

TOTNES CASTLE MOTTE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AND EVALUATION



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TOTNES CASTLE MOTTE - ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RETAINING WALLS

By
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SUMMARY

In August 2000, an archaeological watching brief was conducted during stabilization works on the south side of the Norman motte. The works followed a landslide in January 1999, and comprised the construction of three new retaining walls, piling to support the walls, and re-landscaping. Before piling, each pile position was cored and sampled for archaeological purposes to depths of up to 5m. Archaeological information was recovered from both the sample cores and surface excavations concerning the structure and composition of the Norman motte, as well as the depth and nature of a Saxo-Norman buried soil beneath the motte.

The works also revealed part of a post-medieval back block to the rear of a house fronting onto Totnes High Street, and more information concerning the post-medieval garden terraces on the motte side. Residual prehistoric finds recovered both in 1999 and 2000 suggest prehistoric activity and possibly settlement of the site or its vicinity.

The engineers for the project were Babbie Group and the works were implemented by E Thomas Construction. The archaeological recording was undertaken by Stewart Brown Associates. This report is the fourth in a series following the 1999 landslide.

1. ENGINEERING WORKS

Stability improvement works

The stability improvement works comprised three new retaining walls built across the bottom, middle and top of the area of the landslide (Fig. 1). The bottom and middle walls were built in the same positions as two of the post-medieval terrace walls that collapsed during the landslide. The upper wall was built immediately in front of the existing uppermost terrace wall. Each new wall was constructed around a steel framework and had a non-structural façade of stone rubble bonded with lime mortar.

The steel frame for the lower wall was secured by means of rock pins. The middle wall was constructed on seven concrete and steel Odex piles 3-4m deep. These were driven vertically into the motte material. Eleven similar piles 5m deep provided a foundation for the frame to the upper wall. A substantial tiered scaffold was erected prior to the construction of the walls in order to provide platforms for both pile-driving rigs and general building work.

Window Samples - Archaeological Mitigation

The installation of Odex piles is a destructive process that produces no core samples. In mitigation for the damage caused to archaeological deposits, Odex pile-driving was preceded by a percussive sampling method (Window Sampling) that did produce cores, the cores providing a series of individual sample profiles through the deposits making up the motte (Plate 1).

Demolition

The works involved the removal of a late 19th-century stone-built water tank that had become unstable.

2. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Previous archaeological work on the motte investigated the summit area within the shell keep (Rigold 1954) and part of its western slope where affected by the 1999 landslip (Brown and Matthews, 1999a). Further observations (non-intrusive) were made concerning the existing terrace walls as part of an archaeological and historical study of the post-medieval garden terracing (Brown and Matthews, 1999b).

The results the geotechnical investigations undertaken in the summer of 1999 provided the basis for an archaeological report on both the construction and composition of the Norman motte and the character of a pre-motte buried soil (Brown and Gent 1999)

3. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

The watching brief

The watching brief was undertaken in order to record archaeological deposits exposed during the construction of the new retaining walls. Disturbance to archaeological material derived from:

1. Excavation of trenches for the footings of the bottom and middle walls. This involved the removal of rubble footings for earlier terrace walls, but only limited disturbance to the Norman motte material.
2. Excavation of level platforms for scaffolding feet;
3. Drilling for Odex piles for the middle and top retaining walls;
4. Demolition of the stone water-tank at the western end of the middle wall.

An archaeological presence was maintained during all below-ground works. A photographic record of all ground disturbance was produced on black and white film, with coverage in colour undertaken where appropriate.

Fig. 1 shows the location of window samples and platforms for scaffolding feet. Window sample cores were examined and recorded on site.

The majority of the platforms for scaffold feet were excavated and recorded archaeologically (Fig. 3; Plate 2). A small number between the middle and upper walls were so shallow that only modern topsoil was disturbed. These were excavated by the contractors under archaeological supervision. In total, 35 platforms were excavated and recorded, 34 below the middle wall, and one above.

Excavations for the footings of the new lower wall removed mostly geological deposits comprising stony clays and bedrock. At the west end, however, the excavations also removed archaeological deposits comprising motte constructional materials together with some of the underlying Saxo-Norman soil. These latter deposits had slipped from their original position due to post-medieval slumping on the side of the motte. At the east end, the excavations uncovered one end of an infilled post-medieval basement (Fig. 2).

A narrow foundation trench was excavated for the middle wall. This was recorded in section (Fig. 4).

Archaeological observations and records were made of the stone water tank at the west end of the middle wall both before and during its demolition (Fig. 7).

4. RESULTS

Excavations for the construction of the lower wall

Saxo-Norman buried soil

Excavations at the foot of the motte removed the remains of the previous wall (Brown and Matthews February 1999, Fig. 1, wall 41), as well as a strip of geological deposits 0.6m - 0.8m wide. Solid bedrock was exposed at an average depth of 0.4m - 0.5m below the present tarmac surface of the yard behind Castle Court. The excavations did not disturb archaeological deposits, except at the west end where the Saxo-Norman buried soil (*ibid.*, Fig. 2, layer 38) had slumped forward over geological deposits. Here, the opportunity was taken to excavate the slumped material by hand and to recover all finds.

The finds from this slumped area of layer 38 comprise: 11 sherds of chert-tempered coarsware pottery dating from the 11th or 12th century; 2 fragments of iron slag and 4 fragments of animal bone including a tooth.

In addition, a 30-40 litre soil sample of the Saxo-Norman buried soil was taken for further environmental analysis (at EH Lab. Bristol University).

Features associated with a house 'back block' (Plate 3)

At the east end of wall 41 another, shorter length of revetment wall was exposed (wall 100: Fig. 2). This projected 0.4m to the south of wall 41 and followed a different alignment. Wall 100 was earlier than wall 41 (which abutted it), and had been built to the rear of the property adjoining on the east. Wall 100 in turn abutted the property boundary wall at its east end.

The rubble and clay footings for wall 100 were much deeper (1.5m deep) than those of wall 41, and included a splayed recess near its west end (101), probably a fireplace (an above-ground feature at this position is marked as 'flue' on the Survey for Boundary West, South, and East of keep job no. 619 drawing no 10, March 1963). Both the wall and recess were faced and plastered on their south sides to a depth of 1.5m below the present yard surface, showing that the back block was built with a sunken floor level, or possibly a basement. The recess was later narrowed by the insertion of a secondary stone and lime mortar lining with plaster render.

The back block was abandoned and infilled sometime in the late 18th or 19th century. The infill comprised two layers, the lower consisting of building demolition material and ash, the second of red/brown clay. Both fills produced sherds of white china and bottle glass dating from the late 18th or 19th century. The structure was demolished to present ground level apart from its rear (north) wall which was left standing to act as a revetment for the motte. Sometime in the later 19th or early 20th century, this wall was strengthened with a new facing. The footings for the new facing wall (wall 103) were shallow (up to 0.2m deep) and included brick, cobbles, clay, ash, and poor quality mortar.

Excavations for the construction of the middle wall

Pits (or platforms) for scaffold feet

Thirty-four pits were hand-excavated for scaffolding feet. These measured on average 0.3m x 0.6m in plan, and had triangular side sections owing to the slope of the motte.

Excavation of the pits toward the sides of the slip area uncovered only topsoil and post-medieval building debris (pits 1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 27-31, 33, 34; sections not illustrated). The upper layers exposed in pits 17 and 9 consisted of similar post-medieval deposits. These post-medieval deposits produced finds dating from the 16th/17th century to the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Excavation of the more central pits exposed material associated with the construction of the Norman motte, comprising yellow, orange/yellow, and grey stony clays and claysilts (Fig. 4). Most pits exposed uniform yellow stony clay (pits 14, 16, 19-21, 23-25, and 32). Some revealed horizontal or nearly horizontal stratigraphy comprising differently coloured stony clays (pits 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 22). Only two pits, pits 3 and 18, uncovered local variation in the generally level stratigraphy of the motte construction materials: pit 3 revealed layers lying at a shallow angle to the horizontal; whilst pit 18 revealed two different clay deposits making up a single layer.

Two sherds of chert-tempered cooking pot were recovered from the excavation of Norman motte construction materials (pits 19 and 24). Pit 24 also produced two small fragments of bone.

