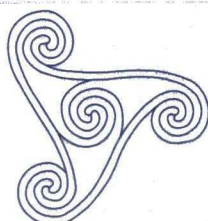


NYCC HER	
SNY	11395
ENY	3024
CNY	4944
Parish	6100
Rec'd	02.05.07

**14-24 Finkle Street
Knaresborough
North Yorkshire**

Data Structure Report



On behalf of: Mr Gordon Reece
Home Farm House
The Green
Old Scriven
Knaresborough
HG5 9DX

National Grid Reference (NGR): SE 34874 57080

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20006

Prepared by: Chris Scurfield

Illustrations: Alan Hunter-Blair

Soil Assessment Robin Inglis

Pottery Assessment Naomi Crowley

Timing: Fieldwork December 2005
Report February 2006

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Prospect House
32 Sovereign Street
Leeds
LS1 4BJ

Tel. 0113 386 1121
Fax. 0113 242 5818
Email. admin@aocscot.co.uk

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 During December 2005, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of a proposed residential development at 14-24 Finkle Street, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Gordon Reece and was part of an archaeological condition attached to Planning Application, reference 6.100.466.K.FUL (05/04500/FUL). The proposed development lies within the historic core of the medieval town of Knaresborough. There was therefore the potential for the discovery of medieval or later remains within the site. The evaluation was intended to identify the nature, extent and preservation of any archaeological deposits that may have been affected by the proposed development.
- 1.2 The evaluation involved the excavation of two trial trenches in the courtyard to the rear of 14-24 Finkle Street, Knaresborough. No archaeological features were observed. A substantial deposit of buried soil was revealed which contained medieval pottery and was sealed by a Post Medieval cobbled surface (Plate 1).
- 1.3 The work undertaken was in response to a Written Scheme of Investigation by North Yorkshire County Council and was in compliance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991). The site archive will be deposited in The Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate Museums and Arts accession number HARGM 13605.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report records the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to the courtyard behind 14-24 Finkle Street, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. The fieldwork was undertaken on 15th December 2005.
- 2.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference SE 34874 57080 (Figure 1) and is enclosed by a series of houses, along Kirkgate and Finkle Street. A number of stone and brick workshops are located to the north-west of the site. The site consists of an assorted range of warehouses and a cobbled courtyard, and is situated to rear of a houses fronting Finkle Street. The site is located on a gradual slope and is accessed from Finkle Street via a flagstone alleyway through the houses fronting Finkle Street (Figure 1).
- 2.3 The solid geology of the site consists of Magnesian limestone, with overlying reddish brown silty clay drift deposits that are probably glacially derived. The limestone bedrock was encountered at the north-western end of Trench 2, and the red drift deposits occurred throughout bases of the excavated trenches (Trenches 1-2: Figure 2).
- 2.4 The Local Authority responsible for this area is Harrogate Borough Council, which is represented by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section (NYCCHS) of the Council's Countryside Service, whose archaeological representative is Ms Gail Falkingham.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The earliest documentary reference to Knaresborough is recorded in the Domesday Book of AD 1086. The place name suggests a defended settlement prior to the Norman Conquest. Anglo-Saxon burhs usually had a defensible bank or ditch but there are no surviving records for the construction of a bank or ditch around Knaresborough. Knaresborough Castle dates to the early 12th century. The Parish Church of St Johns was in existence in AD 1114, when it was granted to Nostel Priory (NYCCHS 2005a, 2).
- 3.2 The first record of a market to be held at Knaresborough was in 1206. During the 13th century the ironstone industry developed in the town's hinterland and the town developed in importance as a woollen centre (NYCCHS 2005a, 2). Knaresborough's importance is still evidenced in today's landscape in the form of mileposts, which survive on packhorse routes with the town as a featured destination.
- 3.3 A series of recent archaeological investigations have been undertaken in close proximity to the site. In 2002, a programme of archaeological excavations was undertaken in advance of the redevelopment of the Bus Station. A number of cut features were observed across the site. These features included post-holes and pits which were overlain by a garden soil of later medieval and perhaps post-medieval date. The garden soil was interpreted as relating to plots of land fronting onto the High Street that developed through the later medieval period (NYCCHS 2005a). The main area of recent archaeological attention has concentrated upon Knaresborough's Castle (NYCCHS 2005a) which is situated c.200 metres south of the site. Also in 2002 an archaeological watching brief at the Crown Hotel revealed evidence for medieval buildings associated with 12th and 13th century pottery (ibid). In 2004 a number of pits and post-holes cut into bedrock, together with an assemblage of medieval to modern finds were uncovered at the Station Public House on Finkle Street (ibid).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The aim of this archaeological evaluation was to
- i) establish the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any significant archaeological deposits that may be adversely impacted by the development proposals
 - ii) prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications of the proposed development
 - iii) prepare and submit an archive to the museum

