

Figure 3. Trench 1, plan. Scale 1:100.

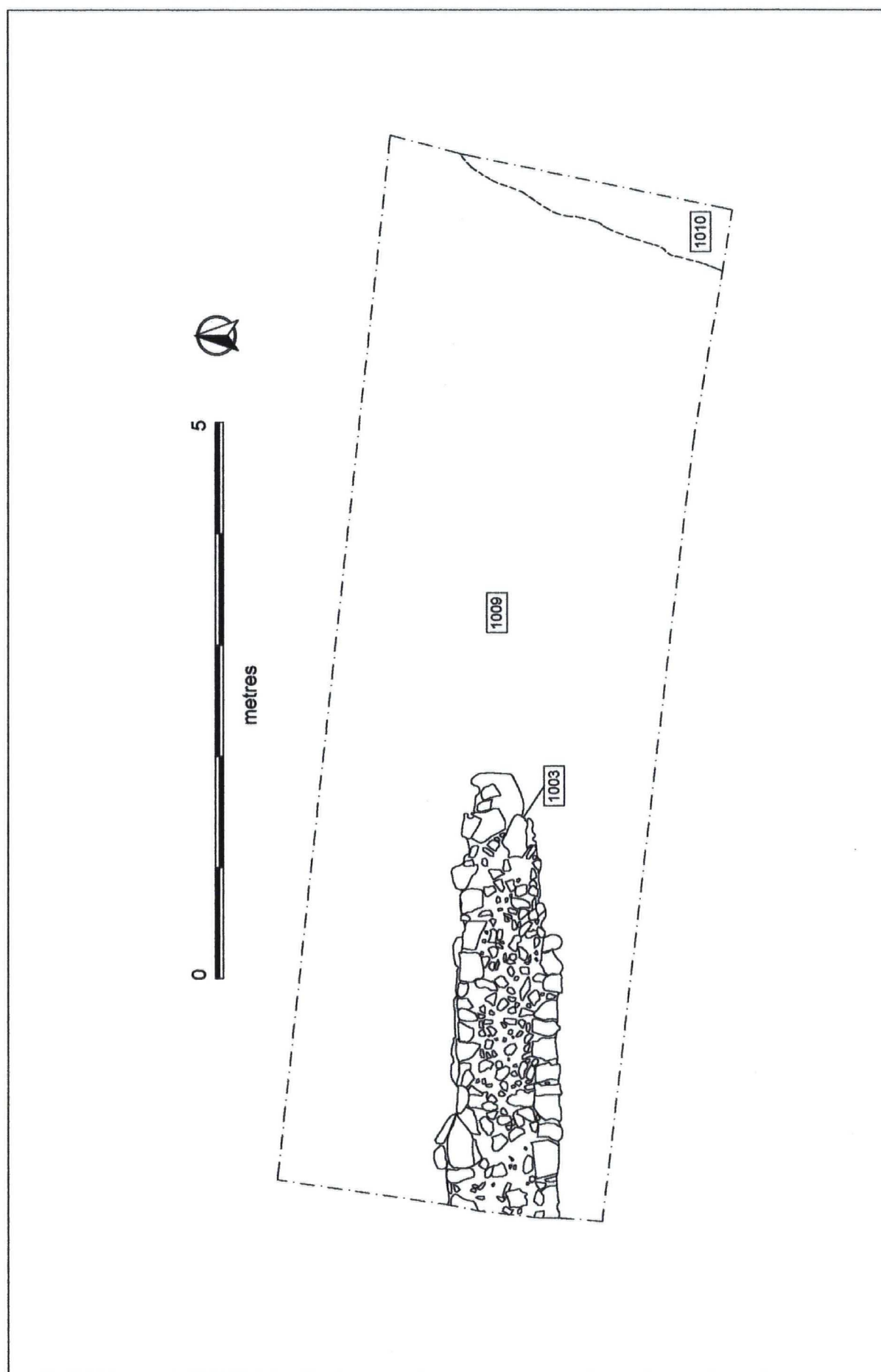


Figure 4. Trench 3, plan. Scale 1:50.

