

**Master Thesis HS21
Oleksandra Lebid**

Down to Earth
Tracing change

**Studio Anne Holtrop/ Chair of Building Technology and Construction
Assistants: Cecilia Marzullo, Yufei He**

Down to Earth. Tracing change

Geological time

The landscape around the Aletsch Glacier is shaped by the process of erosion. It records time and the traces of change as well as the movement of material and the change in its composition, from granite rock to rubble, sand and silt. It forms furrow moraines that mark the last glacial maximum and contributes to the radically rapid siltation of the Gibidum reservoir, which has to be emptied every two years.

Cultural layers

The alluvial soil in Naters consists of layers of such sediments, which not only document the retreat and advance of the glacier, but also cover archaeological layers. The floods caused by the Kelchbach and Rhone have sealed several layers of settlements that existed here between the Mesolithic and the present day. The archaeological site, discovered in 2004 during the construction of the retirement home, revealed 64 structures - including pits, marks and postholes, stone tools made of flint and rock crystal, and pottery. In 2019 during the next expansion of the further archaeological excavations postponed the construction. The archaeological site of 2500m² is currently the most significant for this period in Switzerland.

Age and timetables

The steadily ageing population and higher life expectancy have completely changed our image of old people's homes over the last 50 years. In Naters, a large retirement home was first built in the 1970s and has since grown to 3 buildings and extensive infrastructure. The extension, which was planned to start for 2017 and was postponed due to the archaeological excavations, will create a centre "Rund ums Alter". It combines flats for younger elderly people, a kindergarten and a public cafeteria. It will also connect the three

existing houses with an underground walkway that will simplify the logistics of catering, and an underground car park that will allow the entire neighbourhood to be maintained as a park walk.

Down to earth

The project refers to different moments in time and connects the phase of the archaeological site with the new building and its functions.

Temporary archaeological office - boccia court

During the second phase of the excavation work, which lasted 10 months, a temporary pavilion was erected to house processes such as sorting finds, washing them and recording data. After the pavilion was removed, all that was left was the soil that had come loose from the finds and formed the walls. The flat area left by the construction provided space for a boccia court.

New roof for the exhibition space

During the excavation period, weekly guided tours of the site are offered to visitors. After the excavation work was completed, a permanent roof was added to the underground exhibition room and it became part of the underground connection between the buildings of the senior centre.

Findings storage - Fragment in the garden

The third phase of the excavation work was carried out next to the construction site of the new building. Massive shelves were erected for the storage of the finds and excavated earth. The structure persisted with the new building as a fragment in the garden, a ruin, reminding of the several years of the excavation works and settlements, which existed here before.

