



Melton Quarry Extension, Melton, North Ferriby

**East Riding of
Yorkshire**

Archaeological Excavation: Area Q2 Phase 1 Interim Report



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Prepared by: Andrew Frudd
Position: Supervisor
Date: June 2012

Checked by: Fraser Brown
Position: Project Manager
Date: June 2012

Signed



Approved by: Alan Lupton
Position: Operations Manager
Date: June 2012

Signed



Oxford Archaeology North
Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1GF
t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606

© Oxford Archaeology Ltd (2012)
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: [oanorth@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarch.co.uk)

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SUMMARY

A conditional planning permission has been granted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council for winning and working of minerals and deposits of minerals waste on 27.8ha of land at Melton Quarry, Melton, North Ferriby, East Riding of Yorkshire (Application number DC/02/05828/STPLFE/STRAT; Fig 1). Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), at the request of CgMs Consulting, produced a project design for two phases of work (Q2 Phase 1 and Q2 Phase 2; Fig 2) scheduled to take place, respectively, during 2012 and 2013, each investigating areas covering approximately 2ha of the application area. This report presents the interim results of the Q2 Phase 1 works.

Q2 Phase 1 of the fieldwork took place between 16th April and 16th May 2012. A large east-west aligned ditch was investigated both by hand and using a mechanical excavator. This produced Roman/Romano-British pottery from secure deposits in the base of the feature, suggesting its date, as well as human remains. This ditch corresponded to a cropmark feature (CgMs 2002) that continued into the area of the Melton Villa site (Mackey 1981), so it seems likely that the feature represents a major land boundary associated with the villa. Post-medieval pottery in the top of the ditch provides evidence that the ditch remained visible as a feature of the landscape for many centuries.

The rest of the site was sparsely populated by a scattering of charcoal-rich pits and postholes, four of which contained prehistoric – probably Neolithic pottery and two of those contained flint blades, further supporting the Neolithic date.

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Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Omya UK Ltd, in particular Peter Minoughan and Steve Allison, for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the excavation. Paul Gajos managed the project on behalf of CgMs Consulting, and also had a significant input into the fieldwork process. Paul Chadwick (CgMs) deserves acknowledgement for his role in facilitating the project. David Evans and Ruth Atkinson of the Humber Archaeological Partnership, who monitored the project on behalf of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, are thanked for their useful curatorial advice and for the efficient service they provided.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Jim O'Brien and Jenny Ryder, supervised by Andrew Frudd, who also wrote this report. The illustrations were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. This report was edited by Fraser Brown, who also managed the project for OA North.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A conditional planning permission has been granted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council for winning and working of minerals and deposits of minerals waste on 27.8ha of land at Melton Quarry, Melton, North Ferriby, East Riding of Yorkshire (Application number DC/02/05828/STPLFE/STRAT; Fig 1). This is an extension to the existing quarry, for which permission was originally granted in 1973. Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) at the request of CgMs Consulting, produced a project design for two phases of work within the Q2 area of the quarry (Phase 1 and Phase 2; Fig 2) scheduled to take place, respectively, during 2012 and 2013, each investigating areas covering approximately 2ha of the application area. This report presents the interim results of the Q2 Phase 1 works. It has been agreed with the Humber Archaeology Partnership that the full assessment report of the findings will be produced following the completion of the Q2 Phase 2 works, in order that both phases of work can be included in a single report.
- 1.1.2 Condition No 9 states: ‘No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.
- 1.1.3 The scheme shall provide for:
- a) the proper identification and evaluation of the extent, character and significance of archaeological remains within the application area;
 - b) an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains;
 - c) proposals for the preservation *in situ*, or for the investigation, recording and recovery of archaeological remains and the publishing of the findings, it being understood that there shall be a presumption in favour of their preservation *in situ* where feasible;
 - d) sufficient notification and allowance of time to archaeological contractors nominated by the developer to ensure that archaeological fieldworks as proposed in pursuance of (a) and (c) above is completed prior to the commencement of permitted development in the area of archaeological interest; and
 - e) notification in writing to the Curatorial Officer of the Humber Archaeology Partnership of the commencement of archaeological works and the opportunity to monitor such works.
- 1.1.4 It can be presumed that topsoil stripping and mineral extraction over 17.5ha will destroy all archaeological and historic features within these areas. Archaeological deposits beneath areas which will be used for access or service provision will be affected. Any areas outside

the proposed quarry which are stripped of topsoil or cut into will therefore be treated as per this specification for archaeological investigation. Buried features beneath areas of landscape buffering which are not used for access, service provision *etc* will be undisturbed and thus preserved *in situ*.

- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Oxford Archaeology North (2012) and approved by the Humber Archaeology Partnership. All works were undertaken in accordance with the approved WSI.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The site lies on the north bank of the River Humber adjacent to the active north face of Melton chalk quarry, to the west of Kingston-upon-Hull and north of Welton village, and within the East Riding of Yorkshire. It lies on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds, which comprise chalk over clays. These deposits give rise to brown Rendzina type soils of the Andover subgroup (SSEW 1987) in the area of the 1973 permission, and to the slightly deeper Panholes soil subgroup in the northern extension.

- 1.2.2 The 1973 permission and the Northern Extension lie on arable land. The land is tenanted and worked from Welton Wold Farm, adjacent to the Northern Extension.

- 1.2.3 The area lies between 95m AOD in the west and 75m AOD in the east with a central rise to 110m AOD. The land is naturally well drained due to its topography and shallow soils, and contains no above-ground watercourses. The area of the Northern Extension drains naturally into Welton Dale, which contains a spring.

- 1.2.4 The site is not traversed by overhead power cables nor buried services, has an open aspect and good access via a metalled farm track. Mature trees and a footpath bound it to the west, the securely-fenced extant quarry to the south, a maturing mixed hedgerow to the east and the farm track to its north.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2002) was prepared, which collated existing archaeological, topographic and land-use data for the study area encompassing the application site. This identified that no Scheduled Ancient Monuments existed within the site, that cropmarks evidencing subsurface features were present within and to the north and east of the site, and that numerous finds within and around the site indicate archaeological potential. Excavation of a crop-marked site to the immediate east resulted in the discovery of several archaeological sites and finds in the 1970s (Mackey 1981).

