, to provide additional information on the form, date and function of it, and to recover environmental information through a suitable sampling programme. In addition, there was a need to consider the presence of further burials associated with the cremation from the Trial Excavation.

The excavation was conducted in April, May and June 1992, directed by the writer, and with the assistance of M Johnson and K Grieveson in the field.

All work was funded by Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd, and was undertaken with their full co-operation.

## Excavation Methods

Based on the precepts of the Research Design, two areas were chosen for excavation. The first area (Area 3) extended north-westwards from the original segments excavated into the double-ditched feature, and measured 30m north-west to south-east and 16m north-east to south-west. The three additional segments were positioned at 10m intervals from the western edge of the Trial Excavation segments (Fig 3). The second area measured 3m east to west and 10m north to south, and was located 1m west of the segments excavated in 1991, into the large geophysical anomaly 'F' and cut 58 (Fig 11).

The modern ploughsoil was removed from the excavated areas using the back-hoe of a JCB excavator with a toothless blade. The areas were then hand-cleaned by coarse trowelling to establish the limits of the known features, and to consider the presence of any additional examples.

Plans were drawn at 1:100, 1:20 and 1:10 where necessary; sections were drawn at 1:10. A photographic record was taken in colour transparency and monochrome. A written record was maintained under the continuous context recording system.

Two samples were taken from the double-ditched feature by Dr Annie Milles of the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, so as to provide an evaluation of the bioarchaeological deposits. This led to the taking of two columns for the analysis of the land snails (Appendix 3).



## Excavation Results

### Area 3

The original segments excavated into the double-ditched feature during the Trial Excavation were designated Area 3A. The additional segments were designated Areas 3B, 3C and 3D (Fig 3). All of the segments were excavated to a width of 1.5m, with the exception of the trackway segment in 3D (segment cut 285) which was dug with a width of 4m in order to better understand the sequence of wheel-rutting and metaling/surfacing present at that part of the trackway.

A description of the segments excavated into the northern ditch in Area 3 will be followed by a description of the segments excavated into the southern trackway.

The original segment cut into the northern ditch in 3A, **segment cut 19** (Fig 4), cut into the limestone bed-rock to a depth of 1m. The profile was a broad, shallow V, with a c0.1m downward step at the northern part of the base. The cut was c4m at the top, narrowing to c2m at the base.

At the very lowest part of the base of cut 19 occurred context 34, a yellowish-brown fine-grained silt with few coarse components. Directly above 34 occurred context 33, a brownish-yellow, gravelly, gritty fine-grained silt. Context 32 was located at the southern part of the base of cut 19 and consisted of a brownish-yellow silty material. Context 31 overlay both 32 and 33, and existed as a yellowish-brown silty loam with some limestone gravel coarse components. Contexts 31-4 contained no finds other than a sandstone fragment from 34 (Appendix 1).

The uppermost fill in cut 19 was context 30, which occurred directly above 31. Context 30 consisted of limestone gravel and larger angular pieces lying at all angles in a matrix of yellowish-brown, compact silty loam. The finds were an eroded Staxton/Potter Brompton sherd, a struck flint flake and a quartzitic pebble (Appendix 1). This fill merged into similar material overlying the bed-rock outside the confines of the feature.

The entire area was overlain by a yellowish-brown clayey loam, context 16, which was subdivided into context 20 where occupying the very top confines of cut 19. Context 20 contained three sherds of 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted pottery (Appendix 1). The modern ploughsoil, context 15, in turn overlay 16.

In Area 3B the southern ditch segment was recorded as **segment cut 220** (Fig 5). Cutting into the limestone bed-rock, this segment had a width of c4m at the top. The profile was asymmetrical, consisting of two broad-U elements separated by a low ridge of bed-rock. The maximum depth was 0.65m.

Context 219 occurred at the southern side of the base of the segment and existed as a 0.11m deep yellowish-brown, coarse sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravel inclusions. There were no finds. 219 was overlain by a 0.17m deep deposit of angular limestone fragments in a matrix of brownish-yellow, coarse sandy silt,



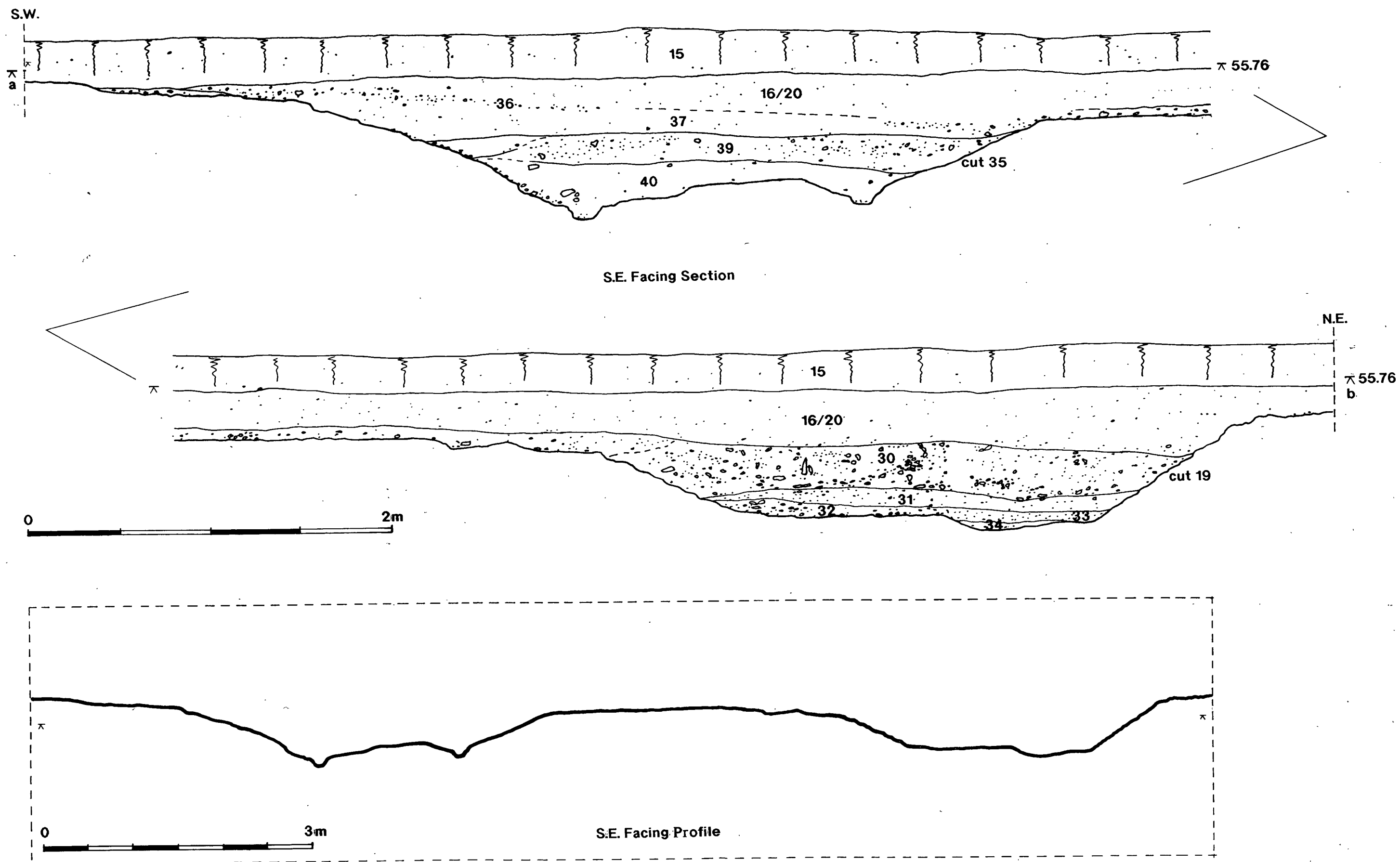


Figure 4 – Sections and Profile, Area 3A.

