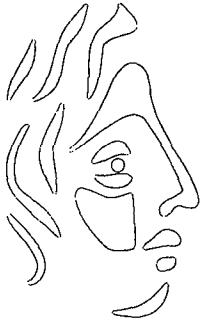


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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
T R U S T

**OUSEGATE,
SELBY,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**



**1998 FIELD REPORT
NUMBER 35**

**OUSEGATE, SELBY,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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WATCHING BRIEF**

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ABSTRACT

A watching brief demonstrated that the area covered by the development had been occupied in the Roman period and from the middle ages up until the present day. The 2.0m of deposits relating to all these periods were, at the time of the watching brief, complex, and on the whole moist and well preserved. The watching brief could, however, give little insight into the development or typology of the deposits in question. Certain attributes, such as the relative sparsity of domestic material and the large amount of deposits containing burnt matter, suggested that this area was given over to industry possibly related to metal working. It was also evident that property boundaries laid out in the 13th century had been respected by a succession of buildings up until the 17th/18th centuries, the date of the cellars of the latest buildings to have occupied the site. The strategy stipulated on this site to mitigate the destruction and disturbance caused by the development has clearly been woefully inadequate; the details reported below demonstrate the considerable archaeological value of the deposits which were removed without an appropriately detailed record. Selby, a town of considerable regional importance, has suffered a significant historical loss.

1. INTRODUCTION

Between the 13th and 30th July 1998 York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the foundations for a block of flats at the junction of Ousegate and New Street, Selby, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 6170 3241) (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by W A. Hare and Son Ltd. in compliance with a planning condition imposed by Selby District Council at the instigation of the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council. — 8/19/298 B/PA

2. TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The market town of Selby is situated on the south bank of the River Ouse, some 12 miles south of York. The site under investigation was located at the junction of Ousegate and New Street immediately south of the bridge over the River Ouse. Earlier buildings here had been demolished some years ago and the site was relatively level prior to the beginning of this development. The site surface level was at 5.60 - 5.70m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), only 200m south of the river bank.

Selby is situated on alluvial deposits in the base of the Vale of York. The underlying geology is of Bunter Sandstone, pebble beds and basal breccias (Geological Survey, 1957).

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The place name Selby, first recorded as "Seleby" in c.1030, is generally believed to mean "the farmstead by the willows" (Smith 1961). This, together with the street names of Ousegate, Micklegate, Gowthorpe and Finkle Street contain elements which suggest their origin in the Viking period.

The foundation of the Benedictine Abbey of St Germain at Selby in 1070 would have acted as a stimulus to local trade and it is likely that development around the earlier nucleus at this time. The abbey precinct was to the south of the site under discussion and the main abbey wharf was upstream of the ferry, some 50 metres to the north-west. However, it is likely that Ousegate was always a significant street from the perspective of river-borne trade and Morrell records that there were 38 residences in the street in 1574 (Morrell 1867).

Selby Bridge was constructed in 1791-2 and New Street dates from this time when a new right of way was opened from the River Ouse, along New Street and The Crescent, to the Market Place to the south of Selby Abbey. Maps of Selby prior to the construction of the bridge show structures along the south side of Ousegate with jetties and stone jetties shown extending out into the river. In the 1840's the rear of the site under discussion here was occupied by a brewery the buildings of which surrounded the site with a small area of yard in the centre. The Ousegate street frontage appears to have been divided into five separate properties. These properties seem to have remained on the site until their demolition in the mid 20th century.

Despite a slight upturn in recent years relatively little archaeological work has been carried out in Selby and none in the vicinity of this site. It is reported (Addyman, pers.comm.) that approximately one metre of waterlogged material was observed during the construction of the shopping centre adjacent to the Market Place. More recent work by York Archaeological Trust at Gowthorpe (YAT 1992 and 1993) and MAP Archaeological Consultancy (CBA Forum 1996,7 and 8) at Gowthorpe and Irwin's Yard, Micklegate has demonstrated the survival of complex medieval urban deposits with good environmental preservation. These results suggest that, where not disturbed by modern intrusions, medieval and earlier Selby is preserved just below the modern surface.

4. METHODOLOGY

The ground works for the development initially involved the reduction of the ground surface to approximately 0.82m BGL (metres Below Ground Level) or to 4.85m AOD (Figure 2). It rapidly became clear that the removal of this amount of material would destroy complex, intact, well preserved archaeological deposits. Consequently, following discussions between the developer and the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council (advising the local planning authority), the levels were raised by approximately 0.30m, to 5.15m AOD, a level which would cause less disturbance.

The reduction of the ground surface revealed the cellars of buildings that had previously occupied the site (Figure 3; Areas 1 and 3). These were emptied of their loose brick and mortar rubble fill before the cellar walls were removed, down to basement floor level, and the resulting void back-filled with compacted quarry stone. The brick footings for these buildings, where they encroached on the new foundation slab, were also removed (Figure 3, Area 4). In both cases the brickwork was removed to prevent 'hard spots' that may have caused damage to the new foundations.

A large well was also uncovered during the site clearance. This was located 0.80m to the south-west of Area 1 (Figure 3; 1002) and was recorded prior to its being drained and back-filled with quarry stone. The well was constructed entirely of radially laid brick headers bonded with a soft white lime mortar and, at the surface, had a diameter of 1.60m which gradually widened with

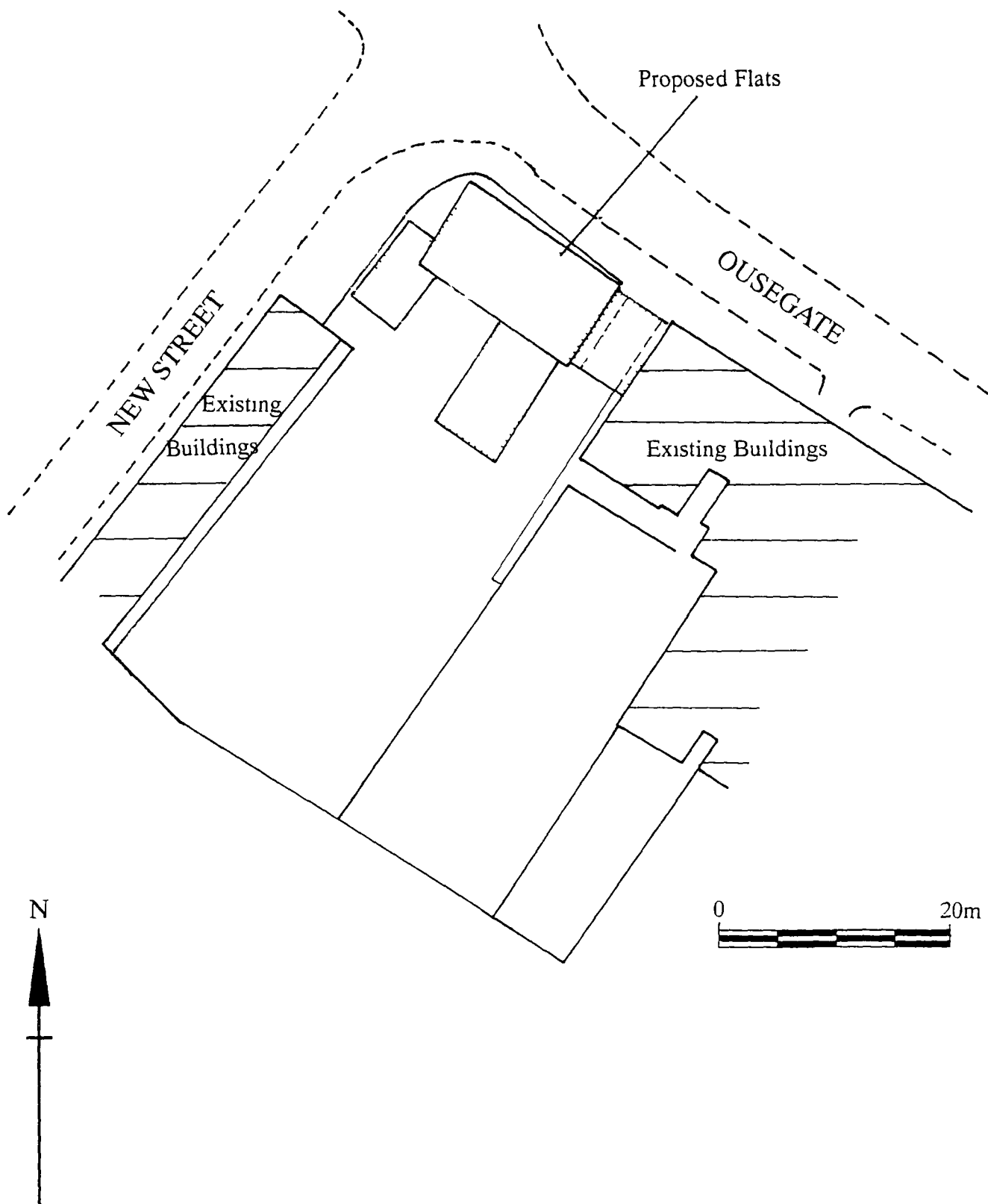


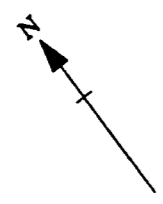
Figure 2, Layout of New Building

Ousegate

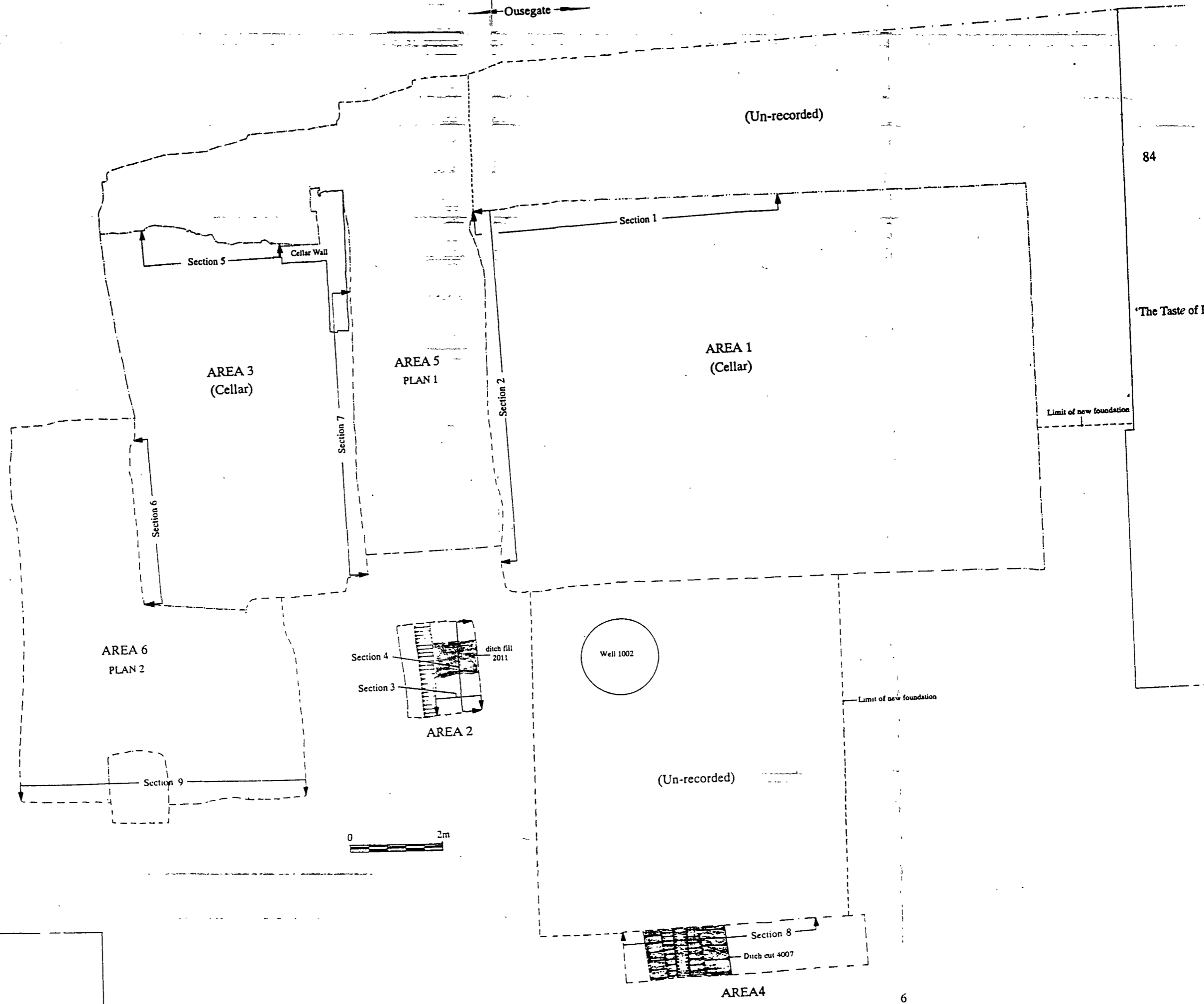
(Un-recorded)

84

'The Taste of India'



New Street



28

'Bright Sparks'

Figure 3, location of Cellars, Plans and Sections

6

depth to give a 'bottle' shaped profile. When the well was plumbed it was found to be in excess of 5.0m deep, the silts in the bottom preventing the original base being reached. The type of brick suggested that the well was built in the 17th/18th centuries and its large size suggested that it was used to supply water for industrial use and may relate to the brewery that once occupied the site

The works also involved the excavation of several pipe trenches for the installation of new sewers. With the exception of Trench 2 (Figure 3), which was excavated to allow the connection of the new sewers to the existing services, these lay outside the area covered by the watching brief and their excavation was not monitored. Areas of the site adjacent to Area 1 were not recorded (Figure 3; unrecorded) because of the almost constant use of these areas as an access road or for manouevering plant and machinery and for the storage of quarry stone and building materials.

All of the ground-works were carried out by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. Archaeological deposits were recorded as drawn plans at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10, and described using pro-forma context recording sheets. A series of 35mm colour photographs was also taken.

The artifacts and site records are currently stored by York Archaeological Trust prior to deposition with the Yorkshire Museum under their accession code YORYM: 1998.163

5. RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Area 1

Section numbers 1 and 2 were both located in Area 1 (Figure 3) which was formerly occupied by the cellars of a building which had been demolished several years ago. Section 1 extended approximately 5.20m further towards the south-east, but, due to the cellar back-fill remaining in-situ, that 5.2m could not be recorded (Figure 3; Unrecorded). The areas that were available for recording had been excavated to a maximum depth of 0.96m **B.G.L.** or 4.27m **A.O.D.**

5.1.1 Section 1 (Figure 4)

The earliest deposit consisted of an extensive levelling deposit of mixed dumps. This was exposed to a maximum depth of approximately 0.38m, continued beyond the base of the excavated area and at its highest point reached 4.64m **A.O.D.** The main constituent was friable dark grey brown clay sand silt (1043), varying in the concentration of sand and clay across the whole of the exposed section. The deposit included occasional cobbles, small pebbles, brick/tile fragments, flecks to small fragments of burnt clay, mortar flecks and moderate charcoal flecks. Seven sherds of pottery recovered from this context dated it to the 11th/12th century.

Cut directly into the top of 1043, towards the south-eastern limit of excavation, was a 0.31m wide, over 0.32m deep, steep sided post hole cut (1048) which contained a back-fill of friable, soft mid yellowish brown silt sand with inclusions of occasional charcoal and mortar flecks

(1047). Located 0.95m to the north-west of cut 1048 was a shallow 0.06m deep depression in the surface of context 1043 which had been back-filled with small pebbles in a matrix of friable dark brown clay sand silt (1046) with inclusions of moderate medium cobbles and flecks/small fragments of charcoal. This feature could have represented a levelled irregularity in the ground surface or possibly a shallow standing/post pad. Cut 1048, and context 1046, may both have been features associated with a substantial post-built structure.

