

It seems reasonable to suggest that the north-south ditch represents a replacement of the earlier Group 4 boundary with a new boundary slightly to the east. The distinct gap between the eastern end of the Group 5 east-west ditches and the north-south boundary implies that there were points of access between the related ditches. The northernmost east-west ditch also cut the earlier Group 3 boundary, showing that it had gone out of use.

5.6 Group 6 – Horticultural soils and miscellaneous medieval pits - 11-14th century

Contexts 2046, 2005, 2102, 2017, 3008, 3009, 3123, 3122, 3040, 3041

2046 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and cobbles of varying sizes, with 11/12th-century pottery and medieval or later brick.

2005 Dark brown loosely compacted clayey sandy silt with some small rounded pebbles and 11th-13th-century pottery.

2102 Firmly compacted brown clayey silt with occasional small and medium cobbles.

2017 Friable dark grey brown sandy gritty silt with occasional small pebbles and charcoal flecks.

3008 Irregularly shaped cut with a sharp break of slope at the surface, almost vertical sides, a sharp break of slope at the base and an almost flat base.

3009 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and large pebbles up to 10 cm in size, moderate small pebbles up to 4cm in size, and 14th-16th-century tile, backfill of cut 3008.

3123 A sub-circular cut, 0.80m x 1.18m in size and 0.24m deep with a U-shaped profile overall.

3122 Mid to dark brown moderately compacted clayey silt with moderate rounded pebbles mainly in the lower portions of the deposit, backfill of cut 3123.

3040 Sub-circular cut, 2.20m x 1.20m in size and 0.80m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the surface, irregular sides, a gradual break of slope at the base and a flat base.

3041 Loosely compacted dark grey brown clayey sandy silt with occasional large cobbles both angular and rounded and possible medieval brick, backfill of cut 3040.

Group 6 consisted of all features dated as medieval which could not be stratigraphically related to one another or to medieval features in Groups 3, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11. (The cut features of Group 6 are shown in yellow on Figure 5). A build-up of horticultural type deposits of brown clayey sandy silts (contexts 2046, 2005, 2102 and 2017) was located in Area 2. In Area 3 there were three large pits (contexts 3008, 3123 and 3040) which had been infilled (contexts 3009, 3122 and 3041). The fills were dated to the 11-13th-, 13/14th-century and 14th-century or later respectively.

5.7 Group 7 – T shaped set of beam slots/post-holes - undated, probably medieval

Contexts 3025, 3030, 3083, 3031, 3084, 3027, 3026

3025 Sub-circular cut, 0.80m x 0.50m in size and 0.18m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, irregular sides, a gradual break of slope at the base and an irregular to concave base.

3030 Shallow linear cut, 1.20m x 0.34m in size and 0.13m deep, with a gradual break of slope at the top, irregular sides which were steeper on the eastern side, a gradual break of slope at the base and a flat base.

3083 Sub-rectangular cut, 0.66m x 0.24m in size and 0.09m deep, the western side had a gentle break of slope and sides at 40 degrees from vertical, while the eastern side had a sharp break of slope at the top and sides at 60 degrees from vertical. The base was a double concave shape.

3027 Loosely compacted dark brown clayey sandy silt with moderate to frequent rounded cobbles 4-20 cm in size, backfill of cut 3025.

3026 Loose pea grit of variable colour, backfill of cut 3025.

3031 Loosely compacted rounded cobbles 5-10cm in size in a matrix of dark brown to grey sandy silt with occasional lenses of pea grit, backfill of cut 3030.

3084 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt frequent pebbles up to 8cm in size, backfill of cut 3083.

Group 7 consists of a number of undated features at the southern end of Area 3 (shown in pale blue on Figure 9). These formed a T shaped arrangement of a post-hole and two small beam slots each with stake holes incorporated into the base. These features were later infilled (contexts 3031, 3084, 3027 and 3026). The features could represent either part of a timber building, or a junction of boundary fences. Unfortunately no associated surfaces survived to suggest which interpretation was more likely. Although these features were undated they cut features dated to the 11/12th century. They are interpreted as medieval because their backfills more closely resembled the medieval than the post-medieval features on site. The medieval backfills were in general very stony and were almost devoid of finds (animal bone, shell, slag etc.), whereas the post-medieval features were rich in artefacts and far less stony in nature.