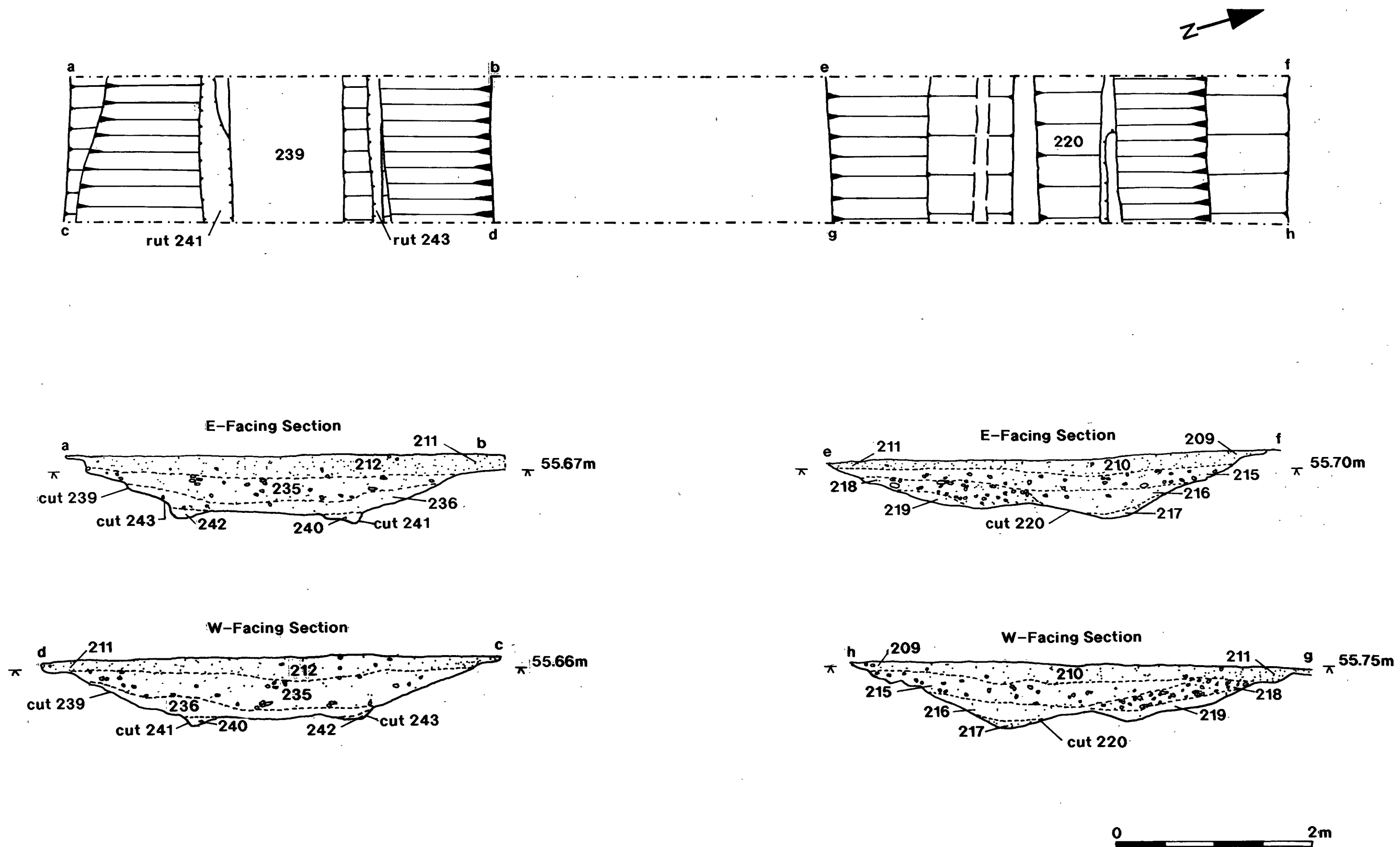
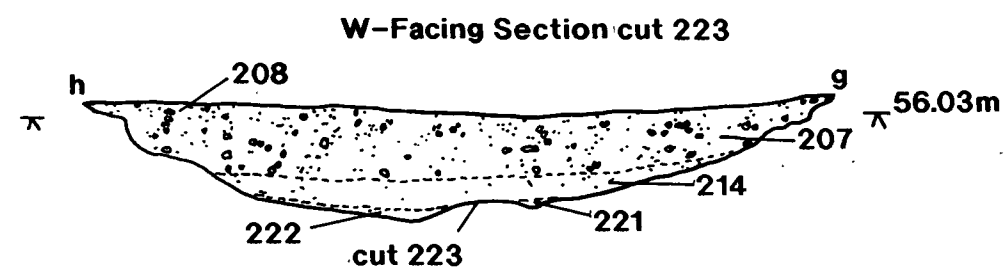
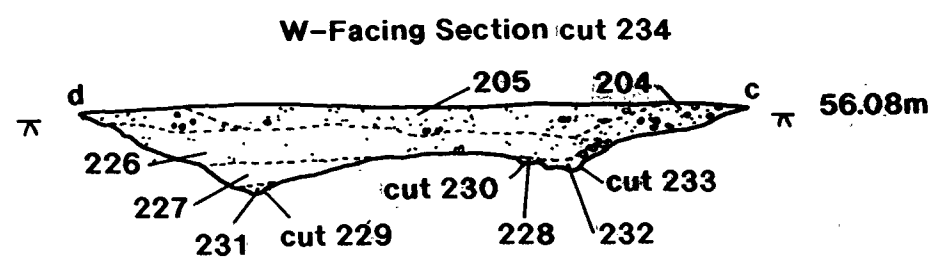
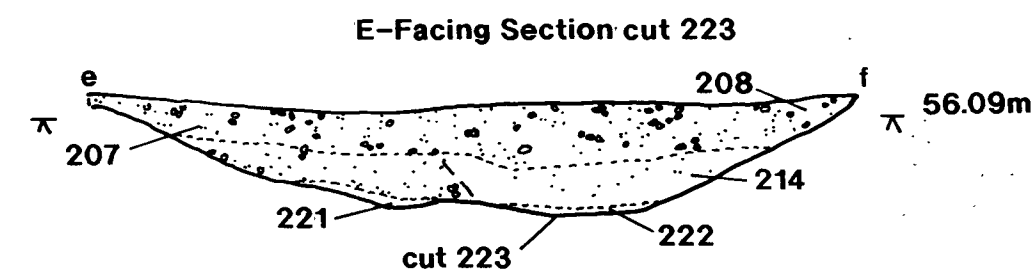
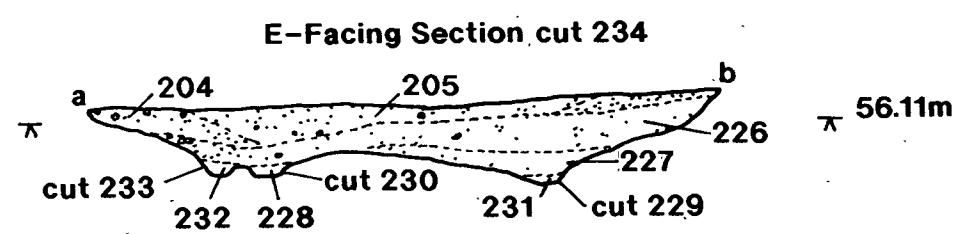
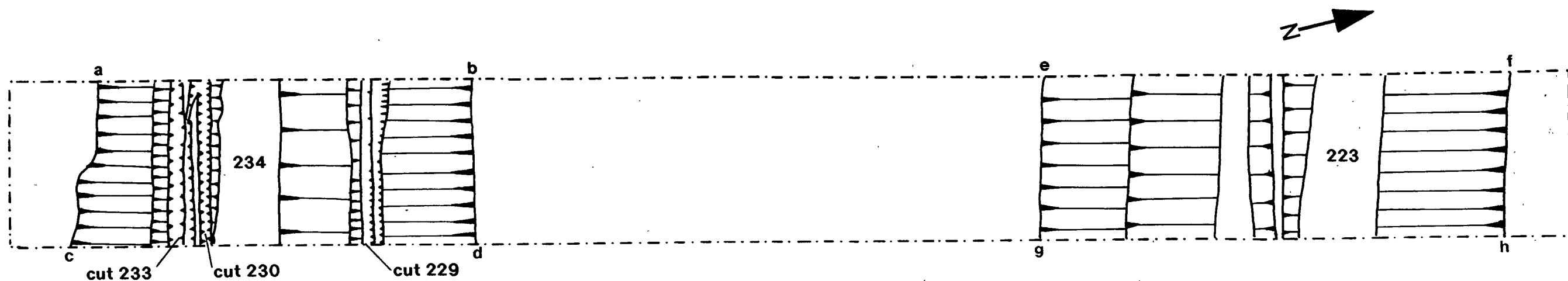


