

Figure 5 West-facing section (2), Trench 1
(see Fig. 3 for location)

0 1 2 metres

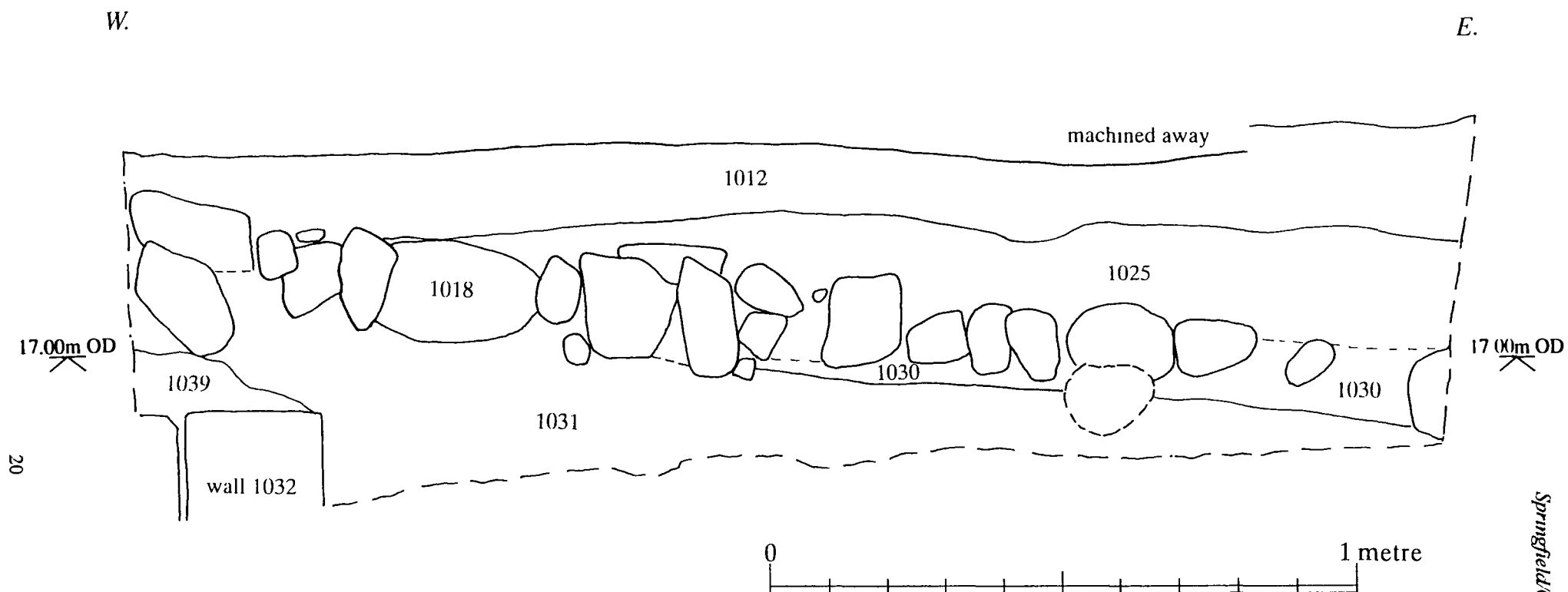


Figure 6 South-facing section (3), Trench 1. Showing walling 1032, surface 1018 etc, (see Fig. 3 for location)

S.