Context 1043 was also sealed by contexts 1042 and 1039 which may represent the eroded internal floor surfaces to this building. Context 1042, which was contemporary with 1039, was a 0.03m thick floor surface of compacted plastic yellowish brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks. Context 1039 consisted of a friable, gritty grey tinged yellowish orange deposit of ash, sand and burnt clay flecks (in equal proportions). It was 0.04m thick, and was thought to be the use deposit associated with a hearth. This either lay beyond the excavated area or had been removed by the construction of the cellars. Alternatively this may have been a dump of burnt material that was a part of the overlying levelling deposits.

The poor state of repair of the floor surface(s) and / or factors such as changes in the height of the surrounding area, possibly through the build up of occupation deposits or water logging caused by changes in the water table, were rectified by raising the ground surface with mixed dumps of material before occupation recommenced. Both contexts 1039 and 1042 were sealed beneath a very mixed levelling deposit (1040) consisting of, on the whole, a friable mid brown slightly clay silt, up to 0.38m thick, with a number of ill defined thin lenses of yellow fine grained sand silt, patches of reddish clay silt, several gritty sand patches and small clay patches. The inclusions included occasional small pebbles, medium cobbles, flecks to small fragments of mortar, flecks to very small brick/tile fragments, flecks of burnt clay, (red), and one well defined thin lense of plastic, buff, slightly silty clay (1041).

Context 1045, sealing both contexts 1046 and 1047, was an isolated dump of material that formed part of the same levelling operation and consisted of a friable slightly plastic fine sand silt, 0.10m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles.

Stratigraphically above this, and context 1040, was the final phase of the levelling operation. This consisted of a mixed deposit (1044) of equal proportions of friable mid brown slightly clay sand silt and a buff coloured fine sand silt, up to 0.35m thick, with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks, occasional medium cobbles, clusters of small pebbles and brick/tile flecks which also produced a single sherd of 13th-century pottery.

Context 1040 was sealed by a series of floor deposits and features. The earliest of these were contexts 1034 and 1037. Context 1034 was a small patch of firm to plastic buff coloured clay silt that had been used to level a shallow 0.04m deep depression in the top of context 1040 prior to the laying of a floor surface of plastic mid greyish brown clay silt with fine buff coloured clay laminations, (1033) 0.03m thick. This floor surface may have extended as far, or even further, than the northwestern limit of the section.

Context 1037, stratigraphically above 1040, was a 0.08m thick, sterile, with the exception of one fleck of charcoal, buff coloured fine grained sand silt, levelling / make up deposit for a floor surface of plastic mid greyish brown clay sand silt, (1036) 0.04m thick, which had inclusions of occasional flecks of charcoal and one thin lense of pale yellow silt.

The relationship between floors 1033 and 1036 is not certain as a shallow 0.10m deep x 0.95m wide pit cut (1161) had truncated the south-eastern edge of context 1036 and removed the intervening deposits. Cut 1161 may have been the construction cut for a robbed out hearth but the lack of burnt material in its back-fill (1038) a friable buff coloured fine grained sandy silt with pockets of pale grey brown sand silt with inclusions of occasional small brick/tile fragments, mortar and charcoal flecks, and no indications of scorching to the surrounding deposits, suggested otherwise.

The vertical north-western side of cut 1161 may represent the impression left by the removal of a structural element such as a light sill wall of stone, brick or timber that had been robbed for re-use. This suggests that floors 1033 and 1036 were the floor surfaces to different rooms or areas within the same building. This was also reflected in the way that greater care was taken to level the underlying ground surface (1037) prior to the laying of floor 1036 which, in the small area that was visible, appeared to be in a better state of preservation. This again suggested that 1036 was in a different area and was not subjected to the same amount of use / erosion as floor 1033 or that it was in an area subjected to less wear, i.e. on the perimeter of a room, close to the walls.

The back-filling of cut 1161 indicates the end use of floors 1036 and 1033 and the commencement of another episode of levelling prior to the reinstatement of a floor surface(s). The earliest of these deposits was a 0.01m thick lense of compact brownish yellow slightly clay fine grained sand silt (1057), with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, that was either an occupation deposit or levelling dump on the surface of floor 1033.

Stratigraphically above 1057 was a small levelling deposit, (1031) up to 0.05m thick, of a light to mid greyish brown plastic clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small burnt clay fragments.

Directly above 1031 was a friable light yellowish brown fine grained sand silt, (1032) up to 0.09m thick, which, with the exception of the very occasional charcoal fleck, did not contain any inclusions. This deposit may have been a floor surface in its own right, or, as the lack of contamination from any domestic or industrial activity suggested, was the make up layer for floor 1030, a plastic light greyish brown clay silt, 0.04m thick, which had inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks, brick/tile flecks and small snail shell fragments.

Both back-fill 1038 and deposit 1031 were sealed by a dump of firm pinkish red burnt clay, (1028) 0.08m thick, which had inclusions of occasional small mortar fragments and charcoal flecks. Context 1028 was thought to form part of the same surface as floor 1030. Both shared approximately the same datum, 4.83 to 4.87m A.O.D, and were truncated by the same shallow, 0.30m wide x 0.06m deep, 'U' shaped cut (1160) which contained a back-fill of loose creamy white mortar (1029) up to 0.03m thick, and the occasional small pebble. This may have been just a shallow depression in the ground surface or, as the mortar rich back-fill suggested, the impression left by the subsidence of a mortared stone structure such as a sill wall, post-pad or hard standing that was subsequently demolished and removed.

Context 1028 and floor 1030 seemed to cease functioning as a surface as the area was again levelled in readiness for a new floor surface. This was evident as a mixed dump of demolition derived material (1035), which sealed context 1028, and consisted of a friable light greyish brown clay silt intermixed with a buff coloured fine grained sand silt, which had inclusions of moderate

flecks to small fragments of mortar, occasional small limestone fragments, brick/tile flecks and charcoal flecks. It was up to 0.23m thick in the north-west.

Both this deposit and 1044 were sealed by a 0.09 to 0.17m thick levelling deposit and/or floor surface (1027) which consisted of a plastic pale brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, flecks to small fragments of mortar and small brick/tile fragments. The north-western limit of context 1027 was sealed by a 0.04m thick levelling deposit of compact pale yellowish grey clay (1026) which had been used to both level and extend floor / dump 1027.

This was stratigraphically below a 0.05m thick dump or occupation deposit of a friable mid grey brown slightly clay sand silt (1025) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, mortar flecks and small brick/tile fragments which was sealed by a further levelling deposit (1024) that consisted of a compact dark yellow brown slightly clay sand silt, 0.05m thick, with occasional small pebbles.

Context 1024 may represent the final dump in the formation of an uneven floor surface as it was sealed by an occupation or build up deposit, (1023) up to 0.05m thick, consisting of a charcoal rich mid grey brown clay silt with many very thin laminations of pale brown ashy fine grained sand. The high charcoal and, to a lesser extent, ash content of this deposit suggested that it was industrial in origin and had most likely built up on the floor surface of a workshop.

Stratigraphically above 1023 were two small isolated deposits that may have been the remnants of a later badly eroded floor surface. These consisted of a 0.03m thick friable mid brown silt sand (1021) and a plastic pale brown clay, (1022) 0.03m thick, which had inclusions of occasional charcoal and mortar flecks.

The north-western edge of 1023 was truncated by an over 0.50m wide, 0.30m deep vertical sided construction cut (1052) which continued beyond the north-western limit of excavation. This contained the foundations (1006) to a substantial north-east - south-west aligned wall. The foundations were constructed from roughly worked dry bonded magnesian limestone ashlar blocks. The largest of these, 0.10m deep and over 0.45m in length, was laid in a header fashion before a second course of two roughly worked blocks, one 0.19m deep and 0.22m wide, the other 0.18m deep and in excess of 0.22m in length, were laid in a stretcher bond. All three blocks had, in places, well finished finely tooled surfaces which suggested that all three were re-used and had been removed from a high status building. The most likely structure of this type would be Selby Abbey which, over the centuries, has suffered several episodes of partial collapse or destruction.

After the wall was constructed the remainder of the cut was back-filled with a friable light to mid brown sandy silt (1051) with inclusions of frequent flecks to small fragments of mortar, an occasional (1) small brick/tile fragment and charcoal flecks.

Both contexts 1022 and 1021 were sealed by a leveling deposit of fine mortar rubble, (1020) up to 0.20m thick, which had inclusions of moderate small to medium brick and tile fragments and occasional small pale brown silt patches. This had been used to raise and level the ground surface in readiness for a 0.02m thick floor surface of compacted firm creamy brown lime mortar (1004) which produced three sherds of 12th-century pottery.

Levelling deposit 1020 and surface 1004 may have related to the internal floor surfaces of the building that used foundation 1006. This could not be proven as both the wall construction cut back-fill (1051) and leveling deposit 1020 had been truncated by a vertical sided, over 0.53m wide x 0.19m deep, construction cut (1050) that contained a foundation course which incorporated 1006 as part of the new structure. The new wall/foundation (1005) consisted of three courses of brick headers bonded with a pale brown lime mortar containing inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks. The size (255 x 55 x 125mm) and type of brick used dated its construction to the 16th/17th centuries

The back-fill of the construction cut consisted of a friable mid greyish brown sandy silt (1049) with inclusions of moderate flecks to small fragments of mortar, occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Both context 1049 and floor 1004 were sealed by a small deposit of a friable mid yellow brown fine grained silt sand, (1003) 0.18m thick, containing only the occasional charcoal fleck. This may conceivably be the remnant of a floor surface associated with wall 1005 or, more likely, a post demolition leveling deposit which, after the initial site ground reduction, forms the present day ground surface at 5.22m AOD.

At the south-eastern limit of excavation, context 1044 was sealed by a 0.07m thick deposit of a slightly plastic pale grey brown slightly sandy clay silt (1018) with inclusions of occasional charcoal and mortar flecks, small mortar fragments, brick/tile fragments and small pebbles. This may have been a floor surface or, more likely, a pre-construction levelling deposit that formed the surface on which a sill wall or post-pad (1014) was founded. This was constructed from a single 0.12m deep x 0.35m wide finely carved re-used magnesian limestone block (complete with masons' marks and, on several faces, setting out marks for the cutting of the moulding), with a single tile course bonded to its upper face with a thin layer of compacted light brown sand silt. The incorporation of the tile course suggested that this was a north-east - south-west aligned sill beam wall or light foundation course rather than an isolated post-pad.

Stratigraphically above, and running up to the south-east face of, wall 1014 was a 0.13m thick deposit consisting of a loose mid yellow brown slightly clay sand (1013) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks. This deposit was thought to be the levelling/make-up deposit for a floor surface (or a floor surface in its own right) within a building or room delineated by wall 1014.

Directly above 1013 was a post-demolition levelling deposit consisting of a loose yellow sand (1012) with inclusions of occasional small brick and mortar fragments which had been truncated, on its south-eastern edge, by an over 0.22m wide, in excess of 0.81m deep steep sided cut (1017). The back-fill of cut 1017 consisted of a friable pale brown silt sand (1016), with inclusions of frequent small to large brick/tile fragments and moderate small pebbles, which was almost certainly post-medieval in date and probably represented the back-fill of a modern service trench

Context 1044 was also sealed by a levelling deposit consisting of a plastic pale brown slightly sand silt, (1010) 0.20m thick, with inclusions of occasional small to medium tile fragments, flecks to small fragments of mortar, yellow sandstone fragments, mussel shell fragments and charcoal flecks.

Both contexts 1010 and 1012 were truncated by a 0.87m wide x 0.30m deep, vertically sided (except on the south-east side where there is a shallow step) construction cut (1015). This contained a north-east - south-west aligned brick foundation or standing (1019) which was

constructed from one course of edge-set brick headers followed by two courses of stretchers bonded with a soft creamy white lime mortar. Both the construction cut back-fill, (1011) a friable light grey brown sand silt with inclusions of moderate small pale brown clay lumps, occasional flecks to small mortar fragments, small pebbles and charcoal flecks, and foundation 1019 had been truncated during the machine reduction of the site. A brick sample (240 x 119 x 60mm) recovered from context 1019 gave a construction date of the 16th to 18th century.

Contexts 1010 and 1020 were also both stratigraphically below a 0.52m wide x 0.20m deep, vertically sided construction cut (1055) which contained a wall foundation (1009) and a back-fill (1054) of a friable dark grey brown sandy silty clay with inclusions of occasional charcoal, mortar and brick/tile flecks. Foundation 1009 consisted of two blocks of dry bonded roughly worked magnesian limestone, one 0.12 deep x 0.23 wide and the other 0.16m deep x 0.27m wide, beneath two courses of bricks, (dimensions 255 x 121 x 57mm), laid in a header/stretcher bond, fixed with a soft creamy white lime mortar. The fact that the primary course of dry bonded limestone and construction cut back fill were both sealed by the courses of mortared brickwork suggested, as with foundation 1006, that the courses of limestone may be earlier than the brick work and had been incorporated into a later rebuild. A brick sample recovered from the foundation dated its construction to the 16th/17th centuries.

A small deposit of friable to firm buff yellowish fine grained sandy silt (1056), also sealing 1010, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, may be the remnant of an internal floor surface, or surface make up, associated with wall 1009

Both this deposit and the south-eastern face of 1019 were sealed by a demolition deposit (1008) consisting of small to medium brick and mortar fragments in a matrix of friable mid yellow brown silt sand, up to 0.12m deep. This deposit, and a dump of the same material (1007) sealing the north-west face of 1009, was most likely generated by the demolition of the upper courses of walling, constructed on foundation 1009, which was then used to level the area after demolition had taken place.

Context 1053, located in the north-west corner of section 4, was a remnant of the cellar walls that had been removed by the machine prior to recording taking place

5.1.2 Section 2 (Figure 5)

The earliest deposit seen was, at its highest point, at 4.74m AOD and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m, continuing beyond the base of the excavated area. This was an extensive levelling deposit (1155) consisting of mixed dumps of a friable mid to dark grey brown sandy clay silt, containing inclusions of moderate charcoal flecking, occasional spots to small patches of olive green silt, burnt clay flecks, rotted limestone / sandstone flecks, small pebbles and brick fragments. The four sherds of pottery recovered were dated to the 11th century whereas a sample of brick from the same deposit suggested a medieval date. The deposition of context 1155 marks a major change in the ground levels before a new phase of occupation commences.

Context 1155 had been truncated by a 0.30m wide x 0.18m deep steep sided cut (1126) which contained a primary fill of a friable pale brown marbled pale grey silt sand (1125) sealed by a tertiary fill of a loose mid orange brown silt sand (1124) which contained occasional charcoal flecks.

The north-eastern limit of fill 1124 was sealed by a small levelling/dump deposit (1123) up to 0.11m thick, consisting of a friable dark grey mottled pale brown clay silt which had been truncated by a 0.50m wide, 0.10m deep gently sloping irregular sided cut (1122) containing a back-fill (1121) consisting of a plastic pale greyish brown silty clay.

Directly above this was a substantial, up to 0.40m thick, dump of a loosely friable pale yellowish brown clay silt (1120) with inclusions of frequent pale greyish brown clay streaks and occasional charcoal flecks. This was thought to have been a dump of re-deposited alluvium that was used to either back-fill a pit or raise the level of the ground surface.

Cut 1122 appeared to be a re-cut of 1126 and probably served the same purpose. Both cuts may originally have contained a stone post-pad, sill beam or timber post which formed the north-eastern side wall or boundary to a building or property which lay to the south-west.

The surface of 1155, to the north-east of cuts 1126 and 1122, had a marked south-west to north-east fall of some 0.13 to 0.20m. This was most likely attributable to the increased density of cut features within this area, suggesting that this had been the back yard to a building, or was a different property altogether and was subjected to a different use.