Figure 5 - Plan and Sections, Area 3B.



0 2m

Figure 6 - Plan and Sections, Area 3C.

context 218. Finds were limited to an Fe nail (Appendix 1). The profile of the context sloped downwards to the north. It is possible that these two contexts represent the truncated fills of an earlier cut (qv discussion).

Context 217 occurred at the base of the northern element of 220, and comprised a 0.08m thick deposit of fine loamy silt, in which no finds occurred. Context 216 overlay 217, existing as a yellowish-brown loamy silt with occasional inclusions of limestone gravel; the single find was a 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted sherd (Appendix 1).

Context 215 physically overlay both 216 and 218, comprising a 0.20m deep deposit of dark yellowish-brown, fine loamy silt, with some angular limestone inclusions. There were no finds.

The uppermost fill in segment cut 220 was context 210, a 0.20m deep deposit of dark yellowish-brown silty loam. Finds consisted of single body sherds of Romano-British Greyware and colour-coated ware (Appendix 1).

Two fills merged into the edges of 210: contexts 211 and 209 at the southern and northern edges respectively. Context 211 extended beyond the northern margin of segment cut 239 to the south and comprised a yellowish-brown, gravelly, silty loam. 209 existed as similar material and contained a Romano-British Greyware sherd (Appendix 1).

**Segment cut 223** (Fig 6) was the segment of the ditch excavated in Area 3C. The segment cut into limestone bed-rock and had a width at the top of 4.15m. The profile was broad and rounded, with the northernmost sector being slightly deeper than the southern and having a maximum depth of 0.58m.

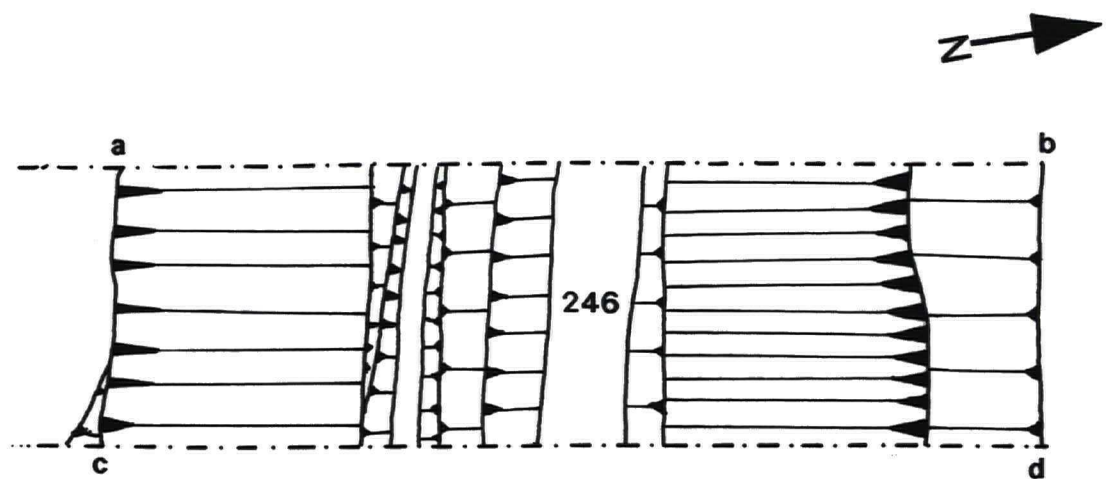
Context 222 occurred at the lowest part of the segment and existed as a 0.06m deep deposit of greyish-brown, slightly sandy silt. There were no finds.

Context 221 was situated at the base of the southern part of the segment, and comprised a 0.05m deep deposit of dark brown sandy silt. There were no finds.

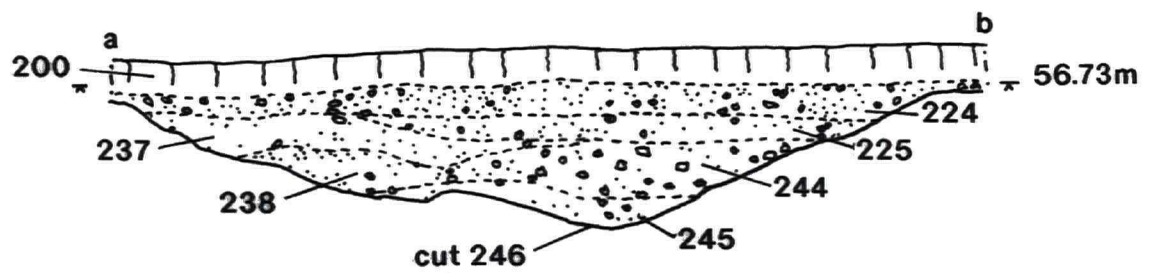
Both 221 and 222 were overlain by context 214, a dark brown, loamy, slightly sandy silt, with some inclusions of limestone gravel. The context was 0.25m in depth. Finds consisted of three sherds each of 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted ware and Norton Greyware; also brick/tile fragments and 'alien' stone (Appendix 1).