- 1.3.2 Results of the SMR search for the site and its environs are summarised in Table 1. They range in period from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period and range in type from individual find sites to whole settlement complexes.

| SMR PRN | NMR No. | NGR | Period | Type | Location |
|---------|-------------|-----------|--|---|---|
| 720 | N/A | SE 973283 | Prehistoric | Flints found during excavation of IA/Roman complex | 1973 permission. |
| 12657 | N/A | SE 968296 | Prehistoric | Flint scraper | 400m north-west of Northern Extension. |
| 2775 | N/A | SE 968294 | Prehistoric | Axe, of unknown date and material | 350m north-west of Northern Extension. |
| 6656 | N/A | SE 973279 | Bronze Age | Sherds of a 'beaker' type pot derived from a 'hut circle' on Welton Wold. | 150m south of the 1973 permission. |
| 2872 | SE 92 NE 14 | SE 974279 | Iron Age/Roman | Iron Age Farmhouse, overlain by Roman corridor house, complex of Roman enclosures and buildings, outlying tracks and ditches. Known as Welton Wold Villa. Seen as crop marks on aerial photographs, excavated in 1970s. | 1973 permission. Outlying tracks (sinuous ditches) visible as crop marks in Northern Extension. |
| 4490 | N/A | SE 975290 | Probably Iron Age/Roman, but technically 'undated | Crop-marked buried ditched enclosures and tracks indicative of a further focus of settlement. Associated with SMR PRN 2872 | Immediately north-east of Northern Extension, 500m north of 1973 permission, associated with both areas via continuous ditched 'trackways'. |
| 6659 | Linear 687 | SE 930360 | Roman | Roman road from Brough to River Humber via Welton Wold. Seen as marks in crops over side-ditches. | 150 to 200m south-east of 1973 permission. |
| 7615 | SE 92 NE 11 | SE 975273 | Roman | Human remains, green glass bead and penannular brooch found at Greystone Pit in 1841. Possible inhumation. | 500m south-east of 1973 permission. |
| 17750 | N/A | SE 978275 | Unknown | Crop marked buried ditch seen on aerial photographs. | 500m south-east of 1973 permission. |
| 6601 | N/A | SE 979277 | Unknown | An ovoid enclosure, seen as a crop mark over its ditch on aerial photographs, and visible on the ground in 1976. | 400m south-east of 1973 permission. |
| 6660 | N/A | SE 981291 | Unknown | Single ditched buried ovoid enclosure and single ditched larger enclosure, seen on 1947 vertical aerial photograph and photographed from the air by Derrick Riley. | 1km north-east of 1973 permission. |
| 6657 | N/A | SE 975298 | Unknown, probably Iron Age/Roman, but maybe associated | Crop marked buried ditches and enclosures. | 1km north-east of Northern Extension. |

| SMR PRN | NMR No. | NGR | Period | Type | Location |
|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | with nearby DMV. | | |
| 8240 | N/A | SE 975273 | Possible Saxon | Camps, possibly of the Saxon chief 'Ella' found just north of Melton Hill House (Thompson 1869) and visible on aerial photographs. | 650m south-east of the 1973 permission. |
| 761 | SE 92 NE 16 | SE 974297 | Medieval | DMV, foundations visible on ground within living memory but all now ploughed out. | 1km north of Northern Extension. |
| 11504/17688 | N/A | SE 971291 | Medieval & Post medieval | Pottery found during fieldwalking | Immediately north of Northern Extension. |
| 2961 | SE 92 NE 10 | SE 9692973 | Post Medieval | 16 th century chapel at Wauldby, now used as an outhouse and in bad state of repair. Connected with Welton Parish Church. | 1km north of northern extension. |
| 7141 | | SE 968298 | Post Medieval | Waulby Manor Farm. | 1km north of Northern Extension. |
| 5818 | N/A | SE 966292 | Post Medieval | Mausoleum | 300m north-west of the Northern Extension in Welton Dale. |
| 11502 | N/A | SE 965289 | Post Medieval | Keepers Lodge | 300m west of the Northern Extension in Welton Dale. |
| 11503 | N/A | SE 966286 | Post Medieval | Summer House | 100m west of the Northern Extension. |

Table 1: Sites and Monuments Records for Melton Quarry and its environs

1.3.3 The archaeological and historical background to the Melton Quarry site has been detailed in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2002) and supplemented by results of geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 2002), thus only a brief summary is provided here. The site of the proposed quarry extension lies within a major prehistoric and Romano-British landscape, as attested both by aerial photography and by excavation within the existing quarry. The eastern half of the existing quarry workings were extensively investigated between 1971 and 1976, following the recognition on aerial photographs of the cropmarks formed by a major settlement complex of rectangular enclosures arranged around a driveway, with outlying pits and other features; this was in response to the planned expansion of the quarry which was permitted in 1973. Those excavations covered the whole nucleus of what turned out to be a Romano-British villa farm, which had an Iron-Age predecessor on the same site (Mackey 1981). Four broad phases of occupation of the site were defined, extending from the 1st century BC into the early 5th century AD.

1.3.4 The first phase comprised a small sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, with an adjacent external Iron Age burial – perhaps in a square barrow. In Phase 2, a villa was established by the beginning of the 2nd century. Its main house comprised a stone building of five rooms, set in its own square enclosure; a timber round house stood to the north, with

several shallow graves set behind this. A deep well was sited on the other side of the enclosure. It was surrounded by rectilinear fields, defined by light fencing or hedgerows, whilst other buildings were scattered throughout the farm.

