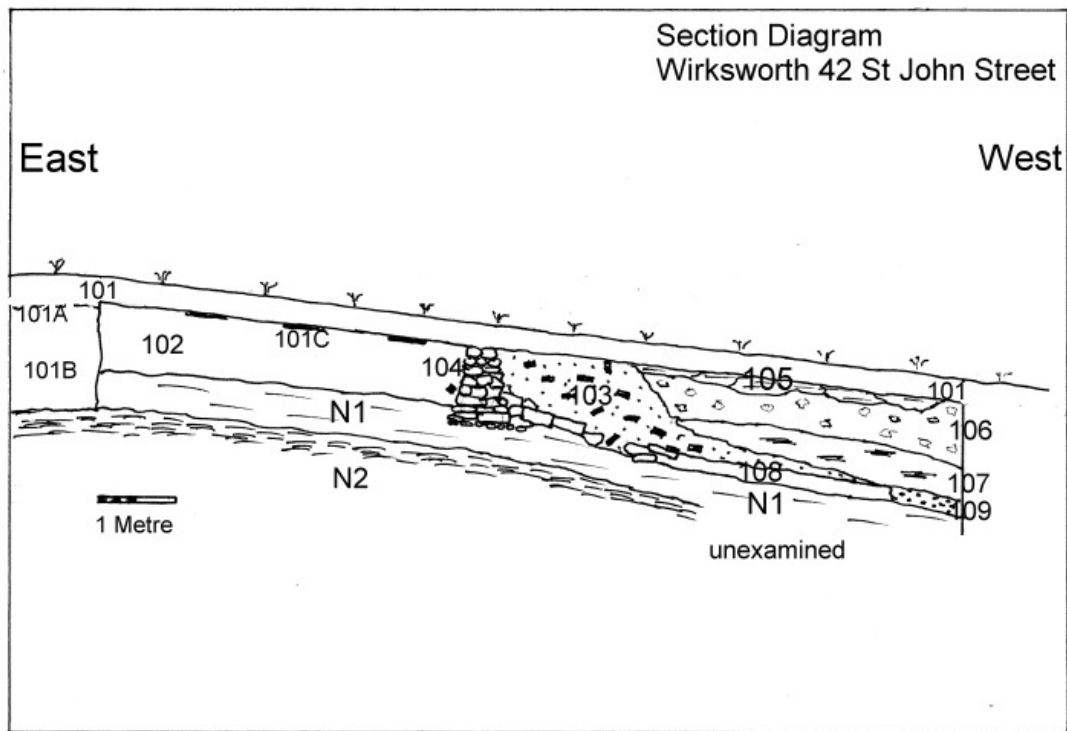


Update April 2014: Section Trench 1

Here is the section diagram of the trench as it currently stands. We have reached the west end of the trench and the natural substrate without finding any further features, although we have again added to our haul of pottery.



The contexts in the trench are composed of these materials:

101 Modern topsoil

101A Thin layer of modern brick rubble

101B Modern loamy soil in cut trench in front of current terrace wall

101C Odd thin patches of broken red tile

102 Heavy fawn clay with no apparent inclusions and no finds of any kind

103 Very large amount of tipped possibly Georgian handmade brick and tile rubble and mortar.

This pile of rubble has a very long tail which thins and spreads down the hill under other contexts such as 107

104 Unmortared dry stone wall butted up to and under context 102, with a continuation of large stones (both gritstone and limestone), some on edge in a strange diagonal pattern across approx 2.9 metres of trench, mostly lying on natural streaky light brown clay substrate N1, which overlays natural shale substrate N2.

