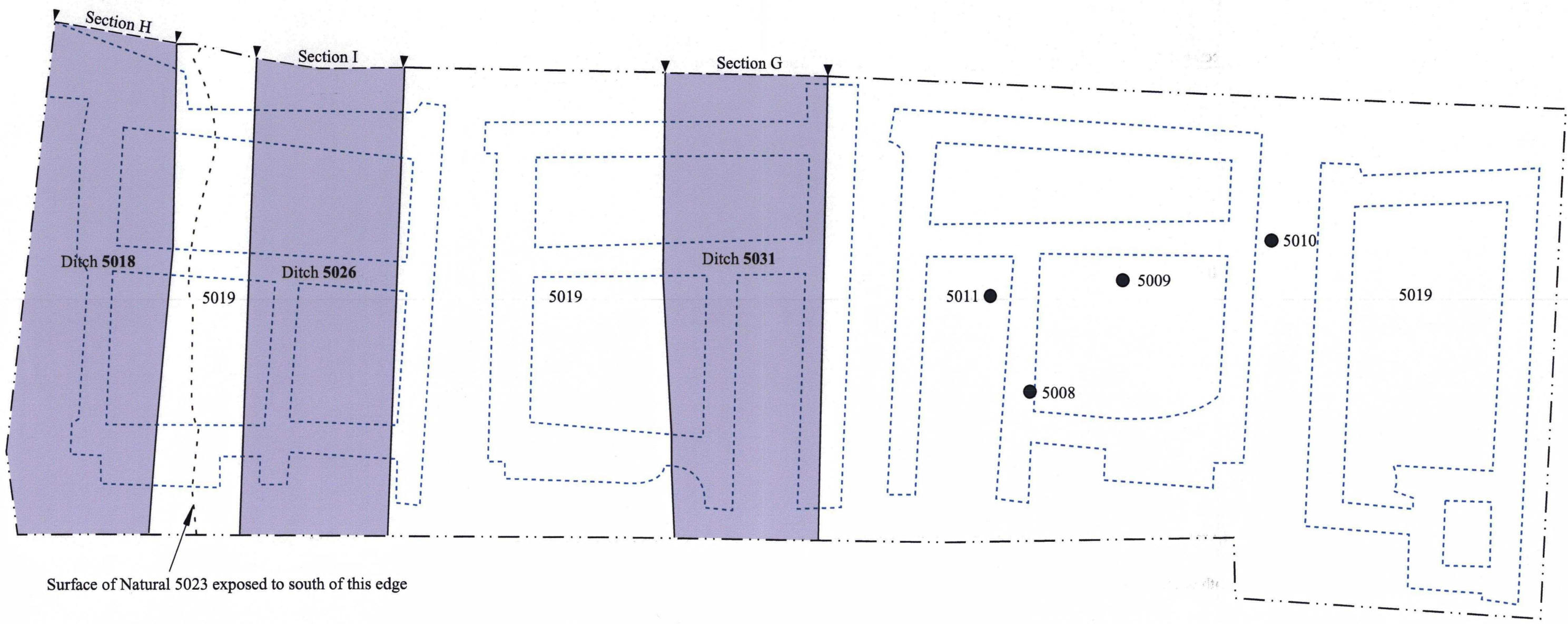




5.16.1
Ditch 5031
Ditch 5026
Ditch 5018

5.19
Post-pads 5008 - 11



Surface of Natural 5023 exposed to south of this edge

 = New foundation trenches
 = Post-pad

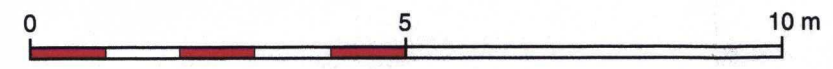


Fig. 21 Area 5, Plan of principal features

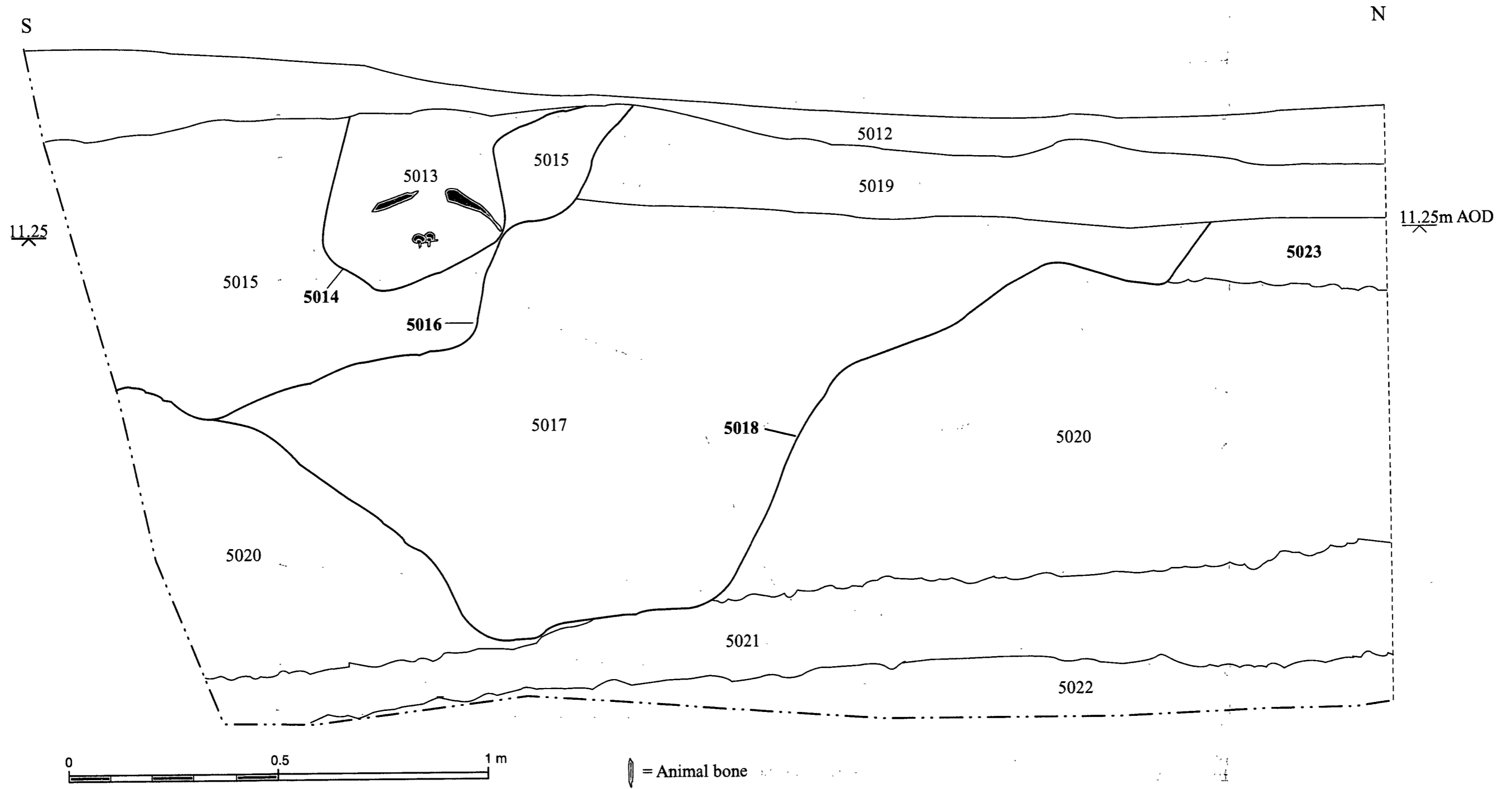


Fig. 22 Section H, East facing, Ditch 5018 (5.18)



Plate 11: *East-facing section(H), Ditch 5018 (1m scale)*

Ditch 5026 (Fig. 21; Fig. 23, Section I)

Ditch 5026, also aligned east –west, was located c. 2m north of Ditch 5018. It was also traced in the sections of the foundation trenches. It had a wide, U-shaped profile and continued beyond the east and west limits of excavation. Ditch 5026 was 3.78m wide and 1.18m deep, and had sides which broke gently from the surface to fall steeply (south side), or irregularly (north side), to a narrow, rounded, irregular base.

The primary fill of Cut 5026 consisted of a 0.3m thick deposit of medium to coarse rounded limestone gravel in a matrix of mid-brown sand silt clay (5025), which appeared, due to its horizontal surface, to have been dumped rather than to have formed over a period of time. Above this was a 0.82m thick backfill deposit of friable, light to mid-brown, sand silt clay with moderate medium limestone fragments and occasional flecks to small limestone fragments (5024). The homogenous nature of 5024 suggested that the upper part of Cut 5026 had been filled and levelled over a very short period of time, possibly in one concerted effort.

Ditch 5026 appeared to have been contemporary with Ditch 5018.

Ditch 5031 (Fig. 21; Fig. 24, Section G)

Ditch 5031 was located immediately to the south of the centre of Area 5 and was recorded by inspecting the sections of the foundation trenches. It was aligned east-west

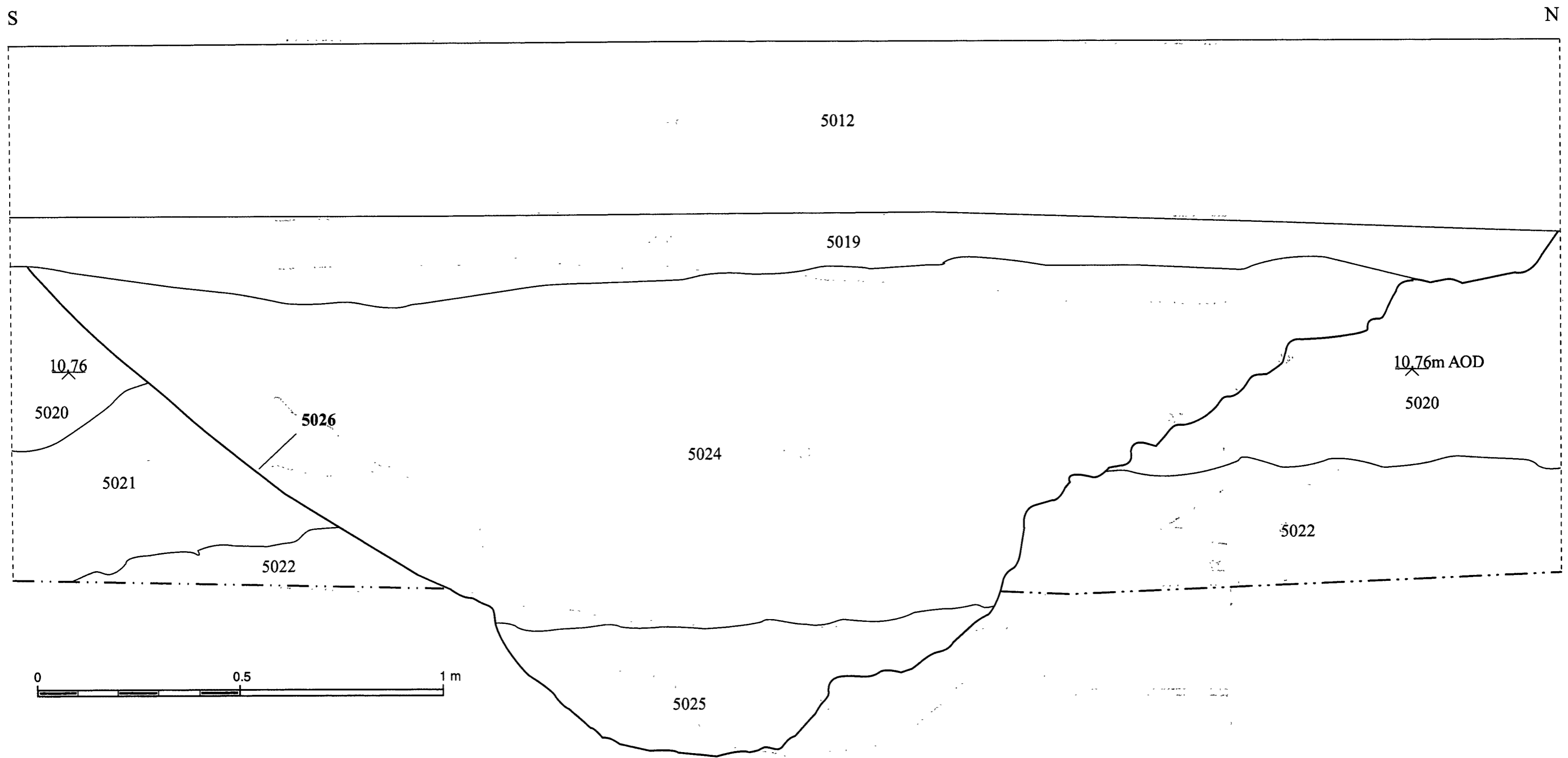


Figure 23; Section I, East facing, Ditch 5026 (5.18)