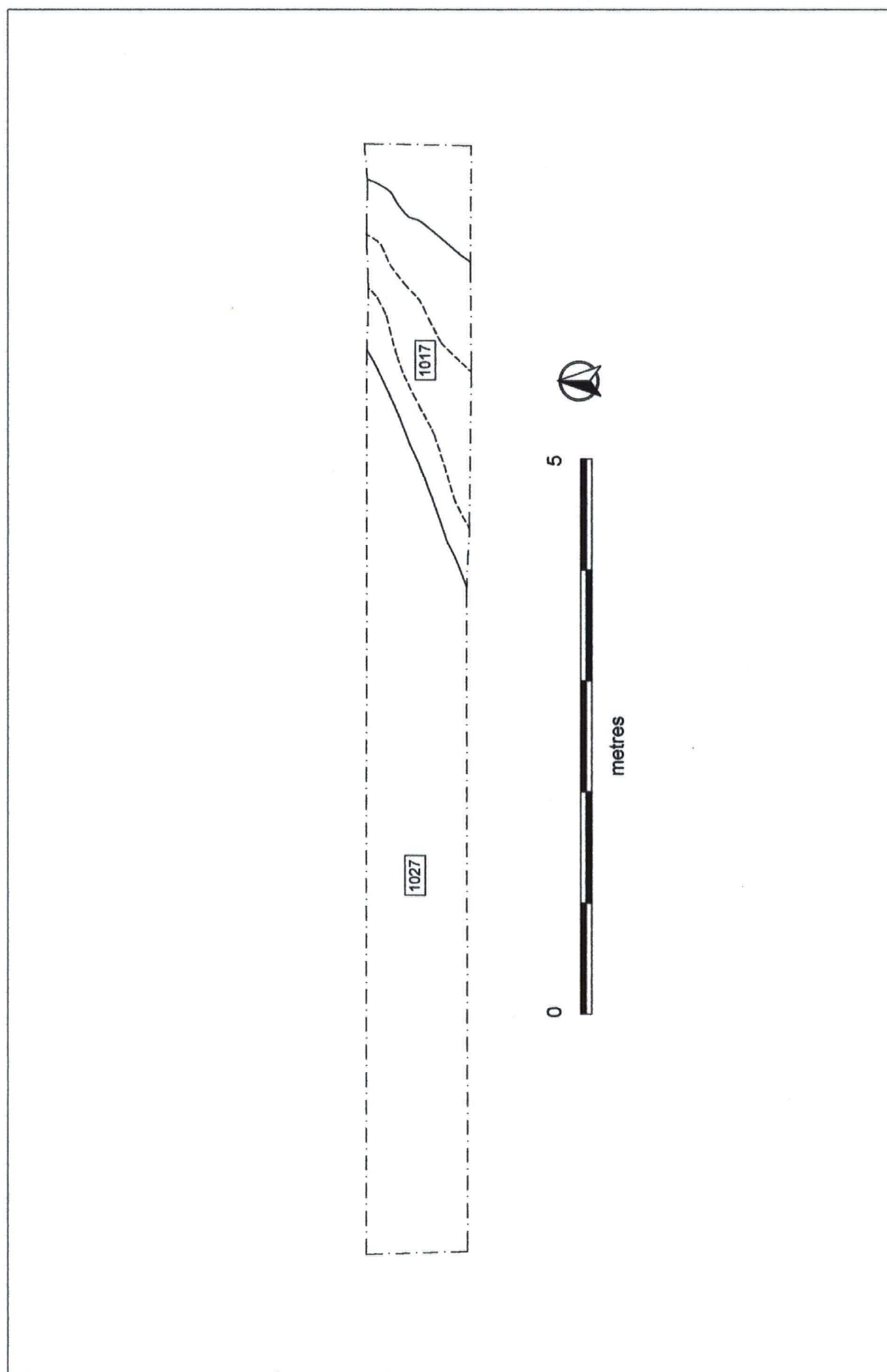


Figure 5. Trench 4, plan. Scale 1:50.

