

BICC/tp MANAGEMENT

THE ORACLE SITE, READING, BERKSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SU 7160 7330

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

In June 1996 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a test pit evaluation at Reading on behalf of BICC. The evaluation forms part of a program of investigation which includes OAU's Watching Brief on the British Telecom Yard (OAU March 1996). The purpose of the investigation is to assess the nature, depth and extent of archaeological deposits, in order to predict the impacts from the proposed development. Information from the evaluation is intended to feed into proposed mitigation schemes for any predicted impacts.

The development site lies to the south of the centre of Reading. It is bounded by the Gunn Street frontage and Minster Street to the north, Bridge Street to the west and the Duke Street frontage to the east. To the south the development straddles the River Kennet and is bounded by Mill Lane.

1.2 Geology and topography

The sites lie on the riverine silts, gravel terraces and underlying chalk adjacent to the north bank of the River Kennet. The northern extent of the evaluation is at 40 m OD (approx) sloping down to 37.30 m OD to the south.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (Tatton-Brown 1996, *The Oracle site, Reading - Notes for archaeological brief for trial trenches and for full excavation programme*). Only the historical features that relate specifically to the aims and results of this evaluation are therefore mentioned below.

1.3.1 The Oracle site

To the north of the site is the Minster Street frontage. This street would have formed part of the medieval town and almost certainly lies within the Anglo-Saxon settlement.

To the centre of the site running east-west is the Holy Brook a man-made channel managed since (or possibly even created in) the 12th-century to feed Reading Abbey's water mill to the east. This water channel is open beyond the west extent of the evaluation area but has been culverted within the site. The Holy Brook has undergone several phases of capping and revetment throughout its existence.

To the south of the site, running approximately parallel to the Holy Brook, is the course of the Minster Mill stream. The origins of this stream may be early in that the parish boundaries of St Giles, St Mary and St Lawrence respect its course. It is likely that the Minster Mill lies on the south bank of the stream slightly to the south-east of the evaluation area (perhaps indicated on Speed's 1611 map of Reading).

In 1627 the Oracle Building was erected on the site. This was a large brick courtyard building originally functioning as a poorhouse/workhouse producing cloth. It served as a

barracks during the Civil War and was demolished in 1850 by which time it housed a variety of workshops and warehouses.

Several phases of 19th-century development have occurred including the building of St Mary's Parade on the northern frontage. In 1971 the central area of the evaluation site was levelled for use as a car park.

1.3.2 The Yield Hall Car Park

The Car Park is the site of the 17th century 'Yield Hall' building, demolished in 1935 to make way for the present day car-park. This building can be seen in several photographs and is located on several 19th and 20th century maps, it stood to the north of The Back Brook, an east-west running stream (still open to the west of the site, although almost stagnant).

The known siting of the 17th century 'Yield Hall' in this area perhaps suggests that the medieval Guildhall (13th to 16th century) was located on this or an adjoining site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

Twelve test pits were excavated, each located with a view to answering specific questions about the site from an engineering as well as archaeological context. These were;

2.1 The Oracle Site

Test pit 1:

2.2 x 4.6 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 3.36 m

To provide engineers with information about the top of the Holy Brook culvert. To examine the area adjacent to the 19th-century culvert for evidence of earlier stream banks/walls, and the stratification through which they are cut. To assess the survival of the west range of the 17th-century Oracle workhouse, and/or the culvert for the stream of the same period.

Test pit 9:

2 x 1.2 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56 m

To test whether archaeological stratification survives beneath the floor slabs of the current cellars.

Test pit 10:

2.2 x 4.7 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 3.32 m

Located (from the results of test pit 1 and 19th-20th century maps) within the 17th-century Oracle courtyard, also an area free from post 17th-century development, to investigate the

possibility of medieval and earlier deposits and structures. To define the horizon of the 17th-century courtyard.

Test pit 11:

2 x 6 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 2.5 m

To build up a profile of deposits across the site in conjunction with test pits 9 and 10. To investigate possible earlier revetments/alignments of the Minster Mill stream.

Test pit 11a:

2 x 3.4 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 2.8 m

Located (from consideration of the results from test pits 1 and 10) to investigate the extent of medieval and earlier deposits to the south of the site in an area thought to have survived 19th and 20th-century development. To investigate a possible site of the Minster Mill.

2.2 The Yield Hall Car Park (and George Lane Hotel)

Test pit 2:

2.5 x 5.2 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 2.3 m

To provide the engineers with information on the structure of the Holy Brook conduit. To investigate any earlier conduit structures and adjoining deposits in the yard of the George lane Hotel

Test pit 3:

2 x 2 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8 m

To assess the survival of the 17th-century Yield Hall and to examine whether an earlier Guildhall, or other earlier archaeology, exists below it.

Test pit 4/5:

2 x 4 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 2.3 m

This trench was also within the footprint of the 17th-century Yield Hall structure, and the aims were as stated for test pit 3. The trench was located on the edge of the Back Brook enabling investigation into pre-culvert revetments and other evidence relating to the earlier course of the stream

Test pit 6/7:

2 x 4 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 3 m

To examine surviving archaeological deposits outside the footprint of the Yield Hall structure.

Test pit 8:

2 x 2 m, excavated to a maximum depth of 2.9 m

The aims of this test pit were the same as those stated for test pit 6/7.

2.3 Fieldwork methods and recording

Overburden from the 19th and 20th centuries was removed with a mechanical excavator. The trenches were then cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. Dr Mark Robinson of the Oxford University Museum visited the site to comment on the environmental potential of deposits and to advise on sampling. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

The detailed description of the test pits is contained in Section 4, and is followed by the assessments of the various classes of material recovered during the evaluation. Section 5 summarises the results and discusses their importance in relation to the predicted impact from the proposed development.

4 RESULTS - DESCRIPTION

4.1 Test pit descriptions

4.1.1 Test pit 9

Natural chalk (196) was revealed in this test pit at 39.89 m OD. The chalk was cut by two irregular north-south orientated linear features 199 and 197. Cut 199 was 0.5 m wide and 0.45 m deep, cut 197 was 0.45 m wide (visible) and 0.5 m deep; both were filled with a very compact orange brown gravelly sand (200 and 198 respectively).

The natural chalk and features were immediately overlain by the existing concrete basement floor 195.

4.1.2 Test pit 1

The earliest deposit revealed in test pit 1 was a loose sandy gravel with occasional CBM fragments (322), this was seen in the southern/central area of the test pit at the deepest point of excavation (36.93m OD). The gravel was overlain by wooden structure 320, an east-west aligned timber measuring 0.45 m (visible length) x 0.10 m (visible width) x 0.18 m height with a wooden upright measuring 0.22 m (height) x 0.06 m square (visible width). The two timbers were joined by a mortice and tenon joint. The upright had been obviously truncated.

In the northern/central part of the trench the earliest deposits were a sequence of silty sands (315, 314, 313, 312) containing gravel, chalk and CBM fragments. These deposits and a series of silty sands overlying timber structure 320 (311, 321, 322, 303, 302) were cut in the centre of the test pit by an east-west orientated, vertical-sided feature (cut 316), the dimensions of which were not fully revealed in excavation. Cut 316 was filled by a sandy loam (317) and sealed by clays and sandy silts containing a large percentage of CBM fragments, chalk and charcoal pieces (301, 300, 299, 298, 297, 295). Overlain by layers 301 and 302 was a timber board (318) measuring 0.02 m (width) x 0.28 m (depth) x 0.45 m (visible length). The board was resting at an angle of 45 degrees (top to the south) with its length running east-west and situated to the south of the trench overlying a mortar and brick fragment deposit (319) which abutted east-west aligned wall 306.

Wall 306 was an east-west aligned brick structure revetting the northern edge of the The Holy Brook; it comprised nine (visible) courses of orangey-red brick of various sizes (215 x 65 mm and 225 x 60 mm stretchers and 110 x 60 mm, 110 x 55 mm, and 110 x 70 mm headers) in a random coursing, bonded with light brown coarse sandy mortar. The width of the wall was 0.46 m and it had a visible depth of 0.68 m.

Resting on wall 306 was a brick capping over The Holy Brook, structure 288. Six courses of the arched brick capping were visible, exhibiting orange red and dark red brick of various sizes (240 x 55 mm and 225 x 70 mm stretchers, 120 x 60 mm, 115 x 60 mm, 105 x 60 mm and 150 x 60 mm headers) in a random coursing, bonded with mid brown sandy mortar and hard grey cement/mortar.

Cutting deposits 301, 300, 299, and 295 in the centre of the test pit was a north-south orientated trench cut containing foundation 304 and brick wall 291. Foundation 304, a rough hewn limestone, flint nodule with occasional brick and tile fragments set in a dark grey brown sandy mortar (with chalk flecks) structure, supported brick wall 291; sixteen courses of orange-red bricks (100 x 45 mm, 120 x 50 mm, 120 x 65 mm, 110 x 75 mm and 85 x 60 mm headers, 230 x 75 mm and 170 x 60 mm stretchers) in a random coursing, bonded by a mid grey-brown sandy mortar with chalk flecks. This wall had two 0.04 m offsets at its base.

Foundation 304 had been partially removed at its southernmost visible extent by an east-west 1 m deep, 0.9 m wide (maximum) cut (296) that effectively undermined wall 291. Cut 296 was filled with a mid grey silty sand with 5% brick and tile fragments which was overlain by a yellow brown gravel/concrete 293 (laid against foundation 304 and wall 291) and sealed in the centre of the trench by 282, a compact brown/grey silty sand.

Wall 291 had two later structures inserted into its width; an east-west wall and foundation (contexts 305, 310, 308 and 289) at the northern end of the trench and an east-west buttress, wall and further capping to the Holy Brook at the southern end of the trench (contexts 286, 309, 283 and 284). Both features were constructed using light orange-red bricks (235 x 110 x 70 mm) in an 'English garden wall' coursing, bonded with light yellow sandy mortar. The southern structure had a doorway at its western limit and sat on a 0.4 m deep concrete foundation.

Infilling the upper part of the trench was a 1.2 m thick deposit of varied red brick and brick fragments (279). This was sealed by a crushed red brick layer 278, which in turn was overlain by a sequence of compacted gravels and chippings (277, 276 and 275) forming the existing car park surface.

4.1.3 Test pit 10

Natural gravel (375) was revealed in the central northern half of this trench at 36.81 m OD. The gravel was overlain by a 0.08 m sequence of sandy silts (407, 406 and 405). The silts were capped by a 0.1 m thick deposit of chalk (399), to the north-east of which seven upright loam bonded tiles were inset forming a 0.2 m square platform. Overlying deposit 399 was a thin (0.01 m) spread of charcoal and silt (418) above which lay a 0.25 m deep mid orange-brown clay-sand (394). The clay sand 394 was overlain at its northern extent by a chalk lens (393) and both deposits were sealed by two silty sands with charcoal and chalk fragment inclusions (389 and 387).

In the central southern half of the test pit the earliest deposit exposed by excavation was layer 378, a deposit of degraded rough hewn chalk blocks (from 0.04 m to 0.30 m in size) and flint nodules in a silty gravel bonding. The chalk blocks were overlain by a succession of silts sands and loams (376, 409, 377 and 408) the latest of which, deposit 408, had been partially removed to the centre of the test pit by an east-west steeply sloping cut (417).

An east-west ranging wall or wall foundation (390) was constructed within cut 417 in the centre of the test pit, this was a 0.45 m wide, 0.20 m high rough hewn chalk and flint nodule feature, bonded with orange brown clay sand and randomly coursed. Structure 390 rested on deposit 387 as did a structure to the north of the test pit (416), an east-west aligned feature consisting of flint nodules, chalk and red brick fragments, 0.10 m thick, 0.40 m wide and 0.60 m long (visible extents) randomly coursed and loam bonded.

A fragmented red tile layer (385) overlay deposit 387 between structures 390 and 416; this and the structures were sealed by a series of clay sands and silts containing charcoal (332, 331, 330 and 329) which were then overlain by a compacted gravel surface and its make-up layers 328, 326 and 325).

The upper 1.2 m of the trench was comprised of varying dump/demolition and landscaping layers with the exception of contexts 360, 361, an east-west ranging 19th-century garden wall; and contexts 365, 366, 357, and 364, a north-south orientated 19th-century building and foundation.

The trench was sealed by modern tarmac car-park and its make-up layer 355 and 354.