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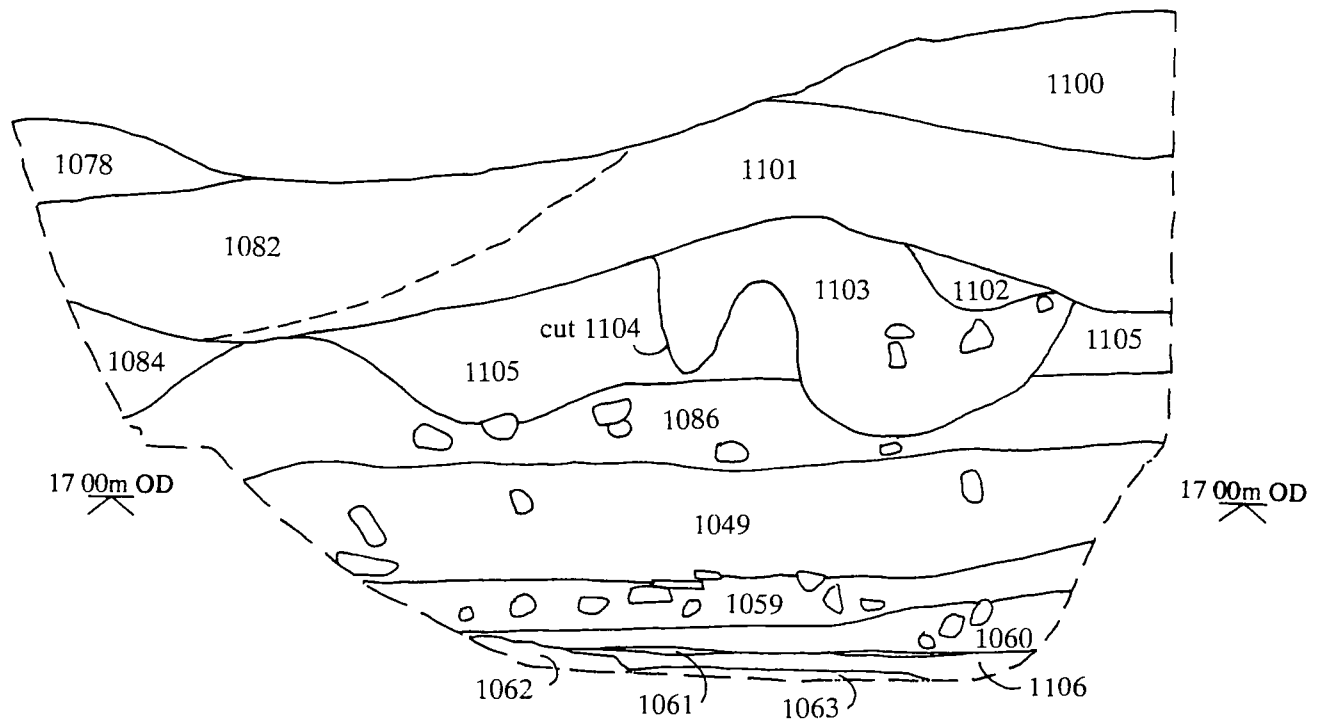


Figure 7 East-facing section (6), Trench 1.
(see Fig. 3 for location)

0 1metre

4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 8 – composite phase plan, Figures 9, 10 and 11)

Preamble

Trench 2 lay immediately south of Trench 1 in Pearson's "middle" area of the site that had previously been investigated by SAHS trenches 6, 1, 9 and 8. Of these, SAHS trenches 9 and 8 lay partially within Trench 2. SAHS trenches 6 and 1 were located several metres to the west. The results of Trenches 6, 1, 9 and 8 of the 1998 evaluation led to the recognition of six phases of activity within the 'middle' area. These can be briefly summarised thus:

1. Natural stream. Water-lain deposits of the Damyot beck.
2. Construction of a culvert. Channelling of Damyot waters via a stone built culvert.
3. Culvert in use.
4. Abandonment of culvert.
5. Stream revetment. Construction of a possible stone revetment wall on south side of Damyot.
6. Gardens. Build-up and accumulation of garden soils. equates with SAHS 6 of "northern" area.

The current programme of works identified five phases of activity. Certain correlations can be made between these and those of the SAHS:

SAHS Phase	YAT Phase
1	1
2	2
3	2
4	3
5	—
6	5

As SAHS phase 5 relates to revetting on the south side of the Damyot, and this area was not reached in the YAT works, naturally no evidence was found. YAT phase 4 relates to an episode of dumping at the site. What are almost certainly elements of the same activity were recognised by SAHS e.g. layer 914 (Trench 9) (Pearson 1998, 17) which was interpreted as demolition/clearance debris but included in SAHS phase 4 "abandonment of culvert". YAT phase 6 relates exclusively to modern works at the site.

4.2.1 Phase 1

The earliest deposits encountered in Trench 2, contexts 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2022, were seen to extend across the full north – south width of most of the trench and all were waterlogged. Seen only in parts of the sump and drain, the stratigraphically lowest of these deposits, 2007, was buff coloured, plastic, clayey silt that contained small fragments of wood and lesser quantities of small rounded pebbles. Some dark flecking was apparent within the deposit. This was neither charcoal nor coal but thought to be manganese. Overlying this early deposit was context 2006 which, where not truncated by machine, survived for a depth of up to 0.32m. The texture of this deposit was very similar to that of 2007 though it was of light to mid greyish brown colour and a few fine gritty particles were also present. 2006 contained the same range of inclusions as 2007.