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Two trenches were laid out in a 'V' shape across the courtyard. Trench 1 was aligned roughly north to south and Trench 2 north-west to south-east (Figure 1). All archaeological works were undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Groups standard practice. The location of the evaluation trenches followed a plan prepared by AOC Archaeology Group and agreed by NYCCHS. However allowances had to be made due to access problems. The variation to the proposed plan was agreed by NYCCHS during the course of evaluation works.
- 5.2 The cobbled surface and overburden was gradually removed by a mini-digger in 200-300 mm spits. The evaluation revealed the original sloped profile of the natural ground level. This was overlain by a substantial layer of buried soil, which was bulk sampled and recorded.
- 5.3 50% of the trench sections were recorded (Figure 2; Plates 2-5) and a written record of the contexts and samples were made on *pro-forma* recording cards (Appendices 1 and 2).
- 5.4 Black and White print and Colour digital images were taken during the evaluation (Appendix 3).
- 5.5 Assessments of the buried soil (Appendix 5) and pottery (Appendix 6) were carried out. The methodology employed is described in each appendix.
- 5.6 Ms Gail Falkingham of NYCCHS and Ms Ros Watson, Curator of Human History Harrogate Museums were kept fully informed of the progress of the works. Ms Gail Falkingham was able to visit the site during the evaluation.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 Two trenches (Trenches 1-2) were opened across the site (Figure 1).
- 6.2 Trench 1 (6 m x 1 m) exposed a cobbled surface [1000], a deposit of made ground [1001/1002] and a layer of buried soil [1003] that extended to a depth of approximately 0.70 m (Plates 2-3).
- 6.3 Trench 2 (6m x 1m) contained very similar deposits to Trench 1. The trench contained an overburden of around 0.6 m, 0.56 m of this consisted of a buried soil [1007] which had again been roughly levelled, with similar deposit of made ground [1006] to Trench 1. Limestone bedrock was revealed at the northern end of Trench 2 approximately 0.6 m below the cobbled surface (Plate 1).

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The 0.05-0.06 m thick layer of sandy silt [1001/1005] observed beneath the cobbled surface is likely to have served as bedding/foundation layer for the overlying cobbled surface. The layer of made ground [1002/1006], containing brick, mortar and butchered animal bone, observed beneath the sandy silt, is likely to have served as a levelling up layer over the underlying deposit [1003/1007]. The made-ground was used to provide a level surface for the cobbling of the courtyard, and probably dates to the 19th century. Deposit [1003] was a rich dark brown silty loam, probably garden soil, evidenced by its rich organic content, abraded pottery and introduction of building or industrial material (Appendix 5). The buried soil [1003] contained abraded medieval pottery, dating to a period between the 12th and 15th centuries (Appendix 6).
- 7.2 While the evaluation has demonstrated an absence of archaeological features at the two trench locations, it has shown that site was being used during the medieval period. Results from the assessment of the buried soil have revealed that industrial or building waste was being introduced together with medieval pottery (Appendix 1).
- 7.3 The presence of a buried soil was noted in previous archaeological work (See Section 3.3). The pottery sherds recovered from this deposit [1003] were abraded, suggesting that the soil had been worked. The presence of industrial or building waste and pottery fragments within the soil suggests that manuring was taking place. The buried soil may relate to the use of burgrave plots north-west of Finkle Street.
- 7.4 The historic redevelopment of the site into its current cobbled courtyard probably dates to the 19th century, when the present buildings were constructed. Vehicular access was built into the design of these houses, in the form of a flagstone alleyway from Finkle Street (the present access to the site). This alleyway suggests the site required cart access to the warehouse buildings (Figure 2).
- 7.5 The construction of the adjacent warehouses to the west of the courtyard probably involved the truncation of archaeological deposits down to bedrock. This truncation was observed in the north-western end of Trench 2.

