

DAIRY FARM

BREAKSPEAR ROAD NORTH

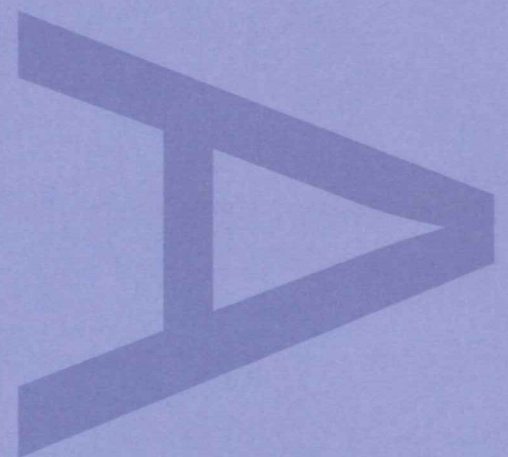
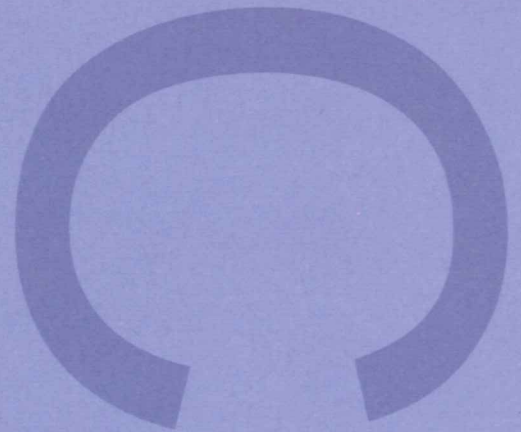
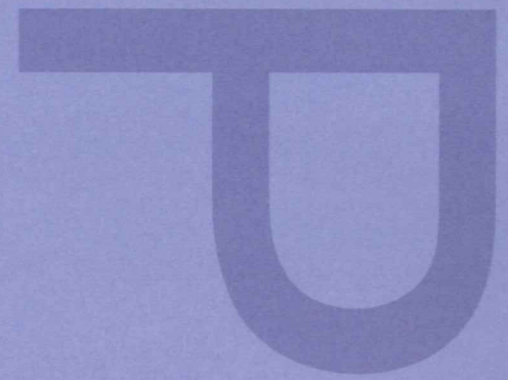
HAREFIELD

LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

JANUARY 2006

DFU 06



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

DAIRY FARM
BREAKSPEAR ROAD NORTH, HAREFIELD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Dairy Farm, Breakspear
Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon.**

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 0543 9034

Site Code: DFU 06

Written and researched by Elliott Wragg

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, January 2006

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at the Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon (Fig. 1). The central National Grid Reference is TQ 0543 9034. The field evaluation was undertaken between 9th and 13th January 2006 and consisted of eight trial trenches (Trs 1-8) (Fig. 2) and a report on three standing buildings (see Appendix 3). The commissioning client was John Ross on behalf of Harefield Parochial Charities.
- 1.2 The earliest deposits encountered were natural sands and gravels some of which had been bioturbated. A posthole and ditch of unknown date were recorded cutting the natural layers along with a number of natural features such as treeboles. Ploughsoil was recorded in the north and southwest of the site which was cut by three ditches (one a recut) of post-medieval date. The trenches were sealed by topsoil apart from that in the southwest which was sealed by 20th century made-ground and the remnant of a yard surface.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological site investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. between 9th and 13th January 2006 in order to both determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological deposits and to report on three standing buildings (see Appendix 3). The site address was The Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon. The site was bounded to the north by Breakspear Road North, to the east and south by open fields and to the west by the house and garden of Little Hammonds and Harefield Cricket Ground (Fig.1).
- 2.2 The commissioning client was John Ross on behalf of Harefield Parochial Charities. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of Elliott Wragg and the project management of Jon Butler. The evaluation was monitored by Kim Stabler, English Heritage GLAAS.
- 2.3 A temporary benchmark was set up on the site with a value of 88.03m OD, which were transferred from a benchmark located on Breakspear Road North with a value of 88.73m OD.
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive & Resource Centre (LAARC).
- 2.5 The site was allocated the site code: DFU 06