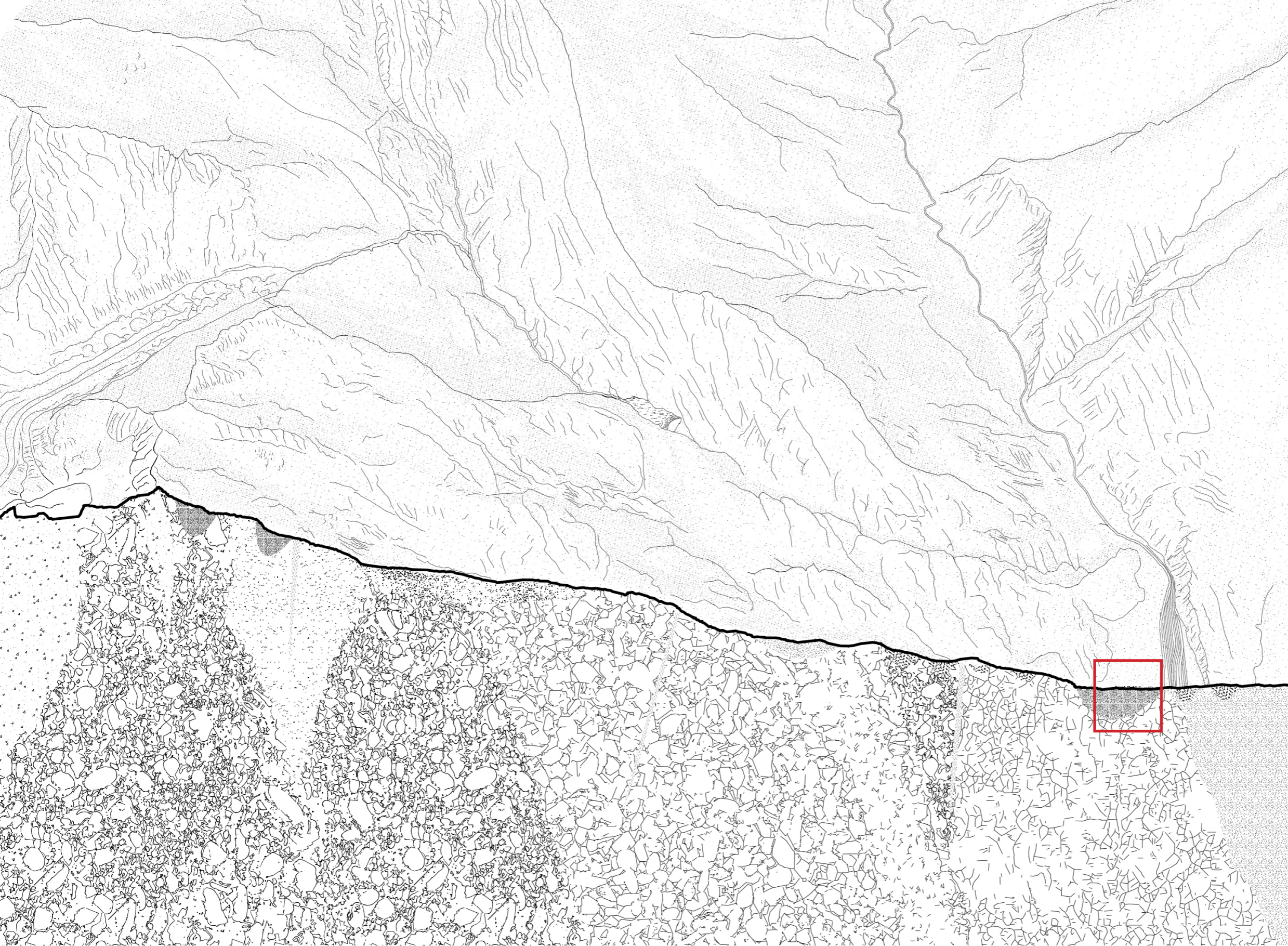




**Märjelensee erosion process,
M 1:10**

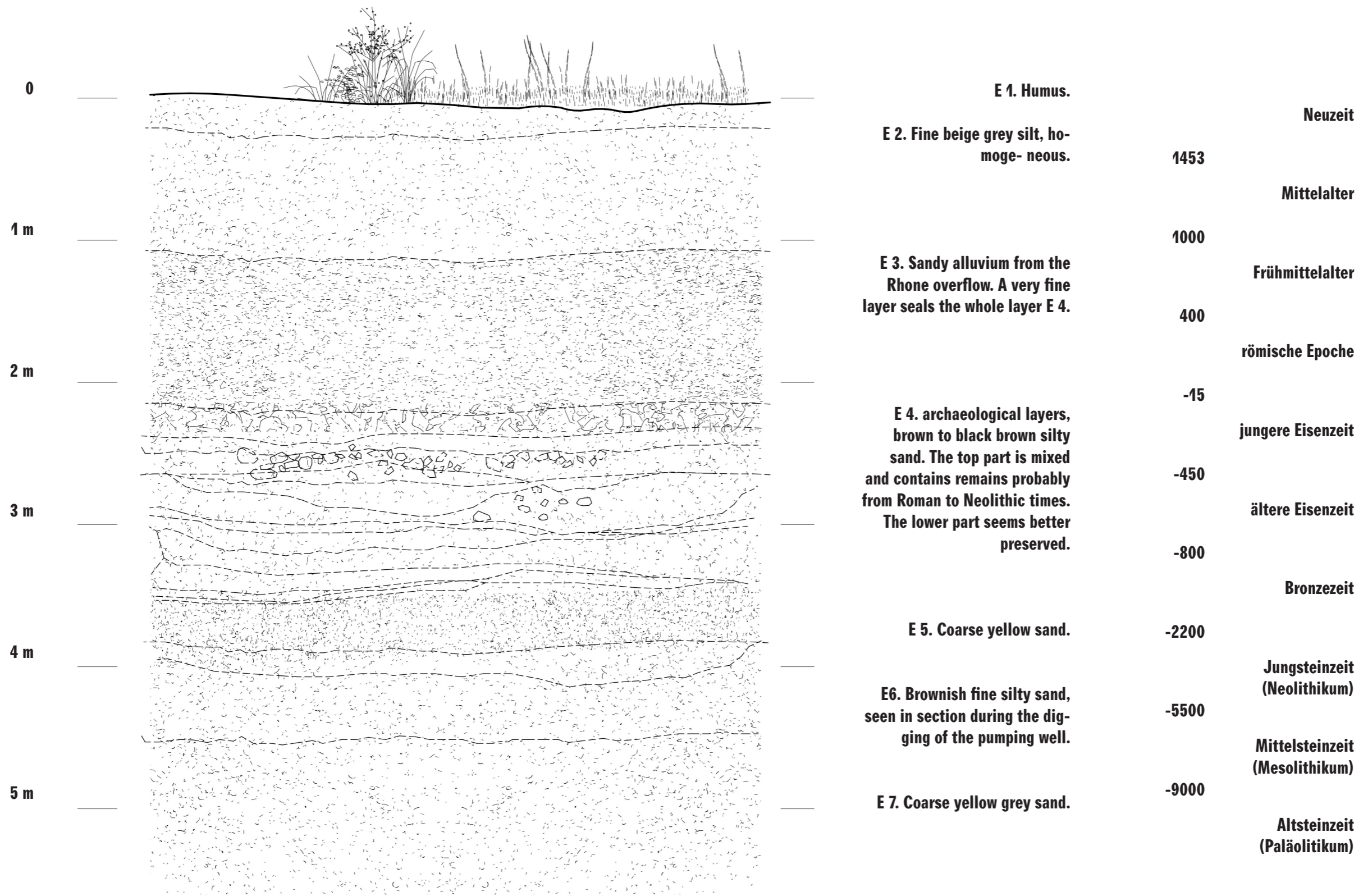


**Furrowed moraines Aletsch glacier,
M 1:1'000**

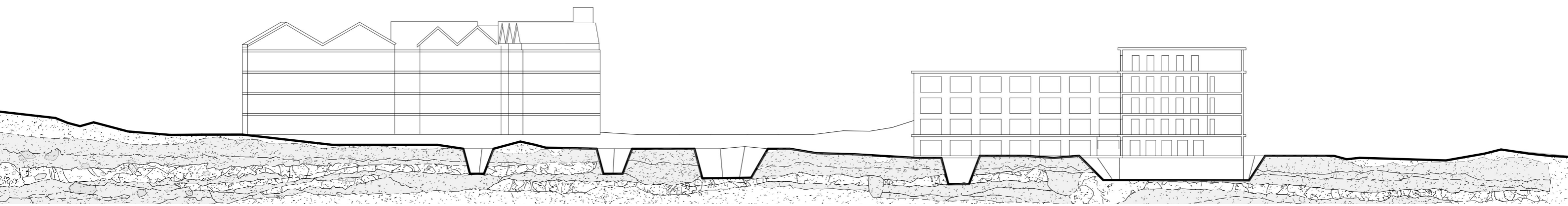


-  **Rhone alluvionen**
-  **Zentraler Aare Granit (297 Ma)**
-  **Rezente Moräne**
-  **Augengneise**
-  **Hangschutt, Trockenschuttkegel**
-  **Biotit-Plogioklasgneise**
-  **Moräne der letzten Verglätscherung**
-  **Biotit-Sericitgneise**
-  **Spät- und Postglaciale Moräne**
-  **Bänder Amphibolite**
-  **Ton-, Kalkschiefer**
-  **Aplite
Microgranit Gang**
-  **Biotitgranit bis-granodiorit**

**Section along Kelchbach,
M 1:10'000**







situation section and plan, archeological excavation phase 1, october 2019, M 1:500

2019



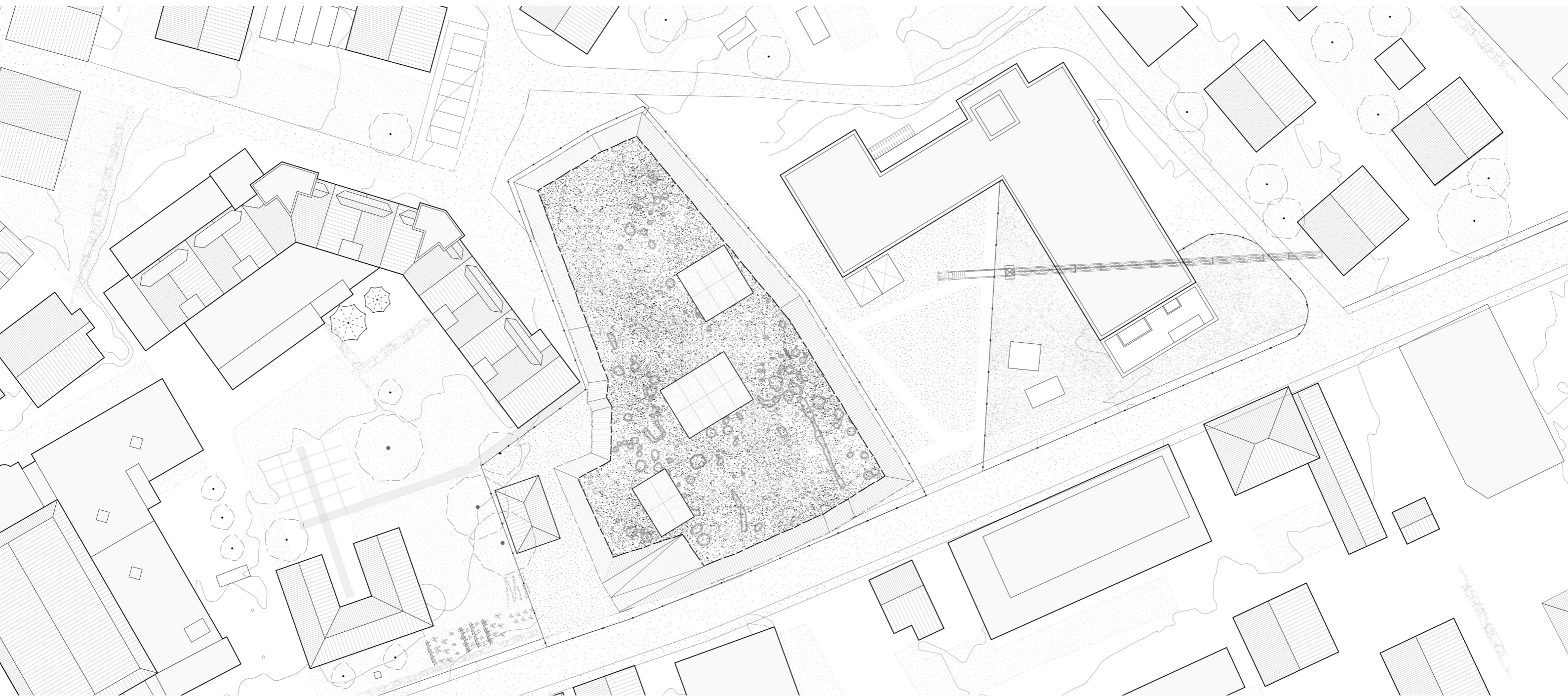
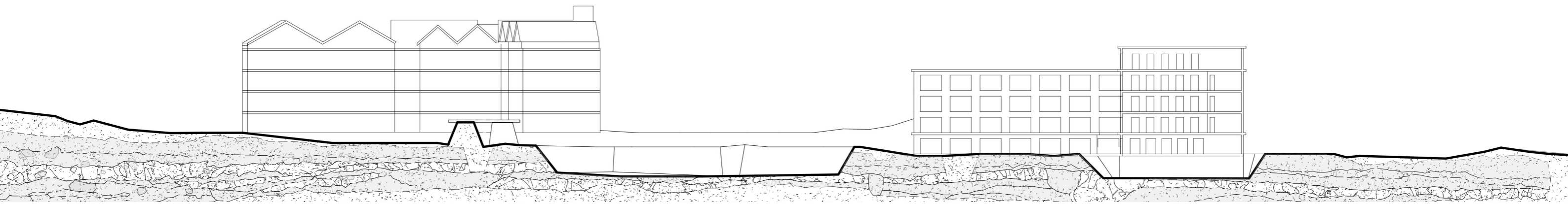
2020