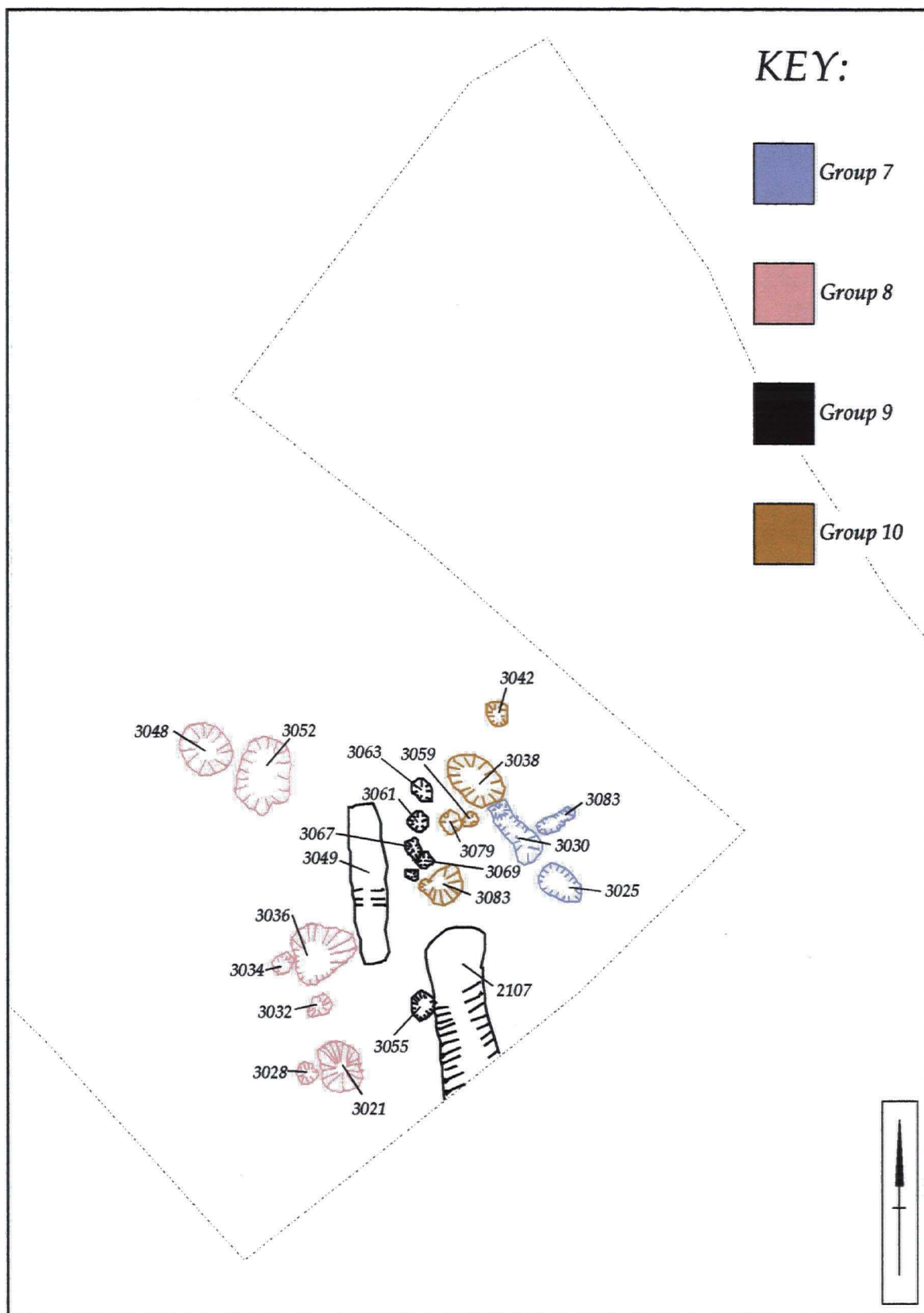


Figure 9 Plan of cut features in Groups 7 to 10.

0 5 metres

5.8 Group 8 – Linear post-hole alignments - 14th century or later

Contexts 3021, 3032, 3036, 3052, 3022, 3033, 3035, 3051, 3028, 3034, 3048, 3029, 3035, 3047

3021 Roughly square shaped cut 0.80m x 0.64m in size and 0.14m deep, with a roughly V-shaped profile.

3032 Circular cut, 0.46m x 0.22m in size and 0.13m deep, with a V-shaped profile.

3036 Sub-oval cut, 1.04m x 0.98m in size and 0.14m deep, truncated on the western side by a later feature. The eastern side had a gradual break of slope at the surface, a step approximately half way down the side and a slightly uneven base.

3052 Circular cut, 0.90m x 1.28m in size and 0.31m deep, with a slightly irregular south-western edge. The break of slope was sharp at the top, with steep sides, and a flat base. There was a step on the eastern side.

3022 and 3033 Brown moderately compacted clayey silt with frequent small pebbles, backfills of 3021 and 3032 respectively.

3035 and 3051 Moderately compacted dark brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles, backfills of 3036 and 3050 respectively.

3028 Circular cut, 0.30m in diameter and 0.10m deep, with a shallow break of slope at the top, irregular sides and a roughly flat base gradually sloping from east to west.

3034 Triangular cut, 0.34m x 0.34m in size and 0.16m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the surface, a very steep eastern side, the other sides being at 45 degrees to vertical, the break of slope at the base was gradual and the base was slightly concave.

3048 Circular cut, 0.82m x 0.80m in size and 0.21m deep, with a U-shaped profile.

3029 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt with occasional small pebbles, backfill of cut 3028.

3047 Firmly compacted mid brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks, and cobbles, backfill of cut 3048.

Group 8 consisted of two closely parallel alignments of post-holes of varying sizes aligned NNW-SSE (shown in pink on Figure 9). The earlier alignment consisted of three large and one small post-hole (contexts 3021, 3032, 3036, and 3052). This seems to have been backfilled (contexts 3022, 3033, 3035 and 3051) and then replaced with a new alignment of three post-holes immediately to the west (contexts 3028, 3034 and 3048). This second alignment was also subsequently infilled (contexts 3029, 3037 and 3047). A single feature (context 3047) contained medieval brick, which implies a 14th century or later date. As with Group 7 these could form part of either a timber building or boundary fence, however, the linear nature of the alignments implies that they were probably boundary fences. The Group 8 features are on a slightly different alignment than those of Group 7, which may imply that they were not contemporary.

5.9 Group 9 – Linear post-hole alignments - undated, probably medieval

Contexts 2017, 2106, 3049, 3050, 3055, 3073, 3069, 3067, 3061, 3063, 3056, 3074, 3070, 3068, 3064, 3063

2107 Linear cut aligned NNE-SSW, 2.00m x 1.10m in size and 0.50m deep, with a rounded terminal end at the northern side. The cut had a sharp break of slope at surface, almost vertical sides and a flat base.

- 2106 Medium brown firmly compacted clayey silt with frequent medium to large cobbles and pebbles and occasional limestone fragments, backfill of cut 2107.
- 3049 Linear cut 2.70m x 0.55m in size and 0.08m deep, with a gentle break of slope at the top, shallow sides and a flat base, giving a gentle concave cross-sectional shape.
- 3050 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal and frequent pebbles, backfill of 3050.
- 3055 Circular cut, 0.42m in diameter and 0.12m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the surface, steep sides, a sharp break of slope at the base and an irregular base.
- 3073 Circular cut, 0.20m in diameter and 0.20m deep, with sharp break of slope at surface, straight steep sides, a sharp break of slope at the base and a flat base.
- 3069 Sub-oval cut, 0.24m x 0.24m in size and 0.30m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the surface, almost vertical sides, a sharp break of slope at the base and flat base.
- 3067 Circular cut, 0.26m x 0.32m in size and 0.21m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the surface, concave sides and a concave base.
- 3061 Circular cut, 0.32m in diameter and 0.01m deep, with sharp breaks of slope at the surface, irregular steep sides, a variable break of slope at the base and a concave base.
- 3063 Circular cut, 0.28m x 0.40m in size and 0.10m deep, with a roughly U-shaped profile.
- 3056, 3074, 3070 and 3068 Moderately compacted dark brown silty clay with frequent pebbles and cobbles. Backfills of cuts 3055, 3073, 3069 and 3067 respectively.
- 3064 and 3062 Loosely compacted dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small pebbles both angular and rounded, backfills of cuts 3063 and 3061 respectively.

Group 9 consisted of a ditch cut (context 2107), a beam slot (context 3049) and an alignment of post-holes (contexts 3056, 3074, 3070, 3068, 3064, 3062), which are grouped together on the basis of their close geographical proximity and their identical north-south alignments (shown in black on Figure 9). It is impossible to know if these features were exactly contemporaneous or not. All these features were later infilled (contexts 2106, 3050, 3055, 3073, 3069, 3067, 3061 and 3063). These features were again undated but are interpreted as medieval for the same reason as Group 7 (see 5.7 above). The ditch cut would seem to represent a boundary or subdivision of land. The other features in this group could be either boundaries or remains of timber buildings, but the former interpretation is favoured here.