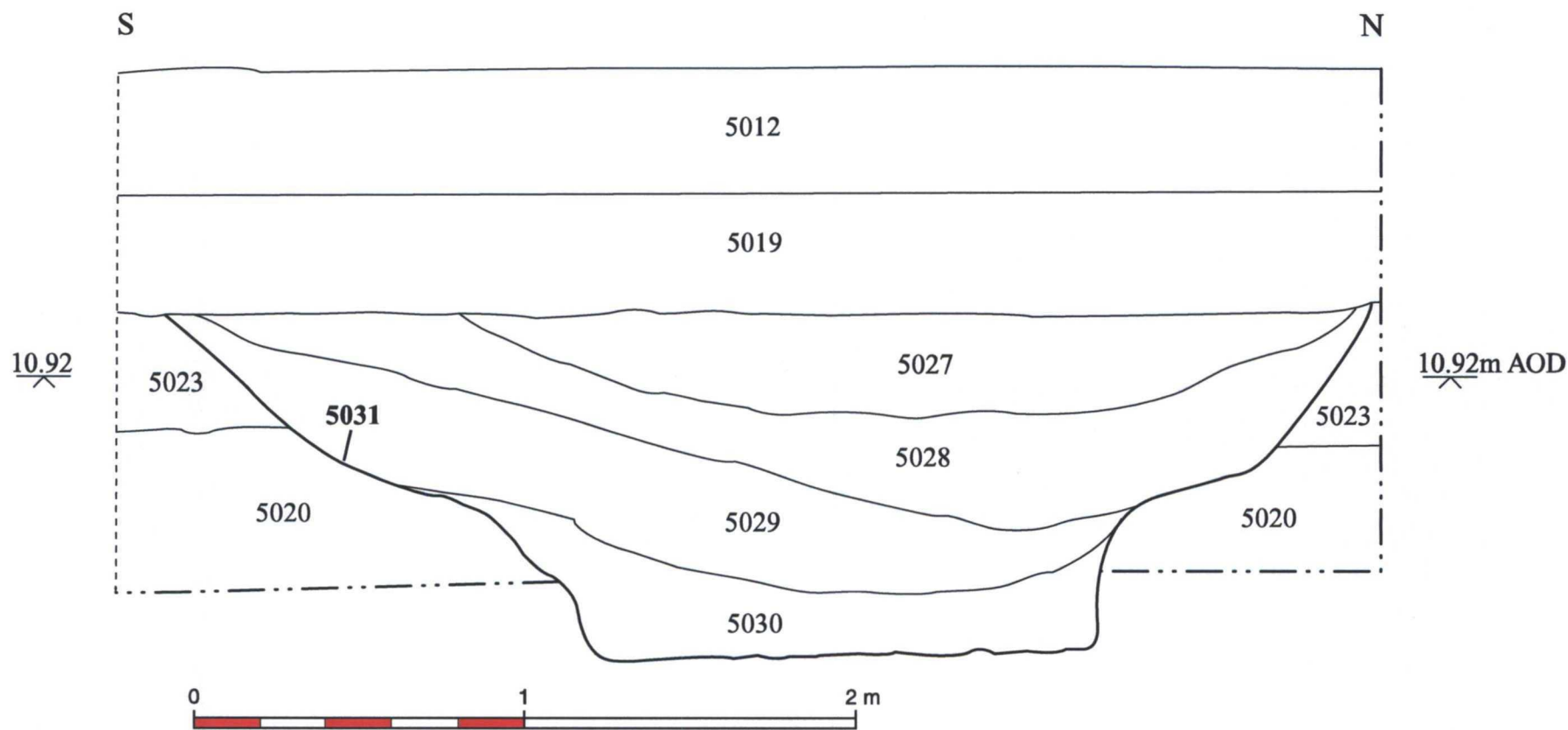


Fig. 24 Section G, east facing, Ditch 5031 (5.18)

and was c.1.8m wide and 0.51m deep. The north and south sides broke sharply from the surface and came to a gently rounded break of slope, before falling steeply to a flat base.

The basal fill of 5031 (5030) was an up to 0.4m thick compact, waxy, mid-brown, slightly sandy silt clay which, along with occasional small limestone pebbles and burnt grain flecks, also contained 33 fragments of human bone including femur, tibia and fibula shafts. They are thought to have come from a single individual placed in the base of the ditch and covered over when backfilling commenced. Above this was 5029, an up to 0.34m thick deposit consisting of small pebbles in a matrix of a moderately compact mid-brown silt clay. It was sealed by context 5028, a 0.35m thick backfill deposit of compact mid-brown silt clay, with moderate limestone flecks and occasional small rounded limestone fragments. Above this was an upper fill (5027) of a 0.28m thick, friable, dark brown mottled, mid-brown slightly clay sand silt with occasional limestone flecks and small rounded limestone fragments. This was used to both fill and level the hollow formed at the top of the ditch after the underlying deposits had settled.

The fills of Cut 5031 were all, with the exception of 5027, tipping down towards the north and suggested that if a bank was associated with this feature, it was most likely to have been sited on the southern side of the ditch.

Although there was a lack of dating evidence from the fills of Cut 5031, the burnt grain observed in the basal fill (5030) did, however, suggest a relationship with the large post-pits observed in Area 4 which also contained burnt cereal grains (see above).

Medieval

5.19 Post-pads (Fig. 21)

Post-pads 5008 - 11 were cut into natural and were exposed because they survived to a sufficient height to show through the unexcavated deposit (5019), in the northern half of Area 5. As the bulk of the post-pads still lay beneath the formation level of the new build they remained unexcavated and were only surface cleaned for recording purposes.

In all cases the post-pads, formed with horizontally laid, flat fragments of limestone, were rectilinear and measured 0.4m x 0.3m (5008), 0.65m x 0.4m (5009), 0.45m x 0.4m (5010) and 0.45m x 0.4m (5011). Of these only 5009 produced dating evidence, a sherd of 12th century gritty ware.

Post-pads 5009 - 11 were laid out on a north-north-west / south-south-east axis, with a space of 3.5m between 5009 and 5011, and 3.58m between 5009 and 5010. They may have marked the location of the westernmost wall of a post-built structure of which further post-pads lay concealed beneath Deposit 5019.

Post-medieval

5.20 Deposit 5019

Post-pads 5008 - 11 and the upper fills of Ditches 5018, 5026 and 5031 (5017, 5024 and 5027 respectively) were all sealed by an extensive deposit, up to 0.24m thick of a friable, light to mid- brown sand silt clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments (5019). Deposit 5019 was relatively clean and uniform in its make-up and, due to the lack of evidence for manuring or plough disturbance, appeared to have been dumped rather than being allowed to build-up over a period of time.

5.21 Features Cut Into Deposit 5019

Ditch 5016

Ditch 5016 (Fig. 22, Section H), was located at the extreme southern end of Area 5. It was 0.7m deep and over 1.42m wide, aligned east - west and continued beyond the east and west and south sides of the trench. The northern edge broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply to a shallow, 0.1m wide, step before continuing to fall steeply to a rounded, slightly pointed base. Its backfill consisted of a friable light to mid-brown silt sand clay with occasional grit to small limestone pebbles and limestone fragments (5015).

Modern

5.22 Dog Burials

A group of eight dog burials (5001-7, 5014) was observed. They were concentrated within the southern half of the excavation and, of these, 5014 was truncated by machine during the excavation of the box section at the west end of Ditch 5018.

Burial 5014 (Fig. 21, Section H)

Cut 5014 was dug into the fill (5015), of Ditch 5016. It was aligned east - west, and was 0.56m wide and 0.42m deep. The sides broke gently from the surface to fall steeply to a rounded bottom edge leading to a gently pointed base. The skeleton it contained was a little on the fresh side and appeared to be the remains of a large dog. The backfill of the grave consisted of a friable, light to mid brown sandy clay with occasional medium limestone fragments, small modern brick / tile fragments, small pebbles and charcoal flecks (5013).

Burials 5001 – 7

Dog burials 5001 – 7 cut into Context 5019. All were obviously modern as the bone was in a very good, clean condition and, in one case (5002) date was demonstrated by the fact that it was interred in a large plastic fertiliser sack.

Although these burials appeared to have been sealed by a topsoil deposit (5012; see below), the backfill of the graves was mixed with a similar material. This would suggest that the graves were cut through 5012 and their upper parts were lost due to the similarities between the grave fill and the topsoil.

5.23 Topsoil

The fill of burials 5001 – 7 and 5014 were all sealed beneath an up to 0.38m thick build-up of garden soil (5012). This consisted of a friable, slightly greyish, mid-brown sandy clay with occasional 'pea grit' and small pebbles. Deposit 5012 was covered in overgrowth and had, at 11.89m AOD, formed the top-soil of the garden centre which occupied the area before development commenced.

Context number 5000 was used to denote unstratified artefacts or finds recovered from the machined layers and, in this instance, was not used.

AREA 6

(House plots 9 – 12)

5.24 Introduction

Area 6 (Fig. 2) was located c.10m to the north-west of Area 4 and 13.5m east of Area 5. The excavated area measured 17m north - south and 27m east - west. Area 6 was machine-excavated to a depth of, on average, 0.4m prior to the excavation of the strip foundation trenches. As with Area 5, the depth of clearance failed to penetrate an extensive deposit below the top soil which masked the majority of the archaeological features. All the features and deposits described below were observed, recorded and their alignments traced in the sides of the foundation trenches. The exception to this was located at the extreme west end where an up to 8.5m wide north – south aligned strip was excavated to a level equating to the top of the natural subsoil at c. 10.42 – 10.48m AOD.

5.25 Natural

The earliest deposit encountered in Area 6 was a natural subsoil (6066), consisting of bands of gravels formed from loose, small to medium limestone pebbles in a matrix of a pale to mid-orange brown coarse grained sand. The sands and gravels were sealed by a capping layer of a 0.19m thick deposit of a natural, stiff, mid-greyish brown clay which

- = Trench 1 of previous archaeological assesment (MAP)
- = New foundation trenches