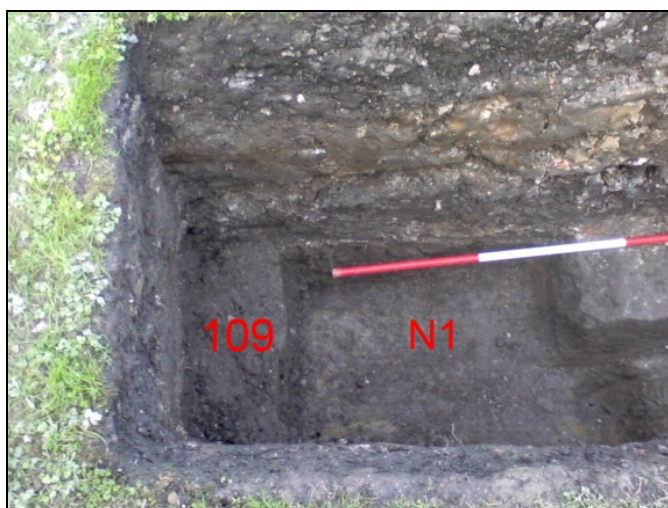
105 Thin layer of redeposited fawn clay

106 Layer of heavy, lumpy black clay with Victorian pottery shards

107 Grey clay with grey shale patches

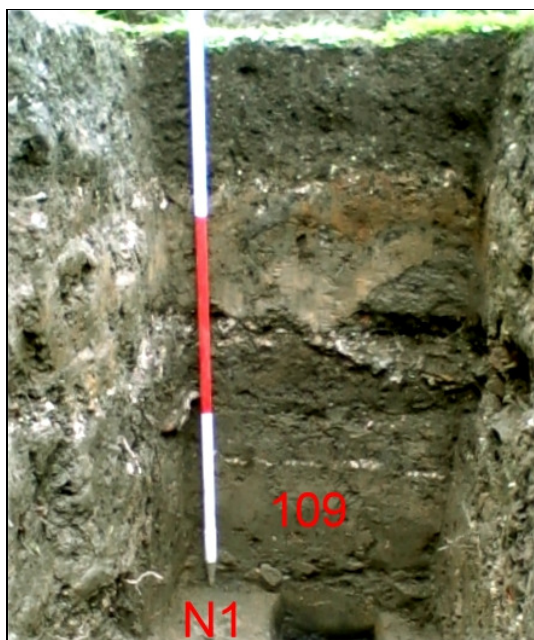
108 Layer of streaky light brown clay similar and slightly diffuse with N1 but containing mediaeval shards.

109 Layer of dark grey clay with roots and a considerable amount of big pebble apparently butted up to 108 and containing mediaeval shards



Section Trench West End bottom view with a step of 109 left intact

As we have now reached the end of the section trench, in order to save work and make an attempt see if a ditch is present or not, we intend to deepen Test Pit 4 which lies between the west end of the section trench and the boundary wall of the garden. We know at what gradient the natural substrate runs down the hill (8% - that is 1 in 12 ½) and therefore this natural substrate should (all other things being equal) run through Test Pit 4 at about 1.8 m depth.



Section Trench West: End View with 109 taken out

We have now exhausted the section trench in terms of the information it can give us. We have mediaeval pottery out of contexts 108 and 109, this now brings us up to the shards of 12 different vessels, out of approx 3 sq metres of trench. This mix of vessels is interesting, almost entirely in the date range 1100 -1350 and would perhaps suggest that this location enjoyed a high level of occupation or economic activity at that time. This contrasts with an absence of materials between 1350 and say 1600, when we start to find slipwares in the upper contexts.

In due course of the work we reached the desired depth of Test Pit 4. You will gather the natural substrate should pass through Test Pit 4 at about 1.8 metres down. At the moment we have got a grey clay layer above this point. In the section trench there is a mediaeval context (context 109) on

top of the natural substrate, this contains a lot of pottery. We have not found this in the same way in Test Pit 4, there is indeed a dark grey clay layer containing charcoal and occasional bits of brick and other odd pieces (but no mediaeval pottery so far and much less pebble) this overlays a layer of red sand mixed in patches with soil from which we have shards of a curious thin walled ware, which itself seems to overlay the natural.

In the last metre of the Test Pit there is a layer of almost black gritty material at 1.4 metre depth 5 metres from the boundary wall which shows a change in the gradient, from 8% to 17%, that is 1 in 6. We now need to know if this change is an oddity of tipping or of the deposition of materials in the garden or whether it represents something more general and interesting to us.