

**REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
FORMER TENNIS COURT, YORK HOUSE PLACE,
KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET, LONDON W8
IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
PLANNING PERMISSION REFERENCE: CC/01/00133/A**

October 2003

REPORT ON ARCHEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
FORMER TENNIS COURT, YORK HOUSE PLACE,
KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET, LONDON W8

Local Planning Authority: Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Local Planning Authority Reference: CC/01/00133/A

Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference: TQ 2563 7990

Museum of London Site Code: YHP03

Author and Illustrations: Robin Densem BA MIFA

October 2003

ABSTRACT

Planning permission (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea reference CC/01/00133/A) had been granted for the construction of an underground car park at York House Place. The planning consent contained an archaeological planning condition. The scheme involved the removal of deposits on the site to a depth of c. 1.1m to form the car park that is to be built.

The fieldwork for the archaeological evaluation consisted of the investigation of two trial trenches, each c. 12m by 3m in area and c. 1.6m deep. The fieldwork was carried out between 8th and 14th October 2003 by a team of up to four archaeologists. The trenches were opened by an earthmoving machine on 8th October 2003 and they were backfilled by the same machine on 14th October 2003.

Natural sand and gravel was overlain in one trench by a possible garden path, of gravel, that was about 2.5m wide and about 0.10m thick and that was of post-medieval date. Elsewhere the natural deposits were cut into by a series of possible eighteenth century gravel pits, that were overlain by dumped nineteenth century layers. A few small recent cut features and two post-holes were also recorded.

No prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval features or finds were found, and the post-medieval deposits were of low significance.

The recommendation is that there is no need for further archaeological work in relation to the proposed development.

LIST OF CONTENTS	PAGE
<u>ABSTRACT</u>	1
<u>LIST OF FIGURES</u>	3
<u>1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE LOCATION</u>	4
<u>2. DATE RANGES FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERIODS</u>	5
<u>4. METHODOLOGY</u>	5
<u>5. RESULTS</u>	6
5.1 <u>NATURAL DEPOSITS</u>	6
5.2 <u>GARDEN EARTHS AND POSSIBLE GARDEN PATH</u>	7
5.3 <u>POST-MEDIEVAL GRAVEL QUARRY PITS</u>	7
5.4 <u>NINETEENTH CENTURY BRICK-LINED WELL AND BRICK WALL</u>	8
5.5 <u>RECENT FEATURES AND LAYERS</u>	8
5.6 <u>TENNIS COURT</u>	9
<u>6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS</u>	9
<u>7. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS AND FINDS</u>	9
<u>8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</u>	9
<u>10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</u>	10
<u>11. BIBLIOGRAPHY</u>	10
<u>THE APPENDICES</u>	11
<u>APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS, INTERPRETATIONS, FINDS & FIGURE NOS.</u>	11
<u>APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT MATRIX, TRENCH 1</u>	21
<u>APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT MATRIX, TRENCH 2</u>	21
<u>APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT MATRIX, TRENCH 2</u>	22
<u>APPENDIX 4: FINDS QUANTIFICATION</u>	23
<u>APPENDIX 5: POTTERY ASSESSMENT</u>	24
<u>APPENDIX 6: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT</u>	25
<u>APPENDIX 7: GLASS ASSESSMENT</u>	26
<u>APPENDIX 8: BUILDING MATERIALS ASSESSMENT</u>	27
<u>APPENDIX 9: FINDS SPREADSHEETS</u>	30
<u>APPENDIX 10: CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE</u>	31
<u>APPENDIX 11: LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST SUMMARY</u>	32
<u>APPENDIX 12: SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD FORM</u>	33

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig 1: Site location in relation to an enlarged extract from current 1:25,000 scale Ordnance Survey 'Explorer' map
- Fig 2: The site outline, shown red, in relation to an extract from the current 1:1,250 scale Ordnance Survey map
- Fig 3: The location of the two evaluation trenches in relation to the tennis court
- Fig 4: Plan, trench 1
- Fig 5: Plan, trench 2
- Fig 6: Section drawing, trench 1
- Fig 7: Section drawing, trench 1
- Fig 8: Section drawing, trench 1
- Fig 9: Section drawing, trench 1
- Fig10: Section drawing, trench 2
- Fig11: Section drawing, trench 2
- Fig 12: Section drawing, trench 2
- Fig 13: Photograph during initial machining work, with trench 1 in the foreground
- Fig 14: Photograph during initial machining work, showing the JCB opening trench 2
- Fig 15: Working shot: trench 1
- Fig 16: View of deposits in trench 1
- Fig 17: View of deposits in trench 1
- Fig 18 View of deposits in trench 1
- Fig 19: Working shot trench 2
- Fig 20 View of deposits in trench 2
- Fig 21: View of deposits in trench 2
- Fig 22 View of deposits in trench 2

Front cover illustration: aerial view looking north-west showing the two archaeological evaluation trenches opened and investigated in October 2003 at the tennis court at York House Place

Note: Ordnance Survey ® maps reproduced with permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright (Compass Archaeology Ltd, London SE1 1SG, licence number AL 1000313171).

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE LOCATION

- 1.1 The site (fig 1) was known as the Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8.
- 1.2 The site (fig 2) was rectangular and measured about 29m east-west by about 56m north-south.
- 1.3 The local planning authority was the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Ealing.
- 1.4 The site centre was taken to be at Ordnance Survey national grid reference 2563 7990.
- 1.5 Planning permission (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea reference CC/01/00133/A) had been granted for the construction of an underground car park at York House Place. The planning consent contained an archaeological planning condition. The development would entail the removal of deposits on the site to a depth of c. 11m to form the car park that was to be built.
- 1.6 An archaeological desk study (Ashworth 2000) concluded that the site had remained as an island of undeveloped land since at least the eighteenth century and that the plot had lain in the garden of a late seventeenth house known as York House that had attracted distinguished tenants such as Anne, Countess of Salisbury and Sir Robert Eyre, Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas.
- 1.7 Two archaeological evaluation trenches were opened on the tennis court on the site, in accordance with the terms of the written scheme of investigation (Hillelson 2003).
- 1.8 A geotechnical bore-hole investigation was being carried out on site while the archaeological evaluation was undertaken, so it proved necessary to shorten (but widen) the dimensions of the two archaeological trenches. They had been proposed to measure c. 18m in length and to be c. 1.5m wide (Hillelson 2003) but the presence of the geotechnical team, their vehicles and bore-hole rig and their need to access the tennis court meant that the trenches were dug to a shorter length, c. 12m long but they were opened dug to a width of c. 3m (figs 3, 5 & 5). The squatter dimensions of the trenches meant it was possible for the bore-hole equipment and vehicles to enter and leave the site while the two archaeological trenches were being investigated.
- 1.9 The archaeological evaluation trenches were opened by a JCB wheeled mechanical excavator (figs 13 & 14).
- 1.10 The fieldwork for the archaeological evaluation was carried out over six working days on site, between the 8th and the 14th October 2003.
- 1.11 The site lay on glacial Lynch Hill and Hackney sand and gravel (Wymer 1996).
- 1.12 The site lay at about 21.8m OD on level ground.
- 1.13 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. The text is followed by drawings and photographs (figs 1-22).

2. DATE RANGES FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERIODS

2.1 The date ranges for archaeological periods are can be defined as follows (the periods from the palaeolithic through to the iron age are prehistoric):

palaeolithic:	500,000	to	12,000 BC
mesolithic:	12,000	to	4,000 BC
neolithic:	4,000	to	2,200 BC
bronze age:	2,200	to	500 BC
iron age:	500 BC	to	AD 43
Roman:	AD 43	to	410
Saxon:	AD 410	to	1066
medieval:	AD 1066	to	1485
post-medieval:	AD 1485	to	present.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Hillelson 2003), with the proviso that the two trenches were dug to a length of c. 12m rather than the proposed 18m long lengths and that they were dug to a width of 3m rather than the suggested 1.5m widths. This was to enable access for the geotechnical team and their bore-hole rigs and vehicles, as they were required to work on site while the archaeological evaluation was being carried out.

4.2 The archaeological fieldwork was carried out between 8th and 14th October 2003.

4.3 Two evaluation trenches (figs 3-5) were opened using a wheeled JCB mechanical excavator.

4.4 The trenches were named trench 1 and trench 2.

4.5 Each trench measured c. 12m by 3m in plan.

4.6 The trenches were dug into natural deposits and were about 1.6m deep.

4.7 Views of the archaeological evaluation work in progress and of the deposits that were encountered are offered at figs 13-22.

4.8 Following initial machining on 8th October 2003 a team of up to four archaeologists investigated and recorded the deposits in the two trenches over the next four working days, and the trenches were backfilled, again using a JCB mechanical excavator, on 14th February 2003 when the site was vacated.

4.9 The trenches were located in relation to the tennis court (fig 3) that in turn was related to the site outline and the Ordnance Survey national grid (fig 2).

4.10 A temporary bench mark was established on site to enable levels to be recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum. The height of the temporary bench mark was established from the Ordnance Datum value of a cover level provided on a development plan and that had been established from an Ordnance Survey bench

mark at 20.07m OD on the Romanian Embassy on Kensington Palace Gardens.

- 4.11 Archaeological contexts encountered in the two evaluation trenches were recorded on Compass Archaeology Ltd pro-forma context recording sheets. The contexts are referred to as numbers within brackets, viz (), in the main text, below.
- 4.12 Contexts in each trench began with the trench's number, as a suffix. Thus (101) was in trench 1, while (207) was in trench 2.
- 4.13 Forty-two archaeological contexts, (101)-(142) were identified in trench 1, and twenty-eight context, 201)-(228) were identified in trench 2.

The contexts are described at Appendix 1, where interpretations are also offered, as well as finds information and an indication by figure number of which plan or section drawing, if any, each context appears on.

- 4.14 A plan is provided of each trench, (figs 4-5). Section drawings (of deposits exposed in the sides of the trenches) are offered at figs 6-12.
- 4.15 Context matrices are provided at Appendices 2 & 3.
- 4.16 The site contained sparse archaeological finds. The finds that could be found were assessed by staff of the Museum of London Specialist Services. The reports on the various categories of artefact and find are presented at Appendices 5-9.
- 4.17 The deposits are described and discussed below, beginning with the earliest contexts.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Natural Deposits

- 5.1.1 Layers of sterile natural glacial sand and sand and gravel were revealed in both trenches ((123), (122) (121), (120), (215)), and two layers of overlying sterile natural clay/silt with gravel (214) & (213) were found in trench 2.
- 5.1.2 The upper part of the natural sequence in trench 2 consisted of two layers of sterile alluvial clay/silt with sand (212), and (221), the uppermost of which was overlain by a waterlain stiff grey clay/silt with sand (211) that contained moderate charcoal flecks to 5mm and that was itself overlain by hard mid brown sand with clay silt (220) with moderate coal flecks and occasional flecks of red ceramic building material. The charcoal, coal and ceramic building material flecks are likely to have been introduced into the deposits by root/worm action, and these four deposits represent late/post glacial waterlain layers, laid down over the top of the glacial sand (215).
- 5.1.3 The southern edge of an east-west aligned late glacial palaeochannel (134) was found at the north-west end of trench 1, cutting into the natural sand and gravel (120) there. The channel was a late glacial feature, that had been cut by water action, and was at least 2.5m wide and at least 0.6m deep. It was filled by a sterile clay/silt (133).

5.1.4 The alluvial fill (133) of the channel was overlain by a waterlain sand (119) that contained occasional charcoal flecks that are likely to have been introduced into the deposit by bioturbation. The sand was overlain by a sandy subsoil (118) that contained very occasional fragments to 5mm of charcoal and red ceramic building material (that were too small to date). The context represented the disturbed upper part of the alluvial sand (119).

5.2 Garden Earths and Possible Garden Path

5.2.1 A pale, leached, brown grey sand layer (117) in trench 1 was the earliest man-made layer in the trench, and was thought to be garden earth that had been turned over and worked, but which contained no dateable finds and only flecks of charcoal, coal and red ceramic building material that were too small to be dateable.

5.2.2 The top (context (220) of the natural sequence in trench 2 was overlain by a dumped deposit of hard mid brown sand with gravel ((219) with occasional fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material. The layer was only recorded in section and was thought to represent a possible garden path of post-medieval date, about 2.5m wide and about 0.10m thick.

5.2.3 The presence of this dumped, post-medieval layer (220) directly over the surface (211) of the natural deposits probably indicates that any overlying stratigraphy had been truncated before the context was laid down.

5.2.4 The possible garden path (219) was overlain by a mid grey sand with clay/silt garden earth that contained a few fragments of ceramic building material that could be dated to 1480-1900, and that therefore were of wide but post-medieval date.

5.3 Post-medieval Gravel Quarry Pits

5.3.1 In trench 1, pit (142) contained fill (141) that was cut by two further pits ((140), fill (139), and (138), fill (137)). These two pits were cut by another pit (136), the fill (135) of which was cut by another pit, (136) filled with (135). Pit (127) contained three fills, (126), (125) and (124) and pit (130) contained two fills, (129) and (128). These pits measured up to 2.5m across and were at least 1.3m deep.

5.3.2 These pits in trench 1 all contained dumped, sandy fills, with some gravel, and the limited dating evidence suggested an eighteenth century or wider post-medieval date (the dating depended upon a few items of ceramic building material, mentioned in the context listing at Appendix 1, and described in more detail at Appendix 8).

5.3.3 A similar pit (228) in trench 2 contained a dumped fill (227) dated by a clay tobacco pipe stem to 1600-1900. This pit was at least 1.5m deep and measured at least 1.5m across.

5.3.4 The pits described at 5.3.1-5.3.3 above are all thought to have been dug to quarry sand and/or gravel, and they are all thought to be of post-medieval date and they all were cut into underlying natural deposits. Only pits (127) and (130) were bottomed.