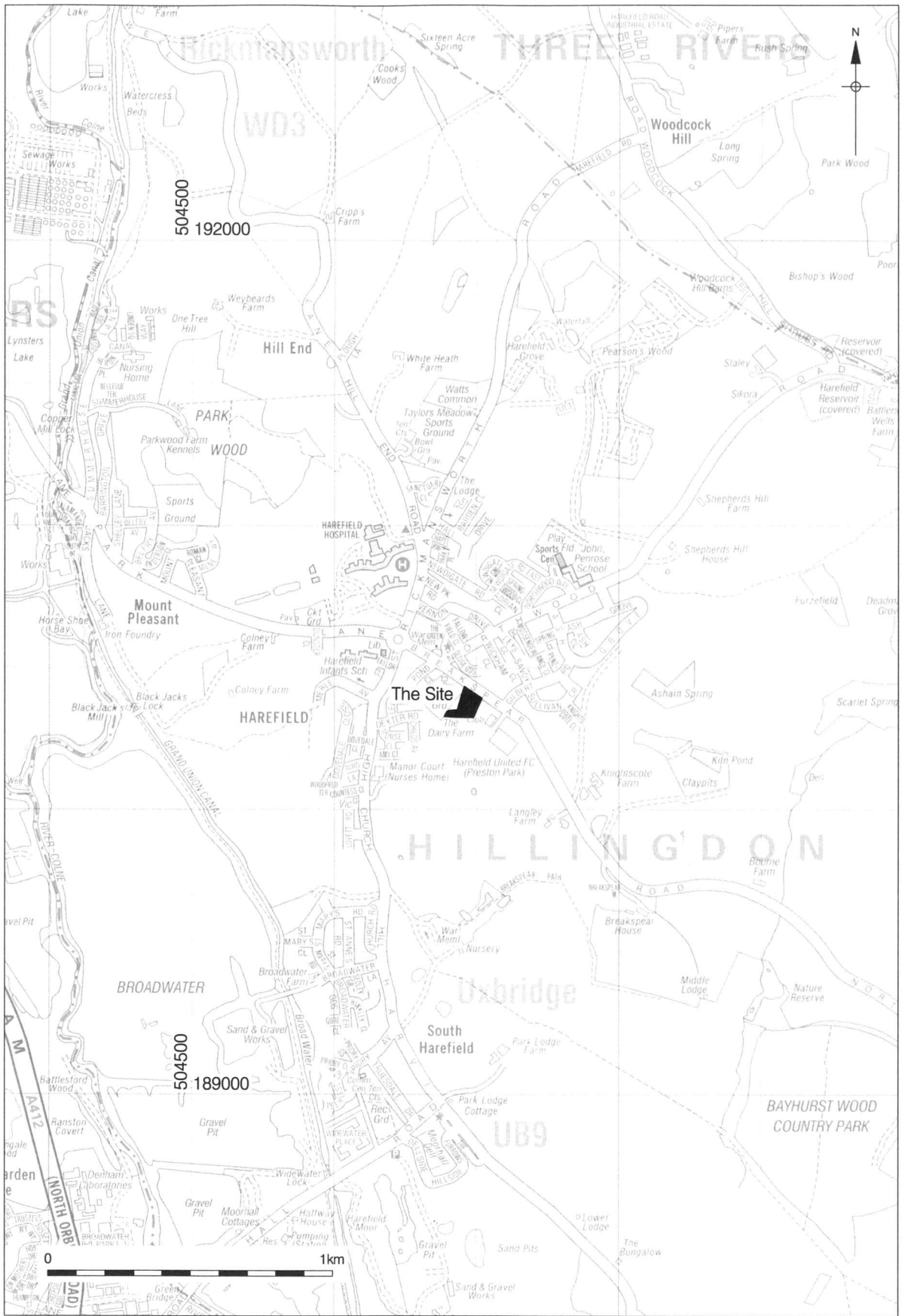


Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000

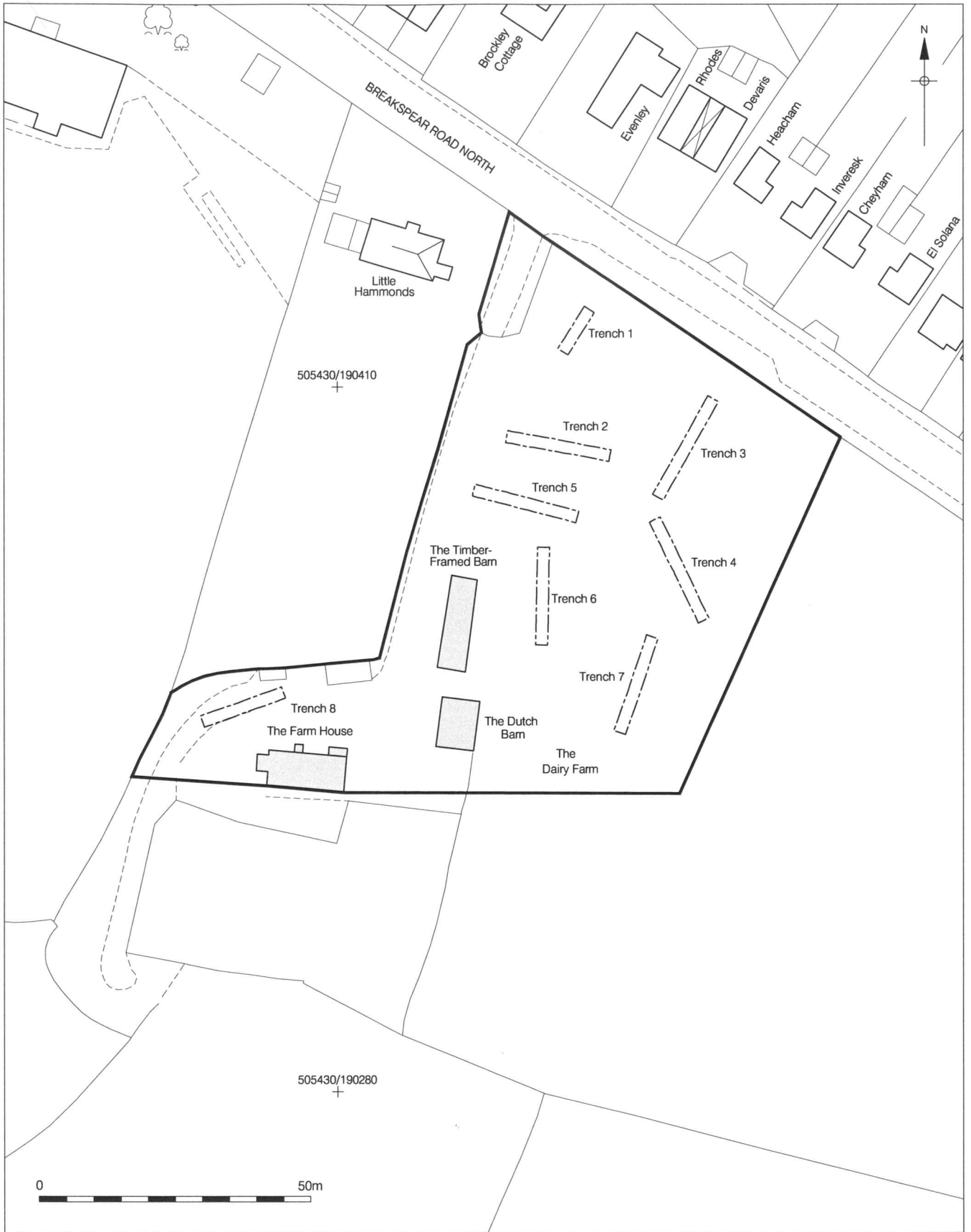


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1000

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment had previously been prepared by Tim Bradley of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd¹. A Method Statement has been prepared by Jon Butler of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd². The following discussion draws heavily from these documents.

3.2 Prehistoric

A number of finds dating to this period have been recovered from the vicinity of the study site. An archaeological investigation conducted to the west recorded an assemblage of struck flint of unspecified date, while, during the excavation of a drainage ditch, an assemblage of Mesolithic struck flint was recovered to the south. To the north-west, near Harefield Hospital, a Neolithic chipped axe (possibly a roughout) was found and a broken, stained and patinated handaxe recovered north of Breakspear Road. Another assemblage of handaxes which were of unknown provenance may have come from this site. To the south-east of the site lies the position of a largely destroyed earthwork which is thought to have been of Iron Age date.

3.3 Roman

Excavations carried out in 1997 to the south of the study site recovered a rim sherd of Oxfordshire Ware dating to the late 3rd or 4th century from a Saxon ditch. The only other evidence of Roman activity in the area is a sepulchre which was claimed to have been found to the north of the site in 1818.

3.4 Saxon

The only evidence of Saxon activity in the area is the ditch referred to above which contained two sherds of pottery dating to this period.

¹ Bradley, T., An Archaeological Desktop Assessment of the Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon. Unpublished report, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, January 2005.

² Butler, J., A Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon. Unpublished report, Pre-Construct Archaeology, December 2005.

3.5 Medieval

The first mention of Harefield (*Herefelle* meaning open land used by an army) is in the Domesday Book of 1086. It has been suggested that the medieval settlement was located in the vicinity of St Mary's Church, the western nave of which may date to the 12th century. Towards the southern end of Harefield High Street a chalk lined well and sherds of 12th and 13th century pottery have been found. An inscribed brass roundel, probably off a harness was found in a garden in the centre of the village, while a ridge and furrow system has been recorded to the north-west of the centre of Harefield. William Breakspear, a landowner, is first mentioned in 1376 and the family appears to have resided in the parish until 1440 having built a house, Breakspears. The study site is likely to have formed part of the accompanying estate. By 1447 George Ashby had bought much of the Breakspear land, probably including the study site.

3.6 Post- Medieval

By the end of the 16th century the Breakspear estate stretched across both sides of the present day Breakspear Road. Over following generations parts of the estate were sold piecemeal, including a 12 acre plot known as Littlewoods which later became the Dairy Farm. The earliest cartographic evidence for the site is the 1754 Rocque map which shows the area as open land. The OS map of 1866 shows the site divided into three fields with a barn and farmhouse. The OS map of 1934 shows the site essentially unchanged, although both the barn and farmhouse have been extended and two further farm buildings have been added. The OS map of 1959 shows further additions to the farm buildings although the majority of the site was still open land.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The study site lies in on a relatively high (c 88m OD) plateau above the Colne valley. The plateau slopes down very gradually towards the south and east. There are no water courses or bodies of water within the site with the exception of a seasonal pond which occupies the north-western part of the site.
- 4.2 The British Geological Survey (England and Wales Sheet 255) indicates that the underlying geology of the site is formed of a mantel of glacial sand and gravel underlain by London Clay.

5 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

5.1 A Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation³ was prepared by Jon Butler of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. which defined the objectives of the evaluation as:

To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the new buildings' foundations.

5.2 The Method Statement further identified a number of specific objectives:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of prehistoric settlement or occupation of the area?
- Is there any evidence of Roman activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of Saxon activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site?
- Are there any post-medieval remains on the site?

³ Ibid.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Eight trial trenches (Trs 1-8) were excavated across the site (Fig.2), It being intended that they should all be 20m long. The presence, however, of a seasonal pond of environmental interest in the area of Trench 1 caused that trench to be excavated only to a length of 10m. All trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, in spits, using a toothless bucket until the first archaeological horizon, or natural, was encountered; these were then cleaned by hand.
- 6.2 All deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets, trench plans being drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 as appropriate and sections at a scale of 1:10. The locations of the trenches were surveyed by total station theodolite. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in both black and white print and colour slide. Finds were collected according to standard retrieval methods.
- 6.3 A temporary benchmark was set up on the site with a value of 88.03m OD, which was transferred from the O/S bench mark on Breakspear Road North (value 88.73m OD).
- 6.4 A unique-number site code system has been agreed with the Museum of London, it is DFU 06.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Trench 1 (Fig.3)

The earliest deposit encountered was natural, light-mid yellowish brown sand and gravel [18] which was encountered at between 87.81 and 87.75m OD.

Cutting the natural sand and gravel was an irregularly shaped feature [11] which measured 0.90m north-south by 0.70m east-west and was up to 0.10m deep. This was filled by [10] a friable, light brownish grey silty sand with occasional gravels. The feature was interpreted as a tree bole.

Three parallel plough furrows, [13], [15] and [17], were observed running roughly east-west across the trench. They were up to 0.20m wide and were filled ([12], [14] and [16] respectively) by soft, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional gravels.

The above features and deposits were sealed by a layer of friable, mid-greyish brown silty sand with occasional small gravels [19], which was up to 0.20m thick and had a top height of between 88.14 and 88.01m OD. This layer was interpreted as a ploughsoil.

The ploughsoil, in turn was overlain by a layer of topsoil [1] which formed the current ground surface at a height of between 88.21 and 88.15m OD.

7.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

The lowest deposit recorded in this trench was natural sand and gravel [32] which was encountered at between 87.81 and 87.66m OD.

The natural sand and gravel was cut by a roughly northwest-southeast running ditch [29] with steeply sloping sides and a "v" shaped base. It was up to 0.85m wide with a maximum depth of 0.26m and was filled by [28] a firm, light blueish grey gravel/silt/sand matrix.