2021

2022

2023

2024



situation section and plan, archeological excavation phase 2 february 2021, M 1:500

2019

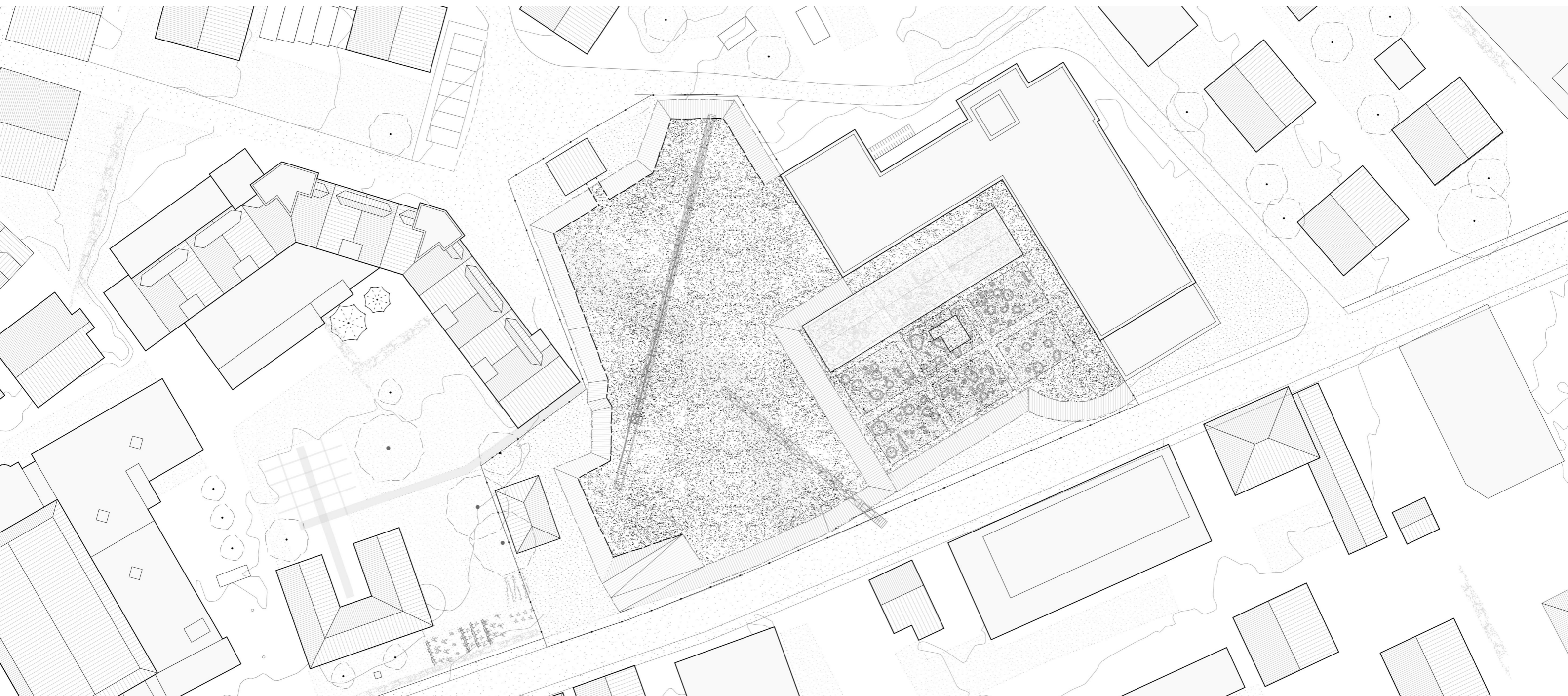
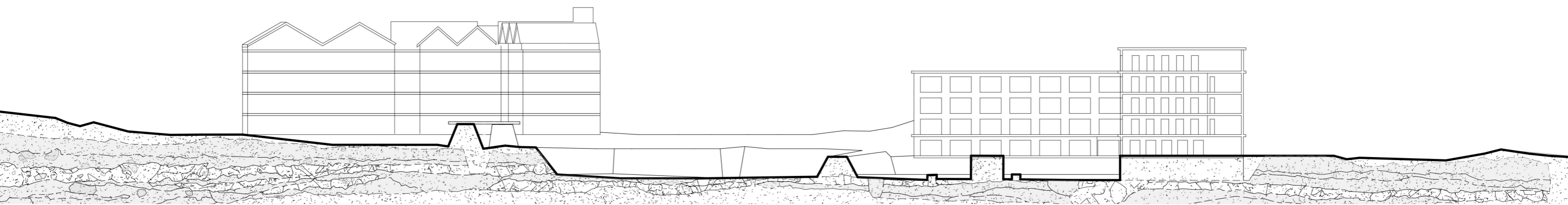
2020

2021

2022

2023

2024



situation section and plan, construction site next to the archeological excavation phase 3, february 2021 M 1:500

2019

2020

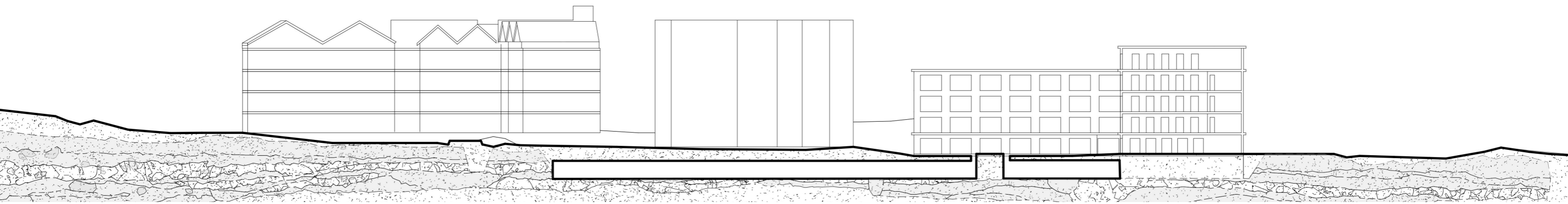
2021

2022

2023

2024





situation section and plan, new building and garden of the "Zentrum rund ums Alter", february 2024, M 1:500