5.10 Group 10 – Linear post-hole alignments - undated, probably medieval

Contexts 3038, 3039, 3071, 3059, 3042, 3079, 3043, 3072, 3080, 3060

- 3038 Circular cut, 1.00m x 0.66m in size and 0.30m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the surface, irregular sides, a gradual break of slope at the base and a concave base.
- 3039 Loosely compacted dark grey brown clayey sandy silt with occasional large rounded cobbles, backfill of cut 3038.
- 3071 Circular cut, 0.64m x 0.50m in size and 0.15m in depth, the northern side has a sharp break of slope from the surface, and a vertical edge with a sharp break of slope at the base, while the southern side sloped gradually. The break of slope at the base was sharp and the base flat.
- 3059 Circular cut, 0.32m x 0.34m in size and 0.25m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the surface, irregular sides, a gradual break of slope at the north-east side, but steep on the south-west side, with a concave base.
- 3042 Circular shallow cut, 0.32m x 0.40m in size and 0.09m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, irregular sides, a gradual break of slope at the base and a concave base.

3079 Circular cut, 0.24m in diameter and 0.16m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, almost vertical sides, a sharp break of slope at the base, and flat base.

3043 Loosely compacted dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional medium pebbles and cobbles, backfill of cut 3042.

3072 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt with frequent pebbles, backfill of cut 3071.

3080 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles and cobbles up to 20 cm in size, backfill of cut 3079.

3060 Loosely compacted dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small cobbles both rounded and angular, backfill of cut 3059.

Group 10 consists of an alignment of large post-holes and a pair of smaller post-holes (contexts 3038, 3071, 3059, 3042 and 3079) which were later infilled (contexts 3039, 3043, 3072, 3080 and 3060). These features are shown in pale brown on Figure 9. The group was aligned south-west to north-east, and was undated but definitely post-dated Group 7. Although undated these features are interpreted as medieval for the same reason as Group 7 (see 5.7 above).

Groups 7, 8, 9 and 10 are clearly closely related spatially, but each group was on a markedly differing alignment. Since the only stratigraphic link was between Groups 7 and 10 it is impossible to say which, if any, of these groups were contemporaneous. It is possible all these groups represent the same function, i.e. the constant replacement of a timber property boundary in roughly the same area.

5.11 Group 11 – Undated cuts - probably medieval

Contexts 3014, 3023, 3015, 3024, 3108, 3095, 3097, 3096, 3098, 3109, 3085, 3093, 3094, 3092, 3116, 3117.

3014 Circular cut 0.48m in diameter and 0.12m deep, with a sharp break of slope from the surface, concave to irregular sides and concave base.

3023 Square cut 0.60m x 0.64m in size and 0.19m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the surface, steep sides, a sharp break of slope at the base and a flat base.

3015 Loosely compacted dark brown to black slightly clayey silt with frequent cobbles ranging from 5-20cm in size, backfill of cut 3014.

3024 Moderately compacted medium grey clayey silt mixed with red-orange sandy silt, with moderate cobbles and charcoal flecks, backfill of cut 3023.

3108 Circular cut, 0.16m in diameter and 0.21m deep, with sharp break of slope at the top, steep straight sides, and a concave base.

3095 Circular cut, 0.16m in diameter and 0.21m deep, with sharp break of slope at the top, steep straight sides, and a concave base.

3097 Circular cut, 0.40m x 0.32m in size and 0.18m deep, with sharp break of slope at the top, irregular sides and base.

3096 Moderately compacted dark brown to orange clayey silt with frequent pebbles and cobbles making up 80% of the volume of the deposit, backfill of cut 3095.

3098 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt with occasional fragments of charcoal, backfill of cut 3097.

3109 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt with small pebbles, backfill of cut 3108.

3116 Square shaped cut, 1.50m x 1.60m in size and 0.30m deep, with a sharp break of slope from the surface, almost vertical sides and a sharp break of slope at the base and a highly irregular base.

3117 Friable dark grey brown silty clay with occasional large pebbles and cobbles up to 20cm in size which made up 30% of the volume of the fill, backfill of cut 3116.

Group 11 consists of undated features scattered across the excavated area. They were for the most part dug directly into natural, with few stratigraphic links (shown in dark brown on Figure 5). Contexts 3014, 3012, 3085/3093, 3128 and 3116 were pits which were later infilled with contexts 3015, 3024, 3094, 3086, 3092 and 3117. Contexts 3108, 3095 and 3097 were post-holes, which were infilled with contexts 3096, 3098 and 3109.

These features are interpreted as probably medieval for two reasons. Firstly, the cuts in this group resemble other medieval post-holes and pits on site in terms of size and shape, and are quite unlike the post-medieval pits found on the site, which tended to be much larger and shallower. Secondly, the backfills in this group resemble other medieval backfills on site, having very stony contents largely devoid of artefacts. They are unlike the post-medieval backfills, which tended to contain less stone, but more artefacts.

5.12 Group 12 – Rubbish pits and gravel quarrying - post-medieval date

Contexts 3065, 3066, 3076, 3075, 3007, 3001, 3044, 1031, 3016, 3020, 1030, 3107, 3018, 3019

3065 Sub-rectangular cut 2.30m x 1.62m in size and 0.20m deep, western side almost imperceptible, the eastern side has a gradual break of slope at the surface, gently sloping sides, with an imperceptible break of slope at the base and a flat but slightly uneven base.

3066 Moderately compacted dark brown silty clay with frequent small cobbles and occasional medium cobbles, bone and slag, backfill of cut 3065.

3076 A large cut, 6.00m x 0.300m in size, and 0.59m deep; only the eastern half visible within the excavated area. Gentle break of slope at the top, upper portion of the slope gentle to a step, then steep and slightly concave to an even base which slopes down westwards.

3075 Firmly compacted dark grey brown slightly silty clay with frequent cobbles, occasional post-medieval brick and tile, moderate animal bone and charcoal flecks, backfill of cut 3076.

3007 A large shallow cut of irregular rhomboid shape, 2.16m x 5.96m and 0.18m deep. The eastern side was shallow, the western side almost imperceptible, and the base uneven.

3001 Firmly compacted dark brown to black slightly clayey silt with frequent cobbles from 10-20cm in size, moderate charcoal, occasional 16-18th-century brick, frequent post-medieval glass fragments, a post-medieval horse bit and a post-medieval clay tobacco pipes, backfill of cut 3007.

3044 Spread of moderately to firmly compacted dark brown silty clay with frequent small and medium pebbles, bone fragments, occasional flecks of charcoal and post-medieval brick.

1031 Oval shaped pit 1.12m x 1.10m in size and 0.17m deep, with gentle break of slope from surface, gently sloping sides and a concave base.

3016 Circular shallow cut, 0.70m x 0.66m and 0.13m, with a gentle break of slope at the top, gently sloping western side, the eastern side being at 45 degrees from vertical, and an irregular base.

3020 Irregularly shaped in plan, 1.90m x 3.20m in size and 0.44m deep. A shallow pit with near vertical sides and a very uneven base.

1030 Dark brown to black compact clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and fragments, occasional 18th-century pot, bone and pebbles, backfill of cut 1031.