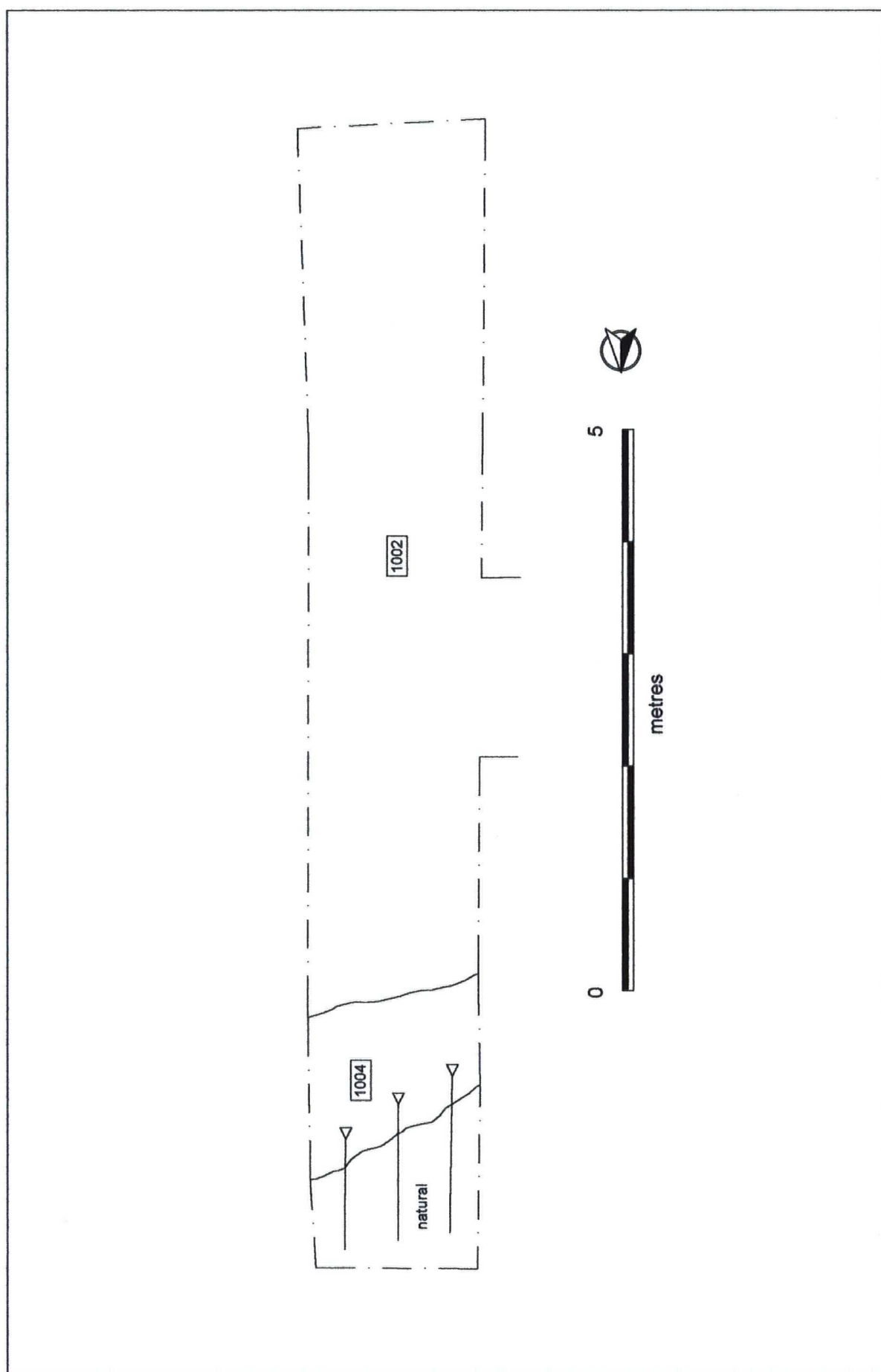


Figure 6a. Trench 5, plan of N – S limb. Scale 1:50

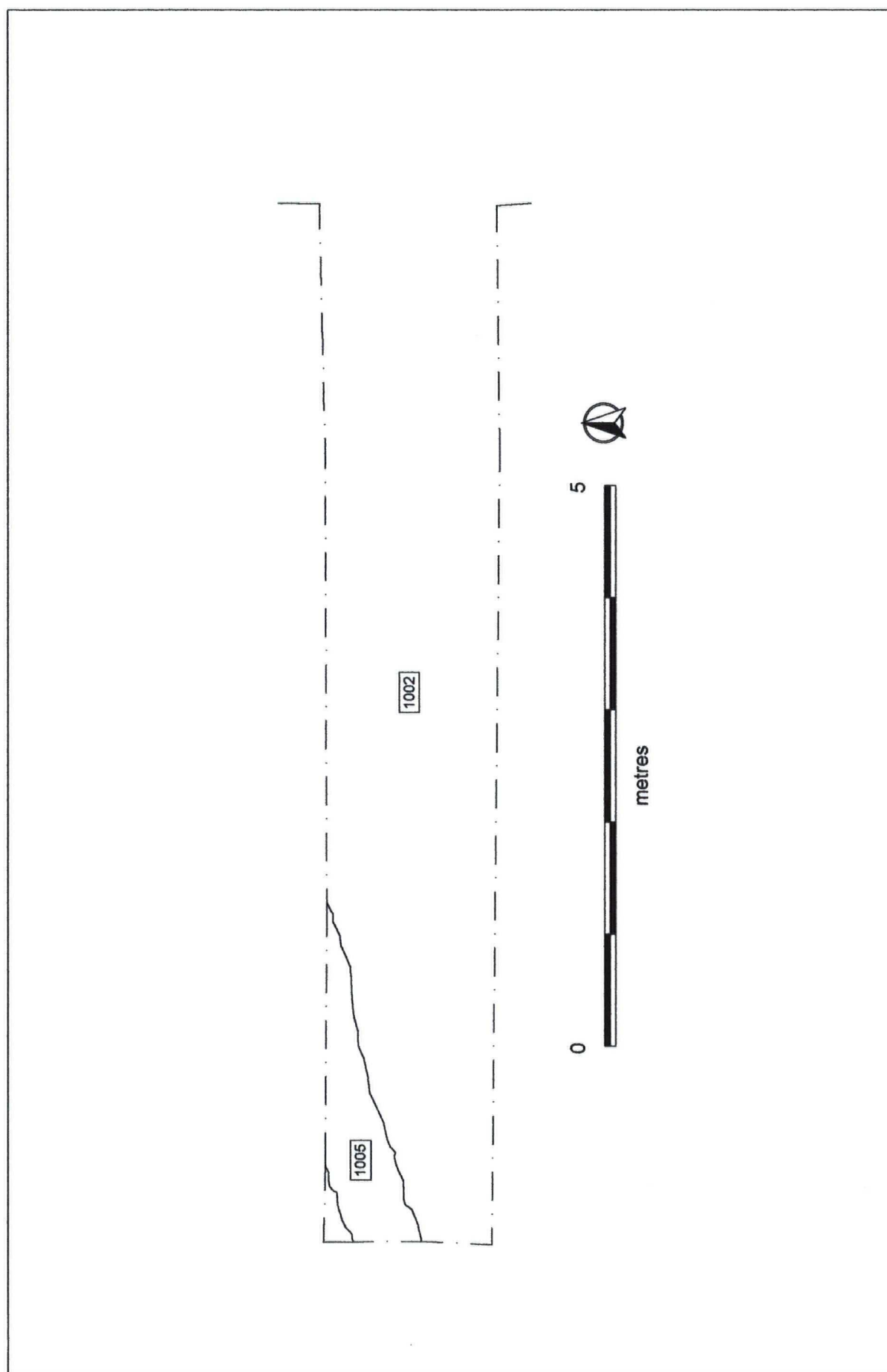


Figure 6b. Trench 5, plan of E - W limb. Scale 1:50.