The northwestern end of ditch [29] was truncated by an irregularly shaped feature with a concave base [27]. This feature measured over 1.1m north-south, continuing into the northern limit of excavation, was up to 1.6m east-west and had a maximum

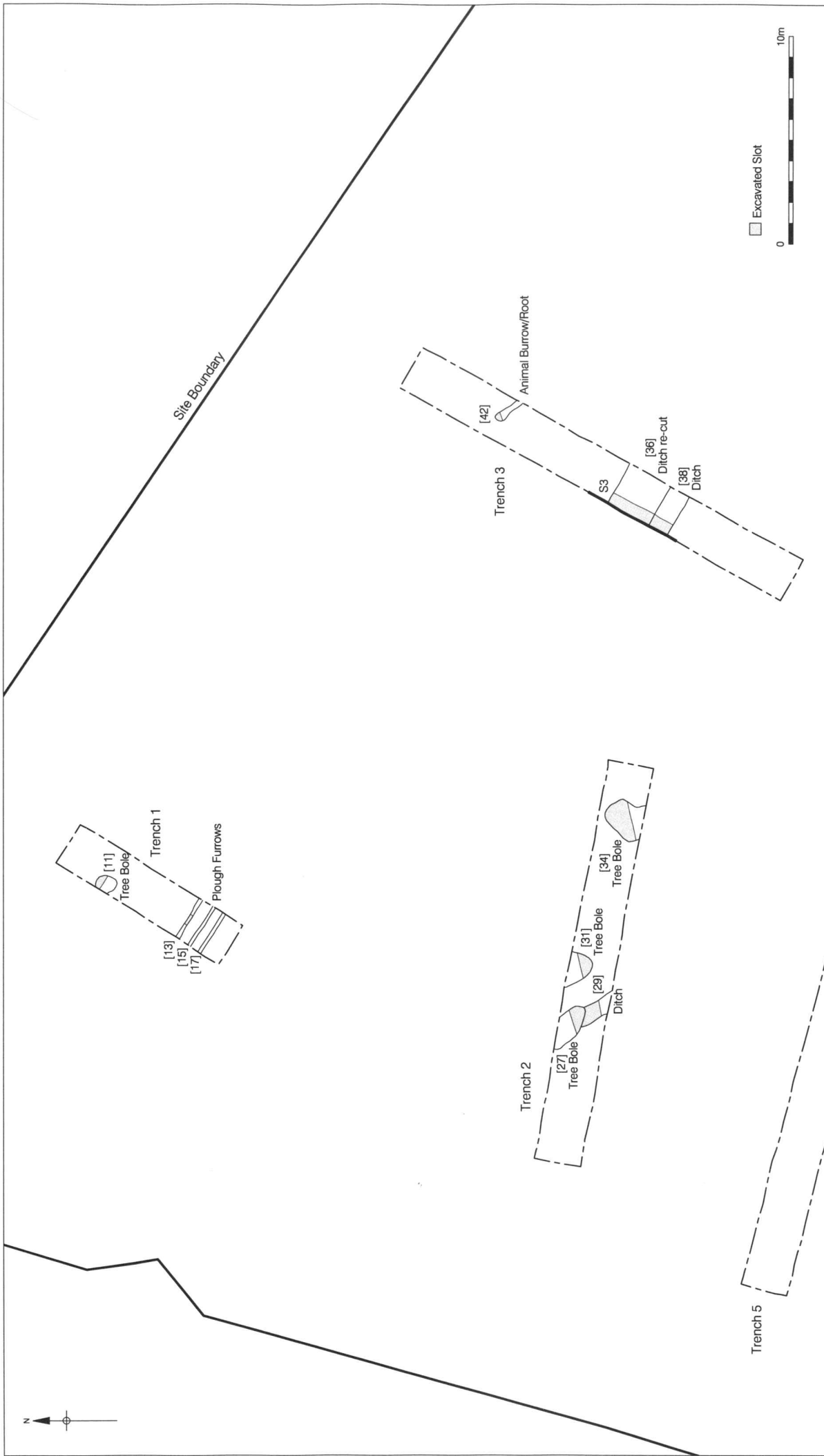


Figure 3
Trenches 1, 2 & 3
1:250

depth of 0.16m. It was filled by [26], a firm, light brownish grey silty sand with occasional gravels. This feature was interpreted as a tree bole.

Two further tree boles were recorded cutting the natural sand and gravel in Trench 2: [31] was sub-oval with an irregular base, measuring over 1.10m north-south (it continued into the northern limit of excavation), 1.8m east-west and 0.12m deep, and was filled by [30], a similar deposit to [26]; [34] was irregular in plan with an irregular base, measuring over 1.54m north-south (continuing into the southern limit of excavation), 1.52m east-west and 0.11m deep, and was filled by [33], a similar deposit to [26] and [30].

The above features and deposits were sealed by [44], a ploughsoil layer similar to [19], which was up to 0.21m thick and was encountered at between 88.00 and 87.95m OD.

The ploughsoil was, in turn, sealed by topsoil [1] which formed the current ground surface at between 88.32 and 88.21m OD.

7.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 3 & 5)

The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 3 was the natural sand and gravel layer [43] which had a top height of between 87.77 and 87.74m OD. In the south of the trench (south of the ditches discussed below) this was sealed by a layer [40] which was very similar in composition to [43] but which was mid greyish brown in colour. This layer, which was up to 0.20m thick and encountered at between 88.02 and 87.97m OD, was recorded as “dirty” natural, that is, a natural layer which had been somewhat disturbed by bioturbation.

In the north of the trench the natural sand and gravel was cut by a small linear feature with concave sides and base [42] measuring up to 1.30m east-west by 0.85m north-south and with a maximum depth of 0.08m. It was filled by [41], a moderately loose light-mid grey silt/sand/gravel matrix. This feature was interpreted as an animal burrow.

Animal burrow [42] and the natural sand and gravel in the north of the trench were sealed by a ploughsoil layer [39] which was up to 0.21m thick and had a top height of between 88.04 and 87.93m OD.

The “dirty” natural in the south of the trench was cut by an east-west running ditch [38] with steeply sloping sides and a flattish, slightly ‘V’ shaped base. It was over

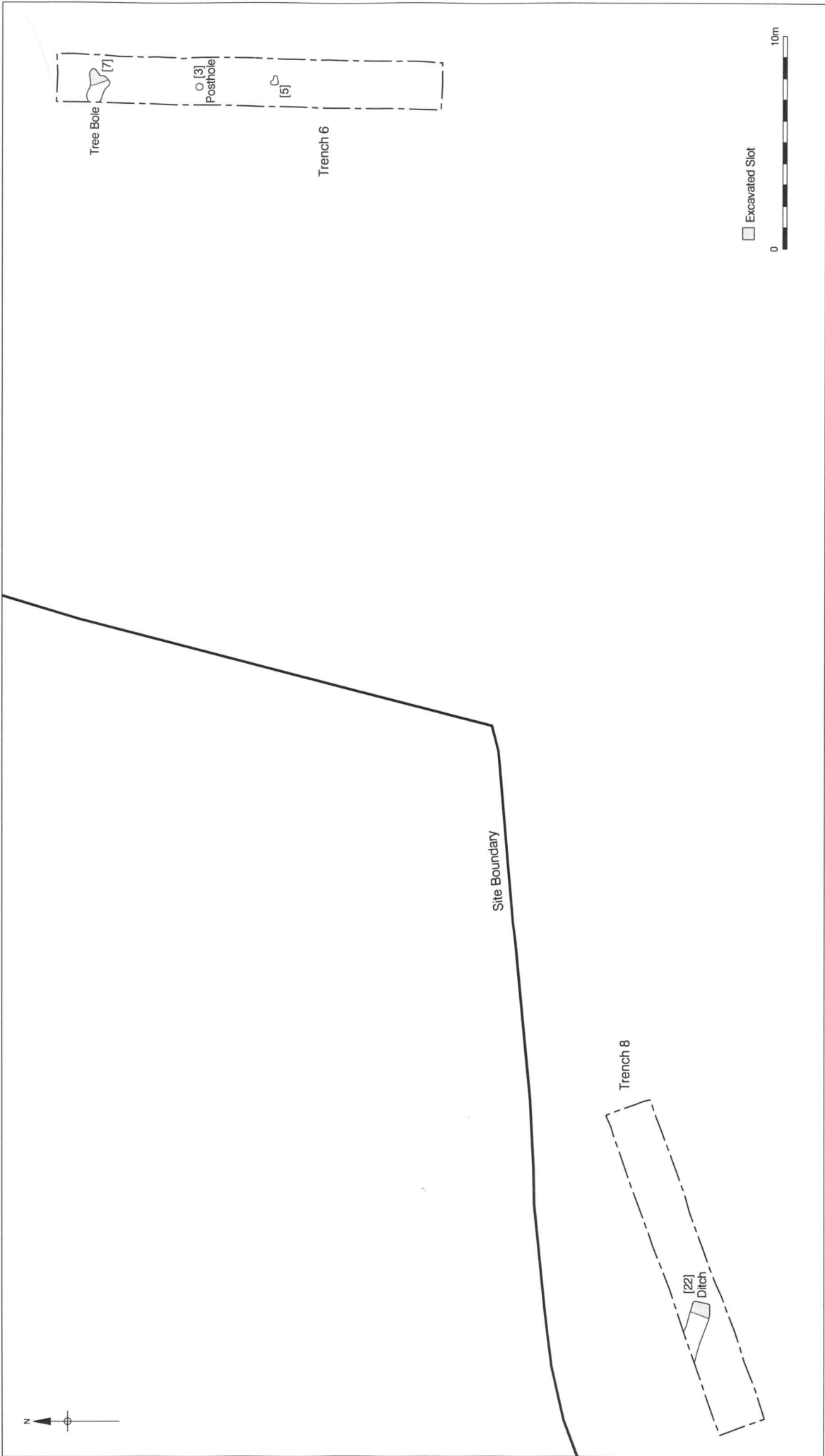


Figure 4
Trenches 6 & 8
1:250

2.39m wide (being truncated to the north) and up to 0.84m deep. It was filled by [37], a moderately compacted, mid-dark brownish grey sandy silt with moderate small gravels. The size and profile of this ditch were quite peculiar (see Fig. 3) for a hand-dug field boundary/drainage ditch and it seems possible that this feature was excavated by a machine.