3017 Loosely compacted mortar fragments with a small grain size, backfill of cut 3016.

3018 Articulated cow skeleton, the skull, feet, part of the pelvis and rear left leg missing, backfill of cut 3016.

3019 Moderately compacted dark brown silty clay with moderate to frequent medium and large cobbles, and frequent flecks of charcoal, backfill of cut 3016.

Group 12 consists of a number of cuts across the excavated area which were either definitely dated as post-medieval or were interpreted as post-medieval on the basis of their backfill or function. There were a number of rubbish pits (context 1031, 3016, 3020 and 3065 and associated backfills 1030, 3017, 3018, 3019 and 3066) and a large shallow cut, which was either a deliberate terrace or a very large rubbish pit (context 3007, backfill 3011 and down-slope hill-wash 3044). All of the infill deposits differed markedly from the medieval backfills on site. Firstly they were far less stony, and secondly they were filled with masses of domestic rubbish containing bone, shell, glass, slag, shell, charcoal, etc. Most of the environmental samples taken on site, and finds recovered on site, were from these contexts.

In addition to the rubbish pits there was one massive pit (context 3076, infilled with context 3075), which is best interpreted as the result of quarrying which is known to have taken place on the site during the post-medieval period.

The Group 12 features are shown in red on Figure 10.

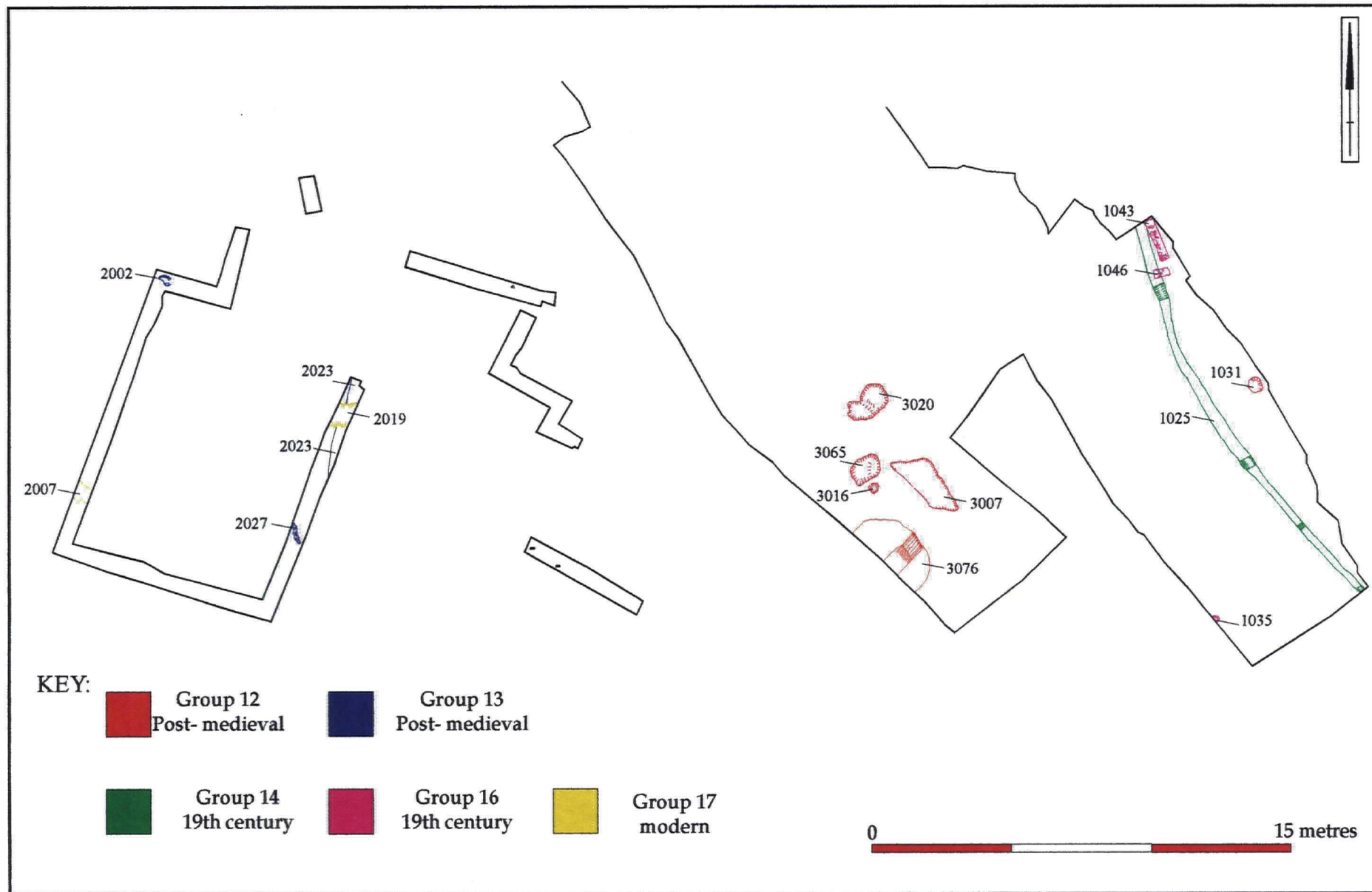


Figure 10 Plan of cut features in Groups 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17.

5.13 Group 13 – Structures - Post-medieval

Contexts 2012, 2024/2013, 2015, 2014, 2023, 2022, 2025, 2021, 2020, 2016, 2011, 2045, 2002, 2004, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029

2012 Medium to large pebbles in a friable mid grey brown silty sand with occasional large irregular limestone fragments, small rounded stones, and charcoal flecks.

2024/2013 Pebbles and gravel in a matrix of pale brown gritty silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal.

2015 Loosely compacted mid brown gritty sandy silt with moderate small pebbles and occasional mortar, charcoal and brick flecks.

2014 Small to large 16-18th-century brick and tile fragments and small to medium sized cobbles in a dark brown gritty silty sand with occasional small to medium mortar and charcoal flecks.

2023 Linear cut aligned north-west/south-east with vertical sides and an almost flat base.

2022 Loosely compacted creamy white lime based mortar with occasional 17th-century brick, pan tile fragments and medium cobbles, backfill of cut 2023.

2025 Small pebbles in a matrix of friable mid grey brown clayey sandy silt with occasional medium pebbles, mortar and small brick/tile fragments.

2021 Mortar rich loosely compacted mid grey brown silty sand with occasional brick and tile fragments, charcoal and small pebbles.

2020 Friable to loose mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional small pebbles.

2016 Small mortar fragments in a loosely compacted pale brown fine grained sandy silt with occasional small brick and tile fragments.

2011 Small to medium pebbles in loose brown slightly silty sand with occasional brick and charcoal flecks, large pebbles and small angular stones.

2045 Loosely compacted dark brown silty clay with frequent pebbles and mortar flecks and occasional cobbles and charcoal.