5.26
Ditch 6006

5.30
Ditch 6079

5.31
Ditch 6020

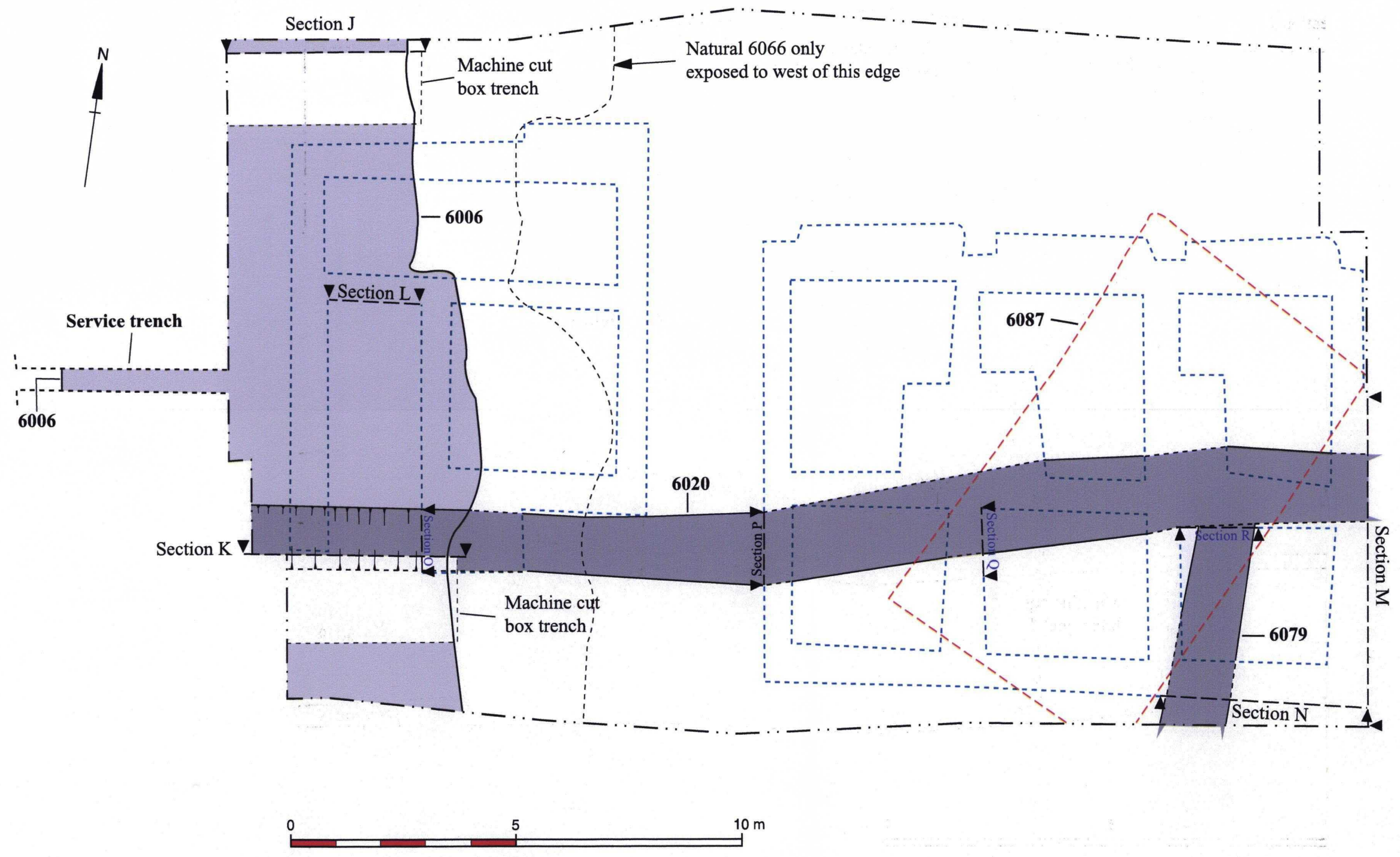


Fig. 25 Area 6, Plan of principal features

was recorded under the same context number. These deposits were observed at approximately 10.39m AOD and were machine-excavated to a depth of c. 1.3m in two box-sections; these were located in the north-west and south-west corners of Area 6.

Context 6066 was sealed by 6021, a 0.19m thick layer of compact mid-orange yellow clay sand, with occasional small limestone fragments, which was thought to have been an ancient buried soil. This deposit was cut by Ditch 6006 and had only survived in the western quarter of the excavated area.

Iron Age

5.26 Ditch 6006 (Fig. 25; Pl.12)

Ditch 6006 was located at the western limit of excavation. It was aligned north – south, and spanned the full 14.5m width of Area 6 before running beyond both the north and south limits of excavation.

Excavation of a shallow 0.5m wide service trench, located 7.5m south of the northern limit of excavation, linking the eastern edge of Area 5 to the western edge of Area 6 revealed that the fill of Ditch 6006 extended for a further 3.7m towards the west, giving a total width of c. 7.7m. Because the almost complete width of Ditch 6006 was recorded in Section J (Fig. 29), it is suggested that much of the fill in the base of the service trench belonged to a second ditch west of 6006 which was not accessible for recording.

Ditch 6006 was initially excavated by means of two machine-cut box trenches; one against the northern limit of excavation (Fig. 26, Section J), and the other c.3.1m north of the southern limit of excavation (Fig. 27, Section K). A third trench (Fig. 27, Section L) was recorded after the machine excavation of the strip foundation trenches. Section L was located some 5.7m south of the northern limit of excavation and 3m east of the western limit of excavation. Each section will be described individually below.



Plate 12: South-facing section (J), Ditch 6006 (1m and 0,5m scales)

Section J, South Facing (Fig. 26)

At this point Cut 6006 was up to 1.2m deep and was exposed for a width of 3.7m. The eastern edge of the ditch broke gently from the surface to fall steeply to a flat, uneven base at 9.41m AOD. An area of undercutting was noted at the base of the east side; this was caused by the collapse of the sides of the cut in antiquity. The west side of the cut continued beyond the limit of excavation yet the profile available for recording suggested that the ditch had a wide U- shaped profile.

The primary fill of 6006 was an up to 0.1m thick deposit of a loose, coarse, limestone pebble gravel and 'pea' grit in a matrix of coarse, pale grey sand (6016). The surface of 6016 fell gently from west to east and was formed by silting within the base of the ditch when it was open to the elements.

Directly above 6016 was a backfill deposit consisting of an up to 0.2m thick layer of a stiff, pale greyish brown silt sand clay with frequent small to medium pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (6014). This was located against the western side of Cut 6006, at 9.71m AOD, and extended towards the east for a distance of 1.1m before its surface fell steeply again, for a further 0.9m, to 9.43m AOD. Deposit 6014 produced a Later Mesolithic flint primary flake converted into a broad scraper (sf 48), and a small amount of animal bone. A fragment of animal bone was submitted for C14 dating and returned a date of c. 380 - 160 BC (2 Sigma calibrated result of 95% probability) for the onset of the backfilling of Ditch 6006.

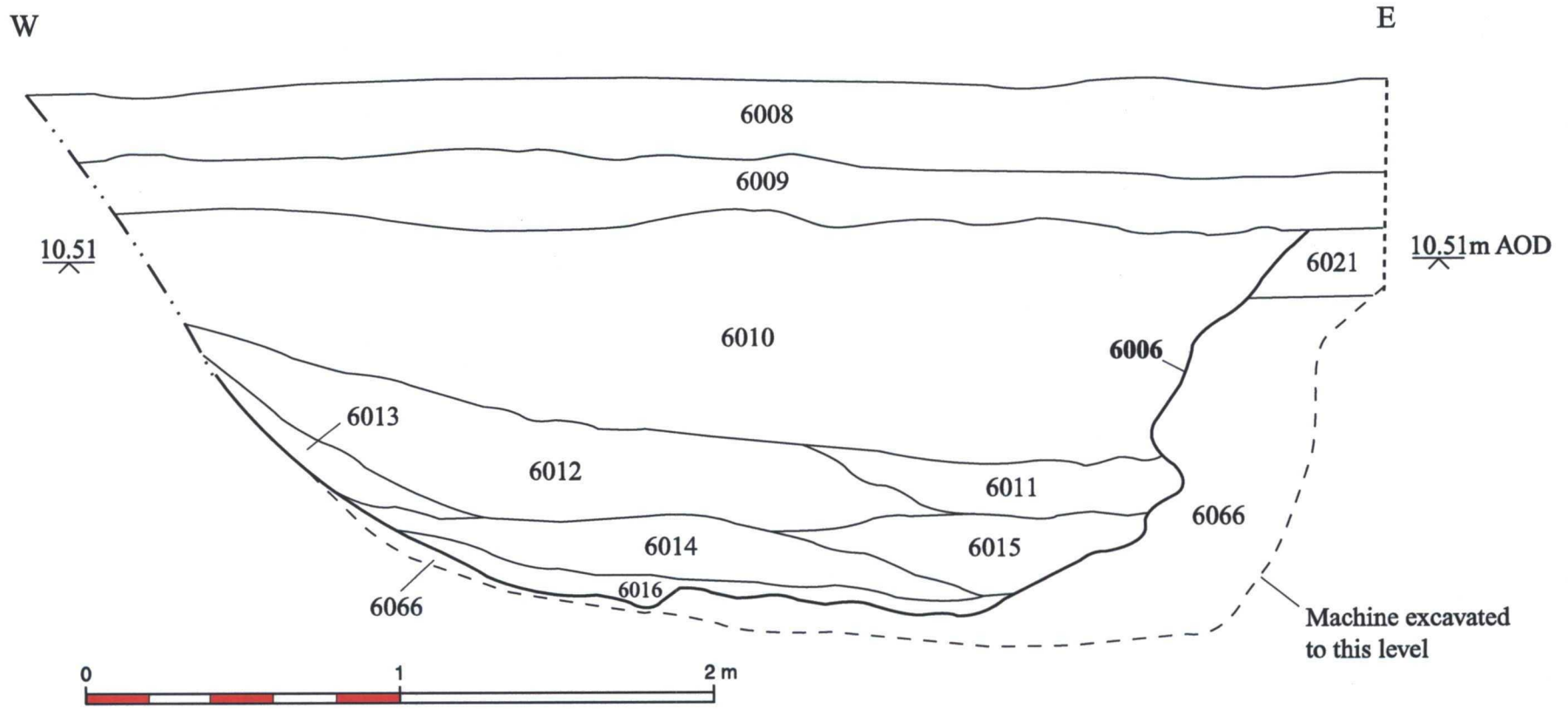


Fig. 26 Section J, East facing, Ditch 6006 (5.2.6)

Deposit 6014 was sealed by Contexts 6013 to the west and 6015 to the east.

Deposit 6013 was located hard against the western side of Ditch 6006 and fell steeply, for a distance of 0.9m, from 10.21m AOD in the west to 9.69m AOD in the east. Context 6013 consisted of a stiff, mid-yellow brown, sandy clay with frequent limestone pea grit and occasional small angular limestone fragments, 0.12m thick. The profile of 6013 suggested that it was either deliberately deposited or was a build-up of soil caused by material eroding from the sides of the cut whilst the ditch was still open to the elements.

Deposit 6015 was located against the east edge of Cut 6006 and was a stiff, mid-yellow brown, sandy clay with frequent limestone pea grit and occasional small pebbles, up to 0.26m thick. The constituents of 6015 had an affinity with the natural subsoil; its deposition was most likely the result of a block of material tumbling into the base of the ditch and subsequently forming the void at the base of the eastern side of 6006.

Both 6013 and 6015 were sealed by Deposit 6012, located towards the western edge of the ditch and was an up to 0.36m thick deposit of stiff, mid-brown sandy clay with frequent orange yellow decayed limestone flecks, occasional medium pebbles and a single 'pot-boiler' fragment. Deposit 6012 was sealed by 6011, located against the eastern side of the ditch and consisted of a deposit 0.17m thick of compact, pale to mid-ginger brown sandy clay with frequent pale yellow limestone 'pea grit', occasional small pebbles, flecks to small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. Context 6011 was stratigraphically below 6010, a 0.72m thick, compact, pale to mid-ginger brown sandy clay with moderate small to medium pebbles, flecks to small fragments of limestone and occasional charcoal flecks. This was used to completely backfill and level Ditch 6006 to the old ground level, at 10.65m AOD.

Sections K (South Facing), and L (North Facing) (Fig. 27).

Ditch 6006 was cut into 6021 and was exposed for a width of 2.60m before continuing beyond the west limit of excavation and for 3.2m before running beyond the southern limit of excavation. The exposed eastern edge of 6006 broke gently from the surface to fall steeply to a gently rounded base to produce a U-shaped profile. The earliest backfill deposit was 6005, located against the eastern edge of the cut and fell steeply towards the west. It consisted of a 0.42m thick deposit of flecks to large fragments of limestone and pebbles. The clean nature of this deposit suggested that it was bank slip material; whether this was generated naturally or was the result of a deliberate action, i.e. the slighting of a bank on the east side of the ditch, is uncertain. Context 6005 was sealed by 6004, a 0.14m thick backfill deposit consisting of small to large limestone fragments in a matrix of mid brown silt clay. Context 6004 was sealed by 6003, a 0.3m thick backfill deposit which consisted of small to medium fragments of limestone in a matrix of compact mid brown silty clay. A later east-west ditch cut had reduced the upper fill of Cut 6006 by at least 0.68m.