The earliest of these cut features was a heavily truncated small pit or post hole (1151) which had a gently rounded base and contained a fill (1150) of a friable mid grey sandy silt with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and thin lenses of pale brown sand, which produced two sherds of 12th-century pottery. Context 1150 had been truncated to the north-east by cut 1154 and to the south-west by cut 1159.

1154 was a 0.22m deep x over 0.57m wide steep sided cut with a gently rounded base which contained a back-fill (1153) consisting of dry bonded small to large limestone and sand stone fragments. This was either rubble used to back-fill a pit or, as seems more likely, due to the ordered way that the stonework had been laid within the cut, the foundation for a wall or hard standing. Neither is certain as both the cut and fill continued beyond the north-eastern limit of excavation and were only seen in section.

1159 was a shallow, between 0.04 to 0.07m deep, 1.36m wide, cut with a gently falling side on the north-east, almost imperceptible on the south-west, leading to a gently rounded almost flat base. This contained a primary fill (1149) consisting of a friable olive green mottled dark grey sandy clay silt, with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks, which produced a single sherd of 13th-century pottery.

Context 1149 was sealed by a tertiary fill (1148) consisting of a compact, plastic pale grey brown silty clay with frequent (up to 50%) flecks to small patches of burnt clay, and occasional charcoal flecks, which produced a single sherd of 12th-century pottery.

The back-filling of cut 1159 appeared to have signified a change in use for the area. The upper fill of cut 1159 (1148) was stratigraphically below a deposit consisting of a plastic, green tinged mid brown clay, (1136) 0.03m thick, with inclusions of occasional small pockets of pale brown silt and very occasional charcoal flecks. This formed, as the lack of build-up or contamination through occupation suggested, a temporary uneven floor surface which extended for 2.20m to the south-west where it was truncated by later activity.

A large 0.18m wide, 0.14m deep magnesian limestone ashlar block (1152) was also founded on the surface of context 1148. Although 1152 was located 0.19m to the north-east of floor 1136 both were thought to be contemporary. 1152 was most likely an isolated post-pad, or remnant of a sill wall, which was part of the structure that had used floor 1136 as an internal surface.

Both context 1136 and the south-west face of limestone 1152 were sealed by a mixed levelling dump consisting, mainly, of a friable brownish yellow clayey fine grained sand silt and a plastic mid brownish grey clay silt (1135), 0.09 to 0.18m thick, containing inclusions of occasional charcoal, red burnt clay and mortar flecks, occasional medium cobbles, small pebbles, small brown clay lumps and small stone fragments.

Context 1135 had been truncated by a 0.15m wide, 0.14m deep vertical sided round based post-hole cut (1147) which contained a back-fill consisting of a friable mid to dark grey brown clay silt (1146), with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, small burnt sandstone and large limestone fragments, which produced two sherds of 12th-century pottery. Cut 1147 may have been one of a series of post-holes that either represented a rebuild or episode of repair and /or alteration to the structure that was founded on post pad / sill beam wall 1152.

Levelling deposit 1135, which extended 2.34m to the south-west of post pad / footing 1152, may have been used to form a rough uneven surface to this building.

Cuts 1158, a 0.07m deep, 0.13m wide 'U' shaped depression, and 1157, a 0.16m deep, 0.10m wide depression with a steep side to the south-west, rounded base and gently sloping north-east side, also truncated 1135. Both these cuts were thought to be later than cut 1147 as the fills that they contained were indistinct from the overlying levelling deposits. This suggested that any structural elements that they had contained, i.e. timber posts or pad-stones, had been removed almost immediately before the area was levelled. The shallow irregular nature of both cuts also suggested that they may not have been dug specifically to contain posts but were more likely to have been subsidence hollows caused by the weight of the superstructure that they carried. The type of structure could not be ascertained as both features were only seen in section. The rough irregular nature of the ground surface suggested that it may have been something akin to a shed or work-shop within a yard to one side, or the rear, of a building fronting onto Ousegate or New Street.

Cut 1157 was sealed by a build-up/dump deposit consisting of a plastic mid brown silty clay (1134), 0.04 to 0.12m thick, with inclusions of occasional thin lenses of pale yellow sand and charcoal flecks which extended for 0.64m to the south-west, where it was truncated by later activity.

Context 1145, stratigraphically above 1135, lay to the north-east of context 1134 and consisted of a plastic reddish brown silty clay which may have represented a post-demolition levelling or dump deposit which had been used to raise the ground surface before a new phase of construction began.

This new construction was in the form of a substantial wall or foundation (1069) constructed from two courses of magnesian limestone. The first course consisted of one large block of limestone, 0.30m wide x 0.20m deep, bonded to an upper course, a substantial 0.31m wide x

0.22m deep block of limestone, with a 0.01m thick layer of compact mid brown clay silt. Although both blocks appeared to be roughly hewn there were traces of fine tooling to the face of the lower course which suggested that it, and most likely the upper course, were re-used masonry 'quarried' from a demolished building. The lack of a recognizable construction cut and the way that deposits ran right up to both the south-west and north-east faces of wall/foundation 1069 suggested that it had been constructed at ground level. The shallow, vertical sided depression formed in the top of contexts 1134 and 1145 is attributable to subsidence caused by the weight of the superstructure that 1069 had originally carried. The type of structure that this was is uncertain as foundation/wall 1069 only seen in section. It was, however, noticeable that the deposits to either side differed in both their consistency and the way that they had been formed. This suggested that 1069 had been a distinct boundary, delineating areas of different activity. It is quite possible, but by no means certain, that 1069 represents an alteration or rebuild of the structure that had used cuts 1126 and 1122 for its foundations. It either increased the internal area of the original building by moving the outer wall 1.30m to the north-east, or signified the construction of a new larger building within the same plot of land.

The deposits to the north-east of wall 1069 were, as they were only seen in section, difficult to interpret. The earliest of these deposits (1144) sealed the north-eastern face of 1069 and extended for over 2.30m to the north-east where it also sealed contexts 1152, 1146 and cut 1158 before running beyond the limit of excavation. Context 1144 consisted of a friable pale orange brown silt, between 0.04 to 0.16m thick, with inclusions of frequent thin lenses of charcoal and occasional small limestone and sandstone fragments that may have been used to raise and, to a lesser extent, level the ground surface. It is more likely, as the many thin structured lenses of charcoal within this deposit strongly suggest, that it represented a build-up of material on an uneven floor surface. The marked south-west to north-east fall of some 0.23m in the surface level of this deposit may be attributable to erosion during its use or to truncation by later activity.

Context 1144 was sealed by a dump of small to large sandstone and limestone fragments in a matrix of pale orange brown silt (1143), up to 0.12m thick, which had inclusions of occasional small cobbles, medium brick fragments and tile fragments which provided a date of the 13th/16th centuries. Directly above this was a dump of compact purplish brown silty clay (1142) up to 0.15m thick, which had, in conjunction with 1143, been used to raise the ground level and form an uneven surface at approximately 4.95m AOD. This may have been short-lived as there was no evidence of build-up or occupation present before dumping re-commenced. Alternatively, contexts 1144, 1143 and 1142 may have all been part of the same dumping operation that, including 1139, was used to raise the ground level to the top of the upper course of wall/foundation 1069 to form a contemporary ground surface.

Context 1139, stratigraphically above 1142, may represent the tertiary deposit in this levelling operation. This consisted of a friable light to mid brown sand silt with inclusions of moderate flecks to small fragments of charcoal, occasional flecks to small mortar, brick and tile fragments that was used to raise the ground level by approximately 0.32m, to 5.23m AOD, the level reached during site reduction. 1139 had been truncated by cuts 1141 and 1138.

Cut 1141 was a 0.42m deep, over 0.62m wide vertical sided cut with a flat irregular base which extended beyond the north-eastern limit of excavation. The back-fill (1140) consisted of a friable mid brown sand silt with frequent brick, stone and mortar rubble. 1138 was a vertical sided flat based cut, (with the exception of the north-eastern edge where there was a shallow depression),

which contained a back-fill of small patches and fragments of mortar in a matrix of loose yellow brown sand (1137) with inclusions of occasional small stone, brick and tile fragments, small red burnt clay patches and charcoal flecks. The high percentage of mortar and rubble in the back-fills of cuts 1141 and 1138 suggested that they had both been excavated for the disposal of demolition or construction derived waste material.

The south-western limit of fill 1137, and cut 1138, had been truncated by a 0.61m wide, 0.30m deep, steep sided, flat bottomed cut (1067) that had wall 1069 as its vertical south-western edge. The back-fill of cut 1067 consisted of a compacted friable sand silt (1066) with inclusions of moderate flecks to small fragments of lime mortar, occasional charcoal flecks, burnt clay flecks, small pockets of yellow sand and, towards the north-eastern edge, one thin lense of charcoal. Directly above this were the two remaining courses of a partially demolished brick structure (1065). The initial course consisted of three complete and one part brick beneath a partially demolished upper course, two bricks wide, laid in a header bond cemented with a creamy white lime mortar. The type and size, 135 x 60mm, of brick used in the construction of 1065 dated it to the post-medieval period.

After demolition had occurred the area immediately to the north-east of the upper course was levelled with a small 0.04m thick dump of compact yellowish brown sand, (1064) with inclusions of moderate flecks to small fragments of mortar and occasional small brick/tile fragments, which was truncated during the machine clearance of the site

Structure 1065 may have been the remnants of a light wall, footing or brick standing pertaining to a later phase of use associated with wall 1069. Their close proximity may suggest that 1065 was the remnant of a buttress used to strengthen wall 1069 and counteract the noticeable slump towards the north-east on its north-eastern side. It would seem highly unlikely that cut 1067 was the construction cut for structure 1065, it is more likely that cut 1067 was merely an earlier pit, used for the disposal of building or demolition waste, that was back-filled before the construction of 1065 commenced.

The south-west face of wall 1069 was sealed by a 0.11m thick compact slightly greyish brown clay silt (1133) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, mortar flecks and small patches of fine sand which extended 0.65m to the south-west where it was truncated by later activity. Directly above this was a 0.07m thick deposit (1132) which was very similar to context 1133 but had a less clayey matrix and the further inclusion of moderate small pockets of fine sand.

Both contexts 1133 and 1132 were difficult to interpret as they were only seen in section and had been heavily truncated by later activity. It is possible that they both represented dumps of material used to raise and level the underlying ground surface or were, as their level even nature suggested, the clay floors to a building.

Much of the south-western limits of 1132 had been removed by a 0.52m wide, 0.12m deep cut (1131) with a gently sloping north-east edge leading to a flat slightly bowed base. The back-fill (1130) which consisted of a friable pale grey brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional burnt clay flecks, charcoal flecks and moderate small spots and streaks of pale brown sand, gave no indication as to its use

This was sealed by a 0.03 to 0.10m thick dump of friable, loose when worked, pale orange brown re-deposited alluvial silt (1129) which had been used to level the subsidence hollow within, or

was the tertiary fill, of cut 1131. The north-eastern and south-western limits of 1129 had been truncated by cuts 1128 and 1076.

Cut 1128 was located at the north-eastern limit of 1129 against wall 1069. It was a 0.07m deep x 0.17m wide 'U'-shaped impression left after the removal of a small post or large stake, contained a back-fill consisting of a friable mid brown clay silt (1127) with inclusions of frequent pale brown sand flecks, charcoal flecks and burnt clay flecks.

The south-western edge of 1129 had been removed by a substantial vertical sided, flat, irregular based 0.23m wide, 0.45m deep post-hole cut (1076) which contained a back-fill of a very mixed nature (1075). The major constituent of this was a firm slightly clay fine grained sand silt with, towards the base, frequent flecks to small fragments of charcoal, occasional small clumps of mid brown clay and, concentrated in the upper half, red burnt clay flecks, coal flecks and small clumps of organic matter.

Stratigraphically above context 1075 was a deposit (1068) consisting of a compacted mid brown fine grained sand silt with inclusions of frequent flecks and fragments of mortar, moderate small brick/tile fragments, occasional charcoal and coal flecks, small pebbles, medium cobbles and small brown clay lumps. This extended for approximately 1.31m, running up to the south-west face of wall / foundation 1069, where it also sealed the back-fill of cut 1128 (1127). The high mortar content of this deposit suggested that it was a dump of demolition derived material which had been used to raise and level the area after the back-filling of cut 1076, raising the ground level by 0.20m to the top of wall 1069, approximately 5.22m AOD, the level reached during the machine clearance of the site.

Cut 1076 appeared to have originally contained the latest embodiment of a long standing north-west - south-east aligned boundary or wall line to a property which lay to the north-east. This was borne out by the fact that the preceding deposits and features (1134, 1133, 1132, cut 1131, 1130 and 1129), all ran up to, or were truncated by, the north-eastern edge of cut 1076. Whether the earlier structural phases were in the form of a fence line or a more substantial wall is uncertain as all traces had been removed by cut 1076.

Cut 1076 also truncated and/or demarcated the north-eastern edge of 1120 which extended for 0.65m to the south-west where it was truncated by a further substantial post-hole cut (1074). This had a similar vertical sided, flat, irregular based profile as cut 1076, was 0.23m wide, 0.41m deep, and contained a similar primary fill (1073) which consisted of a firm pale greyish brown, clayey, fine grained sandy silt with inclusions of frequent flecks to small fragments of charcoal, brick/tile flecks, coal flecks, red burnt clay flecks and mortar flecks. This was sealed by a 0.04m thick tertiary fill (1072) consisting of, in equal proportions, a compact green tinged greyish brown clay mixed with a plastic pale brown clay silt with inclusions of occasional charcoal and brick/tile flecks.

The north-eastern edge of fill 1072 had been truncated by 0.26m wide x 0.20m deep vertical to steep sided flat based post-hole cut (1071) which contained a back-fill (1070) consisting of small to medium cobbles in a matrix of a mortar rich compact mid brown clay with inclusions of occasional small brick/tile fragments. The high concentrations of cobbles within this deposit suggest that a major proportion of the fill is made up of collapsed post packing. The close proximity of cut 1071 to cut 1074 suggested that cut 1071, despite having been moved slightly

further to the north-east, represented the re-instatement of cut 1074 and was a later replacement of the same property boundary.

Both contexts 1070 and 1068 were sealed by a demolition or construction derived levelling deposit (1061) which consisted of a yellowish brown sandy silt in a matrix of loose, soft creamy white crushed mortar with inclusions of occasional flecks to small fragments of charcoal and very small brick/tile fragments.

The similarities in both the profiles and fills of cuts 1074 and 1075 suggested that they were contemporary. It would, however, be unreasonable to suggest that they were the north-eastern and south-western walls or boundaries of the same building or plot of land as the spacing between them is very narrow, only 0.66m wide. This suggested that the area between cuts 1074 and 1076 may have been a narrow passage or alleyway between two properties. Cut 1074 had similar characteristics to cut 1076, suggesting that it was also the ultimate phase of a likewise aligned long standing boundary to a property lying to the south-west. This was also borne out by the way that the majority of the preceding deposits, to the south-west of cut 1074, ran up to or were truncated by its south-western edge.

The earliest of these was directly above 1155 and consisted of an up to 0.04m thick dump of friable greenish yellow streaked pale brown clay silt (1110) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and pale to mid grey clay streaks. This may have been an isolated dump of material or part of the make up for a floor surface.

Context 1110 was sealed by a more extensive deposit of a friable, loose when worked, pale orange brown silt (1109), up to 0.06m thick, which had inclusions of frequent burnt clay flecks, occasional charcoal and small brown silty clay flecks; this ran up to and was truncated by cut 1074. It may be the rake-off/use deposit from a hearth which either lies beyond the limit of excavation or which was removed by the cellar construction cut, but it is more likely just a dump of burnt material, used in conjunction with context 1110, to prepare the ground for surface 1099 at circa 4.82m AOD. Context 1099, between 0.03m to 0.10m thick, was a mixed deposit consisting of a friable light brown clayey fine grained sand silt which lay above, and merged into, a slightly sandy clay silt with inclusions of only one or two flecks of charcoal.