Ditch [38] was recut to the north. This later ditch, [36], had moderately sloping sides, a concave base, was 1.82m wide and up to 0.78m deep. It was filled by [35], a moderately compacted, dark grey sandy silt with moderate gravels which contained one piece of post-medieval ceramic building material. This ditch also truncated ploughsoil layer [39] suggesting different land use to the north (arable farming) and south (pastoral) of the ditches and that the ditches represent a modern continuation of an earlier field boundary.

The above features and deposits were sealed by topsoil [1] which was encountered at between 88.32 and 88.22m OD.

7.4 Trench 4

The earliest deposit recorded in this trench, encountered at between 87.67 and 87.64m OD, was natural sand and gravel [48]. This was overlain by [47] a layer of "dirty" natural similar to [40] which was up to 0.40m thick and had a top height of between 88.07 and 87.91m OD. It seems likely that the feature discussed below cut this layer although it was not observed at this level during machining.

The natural sand and gravel was seen to be cut by an irregular feature [46], which was 2.45m east-west by 2.15m north-south and up to 0.15m, deep. It was filled by [45], a loose-moderately compacted, light-mid brownish grey silt sand gravel matrix, and was interpreted as a tree bole.

The above feature and deposits were overlain by topsoil [1] which formed the current ground surface at between 88.27 and 88.12m OD.

7.5 Trench 5

The lowest deposit recorded in this trench was natural sand and gravel [50] with a top height of between 87.74 and 87.61m OD. This was sealed by a layer of “dirty natural” [49], similar to [40] and [47], which was up to 0.30m thick and was encountered at between 87.94 and 87.91m OD.

The natural layers were sealed by topsoil [1] which had a top height of between 88.49 and 88.08m OD.

7.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 4)

The lowest deposit recorded in this trench was natural sand and gravel [9] with a top height of between 87.56 and 87.51m OD. This was overlain by a layer of “dirty” natural [8] which was up to 0.22m thick and was encountered at between 87.76 and 87.66m OD. As in the case of Trench 4 it seems likely that the features discussed below cut this layer although they were not observed at this level during machining.

A posthole [3] was recorded cutting the natural in Trench 6. Circular with almost vertical sides and a flattish/concave base. 0.35m in diameter and up to 0.07m deep, it was filled by [2], a loose matrix of silt, sand and gravel. No cultural material was recovered from this feature.

Irregular feature [5] was seen cutting the natural sand and gravel and measured 0.42m east-west by 0.37m north south with a maximum depth of 0.08m. It was filled by [4], a loose-moderately compacted, mid-light brownish grey silt/sand gravel matrix, and was ascribed to root action. A further irregular feature [7] was observed, measuring over 1.60m east-west (it continued into the western limit of excavation) by 0.85m north-south and up to 0.06m deep it was filled by [6], a similar deposit to [4]. This feature was interpreted as a tree bole.

These features and deposits were sealed by topsoil [1] forming the current ground surface at between 88.01 and 87.91m OD.

7.7 Trench 7

The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 7 was natural sand and gravel [54] which had a top height of between 87.71 and 87.50m OD. It was overlain by another deposit of

“dirty” natural [51] which was up to 0.28m thick and was encountered at between 87.96 and 87.78m OD.

The natural sand and gravel was cut by another irregular feature [53] which measured up to 1.15m east-west by 1.15m north-south and was up to 0.20m deep. It was filled by [52], a loose-moderately compacted, light brownish-mid grey sand/silt/ gravel matrix. Again, this feature was interpreted as a tree bole.

The above feature and deposits were sealed by topsoil [1] which formed the current ground surface at between 88.09 and 88.005m OD.

7.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 4)

The lowest deposit identified in this trench was natural sand and gravel [25] which was encountered at between 86.81 and 86.66m OD. This was sealed by a further deposit of “dirty” natural [24] which was up to 0.26m thick and had a top height of between 87.08 and 86.93m OD.

These natural deposits were sealed by a layer of ploughsoil [23] comprising a moderately compacted, light-mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small gravels. This deposit was encountered at between 87.33 and 87.21m OD and was up to 0.29m thick.

The ploughsoil was cut by the butt end of a northwest-southeast running ditch [22]. This had steeply sloping sides and was up to 1.05m wide (it was not fully excavated due to groundwater problems). It was filled by [21], a moderately compacted, mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate gravels and occasional charcoal flecks which contained a single sherd of post-medieval slipped red earthenware with red glaze dating from 1480-1650.

The above features and deposits were sealed by a layer [20] of 20th century made-ground which was up to 0.30m thick, was encountered at between 87.61 and 87.52m OD, and appeared to form a levelling layer for the remnant of a yard surface, now lightly grassed, which formed the current ground level at between 87.76 and 87.52m OD.