2019

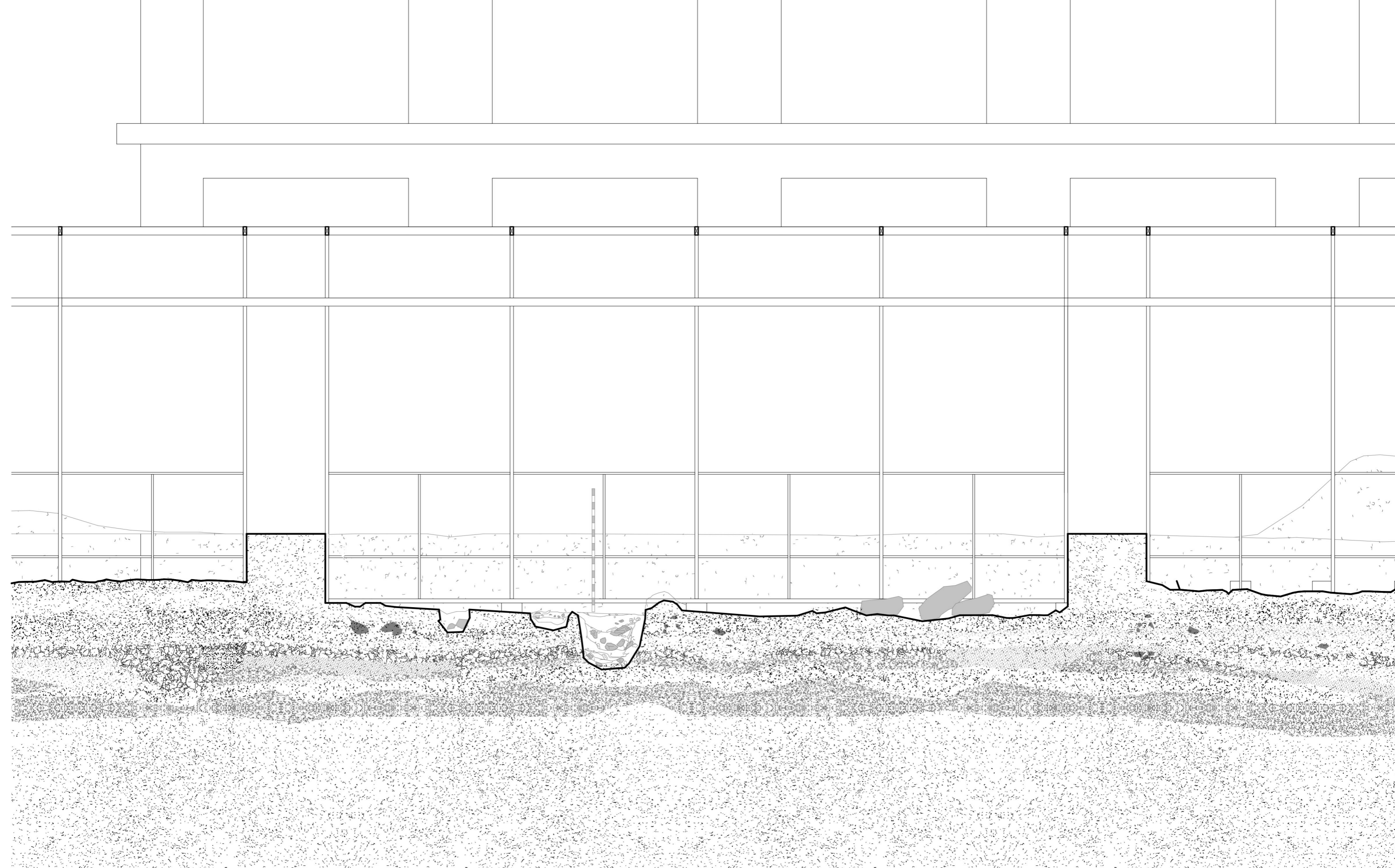
2020

2021

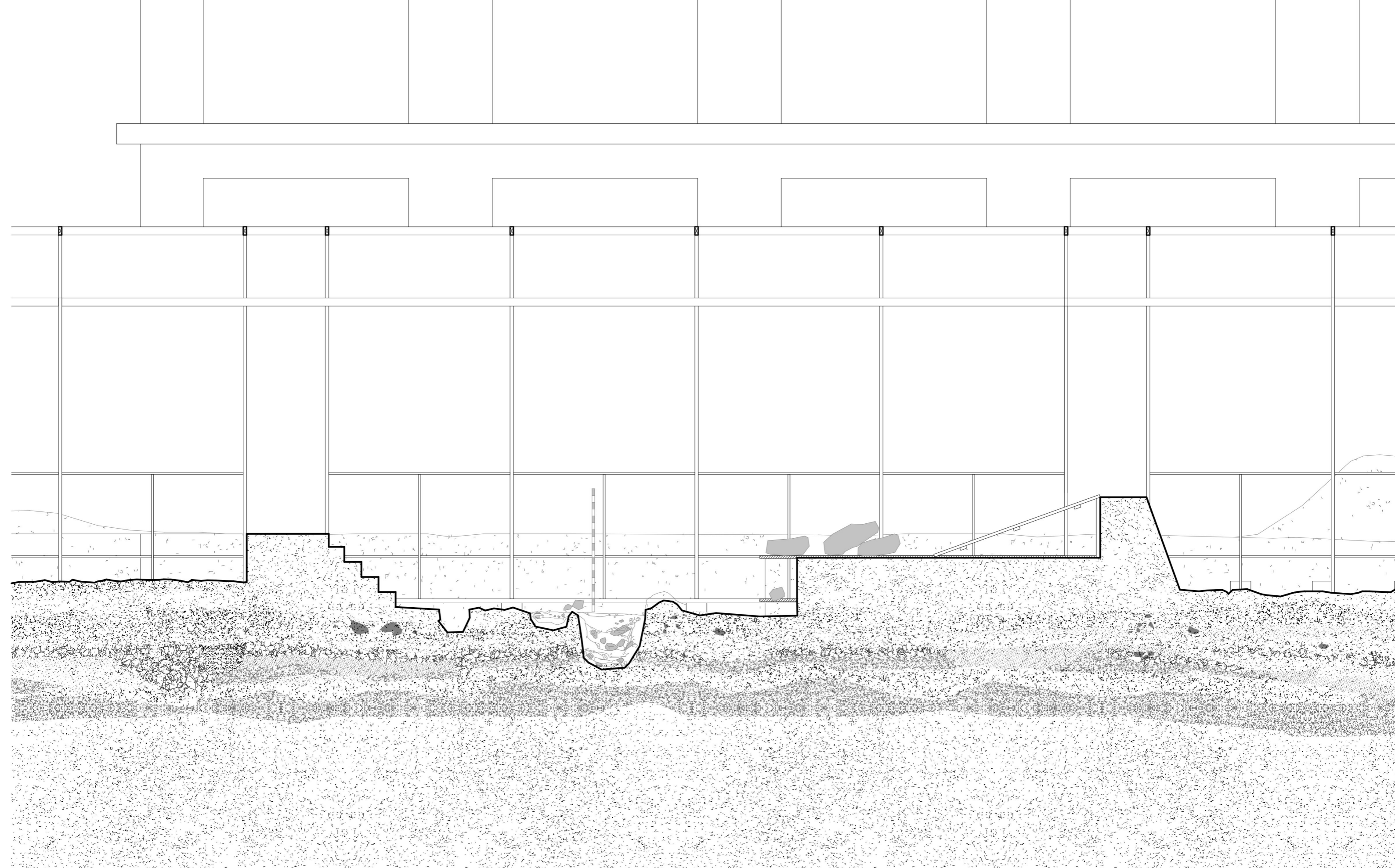
2022

2023

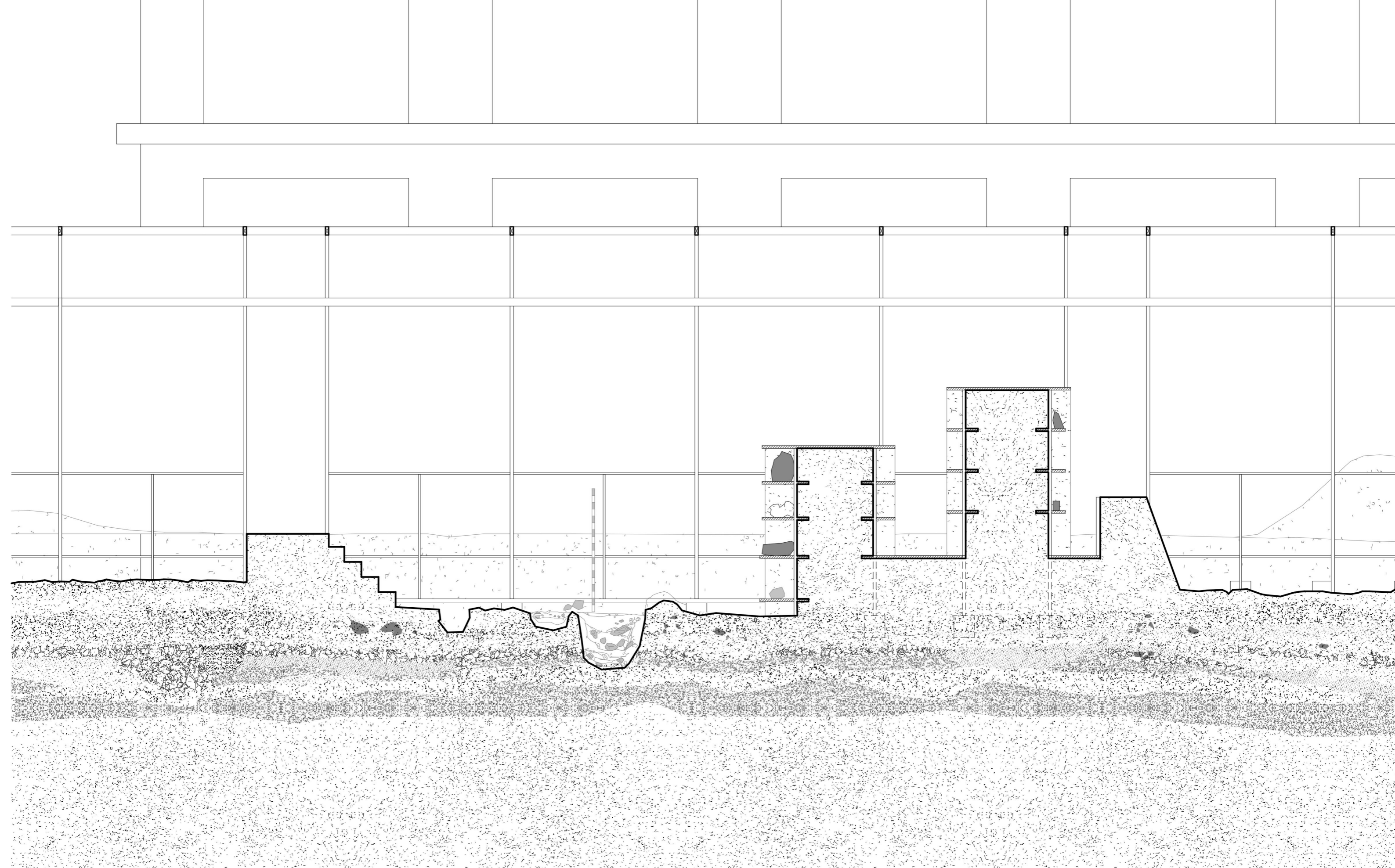