Context 1118, also sealing 1109, was a floor surface consisting of a loosely friable yellowish brown mottled fine grained silt sand, between 0.05 to 0.11m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, mortar flecks and small pebbles. It is possible that this may have formed a floor surface at the same level as, and contemporary with, 1099. However this is by no means certain, as the physical relationship between both contexts had been removed by later activity.

A 0.41m wide, up to 0.05m deep depression in the surface of 1118 contained a 0.01m thick primary fill consisting of a friable reddish brown burnt silty clay (1117) with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks. This was sealed by a 0.04m thick deposit of friable dark brownish red sandy slightly clay silt (1116) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and mortar flecks. Contexts 1117 and 1116 may represent dumps of burnt material used to level a depression in the surface or, more likely, was in-situ burning associated with the use of a small hearth on, or set into, the surface of floor 1118. The charcoal inclusions within 1118 were restricted to a small area some 0.17m to the south-west of context 1116 and appeared to represent a trampled deposit or build-up of material generated by the use of the hearth.

After the hearth had ceased to function the area was then levelled (1115) with a friable light to mid brown slightly sandy silt, up to 0.06m thick, with occasional charcoal, brick/tile, mortar and red burnt clay flecks to provide a new floor surface. This may have originally covered a larger area but this was uncertain as it had been truncated to both the south-west and north-east by later activity.

Surface 1099 was truncated by post hole/stake hole cuts 1108, 1106 and 1104. The deepest of these was cut 1108 which was a 0.06m wide, 0.17m deep slightly tapered, steep sided, round based stake-hole cut which contained a back-fill (1107) consisting of a friable pale grey clay silt with inclusions of frequent pale brown sand flecks, occasional charcoal flecks and iron salting. Cut 1106 was a shallow 'U' shaped 0.08m wide, 0.04m deep cut which contained a back-fill (1105) of friable pale grey clay silt with inclusions of frequent pale brown sand flecks and occasional iron staining. Cut 1104, some 0.60m to the south-west of cut 1106, had the same shallow 'U' shaped profile, was 0.10m wide, 0.05m deep and contained a similar fill (1103) of a pale grey slightly sandy silt with inclusions of frequent mid brown silty clay pieces. It had been truncated, on its south-western edge, by cut 1102, which was shallow, 0.14m wide, 0.04m deep cut with a wide angled 'U' shaped profile and contained a back-fill (1101) of a friable mid grey clay silt with frequent striations and spots of a mid brown iron rich silt with inclusions of frequent small creamy brown sand spots and occasional burnt clay flecks.

Cut 1108 was located towards the north-eastern limit of floor 1099 and may have represented one of a series of north-west - south-east orientated stake holes forming a division, such as a light screen wall, within a building. (Floor 1099 originally covered a larger area as it extends 0.30m to the north-east of cut 1108 where it was truncated by later activity).

Cuts 1104 (later replaced by cut 1102), and 1105 had similar fills to cut 1108 and were thought to be contemporary. These were possibly the shallow settings for a series of posts forming a south-west - north-east return to cut 1108.

At the south-western limit of excavation context 1099 was sealed by an up to 0.09m thick deposit consisting of a friable mid brown fine grained sand silt (1098) with inclusions of occasional charcoal and burnt clay flecks. It is possible that it was either a build-up or dump deposit on the surface of floor 1099.

Context 1098 was truncated by cuts 1097 and 1095. Cut 1097 was a 0.10m wide, 0.40m deep vertically sided post-hole cut with a gently rounded almost flat base which contained a back-fill (1096) consisting of a plastic mottled dark brown fine grained slightly clay sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Cut 1095, located 0.30m to the north-east of 1097, was a 0.22m wide, 0.11m deep construction cut with steep to vertical sides and a flat base, which contained a substantial block of roughly worked magnesian limestone in a matrix of a mottled mid to dark brown slightly clay silt (1094) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, mortar flecks and small lenses and patches of sand. This may have functioned as a post pad or sill wall that formed a north-west - south-east aligned internal division or side wall to a building. Cut 1097 contained a similar back-fill and may therefore be contemporary and part of the same structure. (Any interpretation as the proper function or relationship between these features is speculative as they were only seen in a small area of the section)

Directly above 1094 was a 0.05 to 0.16m thick deposit consisting of small to medium cobbles and small to large limestone fragments in a matrix of a friable mottled mid to dark grey brown

sandy clay silt (1093) It is quite possible that 1093 was a demolition dump associated with a phase of demolition or alteration to the structure of which the similar contexts 1094 and 1096 formed an integral part. Context 1093 may have been the remnant of a badly eroded sill wall, a replacement of 1094, constructed from materials generated by either a complete demolition and site clearance, before a new build, or a partial demolition to carry out repairs or alterations.

The north-eastern face of 1093 was sealed by a up to 0.09m of iron salted friable mid grey clay silt (1100), with inclusions of occasional small spots of creamy brown sand and burnt clay flecks. This extended for 1.20m to the north-east, where it was truncated by a later intrusion. Context 1100 also sealed contexts 1101, 1105 and 1107 and may represent a levelling deposit or an uneven, badly eroded floor surface associated with structure 1093.

1100 was sealed by a dump or levelling deposit consisting of a plastic pale grey gritty silty clay, (1156) with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small limestone fragments, which had been truncated by a 0.21m wide, 0.90m deep steep sided flat based cut (1092). The primary fill of cut 1092, a firm mid brown fine grained sand silt (1091) with inclusions of occasional charcoal, red burnt clay and mortar flecks, was sealed by a tertiary fill consisting of small stone fragments and cobbles in a matrix of firm mid brown fine grained sand silt (1090) with inclusions of occasional charcoal and red burnt clay flecks. Context 1090 was sealed by a levelling deposit consisting of a compact light yellowish brown sand silt (1089) with inclusions of occasional charcoal and mortar flecks, which extended for 0.51m to the south-west where it was truncated by later activity.

Although by no means certain, it is possible that cut 1092 was a small pit, a shallow post-hole or the construction cut for a sill or screen wall. The high cobble and stone content of context 1090 may represent a collapsed post-packing or the make-up of a foundation course associated with the rebuilding or repair of a structure which originally had context 1093 for its foundations. This structural activity appeared to have taken place after the ground surface had been raised (1156) The marked south-west – north-east fall in the ground level to the north-east of cut 1092 suggested that the surface of context 1156 had been subjected to a high degree of use, i.e. it represents badly eroded external surfaces. The internal surfaces or occupation deposits associated with this phase of building may have been located to the south-west of cut 1092, where they had been removed by later activity. Context 1089 may represent the levelling of the area after cut 1092 ceased to function as a small pit or, if a shallow construction/post hole cut, after the removal of any structural element(s) that it had contained.

The north-eastern limit of context 1100 had also been truncated by a 0.50m wide, 0.13m deep cut (1111) which had a steep side to the north-east, but fell gradually in a series of steep sided shallow steps on the south-western side, leading to a gently rounded, almost flat, base. The back-fill, a mottled light greyish brown fine grained sand silt (1112) with occasional charcoal flecks, gave no indication as to its use.

Cut 1111 also truncated the south-western limit of context 1115, a possible floor surface, which physically sealed an earlier floor surface (1118) and its associated hearth (1116, 1117). These were all noticeably different to the deposits lying to the south-west of cut 1111, and may indicate that it had originally contained a timber or stone structure, dividing two areas of differing activity. Whether this was a division between two buildings or a division within a standing structure was uncertain as very little was seen. The relatively narrow width of the surface of context 1115, some 0.80m, suggests that the latter is more likely.

The in-filling of cut 1111 appears to signify a new phase of activity. This was immediately noticeable in a 0.63m wide, up to 0.05m deep construction cut (1080) which had truncated back-fill 1112. Whether this was a deliberate cut or the result of subsidence is not certain, although the irregular base suggests that the latter is more likely. The back-fill of cut 1080 consisted of a soft, light brownish yellow fine grained sand (1079) with inclusions of frequent small to medium cobbles, occasional small pebbles and charcoal flecks, all of which provided the foundation for a substantial, 0.55m wide x 0.15m deep, roughly worked block of magnesian limestone (1078). This had either formed a constituent part of foundation 1079, was a large post pad, or was the only surviving course of a substantial south-east – north-west aligned wall. The shallow uneven base of cut 1080 and the slightly 'mounded' profile of back-fill 1079 suggested that the foundations were originally constructed at ground level, before subsidence occurred, or were contained in a shallow 'marking out' trench.

After wall/standing 1078 was constructed the ground surface was levelled and raised. The south-western face of 1078 was sealed by a 0.03 to 0.13m thick deposit consisting of a friable mottled light yellow brown silty fine grained sand (1088), with inclusions of very occasional charcoal flecks. This extended for 1.15m to the south-west, where it also sealed context 1089 and was truncated by later activity. The absence of thin laminations or contamination within this deposit suggested that it was a levelling dump of re-deposited alluvium rather than a build-up or occupation deposit.

This was sealed by an up to 0.03m thick deposit of crumbly burnt red clay in a matrix of compact light brown sand silt (1085) with the inclusion of occasional charcoal flecks. This also ran up to the south-western face of 1078 and extended for 0.98m to the south-west where it was truncated by later activity. It may represent a dump (part of the same levelling operation as 1088), or a deposit associated with the use of a hearth which had been removed by the construction of the cellars or was located beyond the excavated area. If this deposit was associated with the use of a hearth it would suggest that 1088 was, besides a levelling deposit, also a floor surface. Whether this was originally on a more even plane and had become uneven through use is uncertain as very little was seen.

Context 1085 was sealed by a 0.05m thick levelling or build-up deposit which consisted of a compact light brown fine grained sand silt (1084) with the inclusion of occasional charcoal flecks. The south-western limit of 1084 was truncated by an over 0.17m wide, 0.14m deep post-hole cut (1087) that had a vertical north-eastern side leading to an irregular, stepped base which had been truncated to the south-west by a later intrusion. Its back-fill consisted of small to medium cobbles and fragments of magnesian limestone in a matrix of a mid brown sand silt (1086), which may represent either a collapsed post packing or the make-up for a small hard standing. The fact that cut 1087 had truncated the surface of context 1084 also suggests that 1084 had functioned as a floor surface. It is also possible, but highly unlikely, that context 1086 was the back-fill of a pit which had been almost entirely removed, to the south-west, by modern activity.

Backfill 1087 was sealed by a 0.07m thick make-up or levelling deposit which consisted of a compact light yellowish brown fine grained sand silt (1083) with inclusion of occasional charcoal flecks, red burnt clay flecks and small fragments of coal. This had been truncated by cuts 1082 and 1059. Cut 1082 was a 0.50m wide, 0.17m deep pit with a wide 'bowl' shaped profile. It contained a mixed back-fill (1081) consisting of, on the south-west side, a stiff brown clay

merging with, on the north-east side, a very fine yellowish brown slightly clay sand with inclusions of occasional charcoal, mortar and brick/tile flecks which gave no indication as to its use. Cut 1059, which had also truncated context 1096, was an over 0.66m wide, 0.38m deep modern service trench with a vertical side to the north-east leading to a flat uneven base which ran beyond the south-west limit of excavation. The back-fill of cut 1059, which consisted of mixed friable yellow brown to mid grey brown clay silts with inclusions of frequent brick, mortar and stone rubble, (1058) was also used to level and consolidate the area in the immediate vicinity, raising the ground surface by a maximum of 0.15m, to 5.32m AOD. Context 1058, which also sealed context 1081, extended for 1.90m to the north-east where it had originally been much thicker but was truncated by the machine clearance of the site.

The area to the north-east limestone 1078 was similarly levelled with, initially, a 0.12m thick dump deposit consisting of a plastic, light to mid brown fine grained sand silt (1114) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, brick/tile flecks, mortar flecks and red burnt clay flecks. This (just) sealed the north-east face of 1078 and extended for 0.87m to the north-east where it was truncated by later activity. The south-western limit of 1114 was sealed by a further levelling deposit (1113) which consisted of a 0.07m thick friable yellow to mid brown fine grained silt sand which also ran up to the north-east face of 1078. The north-eastern limit of 1114 was truncated by a 0.13m wide, 0.07m deep steep sided flat based post-hole cut (1119), this suggests that both context 1114 and 1113 had been used to level the area and form a surface. The post that cut 1119 had originally contained had been removed almost immediately, before the area was levelled. Its back-fill (1062) consisted almost entirely of flecks to small mortar fragments in a matrix of yellowish brown sand silt with the inclusion of the occasional charcoal flecking which had continued to be dumped, raising the ground level beyond the top edge of the cut by 0.08m. (The area may have been levelled before to the digging of post-hole cut 1074, but this was uncertain as the relationships between 1062 and cut 1074 had been removed by later activity) A further levelling deposit, stratigraphically above context 1113, consisting of an up to 0.17m thick dump of compact light yellowish brown clayey fine grained sand silt (1077) with inclusions of occasional charcoal, coal and brick/tile flecks may have been part of the same operation. This is, however, uncertain, as the relationship between contexts 1077 and 1062 had been removed by a 0.68m wide, 0.21m deep pit cut (1063) which had also truncated, on its north-eastern edge, context 1061. Cut 1063 had a vertical south-western edge, gently sloping north-east side with a flat uneven base and contained a back-fill of a friable yellowish brown sand silt (1060) with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks, flecks to small fragments of mortar, occasional small brick/tile fragments and one large brick fragment. It had been truncated by the machine clearance of the site. Cut 1063 may have related to the disposal of construction or demolition derived waste and was related to cuts 1067, 1138 and 1141, which also had a similar high mortar content. The vertical southwestern side of cut 1063 may, however, be the impression left after the removal of brick-or stone-work, which suggests that cut 1063 may have been a robbing cut subsequently back-filled with demolition waste.

5.2 Area 2

Sections 3 and 4 were both located in Area 2 (Figure 3), a 0.96m wide x 2.61m long x 1.84m deep trench which was machine excavated to facilitate the connection of the new sewers to the existing system.

5.2.1 Section 3 (Figure 6)

The earliest deposit seen was at 3.88m A.O.D and proved to be natural in origin, consisting of a moist mid yellow brown fine grained sand (2013) which was excavated to a depth of 0.21m and continued beyond the base of the excavated area. Directly above this was a 0.22m thick deposit consisting of a soft, plastic, yellowish grey slightly clay sand (2008) containing moderate charcoal flecks and one medium fragment of yellow brown clay. This deposit was sealed by a plastic, yellow tinged pale grey clay sand (2007) 0.15m thick, which, combined with 2008, had raised the ground surface by 0.37m, to 4.26m A.O.D, before a new phase of activity commenced.

Context 2007 was truncated by a large pit or ditch cut (2019) which was in excess of 0.60m deep and 0.65m wide; the full dimensions of the cut could not be ascertained as they either lay beyond the limits of excavation or had been truncated by later activity. The surviving south-eastern side of the cut, which fell vertically then steeply to the north-west, had been revetted with a substantial 0.64m long, 0.185m wide, 0.14m thick, partially decayed timber post. The approximately hexagonal cross-section and the species of timber used for the revetment, (oak), suggested that it was a re-used beam or post from a medieval building. The post had been longer than at present, but the upper end had decayed quite badly to leave a ragged stump, and had most likely extended to a level much the same as the top of cut 2019.

Both cut 2019 and timber 2020 were sealed by the primary fill of the feature, a moist pale grey humic silt (2018) 0.09m thick, with inclusions of moderate flecks to small patches of organic cessy material. Directly above this was a similar deposit of moist pale grey humic silt (2017) with inclusions of occasional pale grey clay flecks, 0.01m thick in the south-east rising to 0.11m thick in the north-west, where it extended beyond the base of the excavated area.