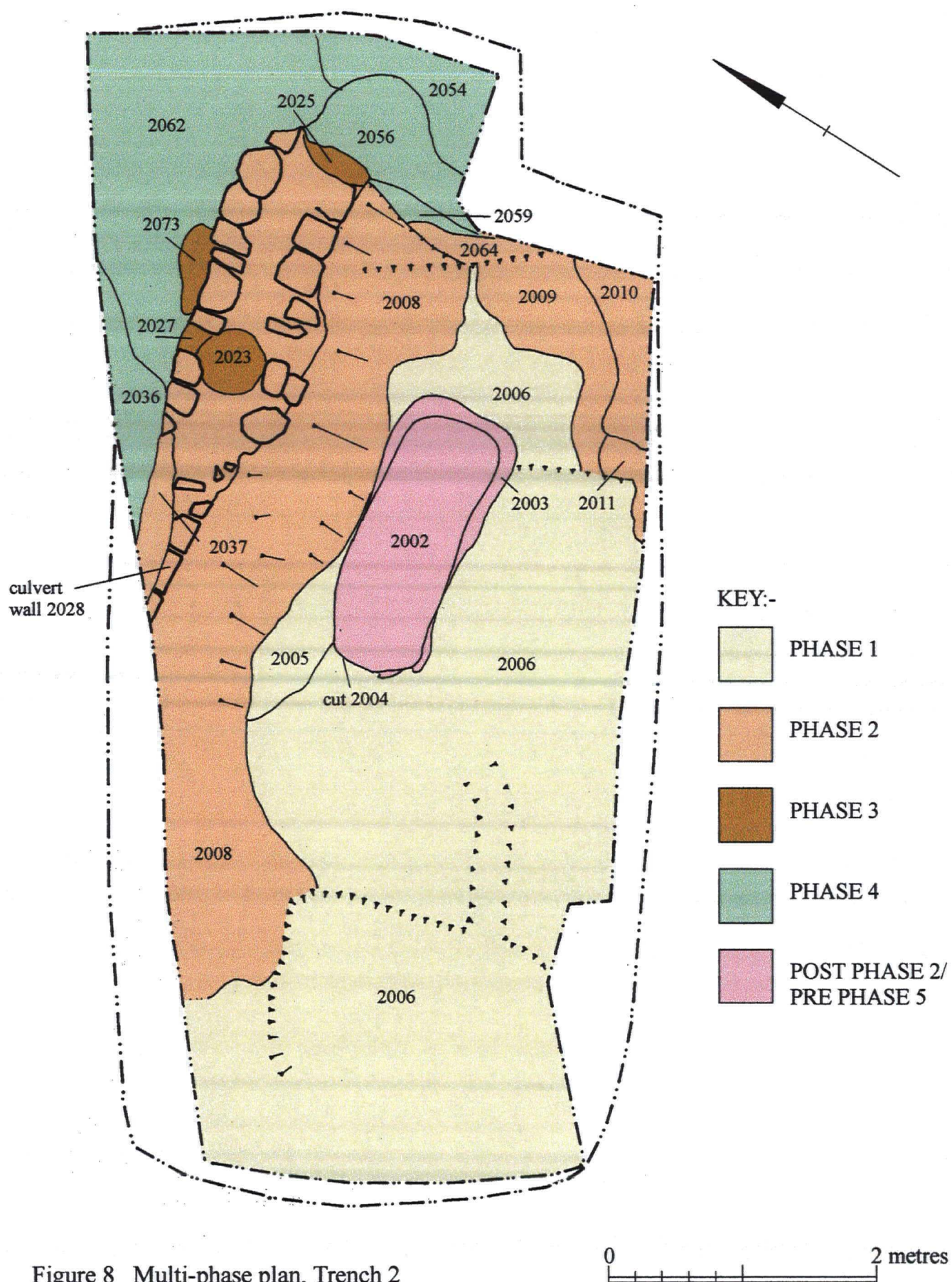


Figure 8 Multi-phase plan, Trench 2

(including ?manganese) though the wood fragments were frequently of larger size (up to 0.28m) and a small number of cobbles were also present. Furthermore, fragments of leather were also recovered from this deposit. Two related deposits overlay 2006, contexts 2005 and 2022, both of which were severely machine truncated. Context 2005 was mid to dark greyish brown, soft, slightly clayey silt that contained occasional fragments of wood up to 0.06m, a small quantity of fine pebbles and was permeated by fine lenses of pale coloured fine grained sand. Context 2022 was visible only in section towards the western end of the trench having been fully removed by machine in the basal areas. This deposit was mid greyish brown (with a slight reddish hue) somewhat stiff clayey silt that was again permeated by a number of irregularly shaped lenses of fine grained pale coloured sand. Other inclusions consisted of wood fragments (some partially decayed), fine pebbles and a small quantity of cobbles and stone fragments.

