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**LAND SOUTH OF OUSEGATE,
SELBY,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**



D.T.Evans

**REPORT NUMBER: 2003/11
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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NYE 1213
S 8036
C 2699.

**A REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY D.T.EVANS**

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Abbreviations

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum,
BGL	Below Ground Level,
NGR	National Grid Reference,
NMR	National Monuments Record,
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council,
NY, NYM	North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record Number,
OS	Ordnance Survey,
RCHM	Royal Commission On Historical Monuments,
SMR	North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record,
YAT	York Archaeological Trust,
YORYM	York Archaeological Trust and Yorkshire Museum,

ABSTRACT

Between March 6th and March 19th York Archaeological Trust undertook an evaluation excavation on land to the south of the eastern end of Ousegate, Selby. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of five trenches situated at pre-determined points across the site.

All of the trenches produced some material of archaeological interest. The earliest, and potentially the most significant feature identified was excavated and recorded in Trench 1, and was provisionally dated to the Iron Age. There were virtually no other finds pre-dating the medieval period although a very abraded piece of Samian ware may hint at Roman activity nearby.

Possible or definite evidence for the medieval period was recovered from Trenches 1-3, and, in all three took the form of ditches although deposits were also noted within Trench 2. Due to the limited dating evidence it is possible that much of this may be post-medieval in date. Certain or possible post-medieval remains were identified in all trenches and included deposits, a possible post-hole, pits, ditches, and a gully.

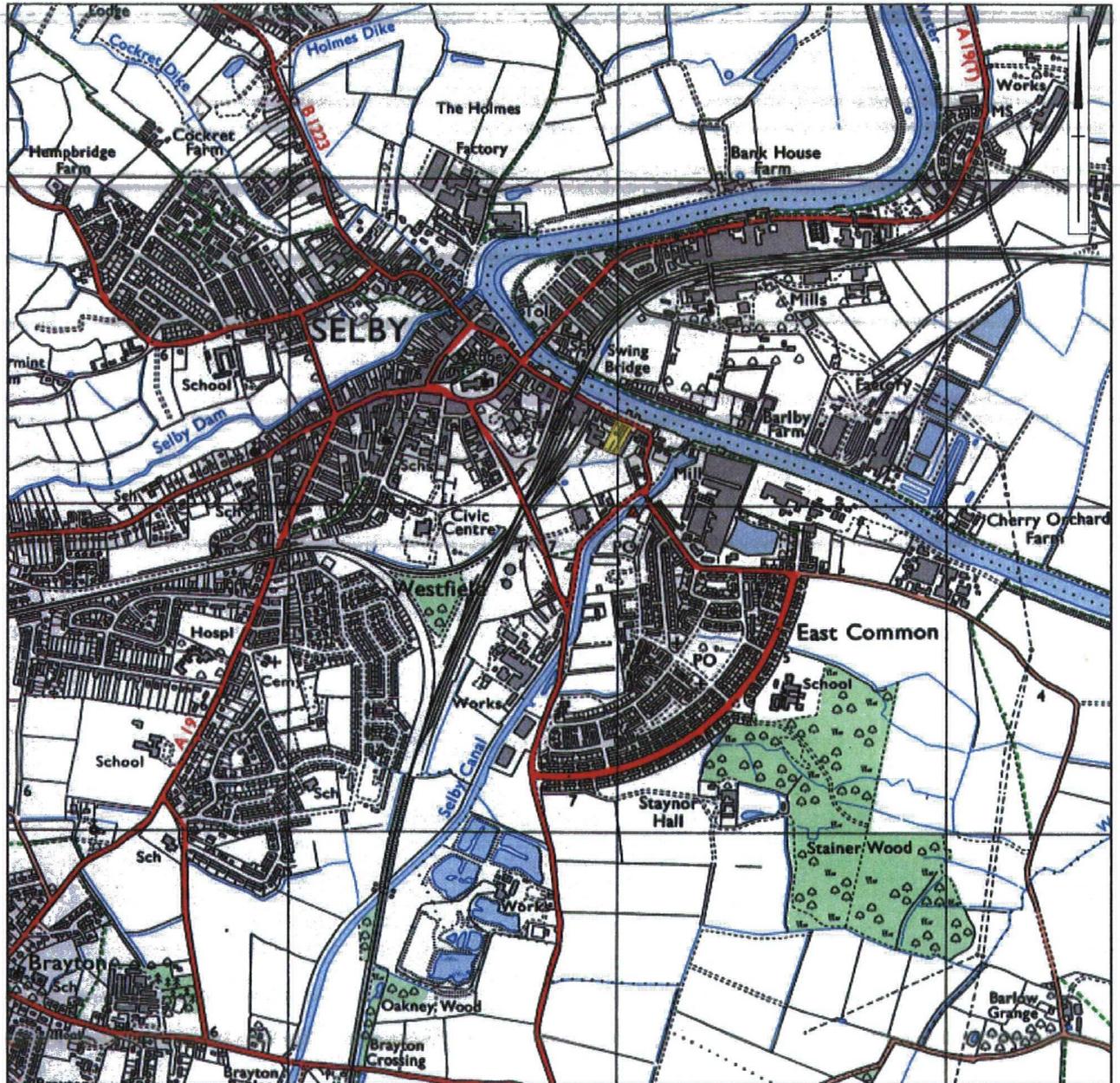
Below the recent modern material there was a large amount of early modern archaeology of some complexity and interest due to its diverse and unusual nature. Material of this date was positively identified in all five trenches and included ditches, at least two of which yielded evidence for timber structures within them, pits, post-holes, brick structures, and deposits. The full significance of all the archaeology on this site is as yet uncertain but will be discussed in more detail in the period analysis section of this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

From March 6th – March 19th 2003 York Archaeological Trust (YAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land south of the eastern end of Ousegate, Selby, North Yorkshire (NGR: SE 6200 / 3219, Figure 1). This was the second phase of a programme of investigation of the area, the first phase comprising a desktop study of the site (YAT 2002). The evaluation was carried out on behalf of Barratt York Ltd in order to assess the likely impact of proposed development on any archaeological deposits that may be present at the site.

2. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation was carried out to a specification drawn up by Gail Falkingham, Archaeologist, for the Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council, Northallerton. The evaluation was to consist of the excavation of five trenches, (Figure 2) each 5m x 2m, across the site at locations agreed with NYCC Heritage Unit. Care was taken to ensure that both the waterfront, north end of the site and the south end was investigated by at least one trench. Trenches 1 – 4 were aligned with their long axes north-south and Trench 5 was aligned east-west. Much of the proposed area of redevelopment is still occupied by warehouses and concrete access ways used by a freight company, General Freight, a division of Powell Duffryn Shipping Limited so it was not possible to investigate the full area of the site. The upper, obviously modern, deposits were removed by



KEY:-



Extent of development site

0 1000 metres

Figure 1 Site location

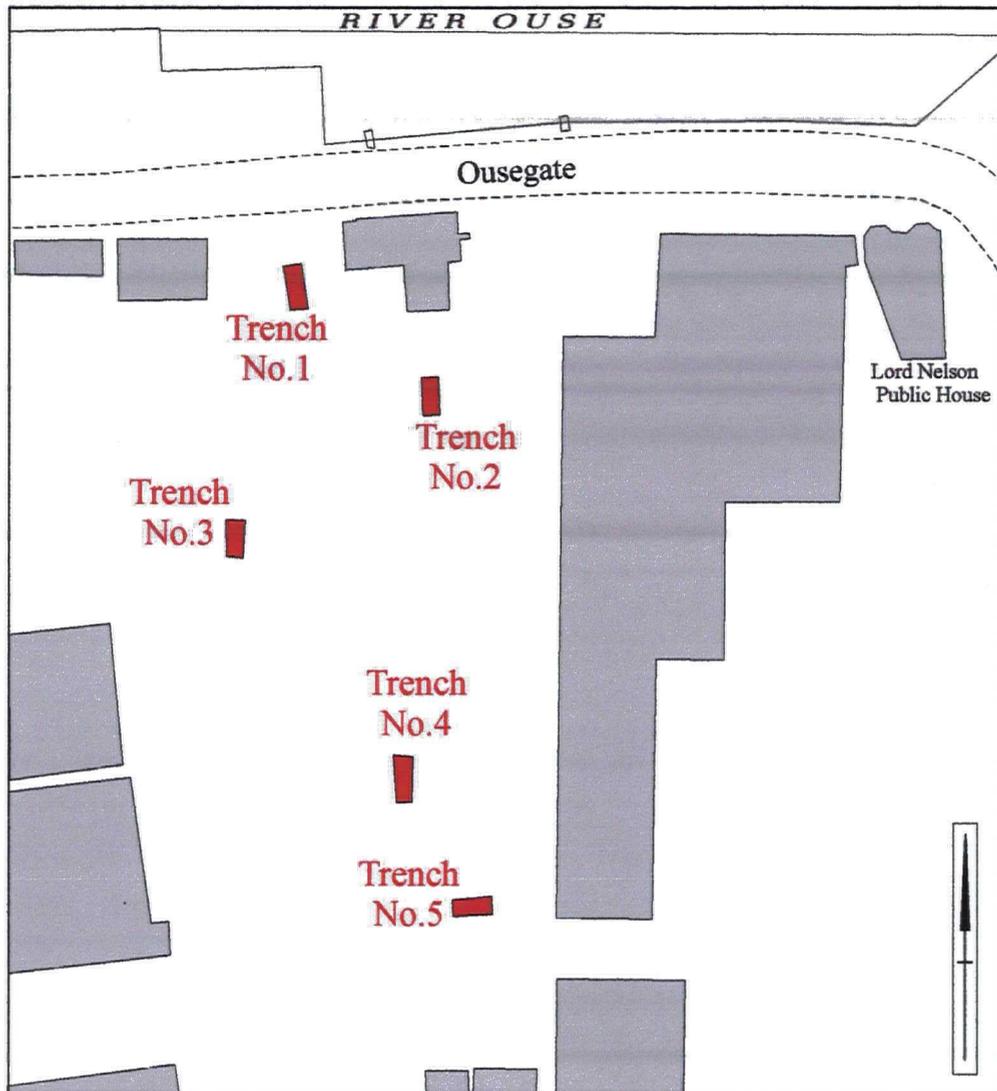


Figure 2 Location of trenches

0 25 metres

machine under archaeological supervision after which any further work was done by hand. Prior to and during the machine clearance of the trenches a cable detector was used to provide warning of any live but uncharted power cables or metal pipes.

The historical and archaeological background, and geological and topographic information for this report has been taken from the earlier desktop study. It was originally derived from consulting the National Monuments Record for any sites of historic or archaeological importance in the general vicinity of the site and the information gathered was assessed. The archive of information held at the SMR of the County of North Yorkshire was searched and its contents were also assessed. The SMR record cards for the study area were checked for any references to the land in question, and for sites in the vicinity. Historical and archaeological publications held by the SMR and York Archaeological Trust were also examined for additional information as was the archive of the YAT (YAT 1997). Selby Library was visited to check local sources for any information. Readily accessible cartographic sources were also examined.

Recording followed the procedures laid down in the York Archaeological Trust *Context Recording Manual* (1996). At least one standing section of each trench was drawn, at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Any significant features or deposits were to be recorded as single context plans at a scale of 1:20. Where relevant, colour photographs were taken of standing sections and features and a number of general record photographs were also taken.

A programme of environmental sampling was drawn up prior to the commencement of work but was subject to modification dependent on the nature of the deposits encountered.

Research notes, for both the desktop study and the evaluation, are currently stored by York Archaeological Trust under the YAT accession code YORAT: 2002.8

3. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies adjacent to the eastern end of Ousegate and the northern end of Shipyard Road, south of the River Ouse and south-east of Selby town centre. The proposed development consists of several separate, but nearly contiguous areas, measuring c.250m east - west and c.140m north - south. The ground is fairly level in this area of Selby and lies at c.5.5m AOD.

The drift geology is generally of silts and clay, and Kelfield Marl with alluvium close to watercourses. This overlies solid geology of Bunter Sandstone, Permian Marls, Magnesian Limestone, and coal.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 This background to the site has been compiled from the results of previous archaeological investigations and observations (Figure 3), readily accessible historical sources, and from cartographic evidence. There have been a number of archaeological investigations in the general area of central Selby but the research for the desktop study did not reveal any archaeological information concerning the actual site. Evidence from these investigations and an examination of the documentary and cartographic evidence for the site is discussed below, period by period.



KEY:-

- 1 NYM 10424
- 2 NY 267
- 5 NYM 10426
- 4 NYM 10430
- 5 NYM 10450
- 6 NY 557
- 7 NYM 10433
- 8 NY 471
- 9 NYM 10446
- 10 NY 546

 Area of evaluation

Figure 3 Archaeological sites in the area

0  400 metres

BASED UPON ORDNANCE SURVEY 1:25000 MAP DATA WITH PERMISSION OF THE CONTROLLER OF HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE, CROWN COPYRIGHT, YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST CROMWELL HOUSE, 13 OGLEFORTH, YORK, YO17PG. LICENCE NUMBER AL 10001343

4.2 Prehistoric and Roman periods (pre 1st century – 5th centuries AD)

Evidence for the prehistoric period is not prolific in the Selby area but polished Neolithic stone axes have been found at Camblesforth Common, c.7km south of Selby, and Skipwith, 7km to the north-east. Bronze-age palstaves (axes) have come from Howden, and a gold ring of similar date was found at Cawood. (Scott 1986).