2024



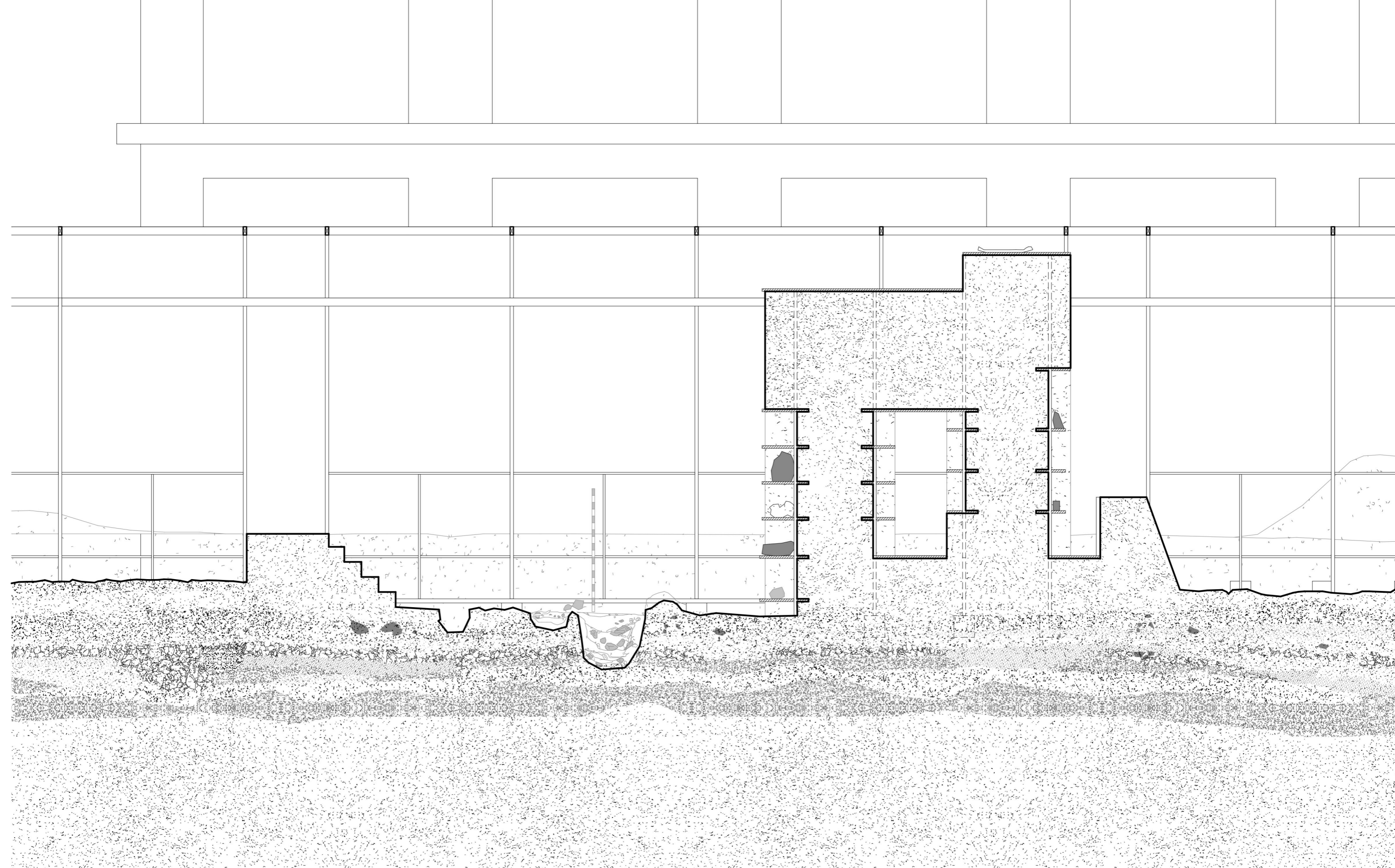
section archeological site, house St. Michael in Naters
february 2022, M 1:50



