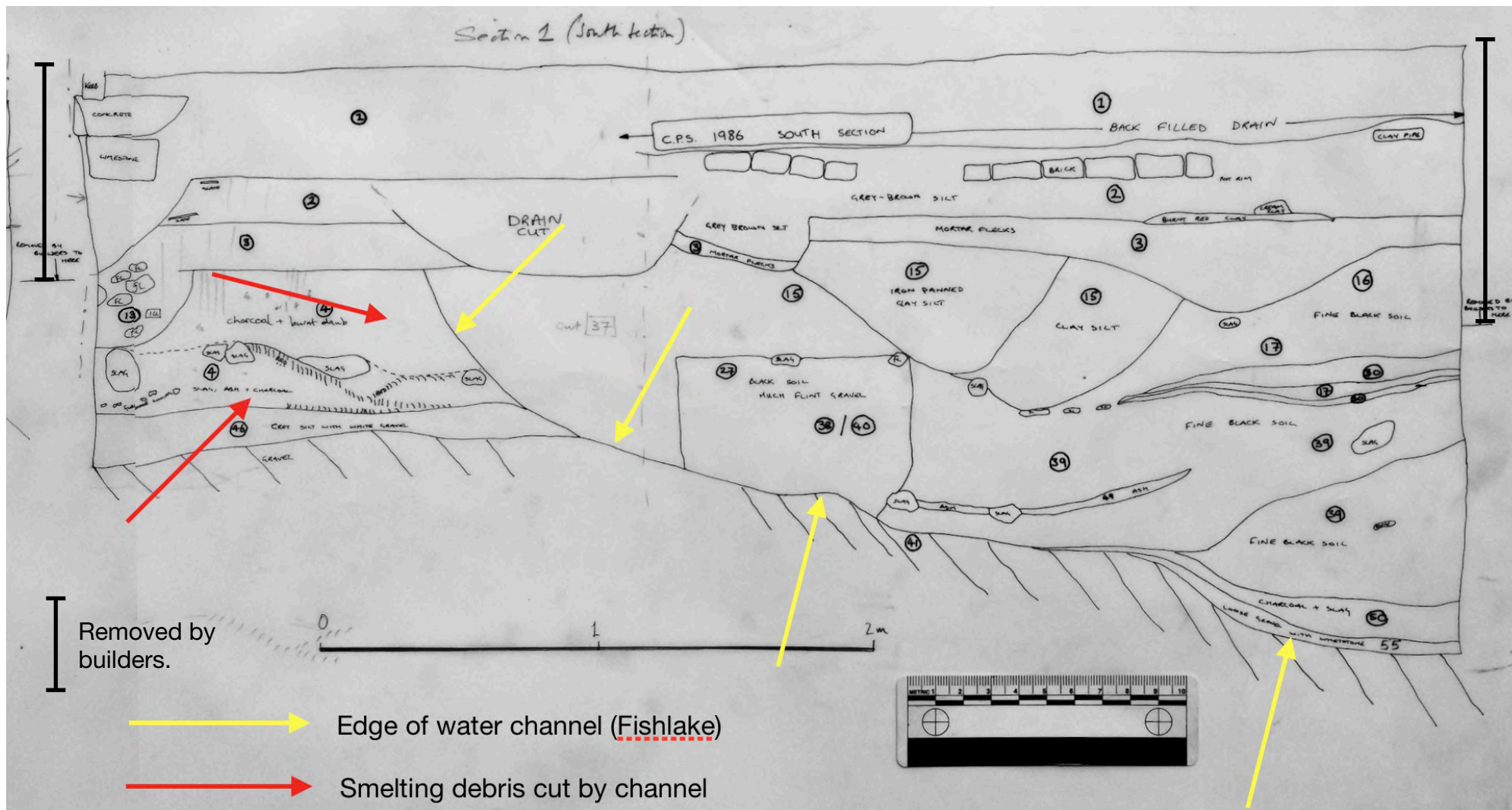


The 1986 excavation (A1986.12) behind Creatures Pet Shop, 4, Market Place, identified an infilled water channel, the eastern half of which lay within the trench. It continues the line of the Fishlake where it is visible at the north end of Church Street. This probably represents the original course of the Fishlake before it was diverted to run west along Abbey Water. The channel cut through an earlier deposit of iron smelting debris. The pottery within the fill of the channel is Saxo-Norman.