4.1.4 Test pit 11

The earliest deposit revealed in this test pit was a mid brown to grey clay-silt (414) in the northern end of the testpit. This deposit was exposed sloping north to south to a level of 36.59 m OD. Overlying deposit 414 was a 0.7 m deep bank of silts and loams (413, 412, 411, 410 and 402) that had been removed to the south by a vertical east-west orientated 0.7 m deep (visible) linear cut (404). Cut 404 was filled with two silty deposits (419 and 403) then sealed and capped with a 1 m thick succession of silt loams (396, 386, 350, 349, 351 and 348) which were all cut away in the centre of the testpit by a vertical sided east-west aligned construction trench (335) for the modern (20th century) revetment wall and capping (337) of the Minster Mill stream.

In the upper part of the test pit a modern foul water service (334 and 338) running north-south and feeding in to the Minster Mill (cut through its capping) bisected the earlier deposits in the north of the trench. This was overlaid with associated backfill material (347) and the test pit was sealed throughout its length with a modern hardcore road surface (345).

4.1.5 Test pit 11a

Natural chalk (432) was revealed in this test pit at 35.72 m OD. The chalk was overlain by two tenacious clay layers (431 and 430) succeeded by two silt layers (429 and 428) which were capped by a 0.10 m thick degraded chalk dump deposit (426). This was overlain by a series of silt and loam dump layers (426, 425, 424, 423 and 422) that were sealed by a 19th-century demolition layer (421) and the tarmac and make-up of the existing car park surface 420 and 427.

4.1.6 Test pit 2

Natural chalk (272) was revealed in the northern end of this trench at 37.62 m OD; this was overlaid by a dark grey-black silt (271) which in turn was overlain by structure 258.

Structure 258 (contexts 254, 257, 256, 262, 270 and 255) seen in the northern half of the trench consisted of an east-west orientated rough hewn chalk block foundation/revetment wall and buttress (255 and 256 respectively) randomly coursed, bonded by light yellow sandy mortar and at least a metre in depth supporting a sandstone, chalk block and tile string wall (254 and 257) which was abuted by a 0.64 m thick chalk foundation layer (262). A small portion of flagstone floor (270) survived, laid onto the chalk floor foundation.

Cut into the junction of walls 254, 257 and deposit 262 was a sub-circular feature, 0.5 m in diameter with sloping sides to a concave base. This was filled by a clay-silt with flint, brick and tile fragment inclusions (246).

Abutting the southern face of wall 255 was a 0.9 m thick deposit of orange-brown clay sand (264) with a large percentage of tile fragment inclusions. This was overlain by deposit 267, a dark grey-black clay silt.

Sealing fill 246 and overlying structure 258 was a 0.5 m deep sequence of dumped silty loams with tile, brick, and chalk fragment inclusions (260, 226, and 225).

An east-west feature (253) cut deposits 260, 226, 225 and 267 in the northern half of the trench. This was 0.6 m wide, 1 m deep and contained east-west revetment/wall 169, a fifteen course brick structure (bricks measuring 225 x 65 x 105 mm) 0.65 m wide and 1.15 m height exhibiting 'English garden wall' coursing and bonded by light yellow sandy mortar.

Wall 169 formed part of a larger brick structure (including 252, 251 and 177) overlying and abutting an arched brick capping over the Holy Brook (168). The capping was made of a single thickness of red brick headers, bonded with light yellow white mortar.

Overlying and infilling the construction of the brick features was a 1.5 m thick sequence of silty sand and rubble (166 and 167) which was cut by two modern services (174, 175 and 165, 164 and 163) and overlain by a series of modern yard surfaces (162, 161, 160 and 159).

4.1.7 Test pit 8

The earliest deposits revealed in this test pit were a 1.1 m thick series of silty clays (179, 194, 184, 180, 173, 172 and 183). The lowest of these was at 34.38 m OD which also defined the level of the water table. The silt clays contained a 0.4 m square, 0.8 m high (visible) upright timber to the east of the trench, the relationship between the timber and most of these deposits is uncertain in that it could have been driven through them, or it could pre-date them. Deposit 172 did clearly overlie the timber.

The silt clays were capped by a thin band of compacted and metalled gravel (185) which in turn was overlain by a 0.5 m deep sequence of horizontally banded dumped and compacted clays silts and gravels (171, 241, 158, 222, 220, 219, 218, 157, 156, 191, 190, 189, 188, 192, 187, 186, and 150).

A structure (155, 221, 240 and 223) in the south east corner of the trench had been cut through layer 150. This was an approximately north-south orientated tile and mortar foundation which had been partially robbed (237, 236 and 242) and then superseded by a second structure (flint nodule, limestone and mortar foundation with tile string and mortar wall) 113, 151 and 147, which ran adjacent to and slightly west of the first structure.

A series of floor and surface deposits (146, 145, 144 and 111) which abutted the west face of structure 113 and possible surface 131 which abutted the east face were overlain by a phase of demolition (126, 125, 203, 153, 123, 124, 122, 121, 120, 142, 237, 236, 242, 234, 213, 212, 211, 210, 217, 243, 235, 233, 232, 229, 231, 228, 227, 230, 152, 140, 141, 139 and 138) which was truncated by the construction of a further north-south wall, surface and make-up 154, 137, 135, 134, and 149.

The test pit was sealed by the existing pavement tarmac and make-up 118 and 117.

4.1.8 Test pit 3

Natural gravel (116) was revealed in this trench at 35.98 m OD. The gravel was overlain throughout the trench by two clay sands (107, 106) which were overlain to the east of the test pit by a silty loam (105).

A cut (115) had removed deposit 105 to the west of the trench. This was a north-south ranging feature 0.45 m deep and at least 1.4m wide, filled by a succession of sandy silts and clay loams (108, 109, and 110). Cut 115 was sealed and capped by a 0.9 m thick series of dumped silts, clay silts and sandy clays (70, 76, 75, 69, 68, 74, 73 and 80)

A structure (contexts 67, 66, 77, 65, 61, 71 and 79) had been cut into deposit 80. This was composed of a north-south wall (65); nine courses of mid brown red brick (230 x 110 x 55 mm) in a random coursing, bonded with a light brown sandy mortar, resting on a 0.30 m deep, 0.30 m wide limestone, chalk and brick fragment foundation (77); abutted to the west by a 0.06 m thick chalk surface (79) and to the east by a four course deep, red brick (various sizes) surface (61) resting on a 0.5 m thick yellow brown sandy mortar foundation (66).

Demolition deposits 78 and 62 overlaid the brick structure and were in turn overlain by make-up and tarmac for the existing car-park (contexts 2 and 1).

4.1.9 Test pit 4/5

Natural gravel (102) was revealed in this trench at 35.05 m OD. The gravel was overlain by a clay sand and two silty clays (103, 87, and 86 respectively) which were removed in the southern three quarters of the test pit by a north-west south-east orientated, steeply sloping 1 m deep cut (88).

Inserted into the bank of deposits 103, 87, and 86 created by cut 88 were the remains of a timber structure (92, 89, and 18) incorporating two uprights which were 0.09 m and 0.08 m in diameter, with an exposed height of approximately 0.5 m, bowed at the top (presumably in the process of destruction). Adjacent to the uprights was a similar length of timber obviously not in situ. To the east of these timbers was a smaller single upright (0.08 m dia x 0.36 m length) bracing five square timber slats of various sizes.

A series of silt and clay loams (97, 100, 98, and 83) overlaid the timber structure and infilled cut 88, these were in turn capped by a group of clay and sandy silts and loams (37, 38, 20, 21 and 19) containing a large amount of building debris (red brick fragments etc).

An east-west ranging brick wall (56, 14, 23, and 57) built of five courses of orangey-red brick (230 x 105 x 55 mm) in random coursing, bonded with light yellow sand mortar, had been constructed through the horizon of deposit 19. This structure was abutted and overlain by several varied demolition deposits (17, 16, 29, 28, 26, 15 and 32), through which a modern concrete and brick structure (18, 25 and 58) had been built on top of the west end of wall 57.

The test pit was capped and sealed by the existing car park tarmac and make-up contexts 1 and 22.

4.1.10 Test pit 6/7

Natural gravel (55) was revealed in this test pit at 34.60 m OD. The gravel was overlain at the eastern end of the test pit by a tenacious green-grey silty clay (82) which was truncated to the west by a steeply sloping, north-east/south-west aligned cut (85).

At the base of cut 85 a 0.40 m thick deposit of silts had accumulated (54, 53, 52 and 51). These were overlain by 1 m of 'peaty' silt infill/dump deposits (41-49) which in turn were capped by a variety of dump deposits containing building debris (60, 59, 24, 84, 10, 9, 12, 8, 11, 7, 6 and 5) culminating in a disused modern service trench (3 and 4) and the existing car-park tarmac and make-up, contexts 1 and 2.

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 Medieval pottery assessment by Lucy Whittingham

An assemblage of 313 sherds from 76 contexts is comprised almost equally of Medieval and Post Medieval material .

Two sherds of Saxon or Iron Age material are residual in contexts 330 and 411.

Within the Medieval wares, which account for 54% of the total assemblage, the earliest cooking vessels are represented by Early Surrey Ware, a local greyware (possibly the product of a kiln at Denham) and East Wiltshire type Ware and later vessels in Surrey Whiteware; Kingston type Ware and Coarse Border Ware. Vessel forms are well represented in each fabric type, in the majority by late 11th to 13th-century everted and thumbled forms but also by bifid cooking pot rims of the 14th to 15th centuries. A particularly good group of five of the earlier cooking pot rims should be illustrated from context 405. Jugs are represented in the main by London type Ware and Coarse London type Ware, but a small proportion of vessels also occur in a local oxidised fabric, with typical early Medieval features such as thumbled rims, stabbed rod handles and decoration in the form of external white slip, applied red clay pellets and splashed lead glazing. Other forms include porringers in Cheam/Surrey Whiteware.

Early Post Medieval occupation is represented by a small number of sherds from Tudor Green lobed cups (produced in the late 14th century but at its most popular in the late 15th to mid 16th centuries), 16th to 17th-century imported Cologne/Frechen drinking jugs and a Cistercian Ware cup.

Later Post Medieval material of 17th to 19th-century date, which accounts for 46% of this assemblage, is comprised of well known fabrics such as Surrey/Hampshire Borderware, Nottingham Stoneware, Tin Glazed Earthenware, various Red Earthenware fabrics (PMR, PMFR), Post Medieval Blackware, English Porcelain, Transfer Printed Ware, Staffordshire White Salt Glazed Ware and imported Westerwald Stoneware. The various styles of chamber pot, bowl, flanged dish, jar and cooking pot found in this assemblage are well documented.

Conclusions

The early Medieval assemblage is the most significant part of this assemblage in terms of ceramic research. The substantial size of the pottery sherds retrieved in this excavation implies that the stratigraphy is well preserved and that vessel forms, in particular rim styles, can be well documented. The Surrey Whitewares and London products are already well researched with published corpora, but the local wares and East Wiltshire type Wares are poorly defined with no such type series establishing dates or distribution. This assemblage will be able to contribute both typological and chronological data to Early Medieval ceramic studies for Reading, in an area in which there has been little previous research.

The early and late Post Medieval material can be used to test previously published dates, in particular for certain forms, and to establish the number and range of wares traded within the Reading area at various times between AD.1600 and 1900.

Contexts containing solely Medieval material; 10, 43, 46, 48, 59, 60, 110, 150, 158, 172, 173, 179, 180, 181, 260, 299, 311, 328, 333, 376, 389, 393, 395, 399, 405, 406, 407, 413, 414, 424.

Contexts containing early Post Medieval material;
44, 264, 380, 403, 410, 425.

Contexts containing late Post Medieval material;
21, 36, 83, 100, 122, 121, 136, 167, 168, 213, 224, 226, 248, 273, 282, 294, 300, 323, 326, 327, 349, 350, 379, 380, 396, 403, 410, 421, 425.

Contexts containing mixed Medieval and post Medieval material; 38, 105, 108, 132, 225, 330, 387, 408 411.

Contexts containing mixed early and late Post Medieval material;
167, 282.

4.2.2 Small finds by Leigh Allen

Twenty objects of metal or bone dating to the medieval and post-medieval period were recovered from the excavations at the Reading Oracle. Notable copper alloy objects include a case for a lock mechanism for a chest or casket (Test pit 6/7, Context 46). The case is diamond-shaped with concave sides, the edges are scalloped and there are traces of gilding on the outer surface. There is an aperture on the upper face of the case for the key, a similar but less ornate example was recovered from excavations at Oxford Castle (I H Goodall 1976, 300, fig.28, No.59). Other copper alloy objects include a gilded lace tag or point. The tag is cylindrical in form, securing the lace along its length therefore preventing the lace from fraying and easing threading. The form is similar to type 2, from excavations in Norwich where it was recovered from contexts dating to the 16th-17th centuries (S Margeson 1993, 22 fig.12, Nos.117-119). There is also a medieval token (Trench 1, Context 273), the domed head from a button, and four sewing pins with solid spherical heads and traces of tinning on the shafts. This type of pin is a product of the more fully mechanised system of pin production introduced in the early 19th century (M Biddle and K Barclay 1990,565).