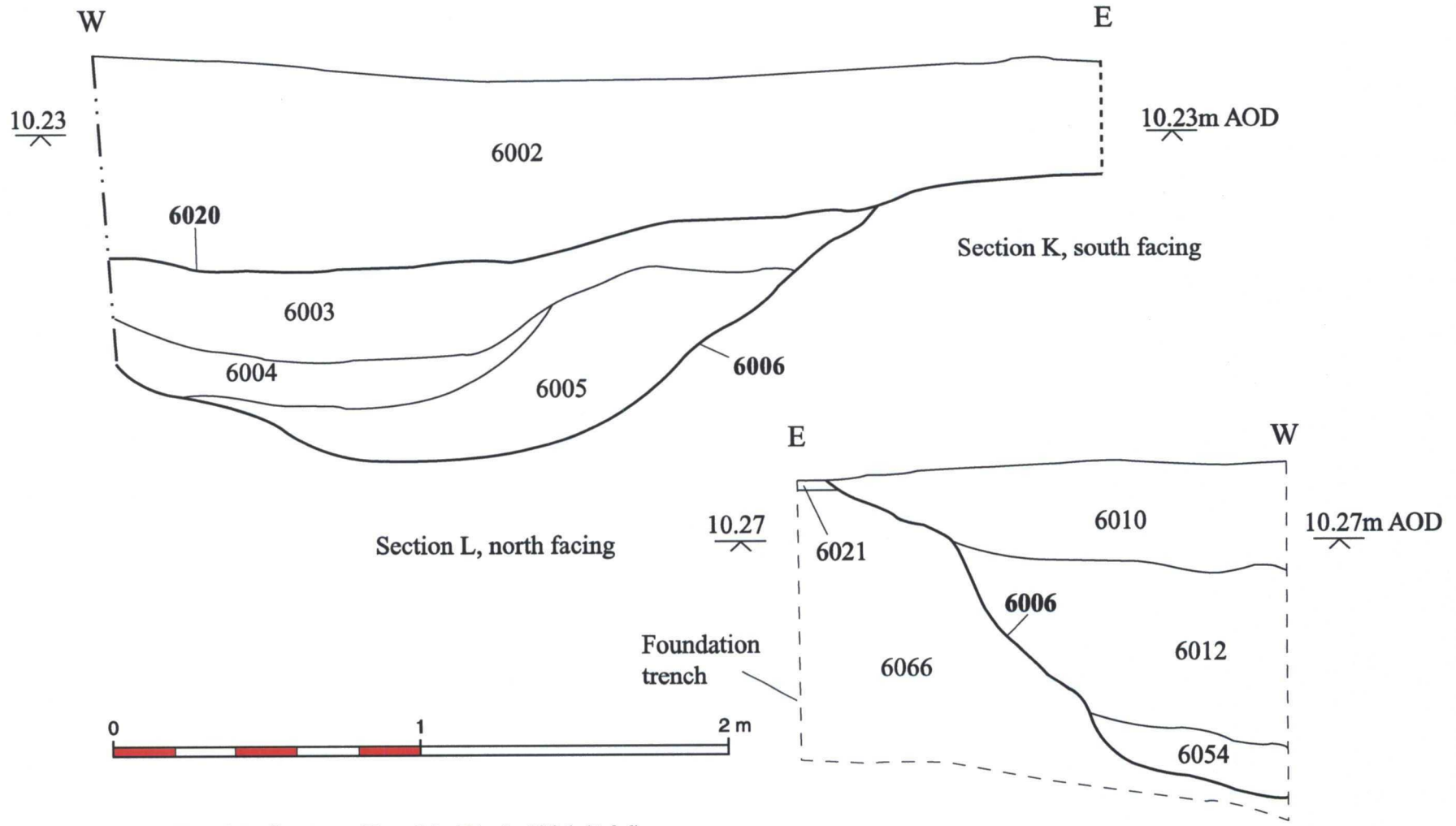


Fig. 27 Sections K and L, Ditch 6006 (5.26)

Section M, (West Facing) (Fig. 28)

At this point only 1.6m of the eastern half of Ditch 6006 was recorded as the majority of its fills were removed by the foundation trench. The ditch had a top edge that broke gently from the surface before falling gently towards the west, to a break of slope, and then continued to fall steeply to a flat base. It had a maximum depth of c.1.09m and a wide U- shaped profile.

The primary fill of Cut 6006 was a 0.16m thick deposit of compact, dark brown, gritty silt sand clay with moderate decayed limestone flecks, occasional small pebbles, small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks (6054). This was not present elsewhere and was sealed by 6012 (see Section J), 0.59m thick, which was below 6010 (Section J), 0.33m thick; this was used to fully backfill Ditch 6006 to the old ground level, at c. 10.52m AOD.

5.27 Cut 6086 and Surface 6065

(Fig. 28, Section M, west facing, and Fig. 29, Section N, north facing)

Cut 6086

Clearance Cut 6086 was located in the sections of the foundation trenches for House Plots 10 – 12. Cut 6086 extended for a distance of 5.15m north and 3.81m west of the south-east corner of Area 6 and appeared to have reduced the ground surface by c. 0.81m, or to between 9.52m (Section E) and 9.6m AOD (Section G). The northern edge of 6086 broke sharply from the surface to fall gently to a flat base. The western edge had been truncated by later activity. The base fell slightly from 9.6m AOD in the west, to 9.5m AOD in the east. Although it was observed again in several locations north-west of the recorded sections, the true alignment of Cut 6086 was not obvious. The overall impression gained was, however, that it was roughly rectangular in plan and formed the north-west corner of a much larger feature.

Surface 6065

Surface 6065 in the base of 6086 consisted of 0.07 – 0.12m thick deposit of small to large limestone pebbles and large limestone fragments in a matrix of white flecked, pale grey clay silt with occasional sand clay silt patches and occasional charcoal flecks. The thickest parts of 6065 were located in Section E; the increased thickness appears to have been used to counteract the fall in the base of Cut 6086 and form a level surface at either c.9.66m (Section M), or 9.67m AOD (Section N).

5.28 Post-hole 6070 (Fig. 28, Section M)

Post-hole 6070 was observed in Section E cutting into Surface 6065. It was located 1.3m north of the south-east corner of Area 6 and appeared to have been circular in plan, up to 0.28m in diameter and 0.15m deep. The sides broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply (south side), or gently to a sharp break of slope before falling steeply (north side), to a rounded base. Its backfill was a soft, plastic, pale to mid-grey brown silt clay (6069).

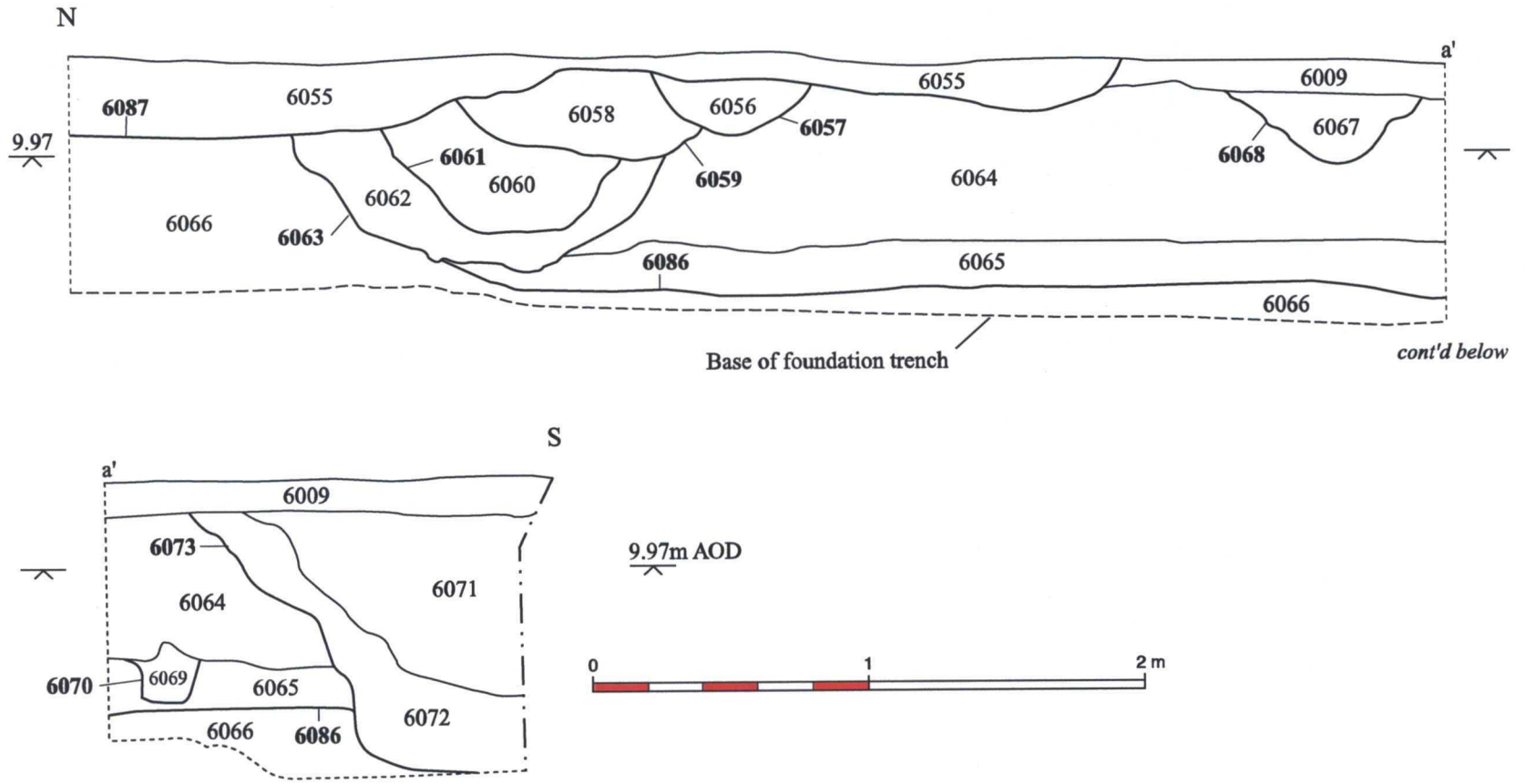


Fig. 28 Section M, west facing

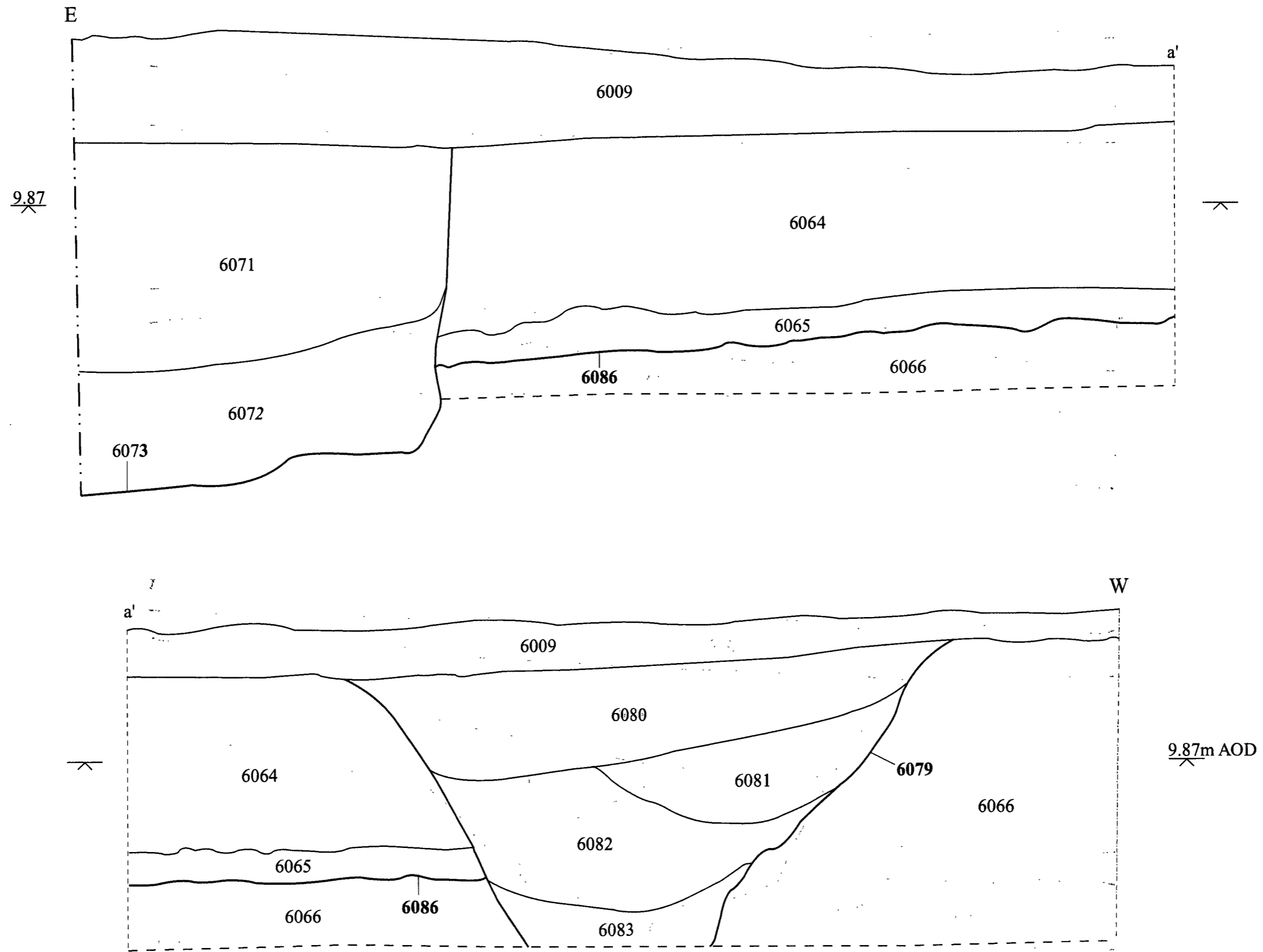


Fig. 29 Section N, North facing (5.27)

5.29 Deposit 6064 (Fig. 28, Section M, and Fig. 29, Section N)

The fill (6069) of Post-hole 6070 was sealed by 6064, an extensive, 0.51m thick, backfill / levelling deposit of homogenous, compact, blue marbled, mid-orange brown sandy clay, with occasional decayed limestone flecks, manganese flecks, medium to large limestone pebbles and small patches of creamy white sand. Deposit 6064 was cut by 6020, 6073 and 6068 (below).