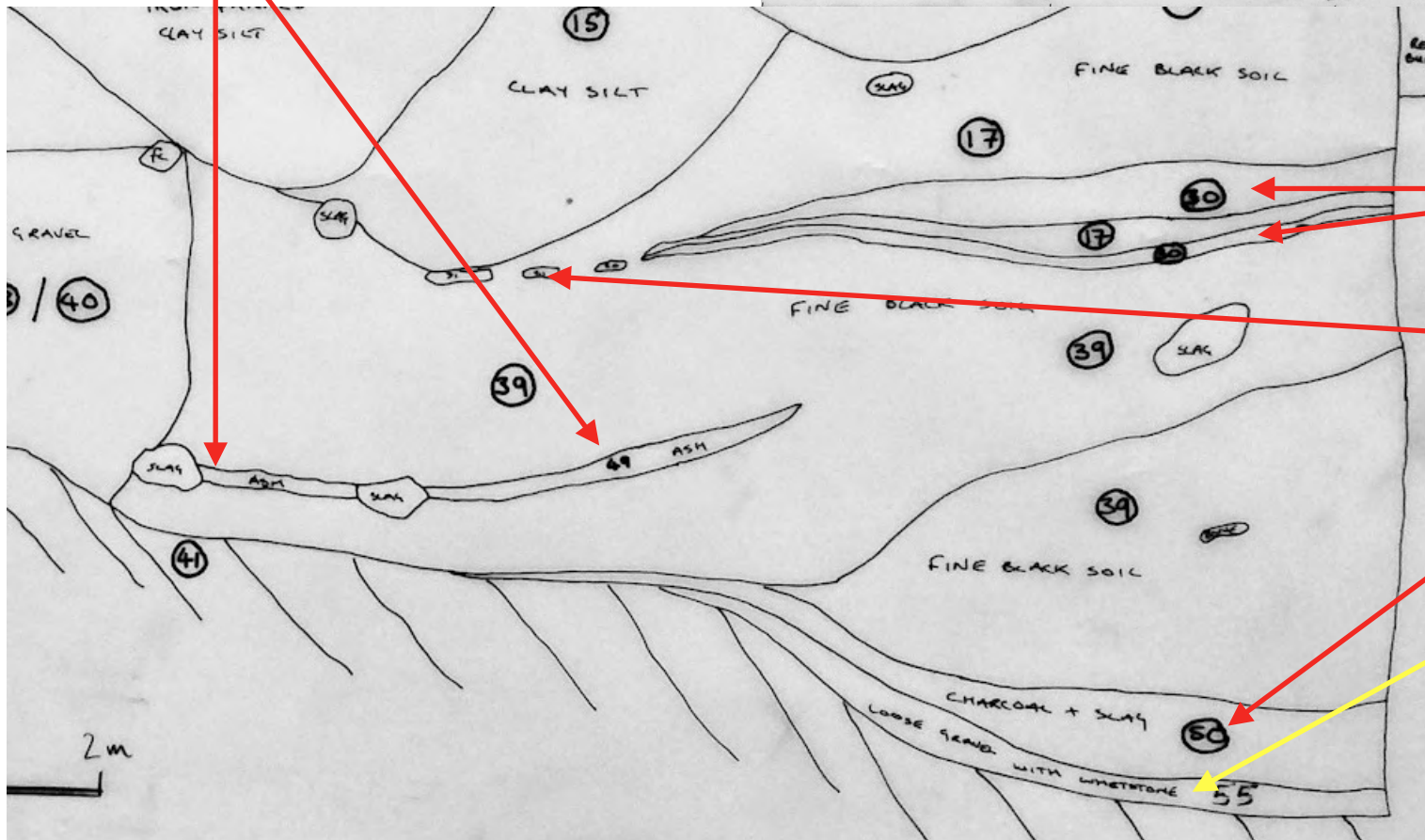