Foundation trench for the new retaining wall (Fig. 5)

A narrow terrace was excavated across the slope to provide a suitable foundation base for the new retaining wall, and for preparatory works associated with piling. This entailed removing the remains of a post-medieval terrace wall that once stood in this position, but which had collapsed (Brown and Matthews 1999a, Fig. 1 wall 7). The wall's stone rubble and earth footings were 0.75m deep at the east end, becoming more shallow to the west, showing that the wall had been erected on a considerable slope.

The rear section of the modern terrace revealed post-medieval soils overlying Norman motte materials, the latter comprising two horizontal layers of yellow stony clay separated by a narrow band of grey clay (Fig. 5).

Window Samples (Fig. 1, transect C-D; Fig. 6)

Five pile positions were cored using a percussion system to recover sealed samples. Window sampling was not undertaken at the extreme ends of the modern terrace owing to difficulties in setting up the equipment. Fig. 6 illustrates the five sample cores as vertical columns of varying materials (detailed results of the window sampling are given in Appendix 1). The columns are arranged on the page so that each is positioned correctly in relation to a level of 40m OD (for comparison, however, the columns have been spaced closer together than the sample sites were on the ground).

Results were obtained to depths of between 3m and 4m below ground level. Samples 3 and 5 extended to sufficient depths to include the Saxo-Norman buried soil beneath the Norman motte. Sample 5 included 0.65m depth of the Saxo-Norman soil. At the bottom

of sample 2 was a mixture of what appeared to be the buried soil and clay subsoil.

All the samples included Norman motte material. This comprised stony clays and claysilts that almost certainly derive from the local clay subsoil and underlying geology. Most deposits were yellow or orangish yellow and contained varying proportions of crushed shale. A number of layers within the Norman motte produced soil and charcoal fragments, notably at the base of sample 1, and midway down sample 5. Sample 5 also produced two very small sherds of chert-tempered coarseware cooking pot that had been buried with the Norman motte stony clay material 2.8m below the surface. Sample 3 included a pocket of charcoal-rich soil from a depth of 3.1m. Sample 4 included a thin layer containing an even greater proportion of charcoal from a depth of 2m.

Some boundary horizons between layers were clear, but others were difficult to discern, especially between two almost identical yellow stony clay deposits. Some horizons can be traced across two or more of the core columns (shown in Fig. 6 by dashed lines), suggesting that some layers within the motte's core extend horizontally for some distance, even if the clay and stone construction materials at corresponding levels vary to some degree. The results however do not show uniform horizontal levels throughout, so the deposits comprising motte's core cannot be stratified in an even and consistent manner.

Late 19th-century stone water tank (Fig. 3; Plate 4)

A small rectangular stone structure (200) up to 3.5m long by 2.5m wide that stood immediately to the west of the slippage area proved too unstable to conserve without considerable additional engineering works and expenditure. Following detailed archaeological inspection, it was decided that the structure was a water tank dating originally from the late 19th century (similar water tanks survive on the north side of the motte), and that the tank had undergone extensive consolidation and rebuilding within the last 30 years. An archaeological record was made of the tank before its partial demolition, and further measurements and observations concerning its structure added both during and after.

The original water tank was built of stone rubble bonded with lime mortar, and had internal dimensions 2.5m by 1m. Lime plaster adhered to the inside of its east and south walls. Its south-west corner had collapsed or been dismantled. An area of loose rubble at its north-east corner may possibly have represented infilling of an original small opening. The west wall of structure abutted the earlier terrace wall to the rear (north). The latter wall contains industrial brick and ceramic drain pipe, so must date from the second half of the 19th century. The original water tank therefore must date from this period or later.

The water tank remains were enclosed within a secondary stone rubble wall bonded with modern cement mortar dating probably from 1970's conservation work. The infilling of the tank produced mid or late 20th-century finds including electric batteries and steel wire mesh. A meerscham pipe bowl in the form of an African head was also recovered.

Once the modern, outer skin of masonry had been dismantled it was possible to record an exterior elevation of the original tank's south wall (Fig. 3, Elevation looking north). This wall had been built directly on yellow clay forming part of the Norman motte core, but also overlay some remains of a wall footing that was probably associated with earlier terracing.

4.3 Upper wall

Test Pits on scaffold feet positions

The scaffolding erected in the area between the middle and upper retaining walls required the excavation of only a single pit (Fig. 1, pit 35). The pit was excavated to a depth of 0.45m, exposing modern topsoil above a post-medieval light brown slump material. Elsewhere the scaffolding feet were either placed directly on the ground surface or were sunk no more than 0.1m into existing modern topsoil.

Window Samples (Fig. 1, transect A-B; Fig. 7)

Eleven pile positions were cored to recover sealed samples. Fig. 7 illustrates the sample cores as vertical columns that have been arranged so that each is positioned correctly in relation to a level of 44.6m OD (as in Fig. 6, the columns are spaced closer together than the sample sites were on the ground).

Eight of the cores were approximately 5m deep. Core samples 1, 6, and 8 were terminated at shallower depths due to obstructions met by the sampling system.

The uppermost portions of all the samples comprised modern topsoil and post-medieval garden soils. Beneath these, the Norman motte core material again proved to comprise largely yellow or orange/yellow silty clays and clay silts, with varying proportions of shale fragments. These samples were however more friable than those taken on the line of the middle wall, and contained a much higher proportion of shale. Indeed, many layers consisted of clean broken shale stone and little else. Sample core 4 contained occasional charcoal flecks from a deposit directly below the post-medieval soils, but otherwise, inclusions of soil and charcoal were negligible.

Fig. 6 shows that the nature of the deposits in each core varies with depth, but that there are few instances in which adjacent columns produced similar deposits at the same depth. This suggests that there is no overall pattern of horizontal banding throughout this part of the motte's core. The best correspondence between deposits can be seen at the bottom of the columns, where sampling at depths of 4.5m and below consistently recovered clean, almost stone-free yellow clay. Even here, the levels of the top of this material vary considerably across the columns.

5. DISCUSSION

Prehistoric finds

A scrap of residual Iron Age pottery was recovered from the slumped area of the Saxo-Norman layer 38. The fragment is a body sherd and its fabric contains mica plates. Three more sherds of residual prehistoric pottery have recently been identified amongst post-medieval finds recovered in 1999 from the primary slump material on the motte slope (context 44). These are granitic and come from a vessel with a flat base and thick walls (all three sherds may come from the same vessel). Such finds are relatively rare in Devon and merit further study.

The collection of prehistoric finds from the site presently comprises four pottery sherds plus the three prehistoric flints described in 'Totnes Castle Motte: Archaeological watching brief and evaluation.' (Brown and Gent August 1999; unpub. report to E.H.).

Although this collection is modest in size, and most of the finds are residual in the contexts in which they were found, it would seem increasingly likely that the castle site or its immediate vicinity was settled in prehistoric times.

The Saxo-Norman buried soil

Previous archaeological work exposed the Saxo-Norman buried soil at three positions beneath the Norman motte (Brown and Matthews 1999b, Fig. 2; Brown and Gent 1999, 3-4). This work suggested that the surface of the buried soil was generally level. Window samples taken in the year 2000 on the line of the middle retaining wall again encountered the soil at the base of samples WS3 and WS5. By comparing levels, it now appears that the surface of the buried soil rises at an angle of 3.5° between these latter two points, and at a shallower angle of 2.5° between points E and B shown in Fig. 1. The depth of buried soil also varies between points E and B, measuring 0.4m deep at test pit ATP, 0.65m deep at WS5, and 0.5m deep at deep borehole DEB2. In addition, the surface of the underlying geology rises between WW5 and DEB2, but can be shown to remain level over the 5m distance between pit ATP and WS5.

It would therefore seem that the south side of the motte was built on ground that rose at a shallow angle toward the north or northwest, and that the depth of the Saxo-Norman buried soil is variable, being on average 0.5m deep.

Finds and dating

The collection of finds excavated from the slumped soil at the base of the motte in the year 2000 is closely comparable with those from archaeological work in the previous year. All the pottery was chert-tempered coarseware; no other types were found. The majority of the chert-tempered coarseware pottery sherds have oxidised surfaces, like most of the sherds already recovered from the soil. Chert-tempered pottery with oxidised surfaces dates from the 11th and early 12th centuries. Dating therefore cannot be more precise than within the Late Saxon/Early Norman period, although it is entirely possible that the finds from this as well as last year's excavations belong to the period of the Norman Conquest.