2002 Cobbles and limestone blocks with a level upper surface. The cobbles were 5x5cm in size and the limestone fragments 10x25cm in size.

2004 Creamy white linear deposit of mortar up to 2cm thick.

2027 Four 16-18th-century bricks 250x115x60mm in size forming a widely spaced north-west/south-east alignment one course deep with no foundation or bonding material.

2026 Loosely compacted mid brown gritty sandy silt with occasional small pebbles and charcoal and mortar flecks.

2028 Friable to loosely compacted dark brown sandy silt with moderate pebbles and occasional brick and tile fragments.

2029 Fine pebble and gravel in a mid grey brown gritty sandy silt.

Group 13 consists of a number of structural deposits in Area 2. The earliest of these clearly related to the use of a 17th century brick wall (the wall did not survive due to later robbing/demolition). Context 2012 was a cobble surface, with a replacement gravel surface (context 2013/2024) directly above. Both 2012 and 2013/2024 presumably originally butted the robbed-out brick wall. Sealing the gravel surface was a use deposit (context 2015) which directly equates to context 7018 from the earlier trial trench work (Johnson 1998, 21).

The brick wall was subsequently demolished (context 2014) and the foundations were robbed out (robber cut 2023 and backfill 2022). The robber trench equated to context 7007 from the earlier trial trench work (Johnson 1998, 21). Scattered around the immediate vicinity of the robber



Figure 11 Thomas Langdale's Plan of Ripon, 1818.

trench were a number of dumped deposits resultant from the demolition process (contexts 2011, 2016, 2020, 2021 and 2025).

Context 2027 was an alignment of 16-18th-century bricks suggesting a possible edging to an area or the footings for a light sill-beam wall or a flimsy structure such as a shed. Relating to the brick alignment were two levelling deposits (contexts 2026 and 2028) which seem to have been laid prior to the insertion of a gravel path or yard (context 2029). It was not possible to determine whether the brick alignment was still in use when the gravel surface was deposited. Nearby was a levelling deposit and associated cobble floor or yard surface (contexts 2045 and 2002). A thin linear spread of mortar nearby may have been an associated floor surface (context 2004).

The features in this group probably relate to a building located in the north-western corner of the site which is shown on Langdale's 1818 plan of Ripon (Figure 11).

The Group 13 structures are shown in blue on Figure 10.

5.14 Group 14 – Ditch - 19th-century

Contexts 1025, 1024

1025 Linear cut 40m long, up to 0.82m wide and 0.25m deep, with sharp break of slope at the surface, straight sides at 45 degrees and a pointed base, giving a V-shaped profile.

1024 Moderately compacted mid brown slightly sandy silt with moderate rounded cobbles and pebbles, with residual 11th/12th-century pottery and 19th-century pottery, backfill of cut 1025.



Plate 5 General view of the southern portion of 13th century ditch 1021/1051 (on the right) and 19th century ditch 1025 (on the left).

Group 14 consists of a narrow linear ditch cut (context 1025) and associated backfill (context 1025) aligned roughly north-south parallel to Priest Lane. The ditch was stratigraphically later than the earlier Group 5 ditches, but was also clearly a property boundary, or possibly even a hedge line, adjacent to Priest Lane. Group 14 is shown in green on Figure 10. Cross-sections of the ditch are shown on Figures 11 and 14.

5.15 Group 15 – Build ups and dumps - post-medieval and modern

Contexts 1048, 1052, 1033, 1057, 1036, 1007, 2003, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2039, 2041, 2042, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2101, 2102, 3087, 3089, 3090, 3091, 3099, 3100, 3107, 3110, 1028, 1002, 1018, 1019

1048 Friable mid to dark brown silty clay, compacted, with small to medium pebbles and occasional large pebbles.

1052 Dark brown-red loosely compacted clayey silt with small patches of red sand, occasional medium pebbles, moderate small pebbles and flecks of charcoal.

1033 Moderately compacted pink-orange sand with frequent black and grey sand patches up to 30cm in diameter and occasional pebbles.

1057 Moderately compacted mid brown slightly clayey silt with occasional fine gravel and occasional coarse pebbles.

1036 Crumbly-loose mid orange brown silty sand with moderate small to medium cobbles, occasional large cobbles, mortar and charcoal flecks, patches of grey silty-sand and brown-yellow fine grained sand, and residual Roman flue tile.

1007 A number allocated for finds recovery purposes at the north-western end of Trench 1. A number of deposits ranging from light brown with patches of pink and yellow-brown, variably compacted clay-silt, to very large pebbles and cobbles up to 8x15cm in size, a typical size being 5x5cm. Context 1007 contained 16-18th century brick fragments.

2003, 2039, 2041, 2042, 2033, 2035, 2052, 2101, 2055, 3090, 3100, 3099, 3110, 3087 were all mid to dark brown silty clays and clayey silts with occasional pebbles Context 2039 contained 16-18th-century brick.

2032, 2034, 2051, 2053, 2054, 2102, 3089, 3091, 3107 were all spreads of loosely compacted mortar, gravel of brick fragments seen in section only. Context 2034 contained a post-medieval tobacco pipe.

1028 Firmly compacted pink-brown clayey-silt with frequent pebbles, 19th-century pottery and tile.

1002 Pink loosely compacted sandy-gravel.

1018 Dark-mid brown moderately compacted silty-clay and grey mortar. The mortar had a patchy distribution, but made up to 40% of the volume of the deposit. There were occasional flecks of tile/brick and pebbles.

1019 Dark sandy-silt, moderately compacted with occasional pebbles, charcoal fragments, brick and tile.

Group 15 consists of a build-up of deposits across the excavated area. For the most part these were horticultural type soils, but the area had clearly been used for dumping as a number of spreads of mortar were also seen. The deposits varied in character greatly, and probably derived from differing soil-formation processes. Contexts 1048, 1002 and 1028 closely resembled the natural deposits on site, and may represent disturbance, possibly by ploughing or tree roots. Contexts 1033, 1052, 1057, 2003, 2033, 2035, 2039, 2041, 2042, 2052, 2055, 2101, 3087, 3090, 3099, 3100 and 3110 all seem to represent the gradual accumulation of soil, possibly resultant

from a build up of horticultural soil within a field. Context 1036 may have been deliberate levelling to create an even surface above the infilled Group 4 ditches. Context 1007 represents a mixture of dumps, and build-ups. The remaining contexts (context 1019, 1018, 2032, 2034, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2102, 3089, 3091, 3107) were all spreads of loosely compacted mortar, gravel or brick fragments which clearly represented dumping.

5.16 Group 16 – Limestone wall and post-hole - 19th century or later

Contexts 1043, 1046, 1047, 1011, 1035, 1034

1043 North-south wall, with only one course surviving, which was built from un-mortared limestone blocks ranging from 30x20x10cm to 8x5x4cm in size. Some of the blocks were roughly angular, but with no clear signs of tooling, except for an irregular shallow socket on one fragment.