**Segment Cut 246** (Fig 7) was excavated into the northern ditch in Area 3D at the north-western limit of the excavated area. The segment cut into the limestone bed-rock. The width at the top was c4m. The profile showed the same asymmetrical form of the other segments excavated into this ditch, being broad and rounded, and with a step on the southern edge. The maximum depth was 0.70m.

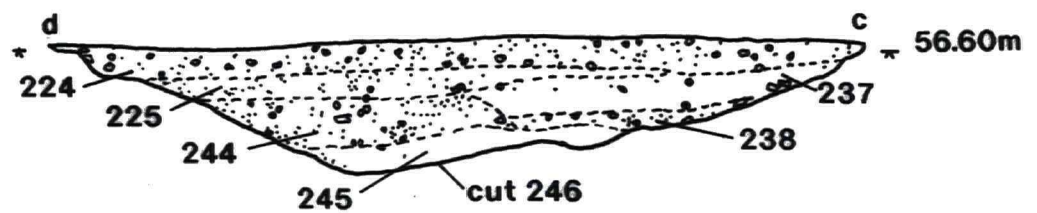




E-Facing Section cut 246



W-Facing Section cut 246



0 2m

Figure 7 – Plan and Sections of cut 246, Area 3D.

Context 245 occupied the base of the segment, and existed as 0.20m deep deposit of dark yellowish-brown sandy silt, from which there were no finds.

Context 244 overlay 245 and comprised a 0.25m deep fill of dark yellowish-brown friable sandy silt. Again, there were no finds.

Context 238 lapped over the southern limit of 244, and consisted of dark yellowish-brown sandy silt to a maximum depth of 0.23m. This context contained a Roman bronze coin, animal bone fragments, three struck flakes and an Fe nail (Appendix 1).

238 was overlain by context 237, a dark yellowish-brown sandy silt, with a maximum depth of 0.26m. There were no finds.

On its northern side, 237 was overlain by context 225, a 0.20m deep deposit of dark yellowish-brown sandy loam, with moderate limestone coarse components. Finds were represented by three 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted sherds, four Greyware sherds (Fig 13. 1 and 3) and 'foreign' stone (Appendix 1).

The entirety of the uppermost part of the segment was occupied by context 224, a yellowish-brown, sandy, gravelly loam. The context was 0.24m in depth. There were no finds.

The 1991 Trial Excavation examined **segment cut 35** (Fig 4), which was a segment of the trackway that runs south of the ditch described above. The width at the top was 4.40m. The profile was complex, with the edges falling at c30 degrees to a convex base, which dropped into two channel-like features (interpreted as wheel ruts) at the bottom of both edges. The depth at the centre of the base was 0.65m, dropping to c1m in the wheel ruts.

Occupying the full width at the base of the segment, and filling the wheel ruts, was context 40. This basal fill was a yellowish-brown fine silty material, largely free of coarse components, with a depth of 0.30m. Finds consisted of five Romano-British sherds: three of 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted ware and two of 2nd century Greyware (Appendix 1).

Context 39 occupied the full width towards the base of cut 35, directly above 40. The matrix was a 0.25m thick deposit of compact, yellowish-brown, loamy silt, with coarse components of small limestone gravel. A struck flint flake, and three Romano-British sherds were found in this fill: two of 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted ware and one of Greyware (Appendix 1).

Context 37 also took up the full width of segment cut 35, occurring directly above 39. This fill existed as a friable, dark yellowish-brown loam. Finds consisted of seven medieval sherds and four 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted sherds (Appendix 1).

A gravelly lens, context 36, divided 37 from the yellowish-brown material, context 16, mentioned above. There were no finds from context 36.

**Segment cut 239** (Fig 5) was the trackway segment excavated in Area 3B. The width at the top was c4m. The edges of the cut dropped at c30 degrees to two parallel cuts, segment cuts 241 and 243, one at the base of each edge. These two cuts are interpreted as wheel ruts in the base of the trackway.

**Rut cut segment 241** (Fig 5) occurred at the base of the northern edge of 239. The depth was 0.10m and the width 0.35m. The profile was asymmetrical, the northern edge being steep, the southern had a more gentle slope. Context 240 comprised the fill, existing as a dark yellowish-brown, loamy silt. Finds consisted of eight small pottery sherds in calcite-gritted ware and Greyware, along with many brick/tile fragments and 'foreign' stones (Appendix 1).

**Rut cut segment 243** (Fig 5) was situated at the junction of the southern edge and base of the trackway cut segment. The width was 0.30m. Of a broad, rounded profile, 243 had a depth of 0.06m. The fill, context 242, consisted of dark yellowish-brown loamy silt. Finds were represented by small crumbs of calcite-gritted ware, a ?black-burnished sherd, brick/tile fragments and 'foreign' stones (Appendix 1).

Context 236 overlay the two wheel rut fills, contexts 240 and 242, and existed as a yellowish-brown loamy silt, with a few limestone gravel inclusions. The depth was 0.20m. Nine Romano-British sherds were found within 236; six of 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted ware, two of 3rd century grey Crambeck ware (Fig 13.4) and a single sherd of Greyware. There were also brick/tile fragments present (Appendix 1).

A large part of segment cut 239 was filled by context 235, which completely covered 236. 235 consisted of a yellowish-brown silty loam. The depth of this fill was 0.35m. Finds were represented by fourteen 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted sherds (Appendix 1).

The uppermost fill of 239 comprised context 212, a 0.25m thick deposit of yellowish-brown, silty loam, with limestone gravel inclusions. Finds consisted of thirteen Romano-British sherds; eleven of 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted ware, and single sherds of Greyware and York ware. There were also two flint flakes, one a complete blade, the other a damaged blade (Appendix 1, Figure 15.1-2).

The trackway segment in the southern part of Area 3C was recorded as **segment cut 234** (Fig 6), which had an overall width of 3.7m. The segment had a broad W-shaped profile with a maximum depth of 0.47m.

The base of the southern part of trackway segment 234 was occupied by 2 wheel rut cut segments, 230 and 233. The earliest of these was **rut cut segment 233** (Fig 6), which was 0.12m deep and 0.22m wide. The fill existed as context 232, a compact greyish-brown, fine silty sand, which contained an Fe nail (Appendix 1).



232 was cut by **rut cut segment 230** (Fig 6), which was 0.24m wide and 0.09m deep. The fill was context 231, a greyish-brown fine silty sand, which contained three Fe nails and three 'foreign' stones (Appendix 1).

**Rut cut segment 229** (Fig 6) was situated at the northern part of the trackway's base. The width was 0.24m and the depth 0.09m. The asymmetrical profile suggested that more than one cut was involved, but if so, the fills (context 231) were identical. Context 231 was a dark greyish-brown, loamy, sandy silt. There were no finds.

Context 227 overlay 231 to a depth of 0.18m along the northern edge of the trackway segment. This fill was a brown, fine loamy silt, and it contained four sherds of 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted ware (Appendix 1).

Context 226 occupied the full width of trackway segment 234, occurring above 227, and also overlying the rut fills, 228 and 232. 226 was a 0.19m deep deposit of brown loamy silt, with very few gravel inclusions. Finds were represented by eleven 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted sherds (Appendix 1).