The two nodules of iron slag are similar to others excavated in 1999, and provide evidence for early industrial activity in the vicinity of the town. The fragments of animal bone, like those making up the small bone collection from last year's excavations, were scattered far and few between in the soil deposit, and are not very well preserved. Nonetheless, together with the pottery sherds, they indicate that the soil accumulated in the proximity of domestic habitation in the Saxo-Norman period.

Norman Motte construction

Observations made following the landslide in 1999 showed that the exterior of the motte displayed horizontal banding (Brown and Matthews 1999b, Fig. 2). It was therefore anticipated that the results of window sampling in the year 2000 would confirm that similar banding existed within the motte's interior (Brown and Gent 1999, 4-5). Whilst each window sample showed variation in the character of motte make-up material at different depths, no consistent pattern emerged to indicate continuous horizontal banding throughout, nor indeed from one sample location to the next, even over relatively short distances.

This may indicate that greater variation in construction material exists within the motte's core than in its exterior. Alternatively, it might be that the window sampling method is insufficiently precise to reveal overall banded structure at the scale of the cored samples. The limitations of the sampling method are considered below.

Finds and dating

The two sherds of chert-tempered cooking pot recovered from the Norman motte material in Pits 19 and 24 can be dated only broadly to the 11th or 12th century. Likewise the two scraps of the same type of pottery from Window Sample 5.

The two small fragments of animal bone from Pit 24, like the pottery finds, show that domestic refuse sometimes found its way into the motte construction (more below).

Sampling methodology

The window sampling system recovered cylinders of cored material averaging 0.08m in diameter, in 1m lengths. These were laid out on site and measurements made along their length at points where the nature of the sampled material changed. Together, these provided a continuous record taken from the motte deposits to a depth of up to 5m (the full depth of the Odex piles). The percussive system of sampling inevitably produced a degree of disturbance to the material within the cores, especially when stony deposits were encountered. Some material was lost, such that overall, the length of the recovered core was c. 0.2m - 0.3m less than the full depth of coring. Moreover, by removing 1m length cores at a time, the samples were further disturbed at the beginning and end of each new 1m-long core. Consequently, there is a systematic inaccuracy of some 0.25m in the precision of the record, so individual horizons between layers in each sample core cannot be more precisely located than to within 0.25m.

In addition, it was sometimes difficult to discern and locate precisely where one deposit in a core sample ended and another began, since many of the of the motte construction materials shared similar characteristics, and the narrowness of the cores permitted observation over only a small area. Close inspection revealed both major and minor changes in the composition of the samples. Major changes were abrupt and clear, eg: between the post-medieval garden soils and the Norman motte clays; and between the motte clays and the underlying Saxo-Norman buried soil. Minor changes in colour, texture, and stone content of the motte construction deposits were often gradual and difficult to pinpoint.

By contrast, when a large area of the motte side was exposed by the landslip in 1999 and cleaned archaeologically, broad stratigraphic horizons were readily identified at the surface, despite local minor differences in the composition of the make-up materials. This emphasizes one distinct disadvantage of coring methods; coring is unable to distinguish between local changes in building materials and broad or general constructional horizons.

In summary, it would be a reasonable assessment of the window sampling method to say that it proved useful to locate major changes in the archaeological deposits, and to confirm the varied nature and generally layered composition of the motte interior. But it was not sufficiently accurate to establish whether or not the interior is truly banded throughout, nor whether any of the broad stratigraphic horizons identified on the exterior extend very far into the motte interior (Fig. 8).

Motte composition

As in 1999, the sampling in 2000 has shown that the castle motte comprises variations of yellowish stony silty clays and clay silts and crushed shales.

Two differences were noted between the materials recovered from the two wall lines:

1. The material recovered from the upper wall line was much stonier than that produced from the middle wall line. Twelve of the deposits from the upper wall line consisted of loose crushed shale with little or no other material.
2. The samples taken from the line of the middle wall often contained soil or charcoal. Only sample 4 from the line of the upper wall contained charcoal.

These differences reflect the findings of core sampling undertaken in 1999, in which it was found that the proportion of stone fragments is greater toward the middle and north of the motte, whilst clay predominates toward the south (Brown and Gent 1999, 4). Charcoal and soil inclusions are likewise more common toward the south, so probably were carried to the site with the clay. Pottery and bone fragments have been recovered from the clay (above), in particular from areas also containing soil and charcoal. This suggests that the clays used for the construction of the south side of the motte originated from a source near existing habitation. Since much of the ground immediately to the south-east of Totnes town, in the area of Leechwell, has a subsoil consisting of stoney clay very similar to that used in the motte (pers. comm. James Bellchambers), this area is a likely source. Indeed, excavations in 1992 located a large 11th- or 12th-century clay quarry pit in Leechwell Street (Stead and Hall 1992). This pit produced pottery finds that could belong to the period of the Norman Conquest, including fragments of chert-tempered cooking pot like those found both within the motte itself and the underlying Saxo-Norman buried soil. The source for the stone in the motte was almost certainly the surrounding rock-cut ditch.

Post-medieval back block

It seems clear that a back block with basement extended to the rear of the house on the easternmost property within the area covered by the present works. The property wall standing to the east of the infilled basement is certainly the oldest of the standing walls in the area (it is abutted by wall 100). It incorporates the remains of a window and shows at least one phase of rebuilding. The wall rises onto the lower slope of the motte and must have bounded a property that took in land on the motte, probably as soon as it became available in the late 16th or early 17th century (Brown and Matthews, 1999b). Wall 100 probably dates from soon after this time. It abuts the standing property wall and contains a fireplace, showing that it formed the back wall of a roofed structure. The infilled basement is contemporary with wall 100 since the wall is faced and plastered to its full depth.

There can be little doubt that a structure in this position represents a back block of a house fronting the High Street to the south. It was built over the infilled castle moat or ditch, and took advantage of the soft ground by including a basement. The basement was heated by fireplace 101.

Finds and Dating

The pottery and glass finds from the fills of the basement show that it was infilled sometime in the late 18th or 19th century, probably at the same time that the back block

was cleared away to form a small courtyard to the rear of the house. [NB The form of the present house standing immediately to the south of this area suggests that it potentially dates from the 17th century, despite extensive external modern repairs and replacements]. Wall 100 was subsequently repaired and refaced above ground level to form a sturdier revetment for the motte slope.

Post-medieval terraces

Works excavations on the line of the middle wall removed rubble and clay footings for a terrace wall that was probably built in the late 16th or 17th century. The remains of this wall were inspected during earlier investigations of the site (Brown and Matthews 1999a).

Finds and dating

A single fragment of late medieval/early post-medieval ridge tile was recovered from the wall footings.

The late 19th-century stone water tank

Archaeological work in 1999 identified small rectangular stone water tanks at the top of the motte as well as on its northeast slope (Brown and Matthews 1999b, Fig. 1: Brown and Gent, 1999, 3). Here the tanks, which in places have bricks built into their walls, may have been associated with a 19th-century brewery that stood at the foot of the motte on Castle Street. Elsewhere the tanks probably provided water for gardens and livestock. A small water trough, probably for animals, still exists on the east slope of the motte within the remains of a small stone structure. The trough is supplied with water from a pipe in its rear (upslope) wall.

The collection of groundwater from the sides of the motte appears to have been commonplace in the 19th and 20th centuries, and possibly earlier. Rainwater evidently percolates the post-medieval terrace soils but seldom penetrates far into the underlying deposits making up the Norman motte, especially the ones with high clay content. Rather, it runs down the outside of the clay deposits, beneath the post-medieval terrace soils, filling any features dug deep enough into the clay. Even just outside the keep wall, close to the top of the motte, there is sufficient ground water to have filled a pair of stone and brick tanks, as found in 1999 during window sampling.