The iron objects include a near complete scale tang knife (Test pit 6/7, Context 47). The tang and the back of the blade run straight, dipping at the tip. The blade edge rises very gently to the tip. The tang is incomplete but two rivet holes remain where scales of wood or bone would have been attached. Scale tang knives with composite handles did not appear before the middle of the 13th century, and similar examples of this date or later have been recovered from excavations at Winchester (I H Goodall 1990, 838) and London (Cowgill et al. 1987, 102, fig 28, No.265). There is also a complete pair of scissors with slender blades, and off set finger loops formed by returning the stems (Test pit 6/7, Context 47). Scissors are known to have been used in the Medieval period but they were less popular than shears. They became more common in the 16th-17th century (I H Goodall 1993, 135). A similar pair were recovered from excavations at Oxford Castle (I H Goodall 1976, 300, fig.28, No.57).

The bone objects include a fragment from a worked bone handle for a whittle-tanged implement, and two fragments of fine bone sheet decorated with a stylised floral motif.

4.3 Evaluation of macroscopic plant and invertebrate remains in relation to their sedimentary stratigraphy by Mark Robinson

Introduction

The site lies along the northern bank of the River Kennet to the SE of the Saxon centre of the town. The site was crossed by several minor channels of the River Kennet which have mostly been filled in. Some of the channels might have been natural in origin but others appear to have been artificial. Most of the site is low-lying and has a considerable accumulation of medieval alluvial sediments and medieval to post-medieval dumped deposits. However, higher ground above the Kennet floodplain runs along the northern side of the site.

The purpose of this evaluation is to establish the range and potential of macroscopic plant and invertebrate remains preserved in the sediments revealed in the trial trenches. In addition the sedimentary stratigraphy is to be considered so that the site formation processes can be elucidated.

Methods and Results

Samples were taken from the deposits revealed by the excavations, for both laboratory analysis and flotation. The samples for laboratory analysis each comprised about 1 kg of sediment. They were examined in the laboratory and then from each a sub-sample of about 0.2 kg was sieved over a 0.5 mm mesh. The sieve contents were examined under a binocular microscope and any biological remains observed were recorded. The bulk flotation samples ranged from 1 to 12 kg. They were floated onto a 0.25 mm mesh and the flots scanned under a binocular microscope for charred plant remains.

A total of 30 samples were subjected to laboratory analysis and 9 samples were floated. Sediment type, the degree of preservation of the remains and the relative abundance of taxa are given as appropriate in the interpretation.

Interpretation

The results are considered under the sub-headings of groups of samples, usually representing stratigraphic sequences. They can broadly be divided into two: sediment accumulations on surfaces or in channels which were sampled for laboratory analysis and fills of archaeological features or channels which were just sampled for flotation for charred remains.

Test Pit 4/5, Samples 15,35 This sequence comprised a grey organic calcareous sandy silt (Sample 15) which was stratigraphically early, possibly being pre-medieval. It was overlain by a grey waterlogged silty clay (Sample 35). Both deposits represent alluvial sediments. They contain rich molluscan assemblages of flowing water species such as *Bithynia tentaculata* and *Valvata piscinalis*. There were also remains of flowing water insects including larval cases of the caddis *Ithytrichia* sp. and an adult of the elmid beetle *Limnius volckmari*. Sample 15 also contains well-preserved waterlogged plant remains. While some were from species likely to have been growing as bankside vegetation, eg *Eupatorium cannabinum* (hemp agrimony) and *Salix* sp. (willow), there were also crop remains and seeds of arable weeds. The crop remains comprise many capsule fragments of *Linum usitatissimum*. The weed seeds include *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle). While it is possible that this material represents flax threshing waste, it is more likely to be retting debris from the bed of a minor channel. Flax retting is a very likely activity to have occurred in slowly flowing channels on the edge of Reading in the Saxon or early medieval periods. Many similar finds have been made of this date from channels on the Thames floodplain at Oxford.

Test Pit 11a, Samples 37-40 These samples were from an accumulation of sediments over chalk bedrock and beneath 16th-17th century dumped material. The lowest, Sample 40, was from a calcareous silt with poorly preserved organic material. There are many mollusc shells, including the flowing water species *Bithynia tentaculata*. There are seeds of *Mentha* sp. (mint), likely to be from a marginal species, but a seed of *Hyoscyamus niger* (henbane) was also found. This would suggest human activity in the area. The next sample (Sample 39) was of slightly organic silt which contains a reduced aquatic molluscan fauna and a few seeds of waste ground plants such as *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle). Although Sample 38, from further up the sequence, is still an organic silt with the shells of aquatic molluscs, it contains larger clasts in the form of chalk fragments. This probably represents a transition from alluvial to dumped sediments. There are still some seeds of aquatic plants, for example *Apium nodiflorum* (fool's watercress), and also the beetle *Donacia* or *Plateumaris* sp. which feeds on marsh or aquatic plants. The top sample of the sequence, Sample 37, is an inorganic dumped deposit of gravelly silt. This sequence probably represents alluvial accumulation on a floodplain or in a shallow channel giving way to land reclamation by the dumping of soil.

Test Pit 6/7, Samples 1-10 Test Pit 6/7 revealed a deep sequence of sediments which had accumulated in a palaeochannel during the medieval period. The channel was itself cut into organic sandy silt (Sample 10). This sample contains shells from a marsh or wet ground molluscan fauna with *Carychium* sp., *Lymnaea truncatula*, *Vallonia pulchella* and *Trichia hispida* gp. The plant remains do not include any aquatic species, mostly being seeds of *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle). Sample 9, from the earliest bed of the channel and Sample 8 from above it, in contrast are organic calcareous sandy silts with a strong aquatic element. The molluscs are mostly aquatic species, including *Valvata piscinalis* and *Bithynia tentaculata*,

which require moving water. The flowing water caddis larva *Ithytrichia* sp. is also present. However, by far the most numerous seeds in these two samples are from *Lemna* sp. (duckweed), a plant which carpets the surface of stagnant water. It is likely that although episodes of more active flow probably deposited the sediments, there was little movement to the water in the channel during the summer months. This would suggest that the channel was falling into disuse. Other water plants represented by their seeds are *Alisma* sp. (water plantain) and *Ranunculus S. Batrachium* sp. (water crowfoot). The number of seeds of terrestrial plants increases upwards. They are from waste ground and grassland species such as *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) and *Leontodon* sp. (hawkbit).

Although Sample 7 was also an organic sandy silt that was largely of alluvial origin, the biological remains in it are all from terrestrial species, and some of them probably represent refuse dumped into the channel. These included seeds of arable weeds such as *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle) and *Anthemis cotula* (stinking mayweed).

Sample 6 up to Sample 2 all comprise laminated plant debris with very well preserved plant and insect remains. Straw is probably a major component, but rachis fragments of *Secale cereale* (rye) are the only cereal remains that have so far been identified from them. Other crop remains in these samples include *Vicia faba* (field bean), *Pisum sativum* (pea) and possibly *V. sativa* (fodder vetch). Many of the seeds are from potential arable weeds, some of which, for example *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle) and *Centaurea cyanus* (cornflower), are very closely linked to cultivation for their occurrence in Britain. Some of the plant remains in the samples, however, were derived from different habitats. Leaves of *Buxus sempervirens* (box) were probably hedge clippings and frond fragments of *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken) had perhaps been brought to the town from an area of light acid soil, possibly for use as bedding. Some of the samples, especially Samples 4, 5 and 6 contain large numbers of puparia of *Musca domestica* (house fly) and *Stomoxys calcitrans* (stable fly). *M. domestica* larvae feed on a wide variety of foul decaying organic material. *S. calcitrans* is especially characteristic of foul hay or straw enriched with dung or urine. The adult bites both domestic animals and humans. Other insect remains include a puparium of *Melophagus ovinus* (sheep ked) in Sample 2. This is a wingless fly which is an ectoparasite of sheep. The material of these samples probably represents a major dump or series of dumps of organic refuse. Given the full range of remains identified, the main component was probably stable waste, including foul fodder and straw, rather than the immediate waste of crop processing. There is little evidence of human sewage. No cereal bran was observed although a single *Ficus carica* (fig) pip was found in Sample 2.

Sample 1, from the top of the sequence does not contain identifiable macroscopic biological remains. It represents a dump of gravelly silt.

The first sample from the sequence suggests that the channel was incised into earlier floodplain sediments. The next three samples show sedimentation in the channel as its rate of flow declined, and the beginnings of dumping of organic refuse. Samples 6 to 2 represent large scale dumping of organic refuse in the channel to be followed in the final sample by the dumping of soil to raise the ground level above the water table.

Test Pit 8, Samples 18-25 These samples comprise another sequence through an infilled medieval palaeochannel, with organic silty alluvial deposits at the bottom grading into dumped deposits at the top. The bottom two samples, Samples 25 and 24, comprise calcareous organic silt with aquatic molluscan faunas including the flowing water species *Bithynia tentaculata*. The macroscopic plant remains are mostly seeds from waste ground plants especially *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) but also *Conium maculatum* (hemlock), *Solanum* sp. (bittersweet) and *Rumex* sp. (dock). They probably represented vegetation on the banks of the channel. Samples 23 to 20 are dumps of gravelly silty clay with poorly preserved organic remains. They are mostly seeds of *U. dioica* (stinging nettle) and fragments of *Quercus* sp. (oak). However, preservation is somewhat better in Sample 21, which contains numerous capsules of *Linum usitatissimum* (flax). It is uncertain whether they represent flax retting in the channel or processing debris that was amongst the soil dumped into it. Samples 19 and 18 are inorganic dumped sediments.

Test Pit 1, Sample 30 This sample comprises silty sand with badly preserved organic material that had accumulated around the possibly medieval revetment of the Holy Brook. It contains a few seeds from plants of waste ground such as *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) and *Sambucus nigra* (elder). Of more interest is a single seed of *Cannabis sativa* (hemp) but it is uncertain whether it was derived from fibre production or its use for medicinal purposes.

Test Pit 11, Sample 31 This is a dump of silty clay of possibly 16th-18th century date from the Minster Mill Stream which contains some badly preserved seeds from plants of waste ground, including *Fallopia convolvulus* (black bindweed) and *Picris echioides* (bristly ox-tongue). There are also charred grains of *Triticum* sp. (wheat), *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and *Avena* sp. (oats).

Test Pit 10, Samples 32-34 These samples comprise medieval dumped sandy silt with some gravel. The lowest sample, Sample 34, contains some charred grain of *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and a few badly preserved waterlogged seeds of *Carex* sp. (sedge). Organic remains are absent from the other two samples although there is some *Quercus* sp. (oak) charcoal from Sample 32.

Test Pit 3, Samples 14, 16 and 36a Three samples were floated from the fills of an undated ditch. All yielded significant quantities of *Fagus* sp. (beech) charcoal.

Test Pit 4/5, Sample 11 A sample floated from a 15th-17th century dump in a channel only produced fragments of coke and coal.

Test Pit 9, Sample 27 The occurrence of fragments of coke and coal in a sample from an uncertain feature suggests it to be man-made and of recent origin.

Implications for further work

This evaluation has shown the importance of environmental archaeology in helping understand the site. Apart from Samples 2-6 from Trench 6/7, the types of deposits sampled do not present any major problems of analysis. Well-preserved waterlogged organic remains and

molluscs were only found in the alluvial sediments of the channels. Charred plant remains are present in some of the dumped deposits, but with the exception of the beech charcoal on Samples 14, 16 and 36a, only in moderate quantities. The deposits of Samples 2-6, however, contain vast quantities of well-preserved organic remains. Detailed analysis of them will yield much important information about environment and activities, similar to the evidence which has been obtained from York and London. The scale of the work required could be limited at Reading because the deposits appear to be a major dump of material brought to a channel rather than accumulations which formed around timber structures and in discrete archaeological features.

In addition to the types of deposits already encountered, large scale excavation on the site might reasonably be expected to encounter waterlogged cess pits and wells containing preserved organic remains. The channels also have the potential to yield timber structures with associated organic sediments. Larger assemblages of charred crop processing remains might also reasonably be expected from the site.

4.4 Dendrochronology

Two samples from timber 182 (Trench 8) were assessed by Kathy Groves at the Research School of Archaeology and Archaeological Science, University of Sheffield. Unfortunately, a date could not be obtained, but it was strongly recommended that wood samples be submitted for assessment if further excavation work takes place. The results of such work could be compared with the dendrochronological dating of timbers from the Reading Abbey waterfront, which has also been undertaken at the Research School.