Context 205 filled the upper part of segment cut 234, and had a maximum depth of 0.15m. This fill was a dark yellowish-brown loamy silt, which divided into separate more gravelly versions, along the edges of the trackway: context 204 at the southern edge, context 206 at the northern. There were no finds.

The remaining segment of the trackway was excavated as **segment cut 285** (Figs 8, 9 and 10) in area 3D, adjacent to the western edge of the excavated area. This segment was excavated to a length of 4m as it was apparent that the area was considerably more complex than the other examples excavated. Two main periods of use of the trackway were identified by wheel ruts and/or metaling; it is likely that these represent the evolving, continuous use of the trackway, rather than clearly defined episodes.

The earliest sequence of wheel ruts was represented by **rut cut segments 282, 284 and 276** on the south side and **rut cut segments 273, 262 and 264** on the north side (Figs 9 and 10).

**Rut cut segment 284** (Figs 9 and 10) was the earliest cut, and had a depth of 0.15m and a width of 0.30m. The profile was steep-sided, and the base was slightly concave and undulating along the length of the rut. The fill consisted of angular limestone gravel in a yellowish-brown limey matrix, context 283. 283 contained three Fe nails (Appendix 1).

**Rut cut 282** (Figs 9 and 10) cut into 283 on its southern side. 282 had a width of c0.15m and a depth of 0.12m. The edges were steep to vertical, the base slightly concave. Context 281 constituted the fill, existing as a yellowish-brown, slightly clayey, fine sandy silt with limestone gravel coarse components. No finds were made in 281.



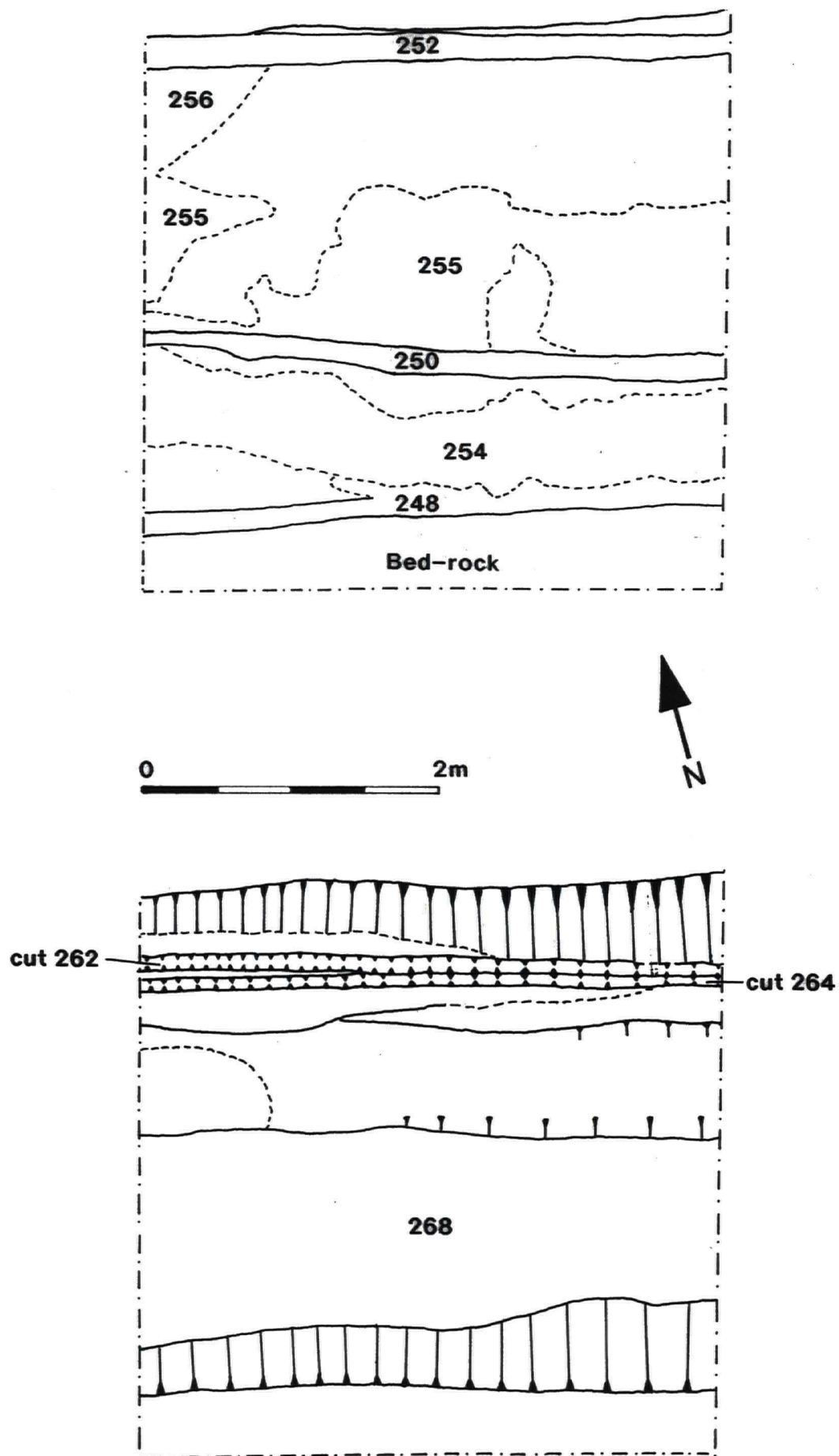


Figure 8 – Plans of Trackway cut 285, Area 3D.