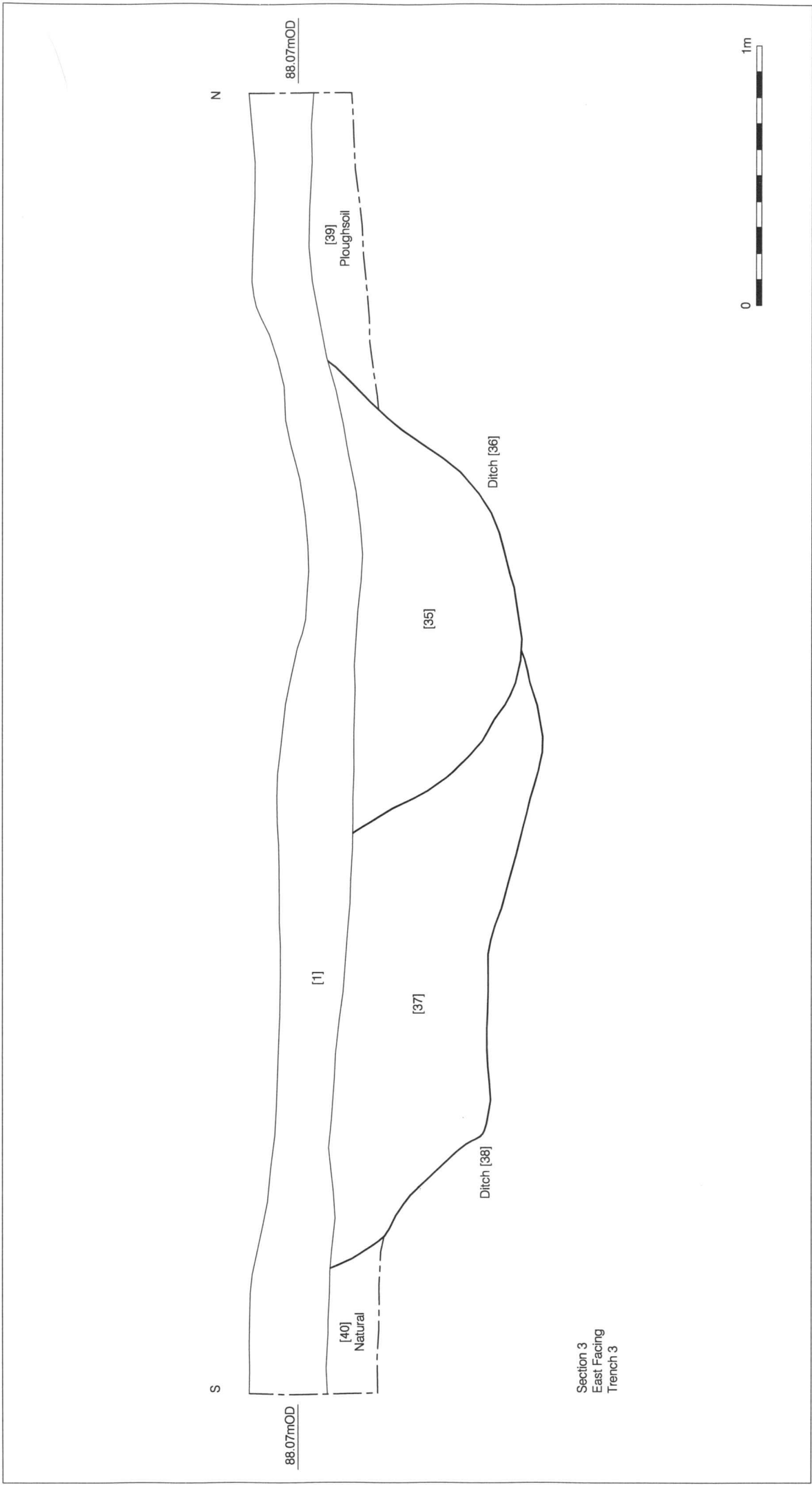


Figure 5
Section 3
1:20

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The earliest deposit recorded was natural sand and gravel which was encountered sloping across the site from 87.81m OD in the north down to 86.66m OD to the southwest, following the general topography of the area. In Trenches 4-8 and in the southern part of Trench 3 the natural sand and gravel was overlain by a bioturbated "dirty" sand and gravel layer which was also probably natural. This sloped down from 88.07m OD in the east of the site down to 86.93m OD in the southwest. Where this layer was present it is probable that it was cut by the features in these areas.
- 8.2 Along with a number of natural features, such as tree boles, two features with similar fills but no dating material, a posthole in Trench 6 and a ditch in Trench 2, were recorded cutting the natural sand and gravels. These probably relate to farming activity of an unknown date.
- 8.3 A layer of ploughsoil was recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 8 (encountered at between 88.14 and 87.93m OD in Tr.s 1-3 and between 87.33 and 87.21m OD in Tr. 8) and plough furrows were clearly identified in Trench 1. With the exception of Trench 8, where the ploughsoil overlay the bioturbated natural layer, the ploughsoil was only present where there was an absence of bioturbated natural. This was clearly shown in Trench 3 where the field boundary ditches (see below) cut ploughsoil to the north and bioturbated natural to the south. With the exception of Trench 8 the ploughsoil was concentrated in the north of the site while the bioturbated natural was prevalent in the central and southern areas. This possibly represents different land use of parts of the site: arable farming in the north, pastoral in the south, with both uses having taken place in the southwest. Alternatively this may be the result of erosion.
- 8.4 The butt end of a post-medieval ditch was recorded cutting the ploughsoil in Trench 8, while a ditch (possibly 20th century) and its recut were recorded cutting the ploughsoil and the bioturbated layer in Trench 3. These features probably represent field boundary ditches.
- 8.5 The above features and deposits in Trenches 1-7 were sealed by a layer of topsoil which sloped down from 88.32m OD in the northeast of the site to 87.91m OD in the south. Those in Trench 8 were sealed by a layer of 20th century made-ground which probably acted as a levelling layer for a remnant of a yard surface, now lightly grassed, which formed the ground surface at between 87.76 and 87.52m OD.

8.6 No evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval activity or settlement was found on site. The post-medieval remains comprise agricultural features and the standing buildings (see Appendix 3). The only further work recommended on the site is the recording of any earlier floor surfaces associated with the timber barn which may be uncovered during redevelopment.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank John Ross on behalf of Harefield Parochial Charities for funding the archaeological work and Kim Stabler GLAAS for monitoring the project.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank the project manager, Jon Butler, for his support during the project and his report editing, and John Ross for his help and encouragement.
- 9.3 The author would like to thank Fiona Keith-Lucas and Shane Maher for their hard work on site and Fiona Keith-Lucas for her buildings report. Thanks also to Frank Meddens for spot dating the pottery, Natalie Barrett for the surveying, Josephine Brown for the illustrations and Lisa Lonsdale for technical support.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Jon Butler, A Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon. Unpublished report, Pre-Construct Archaeology, December 2005.

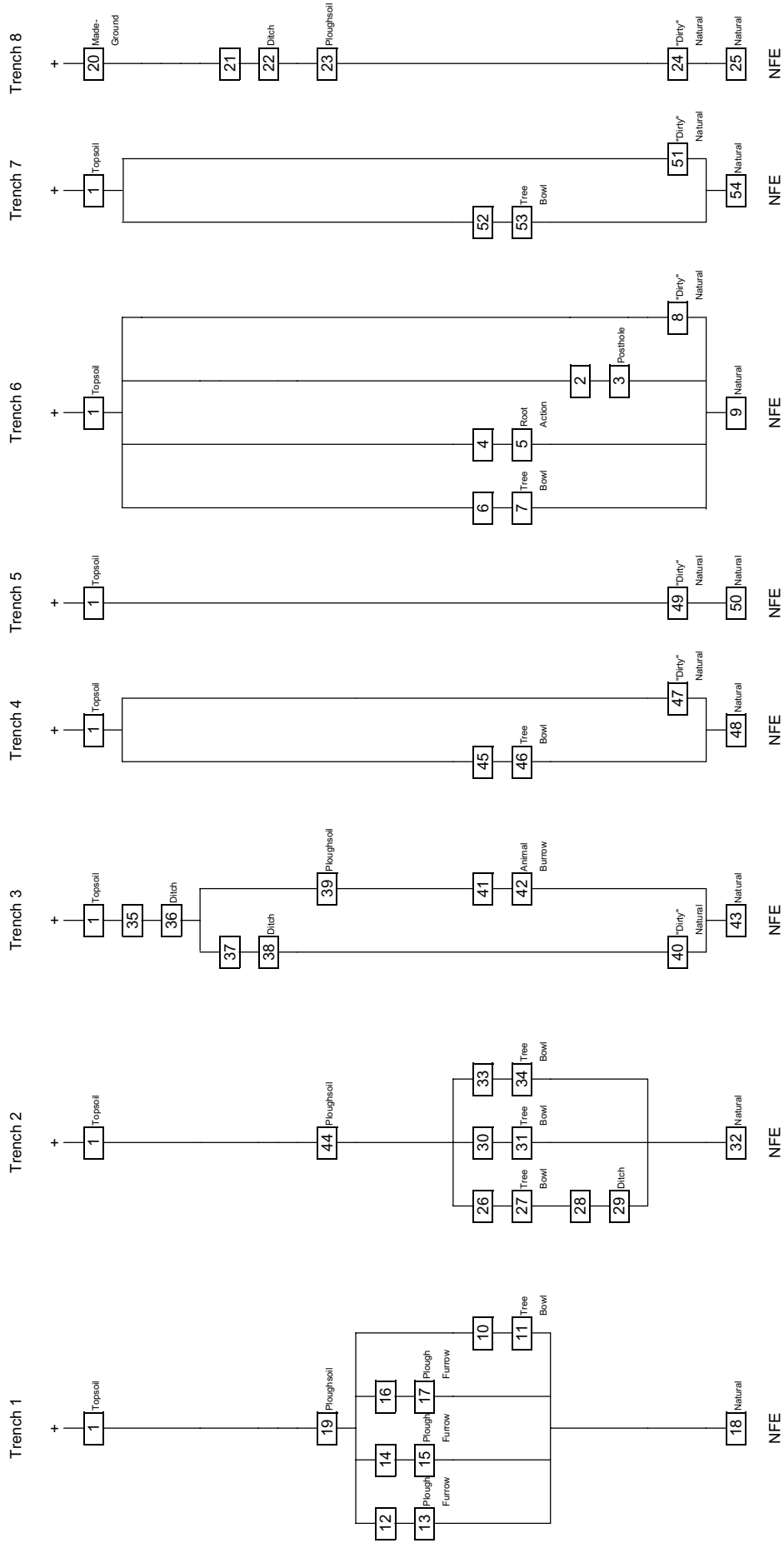
APPENDIX 1

CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Type	Description	Trench	Plan
1	Layer	Topsoil	1-7	
2	Fill	Fill of [3]	6	
3	Cut	Posthole	6	6
4	Fill	Fill of [5]	6	
5	Cut	Root Action	6	6
6	Fill	Fill of [7]	6	6
7	Cut	Tree Bole	6	6
8	Layer	"Dirty" Natural	6	
9	Layer	Natural Sand and Gravel	6	6
10	Fill	Fill of [11]	1	1
11	Cut	Tree Bole	1	1
12	Fill	Fill of [13]	1	1
13	Cut	Plough Furrow	1	1
14	Fill	Fill of [15]	1	1
15	Cut	Plough Furrow	1	1
16	Fill	Fill of [17]	1	1
17	Cut	Plough Furrow	1	1
18	Layer	Natural Sand and Gravel	1	1
19	Layer	Ploughsoil	1	
20	Layer	Made-ground	8	
21	Fill	Fill of [22]	8	8
22	Cut	Ditch	8	8
23	Layer	Ploughsoil	8	
24	Layer	"Dirty" Natural	8	
25	Layer	Natural Sand and Gravel	8	8
26	Fill	Fill of [27]	2	2
27	Cut	Tree Bole	2	2
28	Fill	Fill of [29]	2	2
29	Cut	Ditch	2	2
30	Fill	Fill of [31]	2	2
31	Cut	Tree Bole	2	2
32	Layer	Natural Sand and Gravel	2	2
33	Fill	Fill of [34]	2	2
34	Cut	Tree Bole	2	2
35	Fill	Fill of [36]	3	3
36	Cut	Field Boundary Ditch	3	3
37	Fill	Fill of [38]	3	3
38	Cut	Field Boundary Ditch	3	3
39	Layer	Ploughsoil	3	
40	Layer	"Dirty" Natural	3	
41	Fill	Fill of [42]	3	3
42	Cut	Animal Burrow	3	3
43	Layer	Natural Sand and Gravel	3	3

