

Figure 4, Plan of locations of sections

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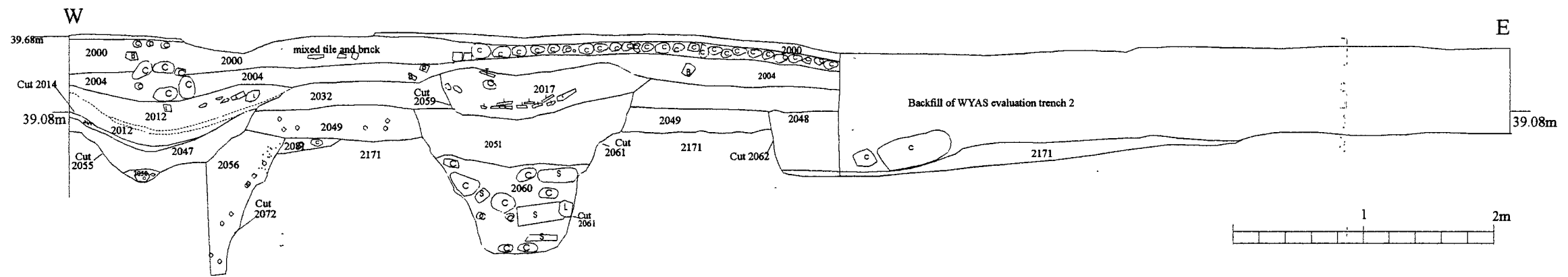


Figure 5, South facing section, northern edge of Area 2 (number 1)