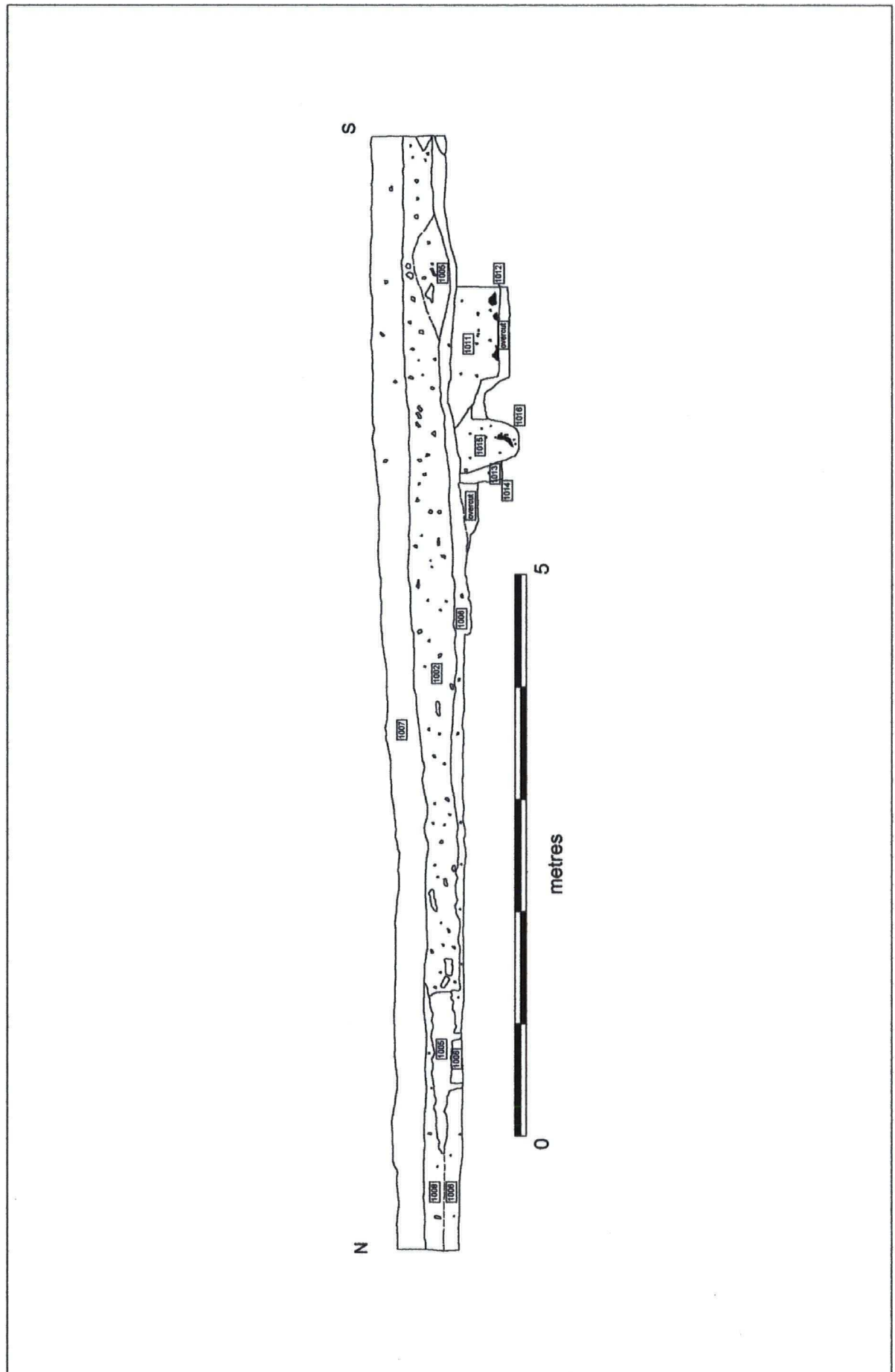


Figure 7. Trench 5 – west facing section of N – S limb. Scale 1:50

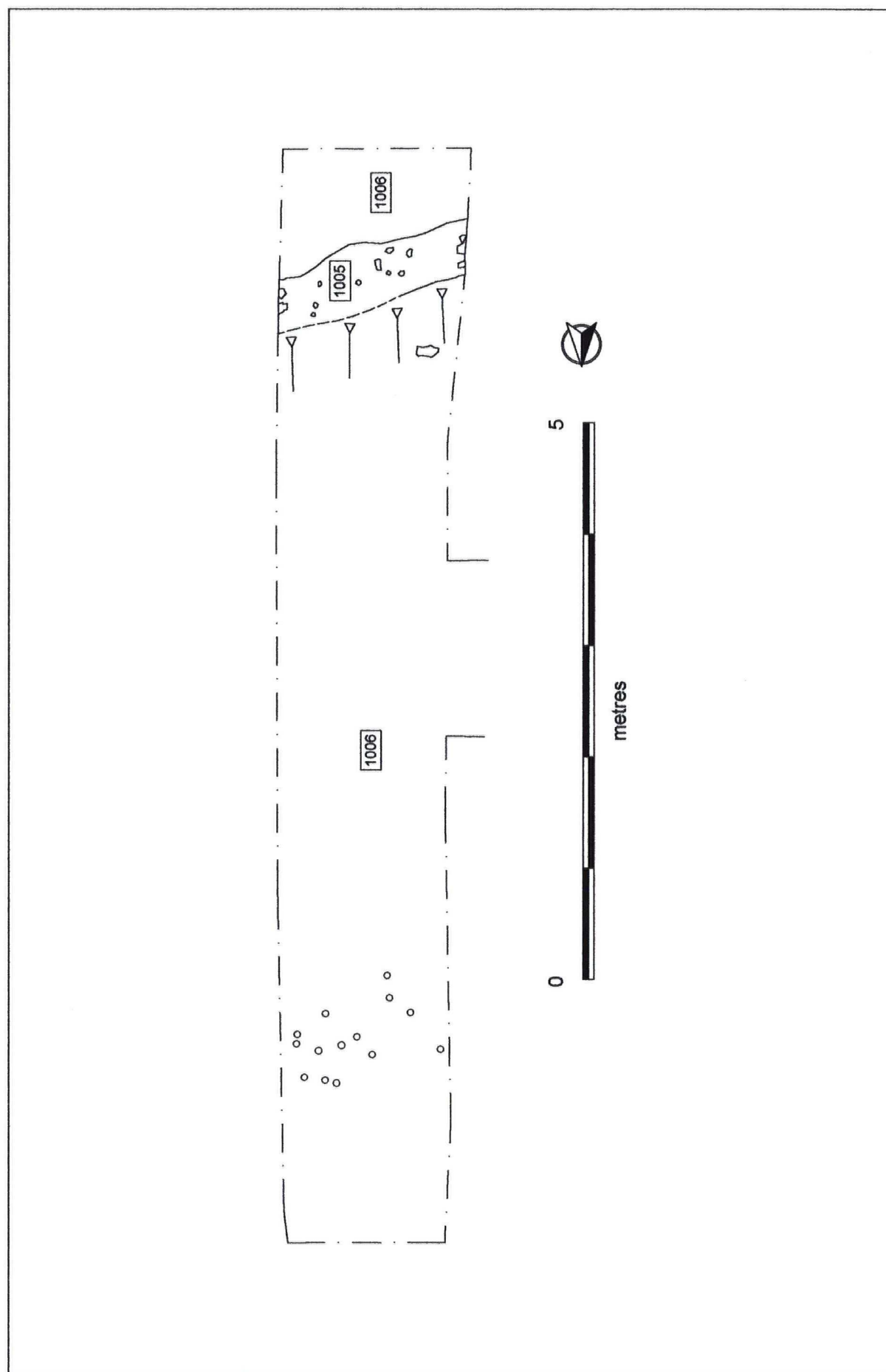