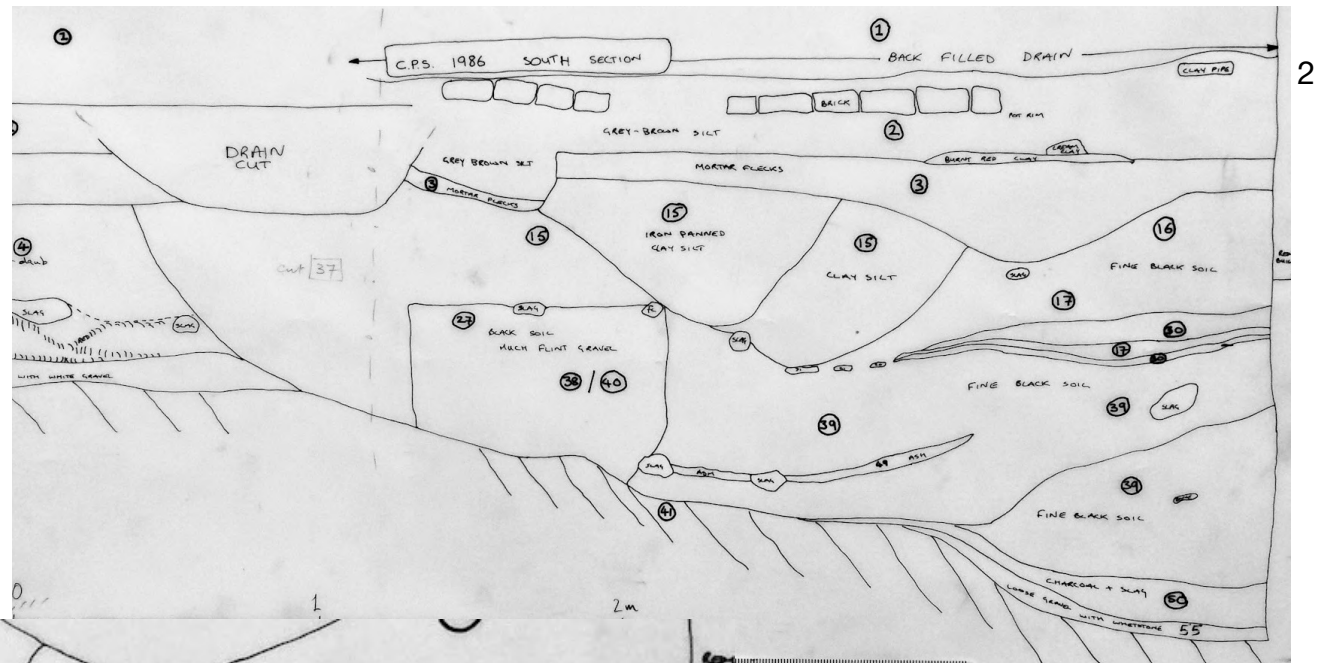