5.4 Nineteenth Century Brick-lined Well and Brick Wall

- 5.4.1 A red brick lined well (114) in trench 1 had a diameter of c.1.5m and extended beyond the trench. The well lining was formed of a single thickness of unmortared bricks laid as headers. The bricks may have been laid in a spiral over a wooden base plate ring that sunk into the ground as material was excavated from the open centre of the base plate. However, the base of the well was not reached so it is unknown if the structure was built in this way.
- 5.4.2 The well was traced to below c. 18.36m OD, and had a domed red brick roof, the top of which was at c. 21.30m OD. Standing water was found in the well to a height of c. 19.11m OD.
- 5.4.3 The depth of the well is unknown.
- 5.4.4 The well cap (113) was in a construction trench (110)/(112) containing dumped backfill (109)/(111).
- 5.4.5 The bricks used to build the well and its cap were red, unfrogged and thought to date from the early nineteenth century.
- 5.4.6 A section of unfrogged red brick wall foundation (224), three courses deep and two bricks wide, was noted in the south-eastern section of trench 2. The wall foundation has been constructed of early nineteenth century bricks, and was trench built in a construction trench (226).

5.5 Recent features and layers

- 5.5.1 A small pit (132) in trench 1 contained a dumped backfill (131). The pit and dumped layers (108), (107), (106) and (105) also in trench 1 contained no dateable finds and were thought to be of nineteenth or early twentieth century date.
- 5.5.2 A dumped layer (208) in trench 2, was cut by a small cut feature (210) that contained a dumped backfill ((209) containing a little ceramic building material dated to 1480-1900. The feature was cut by a post-hole (207), with two dumped fills, (206) and (205). The post may have been pulled from this feature? Fill (206) contained a piece of woollen or cotton material thought to be of nineteenth century or later date.
- 5.5.3 Another post-hole in trench 2, (217) contained a post-pipe (225) representing a post that had rotted in site. The construction backfill (216) around the rotted post contained a flower pot sherd dated 1700-1900.
- 5.5.4 A pit (223) in trench 2 did not penetrate to the underlying natural sand and thus was not a quarry pit. Its fill (222) was dated to 1480-1900 by fragments of tile.
- 5.5.5 A modern garden earth, (204), in trench 2, was dated up to 1900 on the basis of the fragments of ceramic building material it contained.

5.6 Tennis Court

5.6.1 Make up layers for the tennis court included contexts (104), (103), (102), (203), and (202) and the existing ground surface was formed by the asphalt surface of the tennis court, (101) and (201). The tennis court appears from map evidence to be mid 20th century construction.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

6.1 Research questions suggested in the Desk-based Assessment (Ashworth 2000) were aimed at the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

6.2 The site contained no prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval features or finds.

6.3 There was one possible garden path, (219) in trench 2, and though the deposit was thought to be of post-medieval date (on the basis of the small flecks of brick it contained), it contained no dateable finds.

6.4 Thus the deposits found in the evaluation were of insufficient potential and significance to contribute to the suggested archaeological research questions.

7. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS AND FINDS

7.1 The archaeological deposits recorded in the archaeological evaluation have little or no archaeological significance.

7.2 It would seem that there are no prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval features or finds, and the post-medieval deposits are of poor quality.

7.3 There were very few finds from the site, and most of these were not generally capable of providing dates within usefully precise date ranges. An exception was the clay tobacco pipe stem dated to 1640-1660 from context (125), a gravel quarry pit fill in trench 1.

7.4 The finds from the site were of poor quality and of relatively recent date.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

9.1 In conclusion, there were no prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval archaeological deposits or finds on the site, and the deposits encountered were either of natural origin or of post-medieval date.

9.2 The archaeological contexts were of low significance.

9.3 There were only very few finds, and again these were of low quality.

9.4 It is suggested that there is no need for any further archaeological measures in relation to the proposed scheme, but the decision is for the local planning authority taking the advice of its nominated advisor on archaeology, English Heritage.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 David Hillelson of The Heritage Network Ltd was the archaeological project director and we are grateful to him his help.
- 10.2 Ricardo Almansi of Norwest Holst was on site managing geotechnical bore-hole work while the archaeological evaluation was being carried out and we are grateful to him for his co-operation.
- 10.3 Peter Hanley of West Wight Drilling and Piling and his team were undertaking geotechnical bore-hole work on site while the archaeological evaluation was being effected, and they provided cheerful assistance.
- 10.4 The archaeological evaluation work was carried out by Compass Archaeology Ltd. The archaeological team on site consisted of Robin Densem, Mick Miles, Andrew Francis and Dan Barnes.
- 10.5 Abdellah Stator, York House House Manager, very kindly arranged access to York House so that overhead photographs of the site could be taken.
- 10.6 The finds work was co-ordinated by Roy Stephenson and Lyn Blackmore of the Museum of London Specialist Services, and she and Terry Smith undertook the finds assessment and dating work reported in the Appendices to this report. We are grateful for their expert work

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Ashworth H 2000 | <i>York House Place, Church Street, Kensington, London HN290 Desk-based Archaeological Assessment</i> , unpublished Heritage Network Ltd report |
| Department of the Environment 1990 | <i>Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning</i> , Her Majesty's Stationery Office |
| English Heritage 1998 | <i>Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service Archaeological Guidance Papers</i> , unpublished English Heritage report |
| Hillelson David 2003 | <i>York House Place, Church Street, Kensington, London HN440 Project Design: Archaeological Evaluation</i> , unpublished Heritage Network Ltd report |
| Wymer J J 1999 | <i>The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain</i> , Trust for Wessex Archaeology |

THE APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context Descriptions, Interpretations, Finds & Figure Nos.

Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Finds and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(101)	1	Grey Asphalt	Tennis court ground surface and ground surface of site, twentieth century		Figs 6, 7, 8, 9
(102)	1	Loose mid grey clinker	Dumped make-up foundation for overlying (101), twentieth century		Figs 6, 7, 8, 9
(103)	1	Medium compaction mid brown sand with clay/silt with frequent white mortar flecks and white plaster flecks, moderate red ceramic building material fragments, and a piece of late nineteenth century or later ceramic drain pipe	Dumped make-up layer, probably laid as a base for overlying tennis court foundation (102) that is of twentieth century date		Figs 6, 7, 8, 9
(104)	1	Medium to hard compaction bright mid yellow sand	Dumped layer of sand to level up ground prior to laying of make-up (103) and foundation (102) for tennis court surface (101), twentieth century		Figs 7, 9
(105)	1	Loose mid grey layer of fine grained burnt cinder fragments up to 5mm in diameter	Dumped layer, function unknown, of nineteenth century or later date		Fig 9
(106)	1	Medium compaction mid grey brown sand with clay/silt and with moderate angular and rounded gravel to 50mm, and with moderate red ceramic building material flecks to 10mm, and with moderate live rootlets to 4mm diameter. Excavated in section for dateable finds, none found	Dumped layer, function unknown, of nineteenth century or later date		Fig 9
(107)	1	Medium to hard compaction mid grey sand with clay/silt with occasional red ceramic building material flecks to 10mm, and with moderate coal pieces to 10mm, and with moderate angular and rounded gravel to 10mm. Excavated in section for dateable finds, none found	A dumped deposit, laid to form a garden or landscaping surface, present over much of the area of trench 1. Overlies nineteenth century well (113)/(114) and so of nineteenth century or later date. Reworked garden earth		Figs 6, 7, 8, 9
(108)	1	Medium to hard compaction mid orange brown sand with clay/silt and with frequent red ceramic building material inclusions (brick and tile fragments up to 0.15m in size) and with moderate angular and rounded gravel inclusions to 40mm	Dumped deposit, overlying nineteenth century well (113)/(114), and so of nineteenth century or later date		Figs 6, 7, 9

Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Finds and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(109)	1	Medium compaction mid to light grey brown sand with clay/silt with moderate red ceramic brick fragments to 0.15m, and with moderate unburnt coal pieces to 10mm, and with moderate round and angular gravel to 30mm	Dumped backfill of cut (110), thought to be the same as dumped backfill (111) in cut (112)		Fig 9
(110)	1	Steep sided cut containing dumped backfill (109)	Construction cut for (10-93), and thought to be the same feature as 1(112)		Fig 9
(111)	1	Medium compaction mid brown sand with clay/silt and with frequent fragments of red ceramic building material to 20mm, and with frequent angular and rounded gravel to 20mm, and with moderate unburnt coal pieces to 5mm, and with occasional charcoal to 4mm. Thought to be the same context as (109)	Dumped backfill of cut (112), thought to be the same as dumped backfill (109) in cut (110)		Fig 9
(112)	1	Steep sided cut containing dumped backfill (111), thought to be the same context as (110)	Construction cut for (113), and thought to be the same feature as (110)		Fig 9
(113)	1	Mortared, domed red brick capping of well (114). Constructed in unfrogged bricks, laid as headers, on bed, and set in a hard white mortar with chalk inclusions, resembling 'trass'.	Domed capping of well (114), thought to have been built at the same time as underlying vertical shaft (114). The bricks are thought to be of early nineteenth century type, and resemble those used to form (114). Top at c. 21.40m OD, base varied between 21.00m OD and 20.95m OD.	Bricks not sampled but thought on site to be of early nineteenth century date	Figs 4, 9
(114)	1	Unmortared red brick side wall of a sub-circular well, observed through hole broken by mechanical excavator through domed capping (113) during opening of evaluation trench 1	Top at c. 21.00m OD, base proved to at least c. 18.36m OD, but this was only the depth which the void and water within the side wall (114) extended, and there could well be a greater depth to the structure. Standing water found from 18.36m OD to c. 19.11m OD, void found within (114) above c. 19.11m OD. Backfilled during evaluation to c. 19.26m OD	Bricks not sampled but thought on site to be of early nineteenth century date	Figs 4, 9
(115)	1	Medium compaction mid brown sand with frequent angular and rounded gravel to 0.10m, and with moderate red ceramic building material fragments to 0.10m, and with moderate unburnt coal to 3mm	Dumped backfill of a large pit, believed (by R Densem) to be of late eighteenth or nineteenth century date from the nature of the brick fragment inclusions. A sample was excavated in a spit of c. 0.2m thickness in the base of the evaluation trench so as to recover finds for dating purposes. The base of the deposit was not reached	Brick fragments 1400 –1700	Figs 4, 9

Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Finds and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(116)	1	Part of an irregularly shaped pit, the base of which was not reached. Fill was (115)	Pit, function uncertain but probably a gravel pit dug to extract this material. Dumped post-medieval backfill was (115)		Fig 9
(117)	1	Hard pale brown grey sand with occasional angular and rounded gravel to 30mm, and with occasional charcoal flecks to 20mm, and with occasional unburnt coal flecks to 5mm, and with very occasional ceramic building material flecks to 4mm	Leached post-medieval earth layer, the humic content having leached out of the deposit. The occasional inclusions and the heterogeneous nature of the deposit suggest it has been turned over, and the nature of the inclusions suggest this was in the post-medieval period. A buried earth deposit. The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any		Figs 6, 8, 9
(118)	1	Hard pale grey sand with red flecks (iron staining) c. 10mm by 3mm; with occasional round and angular gravel to 30mm, and with very occasional charcoal flecks to 5mm, and very occasional red ceramic building material flecks to 4mm	Subsoil, probably not turned over, and the small charcoal and ceramic building material flecks may have been introduced into the deposit by root/worm action (bioturbation). Excavated in section for dateable finds, none found		Figs 6, 8, 9
(119)	1	Hard pale grey sand with very occasional round and angular gravel to 20mm, and with very occasional charcoal flecks to 2mm	Natural sand, the weathered top of the natural deposits		Figs 6, 7, 8, 9
(120)	1	Hard buff, grey, pale brown and red iron stained (at base) round and angular sand and gravel to 0.10m with some horizontal banding from deposition but generally a poorly sorted deposit	Late glacial natural sterile sand and gravel		Figs 6, 7, 8, 9
(121)	1	Medium compaction mottled grey, buff and red brown iron stained sand with very occasional angular gravel to 0.10m	Late glacial natural sterile sand, part of late glacial sand and gravel sequence		Fig 9
(122)	1	Medium compaction pale grey angular and rounded gravel to 30mm and sand	Sterile natural sand and gravel, part of late glacial sequence		Fig 9
(123)	1	Soft, mottled buff, pale grey, and pale orange brown iron stained sand	Sterile natural sand, part of late glacial sequence, not excavated to its base – exposed in base of evaluation trench 1		Figs 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
(124)	1	Medium compaction mid to pale grey sand with clay/silt and with moderate to frequent unburnt coal to 20mm, and with moderate to frequent red ceramic building material fragments to 10mm, and with moderate angular and rounded gravel to 30mm	Dumped deposit, upper fill of pit (127). The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any	Tile fragment 1480 –1900	Fig 6

Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Findings and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(125)	1	Medium compaction mid grey sand with clay/silt and with frequent red ceramic building material fragments to 5mm, and with frequent charcoal pieces to 10mm	Dumped fill of pit (127), thought to be of post-medieval date, judging from the nature of the ceramic building material inclusions. The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any	Clay tobacco pipe bowl 1640-1660; brick fragment 1400-1700	Fig 6
(126)	1	Hard, mid to pale grey clay/silt with sand and with frequent round and angular gravel to 40mm, and with occasional charcoal to 10mm	Thought to be possibly waterlain while on site, but on reflection a dumped deposit – on the basis of the lenses of gravel in the deposit that would have needed high-energy water flow to be deposited. A dumped deposit. Earliest fill of pit (127)		Fig 6
(127)	1	Steep sided and round bottomed cut containing fills (124). (125) And (126).	Pit, probably dug to extract sand and gravel. Post-medieval		Fig 6
(128)	1	Hard compaction lenses of mid to pale grey and buff yellow brown sand with moderate rounded and angular gravel to 40mm, and with occasional red ceramic building material fragments to 20mm, and with occasional charcoal fragments to 10mm	Dumped upper backfill of pit (130). Section dug into for dateable finds – none found but overlies lower fill (129) that produced a (post-medieval) clay tobacco pipe stem fragment		Figs 6, 7, 8
(129)	1	Hard mottled mid grey and red brown, buff and mid grey brown sand with clay/silt and with a clay/silt with sand lens. Very occasional large chalk rubble to 0.35m, and very occasional charcoal to 20mm and with one fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem	Dumped lower backfill of pit (130). Dug into in plan to recover finds. Post-medieval	Clay tobacco pipe stem 1600-1900	Figs 4, 7, 8
(130)	1	Oval outline of pit cut extending east into trench 1 from its west section. Can be seen in section to have steep sides and a flattish bottom	Post-medieval pit, probably dug to quarry gravel, fills are (128) and (129)		Figs 6, 7, 8
(131)	1	Medium compactions dark grey friable sand with clay/clay silt and with moderate red ceramic building material fragments to 5mm, and with occasional pieces of unburnt coal to 15mm, and with moderate angular and rounded gravel to 15, and with occasional charcoal to 3mm, and with frequent live rootlets to 1mm	Dumped fill of small post-medieval pit (132)		Fig 8
(132)	1	Small pit with gently sloping sides and with a rounded bottom	Contained dumped fill (131), a small post-medieval pit of unknown function		Fig 8
(133)	1	Hard mid to dark red brown clay/silt	Sterile waterlain (alluvial) fill of a palaeochannel, (133)		Fig 8

Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Finds and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(134)	1	Cut with only its southern side visible in the west section of trench 1	Gently sloping edge of a natural channel that contained a sterile, waterlain fill (133) of late glacial date		Fig 8
(135)	1	Medium compaction mid grey sand with clay/silt and with occasional rounded and angular gravel to 40mm, and with occasional charcoal flecks to 10mm	Dumped fill of pit (136)		Fig 4
(136)	1	Irregularly shaped, in plan, cut of a post-medieval gravel quarry pit containing dumped fill (135), recorded in base of evaluation trench 1	Cut of post-medieval gravel quarry pit, containing dumped fill (135). Top machined out in plan, and base not reached in hand excavation, to a depth of c. 0.2m, in base of trench 1		
(137)	1	Hard mottled mid grey, dark red brown and buff sand with moderate round and angular gravel to 50mm and with moderate patches of dark grey clay/silt with sand measuring up to c.0.15m by c.0.10m by c.2mm, with occasional charcoal flecks to 5mm and with one fragment of red ceramic building material	Dumped post-medieval fill of pit cut (138), recorded in base of evaluation trench 1, the top of the deposit having been machined out in plan within the trench. Base of deposit not reached		Fig 4
(138)	1	Pit cut of post-medieval gravel pit, with irregular outline. Base of feature not reached in hand dug spit dug c.0.2m into base of feature in the base of evaluation trench 1	Cut of post-medieval pit, probably dug to quarry gravel, containing dumped backfill (137), base not reached, top machined off		
(139)	1	Medium compaction mid brown sand with frequent angular and rounded gravel to 50mm and with occasional charcoal to 3mm and with one clay tobacco pipe stem	Dumped fill of post-medieval pit (140). Base not reached, top machined off	Clay tobacco pipe stem 1600-1900; tile fragment dated 1480-1900	Fig 4
(140)	1	Sub rectangular outline of post-medieval pit containing fill (139)	Cut of post-medieval pit, probably dug to quarry gravel, containing dumped backfill (139)		
(141)	1	Soft, mottled buff and mid brown and pale grey sand with occasional charcoal to 10mm and with moderate mid to dark grey patches of clay/silt with sand measuring c. 0.10m by c. 50mm by c. 20mm	Dumped backfill of pit cut (142), undated but thought to be of post-medieval date as all the other pits in evaluation trench 1 were of that date		Fig 4

Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Findings and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(142)	1	Pit cut, base not reached, top machined off, contained dumped backfill (141)	Pit cut, base not reached, contained dumped backfill (141). Probably of post-medieval date – as all the other pits in evaluation trench 1 were of that date		
(201)	2	Grey Asphalt	Tennis court ground surface and ground surface of site, twentieth century		Figs 10, 11, 12
(202)	2	Loose mid grey clinker	Dumped make-up foundation for overlying (201), twentieth century		Figs 10, 11, 12
(203)	2	Medium to hard compaction lenses of dark grey, mid brown grey and pale grey sand with clay/silt and with moderate rounded and angular gravel to 50mm, and with moderate fragments of red ceramic building material to 80mm by 80mm, and with occasional pieces of white mortar to 20mm	Dumped deposit, probably laid to level up ground and/or raise ground level in preparation for construction of twentieth century tennis court surface (201) on its foundation layer (202).		Figs 10, 11, 12
(204)	2	Medium compaction dark grey sand with clay/silt with moderate rounded and angular gravel to 50mm, and with occasional red ceramic building material to 10mm, and with occasional unburnt coal to 20mm, and with occasional charcoal to 20mm, and with occasional mortar flecks to 10mm. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery	A dumped deposit, laid to form a garden or landscaping surface, present over much of the area of trench 1. Overlies nineteenth century well (113)/(114) and so of nineteenth century or later date. Reworked garden earth	2 sherds 1700-1900; Clay tobacco pipe stem 1600-1900; 2 fragments of glass 1800-1900; Tile fragments 1480-1900, Brick fragments 1800-1900	Figs 10, 11, 12
(205)	2	Hard mottled dark grey, mid yellow brown, grey buff and mid brown sand with clay/silt and with moderate rounded and angular gravel to 50mm and with a small piece of burnt cloth c. 20mm by 20mm by 2mm surviving. Occasional red ceramic building material fragments to 10mm	Very mixed, dumped backfill of pit cut/post-hole (207). The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any		Fig 10
(206)	2	Hard mid grey friable sand with clay/silt and with frequent charcoal and unburnt coal flecks to 5mm, and with occasional flecks of red ceramic building material to 5mm (that were considered by R Densem on site to be of late eighteenth or early nineteenth century origin), and with occasional white mortar flecks	Dumped lower backfill of pit (207), under upper backfill (205), possibly replacing a pulled post removed from cut (207). The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any		Fig 10

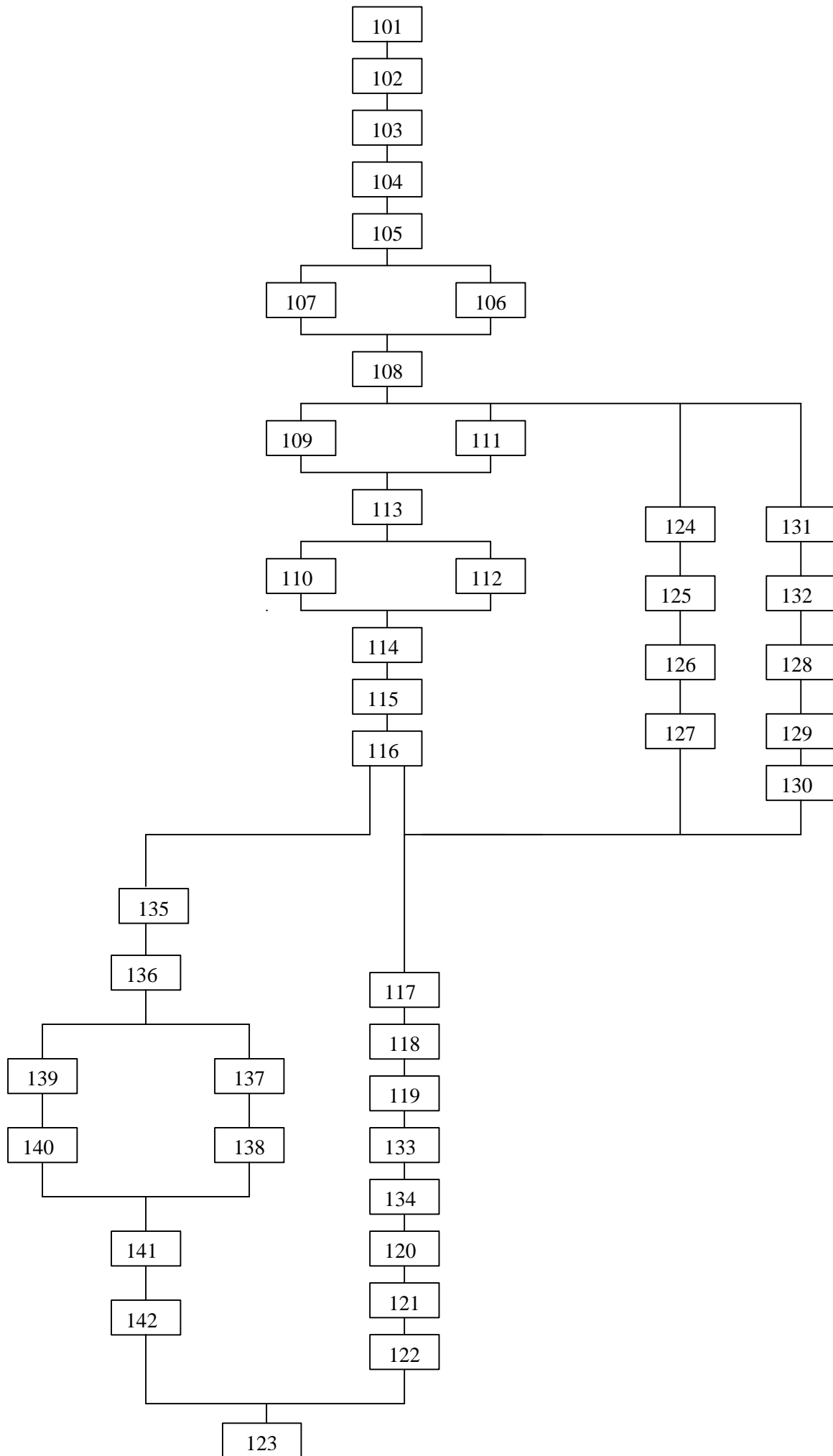
Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Finds and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(207)	2	Steep sided cut, with a flattish, near horizontal base	Pit or more probably a post-hole from which post was pulled and replaced with dumped fill (206). Upper fill of cut (207) was (205). Late post-medieval on the basis surviving fragment of clothe in upper fill (205). Lower fill (206) produced brick/tile fragments thought by R Densem to be of post-medieval date		Fig 10
(208)	2	Hard mid to pale brown with yellow and buff mottles sand with clay/silt with moderate angular and rounded gravel to 50mm and with occasional (c. 4) red brick fragments to c. 5mm and that were thought to be of post-medieval date by R Densem on site. Excavation of the deposit in section also produced c. 10 fragments of burnt coal to c. 5mm and which are thought likely to be of post-medieval date	A very mixed dumped post-medieval deposit with that directly overlay top (211) of natural late/post glacial natural sequence. As there was no intervening buried earth deposit (218) between (208) and (211), the sequence suggests that some truncation has taken place in this part of the evaluation trench 2, and that (208) may in fact fill a cut, dug into (211) and that has removed post-medieval earth (218) but it was not possible to prove this from the available sectional evidence. The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any		Fig 10
(209)	2	Medium compacted mid brown sand with clay/silt and with frequent rounded and angular gravel to 80mm and with frequent red ceramic building material inclusions to 60mm (thought most of the ceramic building material inclusions were to 10mm), and with moderate white mortar flecks to 10mm and with moderate charcoal flecks to 5mm. Three sherds of post-medieval pottery	A very mixed, mottled dumped post-medieval backfill in pit cut (210). The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any	Fragments to tile and of a tile paviour all dated 1480-1900; 3 fragments of black grazed pantile 1400-1800	Figs 10, 11
(210)	2	Cut containing fill (209), the feature has steep sides and a flattish bottom	Post-medieval pit cut containing dumped backfill (209; function of pit unknown. Cut (210) has truncated post-medieval garden earth (218)		Figs 10, 11
(211)	2	Hard mid grey stiff clay/silt with sand with some red iron staining that was essentially sterile apart from moderate charcoal flecks to 5mm. Very occasional rounded and angular gravel to 20mm	A late/post glacial waterlaid layer, top of the natural sequence, with the moderate charcoal fragments that were present accountable for by probably bioturbation (root and worm action). The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any		Figs 10, 11, 12

Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Finds and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(212)	2	Hard red brown stained grey clay/silt with sand	Sterile natural late/post glacial waterlaid deposit. The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any - it was found to be a sterile layer. Part of natural sequence on site		Figs 10, 11, 12
(213)	2	Hard mid grey clay/silt with frequent rounded and angular gravel to 0.10m	A sterile layer, and part of natural late glacial sequence		Figs 5, 10, 11
(214)	2	Hard mid grey clay/silt with sand and gravel	A sterile layer, and part of natural late glacial sequence		Figs 5, 10, 11, 12
(215)	2	Soft pale green, buff and pale grey sand	A sterile layer, and part of natural late glacial sequence		Figs 5, 10, 11
(216)	2	Hard mottled dark grey, orange brown and dirty grey brown clay/silt with sand and containing one sherd of post-medieval pottery, and with occasional red flecks of red ceramic building material to 10mm and with occasional charcoal flecks to 5mm, and with occasional rounded and angular gravel to 30mm	Dumped backfill of post-hole (217). The context was dug into in section to recover dating material	Sherd 1700-1900	Fig 11
(217)	2	Steep sided and flat bottomed cut	Post-hole containing “post-pipe” (225) and dumped backfill (216)		Fig 11
(218)	2	Medium compaction mid grey brown sand with clay/silt and with moderate rounded and angular gravel to 40mm and with occasional coal flecks to 20mm	Interpreted as a post-medieval garden earth deposit on the basis of the colour, texture and heterogeneity of the context, and because of its widespread distribution within evaluation trench 2 (except where it has been truncated away by later instructions such as (207), (208), (210) and (217). Assigned a post-medieval date on the basis of the presence of coal pieces and because of the nature of the brick fragments seen on site by R Densem as coming from the deposit. The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any	Fragments of brick 1480-1700 and of peg tile 1480-1900	Figs 11, 12
(219)	2	Hard mid brown sand with frequent rounded and angular gravel to 40mm and with occasional post-medieval red ceramic building material including brick fragments	Dumped deposit, possibly a post-medieval garden path. Post-medieval on the basis of the nature of the brick fragments seen by R Densem in the context on site. The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any		Figs 11, 12