Evidence for the Roman period is not currently extensive but the main Roman road from Doncaster to York passes c.12km to the west and is still visible as a prominent ridge near Monk Fryston. Pottery of this period has also come from Hemingborough, c.8km to the west. A Romano-British settlement, including a villa, is known at Drax, c.8km south of Selby (Wilson 1966). Large quantities of pottery from East Haddlesey, c.7km south-west of Selby, may indicate the site of another settlement or possibly a villa. (Scott 1986). A borehole evaluation in 1992, on land to the north of Gowthorpe and south of Selby Dam, suggested that waterlogged occupation deposits of Roman date lay in this area in the centre of Selby (NYM 10424). In 1998 a watching brief on the foundations for a new block of flats at the junction of Ousegate and New Street (NY 267) recorded ditches and possibly levelling deposits of the Roman period quite close to the excavation site.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian periods (5th – 11th centuries)

There is slight but potentially significant evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period in the area. A very rare Carolingian winged spearhead, known to be used for hunting, came from the River Ouse at Kelfield, c.6.5km north-west of Selby. Nearer to the site under discussion, in the 19th century, skeletons in hollowed out tree-trunk coffins were found around Church Hill (NYM 10426) and although they are difficult to date they should belong to either the Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian periods. Skeletons found at Riccall Landing, located c.5.5km north of Selby, at various points during the 19th and 20th centuries are normally ascribed to the Anglo-Scandinavian period and may be victims of the battles between the English and Norwegian armies in 1066 (Scott 1986). Other evidence, in the form of place names, is reviewed below.

4.4 Medieval Period (11th – 16th centuries)

Evidence for this period is plentiful in the general area and includes possible medieval occupation deposits and organic dumps found at 20 Church Hill in 1973 (NYM 10430). A watching brief in 1996 on Yorkshire Water trenches in Ousegate, Water Lane and other streets close to the abbey located burials, deposits and finds of the period (NYM 10450) while a watching brief at The Masonic Hall, Church Hill (NY 557) also recorded deposits and possible pits of this date. Foundations of stone and accompanying burials from Church Hill (NYM 10433) are believed to belong to the Chapel of St. Germanus which was recorded in the 13th century but fell into decay by the 17th century. A 1997 watching brief in Micklegate/Finkle Street recorded occupation deposits and timbers of medieval date and walls (NY 471). Probable occupation deposits were noted from a site in Church Hill, west of the Three Swans public house in 1996 (NYM 10430) and stratified deposits, features and structures of the 11th century and later were encountered during a evaluation at Irwin's Yard, Micklegate in 1996 (NYM 10430). Some of the deposits were waterlogged.

In the area known as The Vivars, some 250m to the south-west of the site under discussion a 1994 watching brief recovered medieval pottery including at least one waster, and an evaluation in this area in 1995 located probable medieval deposits and a possible medieval fish pond (NYM 10446). An earthwork survey of the area demonstrated the survival of ridge and furrow of the period. Investigations at 16 Gowthorpe in 1997 (NYM 10430) located boundary ditches and a late medieval structure. Waterlogged occupation deposits of the medieval period were encountered in the borehole evaluation north of Gowthorpe and south of Selby Dam. A watching brief on trenches dug between Scott Road and Selby Abbey in 1998 recorded medieval structures, surfaces and deposits, some of them organic (NY 546). Observations in Finkle Street, in the 19th century, of solid masonry walls were thought to be traces of a Norman castle. A cobbled pavement and steps, seen 3.5 feet down, in the Gowthorpe, Market Place, and Finkle Street areas, also seen in the 19th century may be parts of medieval streets and a structure. Medieval features, deposits and structures were located and recorded during the watching brief at the junction of Ousegate and New Street.

4.5 Post – medieval period (16th – 19th centuries)

There is a good deal of archaeological evidence for this period from the area. Post-medieval build-up deposits and demolition deposits were recorded at 20 Church Hill together with pottery up to the 17th century in date. Pottery, other finds, and deposits of the period also came from Yorkshire Water trenches in Ousegate/Water Lane. The watching brief at Micklegate/Finkle Street in 1997 found quantities of metal working slag and a well possibly of this period. Deposits from this period were also noted from the boreholes north of Gowthorpe and demolition deposits, and dumps or levelling deposits were recorded from the Scott Road to Selby Abbey works. Structures, deposits and features of this period were encountered during the watching brief at the junction of Ousegate and New Street.

4.6 Modern (19th – 21st centuries)

There is much evidence for this period in the immediate and surrounding area. Modern demolition deposits were noted from 20 Church Hill and modern disturbed ground from the Ousegate/Water Lane trenches. The 1995 evaluation at The Vivars encountered modern build-deposits and dumps while a watching brief at Gant Walk, to the rear of Church Lane, in 1998 recorded modern dumps and 19th century build-ups (NYM 10430). A watching brief at 25 Finkle Street in 1997 noted a modern structure and dumps and a watching brief at the junction of Ousegate and New Street in 1998 encountered modern structures and deposits.

4.7 Historical Evidence

Much of this account is derived from the works of Scott (1986; 1987). The origins of Selby are, as in the case of many smaller towns, obscure but the place name may give some indication. A number of different explanations of the name Selby have been put forward including 'Abode of the Seal' perhaps a reference to seals frequenting the area. Another meaning that has been offered is 'fortunate town'. A modern translation of the name gives 'settlement in a willow copse'. The 'by' suggests occupation in the Anglo-Scandinavian era but the 'sel' portion of the name is believed to be Saxon and it therefore suggested that Selby was a well established settlement by the 9th century AD. The number of streets in Selby containing the suffix gate, for

example Ousegate, Bondgate and Micklegate, from the Old Norse *gata* = street, also suggests a pre-conquest origin for Selby. Speed, in his *History of England*, 1631, states that the youngest son of William I, the future Henry I, was born at Selby, in 1068, which may imply a place of some importance at that time.

After the Norman Conquest much of England was shared out amongst the supporters and followers of William I. The Domesday Book mentions Selby briefly and an Abbot of Selby. It is uncertain if there was any pre-conquest monastic establishment at Selby and the present Selby Abbey originated in 1069 when a wooden chapel was erected. By c.1100 the abbey church and associated buildings were under construction in stone. Apart from the Abbey Church virtually nothing now remains of the monastery. It is known that the Abbey possessed a staithe in Ousegate, probably close to the out fall of the present canal. A medieval millpond lay close to the Ouse and at some time a new water course was built which for part of its length ran along the back of Ousegate to enter the river close to the abbey staithe. During the medieval period the Abbot of Selby was the local Lord of the Manor. All the finer buildings in Selby during this period were built of stone, and also many of the smaller cottages, due to readily available stone from nearby Monk Fryston. Throughout the period Selby was dominated by the Abbey and in 1397 it had an abbot, prior, and 25 monks. By c.1416 there was an abbot, 35 monks, ten corroderies and other guests, and 65 servants. Apart from rents much of the abbey's income came from grain, animals and wool although timber from local sources was also important and was stored at the staithe at Ousegate.