- 1.3.5 In the later 3rd century the villa was reorganised and expanded. The field boundaries were replaced by deep ditches. Buildings, crop dryers, cobbled areas and rock shelters were randomly scattered within the fields. New fields were added to the south-west and north-east of the Phase 2 villa, and the main house compound was re-planned and enlarged; a new substantial double boundary ditch was dug along the western side of the site. Several new buildings were erected, *eg* two aisled barns and three sunken-floored structures. A number of burials were associated with this phase.
- 1.3.6 Around the middle of the 4th century the farm shrunk to less than half of its former size, and almost everything outside of the extended house enclosure appears to have been abandoned. There was a marked difference in the orientation of graves, with these being grouped on the same alignment for the first time. The main house and the earliest aisled barn continued in use; another aisled barn was rebuilt on a larger scale, and a new sunken-floored structure with its own crop dryer was erected. The occupation of the villa appears to have ended in the early 5th century, when three of the buildings were burnt down.
- 1.3.7 Aerial photographs of the surrounding landscape show that the cropmarks of the field systems and the drove-ways of the villa estate continue both to the north and east, and that there is a second settlement some 600m to the north-east: the likelihood is that this fertile landscape was extensively exploited in the Iron Age and the Romano-British periods, with settlements and farmsteads at perhaps half to three-quarter mile intervals. As such, it is only to be expected that further archaeological remains of this period would fall within the area of the proposed quarry extension. The substantial cropmark of a major linear feature is indeed visible on aerial photographs, running in a north-westerly direction from the villa estate, across the northern quarry extension. The experience gained from fieldwork on the current quarry workings suggest that by no means all of the features which survive in the ground would show up as cropmarks on aerial photographs, and hence there may well be substantially more archaeology present within this current application area.
- 1.3.8 Geophysical survey of the 17.5ha of the extension area has demonstrated that there are extensive traces of a relict field system (defined presumably by soil-filled ditches), as well as major linear ditch and double-ditched feature (perhaps a track-way) in positions corresponding to traces of cropmarks that had been observed previously.
- 1.3.9 It is considered highly likely that any below-ground works associated with quarrying in this area would encounter archaeological deposits relating to the occupation of the site in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, whilst there is also variable potential for encountering early Anglo-Saxon material, and even a possibility of encountering further burials.
- 1.3.10 No post-medieval finds have been made on the site, but some pottery and other small finds were located to the north of the area. Since its enclosure, the land has been laid to arable cultivation, as attested by the 1752 inclosure award map covering Welton parish, which is

supported by a record of the Welton Inclosure Act, 1772 and the Elloughton, Welton and Brough Inclosure Act, 1784.

- 1.3.11 By the late eighteenth century, the fields were divided in similar manner to the present day. The fields, named 'Low Field' 'Stonepits' and 'Glebe' are divided between various tenants and owners. Stonepits Lane is indicated on the inclosure map.
- 1.3.12 The former surface of Stonepit Lane may be found within the top- and subsoils at the eastern boundary of the site. This was identified during geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 2002).
- 1.3.13 During 2003, York Archaeological Trust (YAT) undertook the excavation of a 3.3ha area (Q1; Fig 2), which comprised the first phase of quarry expansion covered by Application DC/02/05828/STPLFE/STRAT. The results of this phase of work have been published in an Assessment report (YAT 2003). Found within the site were a small number of widely dispersed archaeological features of prehistoric date. Notable amongst these were the remnants of two small stone cairns, several human and animal inhumation burials, and pits, scoops and postholes, associated with assemblages of struck lithics, fragmented pottery and carbonised plant remains, including burnt hazel nut shells, wheat, and charred wood. The features were arranged in two distinct groups, although they were also thinly scattered over the site, and dated between the middle Neolithic period and the early Bronze Age. Struck flint, spot-dated to the earlier Neolithic period, suggested that the site had an even longer history of use, perhaps for both domestic and funerary purposes.
- 1.3.14 The smaller group of features, in the western third of the site, comprised six pits, one of which contained a stake setting. Finds from these included Grooved Ware and Peterborough Ware pottery and an antler pick. An early Bronze Age crouched burial was also placed beneath the remnants of a chalk and flint rubble cairn impressed into one of the pits, and was associated with a single sherd from a comb-impressed Beaker vessel.
- 1.3.15 The denser group of features, in the eastern third of the site, comprised several small pits, post-holes arranged in an east-south-east / west-north-west alignment and a flint and chalk rubble cairn. This latter was associated with two phases of inhumation, one of which was of a crouched adult female, accompanied by a small bronze awl, with three human incisors clutched in her hand. Grooved Ware pottery was recovered from the pits, as were large fragments of a Middle Neolithic bowl.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The 2012 Q2 Phase 1 excavations (Fig 2) presented an opportunity to examine the area peripheral to a known villa complex and supplement data gathered by previous excavations, particularly regarding the prehistoric features within the YAT (2003) excavations immediately to the south and the Iron Age and Roman fields and track ways within the surrounding landscape (CgMs 2002).
- 2.1.2 The aim of this archaeological investigation was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeology of the site to be made and samples of the features to be excavated in advance of quarrying.
- 2.1.3 In addition, as the geophysical survey had indicated the presence of likely archaeological features; the aim of the monitored topsoil strip and the targeted excavation was to further define and investigate the anomalies and/or to inform decisions on how best to avoid disturbance of any, significant features or preserve them by record.

2.2 FIELDWORK

- 2.2.1 The site was stripped from east to west with the majority of the spoil forming a low, wide bund at the western edge of the permission, designed to screen the quarry from the footpath. The site was mechanically stripped with two 360° excavators fitted with bladed ditching buckets, spoil was loaded into one of three dumpers to be taken to the bund, either by running over the topsoil or, when ground conditions were too wet, by means of stripped haul roads, cleared of archaeology.
- 2.2.2 The site was excavated and recorded in accordance with the methodology set out in the project design (OA North 2012). In summary, accurate survey plans were made of any archaeological features revealed by the topsoil strip. These features were then sampled by hand-excavation, as were a proportion of features that were considered to be natural in origin, especially when there was any doubt that this was the case. All finds were retrieved and palaeoenvironmental samples (at least 40 litres in volume) were collected from all archaeological deposits. Full textural, graphic and photographic records were maintained. In the case of a large ditch exposed within the site (*Section 3.3*), following the hand-excavation of four interventions, placed at regular intervals along the ditch, and with the agreement of Omya UK Ltd and the Humber Archaeology Partnership, further interventions were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision, a photographic record was maintained, finds were collected and any anomalies were excavated and recorded. The remaining intervening portions of the ditch were then investigated in a similar manner, until all deposits had been removed in their entirety.