6. FINDS (identifications by John Allan)

Context	Category	Type	Quantity	Date
2	pottery	wheel-thrown sandy ware from Dorset, green glazed large jug spout	1 sherd	early/mid C13th
7	tile	ridge tile with edge of moulded crest	1 frag ridge	prob C16th/17th
19	pottery	chert-tempered coarseware	1 sherd	C11th/12th
24	pottery	chert-tempered coarseware	1 sherd	C11th/12th
	bone		2 frags	
29	pottery	Mocha ware	2 sherds	early/mid C19th
30	pottery	Staffs white earthenware	2 sherds	1800+
31	pottery	Totnes type earthenware	3 sherds	post-medieval
	clay pipe	1 C17th bowl + 1 stem	1 frag 1 frag	1620-50
	glass	apothecary bottle base	1 sherd	C17th/18th
34	pottery	Staffs plain white earthenware	1 sherd	1800+
	clay pipe	stem	1 frag	
35	clay pipe	stems	3 frags	prob C17th
38 (slumped material)	pottery	chert-tempered coarseware incl. one with elaborate combed decoration	10 sherds	C11th or 12th
		prehistoric body sherd with mica plate	1 scrap	prob Iron Age
	iron slag		2 frags	
	bone	incl. 1 tooth	4 frags	
105	pottery	Staffs white shell-edged ware	2 sherds	1800+
		Plain cream ware	1 sherd	
		Transfer-printed white earthenware	2 sherds	

200 water-tank	tobacco pipe	Meerschaum	1 bowl	prob C20th
WS5 Middle wall	pottery	chert-tempered coarseware	2 scraps	C11th/12th

ADDENDUM

Totnes Castle Additional Work since final (fourth) report sent to EH, 2001

Pottery and other finds from 1999 excavations - recovered by sieving (for environmental evidence) of Layer 38 (Saxo-Norman garden soil beneath Norman motte) by Vanessa Straker, Bristol University.

Identifications by John Allan 14/5/01

Archaeological digging by hand of Layer 38 indicated three different horizontal bands, or sub-layers, of slightly different composition, at least in places. Each of these bands or sub-layers was ascribed a letter (38A, 38B, 38C). Soil samples sent to V. Straker for environmental analysis were also divided into three according to their position relative to the sub-layers. The finds retrieved from the sieving process are therefore also divided into three groups.

Layer 38A (upper)

26 sherds of chert-tempered ware (Exeter fab. 20).

1 small fragment of glass, possibly part of a Roman annular bead, possibly re-fired. [the glass has the appearance of being ancient, not modern. Saxon glass beads are known, but rare, so it seems more likely that the fragment is Roman in date].

Layer 38B (mid)

20 sherds of chert-tempered ware.

Layer 38C (lower)

28 sherds of chert-tempered ware.

Note:

All 3 sub-layers produced identical types of finds, ie probably very close in date. Most pottery finds are abraded, as would be expected in a garden soil.

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APPENDIX 1: Detailed descriptions of window samples:

Middle wall:

Window sample 1

0-0.3m	Above ground.
0.3-0.8m	Orange silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
0.8-1.4	Brownish silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
1.4-1.7m	Yellow silty clay with frequent crushed shale and other small stone.
1.7-1.8m	Orange silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
1.8-2.1m	Orange silty clay with frequent crushed shale and other small stone.
2.1-2.7m	Yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
2.7-2.8m	Yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone and occasional soil and charcoal flecks.
2.8-3.8m	Orange clay silt with abun crushed shale and other small stone and occasional soil and charcoal flecks.

Window sample 2

0-0.5m	Above ground.
0.5-0.7m	Orangish yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
0.7-1m	Grey silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
1-1.1m	Orangish yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
1.1-1.4m	Grey shale in clay silt.
1.4-2m	Compact yellow silty clay with occasional crushed shale and other small stone.
2-2.7m	Brownish yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
2.7m	Fragment of grey shale.
2.7-3.3m	Orange/Yellow mottled silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
3.3-3.6m	Dirty orange silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
3.6-4m	Mixed buried soil and clay subsoil.

Window sample 3

0-0.65m	Above ground.
0.65-1m	Grey crushed shale.
1-1.2m	Yellowish grey clay silt.
1.2-2.1m	Yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
2.1-2.6m	Greyish silty clay with frequent crushed shale and other small stone.
2.6-2.8m	Yellow silty clay with frequent crushed shale and other small stone.
2.8-3.1m	Orange/Yellow mottled silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
3.1m	Thin band of charcoal-rich soil.
3.1-3.2m	Crushed shale in sandy clay silt.
3.2-4m	Dirty yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
4-4.1m	Buried soil.

Window sample 4

0-0.3m	Above ground.
0.3-0.5m	Crushed shale in yellowish grey clay silt.
0.5-0.8m	Greyish yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
0.8-1.95m	Orangish yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
1.95m	Stone.
1.95-3m	Mottled orange/yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone, with occasional charcoal at 2m.

Window sample 5

0-0.6m	Above ground
0.6-0.9m	Post medieval soil.
0.9-1m	Grey silt clay with abun. shale.
1-1.55m	Cohesive orangish yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
1.55-1.8m	Compact orangish yellow clay with frequent crushed shale and other small stone
1.8-2m	Orangish yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
2-2.35m	As above, but with soil inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks.
2.35-2.8m	Yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
2.8-3.4m	Orangish yellow silty clay with abun crushed shale and other small stone.
3.4-4.05m	Buried soil.
4.05m	Orange clay subsoil.

Upper wall:

Window sample 1

0-0.3m	Topsoil
0.3-1.1m	Post-medieval soil (as with others, containing occasional building waste)
1.1-1.5m	Fairly loose grey crushed shale and clay silt
Obstructed	

Window sample 2

0-0.3m	Topsoil
0.3-1m	Post-medieval soil
1.1-1.6m	Fairly loose grey crushed shale and clay silt
1.6-1.9m	Slightly cohesive stony ochre silty clay
1.9-2.2m	As above, but blue/grey
2.2-2.8m	As above but yellow/grey
2.8-3.8m	Partial recovery of loose orange stone and sandy clay silt
3.8-4.8m	Compact yellow slightly stony silty clay

Window sample 3

0-0.1m	Topsoil
0.1-0.9m	Post-medieval soil
0.9-2m	Loose stony yellow/grey clay silt
2-2.6m	Grey version of above
2.6-3.2	Loose stony yellow/grey clay silt
3.2-3.5m	Stony yellow/grey silty clay
3.5-3.8m	Loose stony orange/grey clay silt
3.8-4.2m	Crushed blue shales
4.2-4.4m	Cohesive grey silty clay

4.4-5m Compact orange/yellow silty clay

Window sample 4

0-0.5m Post-medieval soil

0.5-0.8m Mottled yellow/grey slightly stony silty clay with very occasional charcoal flecks

0.8-0.9m Grey slightly stony silty clay

0.9-1.2m Mottled yellow/grey slightly stony silty clay with very occasional charcoal flecks

1.2-1.5m Crushed blue shales in a little grey clay silt

1.5-2.2m Ochre silty clay with abundant small stone

2.2-2.6m Crushed shale in ochre clay silt

2.6-2.7m Shale fragment

2.7-4.1m Partially cohesive yellow/grey clay silt with abundant shale fragments

4.1-5m Compact relatively stone-free yellow silty clay

Window sample 5

0-0.5m Post-medieval soil

0.5-0.8m Slightly stony yellow silty clay

0.8-1m Slightly stony yellow/grey silty clay

1-1.4m Slightly stony yellow silty clay

1.4-1.6m Crushed grey shale

1.6-2.7m Yellow/grey clay silt with abundant medium shale

2.7-3m Ochre clay silt with abundant medium shale

3-3.7m Crushed blue shale

3.7-4.1 Partially cohesive grey clay silt

4.1-5m Compact yellow silty clay

Window sample 6

0-0.5m Post-medieval soil

0.5-0.8m Yellow slightly stony silty clay

0.8-1m Loose very stony clay silt

1-1.3m Grey/yellow stony silty clay

1.3-1.4m Shale fragment

1.4-1.9m Stony yellow clay silt

1.9-2.8m Crushed blue shale in yellow/blue grey clay silt

Obstructed

Window sample 7

0-0.55m Post-medieval soil

0.55-1m Yellow silty clay with large stone

1-1.7m Grey stony silty clay

1.7-2m Ochre stony silty clay

2-2.2m Orange stony silty clay

2.2-2.9m Crushed blue shale in grey clay silt

2.9-3.6m Loose crushed blue shale

3.6-4.2m Loose yellow crushed shale

4.2-4.5m Cohesive relatively stone-free grey/yellow silty clay

4.5-5m Compact yellow silty clay

Window sample 8

0-0.5m Post-medieval soil

0.5-1.8m	Yellow silty clay
1.8-2.4m	Ochre silty clay with occasional blue shale
2.4-2.5m	Yellow/ochre silty clay with occasional blue shale
2.5-3.3m	Crushed blue shale in occasional clay silt
3.3-3.6m	Stony pale grey clay silt
Obstructed	