The texture of these early deposits, essentially clayey silts and often permeated by fine sandy lenses, showed broad similarities and they are interpreted as being water laid within what was probably the 'natural' course of the Damyot beck prior to its subsequent management. The north – south limits or edges of the beck lay beyond the trench limits and so could not be determined. A total of nine sherds of pottery were recovered from the stream deposits. These were all of a 13th-14th century date and are likely to be indicative of the latest accumulation of artifactual material within the beck prior to its culverting.

4.2.2 Phase 2

The activity of this phase was principally marked by the construction of a stone culvert surmounted by a bank with a series of deposits apparently dumped into the "natural" channel of the Damyot. Certain direct stratigraphic links between the culvert/bank and stream infills have been lost due to machine truncation of virtually the entirety of the latter deposits within the area of the trench and by the presence of SAHS Trench 9.

The presence of the culvert in the north-east part of the trench served to create an area of 'hard digging' for the mechanical excavator and so much of this feature survived intact. Some 3.50m length of the culvert, which was aligned approximately east – west, occurred within the trench. Parts of the southern wall, context 2028, and interior channel only were revealed, the remainder of the channel and northern wall lying under later deposits that were not removed. The south wall was constructed of a double skin of crudely dressed blocks of sandstone of a size up to 0.36m x 0.29m x 0.12m. A single re-used stone displaying a chamfer was noted within the walling. Bonding between the stone blocks was lightish brown silty clay (2029). The gap between the two skins was filled with fragments of sandstone within a matrix of light brown silty clay. The thickness of wall 2028 at its uppermost surviving part was 0.77m. As the southern wall was lapped up to by a bank and the internal channel fill, context 2073, was not excavated only parts of two courses of stonework were visible. The full depth of the stonework of the culvert is not known. Neither is it known if the culvert ever possessed some sort of capping or covering. None was apparent during the course of the works. Lying directly over the phase 1 stream deposits and lapping up against the southern edge of wall 2028 at an angle of approximately 25 – 30 degrees was a bank of dull orangey brown coloured, slightly plastic, clayey silt and silty clay, context 2008. The lower parts of this bank, which contained small amounts of stone, charcoal and shell, were noted as being slightly mottled and displayed a faintly greenish tinge to their colouration. Rather than forming a separate bank deposit it is considered that this variation may be due to the proximity of water in these lower parts. Although it cannot

be conclusively proven, it is probable that construction of both the culvert and the bank were contemporary. The five sherds of pottery recovered from bank 2008 spanned the 13th to 15th centuries. On the assumption that none of this pottery is intrusive construction of the bank is likely to have taken place in the 15th century.

Ten deposits were recorded in the area of the Damyot channel south of the culvert, contexts, 2072, 2071, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2009, 2011, 2010, 2063 and 2064. On the basis of context attributes these can be broken down into three groups. The first group, contexts 2011, 2020 and 2021, were those composed of between 60% – 90% stone, generally angular and sub-angular fragments of sandstone up to a size of 0.20m+, together with the occasional cobble and pebble. The remaining components were quite varied ranging from clayey sand to sandy silt. The second group, contexts 2072, 2009 and 2010, was predominantly brownish coloured, plastic, clayey silt that contained small quantities of fine sand. Although the inclusions present within the group varied from context to context (included small quantities of fine pebbles, charcoal, brick/tile, coal, shell) each was to some degree “wet” and contained fragments, often partially decayed, of wood. The third group, contexts 2071, 2019, 2063 and 2064, was altogether more varied. The texture of this group ranged from yellowish brown and greyish brown clayey silts to brown clayey sands. Similarly, the range of inclusions within each context was quite varied but included fragments of stone, cobbles, charcoal, coal, mortar, brick/tile and pebbles.