3 RESULTS

3.1 QUANTIFICATION OF THE ARCHIVE

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Cut | 83 |
| Deposit | 85 |
| Group | 8 |
| TOTAL CONTEXTS | 176 |
| | |
| Ditch | 45 |
| Gully | 2 |
| Natural feature | 14 |
| Pit | 12 |
| Posthole | 10 |
| TOTAL FEATURES | 82 |
| | |
| Contexts with finds | 20 |
| | |
| Bulk samples | 22 |
| Monoliths | 1 |
| TOTAL SAMPLES | 23 |
| | |
| Plans | 24 |
| Sections | 28 |
| TOTAL DRAWINGS | 52 |
| | |
| DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH (images/size) | 320 / 854MB |
| BLACK AND WHITE PRINTS | 3 FILMS / 105 FRAMES |

Table 2: Quantification of the archive

3.2 DISCRETE PREHISTORIC FEATURES

3.2.1 In total, thirteen of the potential features investigated (not shown on plan) were demonstrated to be of natural origin. Each was recorded with a cut number to locate the digital photographs which had been taken. Other patches of clay in the chalk bedrock were also investigated across the site, but not recorded, as they too were of natural origin.

3.2.2 All of the remaining 19 discrete features identified were deemed to be man-made. With the

exception of a single burnt tree throw (*I129*), in the north-western corner of the site, these comprised shallow pits or postholes (Figs 3a and 3b). All of these features were observed to contain some charcoal, four contained prehistoric pottery and two of these (*I042* and *I121*), just to the west of the centre of the site, also contained struck lithics. Three of the pits/postholes containing pottery (*I042*, *I044* and *I121*) were grouped closely together (Fig 3a), and could, as such, form a contemporaneous association, although not a recognisable structure.

- 3.2.3 The other pit containing prehistoric pottery (*I053*; Fig 3b; Plate 1) was one of two closely adjacent features at the eastern end of the site, the other being *I050* (Fig 3b). Both contained quantities of charcoal and burnt stone, possibly deriving from domestic activity.
- 3.2.4 A group of six small postholes (*I073*, *I075*, *I077*, *I079*, *I081* and *I083*) clustered closely together within an area of clay geology, approximately 70m further to the west (Fig 3; Plate 2). They measured between 0.2m to 0.3m in diameter and 0.1m to 0.2m deep, with very similar fills in each. No finds were retrieved, but it is likely that the features form a contemporaneous association, and, although not certainly structural, four of the posts were set in a square arrangement, suggestive of a small platform or building.
- 3.2.5 Towards the approximate centre of site, near to its southernmost extent, were two features *I020* and *I028* (Fig 3b). Although closely adjacent, these differed in size and form, with *I020* comprising a scoop, 0.35m in diameter and 0.07m deep, containing burnt clay and some charcoal, whereas *I028* formed a large posthole (0.98m by 0.76m), surviving to a depth of 0.65m, with a post pipe visible in the cut section.
- 3.2.6 Lying between this latter pair of features and the group formed by *I042*, *I044* and *I121*, (Section 3.2.3) were two further shallow features (*I123* and *I125*; Fig 3a) that were devoid of any finds. They do not seem to have been related to one another, nor to any of the other features. Similarly, an isolated posthole (*I119*; Fig 3a), 60m further to the west, contained no finds and was not clearly associated with anything else.
- 3.2.7 The remaining two features, lying 30m further to the south, comprised a small (0.45m by 0.35m) truncated posthole or pit *I030*, lying nearby to a shallow, though larger (0.6m by 0.5m), pit (*I095*; Fig 3a). Neither feature contained any finds.

3.3 LINEAR IRON AGE/ROMANO-BRITISH AND POST-ROMAN FEATURES

- 3.3.1 By far the most substantial and prominent feature found within the site was an east/west ditch (*I005*), which was exposed over 280m (Figs 3a and b), and had a variable, but often wide U-shaped, profile (Fig 4; Plates 3 and 4). This was between 2.5m and 8m wide, with a maximum depth of just under 1.7m. The ditch was investigated by means of four fully-recorded, hand-excavated interventions placed at regular intervals along its length (*I040*, *I046*, *I047* and *I048*; Fig 3; Plates 3 and 4). This was followed by the careful mechanical excavation of 33 further interventions, which were photographically recorded. The intervening portions of the ditch were then carefully and systematically mechanically excavated to search for finds or any other anomalies (Plate 5 and front cover image).