5.30 Ditch Cut 6020

Ditch 6020 aligned east - west was recorded in several sections as described below and also numbered 6063, 6076 and 6078. The ditch was sealed by an extensive in situ levelling deposit, which was machine stripped to expose the top of natural (6021) some 7.5m east of the western limit of excavation. Elsewhere the ditch was recorded in the sections of the foundation trenches. It was only fully exposed at the extreme west of Area 6, where it was observed to continue beyond the western limit of excavation 2.9m north of the south-west corner of the excavated area.

Section O, West Facing (Fig. 30)

Section O was located 3.8m east of the western limit of excavation and 3m north of the southern limit of excavation. At this point the ditch was 1.62m wide and 0.78m deep. The sides broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply to a flat base at 9.92m AOD, giving a wide U-shaped profile. The fill of 6020 was a compact, orange tinged, mid-brown silty clay with moderate small limestone fragments (6002). It was sealed by 6009.

Section P, East Facing (Fig. 30)

Section P was located 7.5m to the east of Section L and was recorded in the section of a foundation trench. At this point the ditch was 1.24m wide and 0.27m deep with sides that broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply (north side), or gently rounded uneven base, giving a very wide, flat-bottomed, U-shaped shaped profile. In Section D the ditch fill (6002) was the same as in Section L.

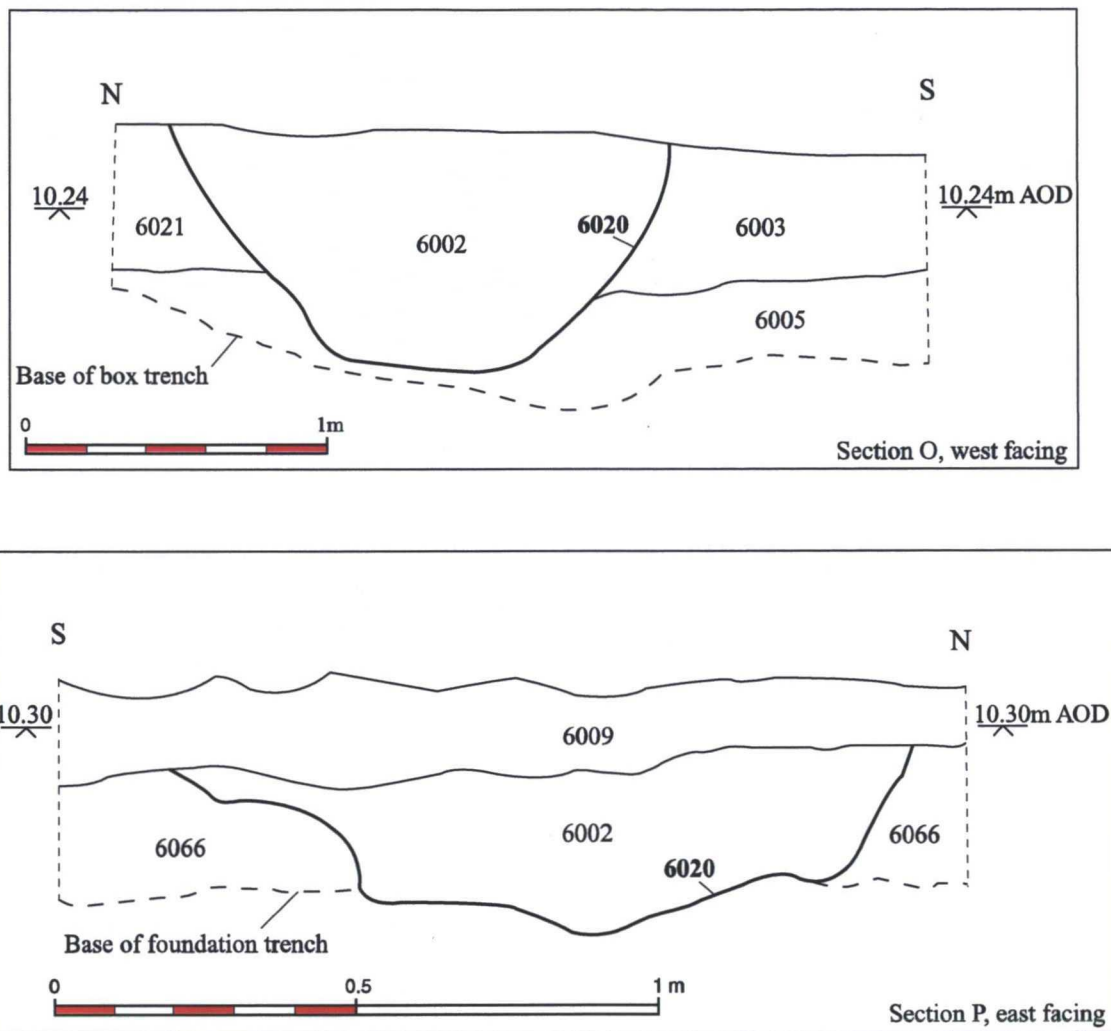


Fig. 30: Sections O and P

Section Q, West Facing (Fig. 31)

Section Q was located 4.8m to the east of Section D and, at this point, Ditch 6020 was recorded as Cut 6076. The northern third of the ditch had been removed by the excavation of the foundation trenches but had survived to a width of 0.99m and was up to 0.42m deep. The surviving southern edge broke gently from the surface to fall steeply to a flat base.

The primary fill of Cut 6076 consisted of a 0.12m thick deposit of a compact, grey marbled, mid-orange brown, slightly sandy clay with occasional limestone and charcoal flecks. This was sealed by a 0.22m thick backfill deposit of compact, blue grey mottled, slightly orange, mid-brown sandy clay with occasional bright orange red sand spotting, limestone flecks and charcoal flecks (6074) that was used to completely backfill and level the ditch.

Section R, West Facing (Fig. 31)

Section R was located 8.5m east of Section J and at this point Ditch 6020 was recorded as 6063. It was 1.36m wide and up to 0.44m deep with a north side that broke gently from the surface to fall irregularly and steeply to a rounded uneven base giving a wide U-shaped profile. The fill of 6063 was an up to 0.4m thick deposit of a compact brown marbled, pale to mid grey silt sand clay with occasional small limestone fragments, small pebbles and charcoal flecks (6062).

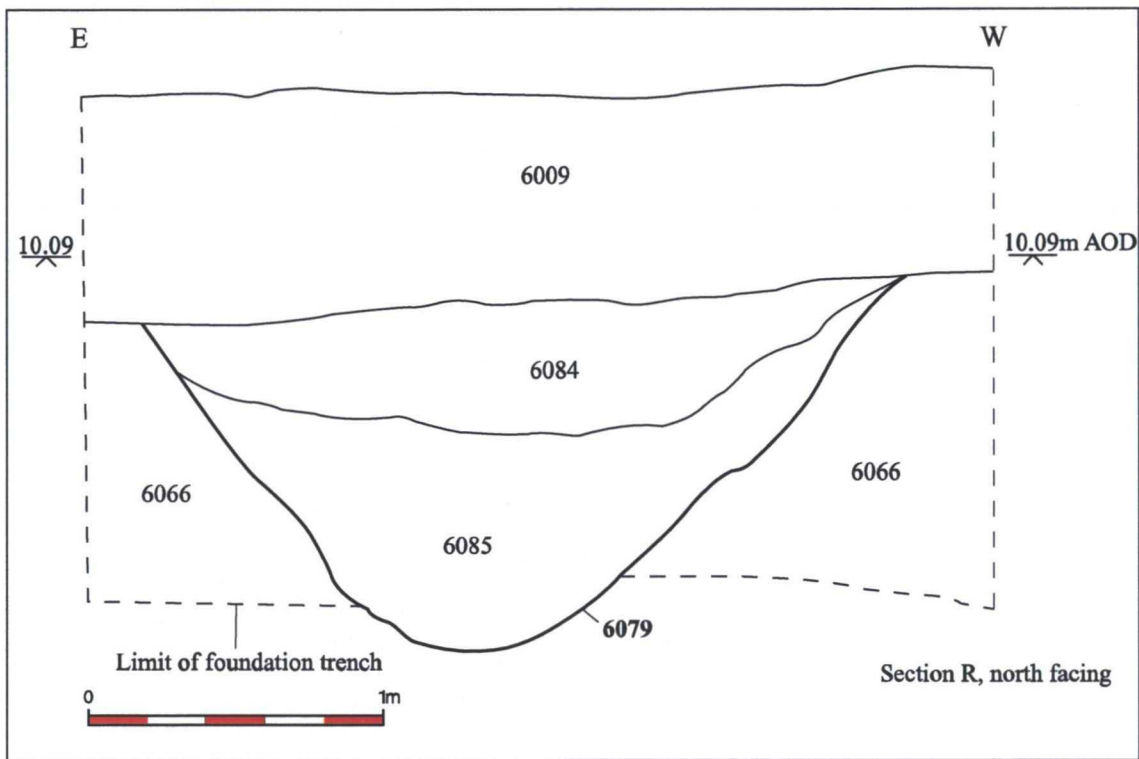
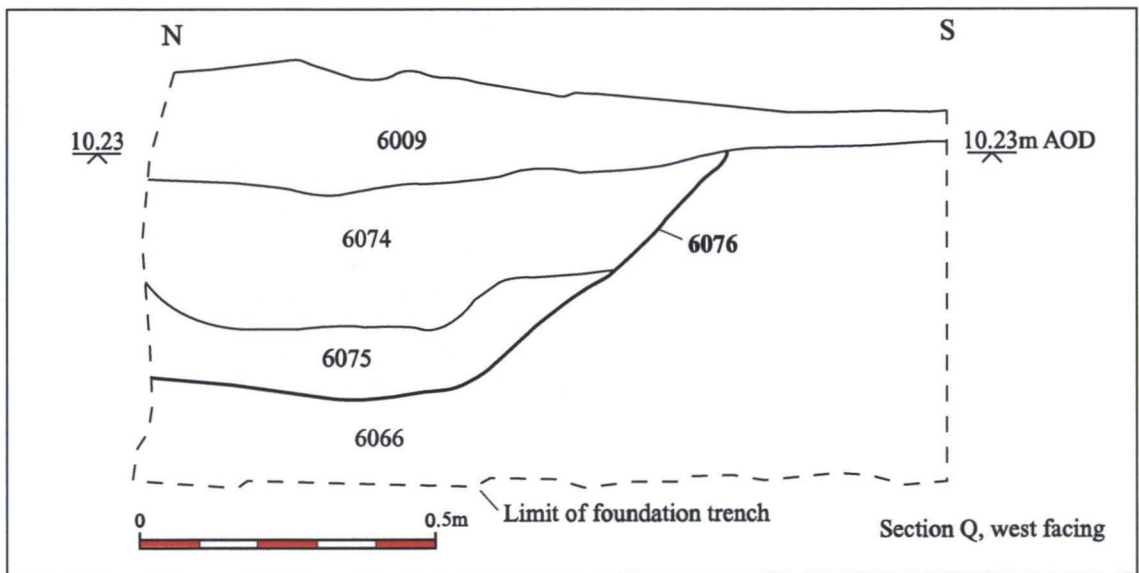


Fig.31: Sections Q and R

5.31 Ditch Cut 6079 (Fig. 25)

Ditch 6079 was located at the southern limit of excavation, some 3.2m west of the south-east corner of the excavated area. It was aligned north - south, and extended for a distance of 4.4m towards the north. The relationship with Ditch 6020 could not be verified as the excavation of the foundation trenches had severed the junction between both features. It did, however, appear that both were contemporary as there was no evidence for the continuation of Ditch 6079 beyond Ditch 6020.