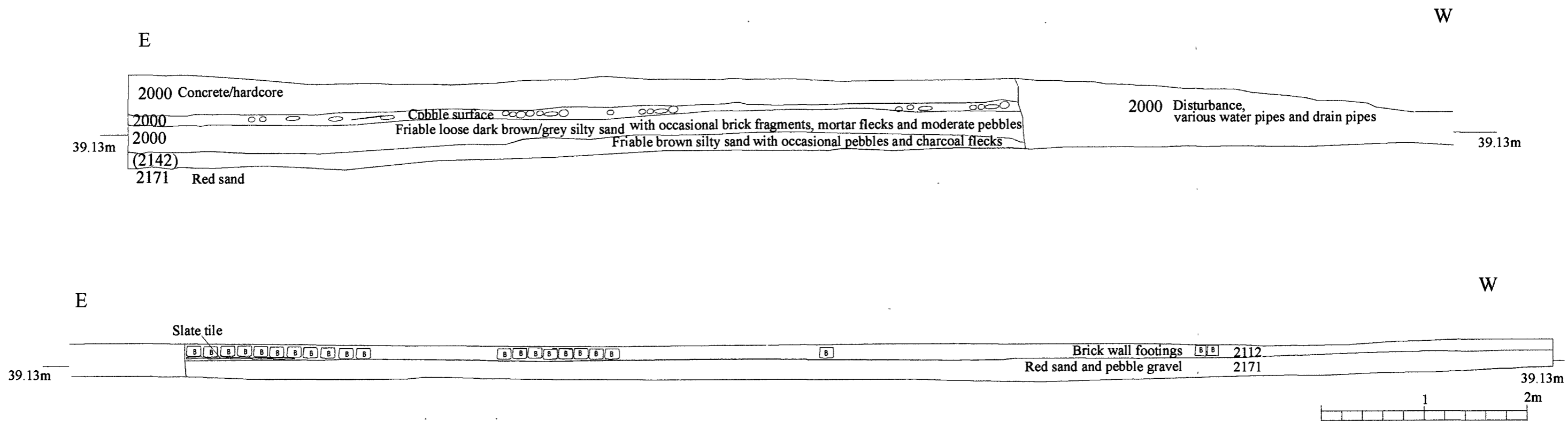


Figure 6, Area 2, North facing section, section 2

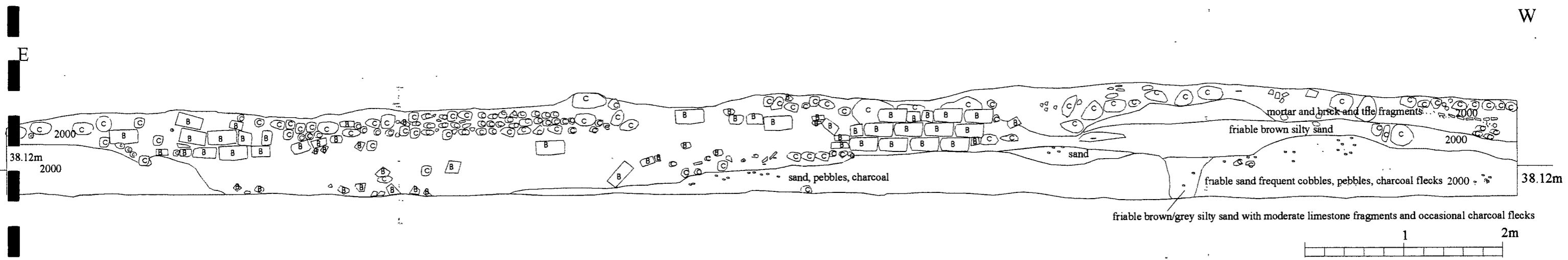


Figure 7, North facing section, number 3

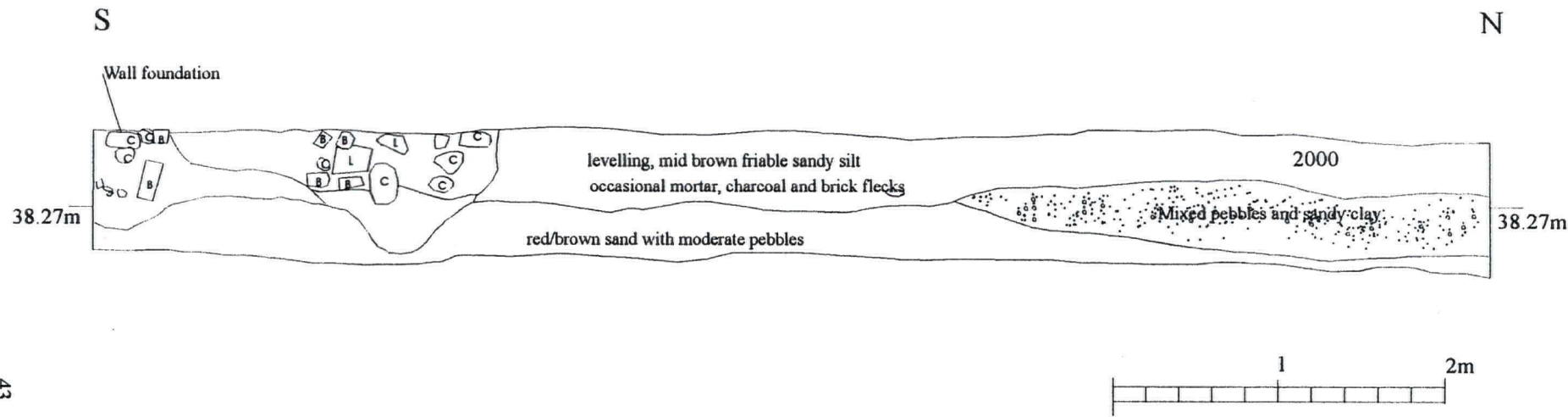


Figure 8, East facing section, western edge of Area 3, (number 4)

5.3 Area 4

In Area 4 the area was stripped by machine to remove the modern overburden and the whole area was cleaned. The negative features were excavated by hand and the deposits are discussed here in stratigraphic order (Figure 9) in groupings which have been made on the basis of the character of the deposits and features, and these groupings have been dated on the basis of initial pottery dating.

Group 1 – Natural deposits

Contexts 4011, 4012

4011 Friable red sand with occasional pebbles and bands of cobbles and pebbles.

4012 Loose red sand with cobbles and pebbles. A band of natural which contained a concentration of cobbles and pebbles.

These contexts comprised the natural sub soil which in this area of the site was found at 37.20m AOD.

12th Century

Group 2 - Ditch

Context 4006, 4005, 4010

4005 Charcoal flecks.

4010 Friable red brown very slightly silty sand with occasional cobbles and charcoal flecks.

A small part of this context was hand excavated and the remainder was removed by controlled machine excavation.

4006 A linear cut aligned north north east- south south west c.0.80m deep and measuring 0.90m in width, and widening towards the south to 1.40m and continued beyond the area of excavation. The sides broke sharply from the surface and sloped at 45 degree to a rounded base.