- 3.3.2 The ditch sequence, was coherent along its length, comprising eight principal stratigraphic units/events (**1005**, **1177**, **1175**, **1176**, **1174**, **1004**, **1179** and **1178**; Fig 4) with various minor localised deposits and several other discrete features sandwiched within it. After the ditch had been originally cut, or possibly at a time contemporary with this, an elongated pit (**1105**), 2m by 1m and 0.2m deep, was excavated in its base (found within intervention **1104**, at the centre of the southern stretch of ditch; Fig 3b). It contained one small fragment of bone.
- 3.3.3 The primary fill (**1177**) of ditch **1005**, comprised a mixture of silts and chalk rubble, suggesting that it derived from the initial erosion of the feature sides and edge, with, possibly, some slumping from any associated bank. Within intervention **1040**, at the centre of the feature (Figs 3a and 3b; Plate 4), **1177** contained two sherds of Romano-British grey ware; the only finds from this deposit.
- 3.3.4 Ditch **1105** was then recut along its entire length by **1175**, which had a narrower base and steeper sides (Fig 4). The lack of silt in the base of this ditch suggests that it was not open for long or that it was periodically cleaned out. It was filled by deposit **1176**, constituted almost entirely of chalk rubble, presumably either deriving from the initial erosion of the sides and edges of the feature and, possibly, any associated bank, or the deliberate slighting of an associated chalk bank into the silt-free feature (the latter interpretation perhaps being more likely given the attitude, form and composition of this deposit). Backfill **1176** contained small amounts of Romano-British pottery, animal bone, and two pieces of struck-flint debitage. The latter were both patinated and abraded, suggesting they were residual and had been accidentally included during the backfilling. The pottery included two sherds of badly-abraded Roman Samian ware pottery from intervention **1040**. In intervention **1046**, at the eastern end of the site (Fig 3b), an assemblage of animal bone seemed to comprise the complete or partially complete skeleton of a medium-sized mammal.
- 3.3.5 An inhumation burial (**1126**; Fig 3a) was revealed, 1m to the east of intervention **1047**, during the machine excavation of the remaining intervening segments of the feature. Unfortunately, the skeleton was only observed when it was displaced, with the removal of the chalk backfill, so the position and attitude of the body cannot be confidently determined. However, the remains appear to comprise a single, whole adult with no accompanying grave goods. The body was either buried within a grave cut into the upper surface of backfill deposit **1176**, which had been backfilled with the same material, or had been included within the last fraction of the backfilled deposit.
- 3.3.6 A pit (**1117**) was also revealed by mechanical excavation, 0.8m to the west of intervention **1048** (Fig 3a). This measured 0.9m by 0.7m by 0.25m deep and its backfill contained charcoal, animal bone and seven sherds of Romano-British grey ware pottery. It seems most likely, as may also have been the case with the aforementioned grave, that this was cut into the upper surface of backfill **1176**.
- 3.3.7 After the probable slighting of the chalk bank into the ditch, the feature remained open for some time allowing deposit **1174** to form above **1176**. This was initially siltier and more organic than the earlier fills of the ditch and seems to represent periods of slow sediment

deposition, interspersed with episodes of more rapid accumulation, denoted by stonier lenses. A monolith sample (1031) was taken through this deposit, as it was appraised as having some potential for containing palaeoenvironmental remains. Recovered from **1174**, in intervention **1040** (Figs 3a and b), was a small triangular-shaped stone object with a hole bored through it, presumably some sort of weight (Plate 6). A piece of struck flint was also retrieved from intervention **1047** (Fig 3a).

- 3.3.8 The final phase of infilling (**1004**) comprises a series of stony deposits, probably dragged into the upper part of the feature profile by ploughing. A wide variety of finds were contained within these, including iron objects, several struck flints, and pottery, some of which was post-medieval in date.
- 3.3.9 A much less substantial ditch (**1179**), measuring no more than 1m wide and 0.2m deep, was cut through deposit **1004** along the northern edge of ditch **1005** (Figs 3a and b). This feature was recorded in the interventions at the western end of the site, but was not visible in intervention **1046** at the eastern end. The fill (**1178**) of the gully was darker and less stony than **1004**. A fragment of a Roman mortaria, was recovered from **1178**, however, this was badly abraded and it is likely to be a residual inclusion rather than actually dating the feature, which presumably originated during the post-medieval period. Ditch **1179** appears contemporary with **1091=1069**, a shallow ditch extending perpendicular for 20m, before being lost to truncation (Fig 3b).

3.4 QUANTIFICATION OF FINDS

| Material | Provisional Date | Count |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Struck flint | Prehistoric | 15 |
| Worked stone | Romano-British? | 1 |
| Pottery | Prehistoric | 31 |
| Pottery | Roman/Romano-British | 15 |
| Pottery | Post-medieval | 18 |
| Clay pipe stem | Post-medieval | 1 |
| Ceramic building material | Post-medieval | 7 |
| Fe object | Post-medieval | 11 |
| Industrial debris | Post-medieval | 1 |
| Animal bone | Romano-British? | 56 |
| Human bone | Romano-British? | 350 |
| TOTAL | | 506 |

Table 3: Finds quantification

- 3.4.1 In total, 506 finds were recovered from the Q2 Phase 1 excavations, the vast majority of these (Table 1) were individual human bones (or pieces of bone) recovered from a single skeleton buried within ditch **1005**. Indeed, most of the other finds also came from this feature, including the Roman/Romano-British pottery, which was from pit **1117** cut at a

lower level within it and, otherwise, was dispersed amongst its lower fills. This pottery predominantly comprises grey wares, with a single sherd of Samian ware also occurring. A triangular-shaped, perforated sandstone weight (Plate 6) also came from the lower deposits within the ditch, as did the small assemblage of animal bone, some of which appears to have been articulated.