5 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

5.1 The archaeology

The archaeological results of the evaluation are summarised on Figure 2.

5.1.1 The Oracle site

Excavations at the Oracle site revealed truncated chalk natural to the north of the site sloping down to flood-plain gravels to the south. Test pit 9 at the north end of the site showed no surviving archaeology below the floor of the basement fronting Minster St. Levels for the most of the other basement floor slabs were supplied by Pell Frischmann Ltd and are shown on Figure 2. As the levels are the same as the evaluated basement, it is unlikely that any archaeological deposits have been preserved, except for the lower parts of any features cut deeply into the natural chalk.

Test pits 1 and 10 in the centre of the site contained medieval deposits and evidence for at least two well-preserved medieval buildings. These medieval levels extended down to more than 3 m below ground level, to 36.76 m OD in Trench 10 and to at least 36.92 m OD in Trench 1. Management of the Holy Brook in the medieval period, in the form of a wooden revetment in Trench 1, was also demonstrated. The medieval deposits, particularly those observed within the courtyard of the Oracle building in Trench 10 (see Figures 5-7), are of high quality and are very well-preserved. The survival of both floors and walls of medieval buildings, which have not been cut away by later activity, means that a good stratified sequence is available. Pottery from this sequence can be collected from sealed contexts (again, due to the lack of later disturbance) and this will not only provide good dating evidence for the structures and deposits, but will also allow a good form and fabric pottery sequence to be established.

The medieval evidence from the Oracle site thus has the potential to provide a good picture of the use and development of the back yard areas between the properties fronting Minster St, and the Holy Brook. In comparison with well-studied towns such as Oxford or York, we have very little information of this kind for medieval Reading, or indeed for other Berkshire towns, and the potential of the Oracle site should thus be considered as of regional significance. The same applies to the building-up of a pottery sequence, as no such sequence has been published for Reading (see also Section 4.2.1). A sequence from a domestic site would be particularly valuable in that it could be compared with the results of investigations at Reading Abbey and Reading Abbey waterfront.

A further item of interest is the extent to which the banks of the Holy Brook were developed and the brook itself used (e.g. for industrial processes). Given that the brook formed the mill stream for Reading Abbey, there are likely to have been restrictions on its use as it passed through the town, and the archaeological evidence has the potential to show whether such restrictions had any effect.

Overlying the medieval levels was the west range of the 17th-century Oracle building with its courtyard, and the 17th-century brick capping and revetment of the Holy-Brook. These had survived despite extensive development in the 19th century. The top of the Oracle walls

reach to 0.7 m below ground level, at 39.62 m OD, and were discovered in Test pit 1 (Figs 3, 4). The survival of the Oracle structure is of importance in that information relating to 17th-century workhouses is very sparse. In particular, Kathryn Morrison of the Royal Commission has pointed out that no contemporary plan exists which could indicate how they functioned as institutions (letter to T. Tatton-Brown, 2/8/96). The archaeology, tied in with documentary research, is thus the only means of furthering our understanding. The surviving remains of the Oracle can be considered to be of national importance. In local terms, the Oracle retains a strong identity in the town through the displays in Reading Museum, and work on the site has aroused much local interest.

To the south of the site test pit 11 revealed the c 16th- to 17th-century bank of the Minster Mill stream which had been partially removed by 19th-century brick capping and revetment of the water-way. Test pit 11A revealed medieval soils overlying the natural chalk to a depth of 0.8 m. The surface of the chalk was at 35.67 m OD (2.9 m below ground level). There was no sign of the Minster Mill structure in either of these two pits, and it now seems possible that the mill lies further to the east (see Fig.1). Figure 2 shows that the presumed former line of the Minster Mill stream does not coincide well with the modern sewer line as found in Trench 11.

5.1.2 The Yield Hall Car Park and George Lane Hotel

The evaluation of the Yield Hall Car Park, which included the courtyard of the George Hotel, revealed truncated natural chalk to the north of the site sloping down to floodplain gravels overlain by organic silts to the south. Investigations in test pit 3 suggested the presence of a higher area of gravel in the centre of the car park.

In the Yield Hall Car Park water channels that had been infilled by the later medieval period were seen in test pits 6/7 and 8, as well as a 16th to 17th-century infilled water channel in test pit 4/5. Two other elements were clearly present, namely, a period of reclamation in the 14th to 15th century period, and construction of buildings in the 17th century.

The fills of the water channels are of high potential in that they are datable (from the pottery and other finds recovered), and were used for the dumping of organic refuse. Dendrochronology may also be applicable and would be invaluable in providing absolute dates (see Section 4.4). The assessment of the macroscopic plant and invertebrate remains from the channel fills concludes that further analysis of the organic remains, particularly those sampled by Trench 6/7, could provide much important information about the environment, and about activities being carried on in the locality (see Section 4.3). The channel fills are up to 1.4 m deep, and overlie the natural which varies from 35.07 to 35.78 m OD. It is important to note that these deposits also exist further to the west, and were found in ATP 102 (Context 102/5) during the watching brief on the British Telecom Yard (OAU March 1996).

It was also notable that the channel fills produced a number of interesting small finds, probably because of the dumping of domestic refuse in this area. Medieval finds included a gilded lock case, a pair of scissors and a tanged knife.

The site appears to have undergone a 'reclamation' phase in the 13th to 14th centuries

represented by dump layers prior to the laying of a hard surface, possibly a road. This sequence was particularly clear in Test pit 8. Two 17th-century structures were also recorded in test pit 8. The clarity of the Test pit 8 sequence, with many horizontal layers which had not been disturbed by later activity, will again be of use in building up a pottery sequence. Coupled with the waterlogged channel fills, it also means that the development of this part of medieval and post-medieval Reading is quite literally 'writ large' in the archaeological record.

The Yield Hall itself survived just below the car park surface in test pits 3 and 4/5. Low wall stubs were present, together with some floors - details of later construction phases could also be discerned. The potential exists to establish the ground floor plan of the Yield Hall, and the structure also provides a useful fixed chronological point at the top of the archaeological sequence.

Test pit 2 in the George Hotel yard revealed a possibly medieval building/revetment to the north of the Holy Brook which had been superseded by a Victorian brick capping and revetment. No waterlogged deposits were found in this trench. Further evidence could be gained here for the management of the Holy Brook in the medieval period, and it is noticeable that the structure here, of chalk blocks, is very different to the wooden revetment found in Test Pit 1 on the Oracle site. The George Hotel site may also be able to demonstrate the relationship of the brook revetment(s) to structures on the north side of the watercourse.

5.2 Impact and mitigation

5.2.1 Introduction

Information on the proposed development has been taken from the following sources:

Pell Frischmann Drawing 10527/E/P101 - Ground floor plan with piling layout
Pell Frischmann Drawing 10527/E/SI/107 - Comparison of existing and proposed formation levels

The latter drawing forms the background to Figure 2.

The information remains sketchy, and the predicted impacts on archaeology may therefore change as the design of the new development evolves. In general, ground reduction, piling and pile caps are discussed below, but further impacts may also occur from any or all of the following construction elements:

- Machinery operating at the reduced ground level
- Ground beams
- Services
- Stairwells/liftshafts (or other localised deep features)
- Breaking out of obstructions

For some of the areas discussed below, where impact on the archaeological deposits is predicted, there may be some scope for reducing impact through design adjustment. This

represented by dump layers prior to the laying of a hard surface, possibly a road. This sequence was particularly clear in Test pit 8. Two 17th-century structures were also recorded in test pit 8. The clarity of the Test pit 8 sequence, with many horizontal layers which had not been disturbed by later activity, will again be of use in building up a pottery sequence. Coupled with the waterlogged channel fills, it also means that the development of this part of medieval and post-medieval Reading is quite literally 'writ large' in the archaeological record.

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- Machinery operating at the reduced ground level
- Ground beams
- Services
- Stairwells/liftshafts (or other localised deep features)
- Breaking out of obstructions

For some of the areas discussed below, where impact on the archaeological deposits is predicted, there may be some scope for reducing impact through design adjustment. This

could be achieved through the use of this evaluation report by the design team, together with consultation between the design team and the archaeological consultant (and/or contractors).

5.2.2 The Oracle site

The proposed formation levels shown on Figure 1 for the Oracle site mean that the area north of the Holy Brook will be reduced by between 1 and 1.4 m. This general reduction is unlikely to affect the area of existing buildings fronting Minster St, due to the presence of basements. Further to the general reduction, Pell Frischmann have indicated that strip footings onto chalk (at the Minster St end) and mass footings onto gravel (at the Holy Brook end) are being considered (FAX to OAU from J Chantler, 29/8/96).

The predicted impact is that most or all of the archaeological deposits would be removed by construction work. Given the high potential of these deposits (see Section 5.1.1), mitigation by controlled archaeological excavation is likely to be required over the area of the development footprint, with the exception of the basemented strip fronting Minster St. A watching brief for any deep cut archaeological features should suffice for the latter area.

Construction detail was not available for the area occupied by the south range of the 17th-century Oracle structure and the Holy Brook. Any impacts in this area would also need to be mitigated by controlled archaeological excavation.

Further south, in the Minster Mill stream area, reduction in levels of up to 2.5 m is indicated. A pattern of single piles on a 10 m grid will be inserted, presumably with pile caps although these are not specified. Both the reduction and the piles will impact on archaeological deposits.

The archaeological deposits in this area appear to be of lesser potential (see Section 5.1.1) and mitigation could in general be by means of a watching brief. Given the proximity of the possible site of the Minster Mill (see Fig.2), and the difficulty in exactly locating this feature in the modern landscape, a limited area of controlled archaeological excavation in the north-east corner of the area (i.e. east of test pit 11) may be prudent depending on the precise extent of the final predicted impacts.

5.2.3 The Yield Hall site and George Hotel

No information is available on the proposed construction levels for the George Hotel area, but approximately 150 piles are proposed (pattern unknown). As archaeologically important deposits and structures are present, some mitigation by controlled archaeological excavation may be required, depending on the exact extent of the final predicted impact.

In the Yield Hall car park area the various proposed reductions in ground level for the new development will result in complete removal of the 17th-century Yield Hall structure which lies close to the car park surface. The same will apply to the 17th-century structure and deposits which were found in Trench 8. Further impacts into the medieval levels below will result from the reductions, and from piling on a 10 m grid. Lines of single piles are

alternated with three- and four-pile clusters. Pile caps on the clusters will be 1.2 m deep. In general the predicted impacts from these works are such that most of the archaeological deposits would be damaged or destroyed.

Well-preserved and important archaeological deposits exist in the Yield Hall Car Park area (see 5.1.2). Mitigation by controlled archaeological excavation is therefore likely to be required over the area occupied by the Yield Hall, and in the area to the west where a very deep basement is proposed. Excavation in these areas, once below the Yield Hall levels, could take the form of area stripping followed by sampling of key areas. Further work will be required in the area around Trench 8. There is at present no information on whether archaeological deposits survive below the warehouse (see Fig.2) which lies between Trenches 8 and 6/7. If deposits do survive here, the two areas just mentioned may effectively be joined.

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Appendix 1 - Medieval Pottery Spot Dates

CTX	Spot dates	CTX	Spot dates	
180	M11-M13	10	L14-M16	
181	L12-E13	21	L17	
273	17-19	36	17-18	
282	19	38	M-L17	
294	17	46	L14-E15	
311	M13-M14	48	M14-M15	
323	19-20	59	L14-M16	
326	L16-17	60	L14-M16	
327	17-18	83	M16-17/18	
328	M12-M14	100	17-19	
330	M14-16	112	17-18	
333	Med- date?	150	L12-15	
349	M16-M18	43	Med - date?	
350	17-18	44	L14-M16	
376	13-14?	105	17-19+M13 mixed	379 E-M17
108	L14-M16			
380	M17-18	110	M13-M14	
387	L14/L15-16	121	L18-19	
389	L12-M13?	132	L14-M16	
393	L12-E13	136	17-19	
395	M13-M14	150	M13-M14	
396	19	158	Med - date?	
399	M13?	167	18-19	
403	L15-16	168	18	
405	L12-M13	172	M13-M14	
406	M-L12?	173	L12-M13?	
407	M11-L12	179	13? mixed	
408	L14/L15-16	213	M16-M18	
410	16	224	19+L15-16 mixed	
411	MIXED/IA/SAX/MED/PM	225	16-17+M13 mixed	
	latest date = 17/18	226	L16-17	
413	M13?	248	17	
414	L14-E15	260	Med - date?	
421	19	264	16-17	
422	19	282	19-20+L14-M16	
424	L11-13?	294	19-20	
425	L14/L15-E16	299	M12-M14	
		300	16?	