Selby had a market each week and annual fairs of two days duration on the Feast of St Peter and the Feast of St Michael. Medieval trades attested included a cobbler, a tanner, a baker and a butcher. Other occupations attested during the 14th century are carpenters, weavers, dyers, tailors, blacksmiths, a draper, a grocer, mason, slater, and a plasterer. Towards the end of the 14th century, in 1379, it is recorded that there were 198 families living in Selby amounting to c.1100 persons, making it a sizeable town despite great reductions in numbers due to plague from 1348 onwards. The abbey was eventually dissolved in 1539 after peacefully surrendering to the crown and in return the abbot was granted a pension of one hundred pounds. By this time the area of Selby was apparently still well wooded, perhaps a reflection of the relative abundance of good quality stone for construction.

The dissolution of Selby Abbey seems to have little effect on Selby generally and the town continued to prosper. By the 17th century this prosperity was attracting the wealthy upper classes to the town although it also attracted the poor, some dwellings housed four or five families. By 1618 the abbey church became the official parish church for Selby thus ensuring its survival to the present day. In 1643, during the English Civil War, Selby was attacked by the Parliamentarians and many of the Royalists were forced to retreat to York, an action which culminated in the Siege of York in 1644. During this period Selby Abbey had been used for stables and suffered accordingly although Selby in general seems to have not been seriously damaged.

The later 17th century saw the growth of non-conformist churches and eventually Quakers, Methodists and Presbyterians were all active in the area. Markets and fairs still flourished and the river trade was still important. The great increase in river trade during the 18th century prompted the construction of the Selby Canal from Haddlesey on the River Aire to Selby (NMR

Unique Identifier 1340668). This canal, still in existence, lies to the east of the development area. One effect of the construction of the canal was a desire to improve communications generally and it is during this period that the idea of a bridge across the Ouse appears to have been first vigorously promoted, the town at this time still relying on a ferry to cross the river.

During the 18th century Selby's population had increased to c.3000 inhabitants and it was a busy and prosperous town. The great increase in river traffic during the 18th century led to the establishment of one of Selby's earliest known shipyards in the 1750's in Ousegate and shipbuilding became a tradition that survived until nearly the end of the 20th century with much of the shipbuilding taking place in and around the current study area. By the early 19th century the population had grown to c.4100 with some 1300 of this relying directly or indirectly on river trade for their livelihood.

A new canal connecting Knottingley to Goole, and avoiding Selby, led to a downturn in river trade in the second quarter of the 19th century, although it is believed that this was partly or mostly compensated for by the expansion of shipbuilding in the town. The town also received a boost in 1834 when the railway, later to become the Leeds to Hull line, first arrived in Selby. Selby was not in any serious decline, although, since, as with many other mid 19th century towns, increasing industrialisation coupled with poor sanitary and water provision, saw a marked increase in the level of disease. Cholera killed 55 persons in Selby in 1831-2 and in 1847 many succumbed to 'Irish Fever'. In 1848-9 cholera returned killing 108 in Selby with one of the worst affected areas being Ousegate, perhaps reflecting the combination of industry and poor water supply and drainage in the area. By 1859 the lessons had been learnt and the Local Health Board were vigorously enforcing the provision of suitable water, drains, and street cleaning. By the end of the 19th century Selby was a cleaner place and still quite affluent, shipbuilding being a major employer in the area and regular markets and fairs were still being held.

During the early to mid 20th century river traffic continued with an emphasis on agricultural products. During World War 2 Selby's shipbuilding capacity was eagerly and thoroughly exploited and one shipyard alone, Cochrane's, employed 500 people and built at least 107 vessels, many of them tugs. During the war the staithes and quays along Ousegate were used to unload ammunition, the area being some way from the core of the town and thus safer. In the post-war period shipbuilding and trade in agricultural products continued as before although affected for a while in 1947 due to serious flooding in which some 1400 homes were affected. One of the worst hit areas of Selby was Shipyard Road. With reduced demand and fierce competition in the shipbuilding industry the yards declined and by the 1990s had vanished.

4.8 Cartographic Evidence

An early map of Selby, dated 1790 shows Ousegate quite well built up and although it does not identify all the structures, the eastern part of the study area is clearly marked 'Mr Sheppards Ship Yard'. This map also shows the proposed site of the road bridge, across the Ouse, built shortly after the map was drawn. Another early map of Selby is the 1808 Enclosure Award Map. Although due to the scale there is not an abundance of detail, there are apparently at least three structures marked to the east of Shipyard Road. These may be shipyard buildings and their depiction on this map may suggest that they are of some substance and importance. On the west side of Shipyard Road, and lining Ousegate, is a nearly continuous row of structures on long

narrow plots. These could be structures, such as warehouses, associated with the river trade and it is interesting to note the prominence given to them on this map. The next map of the area, a manorial map of 1818, is also at a rather small scale but appears to show the same structures as the 1808 map.

The 1851 6 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map shows that buildings in the area have spread back from the street fronts and are now encroaching on what were formerly backyards and possibly gardens. Although this map is difficult to interpret, it appears that the northern end of Shipyard Road may have been blocked off and was now occupied by buildings. These buildings may, however, have spanned the road rather than blocking it and, if so, hint at the relative lack of space due to the increased river trade activity known to have occurred in the early 19th century. This map also shows the Leeds to Hull railway line with at least two sidings serving buildings towards the centre of Ousegate. Comparison with the maps of 1808 and 1818 may indicate considerable expansion of Selby, particularly to the south-west of the historic core. The 1908 OS map, at 25 inches to the mile, shows considerable detail including staithes and warehouses and other buildings in the area together with unidentified structures and a disused ship building yard. Other structures along the east side of Shipyard Road are very probably domestic dwellings. There are now many more railway sidings to the west of the study area serving two malhouses and a goods shed and this may indicate the continued importance of the area for river trade and traffic. The 1938 OS 6 inches to the mile map shows mainly subtle changes to the area and confirms that the vicinity was well built up at this point in time, mainly apparently, with commercial structures and it is possible that some or all of the domestic dwellings noted on the 1908 map had been demolished. Since the 1938 map there have only been minor changes to the area. The 1995 O.S. map shows the current standings buildings.

5. THE EXCAVATION

5.1 Trench 1 (Figure 4)

5.1.1 The earliest deposit seen in this trench, at c.1.4m BGL, c.4.75m AOD, was a naturally occurring compact, yellow-orange silty sand (1027) with mottled iron-pan staining. Two tiny pieces of 14th – 16th century brick from this context are believed to be intrusive. Directly above it was a friable, clean dark reddish-brown slightly clayey silt (1057) which may have been an alluvial deposit laid down by flooding.

5.1.2 Iron Age

Cut into 1027, and probably 1057, was a possible linear feature (1040) of uncertain function aligned north-south. The excavated portion of 1040 was c.1m long, 0.45m wide, and 0.03m deep with very gently sloping sides leading into a gently curved base. It had been backfilled with a friable, light greyish-brown sandy silt (1039). This backfill produced two pieces of pot, probably of Iron Age date.