- 3.4.2 The industrial debris, clay pipe, ceramic building material, Fe (iron) objects and post-medieval pottery all came from the uppermost fills of the ditch. Preliminary spot-dating of these ceramics suggests a date range from the early sixteenth century to the eighteenth century, perhaps with better representation from the earlier part of this range; readily diagnostic types including Humber ware and Cistercian ware. The iron objects include several blade fragments, perhaps from agricultural tools, and, possibly, a few articles of horse gear.
- 3.4.3 The prehistoric pottery mainly consists of flint-tempered wares from three pits/postholes (**1042**, **1044**, and **1121**). This pottery is undecorated, but of relatively fine manufacture, which might suggest an earlier Neolithic date, particularly given the presence of struck-flint blades in the same features. The pottery from another pit (**1053**) comprises grog-tempered sherds, that, despite being undecorated, could belong to the Grooved Ware tradition, and may, therefore, be of slightly later Neolithic date. The pieces of struck flint which were not found within the pits/postholes excavated within the site, occurred either as a residual component within ditch **1005** or were recovered during the topsoil strip. Most of this material was not native to the site, although two large, crude pieces do seem to have been made from flint found in the immediate locale.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The clusters of discrete features spread over the site seem to represent a continuation of the prehistoric activity found within the YAT excavations further to the south (YAT 2003; Fig 2). As such, it is possible that the features could have a wide date range, and indicate the non-intensive use of this upland area. The lack of Bronze Age burials within the recent excavation area may reflect the nature of the topography, with those burials found in the YAT excavation being positioned just down from the crest of the slope, so as to be visible from the valley, whereas any such burials and cairns would not have been visible further up slope, to the north.
- 4.1.2 The pottery retrieved from the cluster of three pits (**1042**, **1044** and **1121**; Fig 3a; Plate 1) is of very good quality and its association with flint blades suggests an earlier Neolithic date, which, if true, is highly significant. Activity dating to this period was previously detected in the YAT excavations. It is also possible that the two features to the east (**1050** and **1053**; Fig 3a), one of which was also associated with pottery, similarly date to the Neolithic period. A programme of radiocarbon assay should enable this chronology to be determined with greater precision, and the charcoal-rich deposits within the features have good potential for this.
- 4.1.3 The large ditch **1005** (Figs 3a and b), on the basis of the finds within it, is most likely to be of either Iron Age or Romano-British date, and it seems to have remained a prominent feature of the landscape up until relatively recent times. It has been traced for approximately 600m as a cropmark (CgMs 2002), extending from the area of the Roman Villa to the south-east of the recent excavations (Mackey 1981). It was probably a land allotment feature, either set out in association with the villa or adopted from an earlier system of enclosure. It seems that, at some point, what must have been a substantial bank associated with the ditch, possibly existing on its southern side, was slighted, partially backfilling it. At around the same time, or shortly afterwards, a human burial was interred within the base of the backfilled ditch, and a pit was dug at the same level nearby, being used as a receptacle for a dumped deposit of domestic-type material. This suggests that the ditch still retained some significance, despite presenting a less dramatic and visible feature in the landscape. It is noteworthy that an Iron Age cemetery, investigated in advance of improvements to the A63, 2km to the south-east, was also clearly associated with major boundary features (Fenton-Thomas 2011).
- 4.1.4 Over the following centuries, the ditch appears to have remained open and probably still functioned as a boundary feature, as the upper fills within it contained cultural material dating to the post-medieval period and it was redefined by means of a shallow recut, presumably towards the end of this period. The ditch does not feature on the First Edition 1854 Ordnance Survey map, so must have fallen into disuse by this time, although two north-west/south-east field divisions, respectively depicted just to the north and south of it, follow the same broad alignment.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATES

Plate 1: Pits/postholes **1042** and **1044**

Plate 2: Posthole **1083**

Plate 3: Intervention **1048** through ditch **1005**

Plate 4: Intervention **1040** through ditch **1005**

Plate 5: Mechanical excavation of ditch **1005** in progress

Plate 6: Stone weight from of ditch **1005**

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Proposed phases of quarry expansion and Q2 Phase 1 (2012) and Phase 2 (2013) excavation areas

Figure 3a: Plan of Q2 Phase 1 excavation (west)

Figure 3b: Plan of Q2 Phase 1 excavation (east)

Figure 4: Generic west-facing section of ditch **1005/1175**



Plate 1: Pits/postholes **1050** and **1053**



Plate 2: Posthole **1083**



Plate 3: Intervention *1048* through ditch *1005*



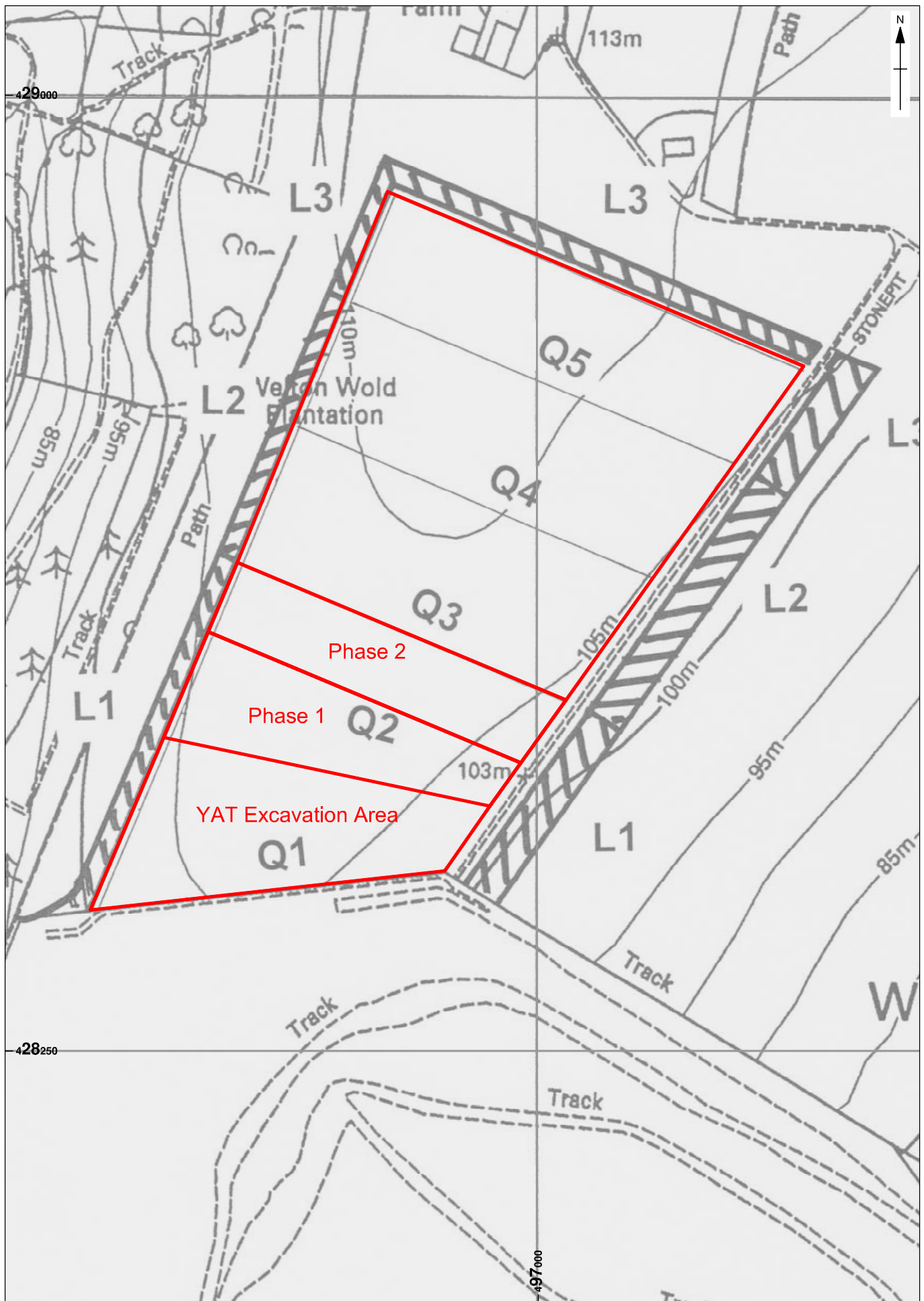
Plate 4: Intervention photo no *1040* through ditch *1005*