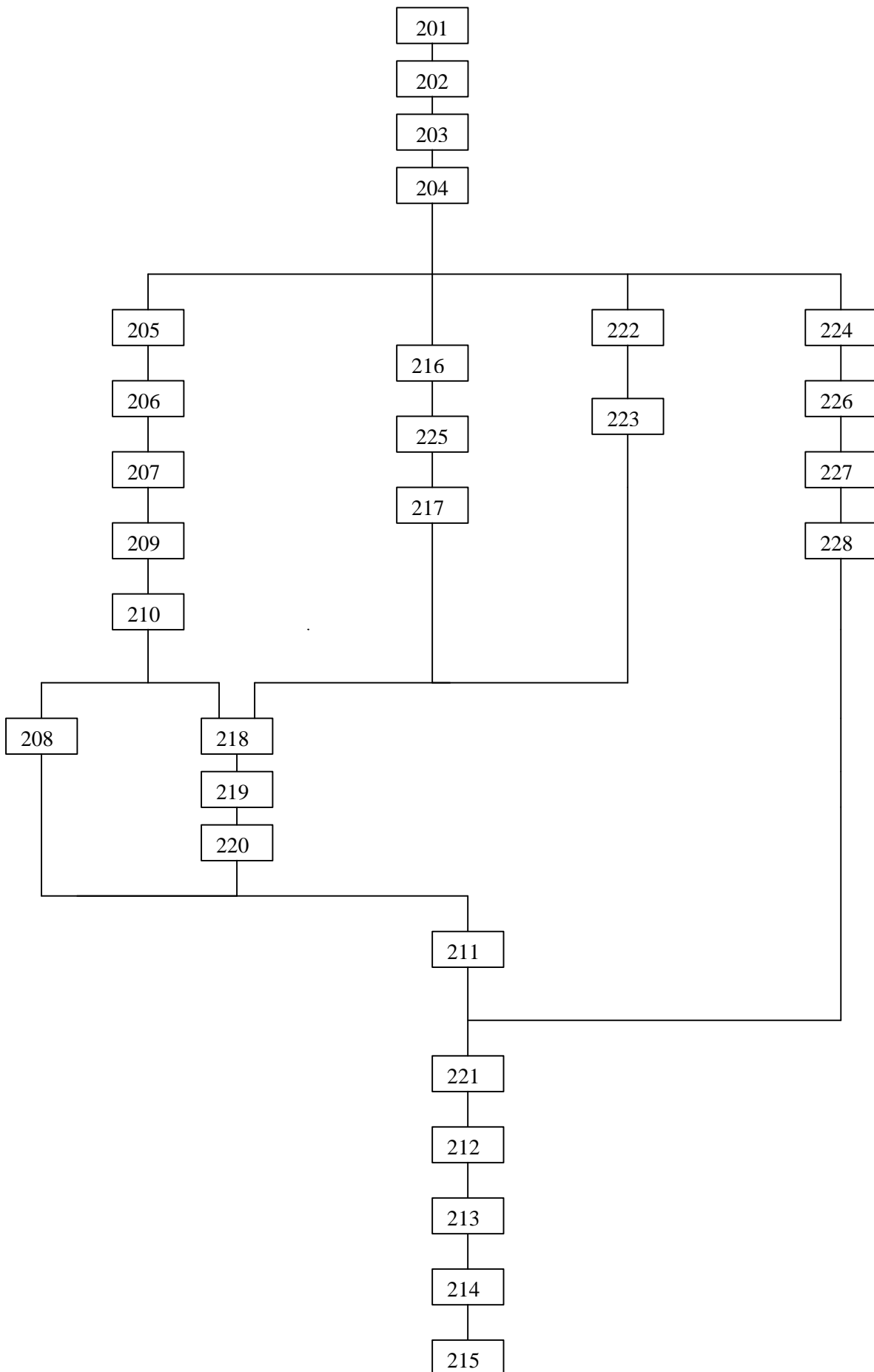
Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Finds and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(220)	2	Hard mid brown sand with clay/silt and with moderate unburnt coal flecks to 20mm, and with occasional flecks of red ceramic building material to 10mm	Thought to be the worked or bioturbated top of uppermost natural late/post glacial deposit (211), and this working or bioturbation has introduced occasional items of post-medieval date. The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any		Fig 11
(221)	2	Medium compaction dirty mid brown grey clay/silt with very occasional coal flecks to 5mm and with a very small organic content/ staining giving the deposit its dirty mid brown grey colour	Sterile waterlaid natural late/post glacial deposit. The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any - it was found to be a sterile layer. Part of natural alluvial late/post glacial sequence on site		Figs 11, 12
(222)	2	Loose mid grey brown sand and gravel with moderate coal flecks to 10mm and with occasional red ceramic building material flecks and with occasional white mortar flecks	Dumped post-medieval (on the basis of the contained ceramic building material) redeposited natural sand and gravel backfill of pit cut (223). The context was dug into in section to recover dating material, if any	Fragments of brick 1400-1700 and of peg tile 1480-1900	Fig 12
(223)	2	Cut with steep side and flattish bottom, containing fill (222)	Post-medieval pit containing dumped backfill (222)		Fig 12
(224)	2	Three courses of a two brick wide foundation trench built in brick of a north-south aligned brick wall, only seen in south section of evaluation trench 2. Bricks mortared with a soft white mortar, bricks laid on bed and laid in construction trench (226)	Bricks used to build wall foundation believed by R Densem and G Potter to be of early nineteenth century date built. Wall was built in foundation trench (226). Top at c. 20.82m OD, base at c. 20.53m OD	Bricks not sampled but thought on site to be of early nineteenth century date	
(225)	2	Medium compaction dark grey sand with clay/silt and with occasional gravel to 30mm	Vertical sided and flat bottomed "post-pipe" in post pit (217) that was backfilled with post-hole fill (216). Deposit (225) represents the decayed below ground element of a post, set in a post-hole		Fig 11
(226)	2	0.5m wide vertical sided 0.29m deep trench dug to receive foundation (224) built in mortared red brickwork. The foundation (224) was trench built, thus there is no backfill in (226), it only contained wall foundation (224)	Construction trench for early nineteenth century brick built wall foundation (224). Over (227)		

Context	Trench	Context Description	Interpretation of Context	Finds and their Date Range	Drawn in Plan and/or Section?
(227)	2	Medium to hard mid brown clay/silt with sand and with frequent gravel inclusions and with moderate charcoal to 20mm, and with occasion fragments of red ceramic building material to 40mm, and with one piece of unworked chalk rubble to 60mm and with one fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem	Dumped backfill of cut feature (228), examination of sections and excavation to a depth of c. 0.2m in base of evaluation trench 2 showed that the feature was at least 0.9m deep, and its base was not reached. A sample excavation of a c. 0.2m thick spit through the deposit in the base of the evaluation trench was carried out to recover finds for dating purposes, and resulted in the discovery of a piece of clay tobacco pipe. Under (226)	Clay tobacco pipe stem 1600-1900	Fig 5
(228)	2	Cut containing dumped backfill (227). Side was straight and was angled at an angle of about 60 degrees below the horizontal. Base of feature not found. The context was at least 0.9m deep, judging from examination of the sections containing the feature and from the 0.2m sample of the fill (227) that was excavated in the base of evaluation trench 2	Cut containing dumped backfill (227). Function of cut (228) unknown; it may have been a gravel pit. It was of post-medieval date, judging from the discovery of a fragment of clay tobacco pipe in the backfill (227) of the feature.		

Appendix 2: Context Matrix, Trench 1



Appendix 3: Context Matrix, Trench 2



Appendix 4: Finds Quantification

Context	Pot	Clay Tob Pipe	Brick/Tile (cbm)	Glass
115			7	
124			1	
125		1	4	
129		1		
137			1	
139		1	2	
204	2	1	6	4
206			2	
209			9	
216	1			
218			3	1
219			6	
222			14	
227		1		
Context	Pot	Clay Tob Pipe	Brick/Tile (cbm)	Glass

Appendix 5: Pottery Assessment

Assessment of the pottery from Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8 (YHP03)

Lyn Blackmore

Museum of London Specialist Services, October 2002

Introduction

Three fragments of pottery were recovered (22g). The finds were recorded on paper and on a general Excel spreadsheet for the site, using standard Museum of London fabric and form codes; the numerical data comprises sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight.

Description

Three fragments of pottery were recovered from two contexts in Trench 2. The largest, and stratigraphically the earliest piece is from the fill of the post pit [216], while the others are from the overlying garden soil [204]. All three sherds are from flowerpots, with at least two, and possibly three, pots represented. No pottery was found in Trench 1.

Discussion

The finds cannot be closely dated, but they are probably of 18th-century or 19th-century date. It is possible that the sherd from the pit was introduced when the post was removed and the garden soil laid down.

Further work

No further specialist work is required, and the finds need only be mentioned as dating evidence in any post-assessment report that is produced on the site.

Appendix 6: Clay Tobacco Pipe Assessment

Assessment of the clay tobacco pipes from Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8 (YHP03)

Lyn Blackmore

Museum of London Specialist Services, October 2003

Introduction

Clay pipe fragments were found in three contexts in trench 1, and in two contexts in trench 2. The finds were recorded in accordance with MoLSS practice on pro-forma sheets and on a general finds Excel spreadsheet for the site.

Description and distribution

In Trench 1 pipe fragments were found in the fill of a gravel quarry pit ([125]), and pit fills [129] and [139]. That from [125] is a bowl/stem fragment of Atkinson and Oswald type 9 (Atkinson and Oswald 1969) that probably dates to between 1640-1660. This has a thick plain stem, a small, short flat-based spur and a lined rim. The other finds comprise single stem fragments from each context.

In trench 2, single fragments of slender pipe stem were found in the gravel quarry pit fill [227] and in the garden soil [204].

Discussion

The finds cannot be closely dated, but they confirm the ceramic evidence and show that all the layers are of post-medieval date. The pipe bowl is of interest in that it is the earliest datable artefact from the site, but it is not an unusual form.

Further work

No further specialist work is required, and the finds need only be mentioned as dating evidence in any post-assessment report that is produced on the site.

Bibliography

Atkinson, D, and Oswald, A, 1969 London clay tobacco pipes' *Journ Brit Archaeol Assoc*, 3rd Series, vol 32, 171-227

Appendix 7: Glass Assessment

Assessment of the glass from Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8 (YHP03)

Lyn Blackmore

Museum of London Specialist Services, October 2003

Introduction

Fragments of window glass were recovered from two contexts and recorded on a general finds Excel spreadsheet for the site.

Description

All the glass is from Trench 2. The earliest find is a small fragment of thin green glass from the garden earth [218]. Three small fragments of clear glass, one with finished outer edge, were recovered from the later garden earth, which also contained a large fragment of thick clear glass tile, possibly from a pavement light, with traces of white paint overlain by a black substance on the back.

Discussion

The finds cannot be closely dated, but they are probably of 19th-century date and derived from a property nearby.

Further work

No further specialist work is required, and the finds need only be mentioned as dating evidence in any post-assessment report that is produced on the site.

Appendix 8: Building Materials Assessment**Assessment of the Ceramic Building Materials from Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8 (YHP03)**

Terence Paul Smith

Museum of London Specialist Services, October 2003

1. Introduction

The building materials were recorded using standard Museum of London (MoL) recording sheets. Fabrics were examined microscopically ($\times 10$). Data have been entered into an Excel database: yhp03\bm01.xls. All material has been discarded after recording.

2. The Materials

The materials present are shown in Table I.

Table I: Materials present, by context

Context	Material	Wt (gm)	No.
115	Brick?	150	<i>7</i>
124	Peg tile	50	<i>1</i>
125	Brick?	100	<i>2</i>
125	?	50	<i>2</i>
137	?	10	<i>1</i>
139	Peg tile	40	<i>1</i>
204	Brick	350	<i>3</i>
204	Peg tile	50	<i>1</i>
206	?	40	<i>2</i>
209	Glazed peg tile	100	<i>2</i>
209	Paviour	750	<i>1</i>
209	Pantile	150	<i>2</i>
209	?	150	<i>5</i>
218	Brick	100	<i>1</i>
218	Peg tile	50	<i>1</i>
218	?	40	<i>1</i>
219	?	50	<i>6</i>
222	Brick	700	<i>1</i>
222	Peg tile	100	<i>1</i>
222	?	200	<i>11</i>
Total	–	3,130	50

(i) Bricks and Probable Bricks

Brick fragments in fabric 3033 were recovered from garden earth deposit [218] and dumped material [222] and probable brick fragments in the same fabric from dumped backfills [115]

and [125]. Bricks in this fabric were introduced in the late Middle Ages and persisted down to c1700. Even thereafter they might sometimes be salvaged and reused. All the fragments from this site are abraded and may be residual. The only dimension preserved is a thickness of 62mm on the fragment from [222]. Dimensions can be a hazardous guide to dating, although such a thickness (nearly 2½ inches) does suggest a Stuart rather than an earlier date.

Three fragments of bricks in fabric 3032 were recovered from dumped deposit [204]. One preserves its thickness of 66mm and also shows part of a semi-circular kick-formed frog in the lower bedface. Bricks in this fabric were introduced shortly after the Great Fire of 1666, but those with frogs like that from this site are not to be expected much before the end of the 18th century; the context itself suggests a 19th- or early 20th-century date. Its thickness of over 2½ inches is consistent with this.

(ii) Paviment

A fragment of a pavement in brick fabric 3033 was recovered from dumped backfill [209]. It has a thickness of 41mm (2 inches); other dimensions are not preserved. It has slightly bevelled edges. There is no trace of glaze on its upper face. Semi-vitrification on the lower face is almost certainly accidental. The pavement is of a type used both indoors – e.g. for kitchen flooring – and outdoors for paths and yards. It is of post-medieval date.

(iii) Plain (peg) tile

Two peg tile fragments, probably from a single tile, were recovered from dumped backfill [209]. No lengths or breadths are preserved and no peg/nail holes are present. Fragments of peg tile in fabric 2276 were recovered from dumped deposit [124], dumped fill [139], dumped deposit [204], garden earth deposit [218], and dumped deposit [222]. No lengths or breadths are preserved, and none shows its nail/peg holes. Plain tiles in this fabric, distinguished by its fine moulding sand, are of post-medieval date.