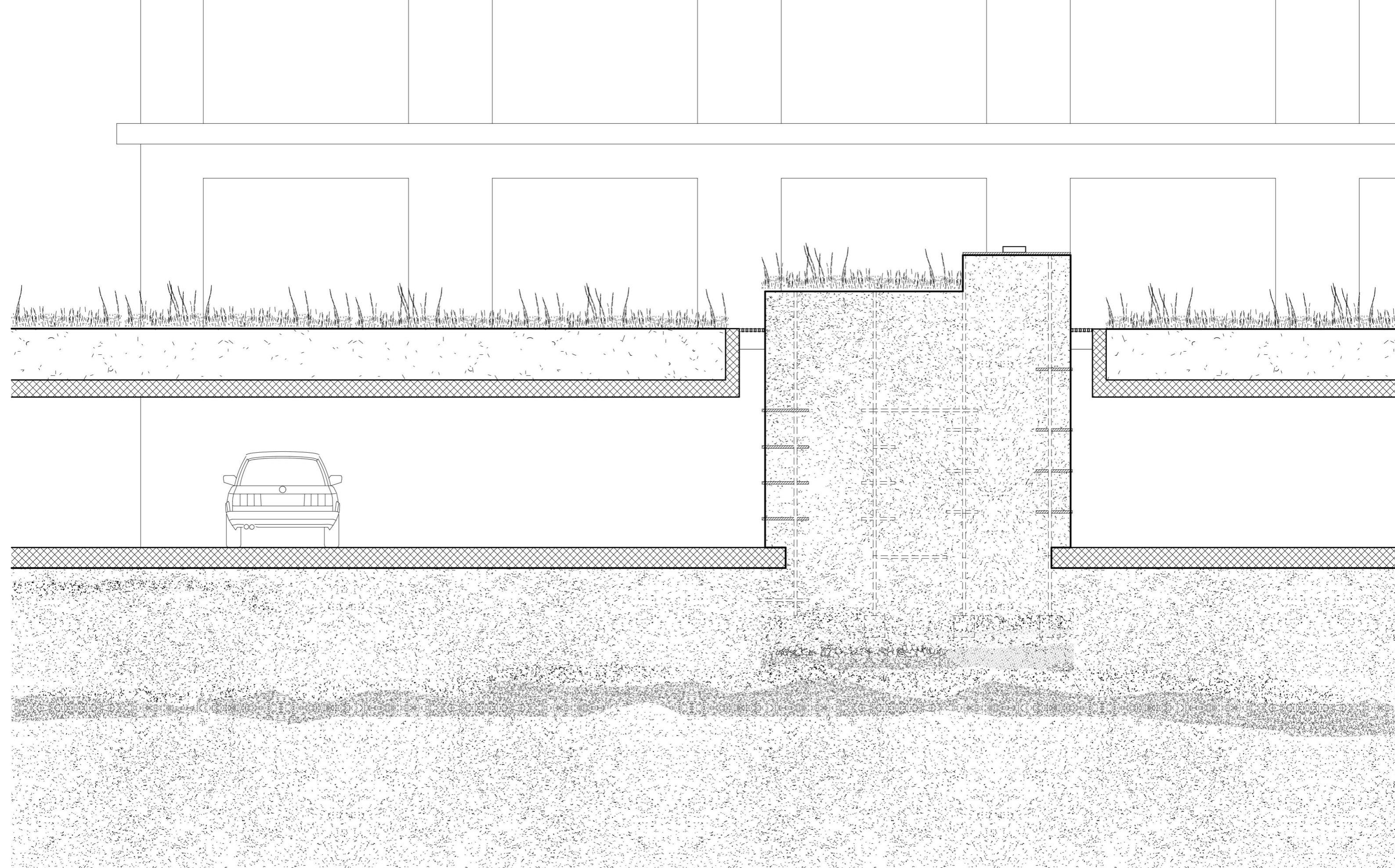
section archeological site, house St. Michael in Naters
march 2022, M 1:50



section archeological site, house St. Michael in Naters
may 2022, M 1:50



section archeological site, house St. Michael in Naters
july 2022, M 1:50



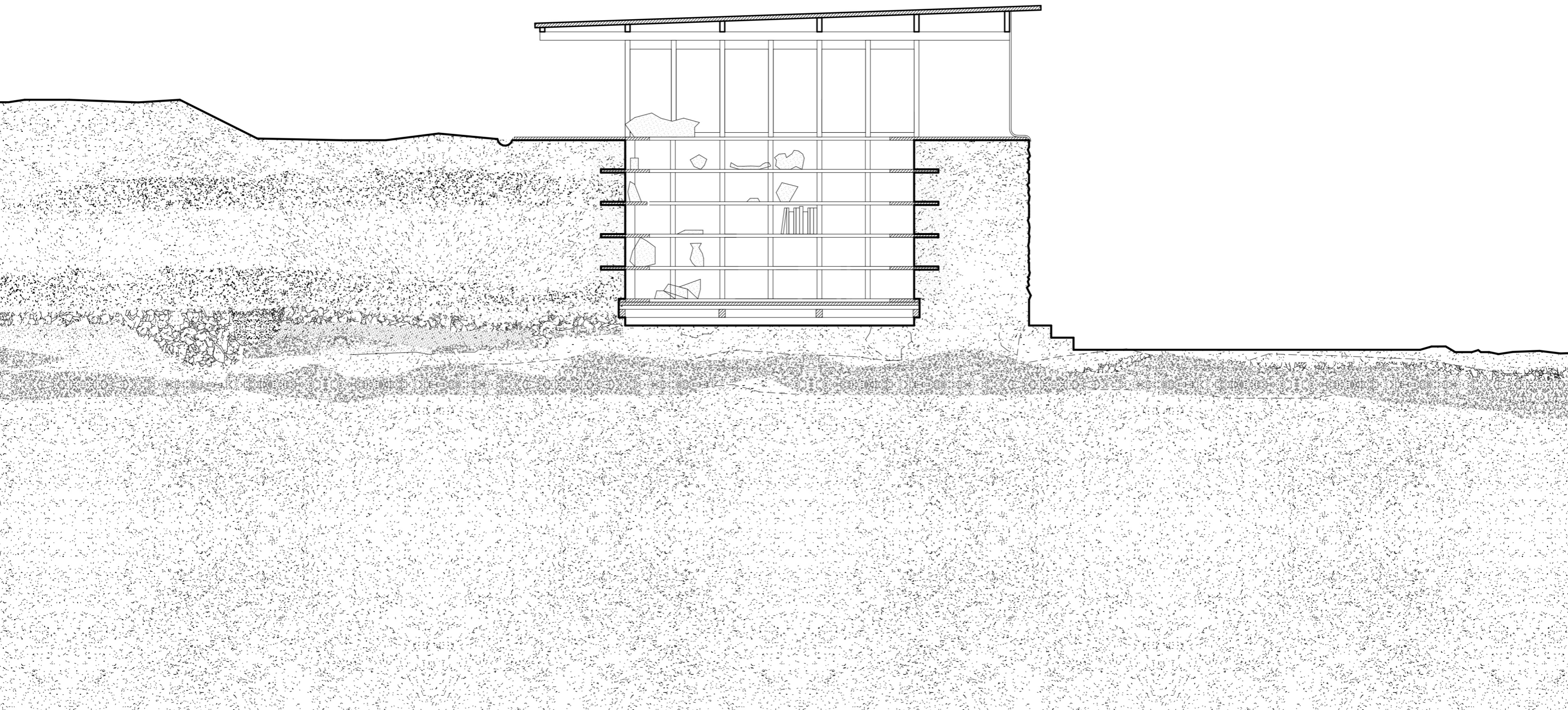
section underground parking, house St. Michael in Naters
february 2024, M 1:50