1046 East-west aligned wall consisted of two blocks 33x25x16 cm in size but smaller angular fragments up to 13x10x9cm. were also present.

1047 Firmly compacted medium brown clayey silt with angular limestone blocks ranging from 5x3x1cm to 30x20x8cm in size.

1011 Dark to mid brown moderately compacted silty clay and mortar fragments with 18/19th - century pottery and residual 13-16th-century tile.

1035 Ovoid post-hole cut partly outside the area of excavation, 0.60m in diameter and 0.20m deep, with gentle break of slope from surface, steep to vertical sides and a rounded bottom edge with a flat irregular base.

1034 Friable-sticky mid brown slightly orange clayey silty sand with occasional small to medium pebbles, backfill of cut 1035.

Group 16 consisted of a few structural features, which post-dated the Group 15 build-ups. An L-shaped fragment of limestone walling (contexts 1043 and 1046) was located close to Priest Lane. The wall was later demolished (contexts 1047 and 1011) and the resultant mortar and debris spread down slope of the wall. In addition there was an isolated post-hole near the southern end of the excavated area (context 1035) which was backfilled (context 1034).

The Group 16 features are shown in purple on Figure 10.

5.17 Group 17 – Build ups and cuts. Modern

Contexts 2001, 2008, 2031, 2050, 2038, 2037, 1006, 1001, 1003, 1008, 1012, 2019, 2018, 2007, 2006, 2044, 2000, 2010, 2030, 2036, 2041, 2049, 2100, 1000, 3000

2001, 2008, 2031, 2050 Mid-dark brown clayey silt with frequent gravel.

2038 Circular cut with a sharp break of slope at top near vertical sides, a sharp break of slope at the base and flat base. Only seen in section, not recorded in plan.

2037 White to grey mortar with frequent small 16-18th-century brick fragments, backfill of cut 2038.

1006 Pink-orange loosely compacted clay, with occasional small pebbles 2cm in size.

1001 Dark grey loosely compacted clayey-sand with frequent stones ranging from 10-40mm.

1003 Pink loosely compacted sandy gravel.

1008 Mid brown, quite loosely compacted clay silt with inclusions of occasional stones between 1-5cm.

- 1012 A highly irregular hole above natural, with a deep V-shaped edge 0.50m x 0.40m in size and 0.16m deep and an associated shallow rounded U-shaped edge.
- 2019 Linear cut with vertical sides and a flat base.
- 2018 Mixed dumped deposit sealed by regenerated turf, backfill of cut 2019.
- 2007 Largely outside the area of excavation, the portion visible was sub-rectangular. Sharp break of slope and the surface, vertical sides. Not fully excavated so shape of base unknown.
- 2006 Moderately compacted dark brown clayey silt with frequent cobbles, patches of orange clay, gravel and grass, backfill of 2007.
- 2044 Moderately compacted dark brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and medieval or later brick.
- 2000 Loosely compacted dark brown to black slightly clayey sandy silt.
- 2010 Dark brown to black moderately compacted clayey silt with medieval or later brick.
- 2030 Dark brown to black moderately compacted clayey silt with a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe.
- 2036 Dark grey to black firmly compacted silty clay with occasional small pebbles.
- 2041 Dark brown to black clayey silt, moderately compacted with occasional small pebbles.
- 2049 Dark brown to black moderately compacted clayey silt with a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe.
- 2100 Dark grey to black firmly compacted sandy silt with occasional small cobbles, and medieval or later brick.
- 1000 Number allocated for the machine clearance of the car park area. It consisted of a topsoil up to 0.40m thick of dark grey loosely compacted silty-clay, with occasional small stones ranging from 5-20mm in size, and occasional patches of sand. This was above a variety of bank build-up deposits similar to those seen in trial trench 2 (Johnson 1998, 10).
- 3000 Number allocated to machine cleared deposit in Area 3. This consisted of turf and topsoil above a build-up of mid brown clayey silt with pebbles, there were occasional lenses of mortar and occasional lenses of gravel/fine pebbles. The machining ranged from 34cm thick on the western side to up to 90 cm deep on the eastern side. All finds recovered were of post-medieval/modern date.

Contexts 2001, 2008, 2031 and 2050 may represent dumps or deliberate attempts at levelling the area. Cutting these deposits was a small post-hole (context 2038) which was later infilled (context 2037). In Area 1 there were a number of build-up deposits (context 1006, 1001, 1003, 1000, 1008) and a small feature which probably represents tree root disturbance (context 1012). In Area 2 the 1998 trial trench 7 and backfill was rediscovered (context 2019 and 2018), as was a recent engineering test pit and backfill (contexts 2007 and fill 2006). The modern topsoil and build-up deposits were numbered as contexts 2044, 2000, 2010, 2030, 2036, 2041, 2049, 2100 in Area 2 and context 3000 in Area 3.

Cuts 2007 and 2019 of Group 17 are shown in yellow on Figure 10.