On the basis of the context group characteristics in relation to their location within the Damyot bed it is suggested that the first and third groups represent attempts to infill all or part of the Damyot channel. The first stony group of deposits in particular had the appearance of deliberate dumps of rubbly material, their stony nature seemingly aimed at infilling wet loose ground. The third group, whilst lacking the aggregate nature of the former, may well have been intended to overcome the same problem of wet ground by attempting to raise the ground level over the channel. The second group displays characteristics found in the phase 1 deposits and it is suggested that they are essentially water-lain. The three groups of deposits pose an interesting question in so far as stratigraphically at least they are intermixed, individual contexts within each group do not necessarily succeed each other in “group order”. Assuming that the deposits are correctly interpreted, then the picture that emerges is one of attempts to infill the old course of the Damyot once it had been culverted but this not meeting with total success. The presence of water-lain deposits within the at least partially infilled channel indicates that periodically, at least, perhaps during periods of heavy rainfall/excessive ground water the old channel continued to carry water. The small pottery assemblage from these deposits dated to the 13th-15th centuries.

The stone culvert is clearly part of the same feature revealed during the 1998 evaluation in SAHS Trench 9 (F912, south wall). The bank lapping up to the southern side of the south wall of the culvert was also identified in 1998 in Trench 9 as context 922. The evidence for the continued, albeit perhaps limited, presence of water within the old Damyot channel was also revealed in SAHS Trench 9, layer 923, and to a greater extent in Trench 1, layers 108, 112 and 113 (Pearson 1998, 15-17). Unfortunately, areas of interface between the culvert and structures of Trench I were not available for examination and so their relationships are not known.

4.2.3 Phase 3

A gravelly fill within a clayey sand matrix (2073) was seen to occupy the upper part of the culvert. This deposit, which was not excavated though may be a deliberate infilling, clearly represents the demise of the culvert. Indications were also present that point towards the upper

parts of the culvert wall, 2028, having been robbed. Two shallow cuts, contexts 2024 and 2026, directly over the top of 2028 probably mark the positions of robbed stone blocks. The fills of these depressions, contexts 2023, 2025, 2062 and 2027, were greyish brown, loose, clayey sand silts that contained a number of small stone fragments. Several sherds of 13th-15th century pottery were recovered from these deposits. As the deposits relate to robbing and consist principally of re-worked materials the dates of the sherds are unlikely to relate to the date of robbing.

The deposits of this phase mark the end of the working life of the culvert. The culvert fill 2073 can be directly equated to that found in SAHS Trench 9, layer 907 (Pearson 1998, 18). No clear evidence for robbing of the culvert wall was found in the 1998 evaluation.

4.2.4 Phase 4

A considerable number of deposits, contexts 2018, 2017, 2016, 2061, 2060, 2059, 2058, 2057, 2015, 2055, 2056, 2051, 2054, 2053, 2050, 2042, 2062, 2035, 2034=2037, and 2033=2036, collectively form phase 4. All of these were recorded exclusively from the sections as none survived within the trench limits. Many of these deposits overlay the abandoned culvert.

Considerable variation was apparent in terms of texture, consistency, inclusions and extents of contexts within this large group, which may be loosely labelled as 'dumping'. The wide range of texture for example ranged from gravelly sand to clayey silt and even included deposits that were essentially dumps of stone rubble. The large range of inclusions included sandstone, limestone, cobbles, pebbles, charcoal, coal, mortar, bone, shell, brick/tile and lumps of clay. Certain of the contexts were very extensive sometimes over 0.50m thick and present in section for several metres. At the opposite extreme a small number were of much lesser proportions and extended for less than 0.30m. Collectively, the total depth of coverage by these deposits over the area of the trench was in the general region of 0.40m – 0.80m. In a number of instances interpretation of individual contexts of the group seems clear. Contexts 2051 and 2042, for example, were almost exclusively derived from building debris, fragments of sandstone, mortar, cobbles, etc. Other contexts contained large quantities of what was likely to have been domestic refuse, large quantities of bone, shell, charcoal and ash. In a few instances, for example contexts 2035, 2034, 2037 and 2018, large pale coloured deposits of 'clean' appearance and with a fairly high clay content were noted. With the exception of stone, inclusions within these deposits tended to be sparse. The clean nature of this group suggests the possibility of a deliberate programme of ground level raising. A few of the uppermost deposits of the series, in particular contexts 2017, 2015, 2033 and 2036, were of a loamy texture and may in fact relate to the later phase 5 garden soils.