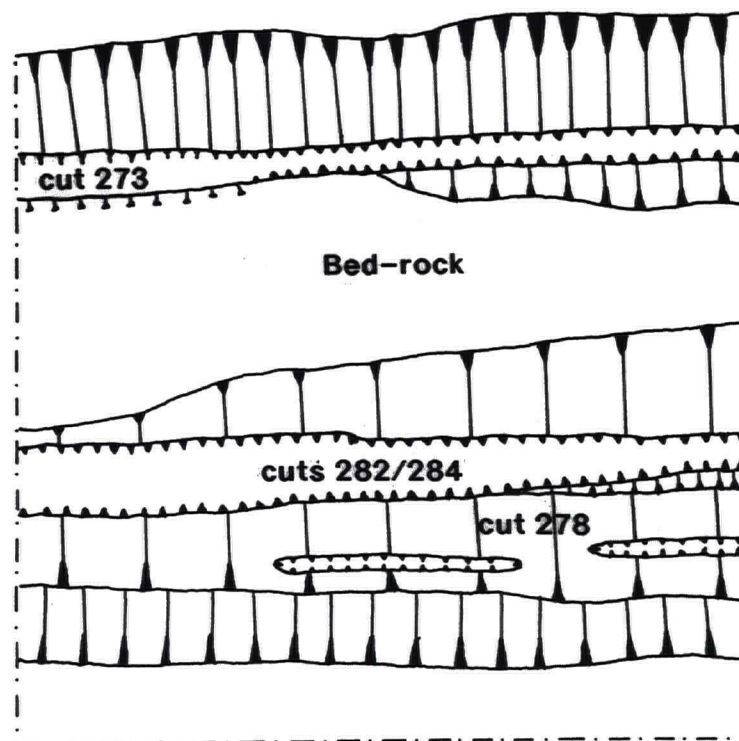
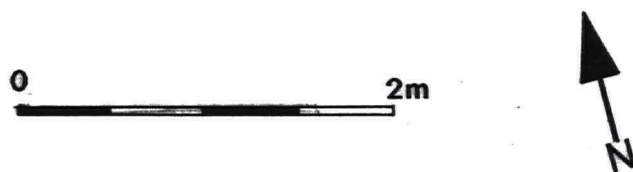
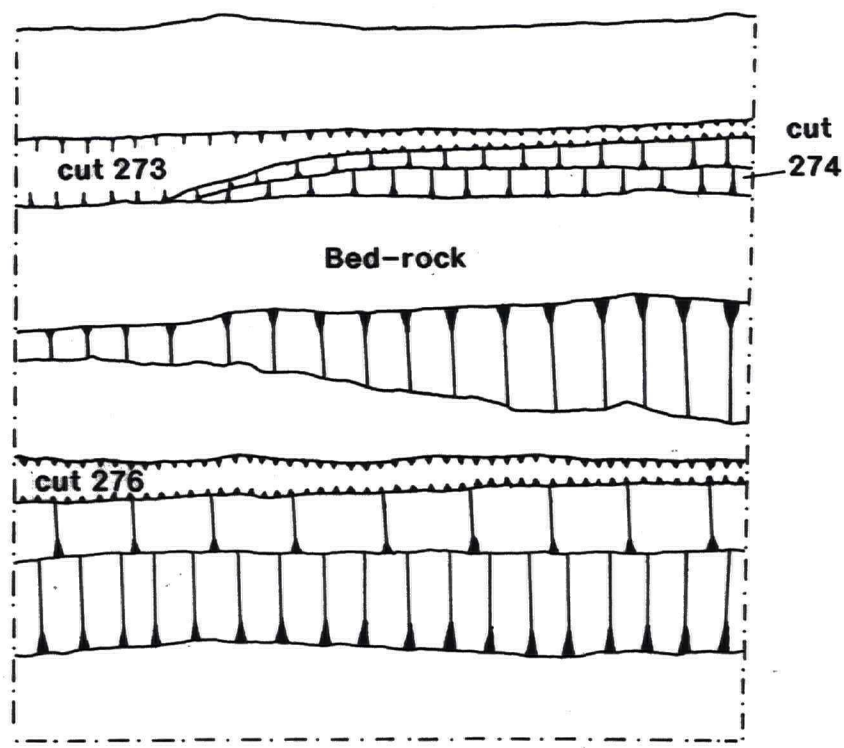
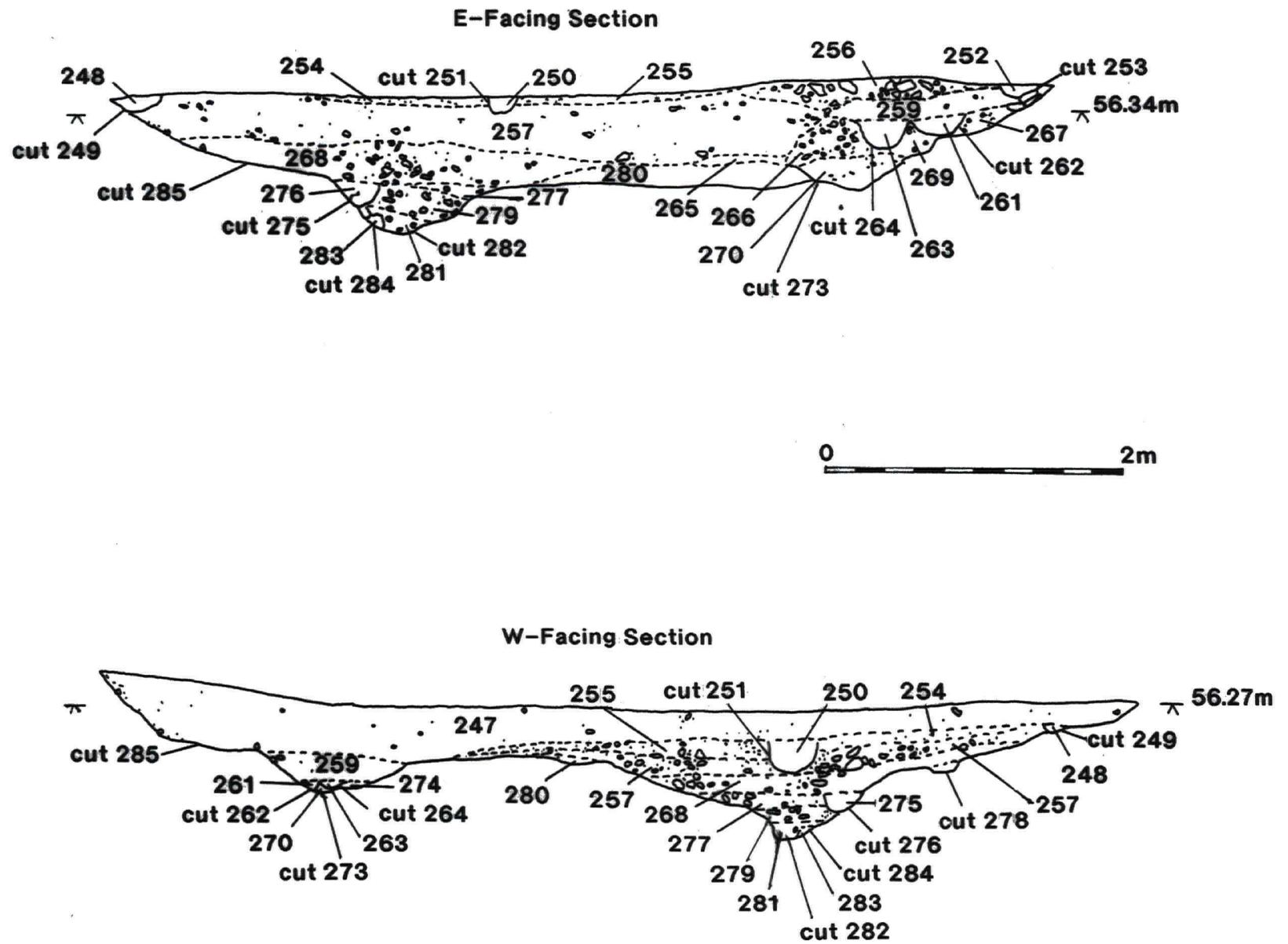


Figure 9 - Plans of Trackway cut 285, Area 3D.

Figure 10 – Sections of Trackway cut 285, Area 3D.



281 was overlain by context 279, a yellowish-brown, slightly clayey, sandy silt. An Fe object was found in 281 (Appendix 1). Context 277 partly overlay the northern side of 279, and was a yellowish-brown, slightly clayey, fine sandy silt. There were no finds from 277.

**Rut cut segment 276** (Figs 9 and 10) cut away the southern side of 279. This cut had a width of 0.14m, and a broad-U profile with a depth of 0.12m. The fill was represented by context 275, a yellowish-brown, slightly clayey, fine sandy silt.