Window sample 9

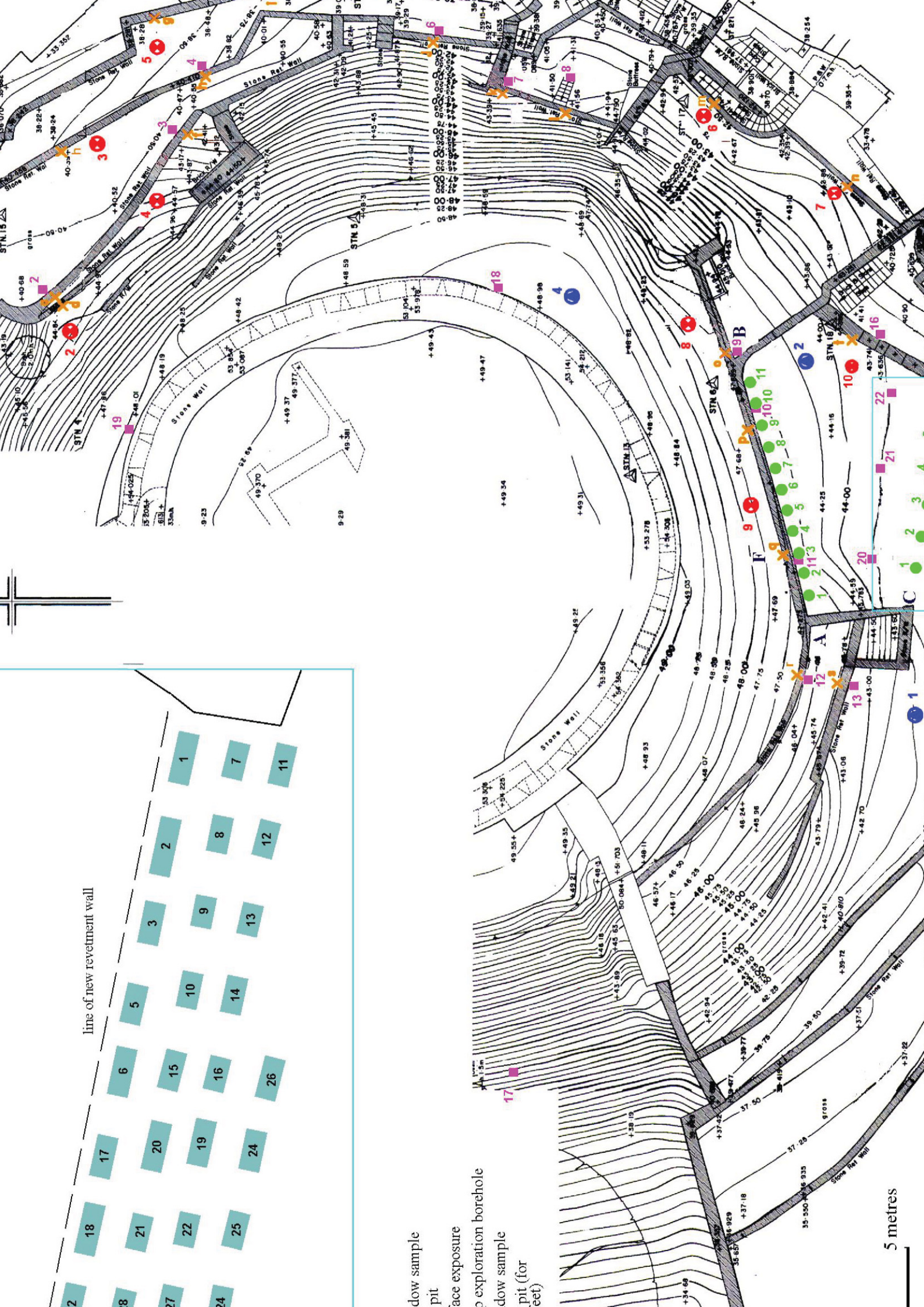
0-0.15m	Topsoil
0.15-0.6m	Post-medieval soil
0.6-1.8m	Yellow silty clay
1.8-2m	Stony yellow silty clay
2-2.3m	Crushed blue shale
2.3-3.6m	Ochre clay silt and stone
3.6-4m	Crushed blue shale
4-5m	Compact yellow relatively stone-free silty clay

Window sample 10

0-0.3m	Topsoil
0.3-0.7m	Post-medieval soil
0.7-1.25m	Crushed grey/yellow shales
1.25-2.15m	Yellow silty clays
2.15-2.3m	Stony brown silty clay
2.3-2.7m	Blue/grey shaley clay silt
2.7-3m	Brown/yellow silty clay
3-4m	Partial recovery of yellow/grey stony silty clay
4-4.2m	Crushed shale
4.2-4.5m	Cohesive grey silty clay
4.5-5m	Compact yellow silty clay

Window sample 11

0-0.4m	Topsoil
0.4-0.95m	Post-medieval soil
0.95-1.6m	Crushed grey shale
1.6-2.4m	Yellow silty clay
2.4-2.75m	Crushed mauve stone
2.75-3m	crushed grey shale
3-3.9m	Partial recovery of grey, turning to brown with depth, stony clay silt
3.9-4.6m	Stony brown clay silt
4.6-5	Compact yellow silty clay



line of new revetment wall

dow sample
pit
face exposure
exploration borehole
dow sample
pit (for
feet)