Context Number	Type	Description	Trench	Plan
44	Layer	Ploughsoil	2	
45	Fill	Fill of [46]	4	4
46	Cut	Tree Bole	4	4
47	Layer	"Dirty" Natural	4	
48	Layer	Natural Sand and Gravel	4	4
49	Layer	"Dirty" Natural	5	
50	Layer	Natural Sand and Gravel	5	5
51	Layer	"Dirty" Natural	7	
52	Fill	Fill of [53]	7	7
53	Cut	Tree Bole	7	7
54	Layer	Natural Sand and Gravel	7	7

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRICES



APPENDIX 3

Historic Buildings Analysis

By Fiona Keith-Lucas

Introduction

The farmhouse and two barns at The Dairy Farm, Harefield (Fig. 2 main report), were the subject of an historic buildings analysis prior to the development works on the site. The farmhouse and timber framed barn are to be renovated and their historic fabric preserved, so an in depth analysis was not recommended. The corrugated iron barn was identified as of no historical importance and recording to Level 2 (RCHME, 1996) of all three buildings was agreed with English Heritage prior to the commencement of work.

The Farmhouse

The principal elevation of the farmhouse (Fig. 6) faces south across the Colne Valley and away from the farmyard. The building is two-storeys high with loft space and gable-ended. At ground level, the main body of the building is four bays wide and two bays deep comprising six rooms and the stairwell (Fig. 10). Onto this have been added a downstairs bathroom and two rear porches. The first floor plan is just one bay deep; comprising three bedrooms and the stairwell. The building clearly shows separate phases of development, discussed below.

The original building, thought to date from the mid 19th century, had two rooms upstairs and two downstairs, either side of a central staircase and cross passage. A chimney at both gable ends served a fireplace in all four rooms. The original fireplace with brick surround and cast iron grate survives in the west upstairs bedroom. The fireplace in the original east bedroom has been temporarily sealed with ply board. The principle elevation retains the original sash windows. On the ground floor, these comprise six over six lights, whereas on the first floor, eight over eight lights were used, giving proportion and displaying the more expensive glass on the ground floor. All original sashes had typically mid 19th century projected and carved stiles, although those in the west ground floor room were more elaborate suggesting this to be the higher status room, probably the parlour. The stairs are partially original and partially late 19th to early 20th century replacement with a steep lower flight allowing head clearance beneath the landing and a shallow upper flight opening onto a central landing with a wide view to the south.

The house was extended in the late 19th century. The two-storied front elevation was continued east, whilst the pitch of the original roof was projected down to cover additional ground floor accommodation to the North. It is likely that the roof was re-tiled at this time. The chimney for the east extension backed onto the previous gable-end chimney (clear in the

string course of the chimney stacks in Figs. 6 & 7). Flemish bond was used for the more visible front and rear elevations, with stretcher bond used on the contemporary east-facing wall. A fireplace with a single-centred arch and chimney were built into the extended west gable-end to serve the kitchen now located here. An original four-light casement window was placed in the roof space above the kitchen fireplace suggesting the space to have originally been intended for access and probable storage. The hatch for accessing the space was located in the kitchen ceiling.

The hall, stairwell and landing had a dado rail at chest height, with panels beneath divided by applied beading. Each panel was green with a central tile decorated with a bleeding-heart flower motif. The fireplaces in the ground floor rooms had both been replaced in the 1920s-30s.

The two new rooms to the east were originally undivided and provided a cool open space for the dairy. An original concrete floor is evident, with a central north-south gutter draining under the north wall into the yard. A wide sliding door between this room and the yard provided access for cattle coming to be milked. The room between here and the rear hall also had a concrete floor with central drain (now carpeted). Steel bars protruding from the north wall may represent an historic fitting such as a cheese-drying rack. In recent years this has been used as a harness room, with saddles hung on the steel bars.

Dutch Barn

This style of cast and corrugated iron barn was quite common after 1885 (and into the 20th century), providing open-sided storage for hay. This three-bayed structure aligned north-south was modest in size; originally 9.0m long, by 4.2m wide. The bar joists, prefabricated cast iron roof trusses, were shaped as shallow crescents, having curved upper and lower chords above and below the intermediate raking struts. Nine parallel purlins supported a curved corrugated iron roof. The trusses were bolted (with square headed bolts) to 'T' section cast iron beams used as bay posts. At 0.85m above the ground, these vertical 'T' beams were welded to square plates, which were bolted with square-headed coach bolts to 0.24m diameter round-section softwood posts.

Softwood midrails bolted on at chest height provided a fixing for corrugated iron walls; in place by the early 20th Century. A single pitch lean-to structure was added to the East of the barn, most likely in the inter-war period. The full three-bay length was extended, using posts of converted round-section softwood, and roofed with corrugated iron. Internal partition walls were not inserted between the bays until the mid 20th century, when thick ply board was used to create four rooms. The barn has latterly been used as a stable with timber hay-racks and hitching posts added to the internal partition walls.

Timber-framed Barn

The timber-framed barn appears to have been constructed during the early 18th century, and is depicted on Rocques' Map of 1754. The five-bay structure extends north-south, with wide barn doors opening west onto the yard from the second bay from the south (Fig. 11). The doors are 20th century replacements, but the wrought iron pintles that would have hung the original doors in the same location remain embedded in the bay posts. The original construction was in oak using normal, tie-beam lap-dovetail assembly and a queen strut, collar purlin roof with clasped, non-diminished, purlins. The barn suffered in the storms of 1987 and was re-roofed. It is assumed from the construction date that it would have originally had a central ridge beam, as reconstructed. The queen struts remain *in situ* in Frame 3⁴, and the mortices for the struts are evident in the tie-beam of Frame 2. However, Frames 4 and 5 do not show evidence for this. These trusses show raking queen struts to support the purlins without a collar; a roofing style common from the 18th century. It was also noted that the upper, carpenter's face of Frames 2 and 3 face in towards one another. This information, combined with the door location suggests the barn to originally have been of three bays, extended relatively soon after to the north. It is probable that this would have been a threshing barn with central threshing floor. The dormer now present to the east in the second bay was built after the storm damage, but the O/S map of 1866 shows an extension to the east in this location. This may have been a porch to the doors that would have opened here, allowing carts to pass directly through the barn.

The origin of many of the older timbers is of historic importance. Three of the four southernmost bay posts once had jowls, but these had been cleaved off when the timbers were reused here. Many other timbers were reused, including wall plates used as mid-rails and purlins, and a floor-bridging beam used as a main post. The west bay post in Frame 4 had decorative run-out chamfers, unlike other timbers in the barn, and mortices for an arched brace. It may once have been a tie beam. It is thought that many of these timbers originate from an earlier post-medieval house, possibly that which landowner Solomon Burbery was given permission to rebuild in 1680⁵.

The barn has seen too many repairs throughout its history to discuss even a fraction of the changes. The barn will have been used for all manner of things, but when the farm became dependent on dairying (and machines had seen the end of manual threshing) it is likely that it was used for sheltering cattle, particularly calves. It is during the early 20th century, when the dairy was flourishing, that the barn had further extensions to the east (now demolished). The current internal arrangement, of breeze-block and ply board looseboxes was probably built in

⁴ Frames have been numbered 1-6 from South to North.

⁵ Bradley, T., An Archaeological Desktop Assessment of the Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon. Unpublished report, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, January 2005.

the 1960s for cattle. In recent years these have housed horses, showing both barns to have become stables.

Further Work

It is recommended that any historic floor surfaces encountered during the raising of the concrete floor of the timber barn be appropriately reported.