**Rut cut segment 273** (Figs 9 and 10) was situated on the northern side of the trackway. The rut had a width of 0.28m. The profile was a broad, rounded-V with a depth of 0.12m. The fill, context 270, was a yellowish-brown, fine sandy silt. Finds were limited to a flint waste-flake and a quartzitic pebble (Appendix 1).

Two ruts were defined, cutting into 270: rut cut segments 262 and 264. **Rut cut segment 262** (Figs 8 and 10) had a width of 0.11m, and a U-shaped profile, giving a depth of 0.10m. The fill, context 261, was a brown sandy silt. There were no finds.

**Rut cut segment 264** (Figs 8 and 10) was 0.12m wide. The depth was 0.10m with a U-shaped profile. Context 263 filled 264, and existed as a yellowish-brown sandy silt. A small sherd of Romano-British Greyware was the only find from 263 (Appendix 1).

Rut cut segments 262 and 264 were best defined in the western sector of the trackway. At this point, 264 cut into contexts 266 and 269, which respectively existed as deposits of angular limestone gravel in matrices of dark yellowish-brown and yellowish-brown, slightly clayey silts. 262 cut into 269 on the southern edge, and 267, a yellowish-brown, slightly clayey, sandy silt with limestone inclusions, on the north. These contexts contained no finds.

Context 259 overlay 261 and 263. This fill consisted of yellowish-brown sandy silt to a depth of 0.13m. 259 contained five Samian sherds and an Fe nail (Appendix 1).

Context 280 was situated between these two groups of ruts and comprised soft limestones in a light grey limey matrix, with a depth of 0.12m. Context 265 overlay the north-western part of 280, and comprised a 0.02m thick layer of light yellowish-brown limey material. These two contexts contained no finds.

Context 268, a 0.16m thick deposit of angular limestone gravel in a brown sandy silt matrix, overlay 280 and 277, and also covered rut fill 275. 268 contained a single 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted sherd (Appendix 1).

Context 257 overlay 268 at the eastern end of the trackway segment, becoming more substantial at the western end, where it achieved a maximum thickness of 0.20m and a width of 2.18m. 257 was a dark yellowish-brown sandy silt with 40% limestone inclusions. Finds were represented by a single Romano-British Greyware sherd (Appendix 1).



The latest sequence of wheel ruts consisted of rut cut segments 249, 251 and 253, which were associated with a number of stony layers, contexts 254, 255 and 256.

**Rut cut segment 249** (Figs 8 and 10) was at its best-defined at the western end of the trackway segment. The profile was rounded with a maximum depth of 0.06m; the width was 0.24m. This rut cut into context 257. 249 was filled by context 248, a dark-brown sandy silt, which contained no finds.

**Rut cut segment 251** (Figs 8 and 10) was most clearly defined along the eastern part of its course, where the width was 0.20m and the depth 0.09m. The profile was U-shaped. The fill, context 250, was a yellowish-brown sandy silt, with no finds.

251 cut into context 254 on its southern edge. 254 was a 0.04m thick layer of compacted limestone gravel in a matrix of dark yellowish-brown sandy silt. Context 255, cut away by 251 on the northern side, was an identical material. Neither fill contained any finds.

**Rut cut segment 253** (Figs 8 and 10) occurred along the northern edge of the trackway segment, cutting into context 256 along its southern edge. The width was a maximum of 0.25m, and the U-shaped profile had a depth of 0.06m. The rut was filled by a dark yellowish-brown, slightly sandy silt, context 252, which yielded no finds.

Context 256, cut by 253, butted up to 255, which lay immediately to the south. 256 was 0.10m deep, and consisted of 70% angular limestone gravel in a matrix of dark yellowish-brown sandy silt. There were no finds.

Contexts 248, 250 and 253, the fills of the three upper ruts, were immediately earlier in sequence to context 247, which filled the uppermost part of the trackway segment's southern sector. 247 comprised a 0.20m deep deposit of yellowish-brown sandy silt. 247 contained brick, and ceramic and stone roof-tile fragments, also sixty-eight pottery sherds, including: fifty-seven 2nd/3rd century calcite-gritted (Fig 13.5 and 6), four Greyware, and two each of Crambeck (Fig 13.2) and colour-coated wares (Appendix 1).

#### **Area 4**

A further segment was excavated into the large cut, context 58, identified in the Trial Excavation, the aim being to establish the western limit of the feature and seek any further cremations associated with the example from the Trial Excavation (contexts 65 and 66). A segment 3m by 10m was dug 1m west of the western baulk of the westernmost of the segments of the trial excavation (Figs 11 and 12).

**Cut 58** butted out in the area excavated in 1992 (Figs 11 and 12). The length of the cut exceeded 8m, and by the configuration of the edges at the north-east end, the cut would appear to be narrowing and perhaps therefore butting out close to the

eastern baulk. The cut had a maximum width of 5.5m at the top. The profile was dished and had a depth in the centre of 0.9m. 58 cut into context 288, a ?natural deposit of angular limestone blocks with many voids.

The base of cut 58 was occupied by context 286, a fill consisting of a 0.08m deep deposit of limestone gravel in a matrix of light grey silty sand. There were no finds.

286 was overlain by context 290, which existed as a dark brown fine sandy silt with some limestone gravel. The maximum depth was 0.20m in the centre of the cut. 290 contained large amounts of occupational material: 211 Romano-British sherds (Fig 14), a copper-alloy brooch (Fig 15.3), a bronze coin, and animal bone, brick and tile fragments (Appendix 1).

A fill consisting of 40% limestone gravel in a dark yellowish-brown sandy silt matrix, context 272, was situated above 290. 272 deepened to the east and south, where it lapped into the cut; elsewhere 272 extended beyond the edges of cut 58. 272 contained fifty-six Romano-British sherds; two being of Greyware (Fig 13.11), the rest of 2/3rd century calcite-gritted ware (Fig 13.10, 12-14), along with quantities of 'foreign' stone, animal bone, marine shell, brick and tile (Appendix 1).

272 overlay context 271, a deposit of dark brown fine sandy silt, that deepened to the north, where it had a maximum depth of 0.28m. Finds from 271 included eighteen Romano-British sherds: sixteen of 2/3rd century calcite-gritted ware, and single sherds of both Greyware and colour-coated ware (Appendix 1).

The uppermost context was 260, a dark brown, slightly sandy silt with a maximum depth of 0.15m. 260 contained exclusively Romano-British pottery of colour-coated, Greyware (Fig 13.7) and black-burnished type (Fig 13.8 and 9); also an Fe nail and a CuA object (Appendix 1).