Terminology for Spotdating Medieval Pottery

Type of Finds:	RPOT	Roman Pottery
	SPOT	Saxon Pottery
	LSPOT	Late Saxon Pottery
	MPOT	Medieval Pottery
	PPOT	Post Medieval Pottery

Quantity: S = small = less than 30 sherds
M = Medium = 30 to 100 sherds
L = Large = more than 100 sherds

Earliest Date: Date of earliest pottery present in context.

Latest Date: Date of latest pottery in context.

Suggested date: Spotdating gives the latest date of activity (represented by pottery) in one particular context. As it does not take into account intrusive or residual material the date can be modified in consultation with the site matrix. It is intended as a quick assessment of the pottery present and guide to the amount of disturbance in a context.

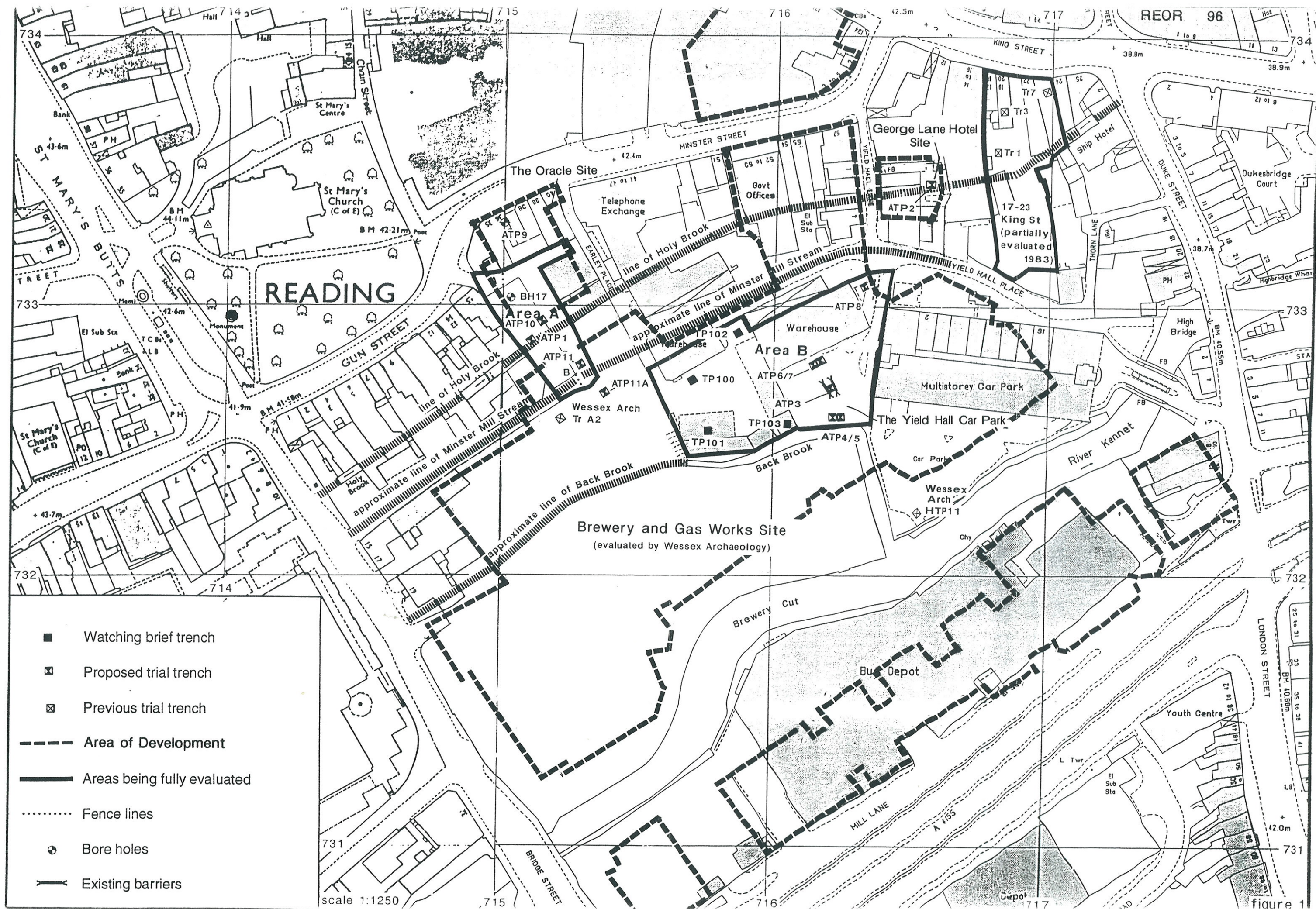
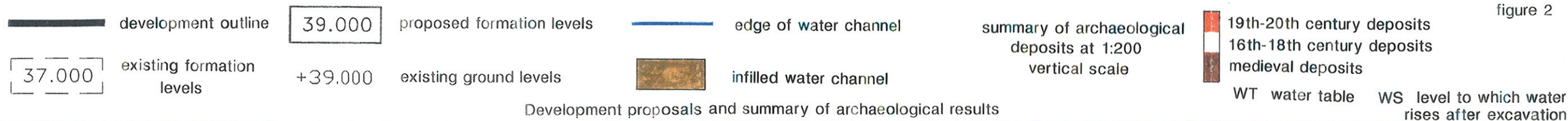
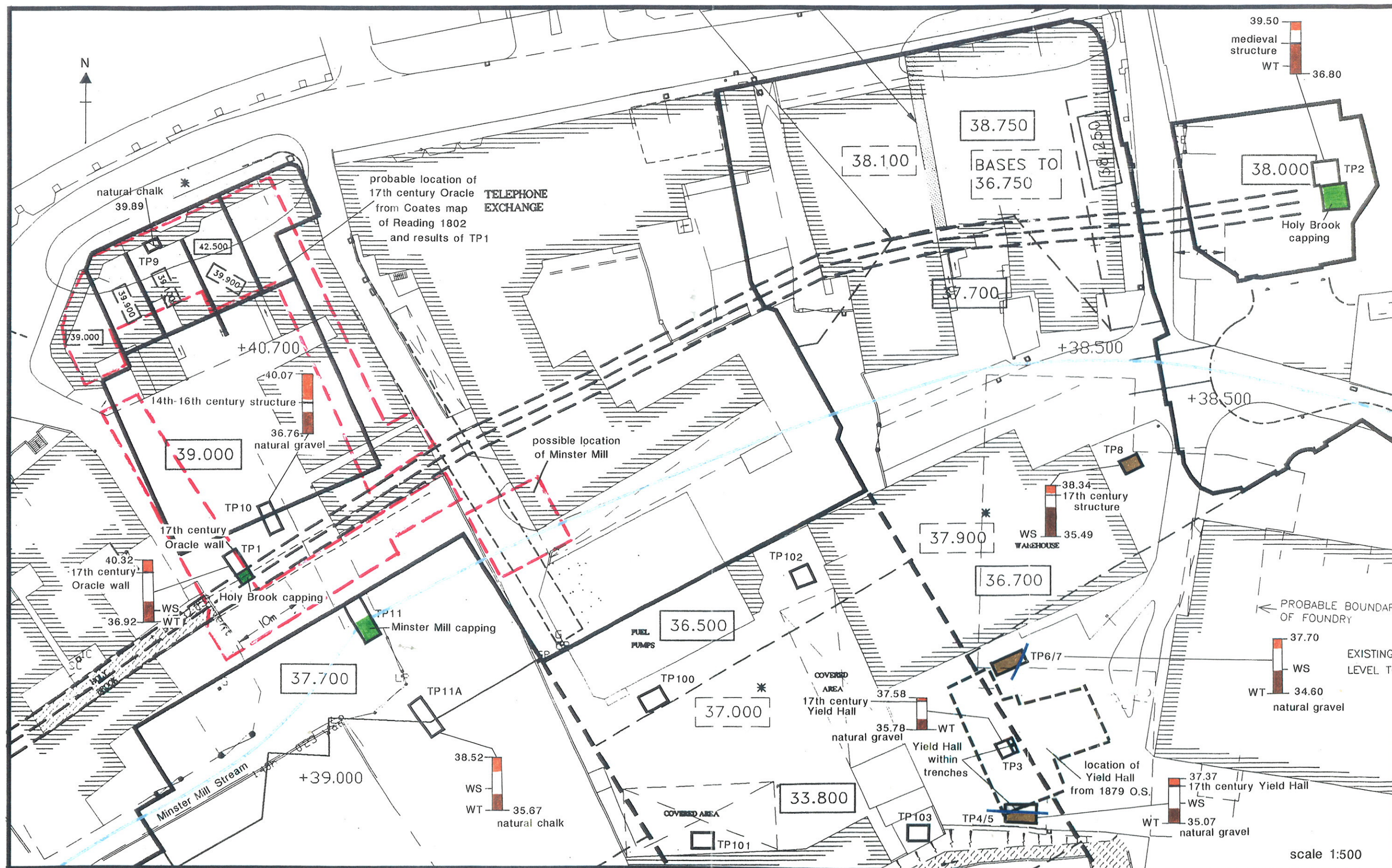
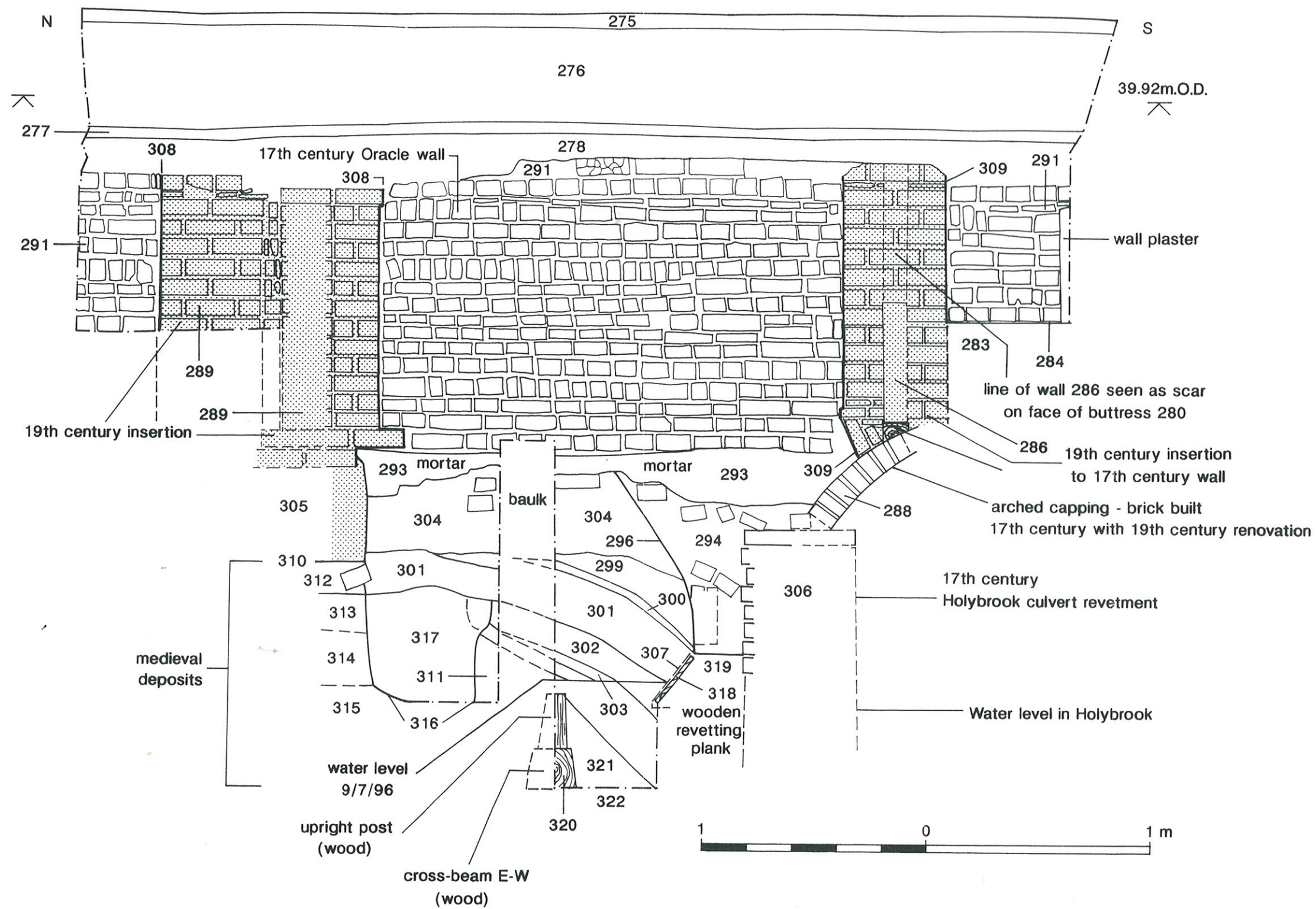
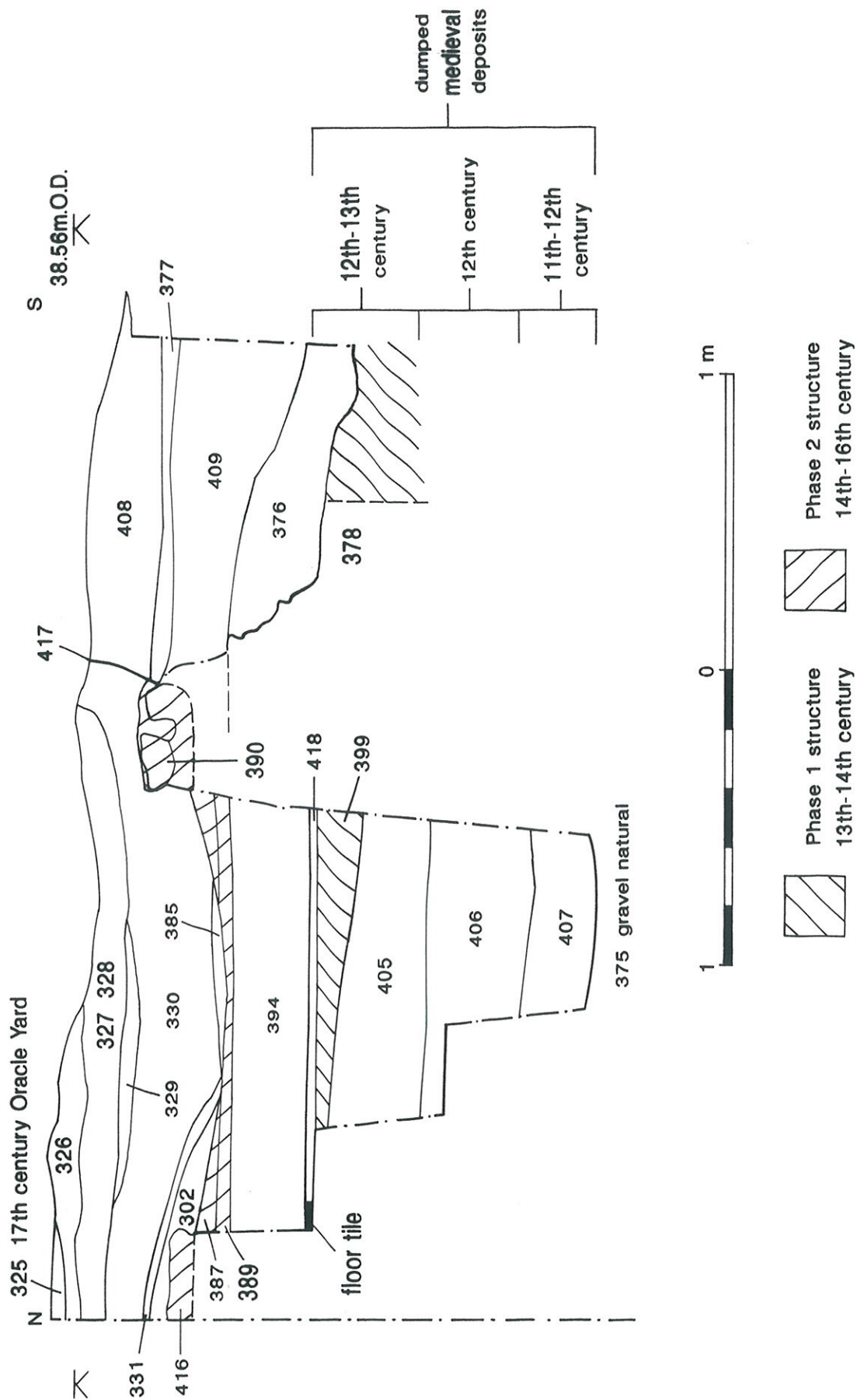