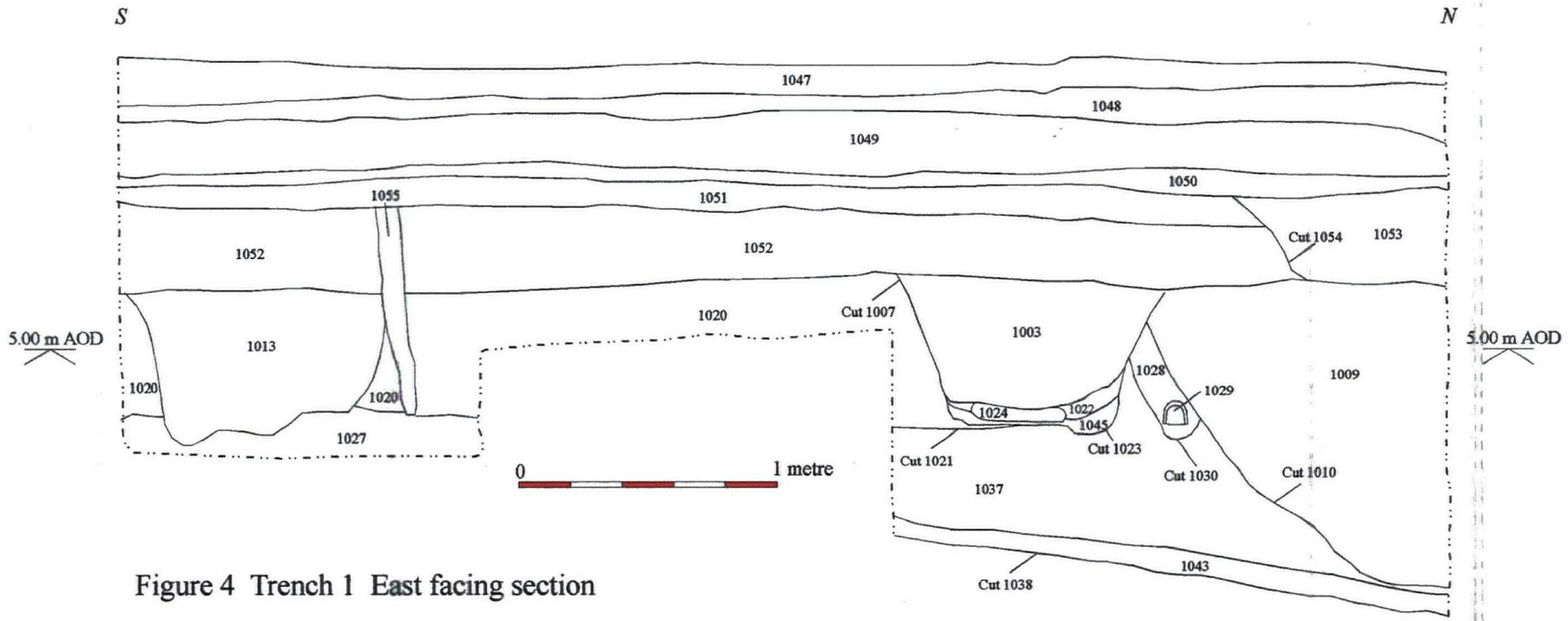


Figure 4 Trench 1 East facing section

5.1.3 Medieval

Thought on stratigraphic grounds to be later than 1040 was another linear feature (1038, Plate 1) aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. This feature extended beyond the west and north limits of the trench but was at least 1m wide and 0.6m deep with a quite steeply sloping east edge and a flat base. Two backfills were recorded, the lower being a friable, dark yellow silty sand (1043) with some iron-panning. The upper backfill was a friable, dark grey sandy silt (1037) also with iron-panning. Context 1037 yielded pottery of the 12th century. Feature 1038 was probably a ditch and it may have been considerably larger since it had been truncated by several later features and it was not possible to establish its full width.

5.1.4 Ditch 1038 had been partly cut by a large feature (1021). The shape and size of this feature are uncertain since it extended beyond the southern and western limits of the trench but it was at least 3.8m long and 2.3m wide and may have been sub-rectangular in shape. Where excavated it was c.0.3m deep with a steeply sloping east edge and a flat base. The function of 1021 is unknown although it is possible that it may have been part of a ditch. Only one backfill was identified and that was a compact, mid greyish-brown clayey silt (1020). Pottery from this backfill suggested a 14th century date and tile from this context was of the 13th – 16th century.

5.1.5 Post-Medieval

Cut into the top of 1021 was a feature (1026) whose original shape and size has been obscured through truncation by later features. It was at least 0.8m x 0.8m x 0.44m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base sloping down to the west. This cut, possibly a pit or large post-hole, had a backfill of friable, dark grey clayey silt (1025). Possibly contemporary with 1026, and located towards the south-west corner of the trench, was a feature sub-rectangular in plan (1045) 0.5m long, 0.42m wide, and c.0.2m deep. It had nearly vertical sides and a flat base, and may possibly have been a shallow post-hole although other functions are possible. The backfill was a friable, dark greyish-brown silty clayey silt (1044). A single scrap of post-medieval pot came from this backfill.

5.1.6 Modern

Truncating the top of 1045 was a feature, irregular in plan, but possibly originally roughly oval, (1014) which was at least 0.95m long, 0.75m wide, and 0.35m deep with steep but rather irregular sides and a flat base. In the base of this feature was a stone setting consisting of four flat limestone blocks (1015), each c.0.2m square, arranged in a square. Three of these blocks had subsided slightly into the base of the cut suggesting a heavy weight had pressed down on them. This in turn suggests that 1014 may have been a post-pit. Also in the bottom of this cut were a number of semi-decayed pieces of timber plank. One of these (1008) was too fragmentary to record in detail but was lying north-south. A second timber (1031) was aligned east-west and measured 0.23m x 0.06m x 0.03m and had a wedge-shaped profile. The third (1032) was 0.45m long, 0.08m wide, and 0.06m thick and was aligned north-south and abutted the west end of 1031. This feature had been backfilled with a compact dark greenish-grey clayey silt (1013) which produced pottery of the 19th / 20th century and brick / tile of the 13th – 16th century.

At a similar stratigraphic horizon was a sub-circular feature (1036) which was c.0.36m across and 0.27m deep with very steeply sloping sides and a flat base. This was probably a post-hole and had been backfilled with a friable, light grey clayey silt (1035). Another feature (1023), probably contemporary with 1014 lay against and partly beyond the west trench edge. It may have been circular and c.0.6m across. It was c.0.4m deep with very steeply sloping sides and a flat base. A number of contexts were recorded within the feature, the lowest being a plastic, light green clay (1046). This may have been a use deposit or lining for the base of the feature, probably a post-hole, rather than a true backfill. Resting on this clay was a large square dressed stone slab (1024), almost certainly a post-pad, which was 0.33m square and 0.06m thick. Above this was the only true backfill, a friable, dark grey clayey silt (1022). This produced a very battered piece of Roman brick.