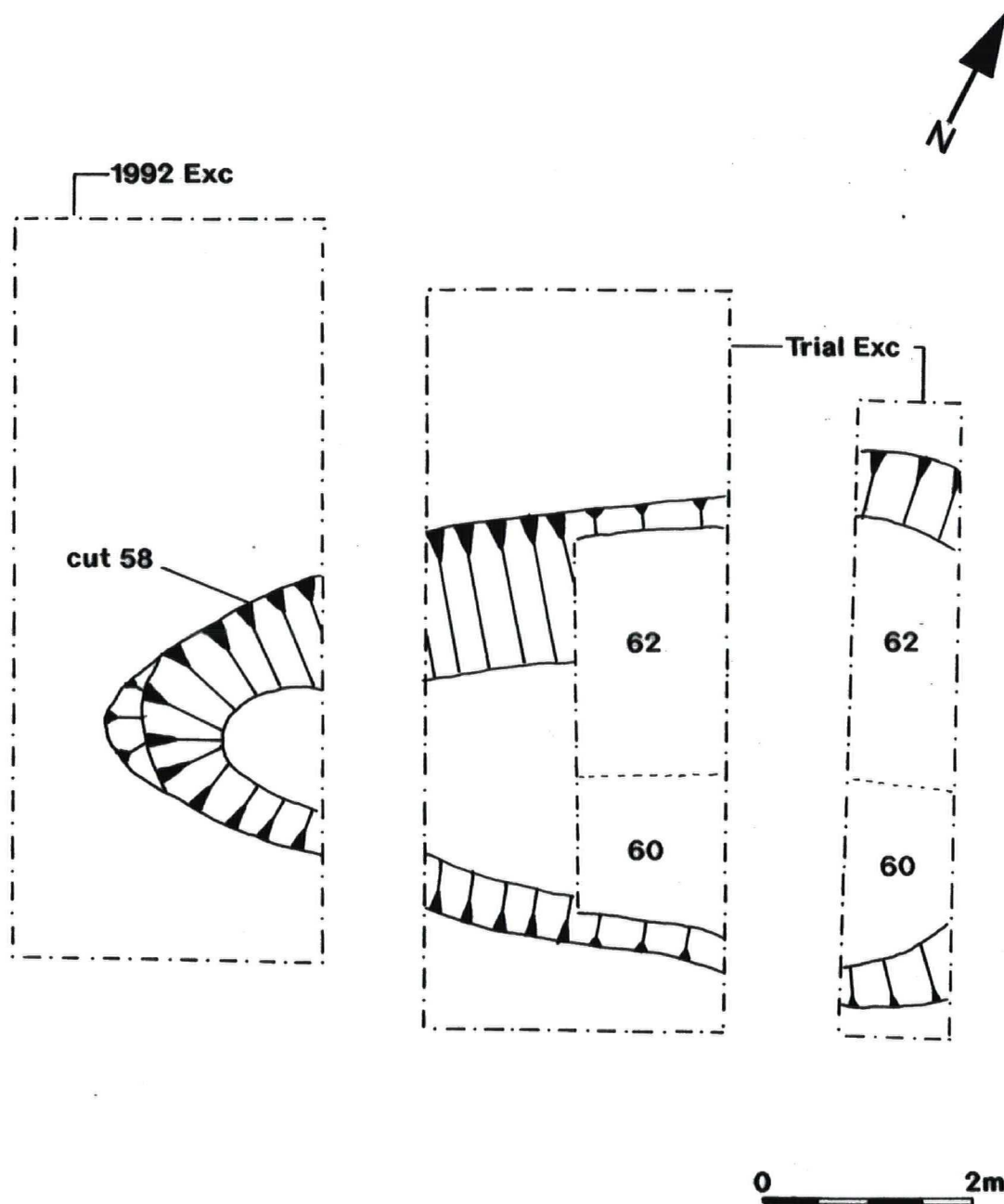


Figure 11 – Plan of cut 58, Area 4.



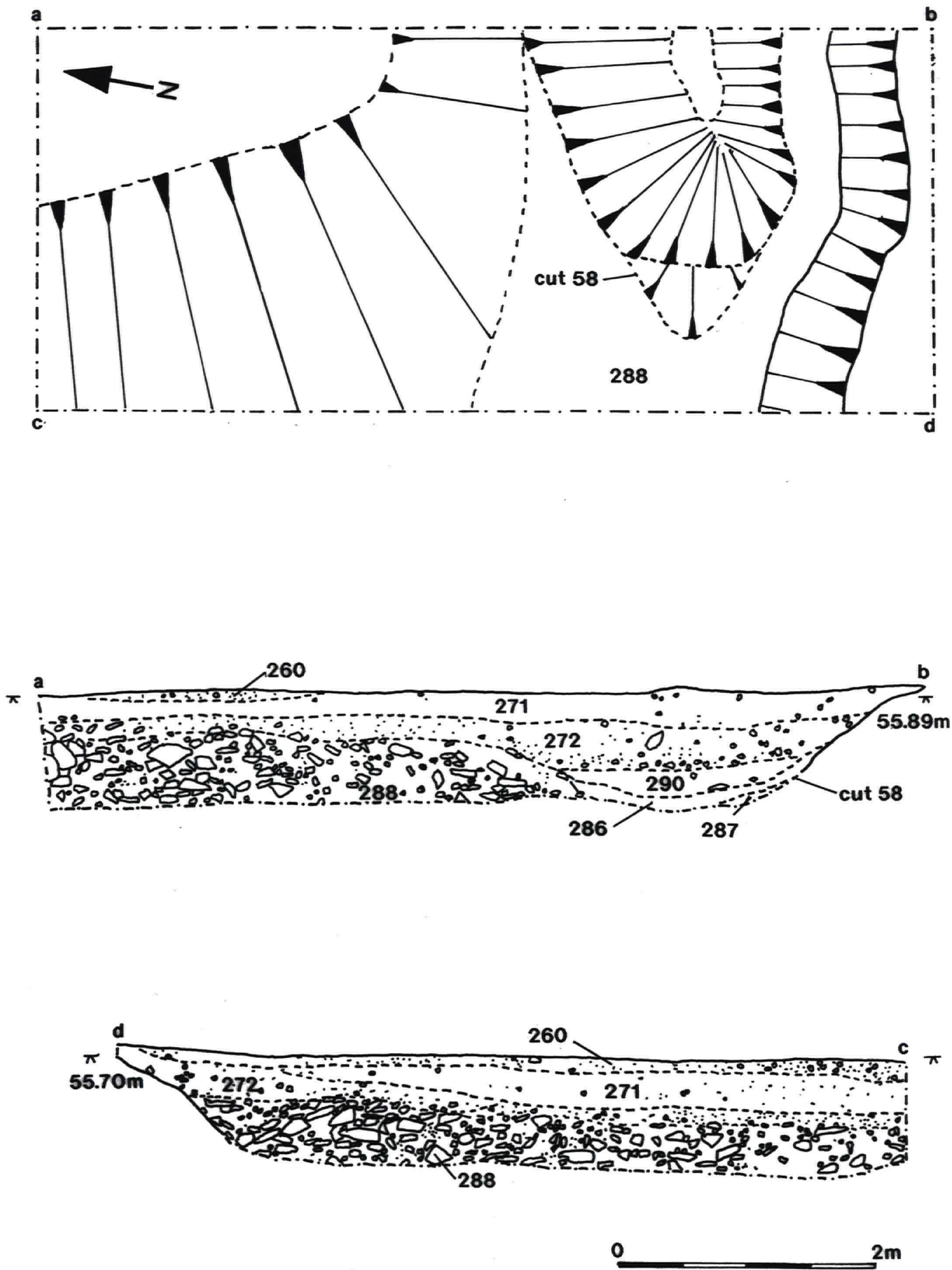


Figure 12 – Plan and Sections, Area 4.