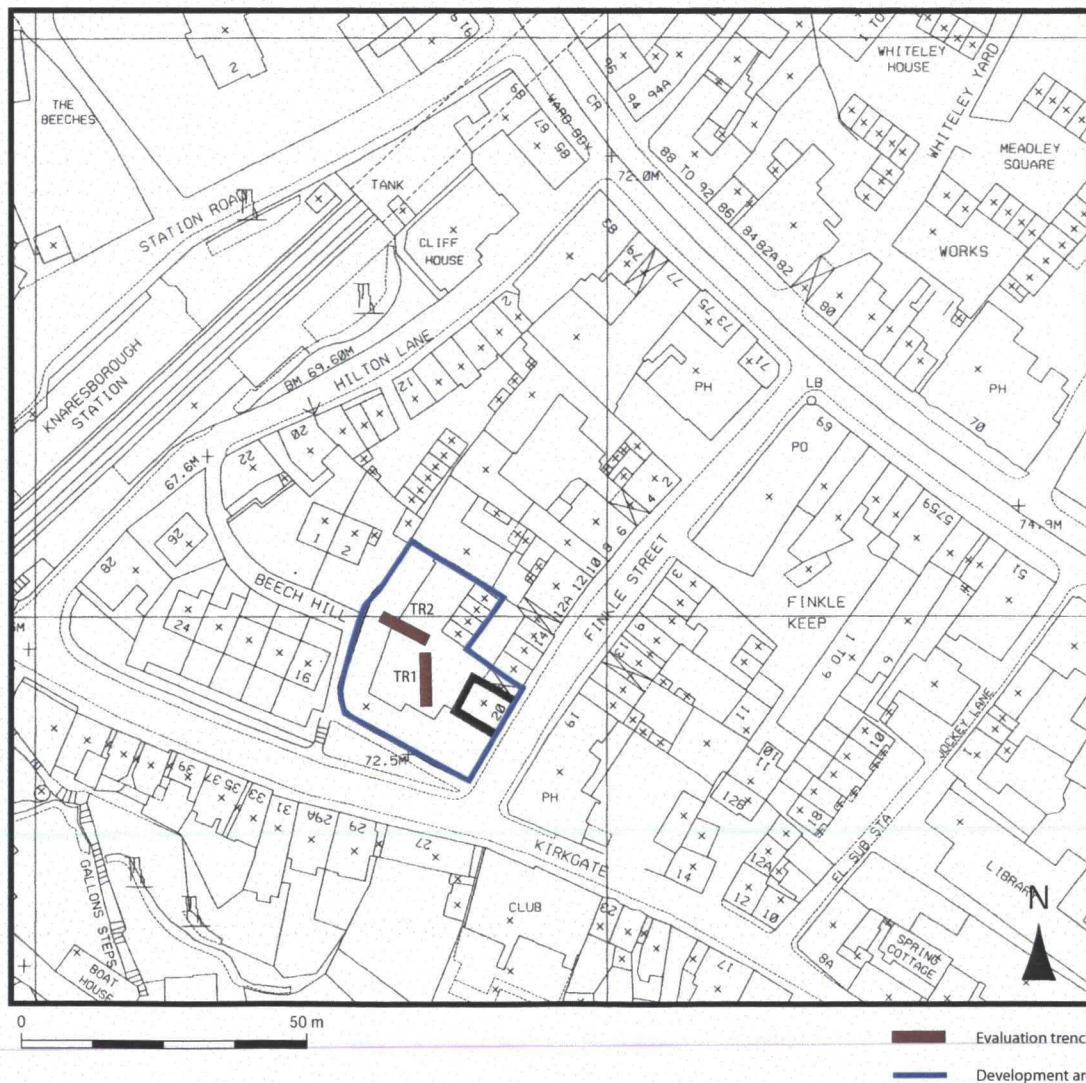
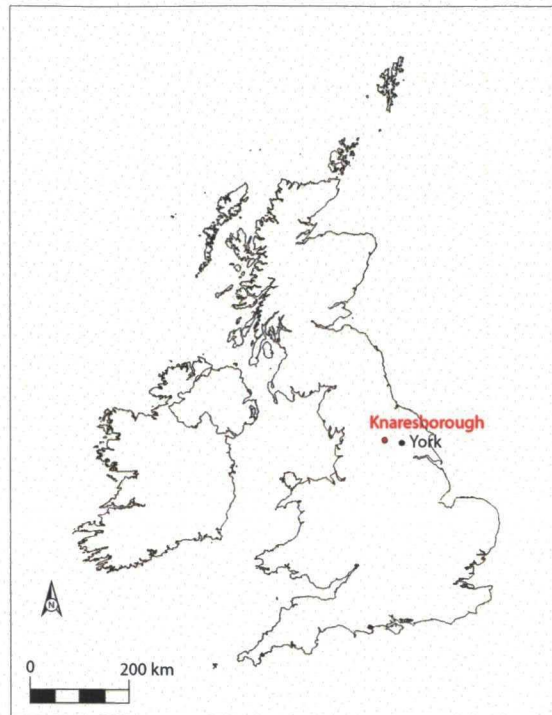