Stratigraphically above this was a friable, plastic when worked, highly organic slightly clay silt (2016) between 0.07m and 0.16m thick, which lay beneath a plastic, mid grey sand silt (2015) 0.11m thick, with inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks, moderate flecks to small fragments of burnt clay and occasional small charcoal fragments. Context 2015 was sealed by the upper fill of cut 2019, a plastic mid grey sand silt (2014) between 0.02m and 0.29m thick, with inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small charcoal fragments.

Contexts 2018 to 2014 all had a marked, steep south-east to north-west fall. This, and the lack of silting on the interface of the deposits, indicated that they were dumps of organic and/or industrially derived material used to back-fill cut 2019 over a short time period. Material that had accumulated over a longer period, i.e. within a cess or rubbish pit, would have resulted in the formation of complex well structured deposits lying on a flatter or horizontal plane. This suggests these contexts were the back-fills of a substantial, north-east/south-west aligned timber-revetted boundary and/or drainage ditch leading to the river Ouse, some 60m to the north-east.

Context 2014 had been truncated by cut 2006, the flat base to a pit, which extended into section 2 and contained a back-fill (2005) which consisted of a plastic soft dark grey brown clay silt, 0.33m thick, with inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small burnt clay fragments. This lay directly beneath a levelling deposit (2004), a compact firm dark yellow mottled light to mid brown clay silt, 0.24m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Context 2004 was sealed by a further levelling deposit (2003) which consisted of a plastic light brown clay silt, 0.14m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, small sandstone fragments and large pebbles. The final deposit in this phase of levelling activity lay directly above context 2003 and consisted of a compact buff clay silt, (2002) 0.14m thick, which contained occasional charcoal flecks, small to medium stone fragments and pebbles.

The north-western limit of context 2002 had been completely removed by a large, over 0.74m wide x over 1.43m deep, modern service trench (2025). This contained a back-fill (2024) of concrete, brick and mortar rubble in a very mixed matrix of charcoal rich clays, silts and sands. This was sealed by a 0.27m thick levelling deposit of demolition derived material (2001) that consisted of brick, tile and mortar rubble in a matrix of mid brown silt sand which formed the present day ground surface at 5.39m A.O.D.

5.2.2 Section 4 (Figure 7)

The earliest deposit seen was at 3.88m AOD and was thought to be natural in origin. It was a moist mid yellow brown fine grained sand (2013) which was excavated to a depth of 0.22m and which continued beyond the base of the excavated area. This had been truncated by a 1.92m wide, over 0.22m deep ditch cut (2012; section 2) which also continued beyond the base of the excavated area. The back-fill of cut 2012, a soft, moist, pale grey slightly clay sand (2011), 0.50m deep, extended beyond the north-eastern limit of excavation and, overflowing the upper edge of cut 2012, had continued to be dumped, raising the ground surface, to approximately 4.08m A.O.D. A single sherd of pottery recovered from context 2011 suggested that this activity had taken place in the Roman period.

Context 2011 was sealed by a levelling deposit consisting of a soft yellowish grey sand (2027), 0.10m thick, falling gradually and tailing off towards the south-west. This deposit may have represented a continuation of the dumping activity or an external floor surface. Directly above context 2027 was a thin lense, up to 0.05m thick, of gritty olive-green clay sand (2026). This may indicate that context 2027 had become contaminated with cassy material, due either to trampling or to leaching from the overlying deposit. Context 2026 lay beneath a deposit similar in structure to 2027, a soft, plastic, yellowish grey slightly clay sand (2010), 0.12m thick, which also fell and tailed off towards the south-west.

The south-western edge of context 2010 had been truncated by a 1.60m wide x 0.30m deep cut (2023) with a wide 'U' shaped profile. The function that this had performed is uncertain as it was not exposed to its full extent, continuing beyond the south-western limit of excavation. Cut 2023 may not be a deliberate cut but a hollow in the ground surface formed by the subsidence of the underlying deposits.

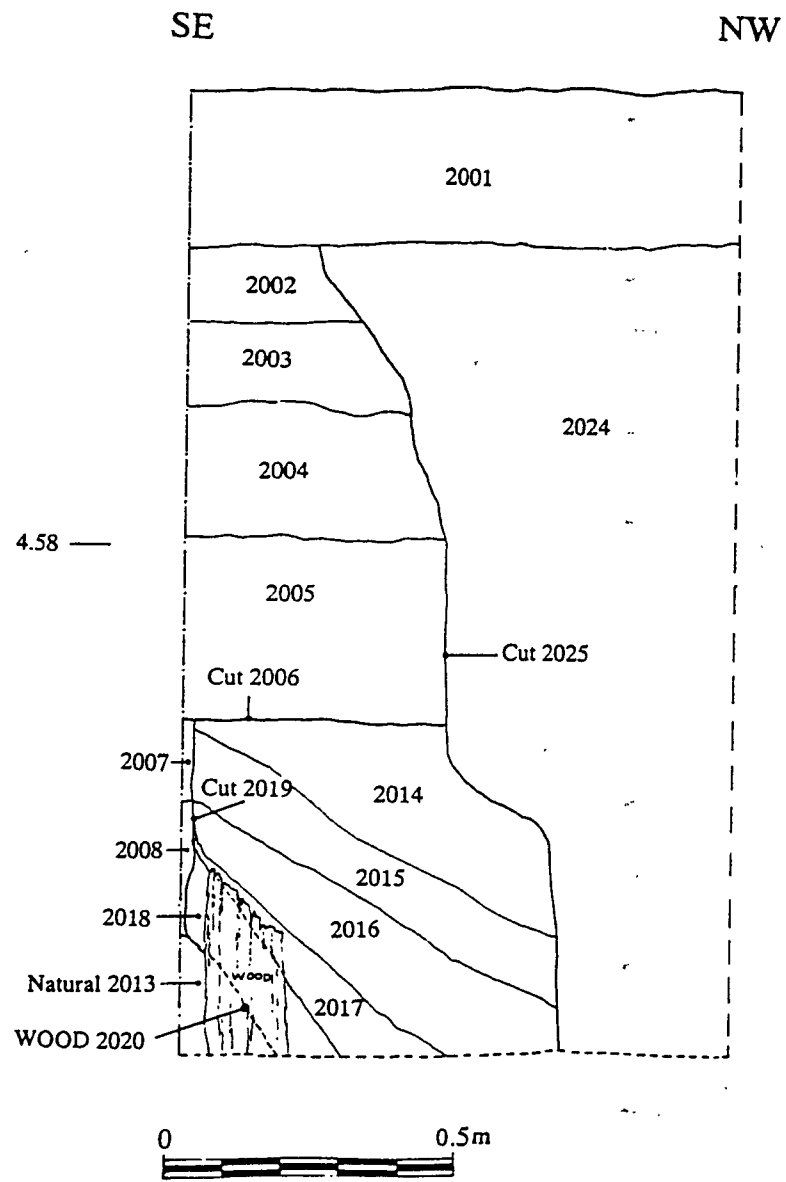
Directly above cut 2023 lay a second thin lense of gritty olive green clay sand, (2009) up to 0.05m thick, which extended beyond the north-eastern edge of 2023 where it was truncated by a later intrusion. Context 2009 extended down to the base of the north-eastern side of cut 2023 to terminate abruptly where the natural sands occurred. This suggests that contexts 2026 and 2009 were caused by a chemical reaction or leaching on the interface of successive dumps of material contaminated with organic matter, a criterion not met by the natural sands

2009 was sealed by the back-fill of cut 2023, a soft plastic yellowish grey slightly clay sand (2008), 0.30m thick, with inclusions of a medium yellow brown clay fragment and moderate charcoal flecks. Directly above this, and extending beyond the south-west limit of excavation, was a 0.60m thick levelling deposit of a plastic, yellow tinged pale grey clay sand (2007), which produced a single sherd of 12th-century pottery.

This had been truncated by an over 0.95m wide, 0.35m deep pit cut (2006), which also continued beyond the south-western limit of excavation. It was back-filled with a soft plastic dark grey brown clay silt with inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks and occasional burnt clay flecks (2005). Context 2005 was sealed by a levelling deposit consisting of a compact dark yellow mottled light to mid brown clay silt (2004), 0.23m thick, with inclusions of occasional small pebbles and charcoal flecks. This lay directly beneath a further levelling deposit (2003), a plastic light brown clay silt, 0.19m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, small sandstone fragments and large pebbles.

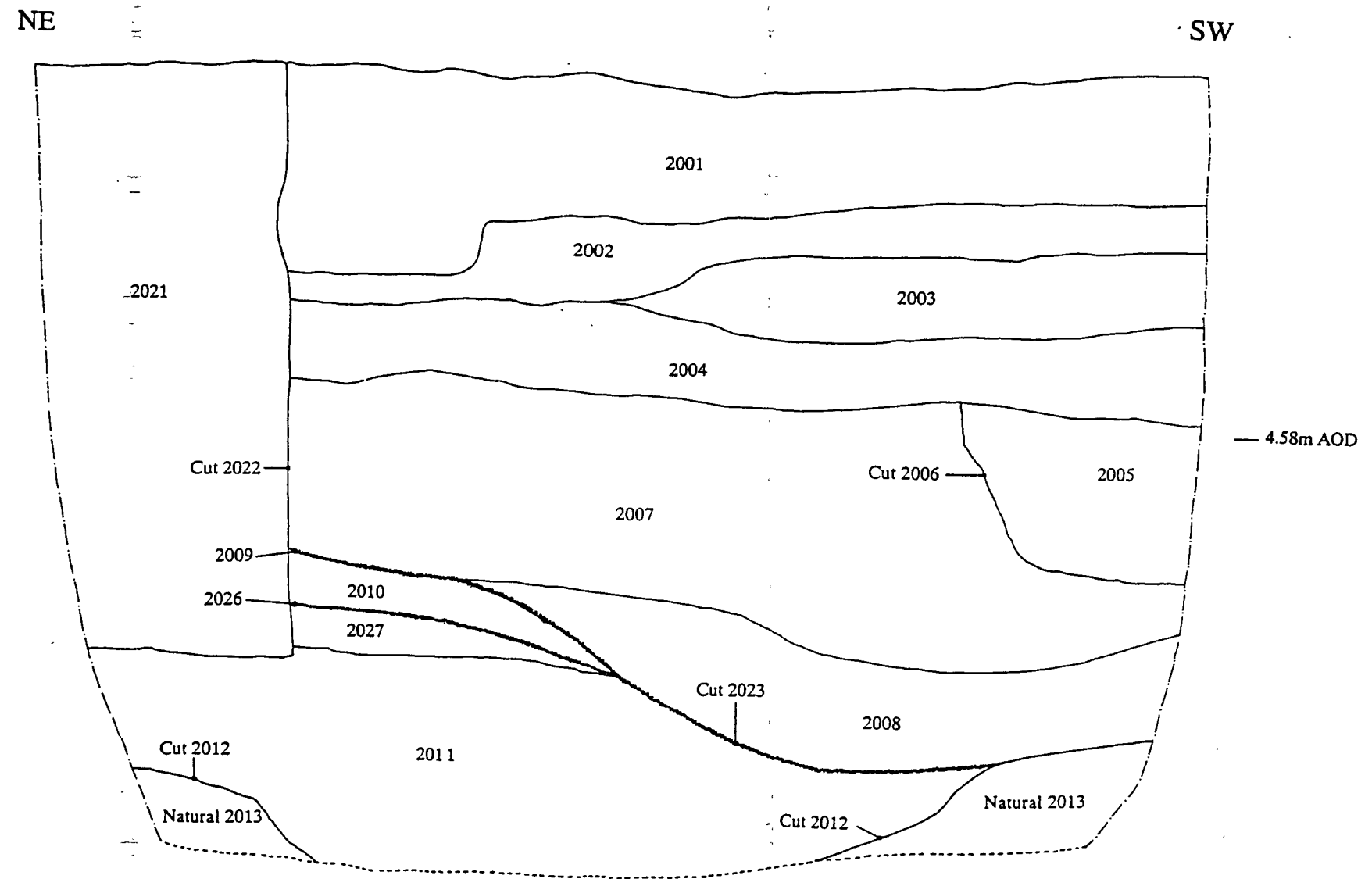
Stratigraphically above this was the tertiary deposit of this phase of levelling activity which consisted of an up to 0.19m thick deposit of buff compact clay silt (2002) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, small to medium angular stone fragments and pebbles.

Context 2002 was truncated by a 1.35m deep construction cut (2022) which contained the substantial brick footings (2021) to one of the latest buildings to occupy the site, which had been demolished some years ago. The south-western face of the footings was sealed by an up to 0.45m thick deposit consisting of brick, tile and mortar rubble in a matrix of mid brown silt sand (2001) which had most likely derived from the demolition of the building that had used 2021 as its footings. Context 2001 had also been used to level the surrounding area to the top of any partially demolished wall stubs (2021) and form the present day ground level (5.39m A.O.D.).



Area 2, Section 3, North-east Facing

Figure 6



Area 2, Section 4, North-west Facing

Figure 7

5.3 AREA 3

Sections 5, 6 and 7 were all located within Area 3 (Figure 3). This measured approximately 8.0m long x 4.80m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.82m BGL or to 4.29m AOD (section 5). Area 3 lay approximately 2.80m to the north-west of Area 1 and had also been created by the removal of cellar walls

5.3.1 Section 5 (Figure 8)

The earliest deposit seen was observed at 4.41m AOD, was 0.09m thick, and continued beyond the base of the excavated area. This consisted of a friable dark grey silty clay (3122) with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks and occasional thin lenses of mid grey silty clay which produced a single sherd of unidentifiable pottery. This was sealed by, to the north-west, context 3121 and, to the south-east, context 3123. Context 3121 rose to over 0.22m thick towards the north-western limit of excavation and continued beneath the base of the excavated area. It consisted of a friable mid to dark grey silty clay with inclusions of moderate flecks to small fragments of charcoal, occasional small to medium cobbles, small patches of light brown sand and thin lenses of orange brown silty clay; it produced two sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery. Context 3123 consisted of a friable dark grey silty clay, over 0.07m thick, with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks and the occasional thin lense of a mid grey silty clay. It continued beyond the base of the excavated area and the south-eastern limit of excavation. Contexts 3122, 3121 and 3123 were all part of the large-scale dumping activity which had been seen elsewhere.

Both contexts 3121 and 3123 lay directly beneath a plastic mid brown silty clay (3111), 0.27m thick, with inclusions of moderate patches of flecks to small fragments of charcoal and occasional small patches of a pale yellow fine grained sand. Context 3118, stratigraphically above 3121, consisted of a friable to plastic mid brown silty clay, up to 0.10m thick, with inclusions of moderate flecks to small fragments of charcoal, occasional small grit patches and tile fragments. This was very similar in make up to context 3111 and may represent the same deposit, the physical relationship between the two having been removed by later activity. Directly above this was a levelling deposit consisting of a friable light brown sandy clay (3117) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and small patches of off white to pale grey sand. This had been used to rectify a marked south-east to north-west 0.10m fall in level at the north-western limit of 3118.

Context 3111 was sealed by up to 0.06m thick deposit (3110) consisting of a loose pale grey mottled pale orange red sand, with an inclusion of one medium cobble; 3111 was also truncated by a 0.05m wide, 0.06m deep steep-sided cut (3102). The back-fill of cut 3102, a friable mid brown silty clay (3103) with inclusions of frequent pale olive green grey silty clay spotting and occasional small mid to dark brown silty clay patches, gave no indication as to its use. The interpretation of this feature was also hampered by the small amount exposed due to its proximity to the south-eastern limit of excavation.

Contexts 3122, 3121, 3123, 3111, 3118 and 3117 were all thought to be individual dumps of, as the high charcoal content suggested, industrially derived material, used as part of a site-wide levelling operation. These dumps had been used to raise the ground level by up to 0.30m, to approximately 4.64m AOD, before a new phase of occupation commenced.