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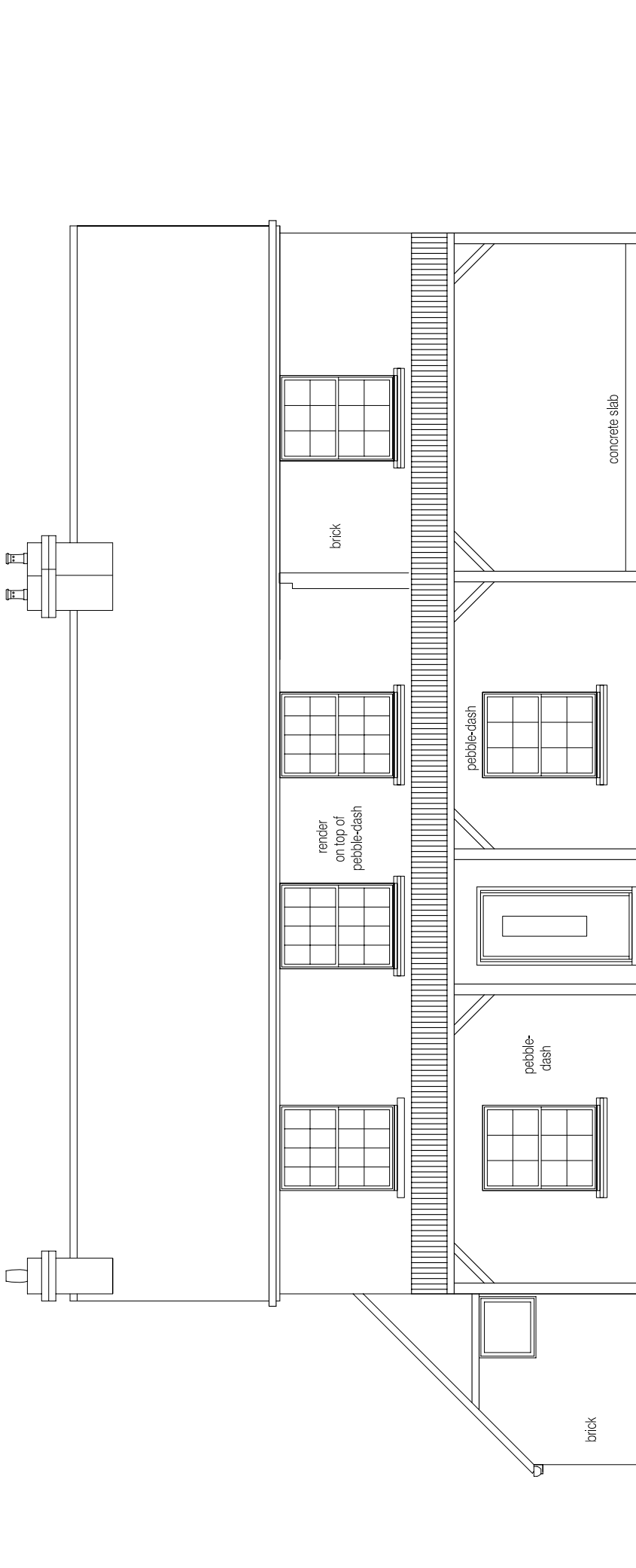


Figure 6
 Farm house: front (south) elevation
 1:80

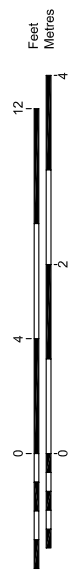
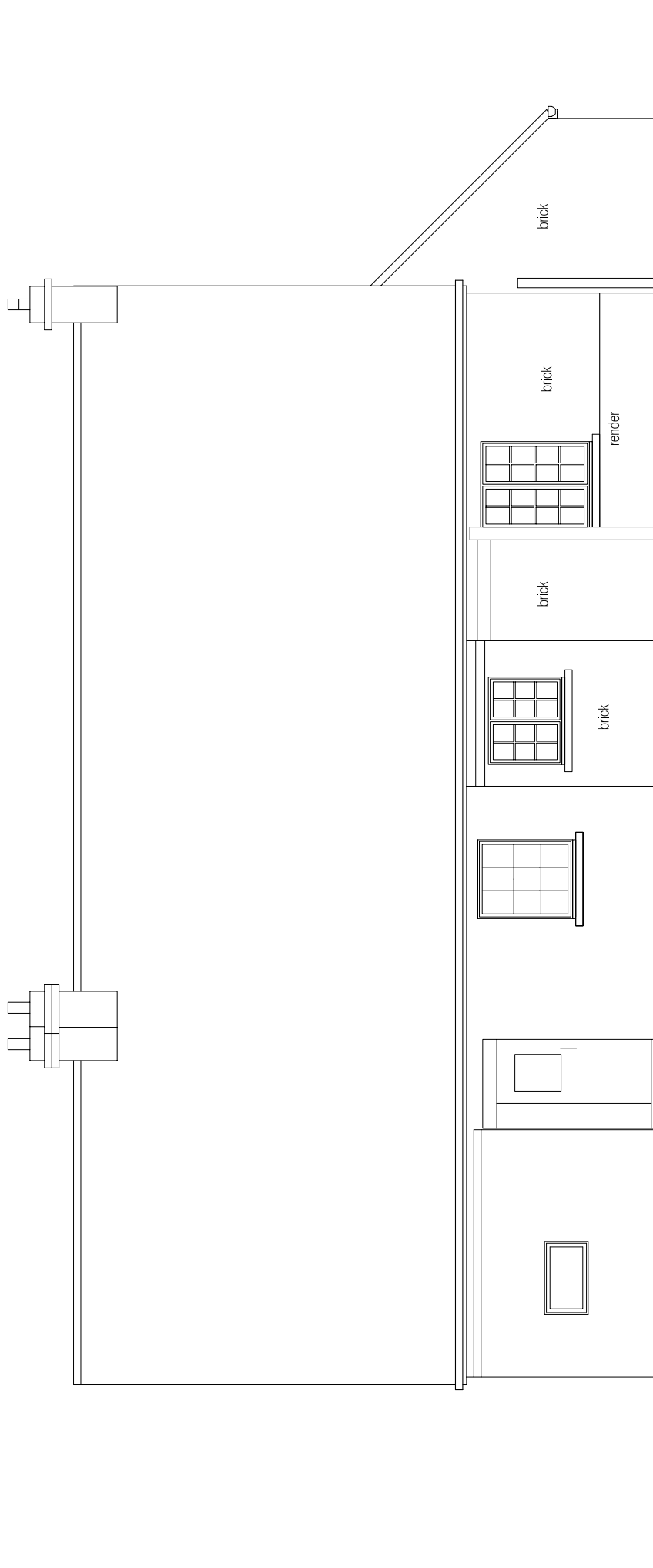