Believed to be approximately contemporary with the above features was a linear cut (1030) aligned roughly east-west. It ran across the full width of the trench and was c.0.25m wide and at least 0.28m deep with very steeply sloping sides and a concave base. In part of the base were a series of U-shaped ceramic pipes (1029), each individual section being 0.33m long, 0.1m wide, 0.1m high, and 0.02m thick. These clearly indicated that the feature was a field drain and the fabric and form suggested a 19th century date. The trench had been backfilled with a plastic, dark reddish-brown silty clay containing frequent brick / tile fragments and charcoal (1028).

Also in this group was a possible pit or drainage ditch (1012) which extended beyond the north and east edges of the trench. It was, however, at least 1.66m across and 0.29m deep with moderately to gently sloping sides and a concave base. It had a backfill of dark brownish-grey friable, silty clay (1011) which contained pottery dating the feature to the 18th century. A piece of tile of the 13th – 16th century and a fragment of abraded Roman brick also came from this context.

5.1.7 Another group of features clearly later than those in 5.1.5 was identified. The first was almost certainly a post-hole (1006) cutting feature 1014. This post-hole was roughly rectangular in plan, measured c.0.4m x 0.3m, and was up to 0.33m deep. It had vertical sides and a flat base. In the base was what appeared to be the decayed remains of a square or rectangular wooden post (1007) of uncertain dimensions. The feature had been backfilled with a dark greyish-green silty clay (1005). Pottery from this backfill indicated a modern date for the feature, although it also produced two tiny pieces of 14th – 16th century brick.

Towards the middle of the trench another post-hole (1034) was located and excavated. It was very roughly rectangular in plan c.0.4m x 0.28m x c.0.24m deep. It had very steeply sloping sides and a flat base, and had been backfilled with a friable, dark grey clayey silt (1033).

Approximately 0.9m north-west of 1034 was another fairly definite post-hole (1019). It was very roughly rectangular in plan, 0.4m x 0.25m x 0.25m deep, with very steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a backfill of friable, dark brownish-grey clayey silt (1018) which contained one sherd of 19th century pot.

In the north-west corner of the trench was a probable pit (1010) of which only the south-east quadrant lay within the area of excavation. If regular and roughly circular it would have been c.2.5m across. It was at least 0.7m deep but the base had clearly not been reached with the sides

still sloping, quite gently, at the edge of the trench. The only backfill identified in this feature was of clay (1009), variously coloured light grey, yellow, and dark orangey-red.

5.1.8 Towards the middle of the trench, stratigraphically later than 1034, 1019, and 1010, was an irregular feature (1004), some of which lay beyond the west edge of excavation. The excavated portion of this cut, possibly a pit, was c.1m long, 0.8m wide, and at least 0.4m deep, although it may have been deeper beyond the trench edge. In the base of the east end of this feature was a roughly circular depression which was c.0.4m across, and at least 0.06m deep, possibly a post-impresion. The sides sloped steeply to an irregular base. This feature had been backfilled with a friable, dark grey clayey silt (1003) which contained pottery of the 19th / 20th century and brick of the 14th – 16th century.

Possibly contemporary with 1004, but potentially as early as feature 1021 of 5.1.3, was a possible post-hole (1017). It was sub-rectangular in plan measuring 0.44m x 0.28m, but only c.0.08m deep, with moderately sloping sides, and a concave base. It had a backfill of friable dark brownish-grey clayey silt (1016).

5.1.9 Sealing all previous features was an overall deposit, possibly a build-up deposit, of dark grey sandy silt (1052), which was up to 0.3m in thickness. Seen penetrating 1052 along the south part of the east facing main section was a stake-hole (1056) 0.08m wide and 0.8m deep with vertical sides and a tapered base. Within it was dark brown decayed wood (1055).

5.1.10 Overlying the stake-hole was an overall layer, probably a demolition deposit, of compact brick rubble and white mortar (1051). This deposit had been cut by a feature (1054) in the north-west corner of the trench. Here it was seen to be at least 0.64m across and 0.34m deep with a quite steeply sloping south edge and a flat base. It had been backfilled with a light brown clay (1053).

Possibly contemporary with 1054, towards the northern end of the trench, was a probable post-hole (1002). It was roughly rectangular in plan, c.0.3m x 0.2m and 0.15m deep with nearly vertical sides and a flat base. The backfill was a dark grey silty clay with red-orange iron pan (1001) which produced two pieces of modern pot and three tiny fragments of 14th – 16th century brick.

5.1.11 Sealing 1002 there was an overall deposit, probably a build-up or dump, of friable, light brown sandy silt (1050). Above this was a probable demolition deposit of mixed brick rubble, limestone fragments, and black sandy silty loam (1049) extending over the whole trench. Over 1049 there was another overall deposit, probably a build-up, of loose, dark grey silty loam (1048). The uppermost deposit, forming the modern ground surface at a height of c.5.9m AOD, was a dark grey silty loam capped by rough grass and weeds (1047). Unstratified finds were numbered 1000 and consisted of two sherds of pot, one datable to the 13th century and a piece of plain tile of the 13th – 16th century.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figure 5 and 6)

5.2.1 The earliest deposit recorded in this trench, at c.1.25m BGL, c.4.4m AOD, was a friable, but firm, clean orange-brown sand (2008). Overlying it was a friable, yellow sand (2007) with staining of iron pan or manganese. Both of these may have been natural deposits although 2007 did produce two small fragments of 19th century or later brick.

5.2.2 Medieval or Post-Medieval

Above this was a friable, light greyish-brown sand (2006) with some patches of yellow sand. Although it appeared to be very similar to context 2007, it did contain occasional small pieces of brick or tile and a very abraded sherd of post-medieval pottery. It may be an alluvial deposit. Sealing it was a friable, fine brown sandy silt (2033) also containing occasional small pieces of brick or tile. This also may possibly have been a naturally laid alluvial deposit.

5.2.3 Into 2033 was cut a linear feature (2005, Plate 2), thought to be a ditch, aligned approximately north – south. It was at least 1.7m wide and 0.5m deep with quite steeply sloping sides. Although generally flat a very small ridge, c.0.1m high, ran along the centre of the base of the northern excavated portion of the ditch possibly indicating that an original feature had been recut but there was no evidence from the fill or the section to substantiate this. Along the western base of this feature was a north-south alignment of roughly circular stake-holes (2034). These varied in size but a small one was c.0.06m deep and 0.04m across and the largest was c.0.09m across and 0.15m deep. All the stake-holes appeared to have vertical sides, a pointed base, and had a backfill of light to mid grey silty sand (2035). The only backfill observed in 2005 was a friable, light greyish-brown sand (2001 = 2004). Pottery from this backfill may indicate a 14th century date for the feature. A piece of tile from 2004 was dated to the 13th – 16th century. This context also produced a number of pieces of Roman brick.