Creatures Pet Shop, south section

Smelting debris in channel fill

The lenses of iron smelting debris were created by the repeated disposal of small quantities of material into the disused channel. It is clear evidence that smelting was being carried out nearby in the late Anglo-Saxon period.

49: Lens of ash, slag and unsmelted iron ore.



30: Two lenses containing slag. Described as possible tips of furnace material.

31: Continuation of line of 30. Roasted iron ore and slag.

50: Slag and charcoal.

55: Loose gravel. Water laid deposits in bottom of channel. Finds - bone and whetstone

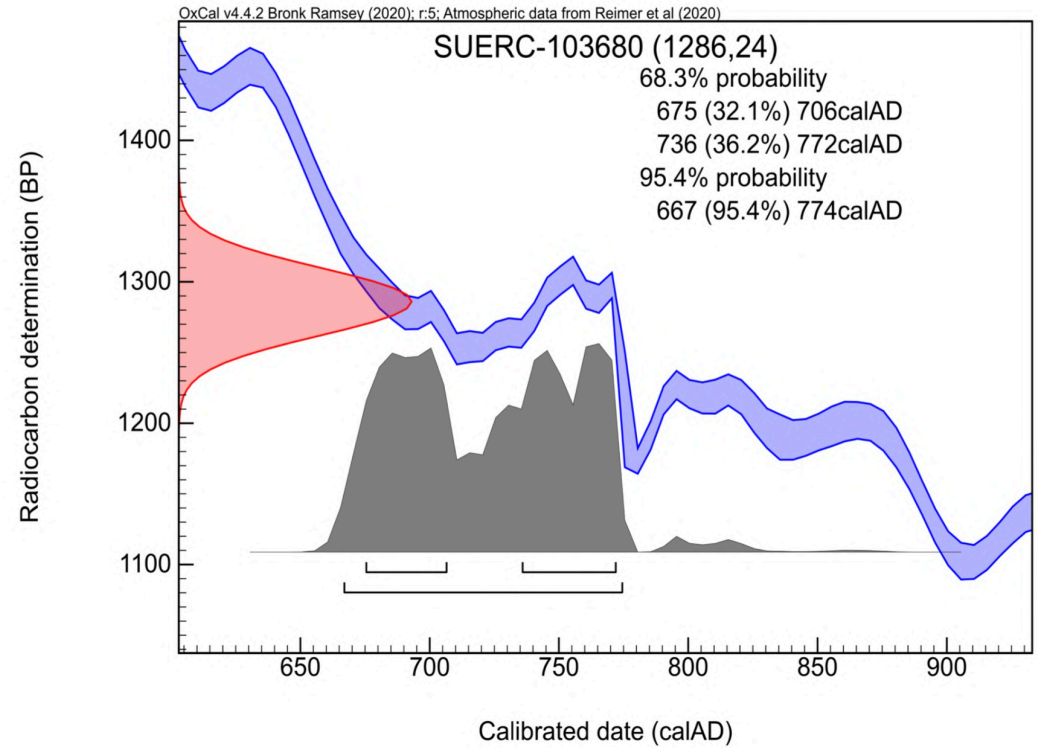


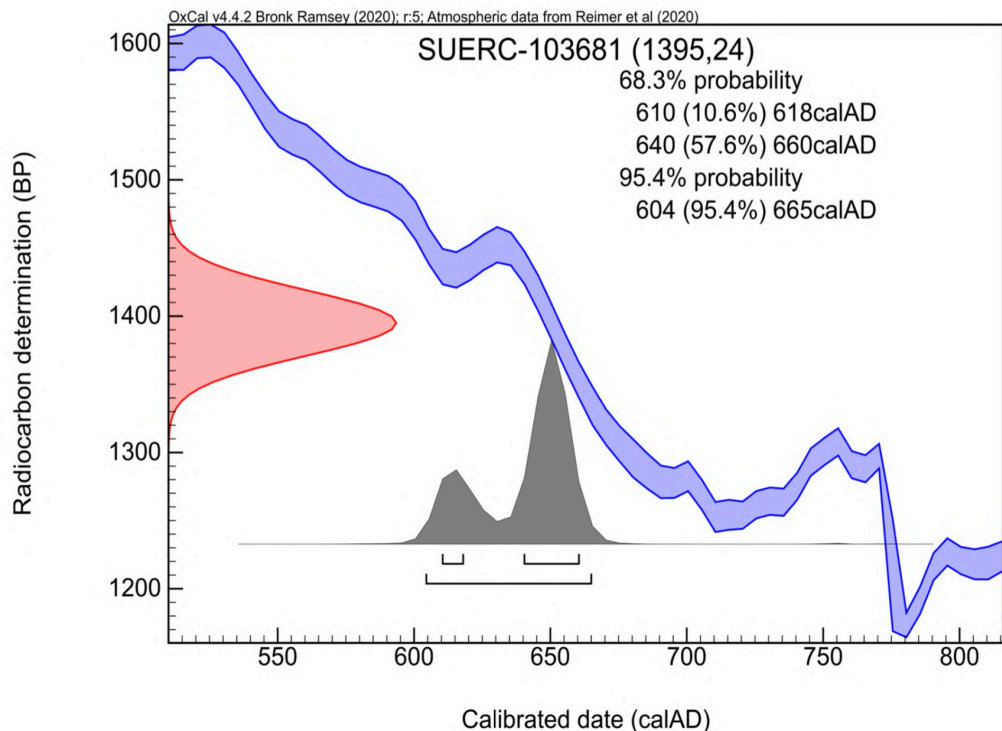
Context 4 was a deep deposit of smelting debris which was cut by a feature described by the excavators as a probable water channel. The context contained ash, charcoal, burnt daub and blocks of iron slag.