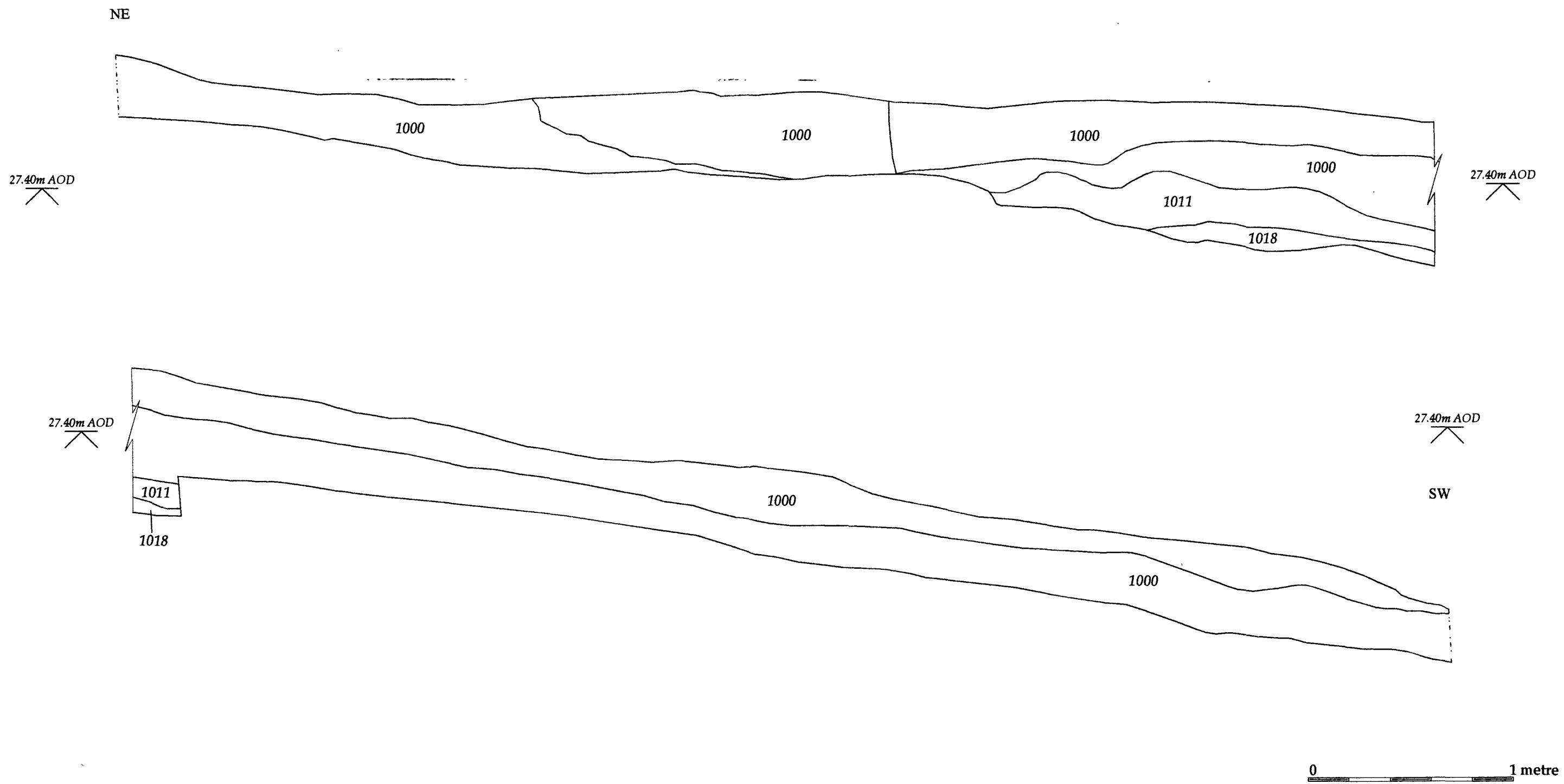


Figure 12 Section 4 North-west facing section in Area 1.

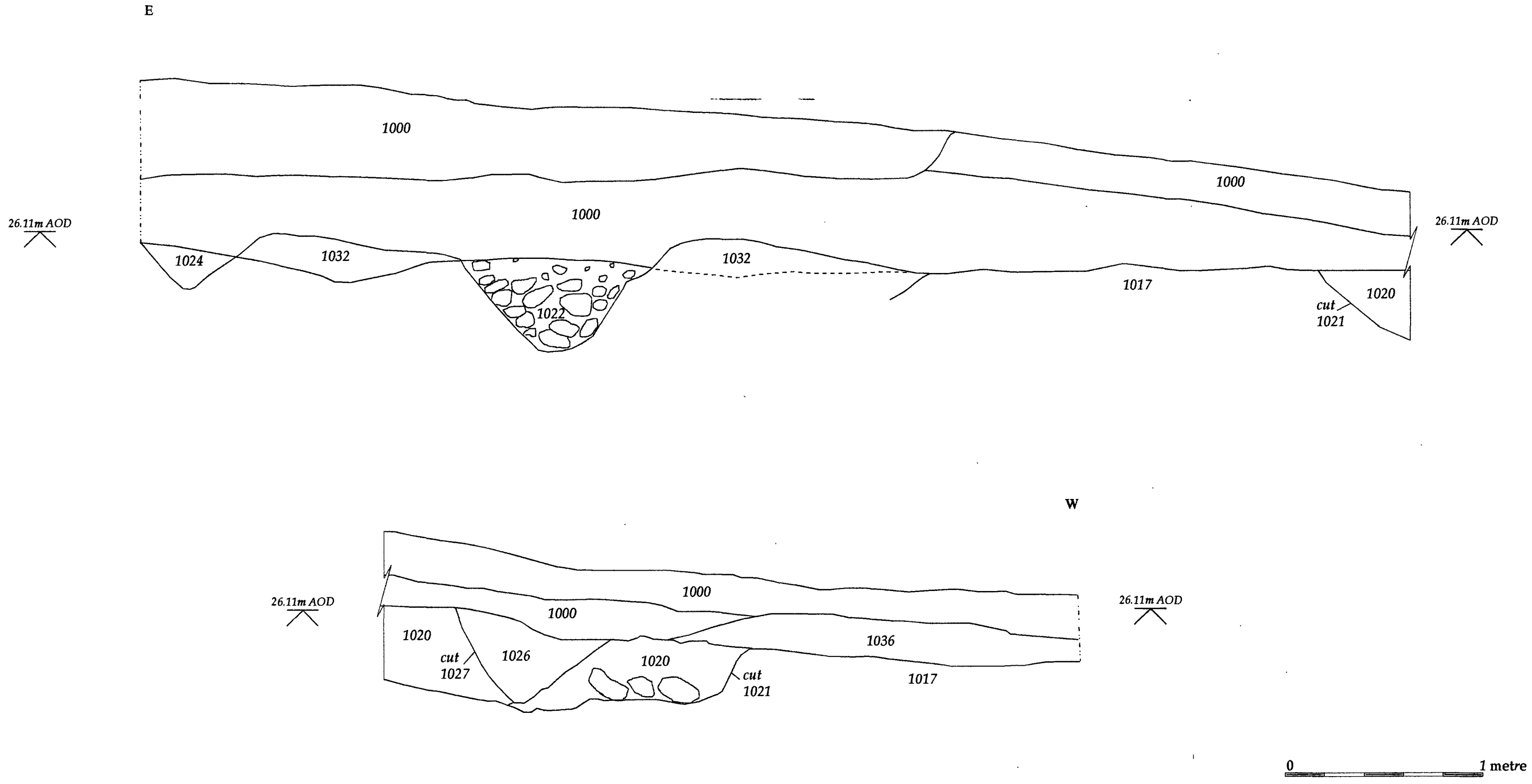


Figure 13 Section 6 North-west facing section in Area 1.

