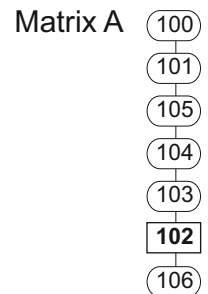
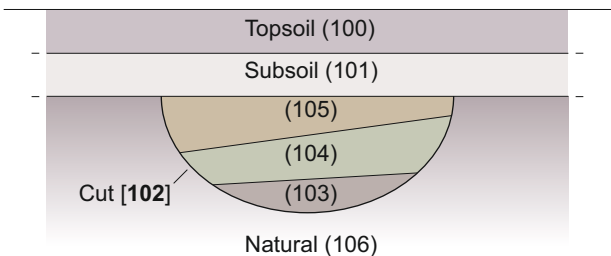


Understanding a Matrix

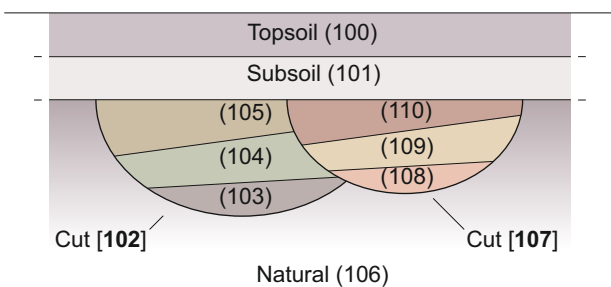
The term *stratigraphy* is used to describe the order in which soil layers/fills or cut features were created. Each layer/fill or feature is given a context number (taken from the **Context Index**). It is this number that is used to create a 'matrix' - essentially a flow chart showing the order in which each of the archaeological events occurred. It runs from the oldest (or first event), to the newest (or last event). So in the example of section A, the matrix would be:

Section A



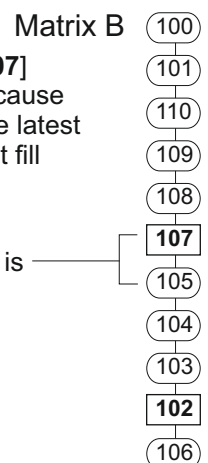
If a second feature, such as a pit or a ditch had been dug later (i.e. cutting the original feature) then the matrix would be:

Section B



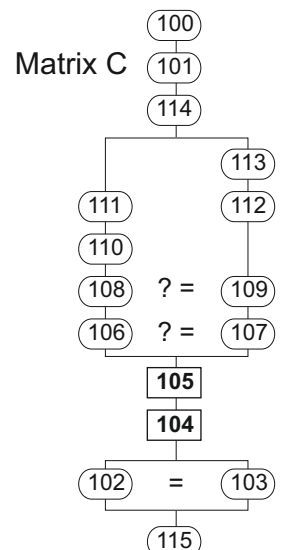
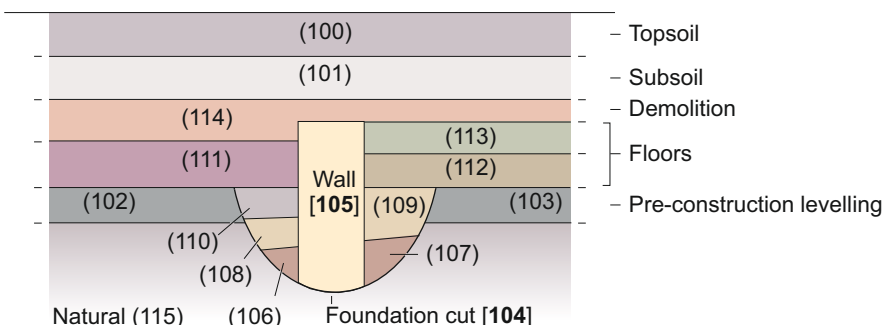
The section shows us that pit [107] happened later than pit [102] because you can see it cutting through the latest fill (105), middle fill (104), earliest fill (103) and cut [102]

Stratigraphically the relationship is between cut [107] and fill (105)



More complex stratigraphy can exist, Section C is an example.

Section C



Have a go yourself! Draw the section here:

Number the
layers/fills

The first
layer will be
numbered
100

Draw a
matrix to go
with your
section