(iv) Pantile

Two pantile fragments in fabric 2275 were recovered from dumped backfill [209]. They show a good quality black cover-glaze and their edges have been knife-trimmed to a slight bevel on the upper face. They are probably of medieval date, but in this context are certainly residual. Pantiles were occasionally used in the late 16th century but most date from after c1630; they continued in use down to the early 20th century. The earliest were imported from the Netherlands, but English manufacture had started by the end of the 17th century and during the course of the following century the English products gradually ousted their Dutch rivals. In England, as opposed to the Netherlands, their status was never high.

(v) Unidentifiable abraded fragments

Unidentifiable abraded fragments were recovered from dumped fills [125], [137], [206], and [209], and from garden earth deposit [218], and dumped deposits [219] and [222]. Context [209] includes both red and buff fragments; all others are red. Some may be from bricks or peg tiles but certainty is impossible.

3. Potential and Significance of the Material

The material provides some *termini post quem* as noted in Table II. Some materials, it should be noted, are probably residual. Because of this, and because of the possibility of reuse, the potential *terminus ante quem* of c1700 for the bricks and probable bricks in fabric 3033 is probably not reliable. The potential *terminus ante quem* of c1500 for the glazed peg tile (context [209]) is certainly not since there are later materials within the same context.

Table II: *Termini post quem* (TPQ), by context

Context	TPQ	Evidence
115	1400	<i>3033 brick</i>
124	1480	<i>2276 peg tile</i>
125	1400	<i>3033 brick?</i>
139	1480	<i>2276 peg tile</i>
204	1800	<i>3032 brick with kick-formed frog</i>
209	1630	<i>Pantile</i>
218	1480	<i>2276 peg tile</i>
222	1480	<i>2276 peg tile</i>

4. Further Work

No further work is required on the material itself. For publication, data from this assessment may be incorporated within the text by the principal author(s). No further specialist input is required.

October 2003

Appendix 9: Finds Spreadsheets

Table i): pottery, clay tobacco pipe and glass

Site	Context	Pot	Form	Sherds	ENV	Weight	Pipe	Glass	Date	Comment
YHP03	125			0	0	0	1		1640-1660	bowl
YHP03	129			0	0	0	1		1600-1900	stem
YHP03	139			0	0	0	1		1600-1900	stem
YHP03	204			0	0	0	0	PMWG	1800-1900	clear tile x1
YHP03	204			0	0	0	0	PMWG	1800-1900	clear window x3
YHP03	204			0	0	0	1		1600-1900	stem
YHP03	204	PMR	FLP	2	2	6	0		1700-1900	
YHP03	216	PMR	FLP	1	1	16	0		1700-1900	
YHP03	227			0	0	0	1		1600-1900	stem

Table ii): ceramic building material

Site	Context	Fabric	Form	Wt (Gm)	No.	T (Mm)	Comments
YPH03	115	3033	BRICK?	150	7		Abraded fragments: probably brick
YPH03	124	2276	PEG TILE	50	1		
YPH03	125	3033	BRICK?	100	2		Abraded fragments: probably brick
YPH03	125	3498	?	50	2		Abraded fragments
YPH03	137	3498	?	10	1		Abraded fragment
YPH03	139	2276	PEG TILE	40	1		
YPH03	204	3032	BRICK	350	3	66	1 with part of semi-circular frog in lower bedface
YPH03	204	2276	PEG TILE	50	1		
YPH03	206	3498	?	40	2		Abraded fragments
YHP03	209	2271	PEG TILE	100	2		Black cover-glaze; knife-trimmed edges
YPH03	209	3498	PAVIOUR	750	1	41	Slightly bevelled edges; accidental semi-vitrified base
YPH03	209	2275	PANTILE	150	2		
YPH03	209	3498	?	150	5		Abraded fragments, some red, some buff
YPH03	218	3033	BRICK	100	1		Abraded fragment
YPH03	218	2276	PEG TILE	50	1		
YPH03	218	3498	?	40	1		Abraded fragment
YPH03	219	3498	?	50	6		Abraded fragments
YPH03	222	3033	BRICK	700	1	62	Abraded
YPH03	222	2276	PEG TILE	100	1		
YPH03	222	3498	?	200	11		Abraded fragments
TOTAL				3230	52		

Appendix 10: Contents of Site Archive

The written, drawn and photographic elements of the site archive are held at Compass Archaeology Ltd under the site code YHP03. It is proposed to transfer these elements to the Museum of London Archaeological Archive at 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7EE.

The contents of the site archive include:

- archaeological desk study
- project design
- list of contexts, one for each of the two
- 70 context sheets
- 2 trench plans at 1:50 scale
- 7 section drawings at 1:10
- 72 colour slides.

The finds have not been retained.

Appendix 11: London Archaeologist Summary

**Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8
in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea**

Ordnance Survey site centred national grid reference: TQ 2563 7990

Museum of London site code: YHP03

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on site between the 8th and the 14th October 2003 by a team of up to four archaeologists who investigated two trenches, each c. 12m by 3m in area, and about 1.6m deep.

Natural sand and gravel was overlain by a possible garden path, of gravel, that was of post-medieval date. Elsewhere the natural deposits were cut into by a series of eighteenth century gravel pits, that were overlain by dumped nineteenth century layers. A few small recent cut features and two post holes were also recorded.

There were no prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval deposits or finds.

Appendix 12: Sites and Monuments Record Form

GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

- 1) TYPE OF RECORDING: evaluation
- 2) LOCATION, BOROUGH: Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
- ADDRESS: Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8
- SITE NAME: Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8
- SITE CODE: YHP03
- NAT. GRID REF.: TQ 2563 7990 (site centre)

3) NAME OF ORGANISATION

- ORGANISATION: The Heritage Network Ltd
- SITE SUPERVISOR: Robin Densem, Compass archaeology Ltd
- PROJECT MANAGER: David Hillelson
- FUNDED BY: York House Developments Ltd

4) DURATION

- FIELDWORK STARTED: 8th October 2003
- DATE FINISHED: 14th October 2003
- FIELDWORK PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED?: No
- FIELDWORK CONTINUES: No

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED: Post-medieval

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES

Post-medieval: Natural sand and gravel was overlain by a possible garden path, of gravel, that was of post-medieval date. Elsewhere the natural deposits were cut into by a series of eighteenth century gravel pits, that were overlain by dumped nineteenth century layers. A few small recent cut features and two post holes were also recorded.

7) NATURAL

TYPE: Sand and gravel (Lynch Hill and Hackney terrace deposits)

HEIGHT OF NATURAL: c. 220.90m OD

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

a) Estimate of the quantity of material in the following categories:

Notes: none

Plans: two

Sections: seven

Photos: 72 colour slides

Negatives: none

Correspondence: none

MScripts (unpub reports): desk-top assessment
specification
evaluation report

BULK finds: none

SMall finds: none

SOil samples: none

OTHer (please specify): none

b) The archive is to be prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and has been deposited at Compass Archaeology Ltd, 63 Union Street, London SE1 1SG prior to deposition at the Museum of London Archaeological Archive

c) Has a security copy of the archive been made? Not as at 30/10/2003

9) BIBLIOGRAPHY

Densem R 2003, *Report on Archaeological Evaluation at Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8* (unpublished report)

NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS: ROBIN GUY DENSEM

DATE: 30th October 2003.

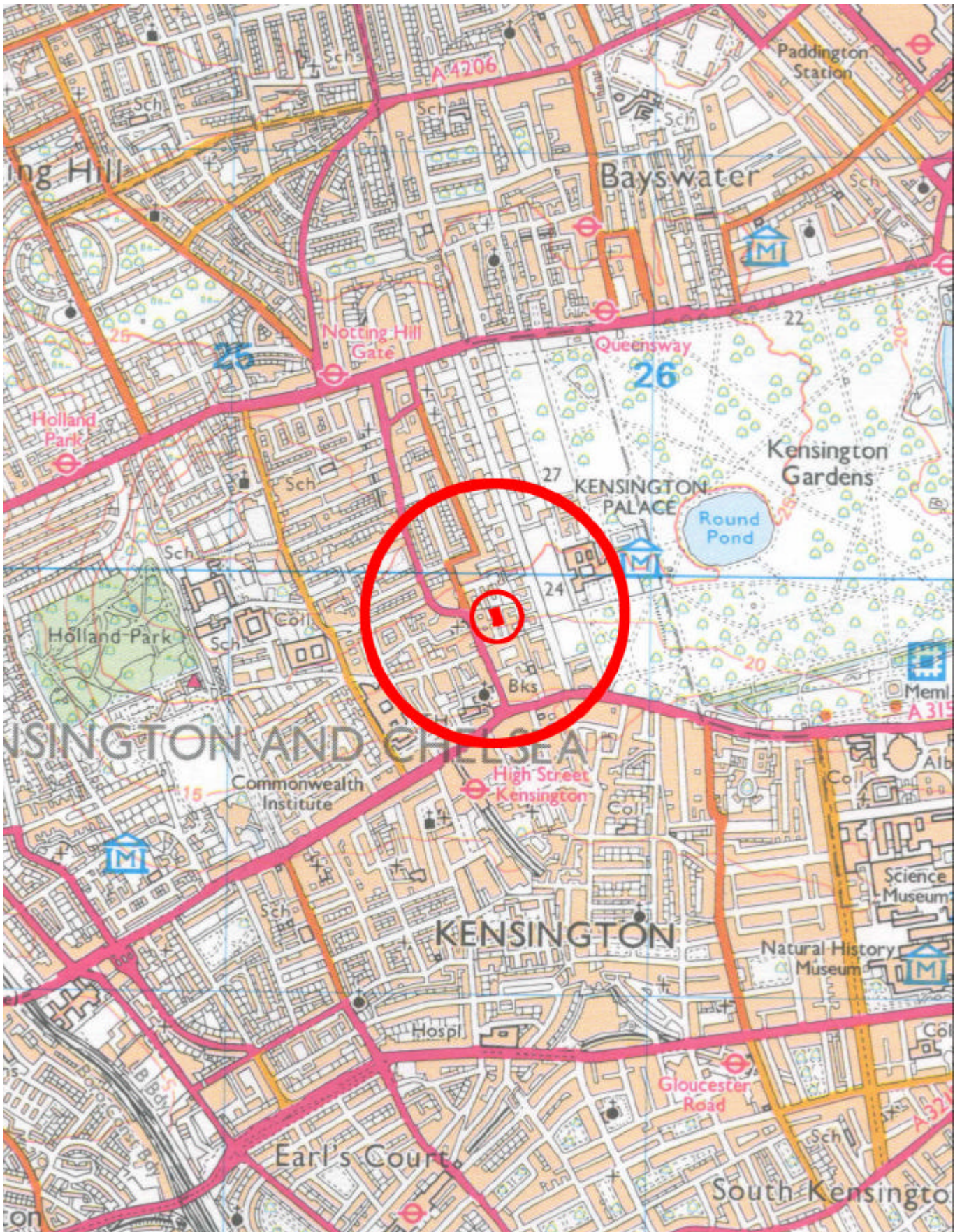


Fig 1: The site shown red within two red circles in relation to an extract from the current 1:25,000 scale Ordnance Survey 'Explorer' map, reproduced at a scale of 1:12,500. The grid lines are at 1,000m intervals

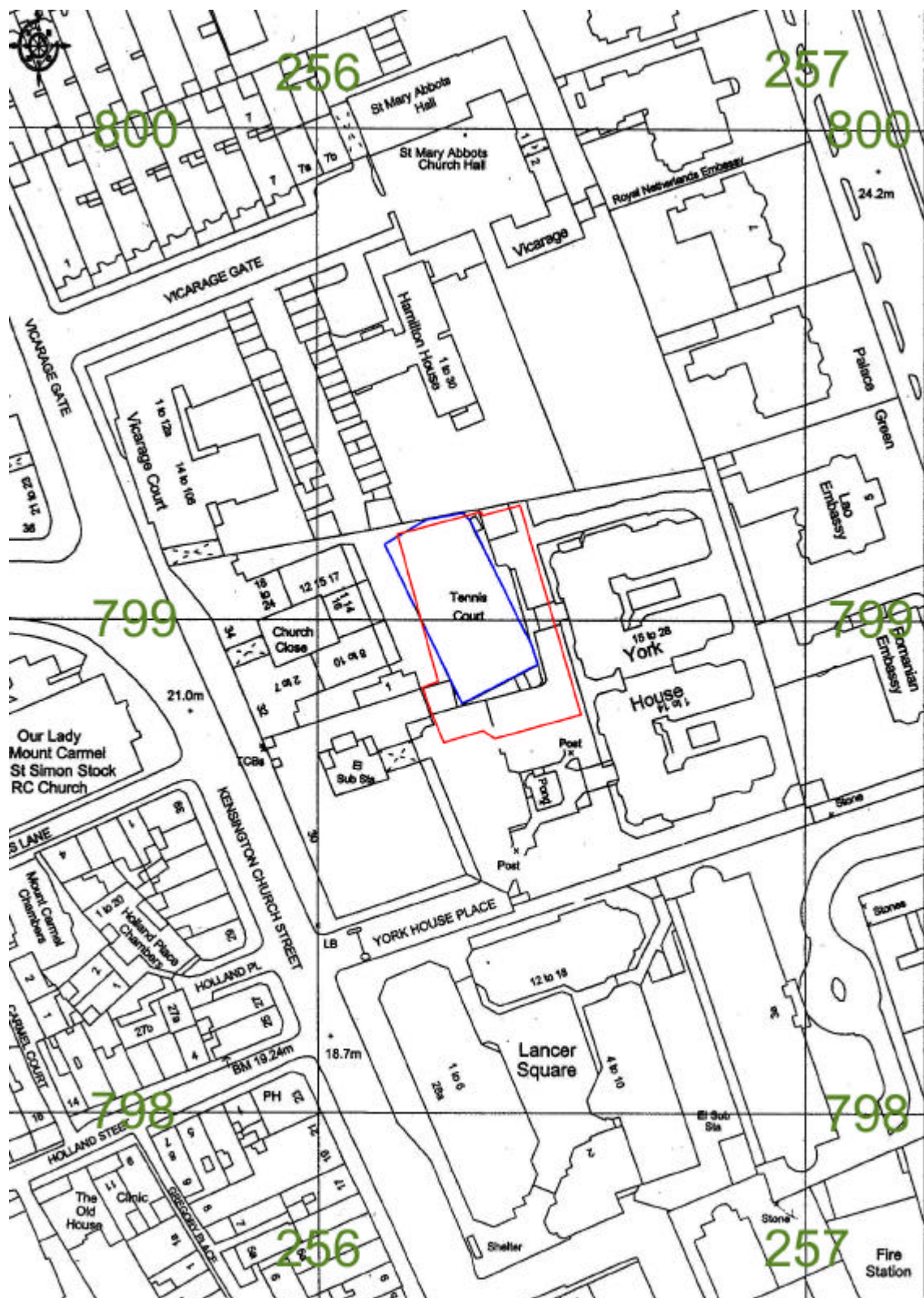


Fig 2: The site outline, shown red, in relation to an extract from the current 1:1,250 scale Ordnance Survey map. The numbers shown in green are Ordnance Survey national grid TQ referemces, and the grid lines are at 100m intervals. The tennis court where the two evaluation trenches were dug is shown outlined in blue