5 metres

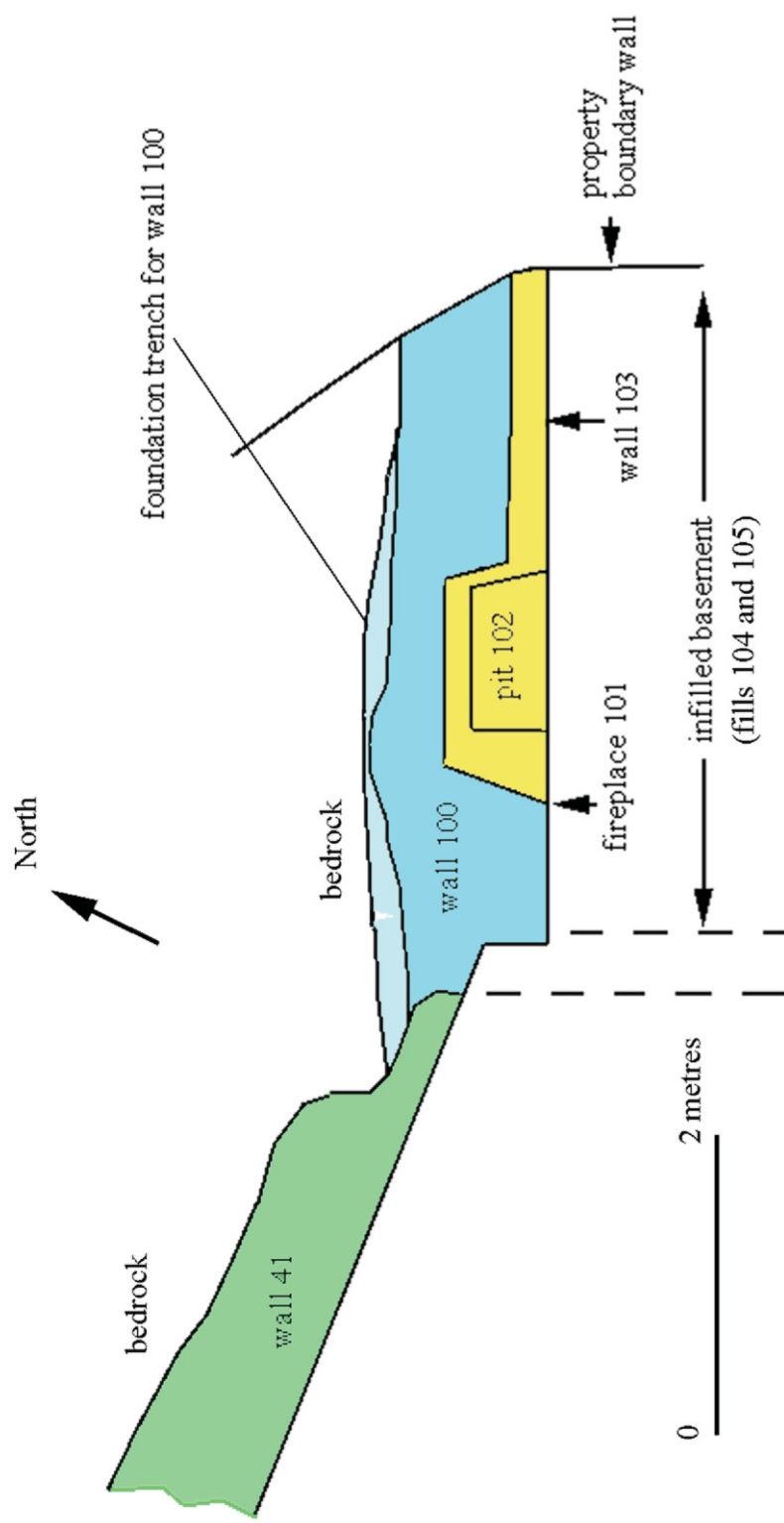


Fig. 2 Features associated with a back block and basement to the south and east of the lower retaining wall.