This phase of activity can be equated with phase 5 of Trench 1, each being characterised by extensive deposits of dumped material. In the case of Trench 1 this activity marked the apparent abandonment of that part of the site subsequent to robbing of the latest phase of building. In the case of Trench 2 a similar event is represented, namely the abandonment of this area of the site after the demise and partial robbing of the culvert. Evidence for similar activity in the middle part of the site during the 1998 evaluation may be represented by layer 914 in SAHS Trench 9 and by layer 802 in SAHS Trench 8 (Pearson 1998, 17-19). Pottery recovered from these deposits suggests a 15th century, or later, date.

A single cut feature (2004) whose precise phase is uncertain, though on grounds of stratigraphy alone clearly post-dating phase 1 and pre-dating phase 5, was located in the central part of the trench, where it was seen to cut through the phase 1 stream deposits. All deposits directly over the feature had been truncated by machine. Whilst it is certain that this feature has been truncated the degree of this is unknown. A case based on logic can be presented however to suggest that a phase 2 or later date is pertinent. The grounds for this are simply that some, if not all backfilling of the Damyot channel (phase 2) must have occurred by the time the pit was created as it is unlikely to have been cut through the beck. This feature was sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners, measured some 2.02m x 0.92m and was aligned approximately north-west – south-east. A slightly discontinuous band of buff coloured clay, context 2003, up to 0.05m wide formed a lining around the internal edge of the cut. The single observed fill, context 2002, was dark greyish brown, slightly gritty, organic silty fill that included twigs and small fragments of wood. Inclusions within the fill consisted of small pieces of calcined bone, flecks of brick/tile, flecks of charcoal and coal together with a few flecks of mortar and mostly small pieces of stone. A single sherd of Scarborough ware was recovered from this fill. Unfortunately, it was not possible to excavate this feature and so its depth, steepness of sides, presence of further fills, etc, has not been determined. The function of this pit is uncertain. Whilst the fill need not relate to the original function of the feature it is probable that the lining does. The texture of this lining may have been intended to retain liquid. An industrial function may well be implied.

4.2.5 Phase 5

A build-up of garden soils, generally of a depth of 0.60m – 0.70m sealed the phase 4 deposits, contexts 2014, 2069, 2052 and 2032. These deposits were essentially silty loams that contained inclusions of brick/tile, stone, pebbles, charcoal, coal, mortar and bone. Two features, contexts 2049 and 2013 were seen to cut through the soils. Located in the south-east corner of the trench 2049 was in excess of 1.40m wide, 0.56m deep, had fairly gently sloping sides and a flattish base. The fill, context 2048, was greyish brown clayey loam containing quantities of stone and brick rubble. Cut 2049 would appear to represent a refuse pit. At the extreme west of the trench cut 2013 was in excess of 0.50m wide, 0.62m deep and had steep sides and a flat base. The single fill, context 2012, was dark greyish brown clayey loam. The profile of this feature suggests that it may originally have held a post of some description.

The garden soils of this phase can be seen to equate with those of phase 6 of Trench 1 and with those of the 1998 evaluation (middle area) SAHS phase 6. All of these date to the post-medieval period. It will be noted that the build-up of garden soils within this area was slightly less than that apparent in the north of the site.

4.2.6 Phase 6

All of the phase 6 features relate to the modern period. Ceramic pipe drains and their fills/cuts, contexts 2067/2068, 2038/2039 and 2045/2046/2047, were observed in the north facing, south facing and west facing sections respectively. Of these the two former represent parts of the same drain. Sealing these features were thin layers of rubblely makeup, contexts 2066, 2044 and 2030 that underlay a 0.12m thick concrete slab. The latest activity was marked by the old SAHS Trenches 9 and 8, contexts 2040 and 2041 respectively.