Plate 5: Mechanical excavation of ditch **1005** in progress



Plate 6: Stone weight from of ditch **1005**



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Figure 2: Proposed phases of quarry expansion and Q2 Phase 1 (2012) and Phase 2 (2013) excavation areas

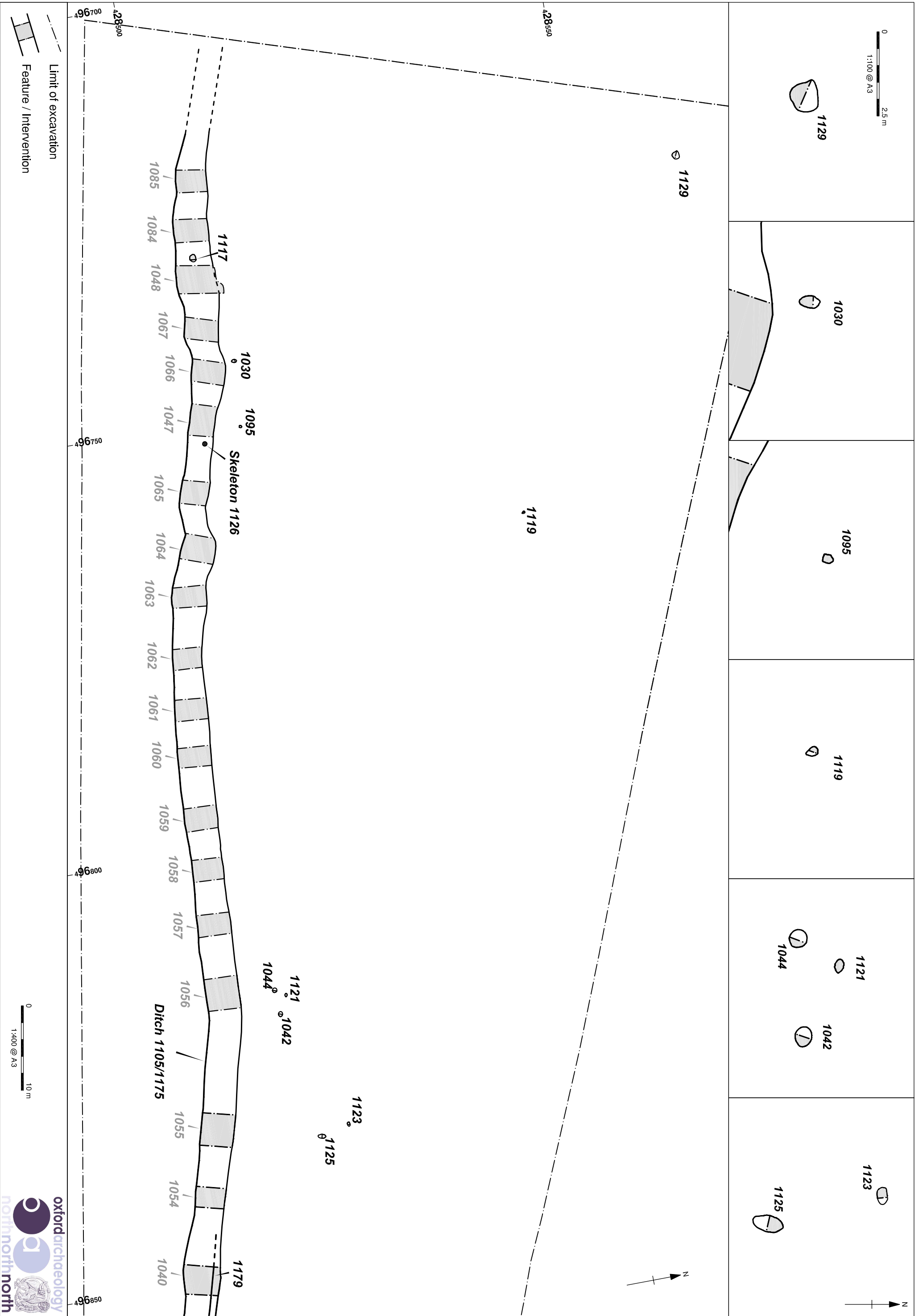


Figure 3a: Plan of Q2 Phase 1 excavation (west)