Context 3110 may have represented the final phase of this activity or, alternatively, may represent the make-up for an overlying floor surface (3109). This consisted of a friable to plastic dark brown silty clay, up to 0.07m thick, with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks and a small patch of coarse white sand. This was very similar in make-up and consistency to the majority of the preceding contexts. The major difference was in its dark brown colour, which may have been attributable to contamination through human activity, i.e. trampling or occupation, which also suggested that context 3109 had been utilized as a floor surface.

The north-western edge of context 3109 had been truncated by an over 0.86m wide x 0.22m deep pit cut (3132) which had an irregular, gently sloping south-east side leading to a flat irregular base. The north-western side, which was also gently sloping, had been almost completely removed by later activity. The primary fill of cut 3132 consisted of a friable mid to dark grey silty clay (3108) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, small pebbles and thin lenses of a pale yellow brown clay. The nature of this deposit, i.e. its dark colour, suggested that cut 3132 may have been used for the disposal of industrial or domestically derived waste associated with the use of a hearth. The presence of the thin lenses of clay suggested that deposition had occurred on several occasions rather than in one operation and may relate to the disposal of 'rake off' or material produced by successive firings.

Context 3108 was sealed by a loose light to mid brown silt sand (3107), up to 0.09m thick, with inclusions consisting of frequent thin lenses of a reddish brown silt sand and occasional coarse grained white sand spots, which formed the final fill of cut 3132. The thin reddish brown lenses implied that 3107 was also a build up of successive dumps of waste material or rake off associated with the use of a hearth. The three sherds of pottery recovered from context 3107 dated this activity to the 13th/14th century.

The back-filling of pit cut 3132 signified the commencement of a new phase of occupation. Both contexts 3118 and 3107 had been truncated by a 0.35m wide x 0.17m deep, steep-sided, flat but unevenly based post-hole cut (3119). Its backfill, a collapsed post-packing, consisted of small limestone fragments, a large angular flint fragment and a single small cobble in a matrix of dark grey sand silt (3120), and produced two sherds of 13th-century pottery.

The deposits lying to the south-east of cut 3119 were of a different and more complex nature, and had built up to a greater height, some 0.15m, (4.73m AOD) than those lying to the north-west (4.58m AOD). This suggested that cut 3119 had originally contained a timber post that was either part of the north-western wall, or an internal division, pertaining to a post-built structure. The type of structure or the use it was put to was unknown as very little was seen, the rest lying beyond the excavated area or removed by the cellar construction.

The earliest of the deposits lying to the south-west of cut 3119 was stratigraphically above 3107 and consisted of a friable mid to dark brown silty clay with frequent lenses of a light brown silt sand (3106), up to 0.05m thick, with inclusions of moderate flecks to small fragments of charcoal and occasional white sand spotting. This was sealed by a up to 0.04m thick deposit of a plastic mid brown silty clay (3105) with inclusions of occasional flecks to small fragments of charcoal, small pebbles and moderate thin pale brown sand lenses. This lay directly beneath a build-up or occupation deposit consisting of a friable dark grey silt (3104) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and small grit patches, 0.02m thick. The lack of any similar occupation deposits

between contexts 3106 and 3105 suggested that context 3106, despite the high charcoal content, was either a make-up or levelling deposit for surface 3105 rather than a surface in its own right.

Contexts 3104 and 3103 had been truncated by an over 0.90m wide, 0.16m deep pit cut (3131) that had a gently sloping north-west side leading to a irregular, almost flat, base which continued beyond the south-eastern limit of excavation. The primary fill of cut 3131, which consisted of a 0.04m thick pale olive green/grey spotted mid brown silty clay (3101) with inclusions of occasional mid to dark brown silty clay pieces, was sealed by both contexts 3100 and 3099. Context 3100 was a compact, burnt, dark orange brown silty clay, up to 0.13m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecking and one medium limestone fragment. Both this and context 3099, a friable dark grey to black silt, 0.01m thick, with frequent charcoal flecking, were sealed by the upper fill of cut 3131. This consisted of a firm plastic dark yellow brown sandy clay (3098) with the inclusion of occasional charcoal flecks.

The olive green staining to context 3101 suggested that cut 3131 may have primarily been excavated for the disposal of cessy material before, as the high percentage of burnt material in contexts 3100 and 3099 suggested, it was used for the disposal of waste material generated by the use of a hearth. Whether this was of an industrial or domestic nature is unknown as this feature was only seen in section, any associated structures or deposits were either lying beyond the excavated area or had been removed by the construction of the cellars.

Context 3098 was used to level a surface hollow within cut 3131 and provided an uneven floor surface. This was sealed by a 0.02m thick build-up or occupation deposit consisting of a friable dark grey to black silt (3097) with inclusions of the occasional charcoal flecking and small patches of grit. This was very similar to context 3104 and may represent a build-up of the same material after cut 3131 was back-filled and levelled to reinstate floor surface 3105.

The thin nature of build-up/occupation deposits 3104 and 3097 suggested that this surface had been in use for a relatively short period before the immediate area was re-organised and a new phase of activity commenced. This was, initially, carried out by raising and levelling the ground surface by approximately 0.14m to 4.91m AOD. Context 3097 was sealed by a levelling/floor deposit consisting of a plastic stiff dark yellow brown sandy clay (3096) with occasional thin lenses of a reddish brown sandy clay, 0.09m thick, which was only exposed for 0.35m before continuing beyond the south-eastern limit of excavation. The north-western limit of context 3096 was sealed by more extensive levelling/floor deposit of a similar material which extended for 1.50m to the north-west and was thought to be part of the same operation. This consisted of a sterile plastic dark yellow brown sandy clay (3095) which was, to the south-east, 0.14m thick falling to the north-west where it was 0.08m thick. A deposit similar to context 3095, consisting of a friable to plastic mid brown silty clay (3116), 0.12m thick, with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecking, occasional lenses of light brown sandy clay and small crushed brick fragments, may also relate to the same leveling operation. It sealed contexts 3120 and 3117.

Context 3095 lay directly beneath the remnant of an occupation deposit (3093) and what may have been the remnant of a clay floor (3094). Context 3093 was a friable dark grey to black silt, 0.01m thick, with inclusions of occasional small tile fragments; 3094 was a 0.04m thick deposit of plastic light yellow brown sandy clay with occasional thin lenses of reddish brown sandy clay.

Both 3093 and 3094 were directly beneath what may have been a levelling deposit or floor surface in its own right. This consisted of a compact mid to dark yellow brown sandy clay

(3092), 0.04m thick, with occasional fine lenses of a reddish brown sandy clay. Both contexts 3094 and 3092 would originally have extended further to the north-west but had been truncated by the machine

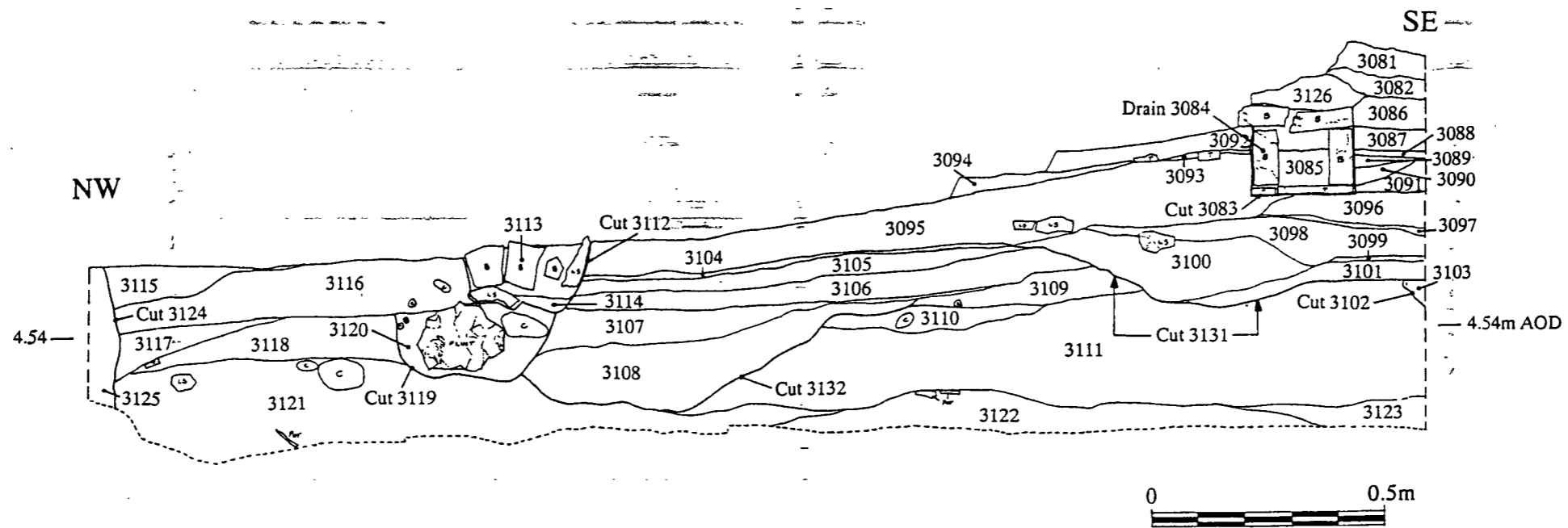
Both contexts 3116 and 3095 were truncated by a 0.14m deep, 0.28m wide ovoid post hole cut (3112) with steep sides and an uneven base. The primary fill of cut 3112, which consisted of a friable black silt (3114), 0.03m thick with frequent small charcoal fragments, was sealed beneath a deposit of a plastic pale yellowish brown silty clay (3113), 0.11m thick, which retained a post packing of vertically set small to large brick, mortar and limestone fragments around the perimeter of the cut.

The north-western limit of context 3116 was sealed by a dump of friable mid brown silty clay (3115) with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small fragments of burnt clay and/or daub, 0.08m thick. This deposit had either been used to level an irregularity in the floor surface formed by context 3116 or, more likely, was a constituent of the same levelling activity as contexts 3116, 3095 and 3096. The full extent of context 3115 was not known as it had been truncated by a steep-sided construction cut (3124) which contained a back-fill of a plastic mid grey brown silty clay (3125). Both cut 3124 and backfill 3125 continued beyond the base and the north-western limit of excavation, relating to the construction of the cellars to the buildings that had recently occupied the site.

Context 3096 was also sealed by a floor deposit consisting of a friable light to mid brown silty clay (3091), 0.07m thick, with inclusions of small grit patches and charcoal flecks. An irregularity in surface 3091 was levelled by two dumps of a loose pale creamy yellow fine grained sand (3090), 0.03m thick, followed by a friable dark brown sand silt (3089), 0.03m thick, with occasional lenses of light to mid brown sand silt which may, as the thin lenses within the matrix suggested, have also been an occupation or build-up deposit accumulating within a partially back-filled hollow in the surface of floor 3091.

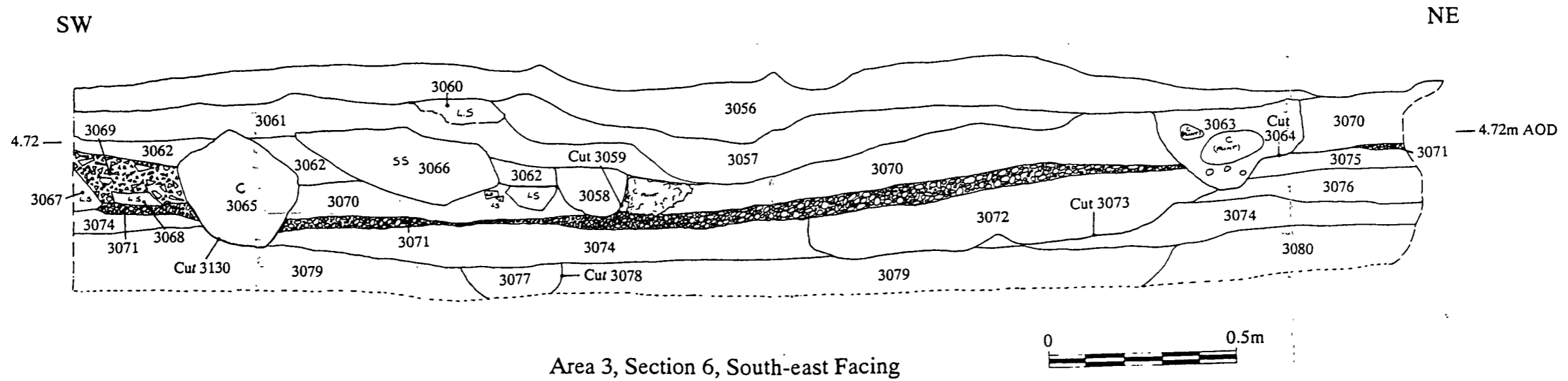
Directly above context 3089 was a plastic charcoal-rich dark grey to black silty clay (3088), 0.015m thick, which may have been either a floor surface in its own right, becoming heavily contaminated from constant trampling, or an occupation deposit or build-up of material on the surface of a floor. Context 3088 was sealed by a further occupation or build-up deposit of a friable mid brown sand silt (3087), 0.05m thick, with moderate very fine lenses of black charcoal rich silt and inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks. Directly above context 3088 was the remnant of a floor surface which consisted of a plastic dark yellowish brown silty clay (3086), 0.06m thick, with inclusions of occasional small burnt clay or daub fragments. (The interpretation of deposits 3086 to 3091 is open to speculation as very little was seen of these contexts, extending into the excavated area for only 0.15m before running beyond the south-eastern limit of excavation)

Both contexts 3092 and 3086 were truncated by the 0.19m deep, 0.22m wide vertical sided, flat based construction cut (3083) for a drain (3084). The drain was constructed with dry-bonded stretcher laid bricks, on their longer edge forming the sides, on a base of large fragments of flat laid peg tile. The drain capping was constructed from brick stretchers laid on their wider face. The samples of brick recovered from this feature are dated to the 14th/15th century. The material contained within drain 3084, a friable mid to dark grey silt (3085) with inclusions of occasional



Area 3, Section 5, South-west Facing

Figure 8



Area 3, Section 6, South-east Facing

Figure 9

mortar flecks and small fragments of brick/tile and mortar, failed to produce any dating evidence or indication of whether the dram served for the disposal of domestic or industrial waste.

Drain 3084 appeared to have been constructed along the line of an earlier property boundary (or room division within a building) and had removed any traces of it. The deposits lying to the south-east of construction cut 3083 were far more complex than those lying to the north-west, which suggested that a greater deal of activity was taking place, possibly in a separate area of the same building. The high charcoal content of the deposits lying to the south-east may indicate that industrial processes were being carried out, i.e. representing a successive build up of industrial waste on a series of floor surfaces. The floor surfaces would have been replaced more frequently due to the erosion caused by the greater amount of trampling that would occur in such an area. The interpretation of these deposits is open to speculation as very little of them was seen.

The drain capping was sealed by a compact mid yellow brown sandy clay (3126), 0.07m thick, with inclusions of occasional small charcoal fragments and patches of grit. This deposit may have been either a packing associated with the construction of the drain or signified the reinstatement of a floor surface after the drain was constructed. Directly above context 3126 was a build-up or occupation deposit consisting of a friable mid to dark grey brown silty clay (3082), 0.04m thick, with moderate lenses of light brown silt sand and moderate charcoal flecks. This was sealed by the remnant of a floor or levelling deposit of a plastic dark yellow brown silty clay (3081), 0.06m thick, with inclusions of occasional small limestone fragments. Contexts 3081, 3113 and 3125 had all been truncated by the machine. This had removed deposits to depth of 4.69m AOD in the north-west rising gradually, then in a series of shallow steps, to 5.12m AOD in the south-east.

5.3.2 Section 6 (Figure 9)

The earliest deposit seen (3080) was located at the north-eastern extent of the excavated area, at 4.47m AOD, and continued beyond both the base and north-eastern limit of excavation. It was a levelling deposit consisting of a friable mid grey sand silt, over 0.12m thick, with inclusions of moderate flecks to small patches of pale yellowish brown sand, occasional flecks of orange sand and flecks of charcoal.