Section N, North Facing (Fig. 29)

Section N was located at the southern limit of excavation. At this point Ditch 6079 was cut into the top of 6064 and was 1.4m wide and exposed to a depth of 0.64m before continuing beyond the base of the foundation trench. The east and west edges of the cut broke gently from the surface to fall steeply on the eastern side, gentler on the west, to an unexcavated bottom edge and base. The primary fill (6083), of Cut 6079 was not fully excavated. It consisted of a friable, light yellow grey, slightly sandy silt clay, with occasional small limestone pebbles. Deposit 6083 was sealed by 6082, an up to 0.32m thick deposit of a friable, light yellowish brown sand silt clay with occasional small pebbles. It 6082 fell from 9.84m AOD in the east, down to 9.73m AOD, before rising slightly, to 9.79m AOD, against the western edge of the cut. Deposit 6082 was sealed by 6081, located against the western edge of the ditch which consisted of a friable, grey tinged, light to mid brown, fine grained sand silt clay, with occasional flecks to small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks up to 0.2m thick. The surface of 6081 fell from west to east, from 10.1m to 9.85m AOD.

Context 6081 was sealed by 6080, a friable, light to mid-yellow brown, fine grained, sand silt clay with moderate small to medium limestone pebbles, occasional small to medium limestone fragments and charcoal flecks up to 0.24m thick. This was used to completely fill and level the ditch.

Section R, North Facing (Fig. 31)

Section R was located 4.4m north of Section G. At this point Ditch 6079 was 1.27m wide, 0.59m deep, and had sides that broke gently from the surface to fall steeply on the eastern side, less so on the west, to a rounded base.

The primary fill consisted of an up to 0.36m thick deposit of a compact, pale grey mottled, mid orange brown sand silt clay with occasional flecks to small fragments of limestone and charcoal flecks (6085). Context 6085 was sealed by 6084, a compact, mid-orange brown slightly sandy clay, up to 0.23m thick, with occasional flecks to small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks.

Post - Roman / Medieval

5.32 Pit Cut 6068

Section M, West Facing (Fig. 28)

Pit 6068 was observed in the section formed by the eastern limit of excavation and was located 1.65m to the north of the south-east corner of Area 6. The alignment and shape in plan could not be ascertained due to the western extents being removed during the excavation of the foundation trenches. It was, however, 0.7m wide and 0.26m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface before falling gently to the base.

Cut 6068 contained a backfill deposit of a plastic, mid reddish brown silt sand clay with occasional flecks to small limestone fragments, small sand spots and charcoal flecks (6067).

5.33 Pit 6073 (Figs 28-9, Sections M and N)

Pit 6073 was observed in the sections of the east and south limits of excavation and was located in the south-east corner of Area 6. Its shape in plan could not be ascertained. In Section E the northern edge was located 0.4m south of Pit 6068 and broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply, in a series of irregular steps, to a flat base. The western edge (Section G) also broke sharply from the surface but then proceeded to fall vertically, to a flat base.

The primary fill of 6073 was an up to 0.33m thick deposit of a plastic, grey streaked, mid orange brown silt clay, with occasional decayed limestone flecks and small white sand patches (6072). This deposit appeared to have been introduced into the pit from the north. Context 6072 was sealed by a compact, light grey marbled, pale yellow sandy clay with occasional small decayed limestone fragments, small sand clay silt patches and charcoal flecks (6071). This was up to 0.66m thick and had been used to completely fill and level Cut 6073 to the old ground surface, or 10.16m AOD.

5.34 Pit 6061 (Fig. 28, Section M, West Facing)

The fill (6062) of Ditch 6063 = 6020 was cut by Pit 6061 of which the shape in plan could not be determined as the western side had been removed during the excavation of the foundation trenches. What remained was 0.87m wide and 0.38m deep with a north side that broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply to a gently rounded base.

The fill of 6061 was an up to 0.49m thick deposit of a compact, pale grey marbled, pale orange brown sandy clay with moderate rusty brown flecking, occasional small limestone fragments, small pebbles and charcoal flecks (6060).

5.35 Pit Cut 6059

Pit 6059 was 0.9m wide and 0.19m deep with sides that broke sharply from the surface to fall gently to a flat base.

The Fill of Pit 6059 consisted of a 0.31m thick deposit of a compact, pale grey flecked, mid-brown sandy clay with moderate limestone flecks, occasional 'rusty' brown spotting and charcoal flecks (6058).

5.36 Pit Cut 6057

Pit Cut 6057 cut into, the southern quarter of Pit 6059. As it was observed in the west facing section, its shape in plan could not be ascertained, but it was 0.6m wide and up to 0.2m deep. The sides broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply to a gently rounded base.

The fill of Cut 6057 was an up to 0.2m thick deposit of a compact, pale grey flecked, mid brown sandy clay with moderate limestone flecks, occasional 'rusty' brown spotting and charcoal flecks (6056).

Late – Post-medieval

5.37 Deposit 6009 (Fig. 32)

The upper fills of Ditch 6020 and of Pits 6068 and 6073 were all sealed by Deposit 6009. It was an extensive, up to 0.38m thick, deposit of a friable, mid grey ginger brown silt clay sand, with occasional small pebbles and angular limestone fragments. Deposit 6009 had originally covered almost the whole of the excavated area and also levelled the slumped fills of underlying cut features.

19th Century

5.38 Cuts 6018-9

Ditch Cut 6018 (Fig. 32)

Ditch 6018, aligned north – south, was located c. 10m east of the west side of Area 6 and tapered from 2.6m wide in the south, to 0.45m wide in the north. It was excavated in two slots, one 2.70m north of the southern limit of excavation (Section N), the other (Section M), 0.2m south of the northern limit.

Section S, South Facing (Fig. 33)

At this point Ditch 6018 was 0.45m wide and 0.23m deep with sides that broke sharply from the surface to fall vertically to a flat base at 10.24m AOD.

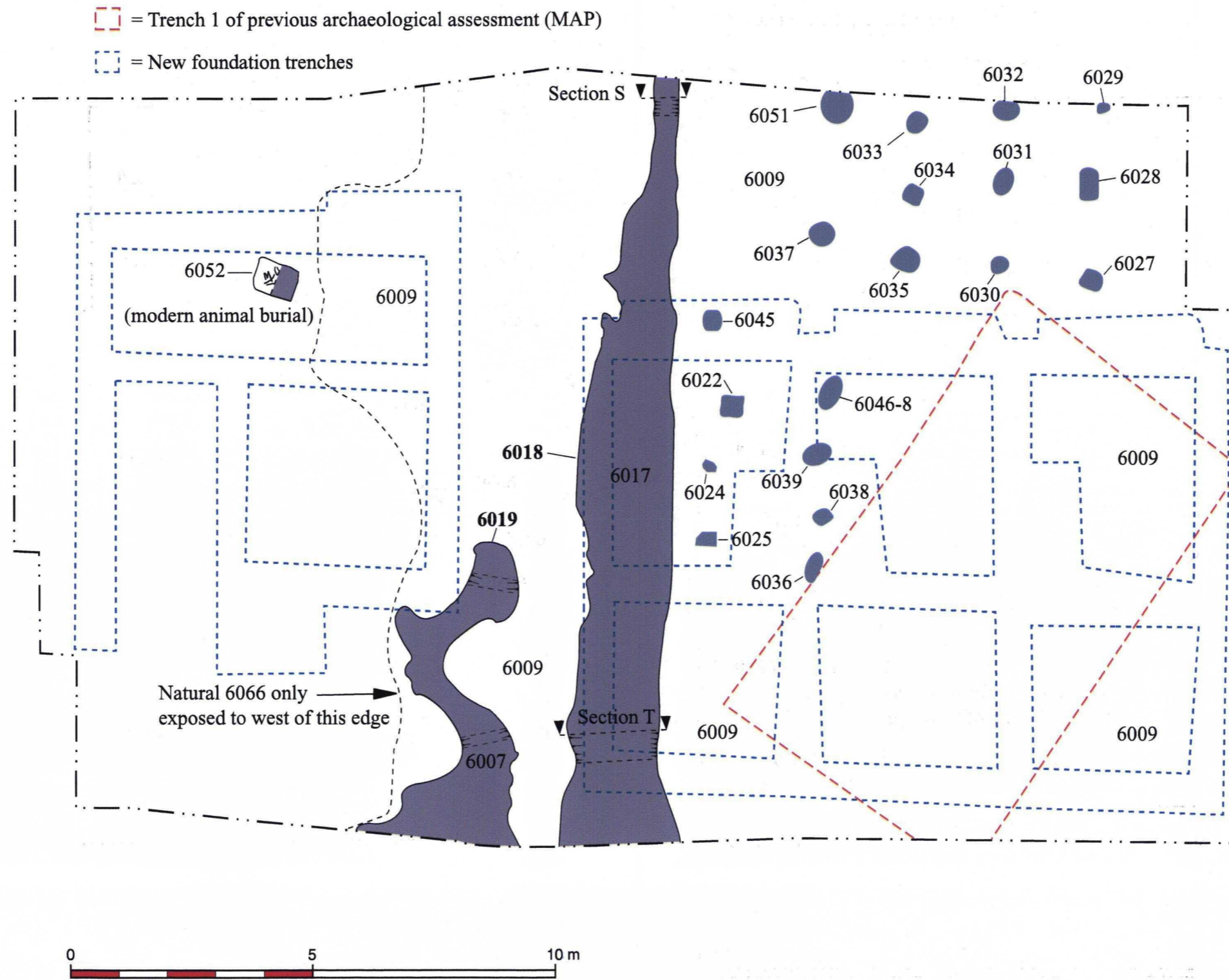


Fig. 32 Area 6, 19th century and later features

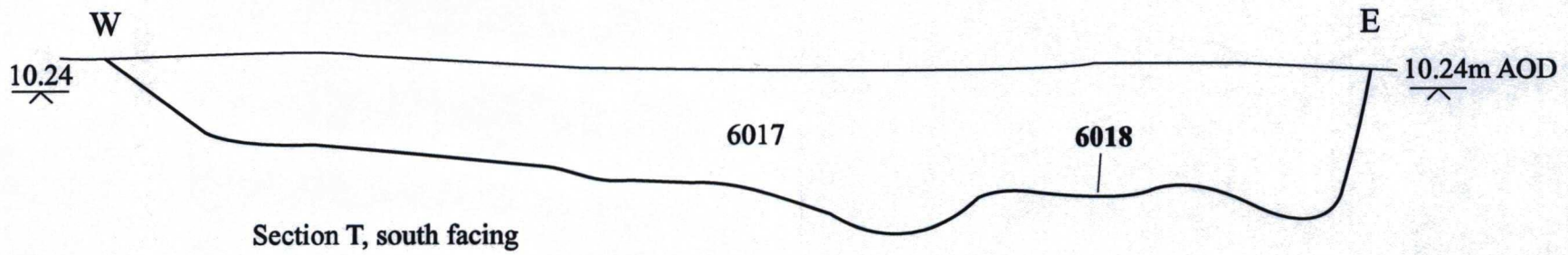
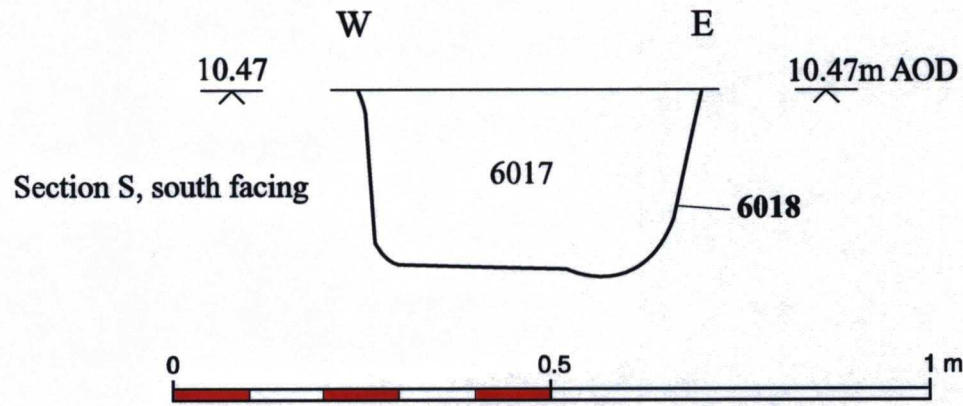