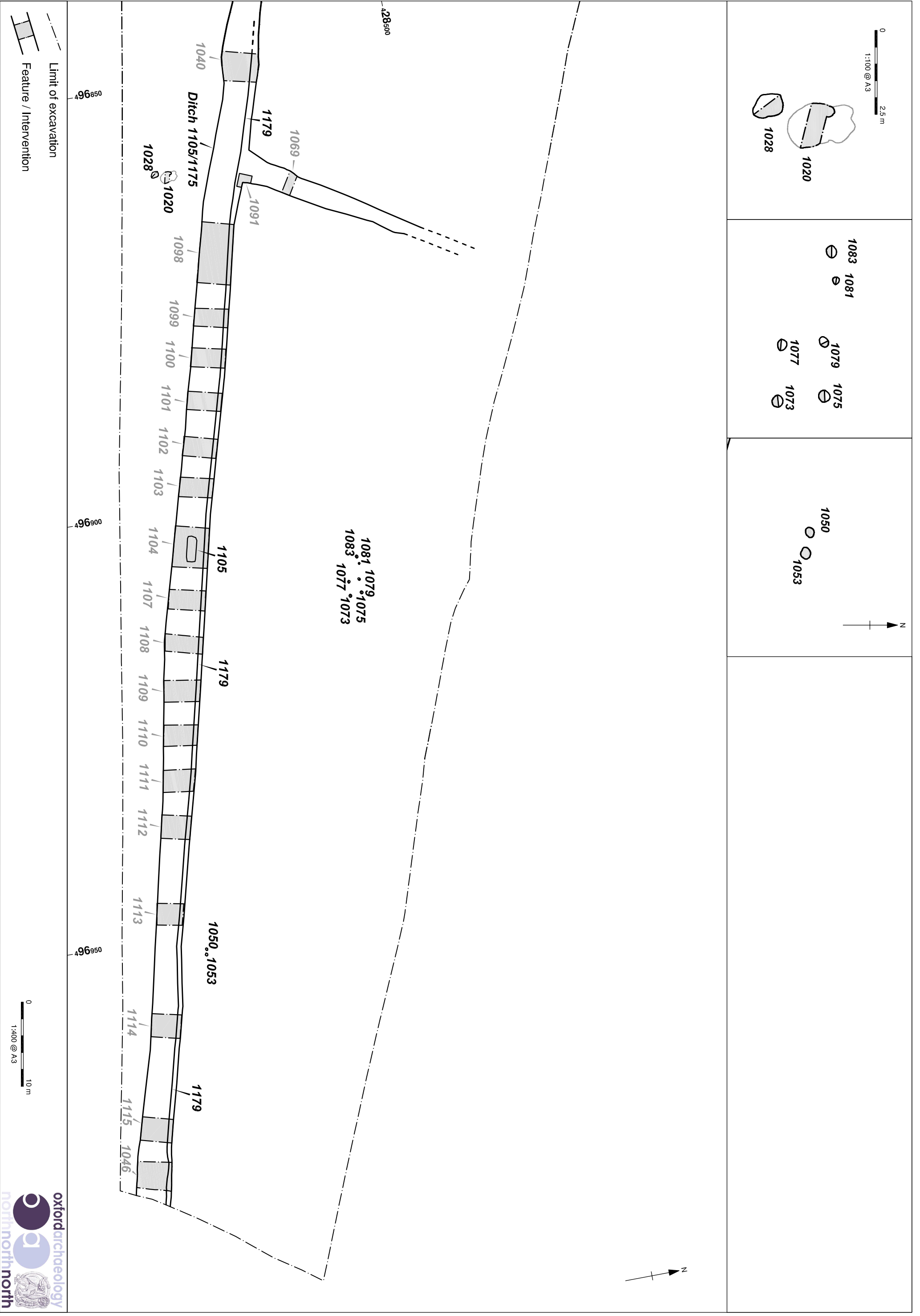


Figure 3b: Plan of Q2 Phase 1 excavation (east)

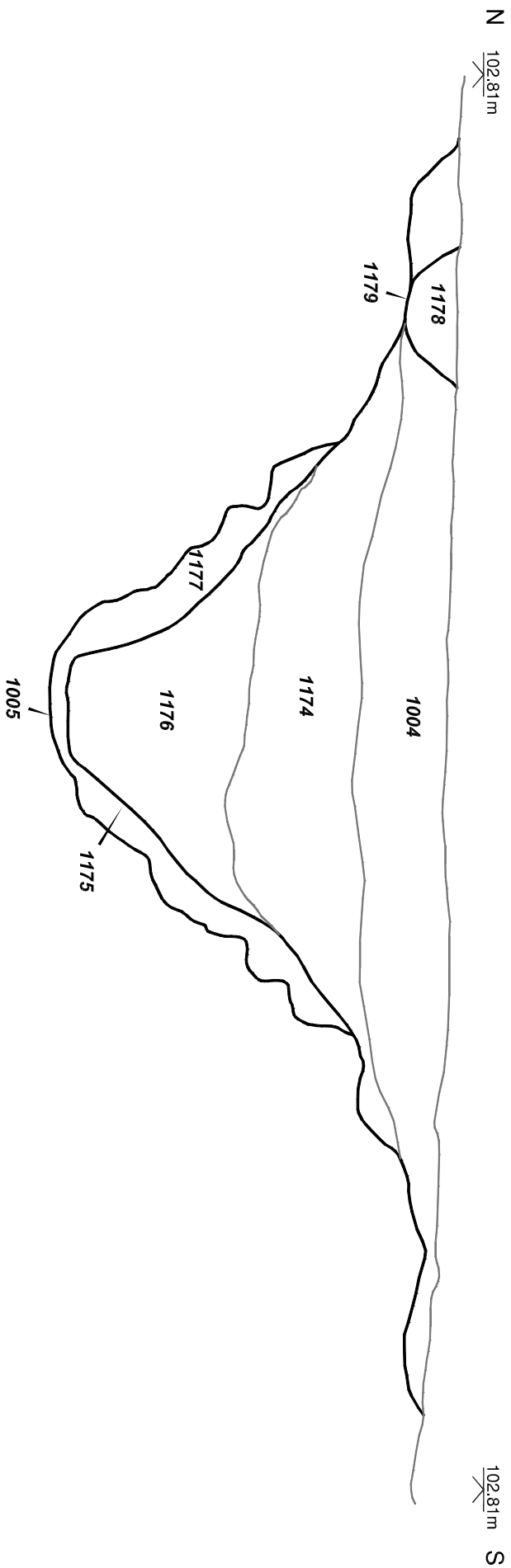


Figure 4: Generic west-facing section of ditch 1005/1175