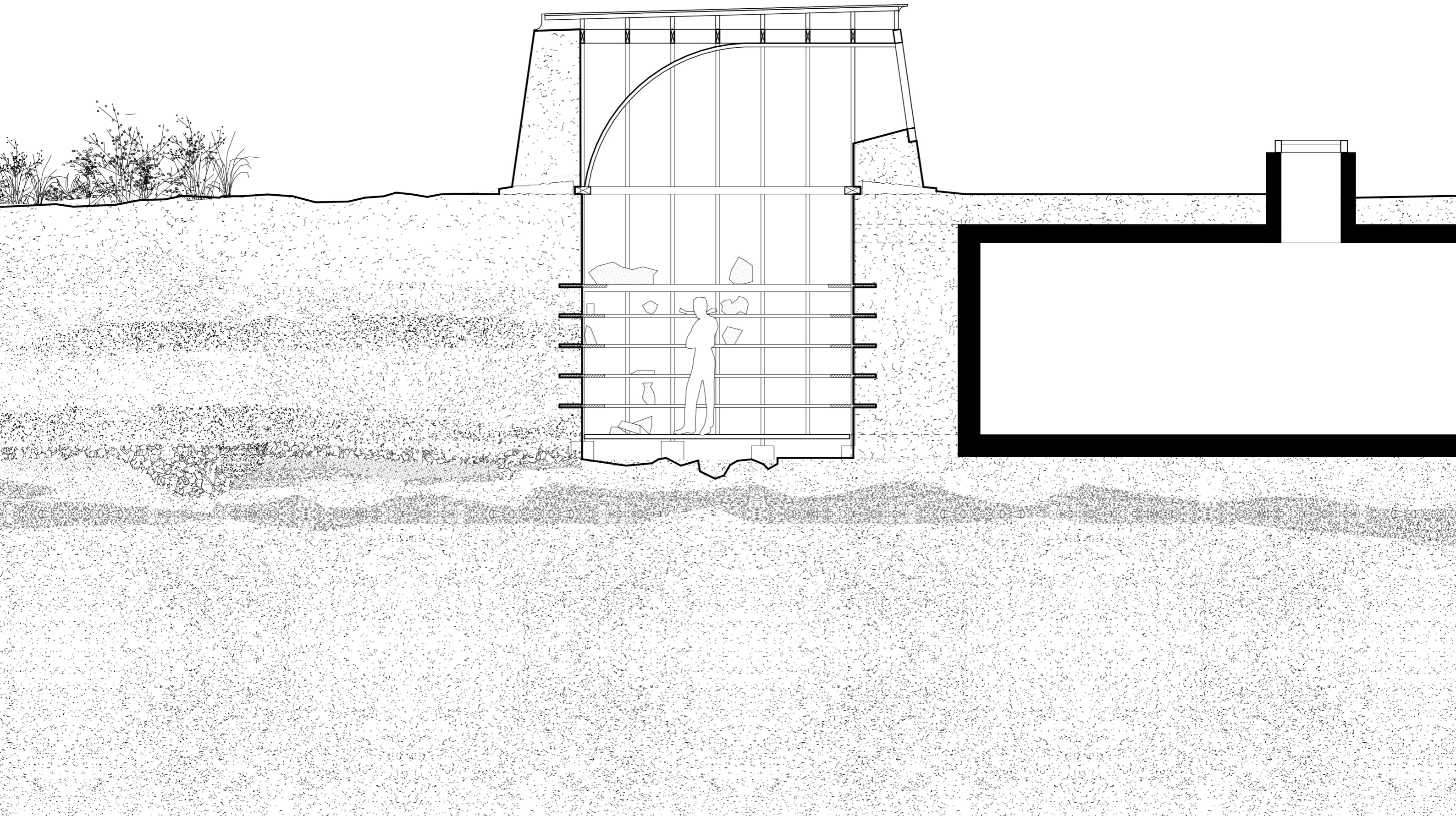
section archeological site, house St. Michael in Naters
july 2022, M 1:50



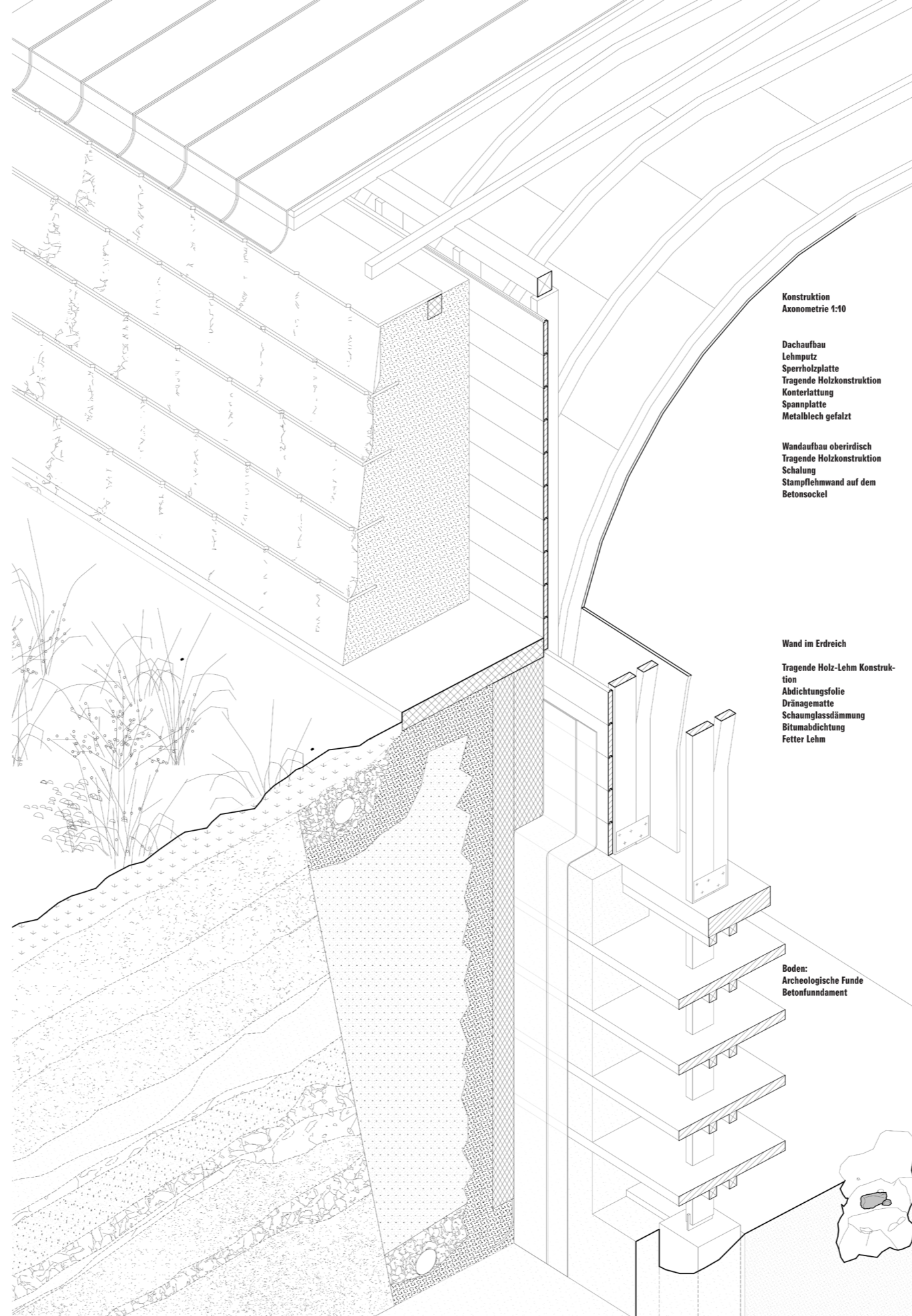
house St. Michael in Naters, underground parking
february 2024, M 1:50



temporary exhibition space, archeological site
april 2021, M 1:50



permanent exhibition space as extension of the underground connection between the buildings of "Zentrum rund ums Alter"
february 2024, M 1:50



Konstruktion
Axonometrie 1:10

Dachaufbau
Lehmputz
Sperrholzplatte
Tragende Holzkonstruktion
Kontenlattung
Spannplatte
Metalblech gefalzt

Wandaufbau oberirdisch
Tragende Holzkonstruktion
Schalung
Stamplfhwand auf dem
Betonsoclel

Wand im Erdreich
Tragende Holz-Lehm Konstruktion
Abdichtungsfolie
Dränagematte
Schaumglassdämmung
Bitumabdichtung
Fetter Lehm