Fig. 33: Sections S and T

Fig. 33 Sections S and T

Row 2

This was located 1 50m to the east of Row 1 and consisted of Contexts 6036-39, 6046-48 and 6051

The southernmost of the group was Feature 6036, located 5 30m north of the southern limit of excavation, and the last, 6051, extended beyond the northern limit of excavation

Row 3

Row 3 was located 1 20m to the east of Row 2 and consisted of Contexts 6033-35 The first in the alignment was 6035, located 11 6m north of the southern limit of excavation and the last, 6033 was only 0 3m south of the northern limit of excavation

Row 4

Row 4 was located 1 50m to the east of Row 3 and consisted of Contexts 6030-32 The first of the sequence was 6030, located 11 5m north of the southern limit of excavation, and the last, 6032, extended beyond the northern limit of excavation

Row 5

Row 5 was located 1 35m east of Row 4 and consisted of Contexts 6027-28 The first in the sequence was 6027, located 11 35m north of the southern limit of excavation, and the last, 6028, was 1 2m south of the northern limit of excavation

5.40 Annual Burial

A modern calf burial was observed in the north-west quadrant of Area 6 cut into 6009 It was contained in a north-north-east / south-south-west aligned grave cut (6053), rectangular in plan, 0 9m long, 0 6m wide and up to 0 12m deep Only the northernmost half of the cut was excavated and it had sides that broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply to a flat base The grave fill (6052) was a compact mid brown silt clay, with occasional small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks, which also produced two sherds of residual pottery, one Roman and one sherd of 12th century gritty ware as well as a single 'pot boiler' fragment

5.41 Deposit 6008

The latest deposit in Area 6 was 6008, a build-up of horticultural soils which consisted of a friable dark grey sand silt clay which, with occasional small brick / tile fragments, small pebbles, coal fragments, cinder fragments and charcoal flecks It had formed the top-soil of the garden centre that occupied the area prior to development taking place

5.42 Cut 6087 (Fig 32)

6008 was cut by 6087 located in the eastern third of Area 6 a previous archaeological trial trench. Cut 6087 was aligned north-east / south west, rectangular in plan and 10.2m long and 5.9m wide. The sides of the cut had been mostly removed during the top soil strip. The fill of the trial trench was an amalgamation of materials from the topsoil and natural.

Context 6000 was retained for any stray or unstratified finds recovered during the machine strip of the overburden and accounted for only one sherd of Roman pottery and a single fragment of 12th century splashed ware.

AREA 7

(House Plots 7a – 8)

5.43 Introduction

Area 7 (Fig 2), was L-shaped and located 7m east of Area 6. It measured 16.7m north-south and up to 12.1m east-west. The overburden in Area 7 was machine-excavated to a formation level at which it was free of vegetation and suitable for the excavation of the strip foundation trenches to commence. This occurred at a depth of c 0.34m BGL, or 9.77m AOD. The formation level for the new build corresponded with the horizon at which archaeological cut features and deposits were first visible, this meant that little archaeological excavation was necessary after the initial surface clean was undertaken. Any further work was restricted to limited hand excavation to define and check the stratigraphic relationships between features.

5.44 Natural

The earliest deposit in Area 7, observed in the northern half of the trench, was a natural subsoil (7048), which consisted of a firm, mid-grey brown silty clay, with occasional small pebbles. There was, however, an east-west aligned anomaly which was located 7m south of the northern limit of excavation and continued beyond the western trench edge (Cut 7013, Fig 34). This initially appeared to have been a cut feature, containing a fill of a compact, light to mid brown silt clay with occasional small pebbles (7012). On excavation it proved to be natural.

Late Iron Age / Romano - British ?

This is a series of contexts predating Ditch 7009 (see 5 48) Cut 7009 formed the continuation of the ditch observed in Area 6 (6020, see 5 30)

5.45 Deposits over Natural (Fig 34)

Deposit 7068

Natural subsoil 7048 was sealed by an extensive spread (7068) in the southern half of Area 7 of a compact, brown grey clay, intermixed with bluish and orange brown sandy clay patches, which also contained occasional charcoal flecks, 'pea grit', small pebbles and occasional small limestone fragments. The mixed nature of 7068 suggested that it may be the remnant of a buried soil or the result of ploughing in antiquity.

Deposit 7046

Deposit 7046 remained unexcavated and consisted of a spread of a firm, blue mottled, light red tinged, greyish brown silt clay and represented either the remnant of a plough soil or, more likely, was a surviving patch of a buried soil.

5.46 Structure 1 (Fig 34)

Five features (7097-7101), thought to be post-holes, were located 5.7m from the north-west corner of Area 7 and in view of their probable association have been designated Structure 1. Cuts 7097 and 7099-101 were cut into natural (7048) whereas Cut 7098 was cut into Deposit 7046. All of the features were beneath the formation level of the new dwellings and were not excavated.

Cut 7097 was oval in plan, aligned north-east / south-west and was up to 1m in length and 0.7m wide. Its fill (7043), was a firm mid grey brown sandy clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks.

Cut 7098 cut 7046 and was located 0.08m to the east of 7097. It was oval in plan, aligned north-east / south-west, and was 0.68m long and 0.48m wide. Its fill (7044), was a friable mid-brown clay sand.

Cut 7099 was located 0.12m to the north-west of Cut 7098, was amorphous in plan, aligned north / south, and was 0.64m long and 0.54m wide. Its fill (7042), was a friable mid to dark brown clay sand silt with very occasional charcoal flecks.

Cut 7100 was located 0.32m north of Cut 7099, was roughly square in plan, and was 0.8m long and 0.7m wide. Its fill (7047), consisted of a friable, mid brown, lay sand silt with occasional small pebbles and charcoal flecks.

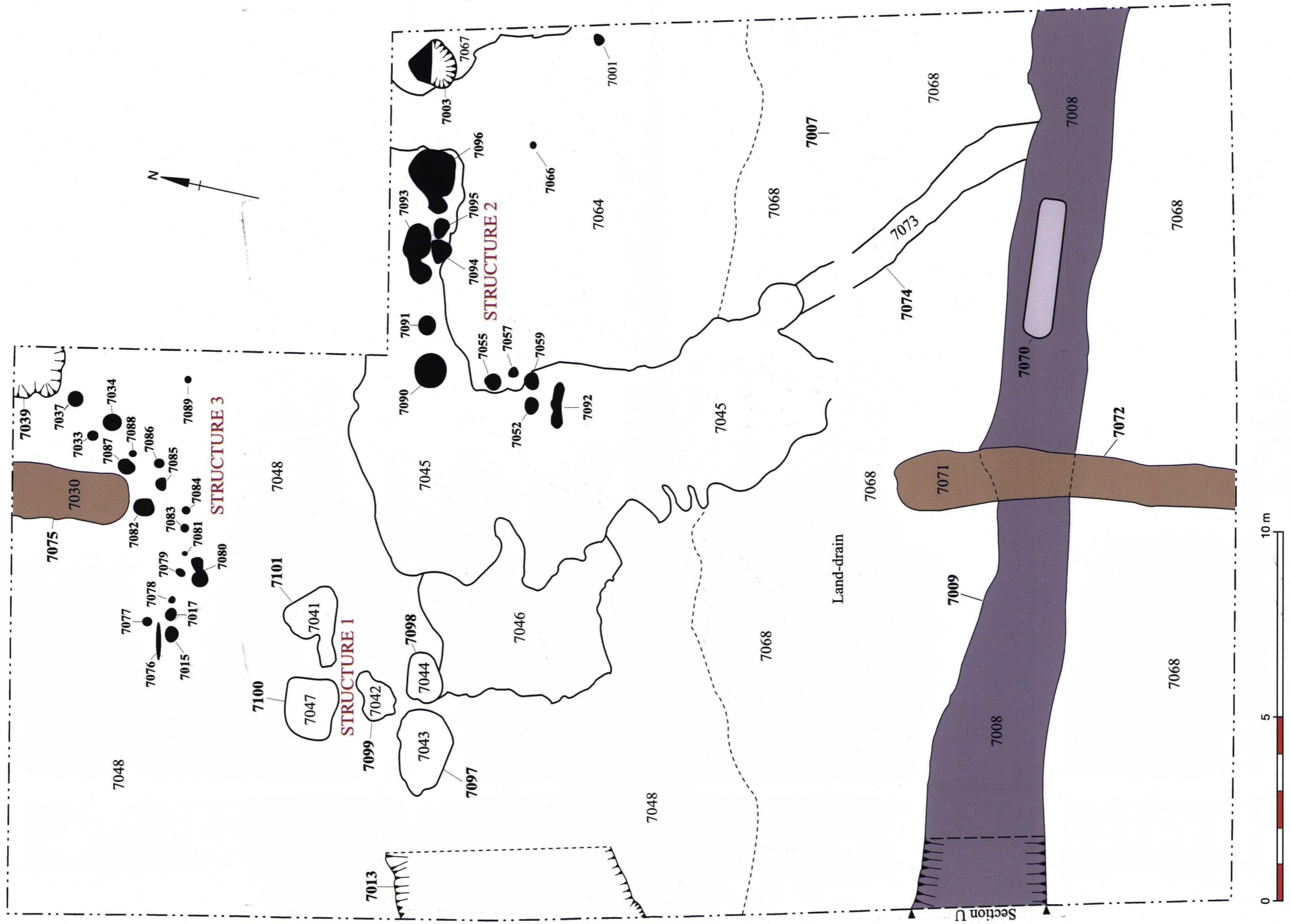


Fig. 34 Area 7, Medieval and earlier features

Cut 7101 was located 0.08m to the west of Cut 7100, was amorphous in plan, aligned east-west and was 1.08m long and 0.7m wide. Its Fill (7041), was a friable, mid brown, clay sand silt with occasional small pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Structure 1 composed of Cuts 7097, 7098 and 7099 – 101 may have been a four post structure c. 1.5m north-south x 1.0m east-west. The central cut (7099) may have represent the position of a centrally placed post a deposit formed as a result of the use of the structure.

5.47 Cut and Deposit over 7068

Cut 7074

Cut 7074, a shallow drain or gully which remained unexcavated, was located 2.8m north of the southern trench edge, and was 4m long and up to 0.6m wide. Its fill (7073), consisted of a compact, sand mottled greyish orange clay with occasional 'pea grit' and charcoal flecks. The southern end was removed by a later ditch cut (7008) whilst the northern end was sealed by later deposits.

Deposit 7064

Deposit 7064 consisted of a friable light to mid brown silt clay and was observed in two separate locations within Area 7. Although unexcavated, the lack of inclusions (charcoal etc.) in 7064 suggested that this deposit was either a buried soil or plough disturbed natural. Two sherds of 12th century pottery recovered from the surface of 7064 were most likely to have been introduced from a higher level by later agricultural activity.

Roman?

5.48 Ditch Cut 7009 (Fig. 35; Section U)

Ditch 7009 which formed a continuation to the east of Ditch 6020 in Area 6, was aligned almost east – west and was located some 2.5m north of the southern trench edge. A 1m wide slot at the south-west limit of excavation was hand excavated through the ditch. The ditch proved to be 1.62m wide and 0.48m deep with an irregular, flat base and steep sides. Ditch fill 7008 was a compact, orange mottled pale to mid grey sandy clay with occasional small limestone fragments, large limestone pebbles, occasional charcoal and very occasional brick / tile fragments. It produced a single fragment of Roman brick.