Figure 8. Trench 5, plan of N – S limb. Scale 1:50.

Figure 9.

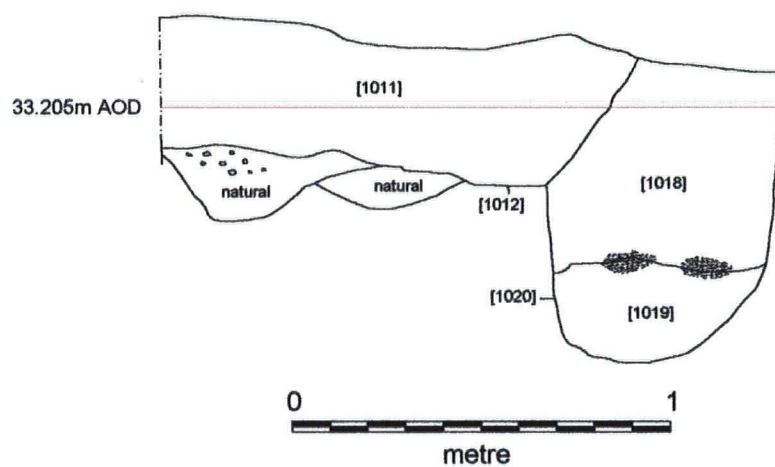
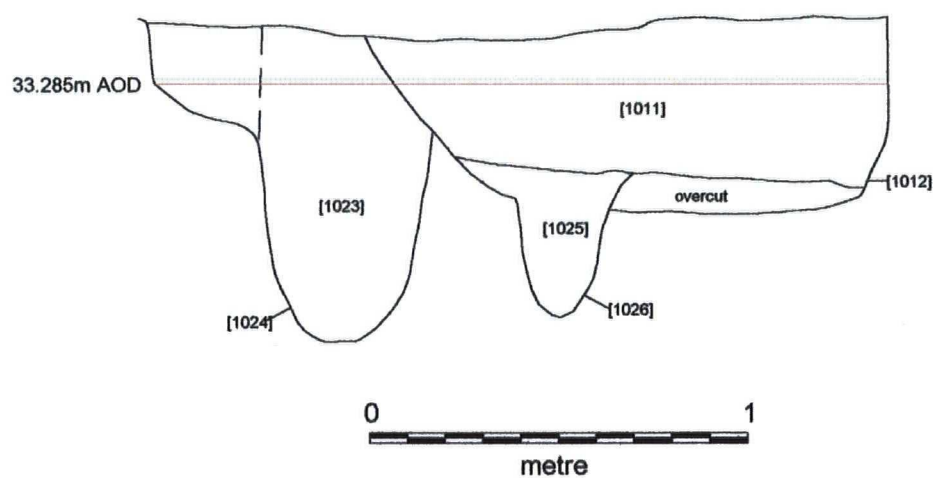


Figure 10.