A large ditch (4006) (Figure 10) which represented a property boundary of the rear of the burgage plots fronting the Market Place was slightly truncated by the machine stripping. This feature was hand excavated within the small area where a lift shaft was to be sited and from this the profile of the ditch was established. The edges of the feature for a length of 10m were also established, and the ditch was seen to continue to the north east and south west beyond

the area of excavation. It was backfilled with a very homogeneous material (4005) with no indication of gradual silting, indicating that the ditch was likely to have been kept cleaned out until it was backfilled. A second portion of backfill (4010) was removed from an area outside the proposed lift shaft and its composition appeared to be consistent with that of 4005. Pottery recovered from 4005 dated from the 12th century. Overlaying the 2nd edition OS map on modern digital mapping allows the alignment of this ditch to be compared with the boundary of the burgage plots in the 19th century (Figure 11). The ditch lies on the same alignment, c.1.60m to the west of the 19th century boundary. It would appear that this boundary has been continually respected from the 12th century to the 19th century and has remained the boundary to the rear of these plots until the bus station was constructed in the 20th century.

12th – 14th Century

Group 3 - pit

Context 4004, 4022, 4020, 4003, 4009, 4002, 4021

4004 A sub circular cut 3m in diameter and 1.40m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped at an angle of 45 degrees to a flat base.

4022 Millstone grit quern stone 1.20m in diameter and medium sized cobbles with occasional limestone fragments. Make-up in the base of cut 2004 forming a "hearth".

4020 Friable red/orange/black ash and charcoal.

4003 Large limestone slabs roughly cut which varied in depth from 0.03m to 0.06m and in size from 0.40m x 0.40m to c.0.60m x 0.60m and large limestone blocks, roughly cut c.0.20m x 0.30m x 0.10m and occasional cobbles.

4009 Compact green dark grey clay with occasional charcoal flecks and lumps of coal and very small limestone fragments.

4002 Compact/friable brown/grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks, small lumps of coal, small, medium and large cobbles, small, medium and large limestone fragments and pebbles.

4021 Friable slightly clayey sand with occasional pebbles, charcoal and mortar flecks.

The large pit cut (4004) demonstrated evidence that it had been used as a burning pit, and its scale suggests an industrial process, possibly limestone burning. In the base of the cut a millstone grit quern stone (4022) had been placed and used as a hearth. The millstone and cobbles in the base were blackened with charcoal and soot residues (4020) and the limestone

within 4022 was pink and crumbly all indicating that they had been subject to intense heat and indicate the primary use of 2004 as a burning pit with industrial use. Subsequently the pit was lined with limestone slabs with the occasional cobble filling in small gaps (4003) and clay (4009) resulting in a structure which could hold a liquid.

Contexts 4002 and 4021 comprised the backfill of 4004 and indicate it was no longer in use. 4021 was a lens of possibly oxidized sand within the backfill of 4002, c.0.30m from the surface. Environmental analysis of a sample from 4002 contained remains with no interpretative significance. The backfill was partly excavated by hand and partly by controlled machine excavation. Approximately one quarter of the backfill was left unexcavated and the majority of limestone slabs were also left in situ.

14th Century

Group 4 - pit

Contexts 4007, 4008

4008 A sub circular cut c.1.60m in diameter and c.1.10m deep with sides which broke sharply from the surface and sloped quite steeply to a flat base.

4007 Friable brown slightly silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small cobbles and very occasional sandstone fragments.

The top of the feature was slightly truncated by machine stripping but pit (4008) appeared to cut ditch (4006). It contained backfill 4007 which was a fairly homogeneous material which became a clean grey silty sand towards the base of the cut. The backfill included several large lumps of ferrous slag suggesting that metal working may have been carried out in the vicinity.

10th – 14th Century

Group 5 – rubbish pit

Contexts 4025, 4024

4025 A sub circular cut

4024 Animal bones on the surface of a pit backfill.

Context 4025 was a pit cut which lay outside the main targeted area of excavation. It contained backfill 4024 from which a concentration of large animal bone on the surface and other finds were collected but the feature, which appeared to be a rubbish pit, was not excavated.