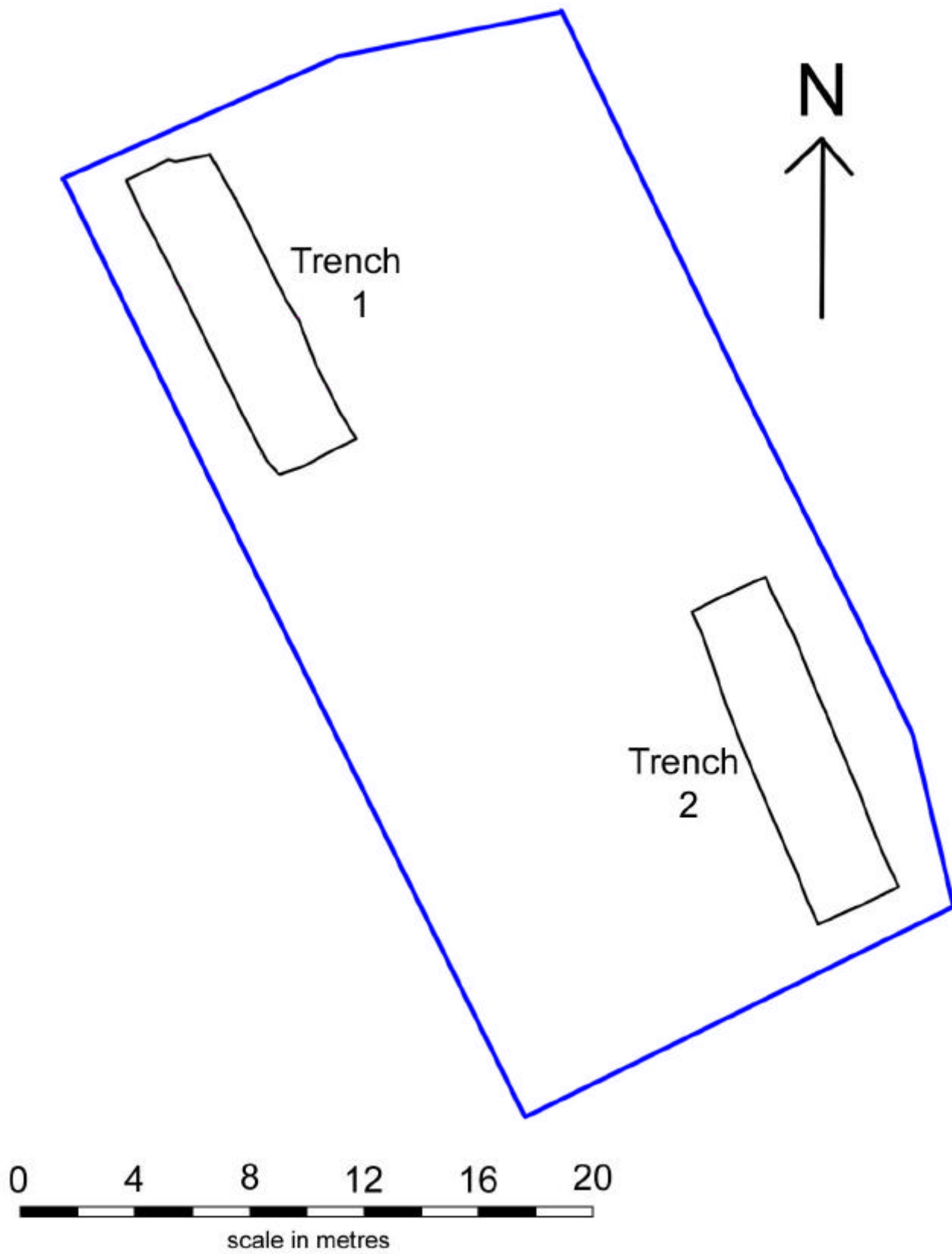


Fig 3: The location of the two evaluation trenches in relation to the tennis court (shown blue and also shown on fig 2)