Figure 1: Site location showing position of evaluation trenches

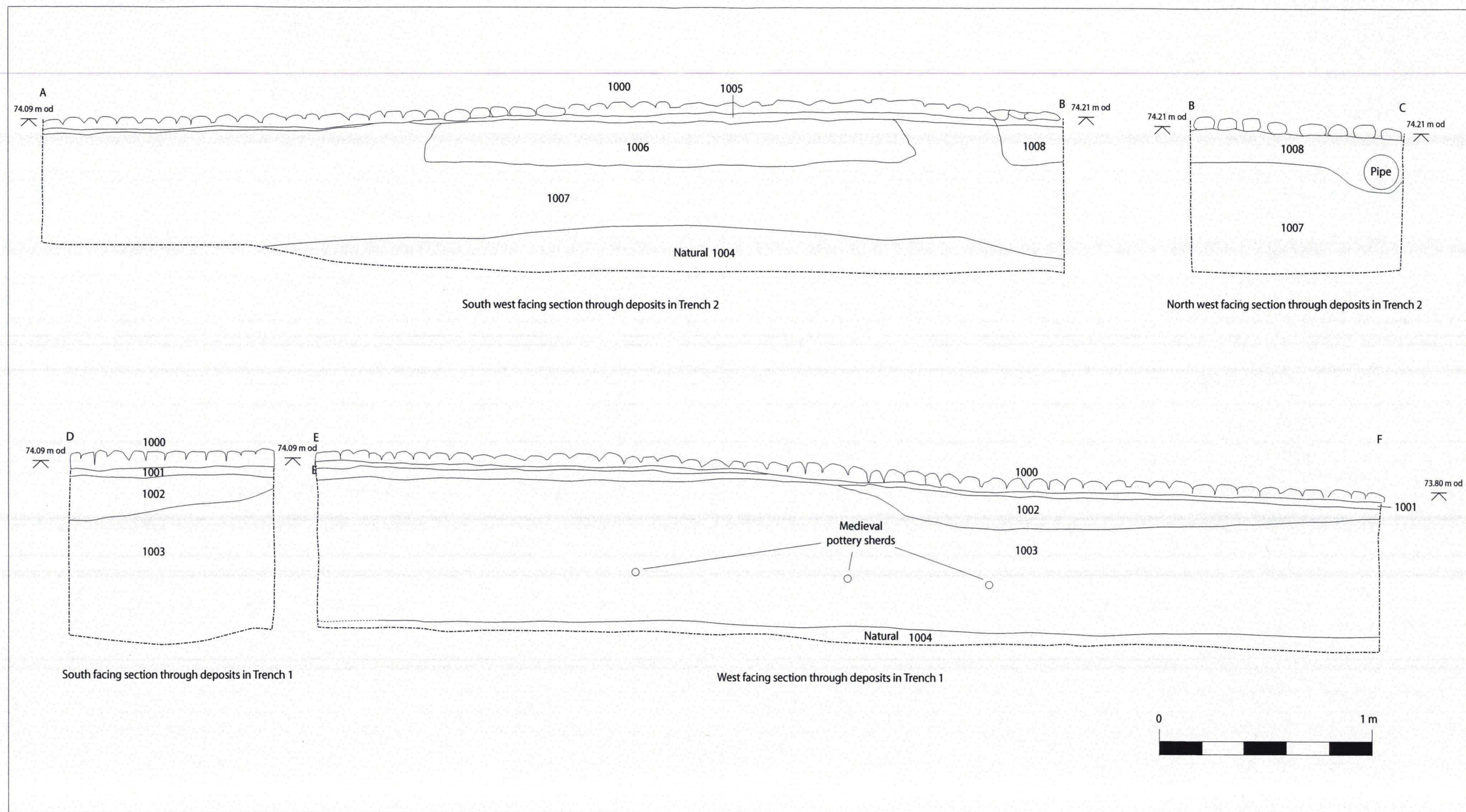


Figure 2: Sections through deposits recorded in Trenches 1 and 2