Undated

Group 6 - Levelling

Context 4023, 4013

4023 Friable red brown slightly silty sand with occasional cobbles and pebbles.

4013 Friable brown slightly silty sand with occasional cobbles and pebbles.

These were two deposits which were revealed beneath the machine stripping of Area 4 but were not targeted for excavation and appeared to be widespread levelling deposits.

Modern

Group 7 - Intrusions

Contexts 4014, 4015, 4016, 4017

Contexts 4014, 4015, 4016 comprised a modern brick built service hatch measuring 0.60m x 0.60m.

4017 Base of metal bucket with modern backfill.

This group comprises modern features within Area 4 which were not excavated as while they may have intruded on medieval deposits they did not cut medieval features.

Group 8 - Modern Overburden

Contexts 4000, 4001

Context 4000 and 4001 were mixed deposits which were removed by machine. 4000 was a machined layer of modern overburden, levelling and landscaping deposits. It was 20th century and possibly 19th century date and was the equivalent to context 2000 elsewhere on the site. Within Area 4 a further c.0.50m of material was removed by machine. Within this layer all the modern overburden was removed and because the natural topography of the site slopes down gently from the west to the east the machine stripping cut through some archaeological deposits and medieval features were slightly truncated.

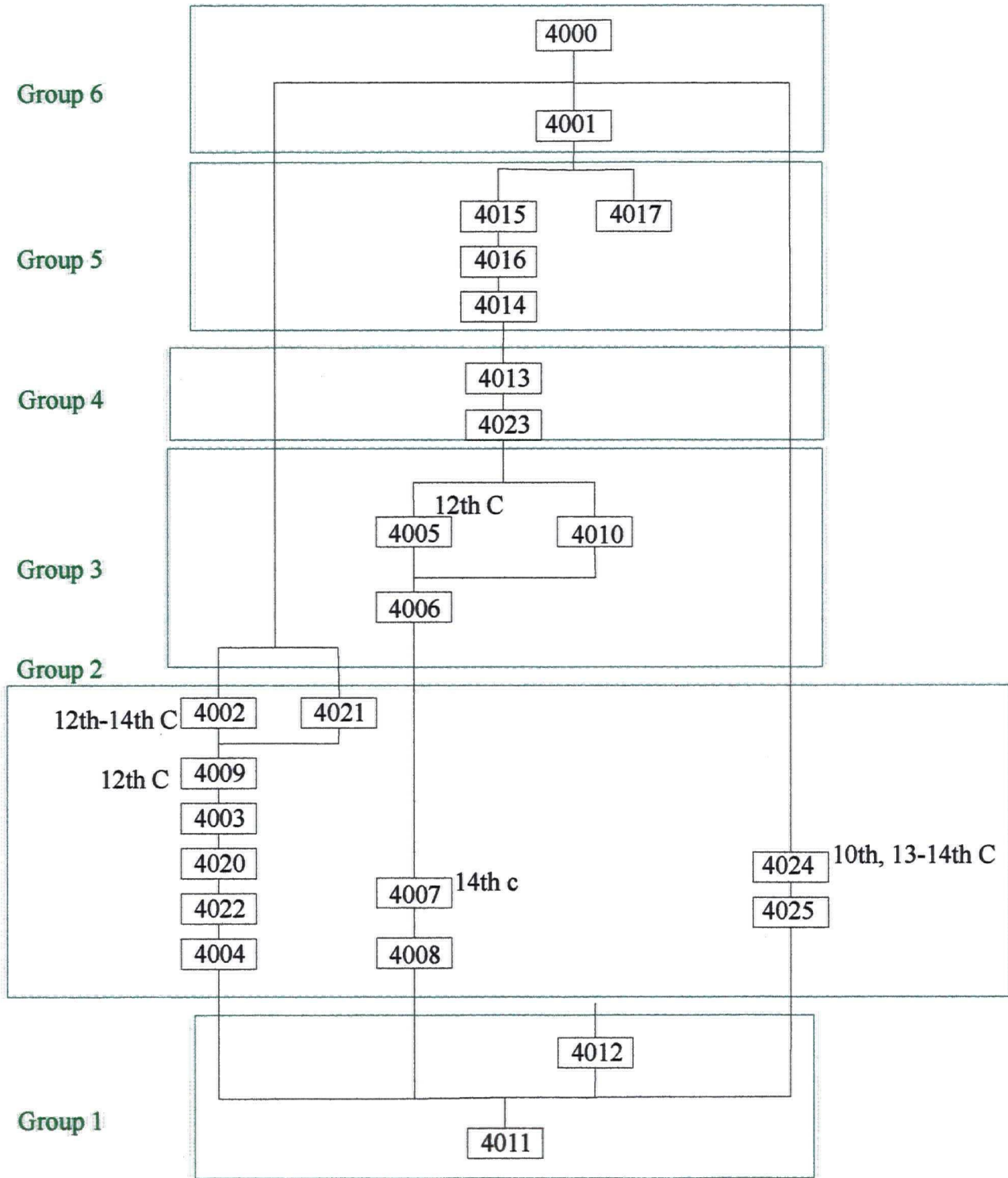


Figure 9, Stratigraphic matrix for Area 4

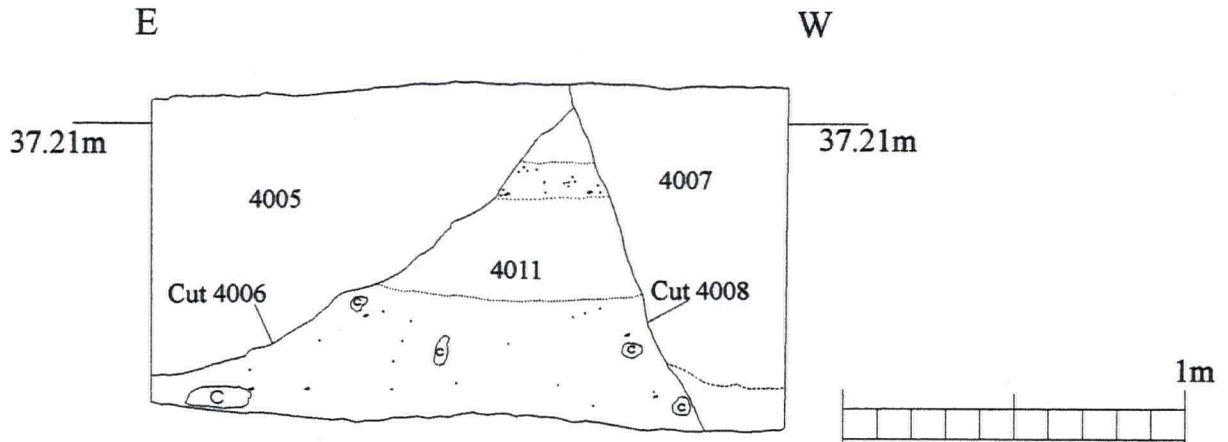


Figure 10, North Facing Section, Area 4 (number 5)

6. CONCLUSIONS

The excavations revealed a significant number of archaeological features and deposits. Large areas of the machine stripped parts of the site revealed the post medieval buildings, outbuildings and boundary walls which are all indicated on the 2nd edition OS map (1891). The absence of medieval features and deposits in the area closest to the Market Street frontage indicated that the site had possibly been levelled in this area when the extant 18th century properties