Figures 9 and 10. Trench 5, sections through [1020], [1024] and [1026]. Scale 1:20.

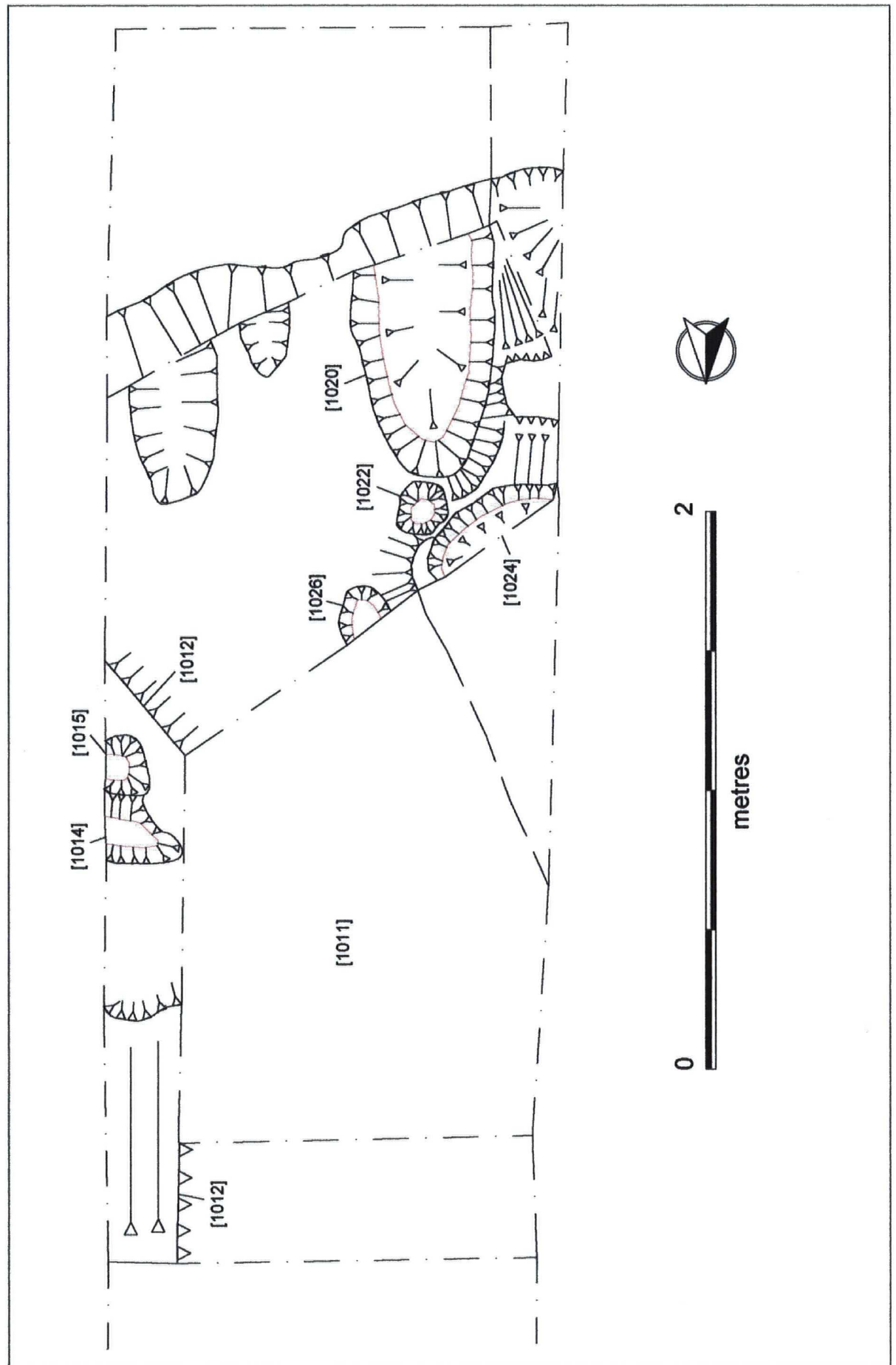


Figure 11. Trench 5, plan of excavated features, S end of N – S limb. Scale 1:20.