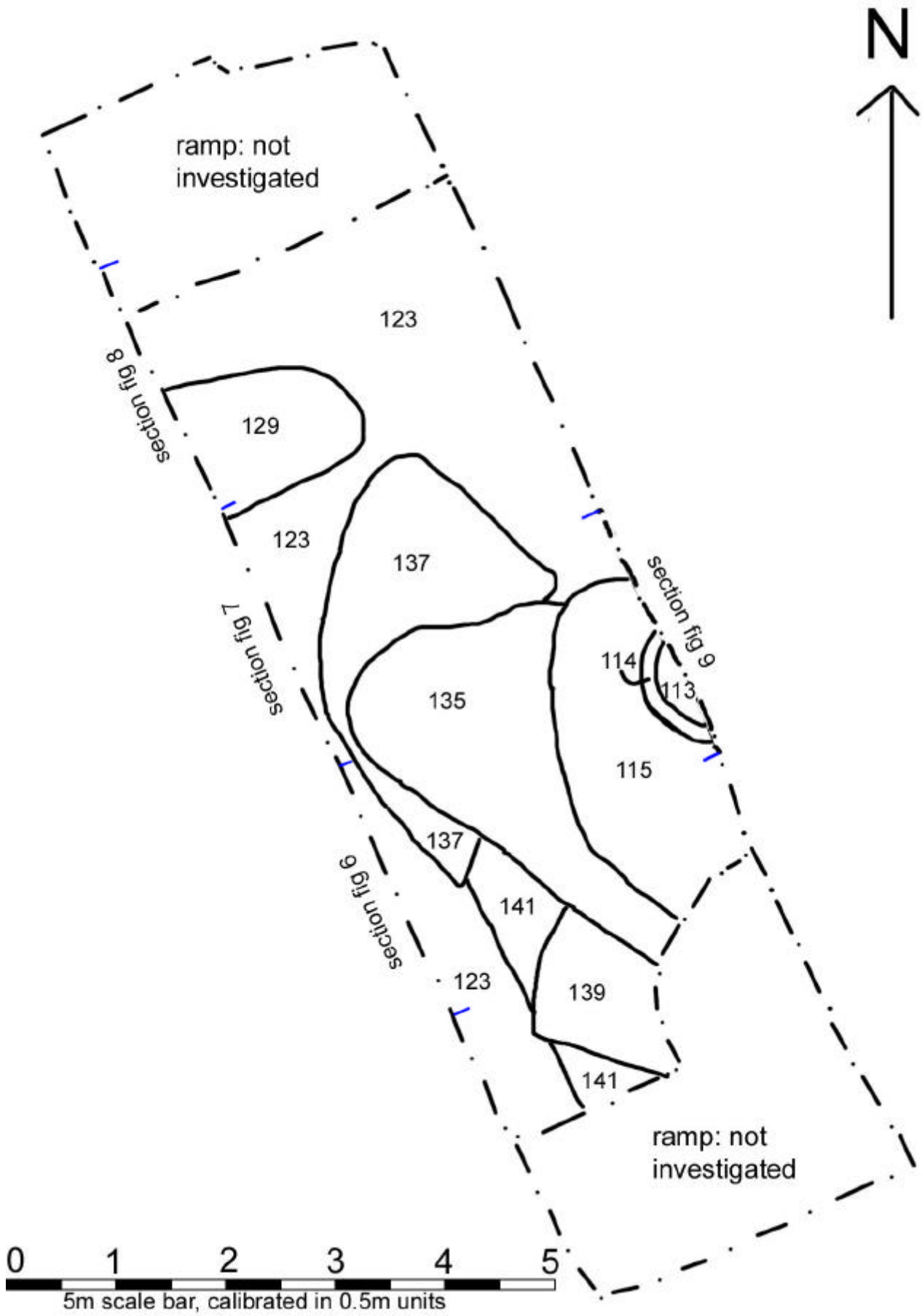


Fig 4: Plan, trench 1. Section drawings (figs 6-9) located between blue dashes

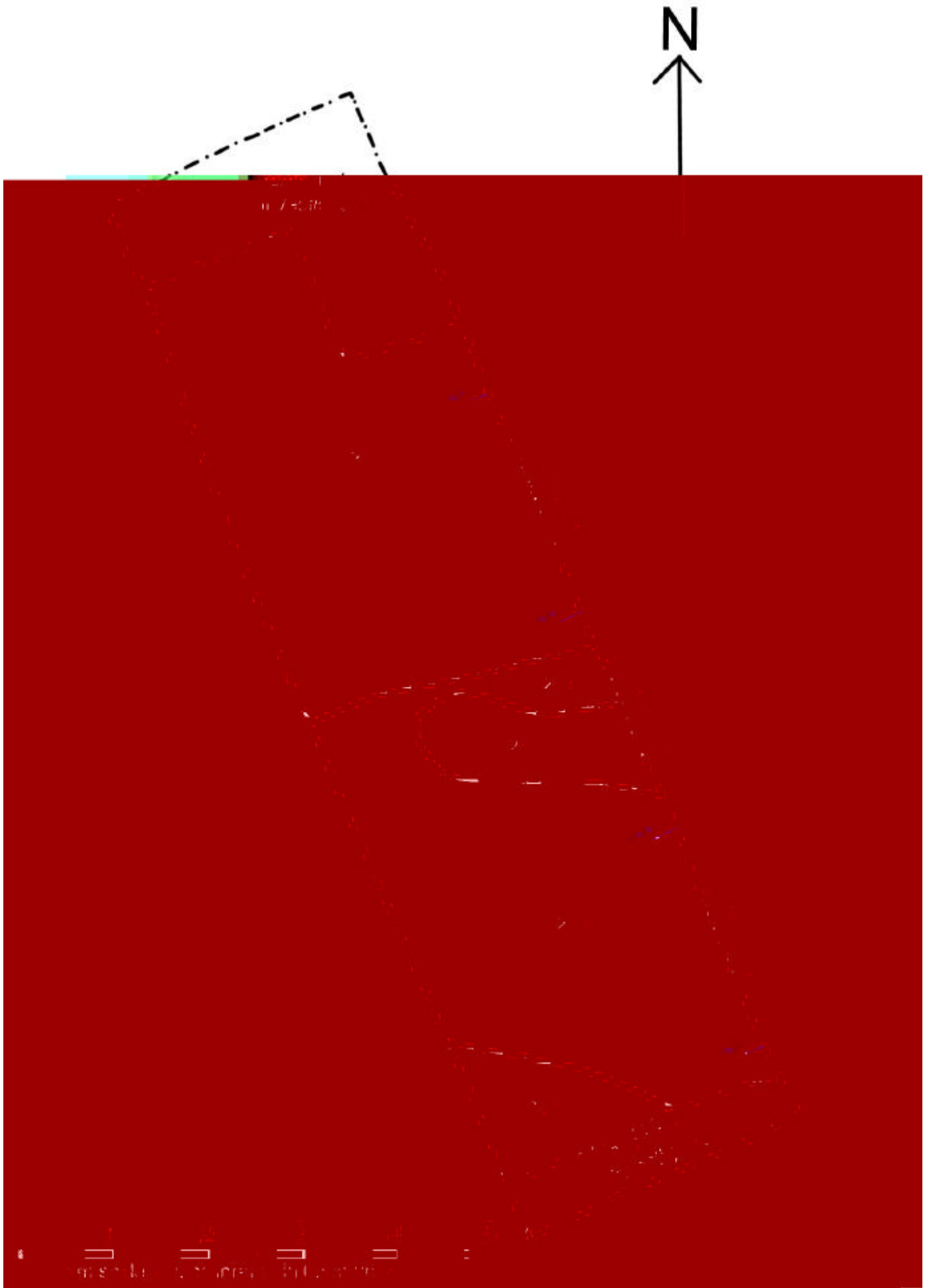


Fig 5: Plan, trench 2. Section drawings (figs 10-12) located between blue dashes

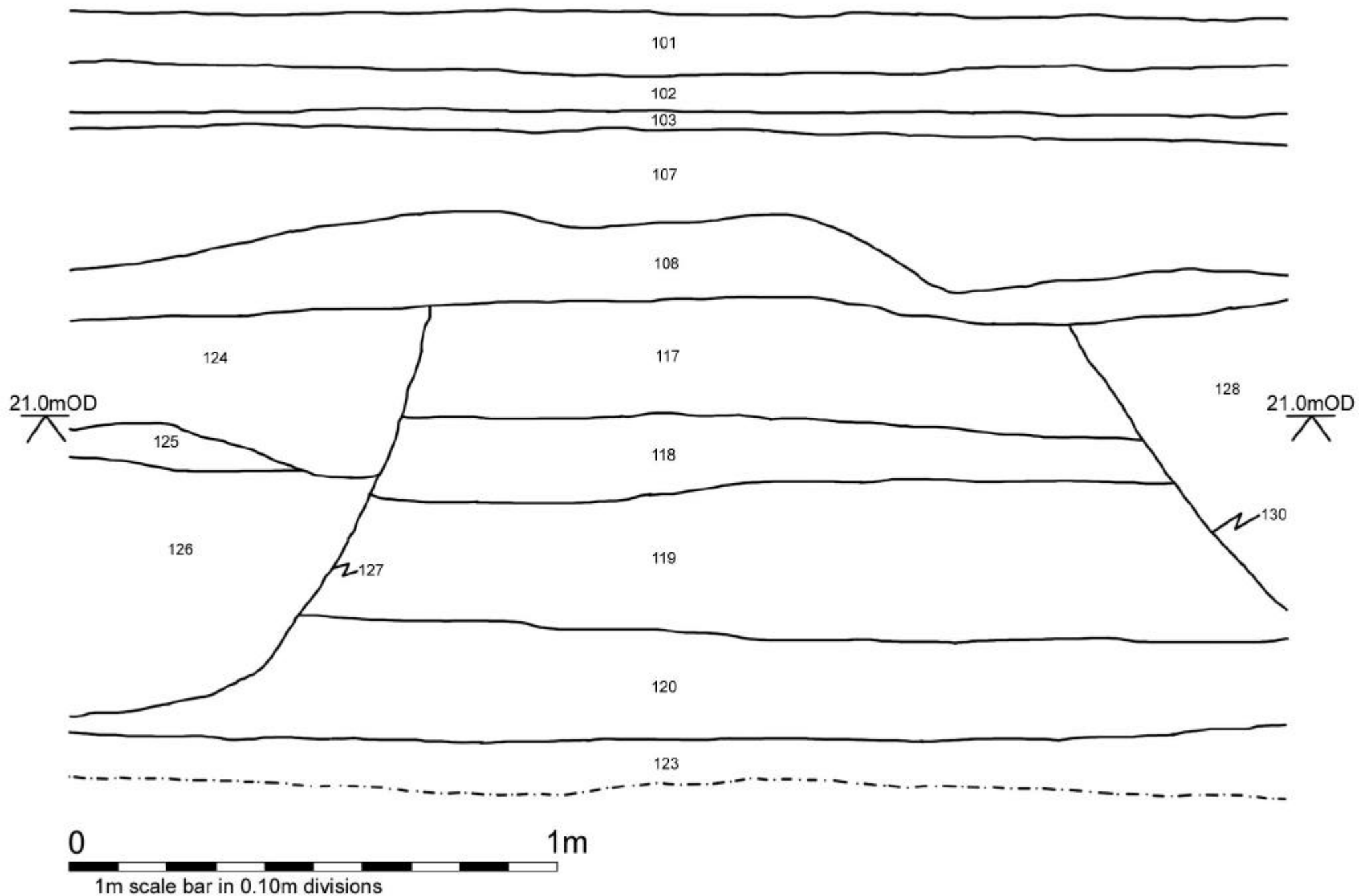


Fig 6: Section drawing, located on fig 4. Features and layers are identified by context numbers, listed at Appendix 1. The dot and dash line is the limit of excavation

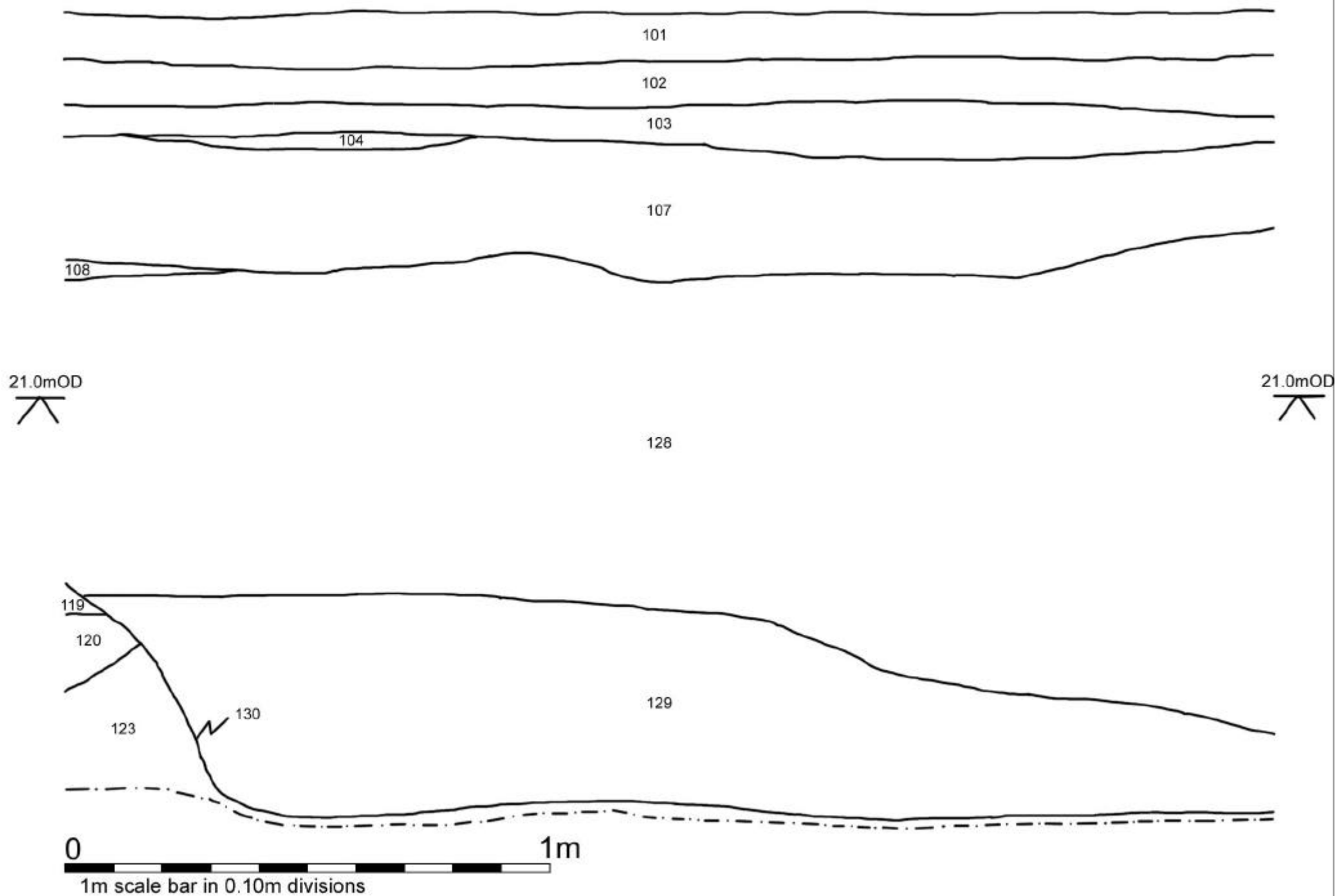


Fig 7: Section drawing, located on fig 4. Features and layers are identified by context numbers, listed at Appendix 1. The dot and dash line is the limit of excavation

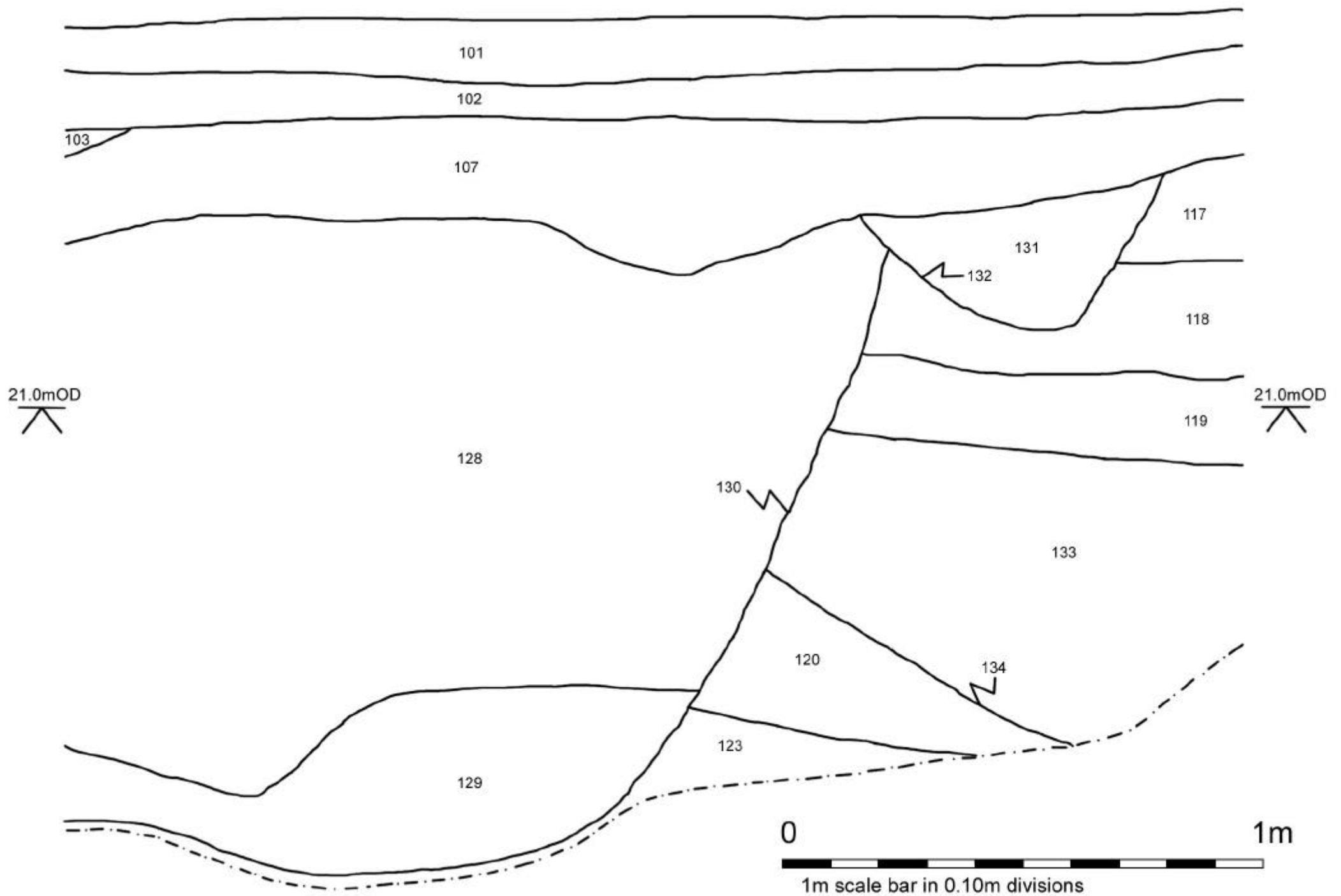


Fig 8: Section drawing, located on fig 4. Features and layers are identified by context numbers, listed at Appendix 1. The dot and dash line is the limit of excavation

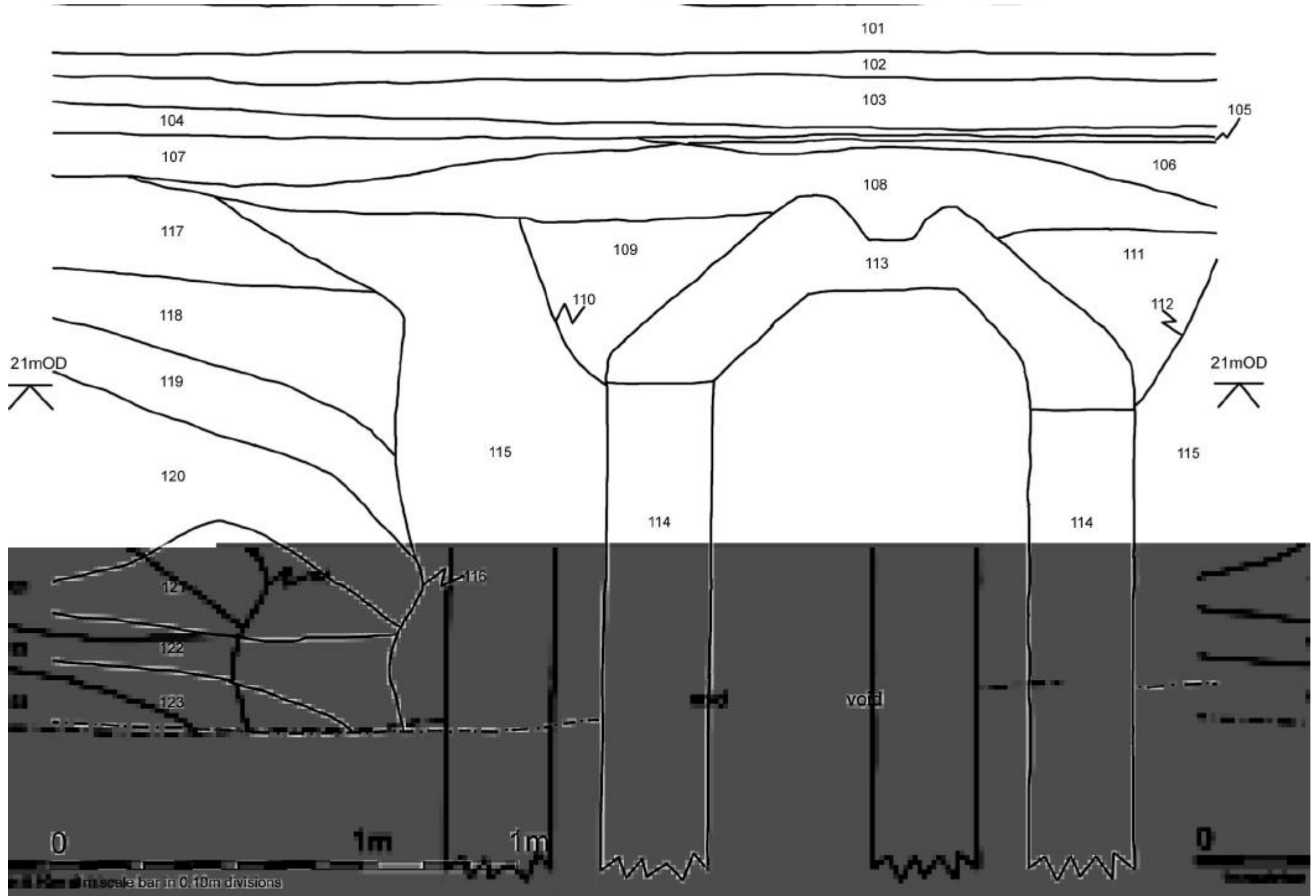


Fig 9: Section drawing, located on fig 4. Features and layers are identified by context numbers, listed at Appendix 1. The dot and dash line is the