were constructed resulting in truncation of the medieval deposits which may have been present. Further back from the street frontage, and in the area between the building plots for 8/9 Market Place and 10 Market Place, this truncation had not occurred. Within parts of Area 2 there was serious truncation from modern service trenches. Nevertheless it was possible to remove the intrusive material and record a good stratified sequence dating from the 11th century to the 18th century.

6.1 Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian (5th-11th centuries)

The truncated remains of a rubbish pit may have dated to the 11th century, which, together with a large quantity of residual pottery in later contexts dating from the 10th-11th centuries indicates that occupation on the site is likely at that time.

6.2 Medieval (11th-16th centuries)

Two large post pits are likely to have dated to the 13th century. The majority of the features contained pottery which dated from the 12th-14th century and initial pottery dating did not allow closer dating of the medieval part of the sequence. The features include structural elements from buildings on both of the burgage plots at 8/9 Market Place and 10 Market Place, together with sequential boundary fences between the two plots. Within the sequence it is apparent that the site was occupied over a period of time and that while the boundary between the two plots was continually respected, there were alterations to, possible rebuilding or extensions made to the structures on the plots. Other features were typical of what might be expected at to the rear of burgage plots in this period; a series of cess pit, a cobble lined latrine pit, rubbish pits, plus some larger pits which could have been initially dug for extractive purposes to use the natural sand and gravel. The artifactual and environmental evidence suggests a strongly domestic character to the area and there was no significant sign of craft working suggestive of workshops associated with these burgages. Evidence of the disposal of