The south-western limit of context 3080 was sealed by a further, more extensive, levelling deposit (3079). This was exposed over almost the full extent of the recorded section, for some 2.95m, and continued beyond the base and south-western limit of excavation. It consisted of a friable mid grey brown sandy clay silt, over 0.17m thick, with inclusions of moderate charcoal and burnt clay flecking, occasional orange sand flecks and small limestone fragments, and produced a single sherd of 14th-century pottery. Both contexts 3080 and 3079 had been dumped to raise the ground level to between 4.39 and 4.49m AOD before a new phase of activity commenced.

Context 3079 had been truncated by cut 3078 which was 0.28m wide and over 0.09m deep, with a steeply sloping side to the south-west and a vertical side to the north-east, both leading to an un-excavated base. Cut 3078 may have been a small pit cut or a cross-section through a north-west – south-east aligned ditch or gully. It would seem unlikely that cut 3078 was a post-hole cut as it was an isolated feature with no evidence for opposing post-hole cuts to form a return or

indicate the side walls of a post built structure. The back-fill of cut 3078 consisted of a crumbly burnt clay (3077) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks.

Directly above this was a levelling deposit consisting of a loose mid grey brown sand silt (3074), with inclusions of occasional small pebbles, charcoal and pale brown sand flecks, which was between 0.02m to 0.14m thick and was evident across the full width of the exposed section. The north-eastern end of context 3074 was sealed by a floor surface of a sterile compact purple brown silty clay (3076), 0.09m thick. Context 3076 may have extended further to the south-west but had been truncated by pit cut 3073. This was 1.09m wide and 0.17m deep with an irregular gently sloping north-east side leading to an irregular base and vertical south-west side. The back-fill of cut 3073 was a mixed deposit consisting mostly of a pale brown sand with frequent fine lenses of purple brown silty clay (3072) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks. Neither the profile or the back-fill of cut 3073 gave any insight into the function that it had served. The presence of the thin lenses within the back-fill (3072) may indicate that the pit was used on several occasions, for the disposal of the same type of material, rather than back-filled in one operation.

Context 3076 was also sealed by a levelling deposit or floor surface consisting of a sterile loose pale yellow brown silt (3075), 0.05m thick. (It is quite possible that this deposit had also been truncated by pit cut 3073 but the relationship between the two had been severed by later activity).

Directly above contexts 3072 and 3075 was a compacted surface of small gravelly pebbles (3071) which was 0.01 to 0.06m thick and was visible across almost the entire exposed section, falling gently from 4.69m AOD in the north-east to 4.51m AOD in the south-west. The lack of material building up on top of surface 3071 suggested that it had been in use for only a short while before a further phase of activity commenced.

Surface 3071 had been truncated by a shallow, 0.27m wide x 0.10m deep cut (3130), with a wide 'U' shaped profile. This was located at the south-western extent of surface 3071 and contained a large 0.32m wide, 0.31m deep cobble (3065) which may have formed part of the foundations to a building. Surface 3071 also lay directly beneath two fragments of limestone (3067 and 3068) which were located almost immediately to the south-west of cobble 3065. Context 3068, which measured 0.13m wide and 0.04m deep, and 3067, which continued beyond the south-western limit of excavation and was substantially larger, at 0.11m deep and over 0.10m wide, may have formed part of the same structure.

The south-western face of cobble 3065, contexts 3067 and 3068 were all sealed by a 0.13m thick deposit of compacted small crushed limestone fragments (3069) which may have represented a levelling deposit of demolition or construction derived material. It is, however, more likely that this deposit represented the floor within a building of some description. The type or function of this building is unknown as context 3069 only extended into the excavated area by 0.29m, suggesting that the interior of the building lay to the south-west and that cobble 3065 formed the north-east wall of the same structure.

The north-eastern face of cobble 3065 was sealed by an extensive levelling deposit which extended beyond the north-eastern limit of excavation. This consisted of a friable orange flecked mid brown sand silt (3070), 0.08m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, mortar flecks, small pebbles and a large flint fragment, which rose gradually from 4.60m AOD in the

south-west to 4.83m AOD in the north-east. This deposit may have been used to level the area outside a structure to form the uneven surface to a yard.

Context 3070 was, to the south-west, sealed by a levelling deposit (3062) and had, to the north-east, been truncated by cut 3064. Cut 3064 was 0.40m wide, 0.22m deep with a vertical side to the north-east, steep to the south-west, with an irregular stepped narrow 'U' shaped base. Its back-fill of cut 3064 consisted of friable mid brown sand silt (3063), with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecking, occasional (1) large flint cobble, small pebbles and yellow sand flecks, which produced 7 sherds of 13th-century pottery. The cobbles and pebbles within the back-fill of cut 3064 may represent a collapsed post packing, indicating that cut 3064 had originally contained a timber post. This would seem likely as cut 3064 was situated over the south-west limits of preceding contexts 3075 and 3076, suggesting that cut 3064 may have been the re-instatement of an earlier boundary fence or internal division which had delineated contexts 3075 and 3076.

Context 3062, also stratigraphically above 3069, was a levelling deposit consisting of a friable pale grey brown clay silt, 0.19m thick, with inclusions of occasional small to large limestone fragments, small pebbles, charcoal, mortar and burnt clay flecks; it produced 4 sherds of 12th/13th-century pottery. A large irregular fragment of sandstone (3066) set in context 3062 may have been part of the levelling deposit, i.e. had been dumped with 3062, or was used as a post pad to re-instate, although in a slightly different position, the foundation formed by cobble 3065.

The north-eastern limit of context 3062 was truncated by a 0.19m wide, 0.13m deep post-hole cut (3059), with a wide 'U' shaped profile. This contained a back-fill of a burnt clay flecks in a matrix of mid grey gritty silt (3058), with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and one large piece of silty clay, which also produced 3 sherds of 13th-century pottery.

Context 3058 was sealed by a levelling deposit of a friable yellow flecked mid grey brown sandy clay silt (3061), up to 0.10m thick, with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks, occasional small pale brown sand spots and small to medium pebbles and fragments of flint; it also produced 10 sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery. A large fragment of limestone (3060) 0.21m long and 0.12m deep, set into the top of context 3061, may have functioned as a post-pad. It was located towards the north-eastern extent of context 3061 where, to the north-east of 3060, there was a fall of 0.16m towards the north-east, whereas the area lying to the south-west was relatively level. This discrepancy in height also suggested that limestone 3060 may have carried a timber post, forming part of the north-eastern wall of a post-built structure, with the internal surface(s) of the building lying to the south-west.

The north-eastern face of 3060 was sealed by a levelling deposit of loose olive green tinged pale brown silt with frequent lenses and spots of pale grey sand silt (3057), with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, pale brown sand flecks and small pebbles. Within this deposit were 9 fragments of 13th/14th-century pottery. Directly above this was a more extensive levelling deposit of a similar material, a loose olive green tinged pale brown silt (3056), up to 0.17m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal and burnt clay flecks, which also produced 2 sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery. Contexts 3057 and 3056 both appeared to be part of the same levelling operation and were both used to rectify irregularities in the underlying ground surface and to raise the ground level by approximately 0.34m, to 4.94m AOD at the highest point. The irregularities in the upper surface of context 3056 were caused by the machine clearance of the site.

5.3.3 Section 7 (Figure 10)

The cellar walls adjacent to section seven were removed to *circa* 4.30m AOD to reveal complex deposits and features. It was evident that a large pit cut (3028) had removed a long standing boundary that had delineated two separate properties, different areas within a single structure, or internal and external areas of a property. The deposits to the north-east of cut 3028 were far more complex and of a different nature than those lying to the south-west. The boundary feature that cut 3028 had removed was thought to have been long standing as deposits on either side had continued to build up to 0.54m thick, or 4.84m AOD, the level at which cut 3028 had been excavated. The deposits lying to the south-west of cut 3028 will be described first.

The earliest deposit seen to the south-west of cut 3028 was a levelling deposit, consisting of a friable dark grey silty clay (3046) with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks, occasional medium charcoal fragment (1), small gravel patches, limestone fragments, patches of olive green silty clay and a small un-worked flint fragment. Context 3046, which also produced one sherd of 13th-century pottery, continued beyond the base of the exposed section and had been used to raise the ground level by over 0.23m, to 4.55m AOD, before a new phase of activity commenced.

Directly above 3046 was either a levelling deposit or the remnant of a clay floor, consisting of a friable dark olive green grey sandy clay (3045), up to 0.05m thick, with inclusions of occasional small patches of white sand. The marked south-west to north-east fall in the level of 3045 from 4.58 to 4.42m AOD, was most likely attributable to slumping of the underlying deposits.

3045 was sealed by a build up or use deposit consisting of a friable light to mid brown silty clay (3044), 0.05m thick, with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks, occasional medium charcoal fragments and dark orange burnt silty clay patches, which may have been associated with the use of a hearth. The north-eastern edge of context 3044 had been truncated by cut 3129. This was 1.43m wide and over 0.28m deep with a south-western edge that broke sharply from the surface to fall gently, over a distance of 0.85m, to the north-east where it fell steeply to an unexposed base. The north-eastern edge of cut 3129 had been removed by later activity. Its back-fill consisted of friable, mid to dark grey silty clay (3043) which produced 4 sherds of 12th/13th-century pottery. Context 3043 continued for 0.48m beyond the south-western edge of cut 3129 where it was truncated by cut 3054.

Cut 3054, which had its south-western edge removed by later activity, was over 0.80m wide and 0.07m deep. The remaining north-eastern edge broke sharply from the surface, and fell vertically to a sharp bottom edge leading to a flat uneven base. The 'rippled' nature of the base was suggestive of the impressions left after the removal, by robbing or heat erosion, of the edge-set tiles forming a hearth. The back-fill of cut 3054 consisted of a compact dark reddish orange silty clay (3051), with inclusions of occasional burnt daub patches. This may either represent a badly heat-eroded hearth or the back-fill of a hearth robbing cut. (Context 3044 may represent the use deposits of an earlier hearth replaced by cut 3054/fill 3051).

The demolition or end of use for hearth 3051 signified a change in the layout of the area. A large dump of friable dark grey silty clay (3042), with inclusions of moderate small patches of dark yellow brown sand, occasional small burnt clay or daub fragments, patches of olive green tinged silty clay and small pebbles, was used to raise the ground level and possibly form a floor surface.

Originally 3042 would have been more than 0.23m thick but had been truncated by the machine clearance of the site. A single sherd of 13th-century pottery was recovered from this deposit.

Context 3042 had been truncated by cuts 3052 and 3047. 3052 was a 0.45m wide, 0.20m deep pit cut, with a 'bowl' shaped profile. Its primary fill consisted of a friable dark grey silty clay (3053), 0.12m thick, with inclusions of moderate dark yellow brown silty clay patches and occasional very small brick/tile fragments. This was sealed by an upper fill of friable fine grained dark yellow brown silt sand (3041), 0.05m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and small limestone fragments, which had also been truncated by the machine clearance of the site. The fills failed to give any indication as to the function that cut 3052 had served.

Cut 3047 was in excess of 0.38m deep and over 0.25m wide and continued beyond both the base and south-western limit of excavation. The visible north-eastern edge of the cut had had the upper 0.40m removed by the machine clearance of the site, and the south-western edge lay beyond the limit of excavation. The surviving exposed edge fell vertically to an unexcavated base. The earliest observed back-fill was a friable silty clay (3050), over 0.20m thick, which was sealed by a coarse gravel in a matrix of mid grey sandy clay silt (3049), 0.40m thick. This was directly below a 0.20m thick upper fill consisting of small to medium stone rubble in a matrix of mid grey brown sandy silt (3048) which had been truncated by the machine. All the fills of cut 3047 strongly suggested that this was a modern service trench.

The north-eastern edge of 3041 was truncated by a large 1.28m wide, 0.44m deep pit cut (3128) of which only the south-western edge and base survived, the north-eastern side being removed by later activity. The south-western edge broke sharply from the surface and fell gently towards the north-east in a series of irregular steps before falling vertically to a sharp bottom edge leading to a flat uneven base. A depression in the south-western edge of the base was caused by the machine displacing a large fragment of limestone. The primary fills of cut 3128 were contexts 3040 and 3036. Context 3036 was a small isolated deposit consisting of a 0.02m thick dump of compact stiff dark orange burnt clay. 3040 was a friable light brown silt sand, 0.09m thick, with occasional fine grained dark orange sand patches, which was sealed by a friable light to mid brown silt sand (3039), up to 0.10m thick, with occasional charcoal flecks. Directly above this was a friable dark brown sandy clay (3038), 0.06m thick, with inclusions of fine grit patches, which was sealed by a friable dark grey silty clay (3037), 0.10m thick, with inclusions of moderate dark orange burnt clay fragments, dark yellow brown silty clay fragments and charcoal flecks. Both contexts 3037 and 3036 were sealed by a small dump deposit consisting of a friable dark grey to black sandy clay silt (3035), 0.03m thick, with inclusions of frequent small charcoal fragments. Directly above this was a deposit of friable light to mid brown silty clay (3033), 0.03m thick, with inclusions of frequent flecks to small fragments of charcoal and moderate small patches of fine grained pale yellow sand. Context 3037 was also sealed by a dump of friable mid yellow brown sandy clay (3034), 0.09m thick, with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small patches of pebbly gravel. Directly above this was a 0.01m thick deposit consisting of a friable dark brown silt (3032) which, along with context 3033, may form the upper fill of cut 3128.

The back-fills of cut 3128 were all to some extent rich in burnt material or were sandy in nature. This, and the lack of any domestic debris, i.e. animal bone or pottery, suggested that cut 3128 had been excavated for the discard of waste material arising from industrial processes that were being carried out in the vicinity.

Both contexts 3032 and 3023 were sealed by a 0.19m thick levelling deposit (3031) which consisted of a plastic pale yellowish brown silty clay with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small patches of coarse grained dark orange sand. This had been used to raise the ground level to 4.84m AOD and may have also served as a floor surface. The north-eastern extent of 3031 had been truncated by cut 3028.

The earliest deposit observed to the north-east of cut 3028 was similar to context 3046, the relationship between the two truncated by later activity. Context 3027 continued beyond the base of the excavated area, was over 0.13m thick, and had been used to raise the ground level to approximately 4.42m AOD. A single sherd of pottery suggested a date of the 13th century for this activity, which was carried out before a new phase of activity commenced.

Context 3027 was sealed by a possible floor surface (3026) which consisted of a 0.11m thick deposit of friable dark brown silty clay with inclusions of flecks to small fragments of charcoal. Directly above this were contexts 3024 and 3025. Context 3024 was a moist, coarse-grained loose pale yellow sand, 0.06m thick, with inclusions of occasional small pebbles. The lack of contamination, i.e. charcoal, mortar, pottery, etc., suggested that this deposit represented a single dump and was therefore more likely to be a levelling deposit on, or repair to, the underlying floor surface (3026). 3025 consisted of a friable mid to dark brown silty clay, up to 0.04m thick, with inclusions of occasional flecks to small fragments of charcoal and very small brick/tile fragments. This deposit may represent a build-up of material on top of floor 3026, a levelling deposit and/or repair to the floor, or the upper surface of 3026 which had become contaminated with trampled material.

The relationship between contexts 3024 and 3025 was not certain as both had been truncated by a 0.10m deep, over 1.60m wide cut (3055), with a vertical side on the north-east which broke sharply from the surface before falling to a rounded bottom edge leading to a flat irregular base, the south-west edge had been removed by later activity. The back-fill of cut 3055, a friable light to mid brown coarse grained silt sand (3021), with inclusions of frequent small stone fragments and occasional small pockets of grit and pebbles, suggested that cut 3055 may have been a clearance cut, back-filled with stony material (3021) to repair and stabilise floor surface 3026. Context 3021 was sealed by context 3020. This was a dump of friable mid to dark brown silty clay, 0.06m thick, with inclusions of occasional small charcoal fragments and very small brick/tile fragments, which may have been part of the same levelling/repair operation as context 3021, providing a floor surface at approximately 4.57m AOD.