Boden:
Archeologische Funde
Betonfundament

construction drawing 1:10
M 1:10



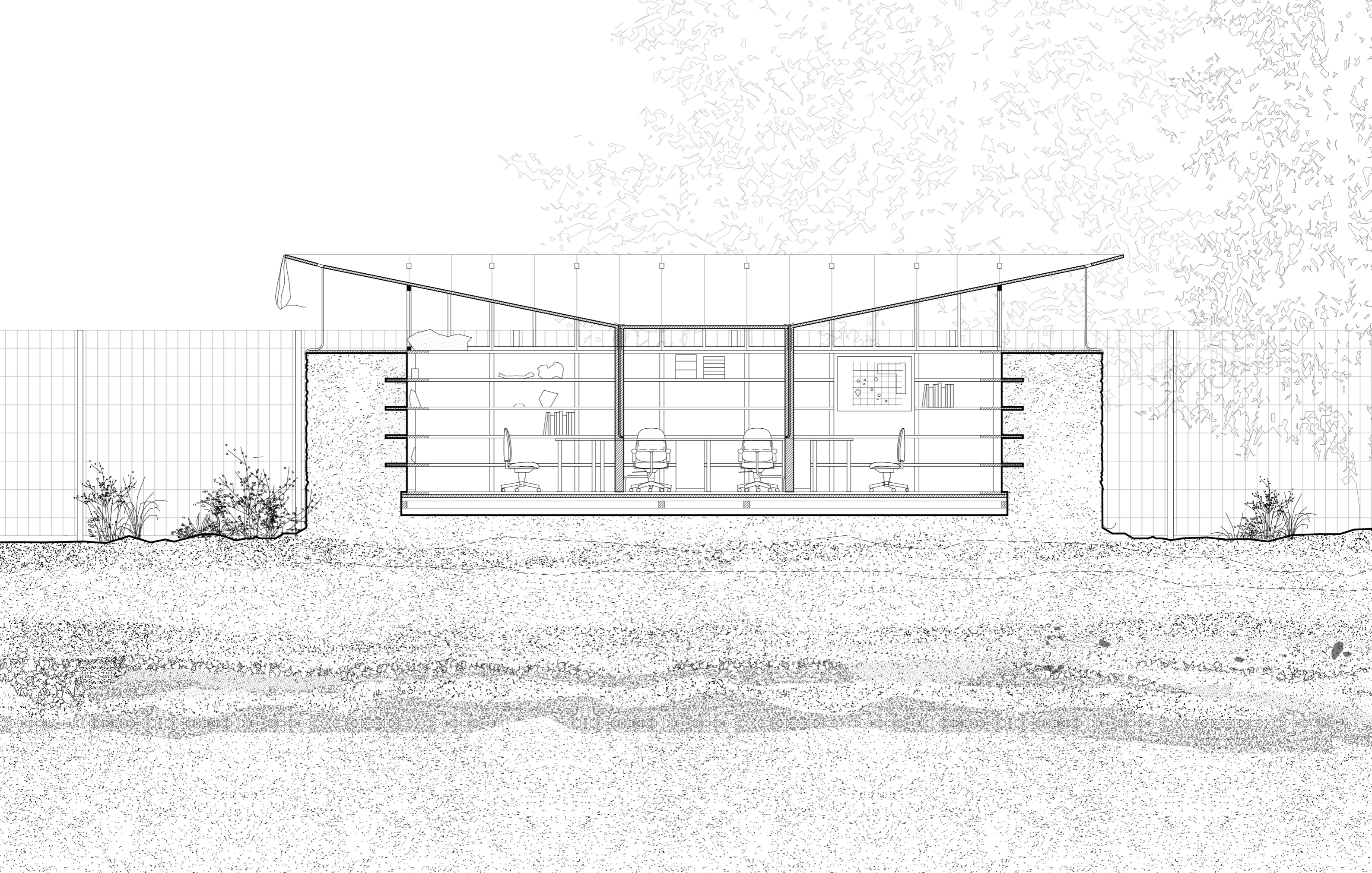
permanent exhibition space as extension of the underground connection between the buildings of "Zentrum rund ums Alter"
february 2024



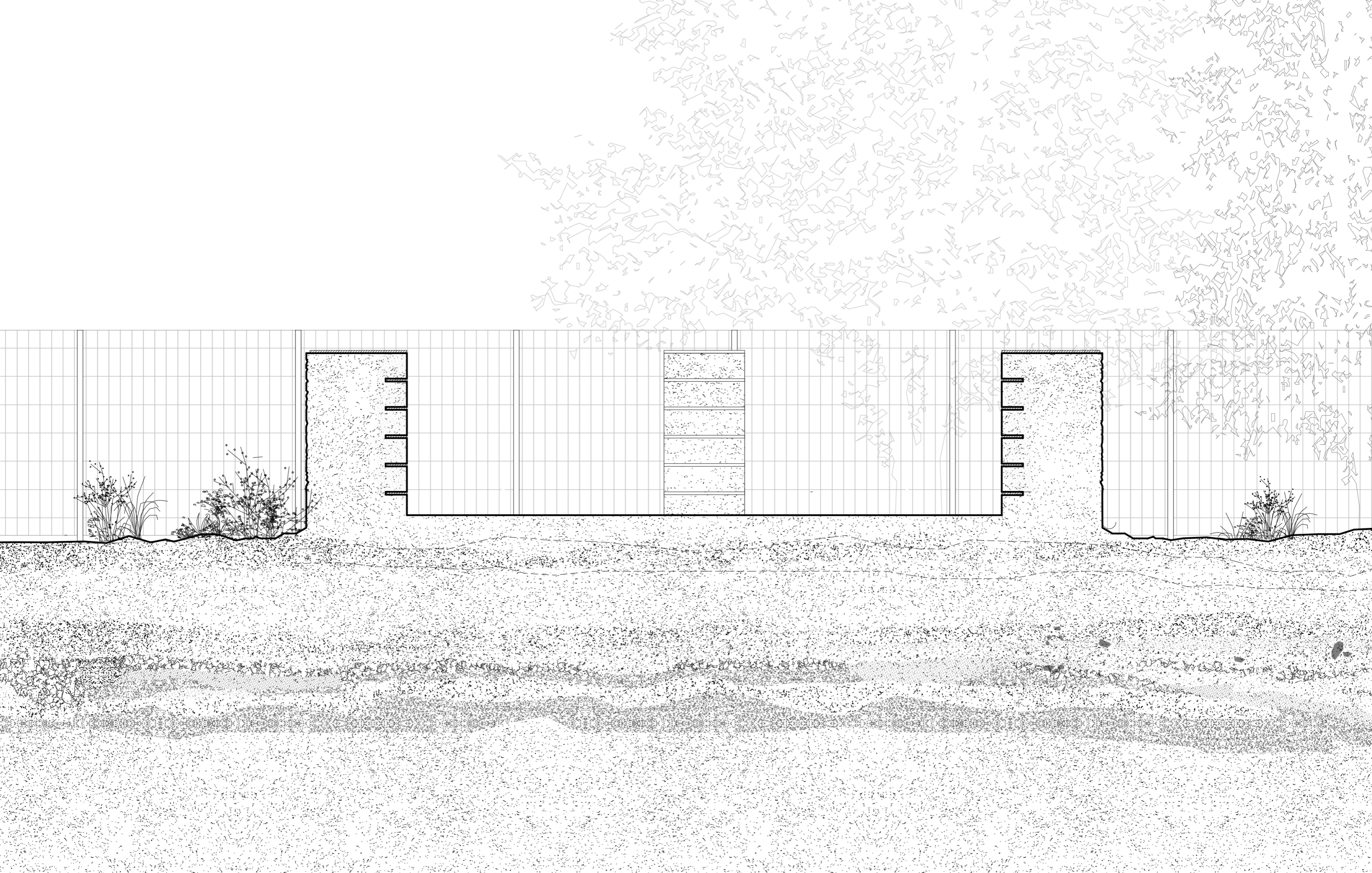
permanent exhibition space as extension of the underground connection between the buildings of “Zentrum rund ums Alter“
february 2024



temporary exhibition space, archeological site
april 2021



archeological site, temporary office
january 2021, M 1:50



archeological site, next to the construction site "Zentrum rund ums Alter"
august 2022, M 1:50



bocchia field in the garden of the "Zentrum rund ums Alter"
february 2024, M 1:50



archeological site, temporary office
january 2021



**archeological site, next to the construction site "Zentrum rund ums Alter"
august 2022**



**boccia field in the garden of the “Zentrum rund ums Alter”
february 2024, M 1:50**

contact:
Oleksandra Lebid
oleksandra.lebid@gmail.com
+41 78 675 83 03