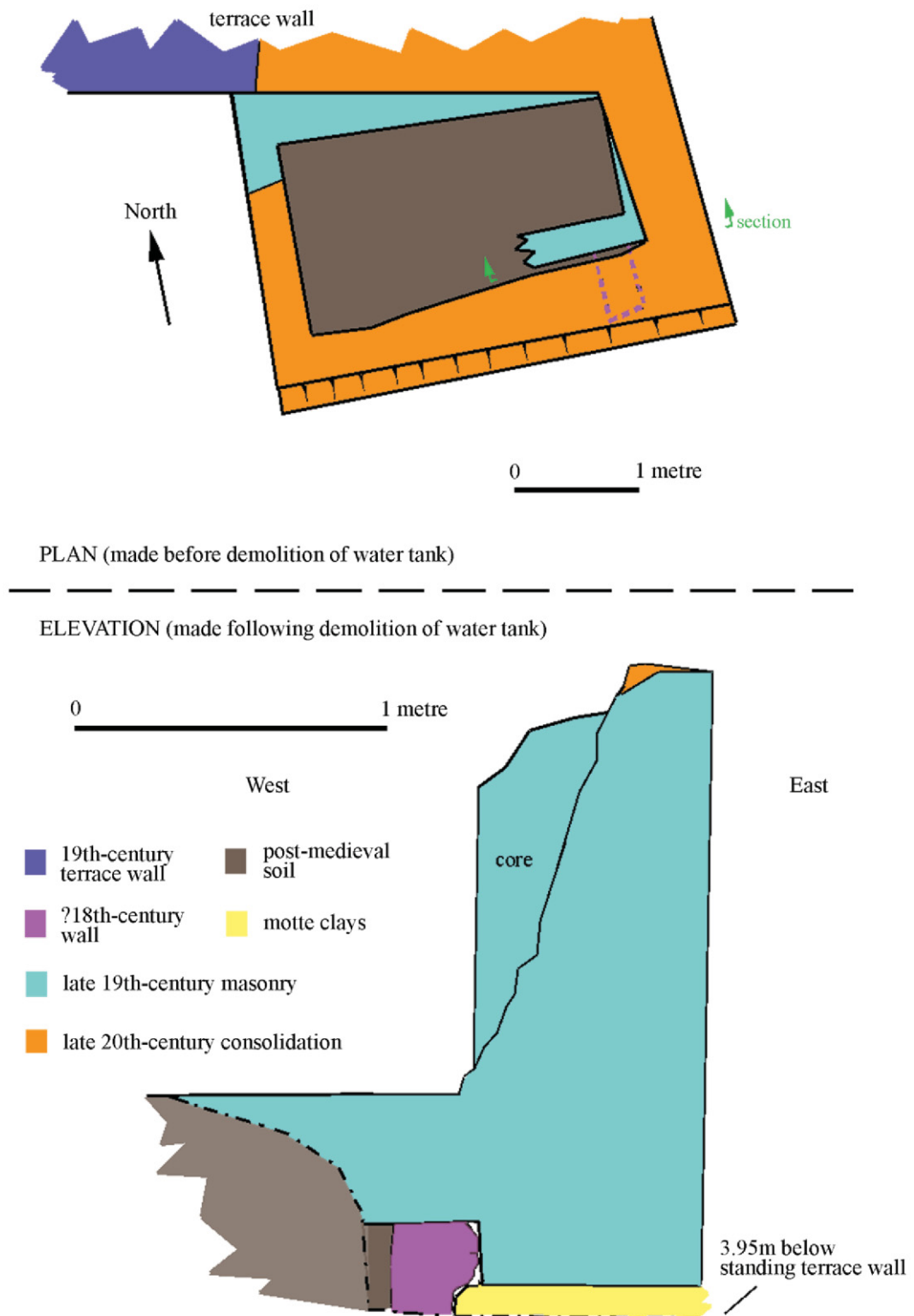


Fig. 3 Plan and elevation of the water tank to the west of the middle wall

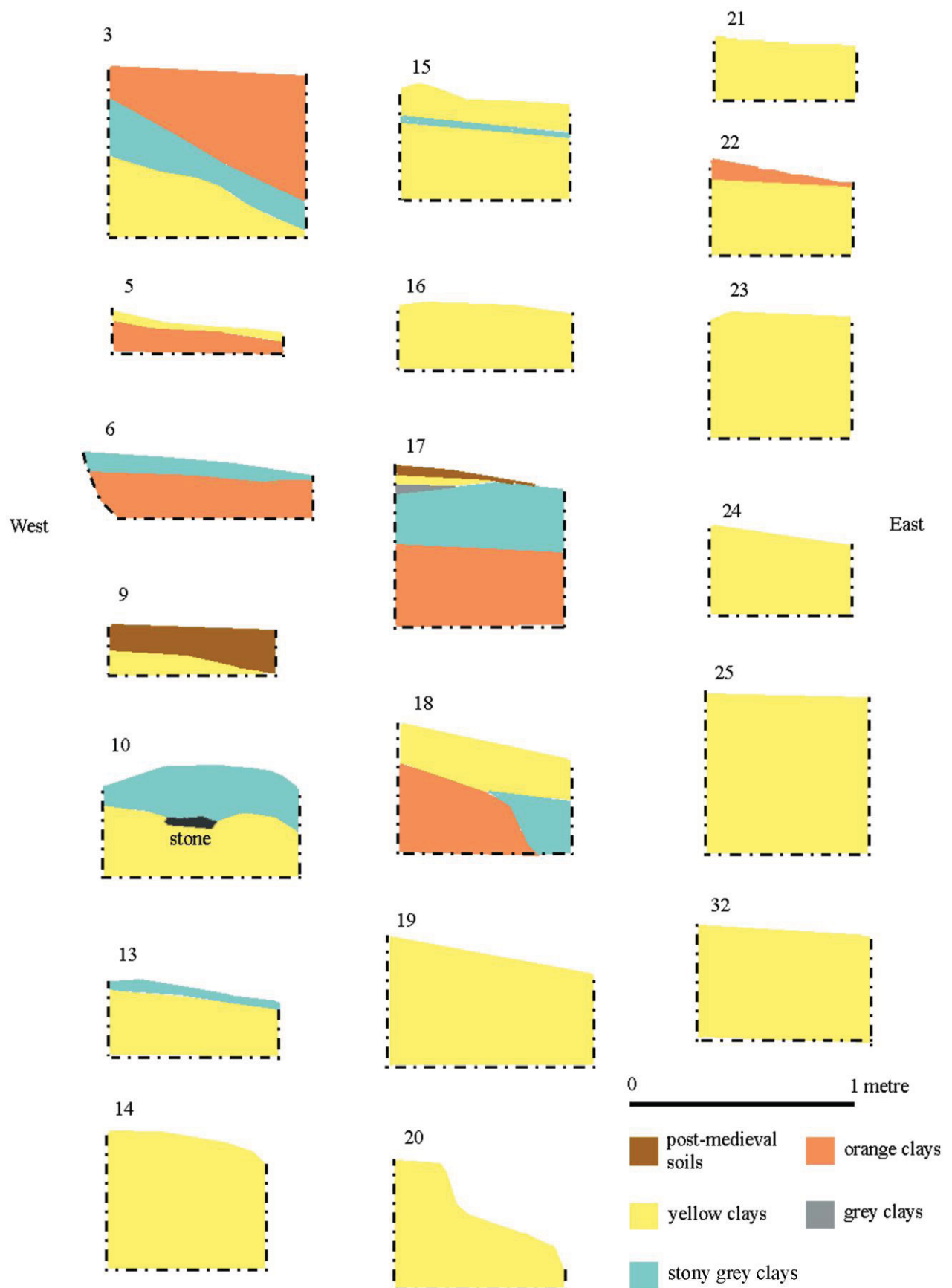


Fig. 4 Rear sections of pits cut for scaffolding feet.
(pits that exposed only post-medieval deposits are not shown)

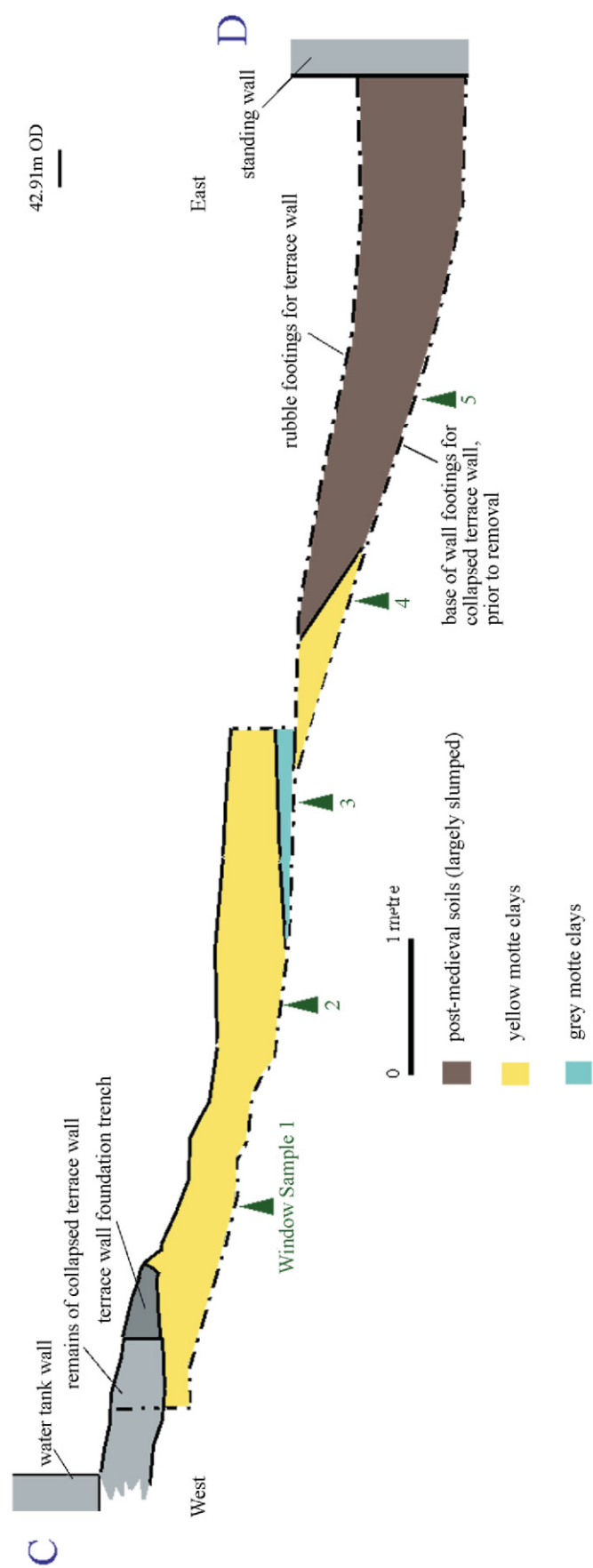


Fig. 5 Rear section of trench cut for middle wall.