figure 1

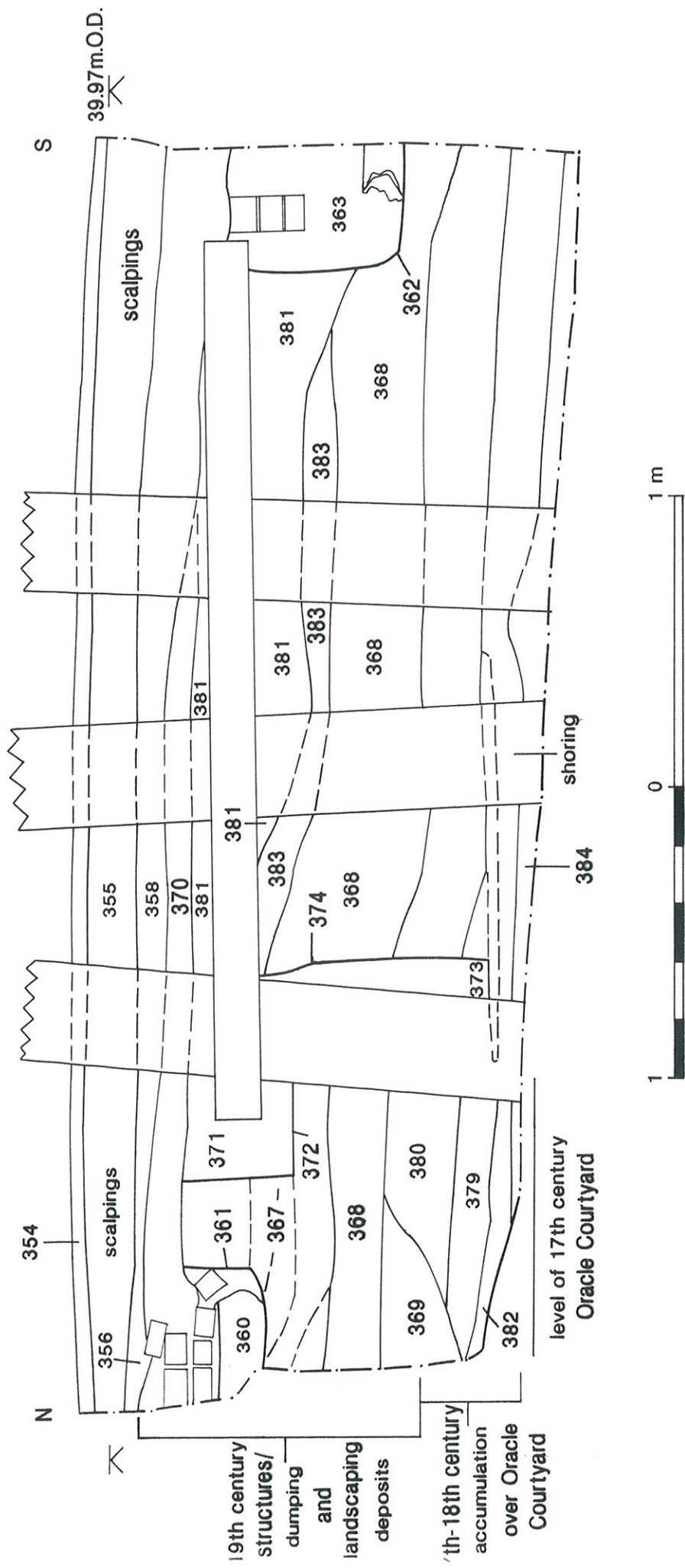




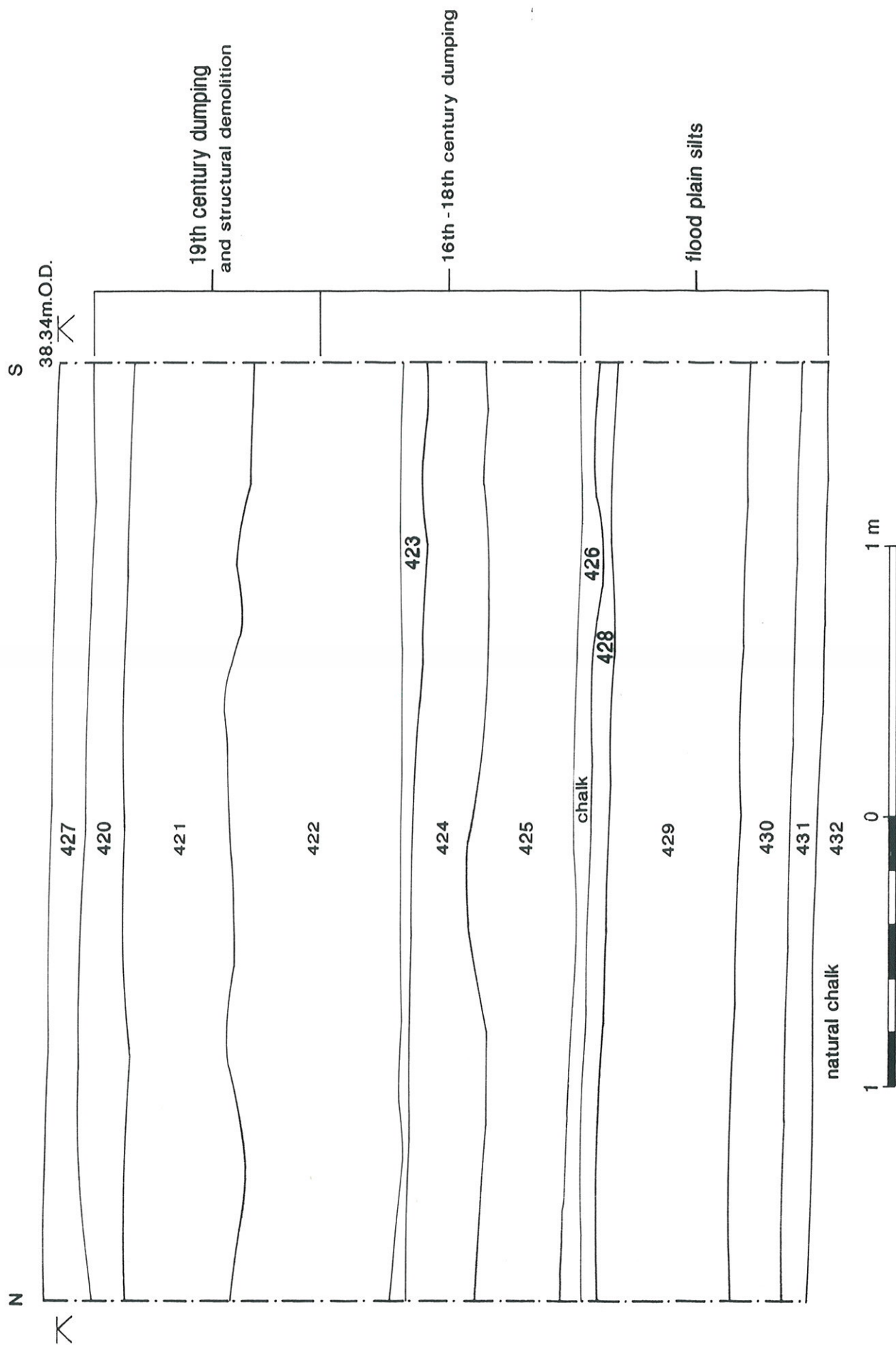
Test pit 1, west facing section



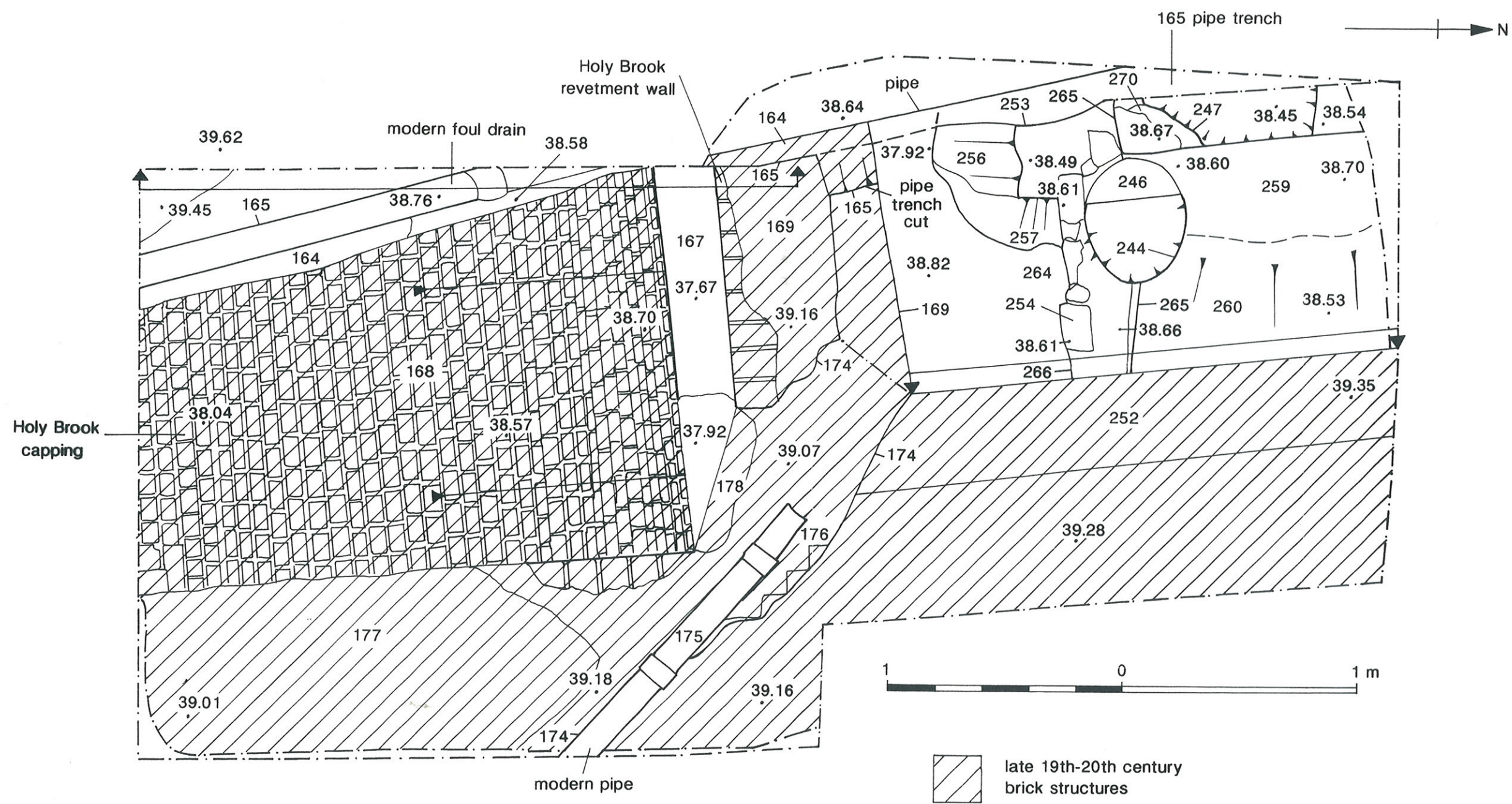
Test pit 10, lower levels, west facing section