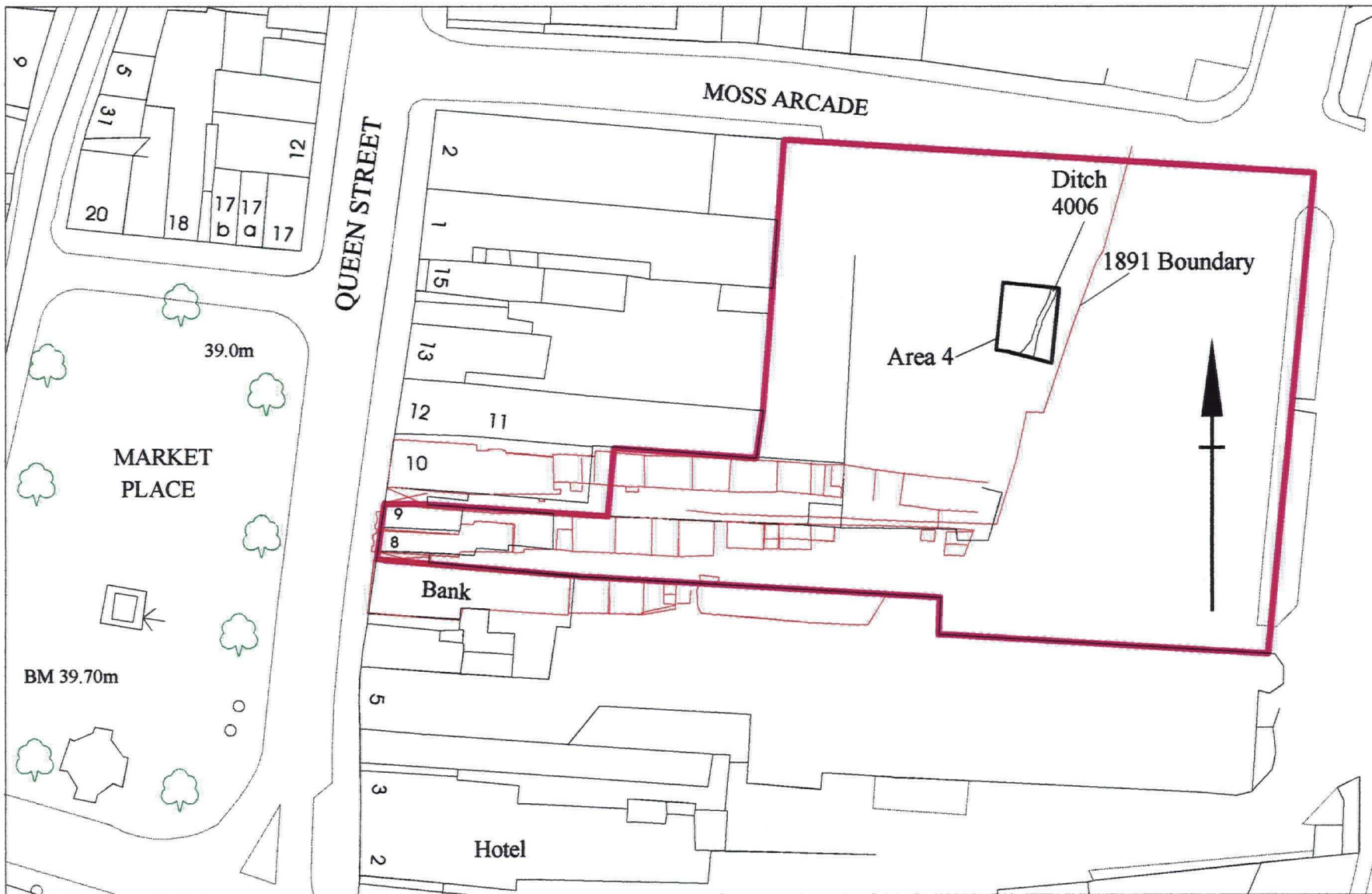


Figure 11, Modern map with OS 2nd edition, 1891 superimposed together with medieval boundary ditch (4006)

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