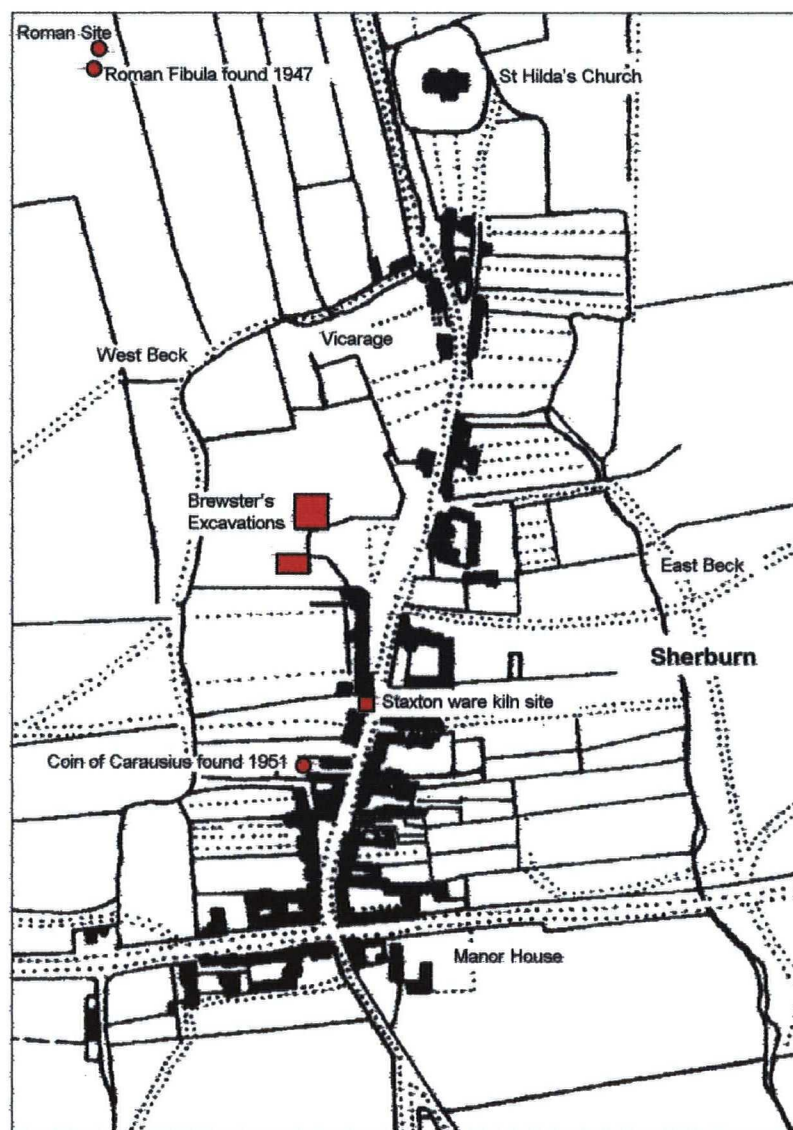


Figure 12. 1st edition OS Map with spot find locations. 1:5,000



Figure 13. 1912 OS Map. 1:10,560

6.0 Discussion

It is clear that the positioning of the trenches has highlighted several areas of archaeological remains within the site of proposed development:

Trench 1:

The deposit running parallel to St Hilda's Street: context [1000] contained a substantial amount of building rubble in the form of roughly hewn chalk blocks, bricks and mortar which probably represents the remains of former post-medieval buildings. Moreover, the first edition of the OS map indicates that there were buildings standing on this site at the time of its publication, which by the time of the publication of the 1954 OS map were no longer represented, presumably having been demolished (see figs. 12 and 13). Sherds of post-medieval and early modern pottery wares (see pottery report) were prevalent throughout this deposit, implying that context [1000] is definitely post-medieval in date. Overlying context [1000] was deposit [1001] indicating that the latter deposit is later in the sequence of events on this part of the development site. The deduced extent of this deposit (estimated from the presence and absence in other evaluation trenches and service trenches already excavated): c.40 m diameter infers that this deposit may be material used as land fill or made up ground for cultivation purposes.

Trench 2:

The only deposit present in this trench was context [1002]. This material extended for the full depth of the trench profile: 0.90 m and would appear to continue to a greater depth as was noticeable in a trench cut for services to the south. Here the trench had been cut to a depth of 1.20 m without encountering a change in the nature of context [1001].

Trench 3:

After the removal of the topsoil and subsoil context [1003] was revealed. This context, a dry stone wall constructed from chalk facing blocks and a rubble core, was detected 0.28 m below the modern ground surface, and extended under the western edge of the trench. This indicates that there is more of this structure to the west. Interestingly to the south of the trench there is a slight rise in ground level forming a small sub-rectangular mound which may represent the presence of further features/structures, perhaps associated with context [1003]. The width of wall implies that it may belong to a significant structure, but the lack of other materials associated with the collapse or abandonment of a building may infer that the wall may have been constructed for other purposes. Nevertheless, it is clear from Beresford's excavations that the walls interpreted as belonging to inhabited structures were similar in nature to context [1003] and there was also very little associated material present, apart from pottery sherds. Associated with context [1003] were three sherds of medieval pottery. Thus a medieval date for the feature can be inferred. The deposit overlying the wall was context [1008] and contained several sherds of pottery from medieval wares and a fragment from a cast copper alloy cauldron also of medieval date.

At the eastern edge of the trench was located a low bank, context [1010] composed of a soft, mid yellowish-brown sand with lenses of cleaner yellowier sand, which is probably associated with East Beck, which runs c.1.00 m to the east of the edge of the trench. It is unclear as to whether this bank had formed naturally or had been intentionally constructed, but the nature of the materials used to form the bank would imply the former explanation. The fact that context [1009], the former ground surface on which context [1003] was built, was overlying context [1010] would back up the assumption made above.

Trench 4:

The deposit revealed in the eastern end of the trench, context [1017], contained large quantities of chalk rubble and sandy deposits and is probably the surface of a former trackway called Water Lane which is shown on the 1912 OS map (see fig. 13).

Trench 5:

east
east
The archaeological deposits contained in this trench were the most extensive identified on the proposed development site. There is evidence for a clear sequence of activity. The latest features were contexts [1004], a wind blown sand defining the presence of a former hedge line, and [1002], a layer of material containing fragments and larger blocks of chalk and a moderate quantity of pottery sherds. All the pottery from this deposit was medieval in date; mainly Staxton and Scarborough wares. Thus context [1002] probably represents the surface deposit of an enclosure such as a yard whose extent was defined by [1004]; although no direct evidence of any associated structures was detected, the presence of chalk and sandstone blocks and other materials associated with structures infers the existence of such in the vicinity. Furthermore, in the field to the west of the site of proposed development roughly hewn blocks of chalk and sandstone and sherds of pottery were identified lying on the contemporary ground surface implying that archaeological activity identified on the site may extend further to the west. Additionally, on the 1912 OS map a bank is shown in the field to the west of the site (fig. 13) which has now been ploughed out. Although there is no evidence to suggest that the archaeological deposits revealed on the proposed development site and the feature identified on the map are associated, they do highlight the extent of archaeological deposits in the area.