Test pit 10, upper levels, west facing section



Test pit 11A, east facing section



Test pit 2, plan

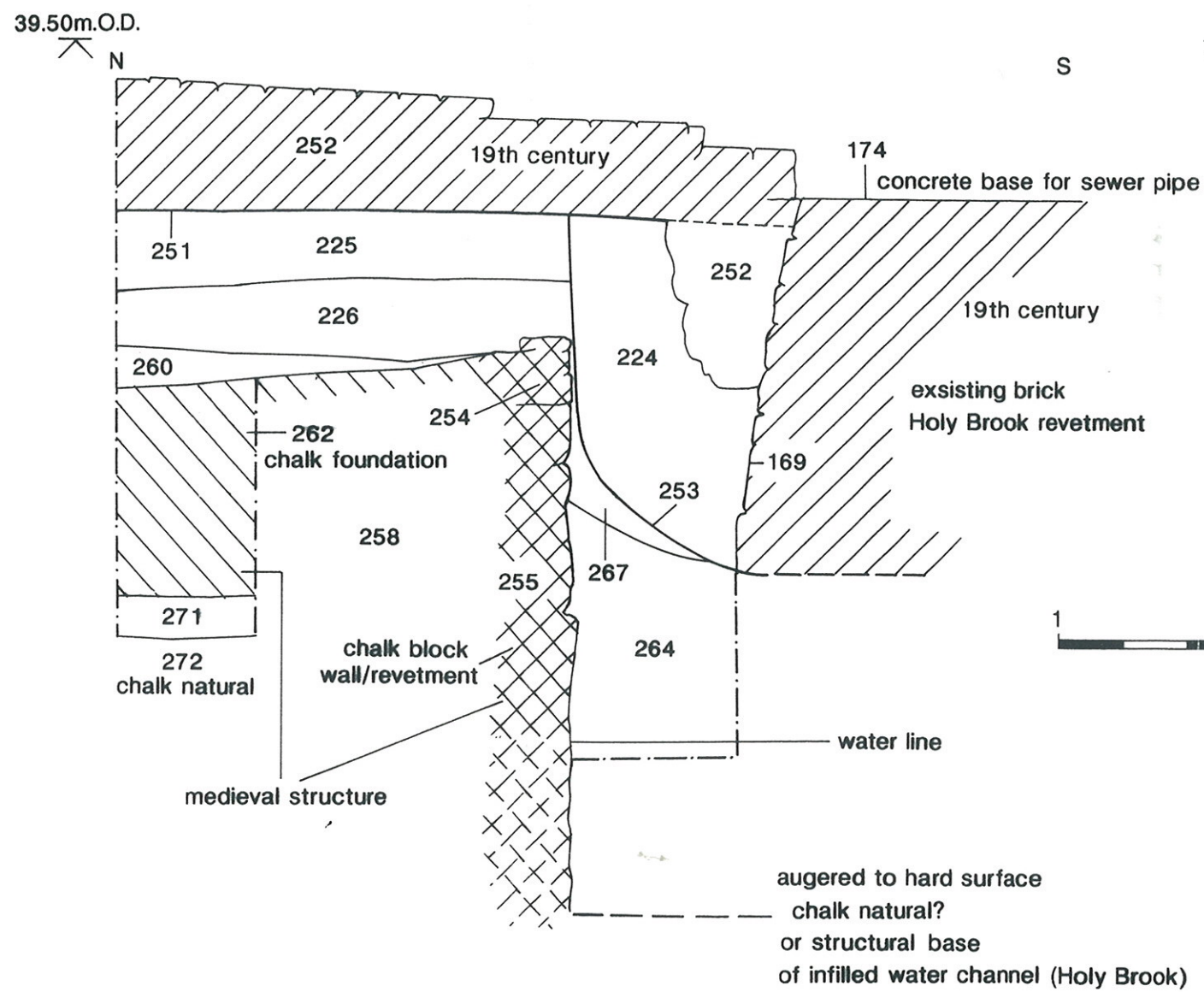
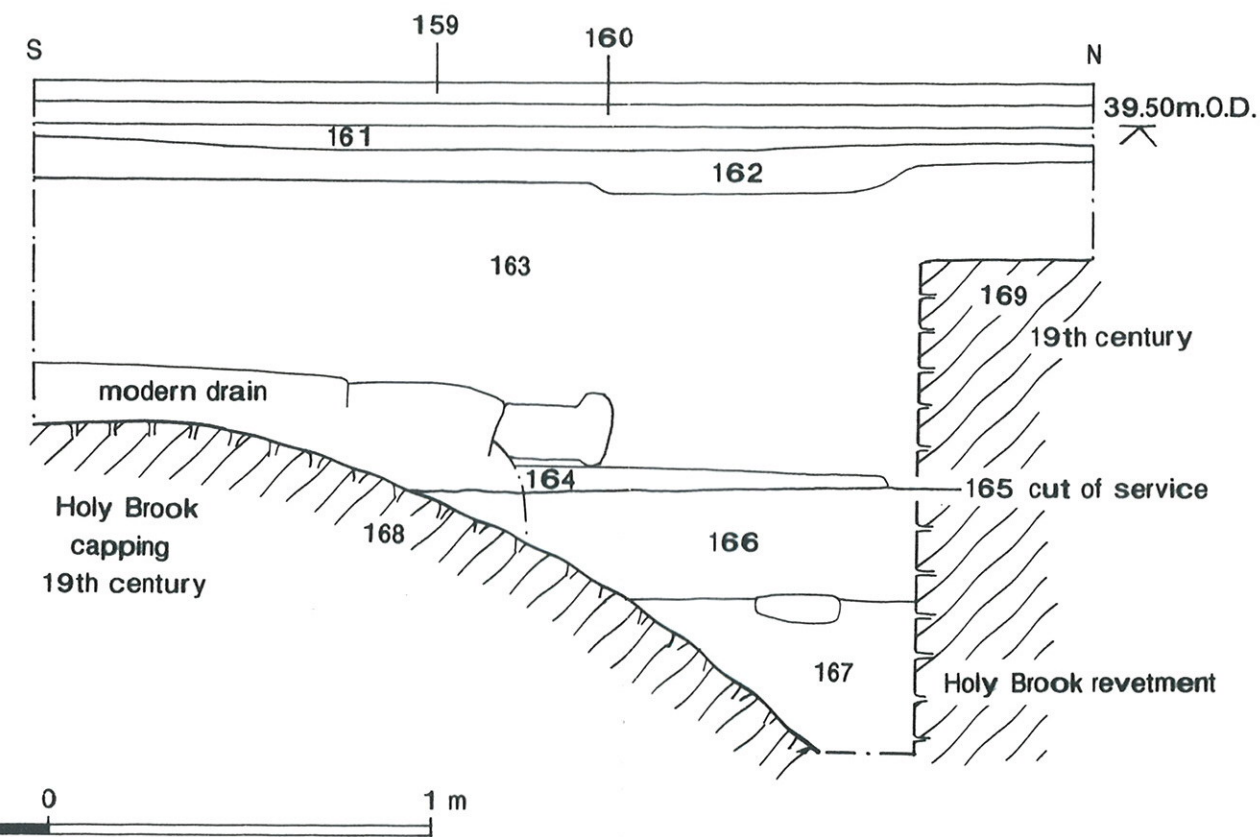
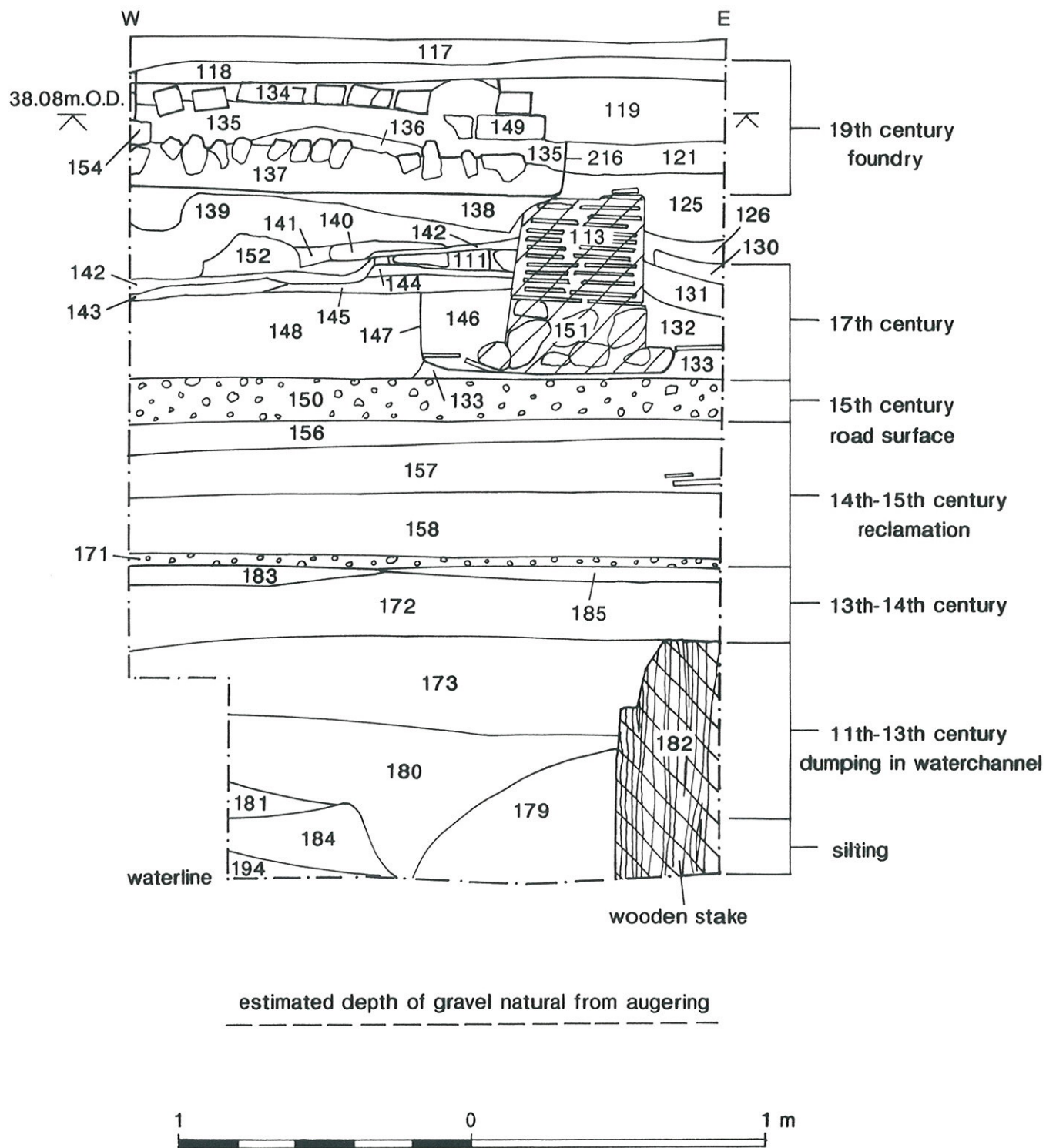