Context 4

Wood charcoal: *Corylus* sp. (hazel) branchwood.

The charcoal sample was detached from a block of slag.

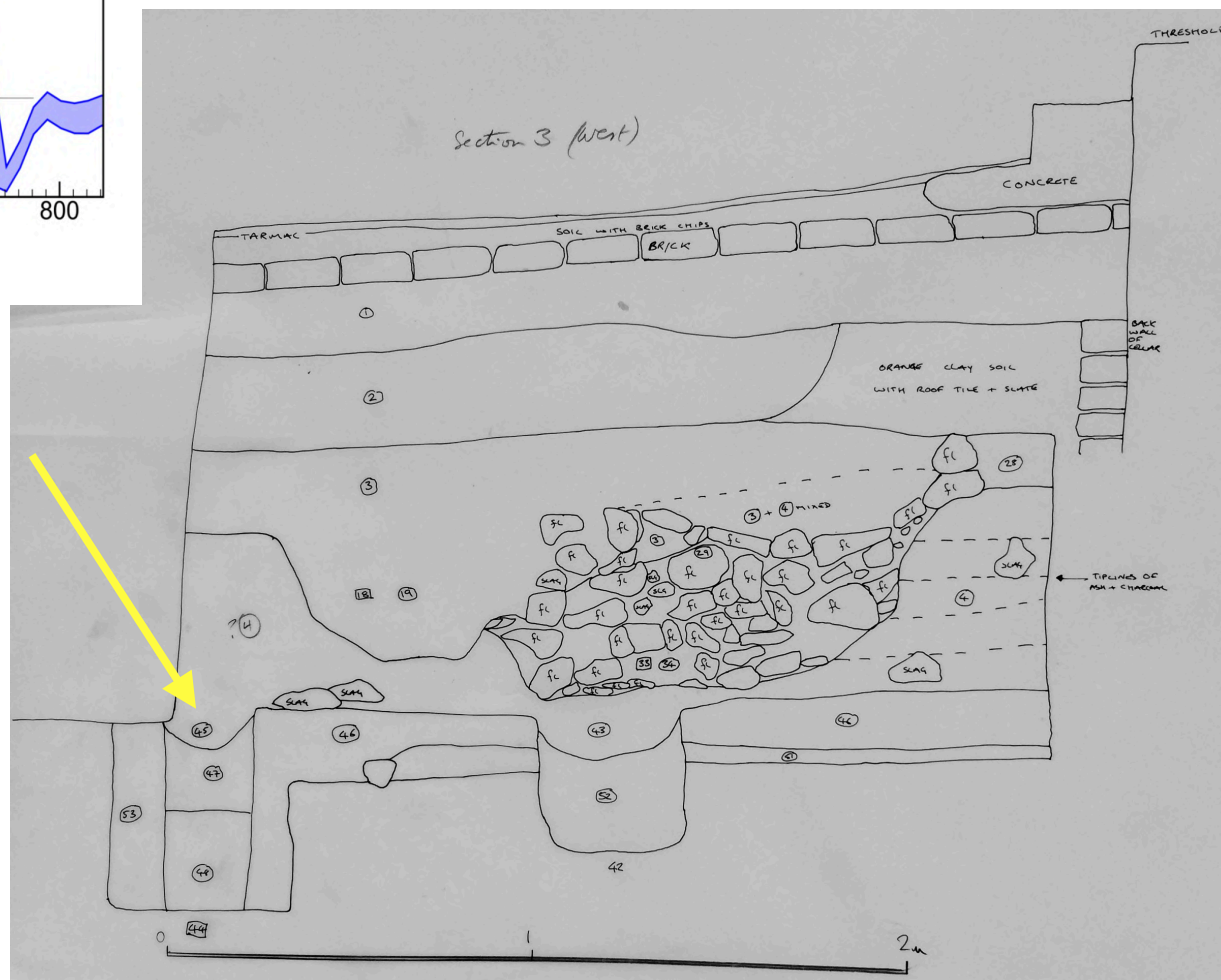


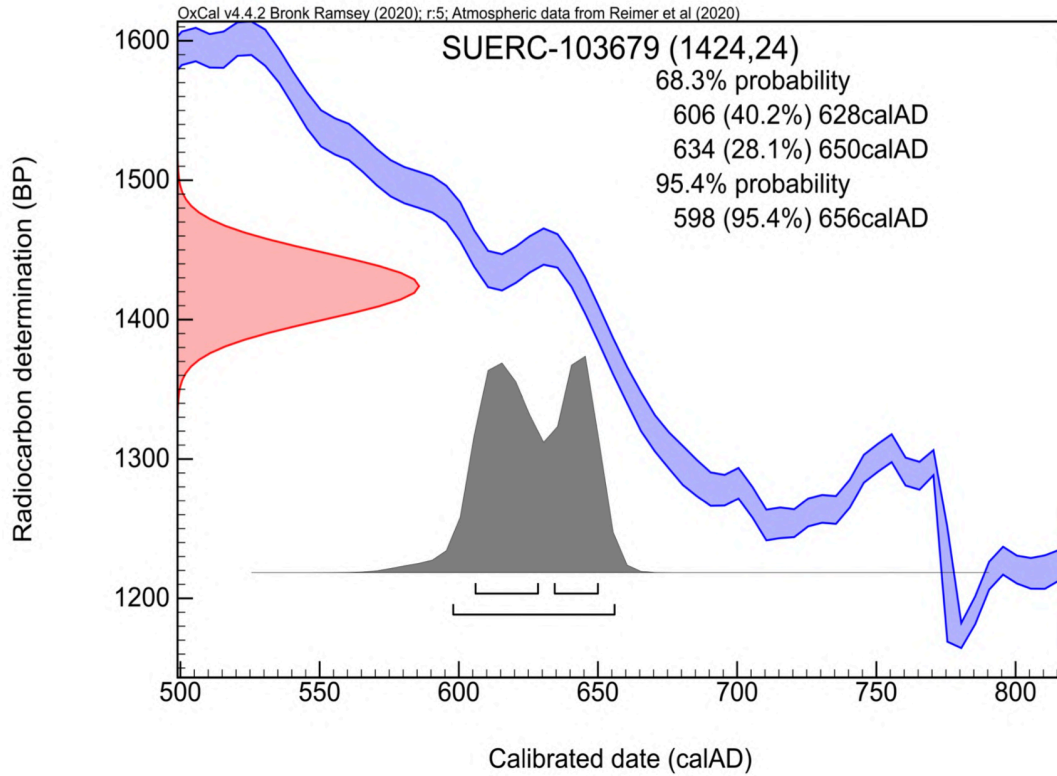


Context 45

Wood charcoal : *Corylus* sp. (hazel) branchwood. Circa 11 years growth.

Context 45 is at the base of Context 4, filling the hollow at the top of a posthole. As would be expected, the sample date is earlier than the date for the charcoal from the slag block found in Context 4.