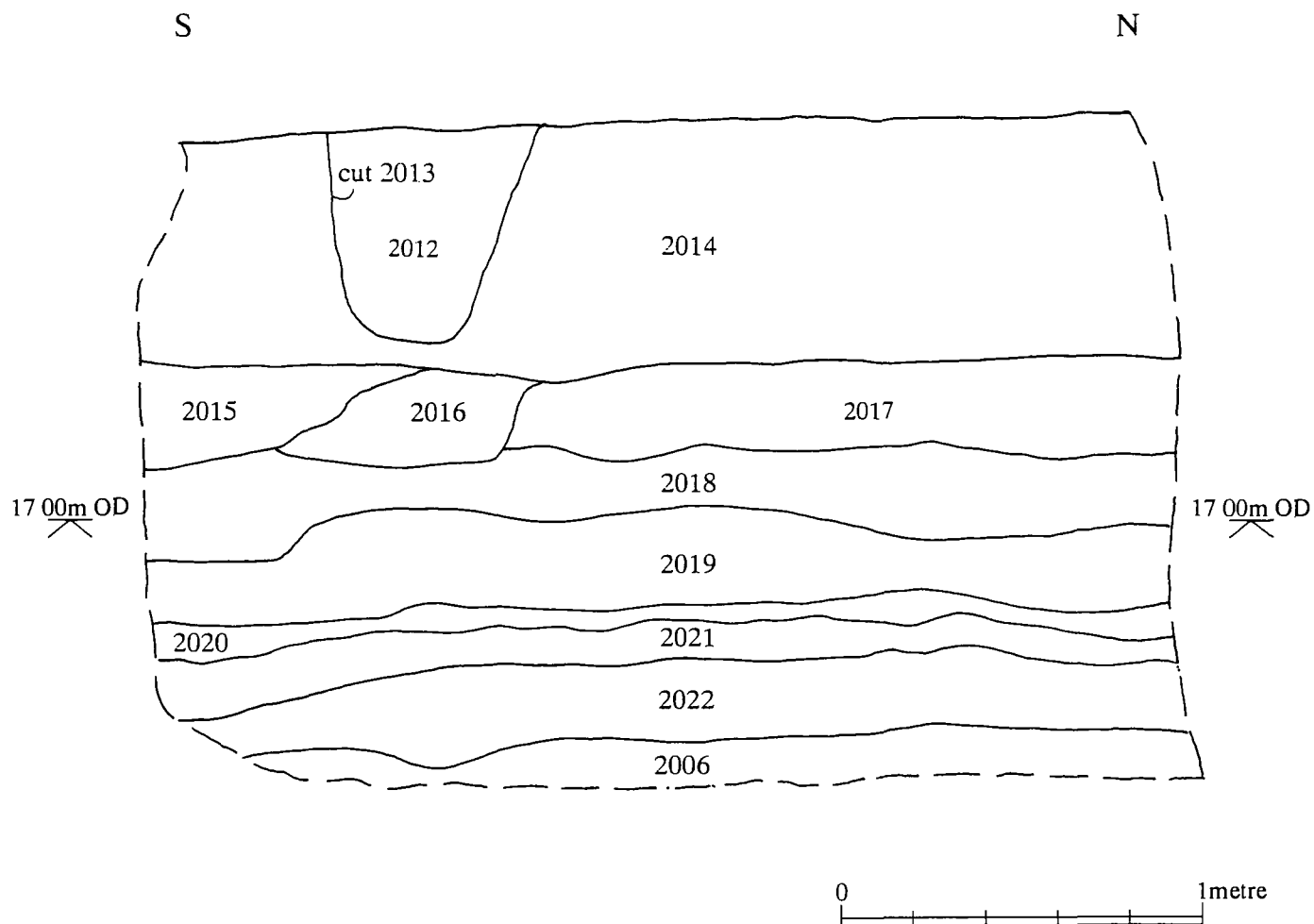


Figure 9 East-facing section (1), Trench 2
(see Fig. 3 for location)