5.2.4 Modern

Sealing the ditch was an alluvial or build-up deposit of friable, fine brown sandy silt (2032) from which came an abraded fragment of Roman brick. Cut into 2032 were a number of features. One of them was a short vertical-sided construction cut (2029), c.0.12m deep seen along part of the northern and eastern limits of excavation. Within it were edge-set bricks measuring c.0.25m x 0.12m x 0.055m supporting in places horizontally laid bricks of the same dimensions (2028). The edge-set bricks were roughly bonded with a loose, soft white mortar, which also provided a bedding for the horizontal bricks forming part of a floor for a now demolished structure.

At a similar stratigraphic level a feature (2024) was identified within the west facing section. It was c.0.3m wide and 0.45m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base. This was probably a post-hole and had been backfilled with a friable, light brown sand (2023). Another feature (2026) was identified within the west facing section but extended beyond the southern limit of excavation. It was at least 0.5m wide and 0.5m deep with a nearly vertical northern edge and a flat base. The function of this feature is uncertain but it may have been a pit. It had been backfilled with a friable mixture of light brown sand and mortar (2025).

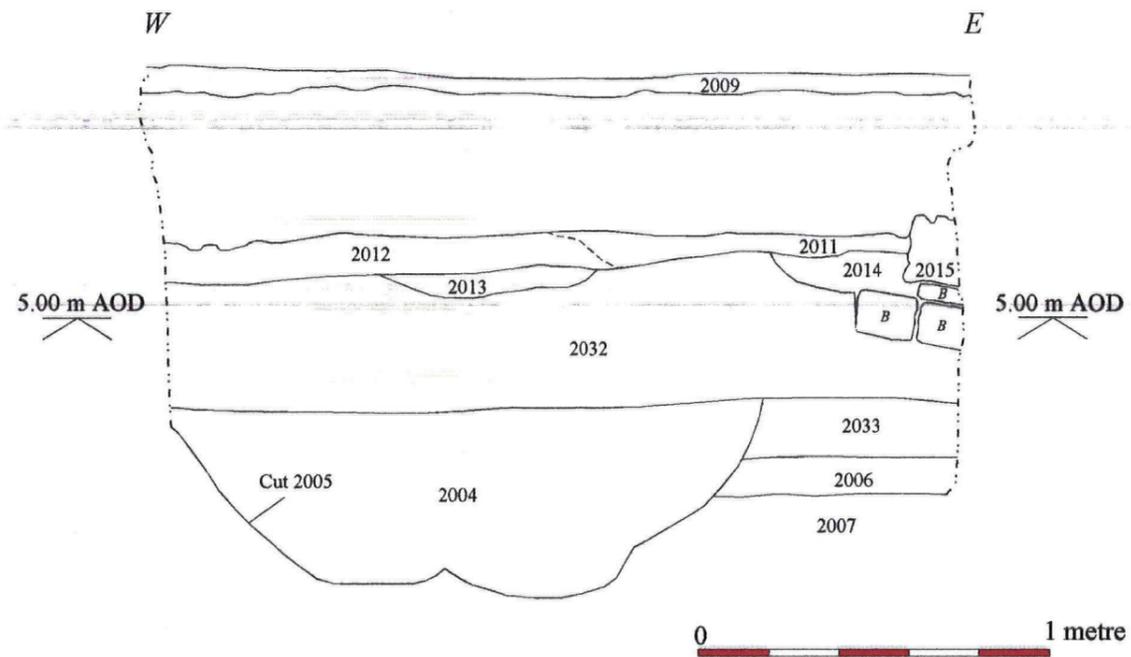


Figure 5 Trench 2 South facing section

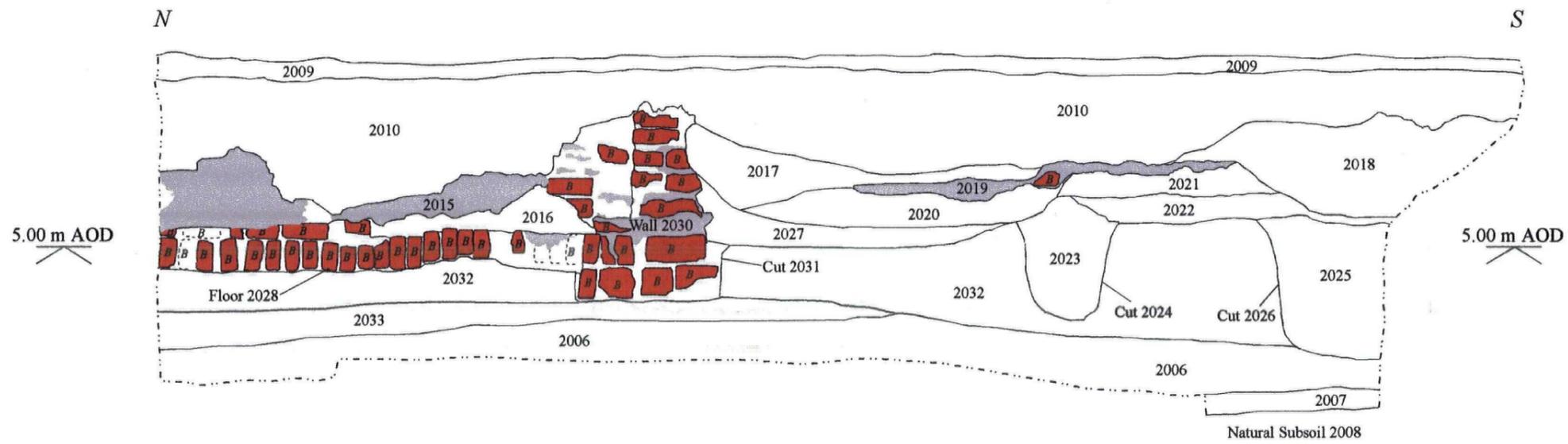


Figure 6 Trench 2 West facing section

At the southern end of floor 2028 a construction trench (2031) was observed in the east and west facing sections. This was aligned east-west and was c 0.5m wide and 0.4m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. Within it was the remains of a brick wall (2030). The size of the bricks was c 0.25m by 0.12m by 0.055m and the bricks were bonded with a soft white mortar. A brick from 2030 was dated to the 16th – 18th century. This wall survived a maximum of five courses high, c 0.45m. The foundations were two courses of edge-set bricks, with occasional white mortar bonding, the upper course of which was contiguous with floor 2028.

Possibly associated with these features and structures was a near circular cut (2003), which may have been a post-hole base, which was c 0.17m across and 0.06m deep with quite steeply sloping sides and a distinctly tapered base. This may suggest that this was the very base of the post-hole and that the true stratigraphic position of this feature lies much higher up. It had a backfill of friable, slightly yellowish light grey sand (2002).