figure 10

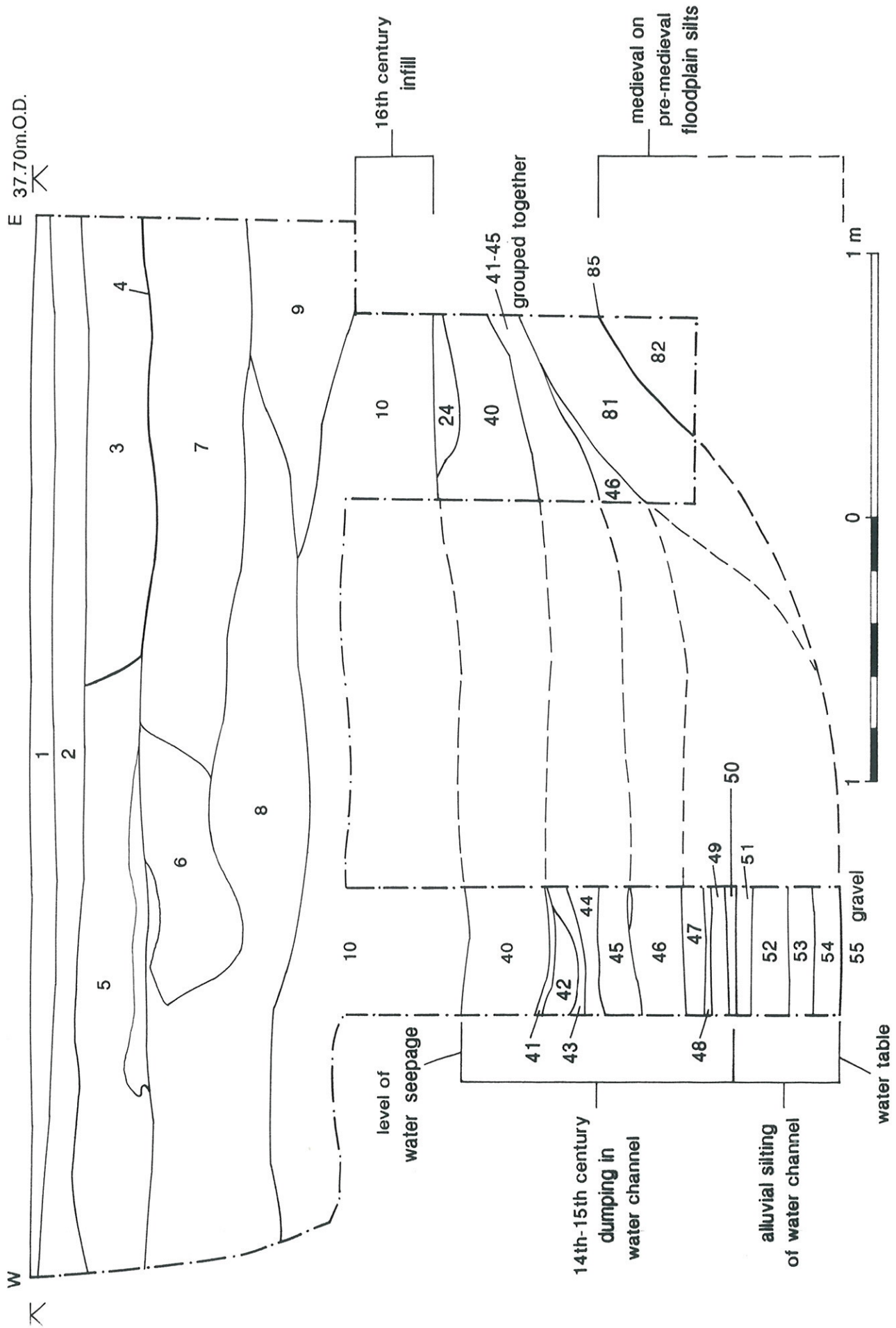


Test pit 2, east facing section

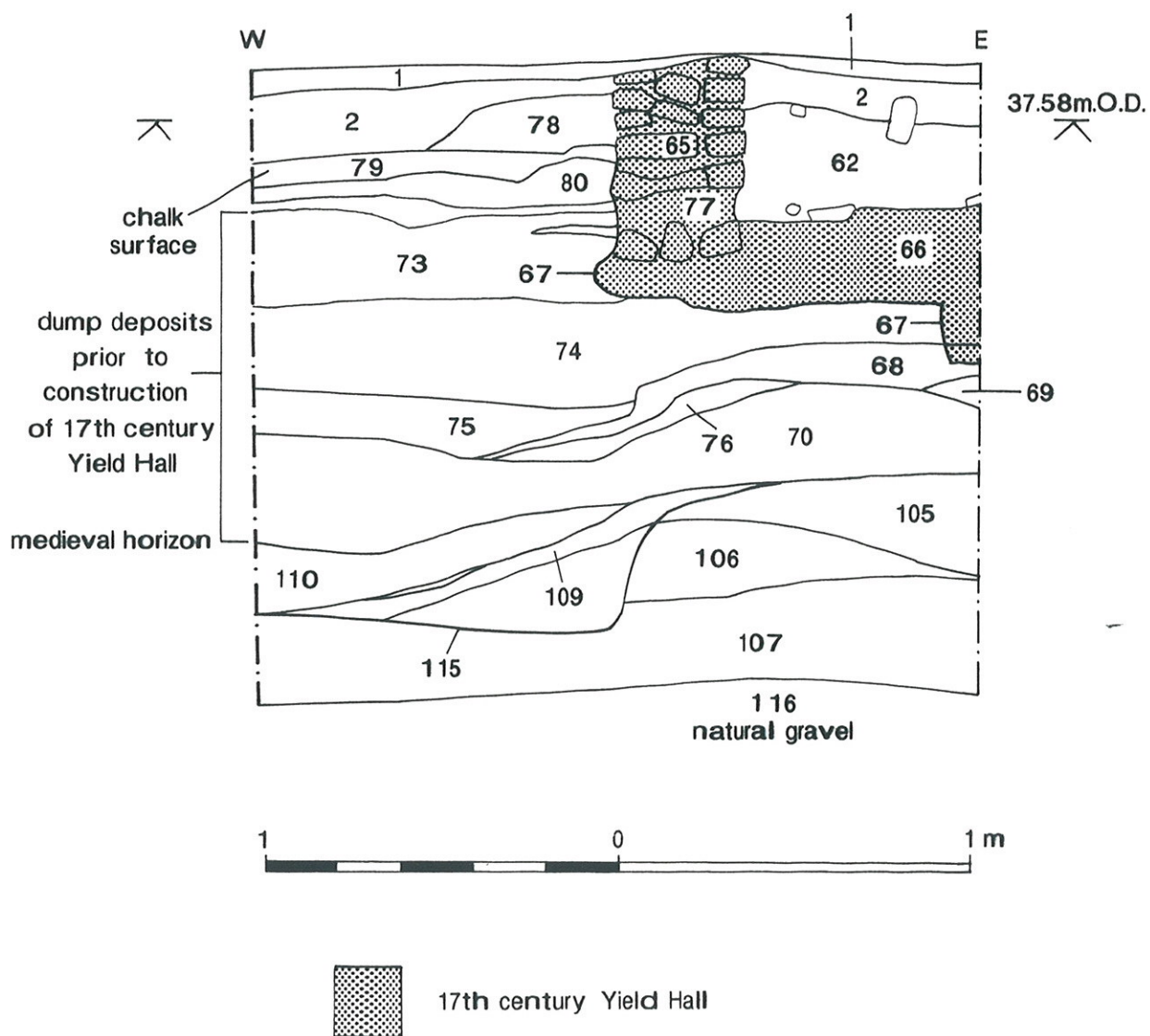
figure 11



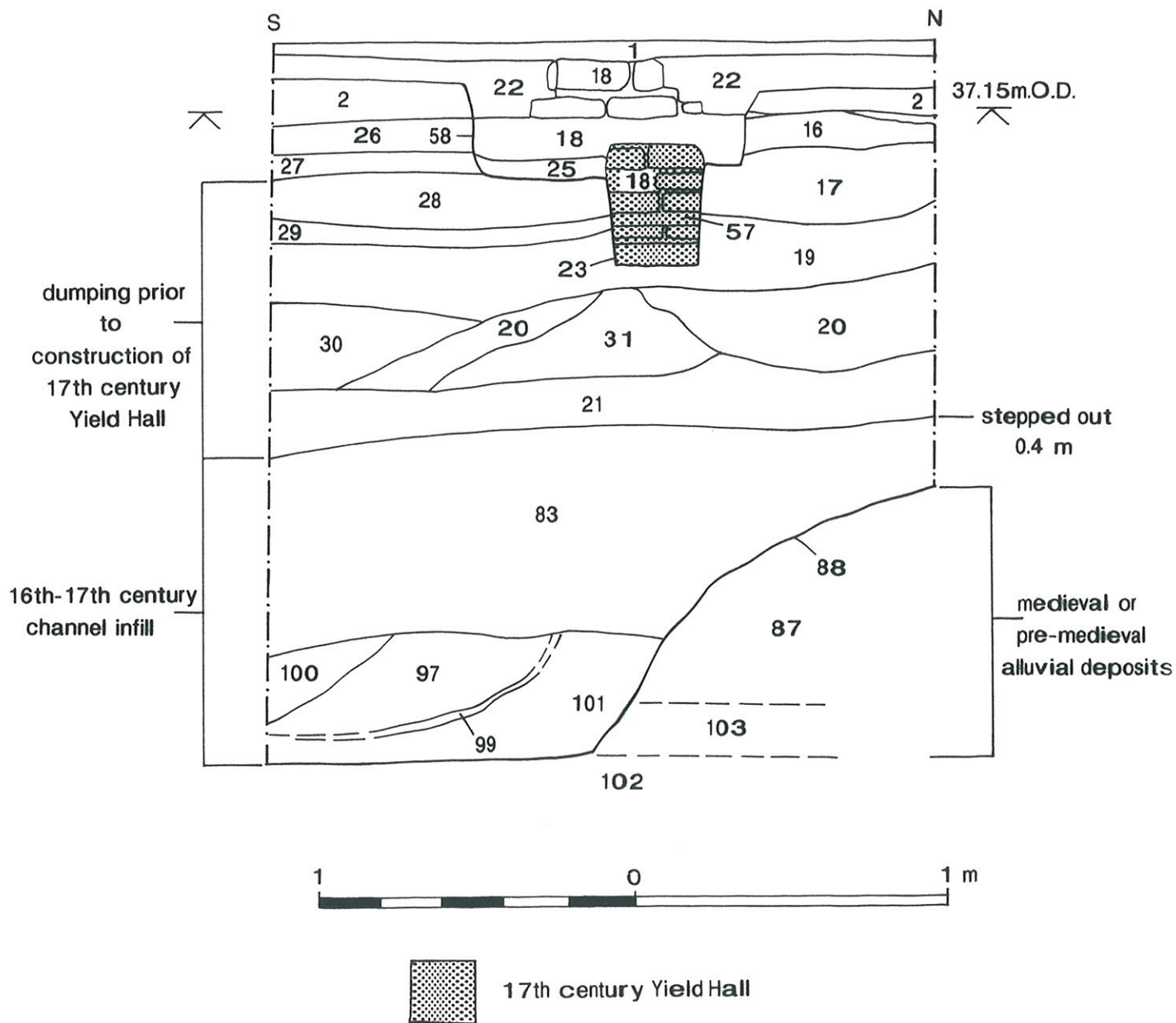
Test pit 8, south facing section



Test pit 6/7, south facing section



Test pit 3, south facing section



Test pit 4/5, east facing section



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