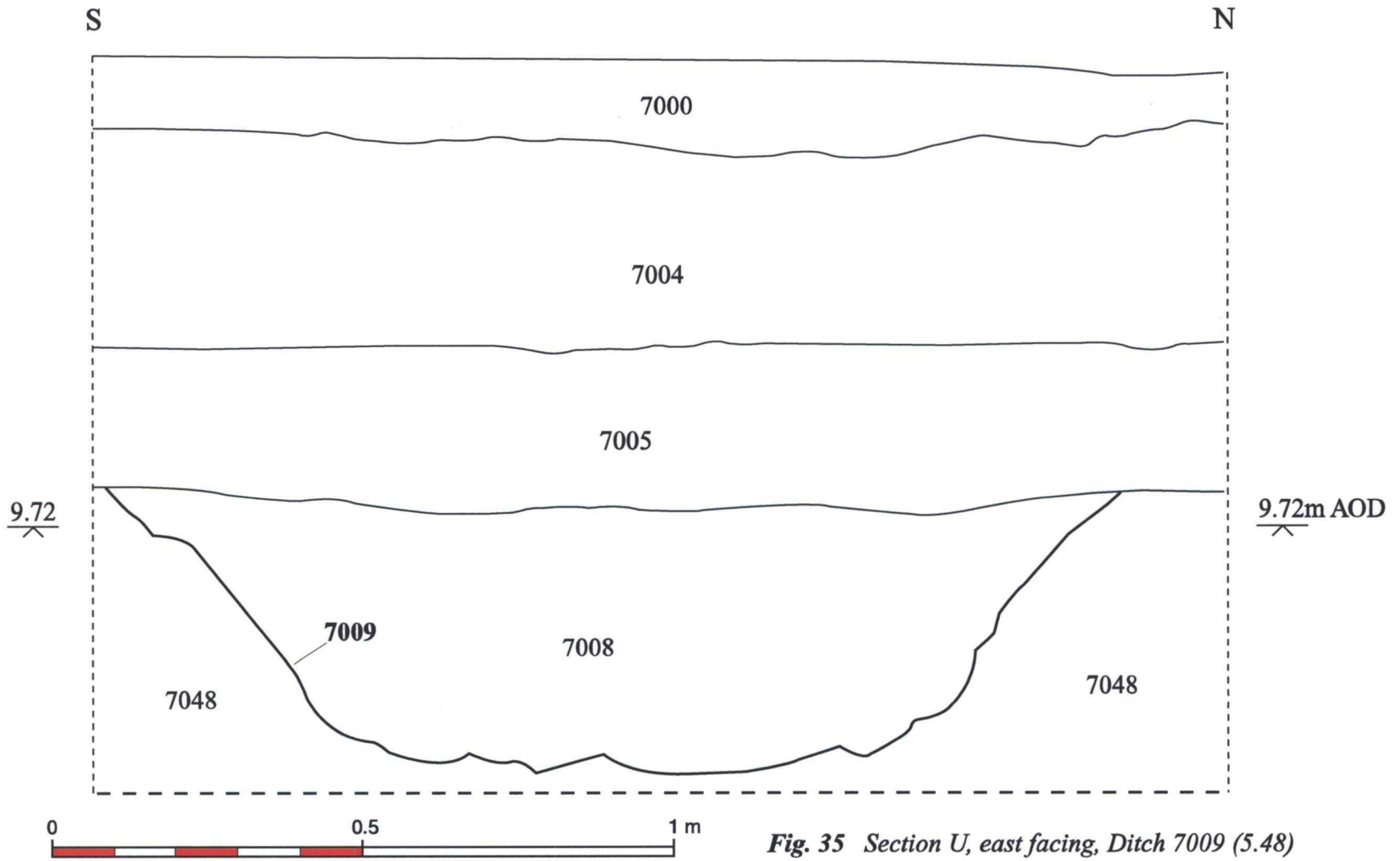


Fig. 35 Section U, east facing, Ditch 7009 (5.48)

Medieval

5.49 Features Cutting Natural : Pit 7039, Structure 3 and Ditch 7075

Pit Cut 7039 (Fig. 34)

Pit 7039 was located in the north-eastern corner of the trench and was only visible as the south-west quadrant of a feature of indeterminate size and shape in plan. The portion available for recording suggested that a rectilinear shape in plan was most likely and that the feature was in excess of 0.6m north-west / south-east, 0.6m north-east / south-west and over 0.1m deep. Its back-fill (7038), not fully excavated, was a firm, mid brown silt clay with occasional small to medium pebbles.

Structure 3 (Fig. 34)

Structure 3 was a post- and stake-hole alignment located in the north-eastern corner of Area 7; the majority of the features formed a north-east / south-west alignment, beginning 1m south-west of the northern corner of the trench. This alignment extended for a distance of c. 3m before turning gently towards the west and continuing for a further 1.5m. The alignment consisted of the following contexts: 7014-29, 7031, 7054-57, 7065-66 and 7076. Only five of these were excavated (7015, 7017, 7033, 7035 and 7037) to attempt to retrieve some form of dating evidence.

Cut 7015 contained fill 7014 and was located at the extreme western end of Structure 3. It was oval in plan, up to 0.2m wide and 0.06m deep with sides that fell steeply to a flat base.

Cut 7017 contained fill 7016 and was located 0.14m to the east of Cut 7015. Cut 7017 was oval in plan, 0.14m long, 0.12m wide and 0.05m deep with sides that fell steeply to a rounded base.

Cut 7033 contained fill 7032 and was located 1.70m east of the northern corner of the trench. Cut 7033 was oval in plan, 0.12m long, 0.11m wide and 0.05m deep with sides that fell steeply to a rounded base.

Cut 7035 contained fill 7034 and was located 0.12m to the east of Cut 7033. Cut 7035 was oval in plan, 0.2m long, 0.18m wide and 0.07m deep with sides that fell steeply to a rounded base.

Cut 7037 contained fill 7036 and was located 1m south of the northern corner of the trench. Cut 7037 was circular in plan, 0.18m diameter and 0.07m deep with sides that fell steeply to a rounded base.

Cut 7076 was located 0.06m to the north of Cut 7015 was an elongated oval shaped cut, aligned east - west, and was 0.38m long and 0.04m wide. Its fill was Context 7018.

Cut 7077 (fill 7019) was circular in plan and 0.1m in diameter.

Cut 7078 (fill 7020) was circular in plan and 0.06m in diameter.

Cut 7079 (fill 7021) was circular in plan, and 0.08m diameter.

Cut 7080 (fill 7022) was in the form of two conjoined stake-holes giving a figure of eight shape in plan, 0.38m long.

Cut 7081 (fill 7020) was circular in plan and 0.07m in diameter.

Cut 7082 (fill 7026) oval in plan, 0.23m long and 0.19m wide.

Cut 7083 located 0.51m to the south of Cut 7082, was circular in plan, 60mm in diameter and contained fill 7024.

Cut 7084 located 0.14m to the east-north-east of Cut 7083, was oval in plan, aligned north-north-west / south-south-east, and was 0.08m long and 0.05m wide. Its fill was Context 7025.

Cut 7085 was located 0.26m to the east of Cut 7082, was oval in plan, aligned west-south-west / east-north-east, and measured 0.12m long and 0.1m wide. Its fill was Context 7027.

Cut 7086 was located 0.14m to the east of Cut 7085, was circular in plan, and measured 0.1m diameter. Its fill was 7028.

Cut 7087 located 0.31m north-west of Cut 7086 was circular in plan, 0.2m in diameter and contained fill 7029.

Cut 7088 located 0.04m to the east of Cut 7087, was circular in plan, 0.08m in diameter and contained fill 7031.

All the features in Structure 3 listed above are presumed contemporary and all contained the same fill, a plastic mid-yellow brown silt clay. They were, for the most part, arranged in two broadly parallel lines. This arrangement suggested that they represent the positions of the uprights of a fence line.

Stake-hole 7089

Cut 7089 may have been part of Structure 3, but it was located 1.5m to the south-east of 7037. It was oval in plan and 0.08m long and 0.06m wide. Its fill (7040) was a firm mid brown silty clay and was not excavated.

Ditch 7075 (Fig. 34)

This feature was thought to be medieval due to the fact that its alignment was similar to the 14th century ditch observed in Area 4 (4045, Fig.18) and because the post- and stake – holes forming Structure 3 appeared to have been placed so as to curve around the

terminus. Ditch 7075 is also on the same alignment as Ditch 7072 (5.52) which had a very similar plan and dimensions.

Ditch 7075, up to 0.7m wide, and aligned north-south, ran for a distance of 1.6m south from the north side of Area 7 to a rounded terminus. The depth could not be ascertained as its fill (7030), a plastic, mid to dark yellow brown silt clay, with occasional limestone fragments, was not excavated.

5.50 Deposits over 7064

7067

Deposit 7067 on the eastern edge of the trench consisted of a spread of material, irregular in plan, 2.45m x 0.85m which was a friable mid brown clay sand silt.

7045

Context 7045 was an extensive L-shaped spread of friable, mid brown, slightly clay sand silt which was located towards the centre of the trench and was up to 6.4m x 3m wide. Although it was not excavated, two sherds of 12th century Gritty ware and a small amount of animal bone were recovered from the surface of the deposit whilst cleaning was in progress.

7001

Deposit 7001 was a small, 0.1m diameter patch of disturbed natural which consisted of a compact orange grey clay, with occasional pea-grit and charcoal flecks. It produced an unusual copper alloy dress pin (sf. 22; Pl.16). Deposit 7001 filled an irregular shallow depression in the surface of Context 7064 and was thought to be the fill of a stone void.

5.51 Structure 2 (Fig. 34)

A group of post-holes formed a distinct group designated Structure 2 which ran east-west for c.9m before turning gently to run for a further 1.8m towards the south. The shallow nature of the excavated post-holes forming Structure 2 suggested that they like those in Structure 3 had been truncated in the past. Structures 2 and 3 were probably contemporary and together formed the end of a funnel-shaped enclosure.

Post-hole 7003

Post-hole 7003 was cut into 7067 and located on the eastern side of the trench. It was oval in plan, 0.6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.28m deep. The sides fell steeply to a rounded base where there was a centrally placed 0.2m diameter and 0.07m deep, flat bottomed circular depression. Its Fill (7002), a compact mid brown silt clay, with moderate small to medium limestone pebbles, produced two sherds of 12th century gritty ware.

Post / Stake-hole Cuts 7055, 7057 and 7066

7055, 7057 and 7066 all cut 7064 and are located near the top of the lower arm of the 'L' of Area 7.

Post-hole 7055 was oval in plan, 0.22m wide and barely 0.02m deep with sides that fell steeply to a flat base. Stake-hole 7057 was oval in plan, 0.08m wide and only 0.04m deep with sides that fell steeply to a flat base. Cut 7066 was circular in plan, 0.06m diameter and 0.04m deep with sides that fell steeply to a rounded base.

Fills 7054, 7056 and 7065 were compact mid brown silt clay with occasional small pebbles.

Post / Stake-hole Cuts into Deposit 7045 (Fig. 34; Structure 2)

Contexts 7049 – 53, 7058 – 63 and 7090 – 7096 all cut 7045. Cuts 7052 and 7059 were excavated for the recovery of dating evidence.

Cut 7052 was oval in plan, and 0.22m long, 0.18m wide and only 0.03m deep. The sides broke sharply from the surface to fall steeply to a flat base. Its fill (7051) was a compact mid brown silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks.

Cut 7059 was circular in plan, 0.22m diameter and barely 0.02m deep with sides that fell steeply to a flat base. Its fill (7058) was a firm mid grey silt clay with occasional small limestone fragments.

Cut 7090 was circular in plan, 0.4m diameter and contained a fill (7049), of a compact mid brown silty clay.

Cut 7091 was round in plan, and 0.22m diameter. Its fill (7050), consisted of a mid brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles.

Cut 7092 had an elongated oval plan and was 0.58m long and 0.10m wide. Its fill (7053) was a friable mid grey brown silt clay. A fragment of a clay tobacco pipe stem (sf 56), was recovered from the surface of 7053.

Cut 7093 appeared to be a double post setting with an approximate figure of eight plan. It was 1m long and up to 0.36m wide. Its fill (7060) was a compact mid brown silt clay.

Cut 7094 was roughly square in plan and 0.22m long and 0.22m wide. Its fill (7061) was a compact mid brown silt clay with occasional limestone pebbles.

Cut 7095 was oval in plan and 0.24m long and 0.16m wide. Its fill (7062) was a compact mid brown silt clay with occasional small pebbles.

Cut 7096 was oval in plan and 0.82m long and 0.62m wide. Its fill (7063), was a firm mid brown silt clay with occasional pebbles.