Context [1002] was overlying context [1005]: a low bank or dump of material which was composed of silty-sand that may have been subjected to heat. Context [1005] contained finds of medieval pottery and one residual flint blade. This deposit in turn was located above context [1006] which represented an interface between earlier and later archaeological features. This layer produced a small number of finds: one residual flint scraper and several sherds of medieval pottery. Directly below the interface was the fill and cut of a linear ditch, which in turn cut a suite of postholes and ditches/gullies associated with the evidence of earlier activity in this part of the site. Interestingly, only one sherd of pottery was recovered from one of the fills of the postholes: context [1023]. It was a sherd of Romano-British greyware, but this is insufficient evidence to demonstrate Romano-British occupation.

Trenches 6 & 7: No archaeological features were identified.

7.0 Conclusions

In conclusion it can be postulated that there are three main areas of interest:

The first area includes the street frontage and the area of house plots one and two. Here a deposit of quite recent date and a modern layer of probable back fill were revealed. Thus in this area it can be perceived that there is no threat to archaeological deposits from proposed development.

The second area concerns archaeological deposits contained in trench 3: the structure dated to the medieval period. Here any further development below the modern ground surface would impact on archaeological deposits and therefore if development did take place it would warrant further archaeological investigation.

The third area concerns those archaeological deposits identified in trench 5. Here a protracted sequence of occupation was revealed. The pottery retrieved from the features indicates considerable activity in the 13th century, possibly starting in the 12th century and continuing into the late medieval period. Thus, any further development below the modern ground surface would impact on archaeological deposits, and if development did take place it would again warrant further archaeological investigation.

8.0 Bibliography.

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- Spratt D. A. 1993. *Prehistoric and Roman Archaeology of North-East Yorkshire*. London: Council for British Archaeology Research Report 87.
- Stephens M. R. Unpublished MAP Consultancy Evaluation Report: *Archaeological Evaluation, 18-22 St. Hilda's Street, Sherburn, North Yorkshire*.

9.0 The Plates



Plate 1. Wall [1003]. Scale of 2.00m



Plate 2. Wind blown deposit [1004] and root marks. Scale of 1.00m.



Plate 3. Cut [1020] with fills [1018] and [1019]. Scale of 2.00m

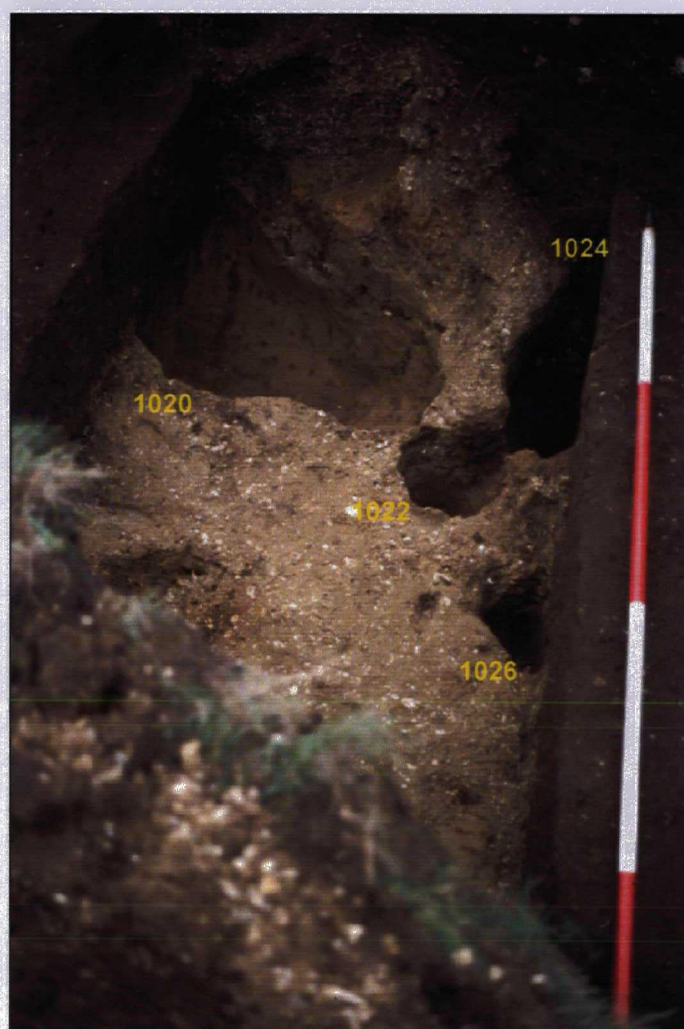


Plate 4. Cuts [1020], [1022], [1024] and [1026]. Scale of 2.00m.



Plate 5. Contexts [1002] and [1004]. Scales of 1.00m (horizontal) and 2.00m (vertical).



Plate 6. Wall [1003]. Scale of 2.00m.