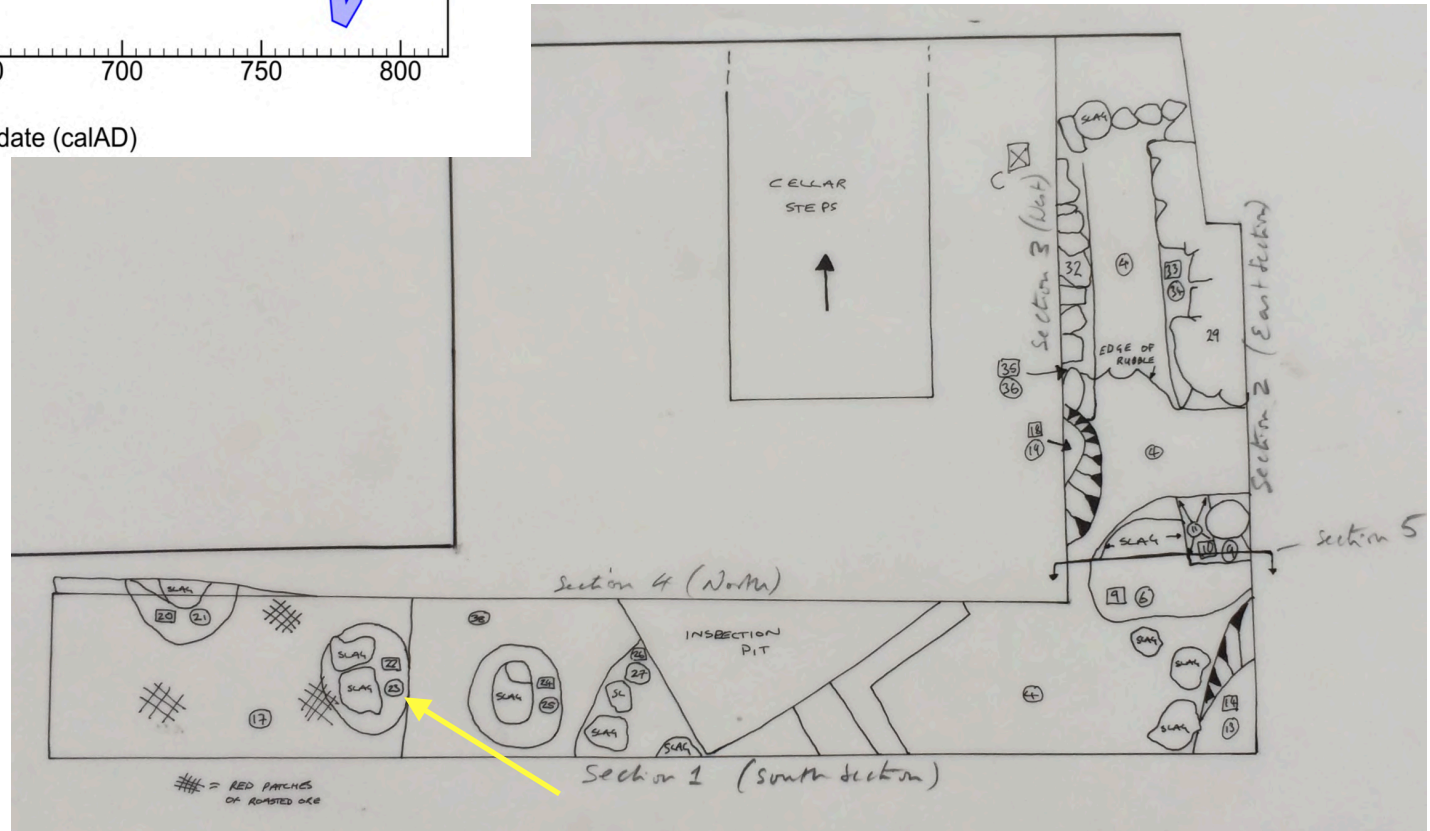


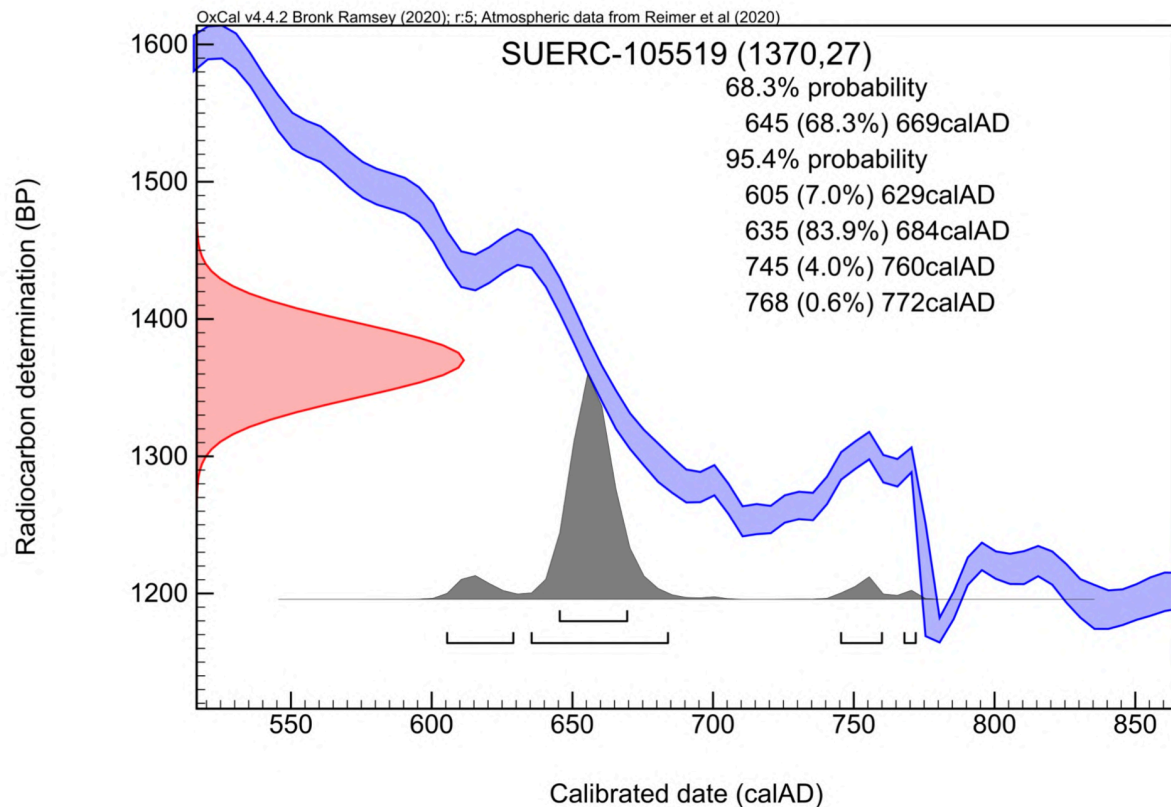


Context 23

Wood charcoal : *Pomoidea* (hawthorn, crab apple, *Sorbus*, etc.). Small diameter roundwood with bark intact. Circa 5 years growth.

Context 23 is the fill of a posthole within the fill of the channel. The plan was drawn after the upper deposits in the trench had been removed by builders, at the top of the excavated deposits (see south section). The feature was planned at the level of Context 17. This sample is stratigraphically from the latest dated context. The charcoal had probably been attached to a slag block used as post packing.





Context 55

Animal Bone: cattle – tibia, distal end



Context 55 is at the bottom of the channel and was described as loose gravel. The channel cut through Context 4, the deposit containing ash, charcoal and slag. Ben Jervis identified the pottery from the channel as Saxo-Norman.

The early date for the bone indicates that it was residual, derived from earlier deposits. The whetstone found in this context might provide a more reliable date.