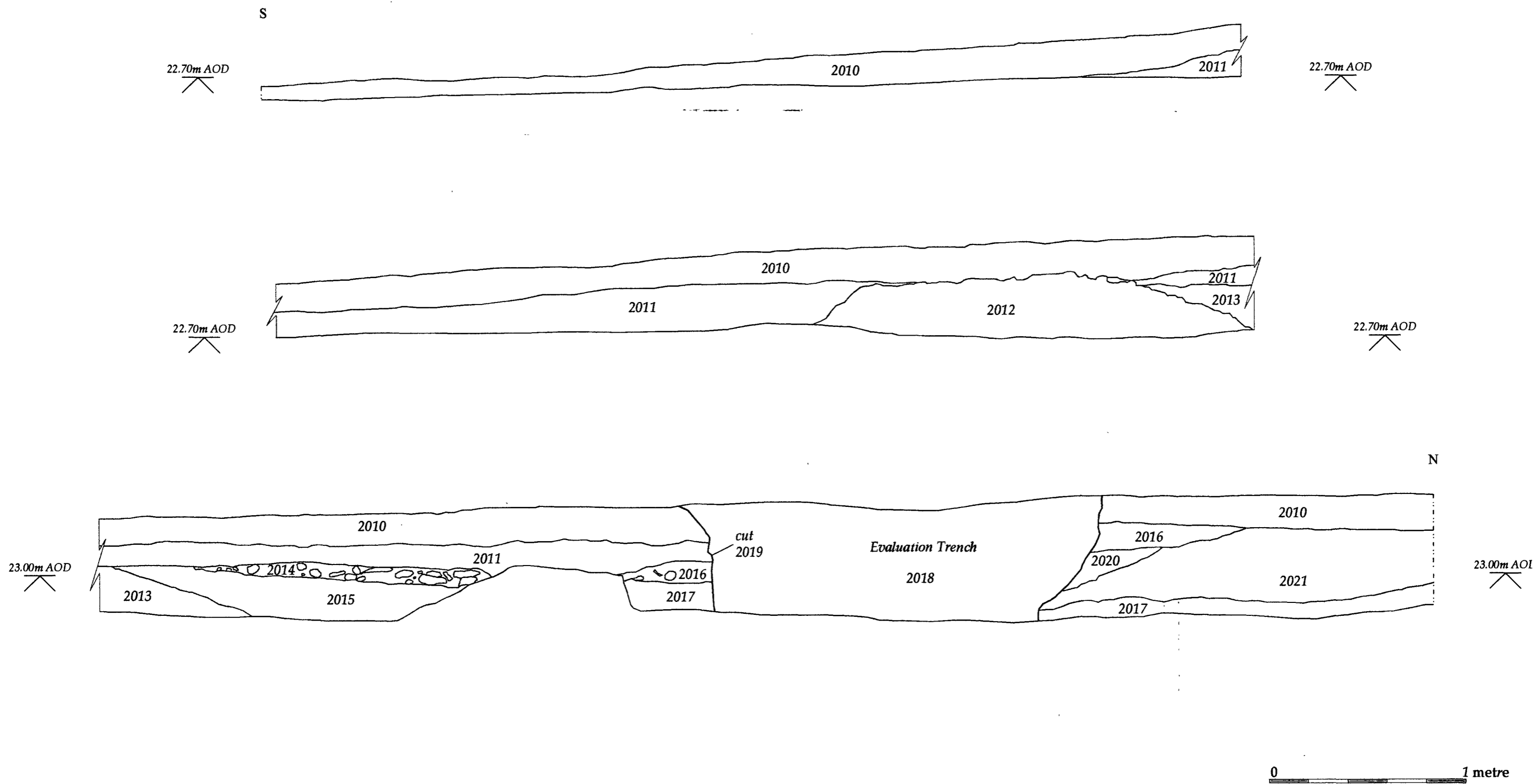


Figure 14 Section 14 South-east facing section in Area 2.

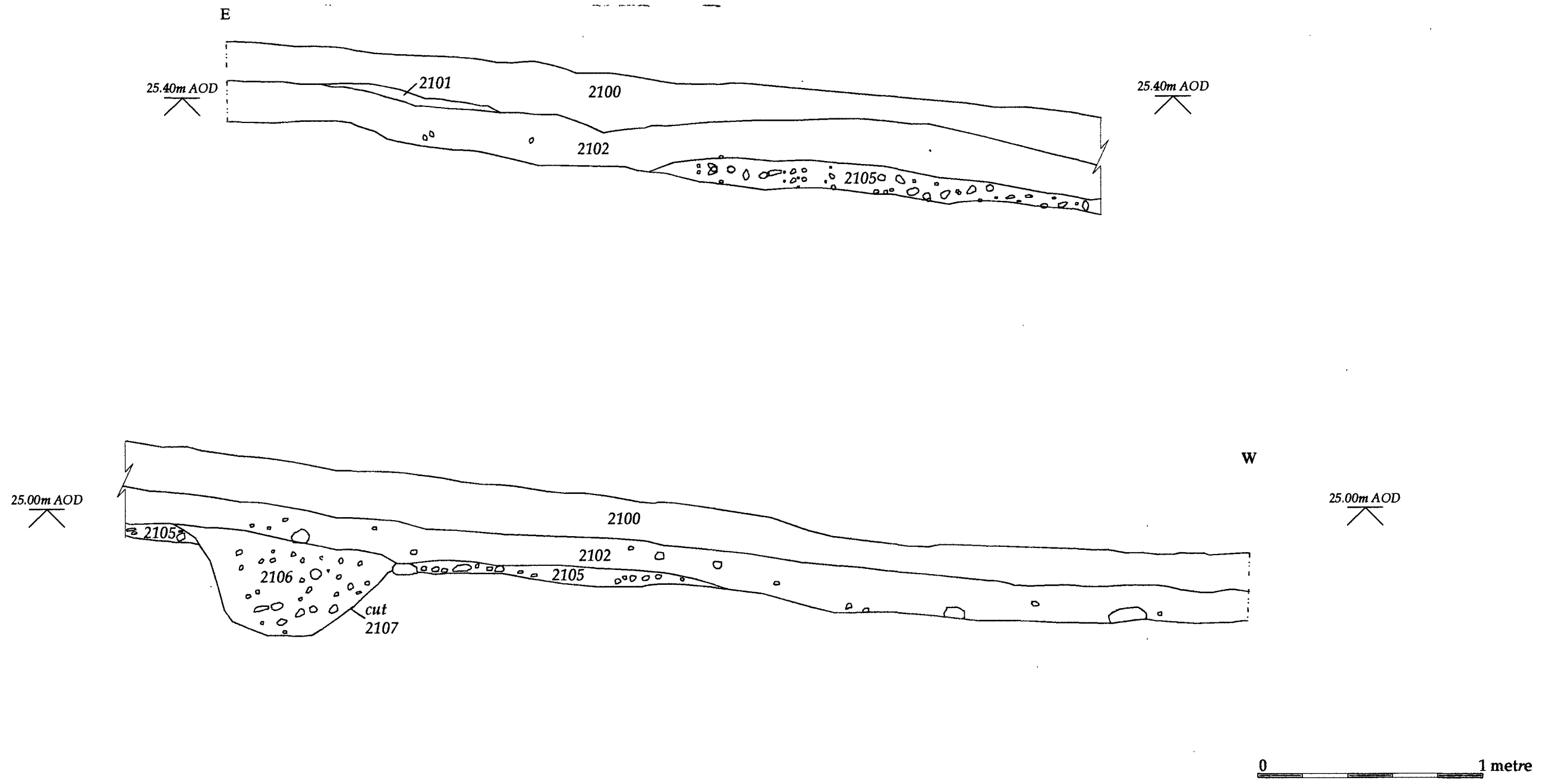


Figure 15 Section 15 North-west facing section in Areas 2 & 3.