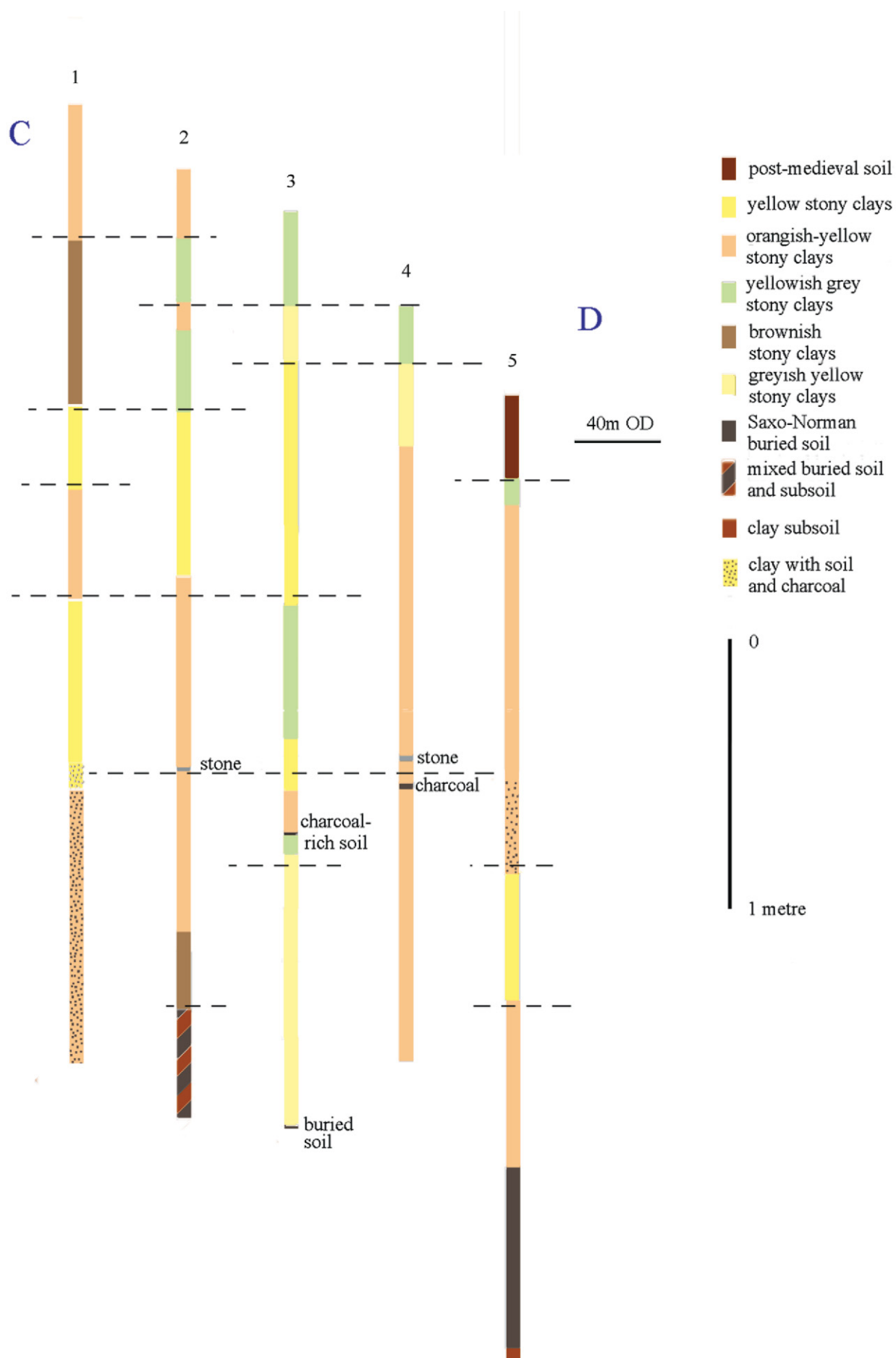


Fig. 6 Window samples on the line of the middle wall

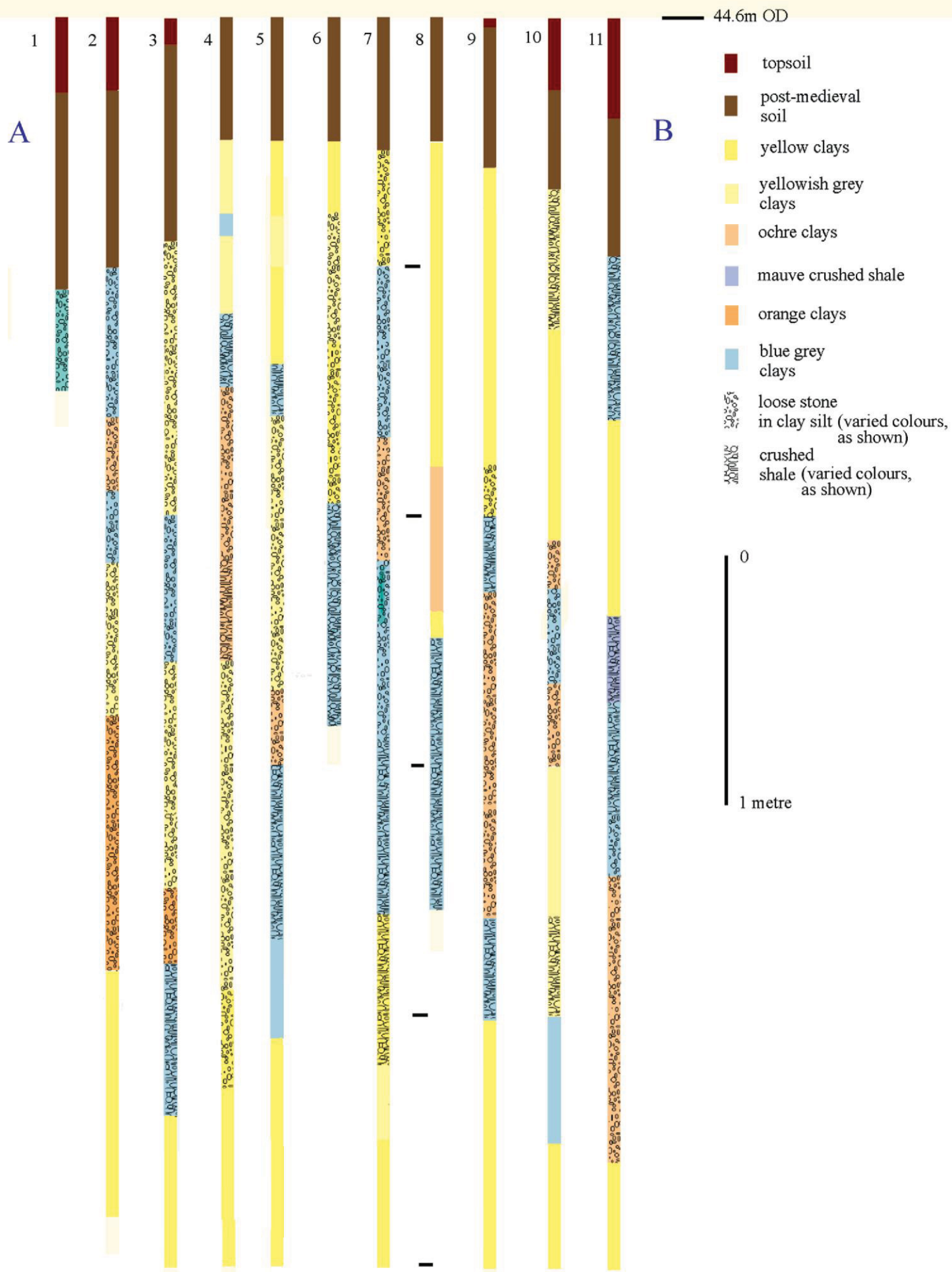


Fig. 7 Window samples on the line of the upper retaining wall.

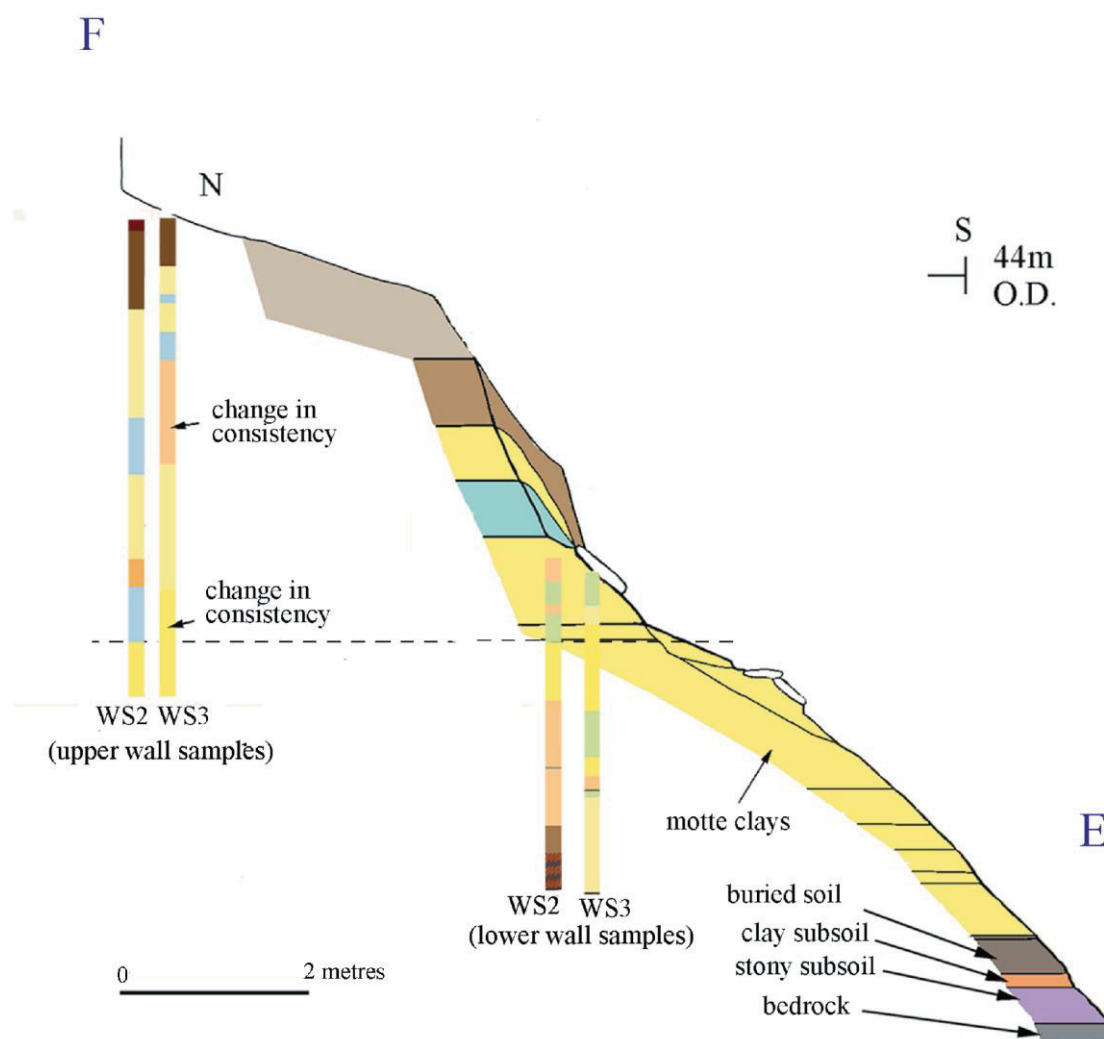


Fig. 8 Upper wall window samples 2 and 3 and middle wall window samples 2 and 3 superimposed on the profile through the landslip area produced in 1999 (Brown and Matthews 1999b, Fig 2).



Plate 1. Window sampling on line of middle wall.



Plate 2. Pits for scaffolding feet being excavated.



Plate 3. Fireplace of 17th-century back block.



Plate 4. Late 19th-century stone water tank.