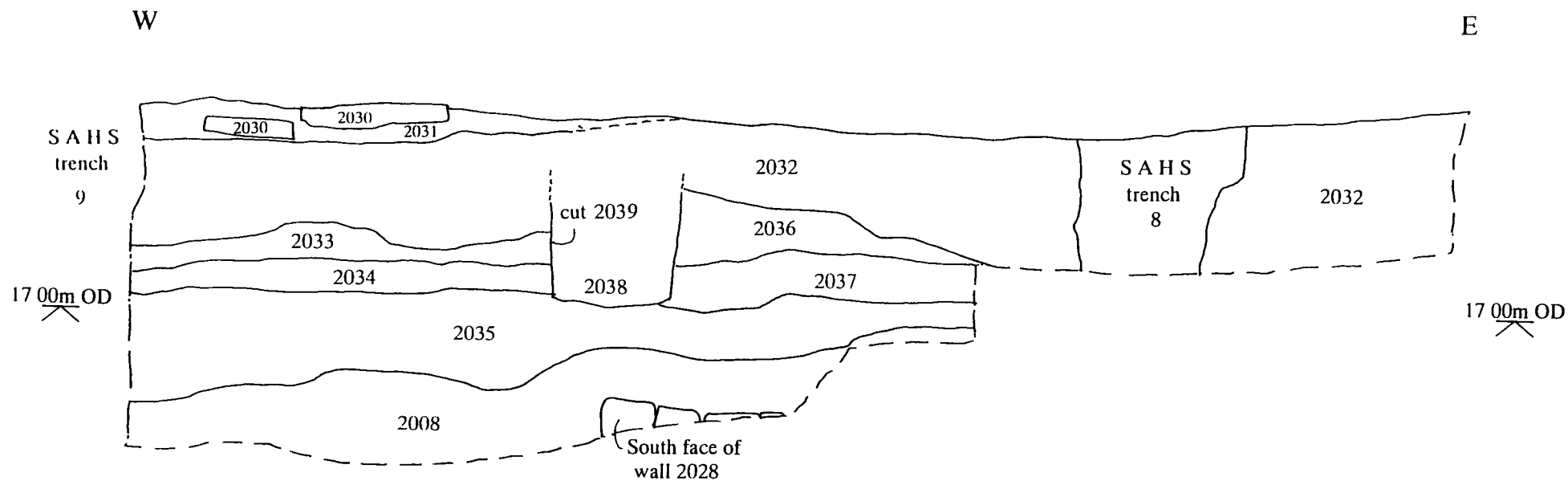


Figure 10 South-facing section (2), Trench 2
(see Fig. 3 for location)

0 1 2 metres

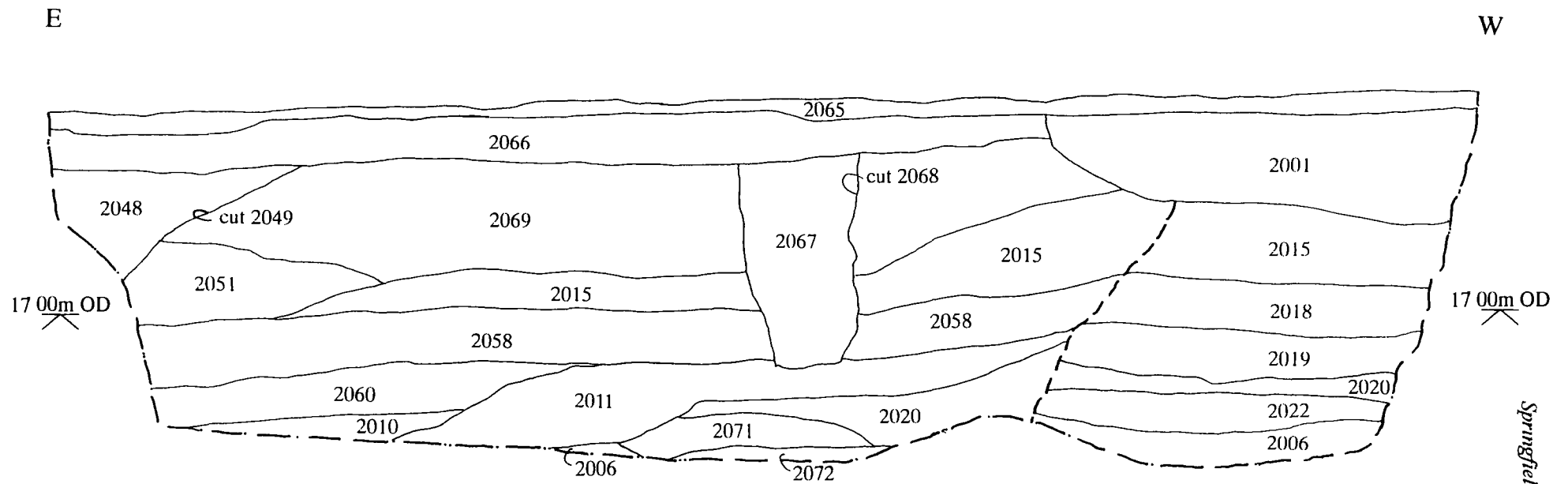


Figure 11 North-facing section (5), Trench 2
(see Fig. 3 for location)

0 1 2 metres



Plate 1, Site prior to archaeological works. School to left, Meeting House to right.



Plate 2, Removal of spoil from trench 1. Meeting House in background.



Plate 3, Trench 1, cleaning of southern part after mechanical excavation.



Plate 3, Trench 2, Culvert wall 2028, bank 2008 immediately, beck deposits adjacent.