5.2.5 Sealing features 2024 and 2026 was a dump or leveling deposit of friable, light brown sand (2022) above which was another dump or leveling deposit composed of compact, dark grey sandy silt (2021). Probably contemporary with 2021 was a friable, mid brown sandy silt (2027) again interpreted as a dump or leveling deposit. Contexts 2021 and 2027 were both sealed by a friable, mid brownish-grey sandy silt (2020) also considered to be a dump or leveling deposit. Possibly contemporary with 2020 was a friable, mid brown sandy silt (2013) which may have been a leveling deposit filling a very shallow depression.

5.2.6 Overlying 2013 there was a friable, dark brown sandy silt (2012), possibly a leveling deposit, and above 2020 there was a dump of off white mortar (2019). Probably contemporary with these, and sealing floor 2028, was a possible leveling deposit or backfill of friable, dark brown sandy silt (2014) and a possible build-up of friable, brown sandy silt (2016).

5.2.7 Above 2012 was a possible dump or leveling deposit of friable, mid brown sandy silt (2011) and overlying 2014 and 2016 was a demolition deposit of off white mortar (2015). Sealing 2019 was a compact, dark brownish-grey sandy silt (2017) and a compact, light brown clayey sand (2018), both possibly dumps. All these contexts were overlain by a deposit of brick rubble, mortar, scrap iron, slate fragments and other modern debris (2010) which was probably a demolition deposit. Above it was the modern ground surface which consisted of brick rubble, possible old railway ballast, some dark grey loam, all capped by weeds and rough grass (2009). This lay at c 5.7m AOD in this part of the site. Any unstratified finds from this trench were assigned the context number 2000.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figure 7 and 8)

5.3.1 The earliest deposit recorded in this trench, at c 0.8m BGL, 5m AOD, was a moderately compact, mid orange-brown sandy silt (3017). Overlying it was a nearly identical deposit of mid orange-brown sandy silt (3026) containing some charcoal and occasional lenses of mid grey sandy silt. Overlying 3026 was a compact, mid greyish-brown silty sand (3025) with some gravel, lenses of mid yellowish-brown sand, and charcoal. Context 3017 was probably natural and 3025 and 3026, despite the inclusions, may have been formed by natural processes.

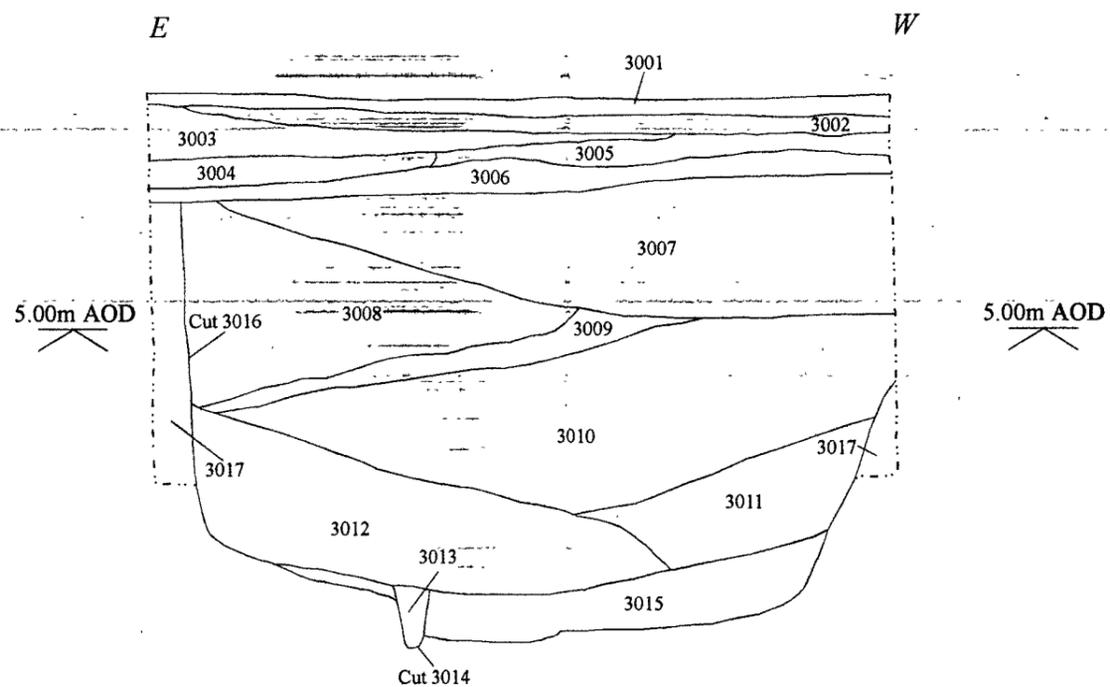


Figure 7 Trench 3 North facing section

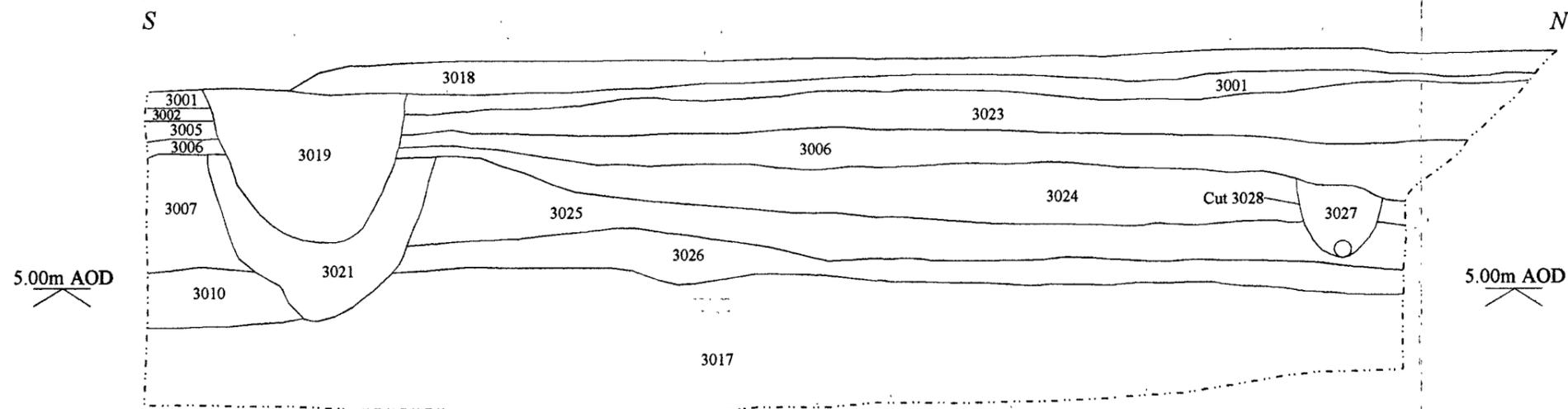


Figure 8 Trench 3 East facing section