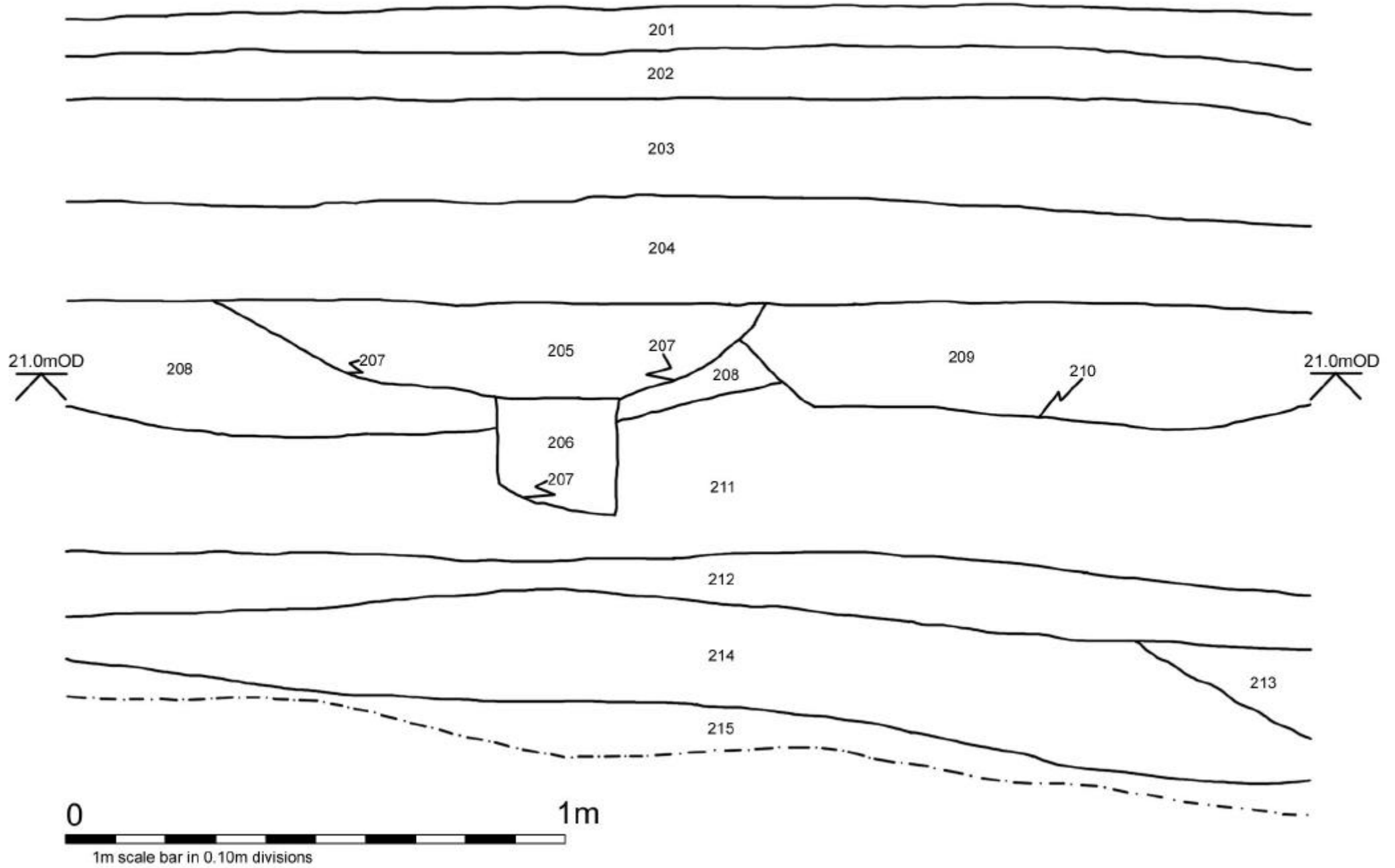


Fig10: Section drawing, located on fig 5. Features and layers are identified by context numbers, listed at Appendix 1. The dot and dash line is the limit of excavation

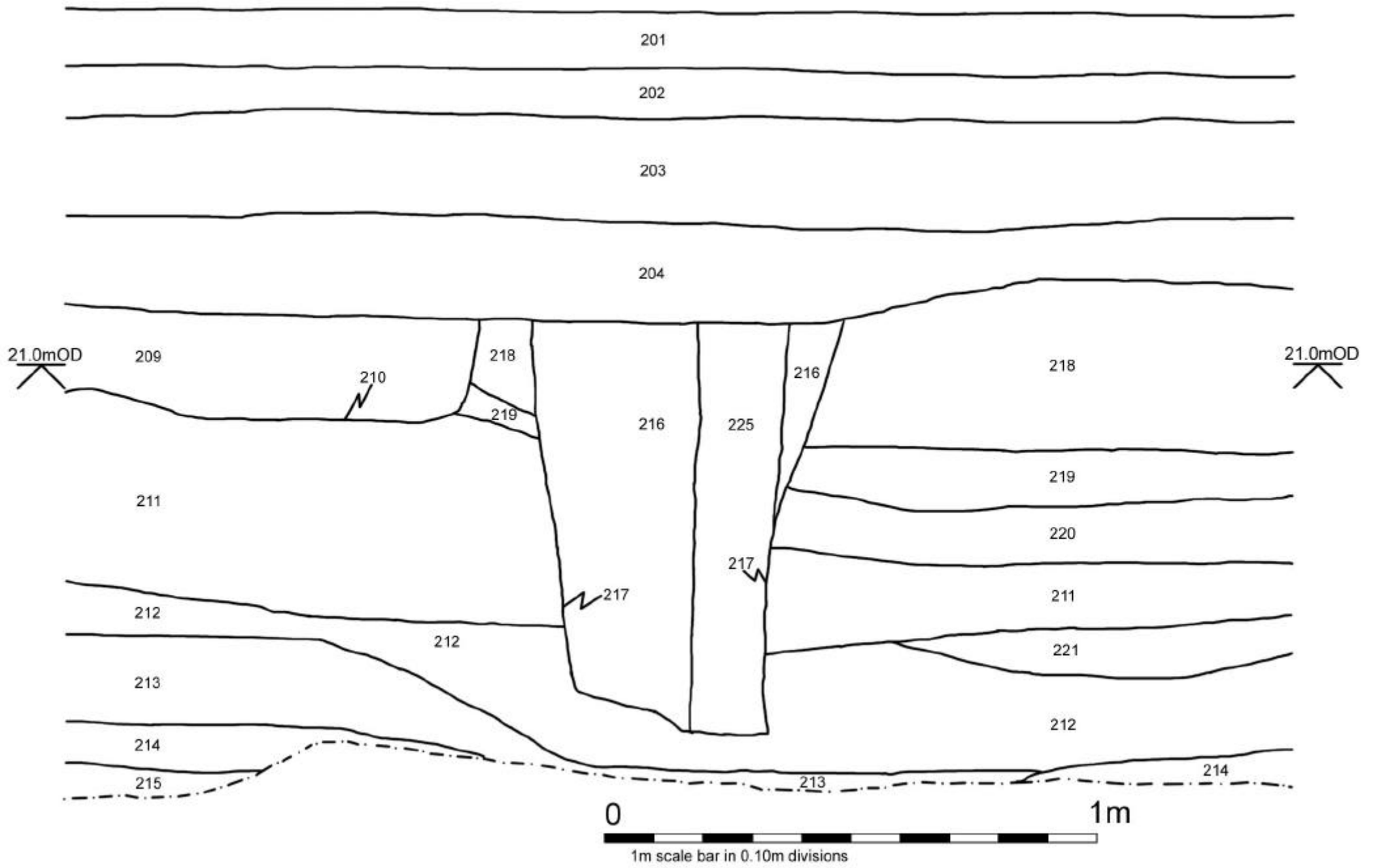


Fig11: Section drawing, located on fig 5. Features and layers are identified by context numbers, listed at Appendix 1. The dot and dash line is the limit of excavation

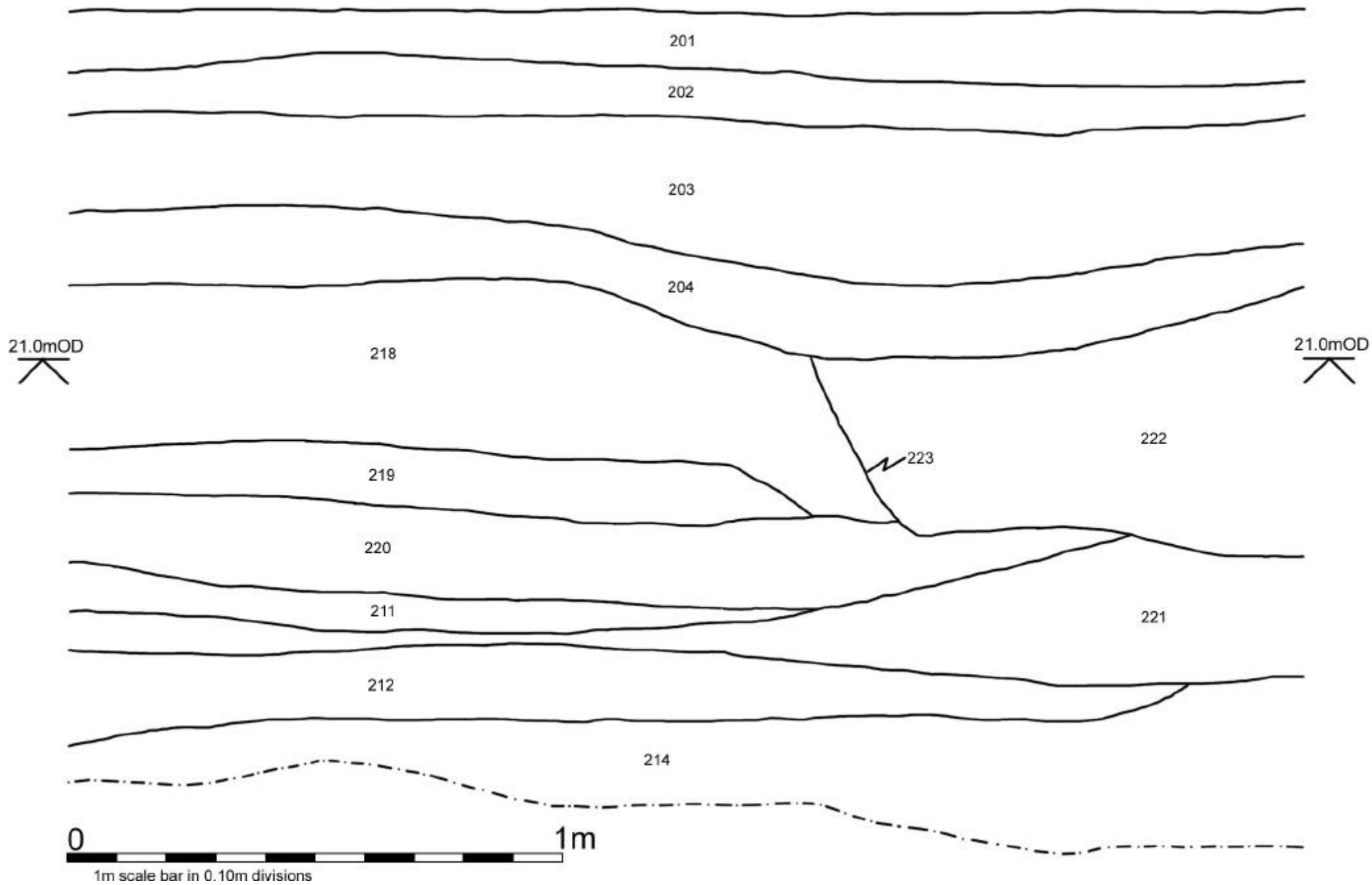


Fig 12: Section drawing, located on fig 5. Features and layers are identified by context numbers, listed at Appendix 1. The dot and dash line is the limit of excavation



Fig 13: View looking south-east across the site during initial machining work, with trench 1 in the foreground and with the JCB in the background working on opening trench 2. The legs of the geotechnical bore-hole rig can be seen to the right. York House stands beyond the site



Fig 14: General view looking north-west across the site, showing the JCB opening trench 2, with the geotechnical bore-hole rig to left, and with the spoil heap from trench 1 in the background. Buildings on Church Close stand beyond the site



Fig 15: Working shot: view looking north-west in trench 1



Fig 16: View of trench 1 looking north-west, showing the south-western section of the trench (figs 6-8) to left, and fills (fig 4) of post-medieval gravel pits cutting natural deposits in the base of the trench. Scale 0.5m



Fig 17: Oblique view, looking south-west, of south-western section (figs 6-8) of trench 1, behind the 0.5m scale. The fills (129) and (137) (fig 4) of two post-medieval gravel pits that cut pale natural sand (123) are visible in the foreground



Fig 18 View looking north-east in trench 1, showing brick lined early nineteenth century well (114) and its brick capping (113), and other deposits illustrated on fig 9. Scale 0.5m. The brown sand fill (115) of a post-medieval gravel pit that cuts natural pale sand 123 can be seen in plan in the foreground



Fig 19: Working shot looking south-east in trench 2



Fig 20 View looking south-east in trench 2, with the north-eastern section (figs 10-12) to left and showing natural deposits in the base of the trench cut by one post-medieval gravel pit. The dark coloured fill (227, fig 5) of the gravel pit can be discerned in plan in the far right hand corner of the trench. Scale 0.5m



Fig 21: View looking north-east in trench 2 showing, showing the north-east section (figs 10-12). Scale 0.5m



Fig 22 Oblique view looking south-east of the north-east section (figs 10-12) of trench 2. Scale 0.5m



Front cover illustration:

aerial view looking north-west showing the two archaeological evaluation trenches opened and investigated in October 2003 at the tennis court at York House Place