The area was levelled prior to a new phase of activity taking place.

Cut 3022, which had truncated context 3021, was a 0.34m wide, over 0.22m deep steep-sided cut, which continued beyond the base of the recorded section. Its back-fill, a friable moist dark brown silty clay (3023), with occasional thin lenses of dark yellow brown sand and moderate charcoal flecking, gave no indication as to its use. It would not be unfeasible that cut 3022 had been either a small pit or a large post hole.

Context 3020 had been truncated by a 0.05m wide, 0.09m deep stake hole cut (3015), with vertical sides and a sharply pointed base, which contained a back-fill of a friable dark grey sandy clay silt (3016). Both contexts 3016 and 3023 were sealed by a levelling deposit consisting of a friable, plastic when worked, mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay (3012), with inclusions of occasional decayed wood and charcoal flecks. This had been used to raise the ground level by

between 0.04m to 0.12m to provide a new, albeit uneven, floor surface, at approximately 4.62m AOD. It contained two sherds of 12th/13th-century pottery. Directly above this was a 0.02m thick build-up or occupation deposit consisting of a friable mid yellow brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent small burnt clay or daub fragments (3011). This in turn was sealed by a friable mid yellow brown silty clay (3010), with inclusions of moderate small fragments of burnt clay or daub, which was used to provide a new 0.06m thick floor surface at approximately 4.72m AOD.

Context 3010 lay directly beneath a deposit consisting of a friable dark yellowish brown silty clay (3009), with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, burnt clay flecks and one small decayed wood fragment, which may represent either an up to 0.07m thick build-up or an occupation deposit on floor 3010, or was a floor surface in its own right. The north-eastern extent of context 3009 was sealed by a deposit consisting of a friable mid yellow brown silty clay (3008), up to 0.04m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, which was either part of the make-up of floor 3009 or a repair to the same. Directly above this was a 0.03m thick build-up or occupation deposit (3007) consisting of a friable dark brown silty clay. This was sealed by an isolated dump of a friable pale brown silt sand (3006), 0.02m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, which was stratigraphically below a friable pale to mid yellow brown silty clay (3005), up to 0.10m thick, with inclusions of charcoal flecks. Context 3006 may represent the initial dump of a levelling deposit which, with context 3005, was used to raise and level the ground surface to approximately 4.82m AOD. Both contexts 3006 and 3005 may also have been the make-up of a floor which had become uneven through erosion.

The north-eastern extent of 3005 was sealed by context 3003, whereas the south-western extent was truncated by pit cut 3127. Context 3003 was a small dump or build-up deposit which consisted of a plastic, olive green sandy silt, up to 0.04m thick, with inclusions of moderate charcoal flecks and occasional very small burnt clay or daub fragments. Cut 3127 was 0.89m wide, 0.41m deep, with a north-eastern edge which broke sharply from the surface, and fell steeply in a series of irregular steps to a rounded bottom edge leading to a gently rounded base; its south-western edge had been truncated by later activity. Its primary fill consisted of a 0.02m thick mid brown sandy clay (3019) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecking. Directly above this was a friable mid brown silty clay (3018) with coarse creamy white sand mottling, 0.02m thick, which was sealed by a 0.06m thick deposit of friable dark grey to black sandy clay silt (3017) with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small gravel patches. Stratigraphically above 3017 was a 0.04m thick dump of a compact pale yellow brown silty clay (3014), which lay beneath a 0.12m thick deposit consisting of small fragments burnt clay or compacted sand mould fragments in a matrix of friable mid yellowish brown silty clay (3013). This was sealed by the uppermost fill of pit 3127, a friable mid brown sandy clay (3004), 0.20m thick, with inclusions of moderate creamy white sand spotting, occasional charcoal flecks, thin lenses of coarse gritty sand and one large magnesian limestone fragment. The industrial nature of the back-fills of pit cut 3127, i.e. lacking in domestic type refuse and containing a high percentage of charcoal, burnt material and mould fragments, all suggested that cut 3127 had been excavated for the disposal of industrial waste. Contexts 3004 and 3031 were both truncated by pit cut 3028 which was 1.05m wide, over 0.53m deep, with sides that broke sharply from the surface before falling steeply on the south-western side, and almost vertically on the north-east, where there was an horizontal step, before leading to an un-excavated base. The primary fill of cut 3028 was of a 0.32m thick dump of friable mid grey silty clay (3030) with inclusions of moderate flecks to small fragments of burnt clay or daub, occasional small flint fragments, charcoal flecks, medium cobbles and small to medium soft dark orange burnt clay patches; this produced five sherds of 14th-century

pottery. This was sealed by an upper fill consisting of a friable fine grained dark yellow brown silt sand (3029), 0.23m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and small limestone fragments, which produced a single sherd of 13th-century pottery. Contexts 3003 and 3029 were directly beneath an extensive levelling deposit consisting of compacted loose flecks to medium fragments of burnt mould, bright orange red on one face, black on the other, with flecks of charcoal in a matrix of mid brown sand silt (3002) with inclusions of occasional small limestone fragments.

Context 3002 had been used to raise the ground surface by 0.17m, at its thickest point, to 5.04m AOD, and most likely was the make-up for a new floor surface or was a surface in its own right. The extent and nature of this deposit, extending from beyond the north-eastern limit of the exposed section for 4.27m to the south-west, where it was truncated by the machine, suggested that intense industrial activity (i.e. metal working) had been carried out in the vicinity of the site. The by-products of this activity (3002), broken up moulds, were then dumped and spread around to form a stable floor or work surface. The upper surface of context 3002 may have originally been level, but this was uncertain as it had been truncated by the cut for a service trench (3133) which contained a relict steel water pipe (3001) sealed beneath a back fill consisting of a crumbly pale to mid brown gritty sand silt (3000) with inclusions of small to medium coal fragments, cinder fragments and small brick/tile fragments. Context 3000 was up to 0.20m thick and had been truncated by the machine clearance of the site, at approximately 5.08m AOD.

5.4 AREA 4

Section 8 was located in Area 4 (Figure 3). This trench was 5.08m long, 1.08m wide and was machine excavated to 3.27m AOD, or 1.97m BGL, to remove a 'hard spot' formed by a substantial brick wall/foundation that would have been encroached upon by the new foundation slab.

5.4.1 Section 8 (Figure 11)

The earliest deposit observed was located, at its highest point, at 4.04m AOD, and consisted of a natural loose moist medium grained mid orange brown sand (4015). This was excavated to a depth of 0.31m, and continued beyond the base of the excavated area. Context 4015 was truncated, to the north-west, by cut 4007 and, to the south-east, sealed by context 4014.

Cut 4007 was a substantial, 2.05m wide, 0.77m deep, north-east – south-west orientated ditch. Both sides broke gently from the surface before falling gently in a series of irregular steps on the south-east side and steeply, again in a series of irregular steps, on the north-west. Both sides fell to a narrow base which was formed by a 0.25m wide, 0.09m deep linear north-east – south-west aligned slot with steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base. The primary fill was compact, green-tinged, pale brown sandy clay with pale grey sand silt lenses and spotting (4005), up to 0.16m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks. This deposit may represent a dump deposit, silting within the base of the ditch or material washed in from the sides of the cut. Directly above this was the upper ditch fill, a plastic, green-tinged pale grey sandy clay silt (4004), 0.30m thick, with inclusions of occasional small mid brown clay fragments, charcoal flecks and iron staining, which also produced six sherds of Roman pottery dated to the 2nd/3rd centuries.

After the ditch had been back-filled the area appeared to have been levelled. Context 4004 was sealed by a 0.22m thick dump of moist loose pale grey silt sand (4003) with inclusions of

occasional charcoal flecks, which was used to raise the ground level to 4.06m AOD, at the north-western limit of excavation, before tailing off towards the south-east at 3.96m AOD. The fall in the surface of 4003 may have been caused by the subsidence of the underlying ditch fills or the manner in which the material was dumped. This slump was rectified by levelling the area with a further dump, a moist plastic mid grey brown sandy clay silt (4002) with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, small pebbles and yellow sand flecks. Context 4002 was used to raise the ground level by 0.33m, to 4.36m AOD, at the north-western limit of excavation, before falling to 4.23m AOD towards the south-east. Directly above this was a further levelling deposit consisting of a plastic, mid grey sandy clay silt (4001) with moderate charcoal flecking, occasional small sandstone fragments, burnt clay flecks and small pale brown sand spots. Context 4001 had been used to raise the ground level by a considerable amount, some 0.74m, to 5.09m AOD at the north-western limit of excavation, its south-eastern edge having been truncated by later activity. Context 4014 was a levelling deposit consisting of a moist loose pale grey silt sand, with inclusions of moderate flecks to small orange brown clay fragments, occasional charcoal flecks and pale sand flecks, which had been used to raise the ground level, by up to 0.30m, and form a surface at 4.23m AOD. Directly above this was an occupation or build-up deposit consisting of a moist plastic pale grey brown sand silt (4013), 0.02m thick, with inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks. It was at this level that the ground surface was again raised. Context 4013 was sealed by a 0.19m thick levelling deposit consisting of a friable pale orange brown silt (4012) with inclusions of occasional charcoal and burnt clay flecks. The south-eastern edge of this was sealed by a further levelling deposit consisting of a plastic, pale grey clay sand silt (4011), 0.22m thick, with inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks and occasional thin lenses of pale brown clay. Directly above this was a levelling deposit consisting of a plastic mid grey sand silt (4010), 0.20m thick, with inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks, burnt clay flecks and thin lenses of pale yellow brown clay, which, with contexts 4012 and 4011 had been used to raise the ground level to approximately 4.64m AOD. If the surface of context 4010 had served as a floor surface it must have been short-lived, as insufficient time had elapsed for the formation of any build-up or occupation deposits. It was sealed by a 0.56m thick levelling deposit consisting of a very mixed material, the main constituent being a mid grey clay silt, with many thin sand lenses and inclusions of charcoal flecks, mortar flecks, small limestone and burnt clay fragments (4009). Context 4009 was most likely used to raise the ground level, to approximately 5.09m AOD, before a new phase of construction commenced.

Context 4009 was truncated by construction cut 4016, which was 0.20m deep with a flat uneven base. The north-west edge had been removed by later activity, the south-east extended beyond the limit of excavation. 4016 contained a single course of a north-west – south-east aligned foundation, constructed from large re-used magnesian limestone fragments in a matrix of white speckled soft creamy white lime mortar (4008). Some of the larger fragments had the remnants of finely tooled surfaces, which suggested that they had been ‘quarried’ from a building of some status, possibly located in the undisturbed area of the development. Both contexts 4001 and foundation 4008 were truncated by a 3.43m wide, 1.15m deep clearance cut (4006) for the construction of a brick walled cellar. Both the cellar wall and the back-fill of cut 4006 (4000) were truncated, during the machine clearance of the site, to 5.15m AOD.

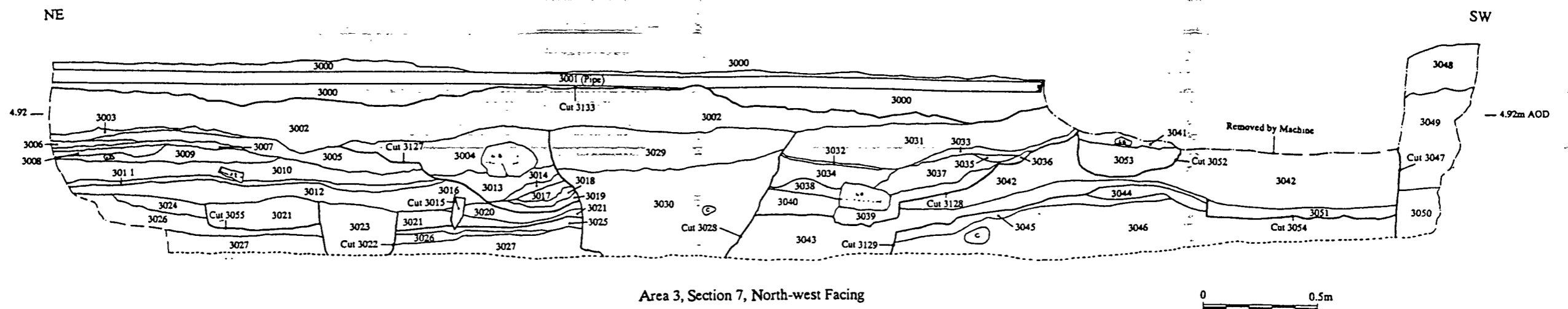


Figure 10

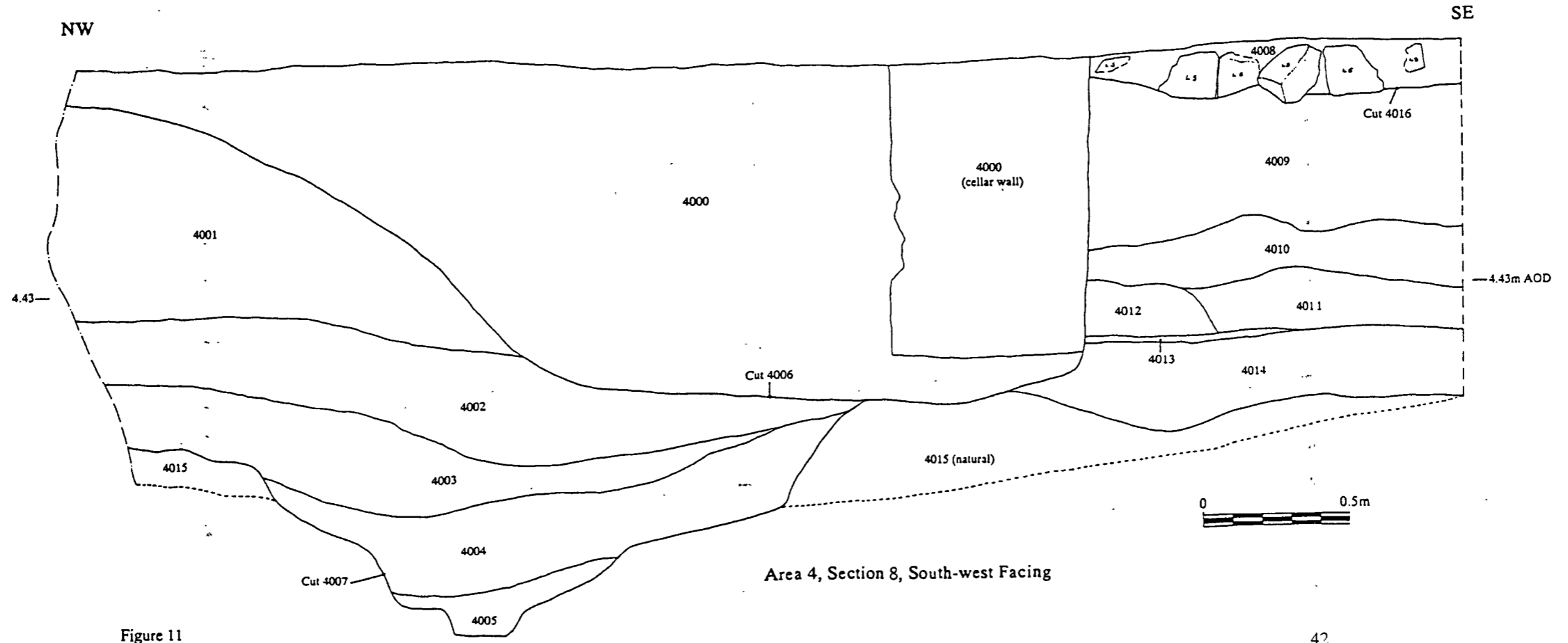


Figure 11