Figure 7
Farm house: north (rear) elevation
1:80

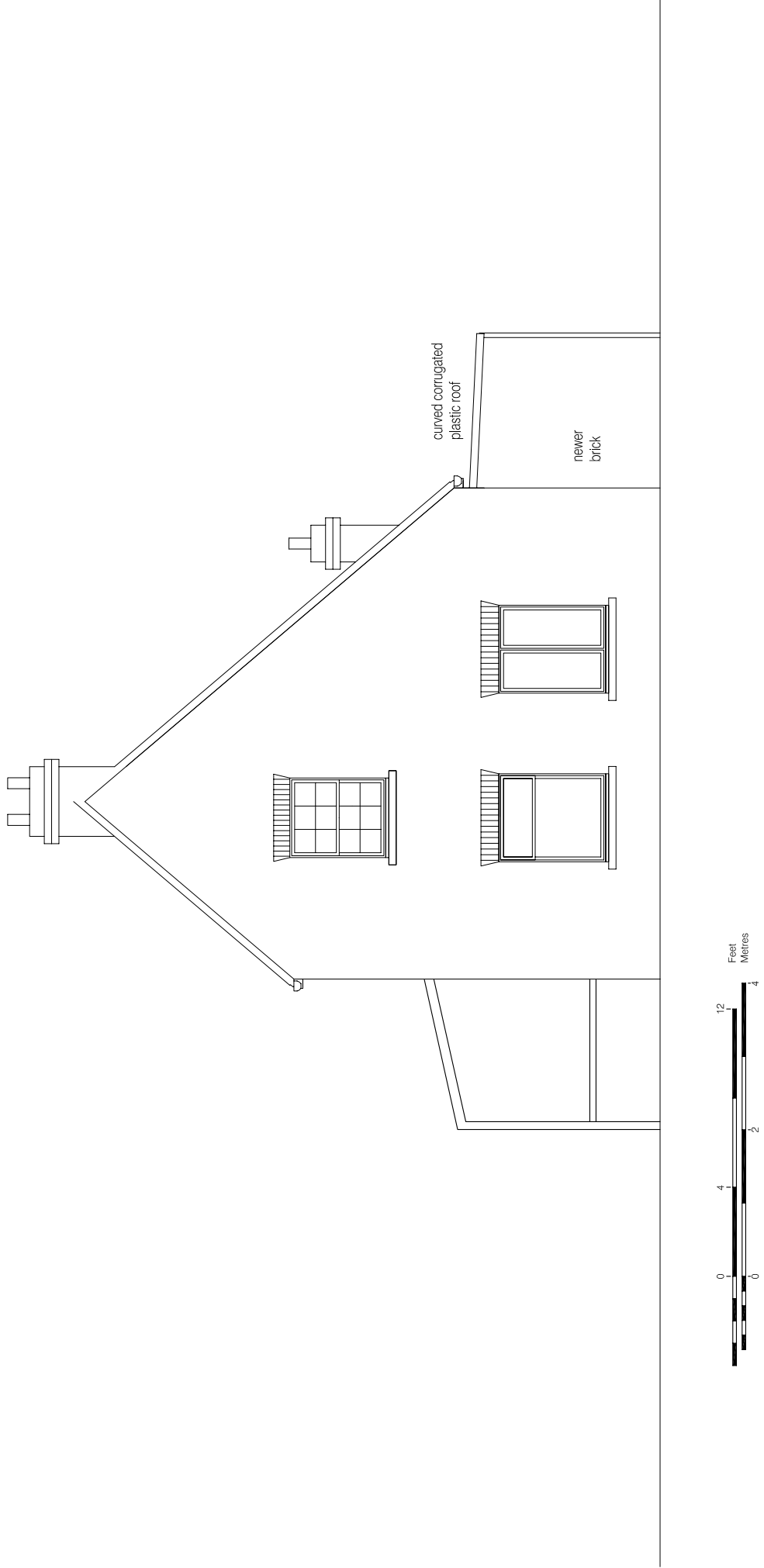


Figure 8
Farm house: east elevation
1:80

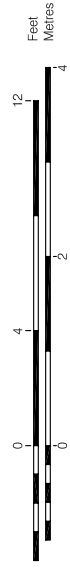
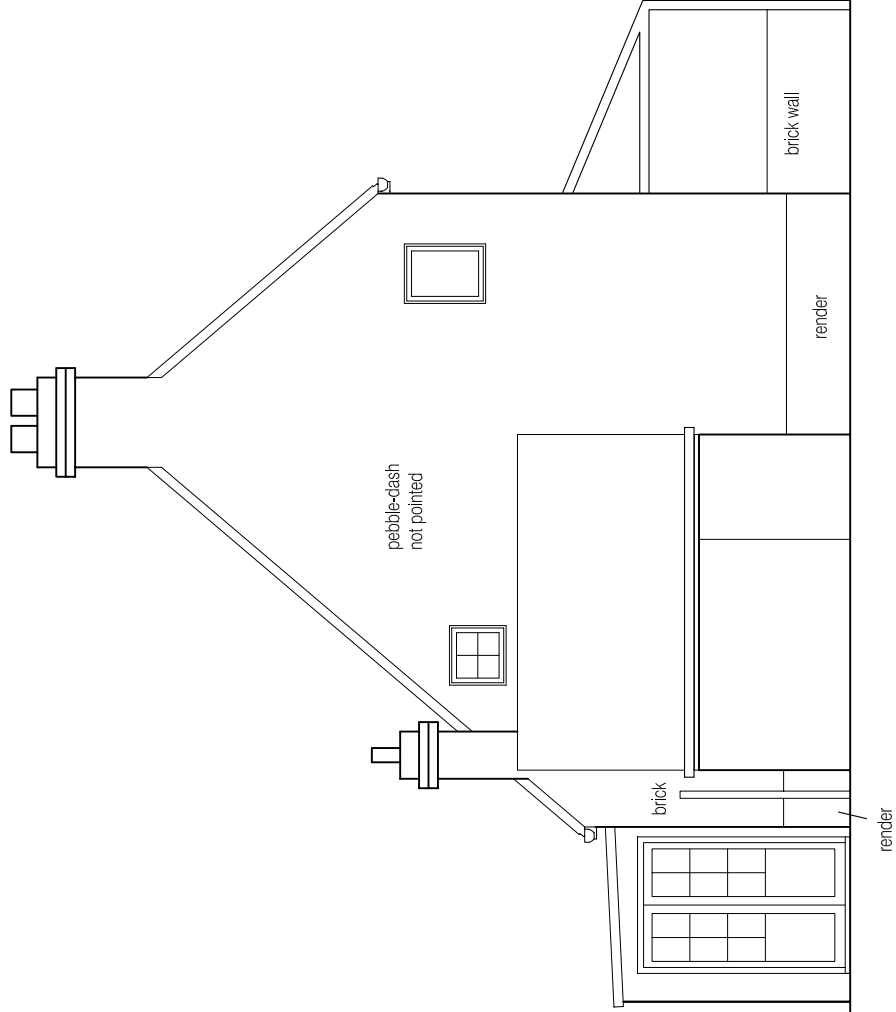


Figure 9
Farm house: west elevation
1:80

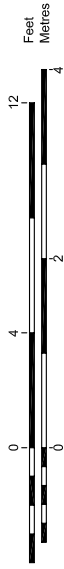
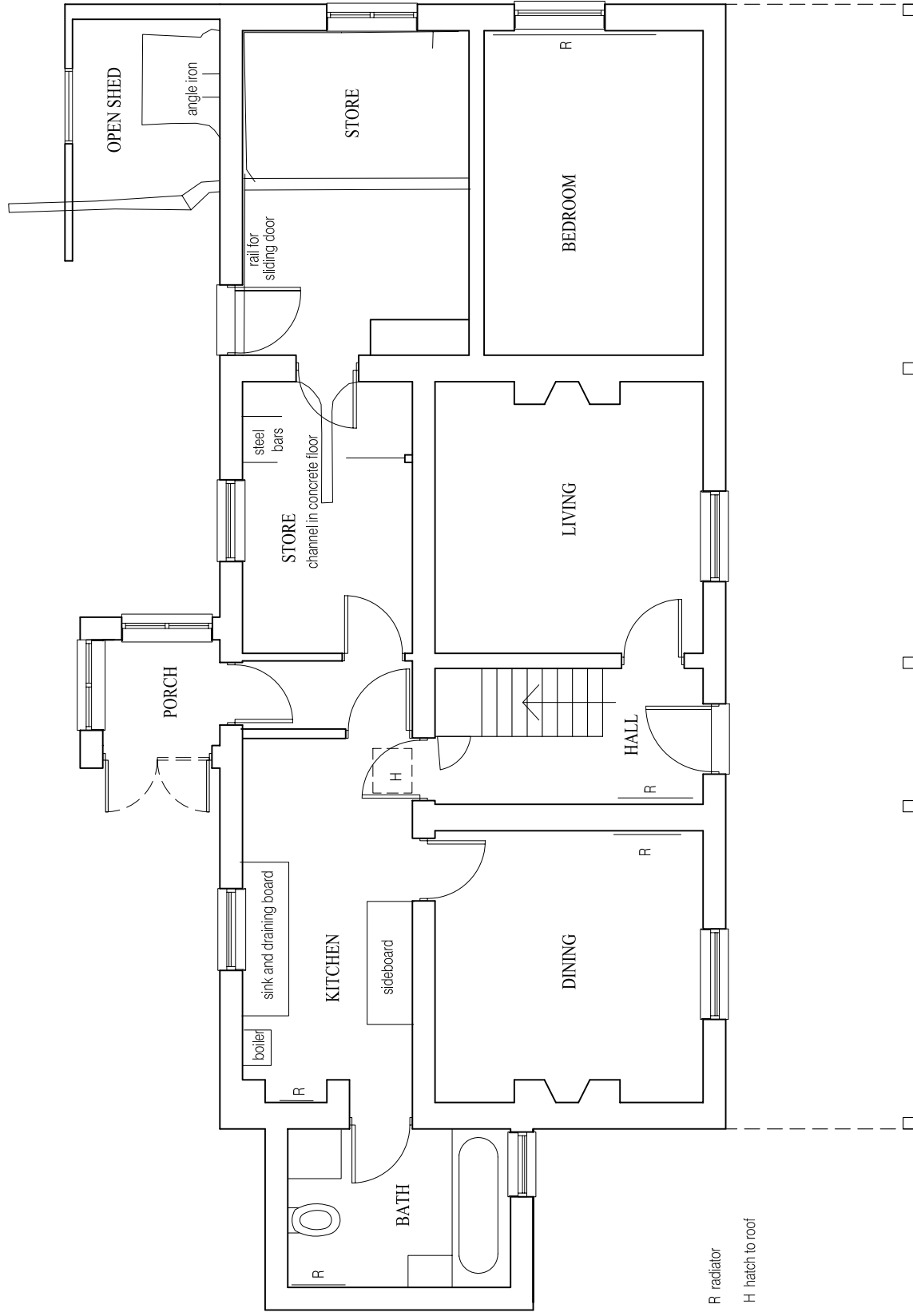


Figure 10
Farm house: plan of ground floor
1:80

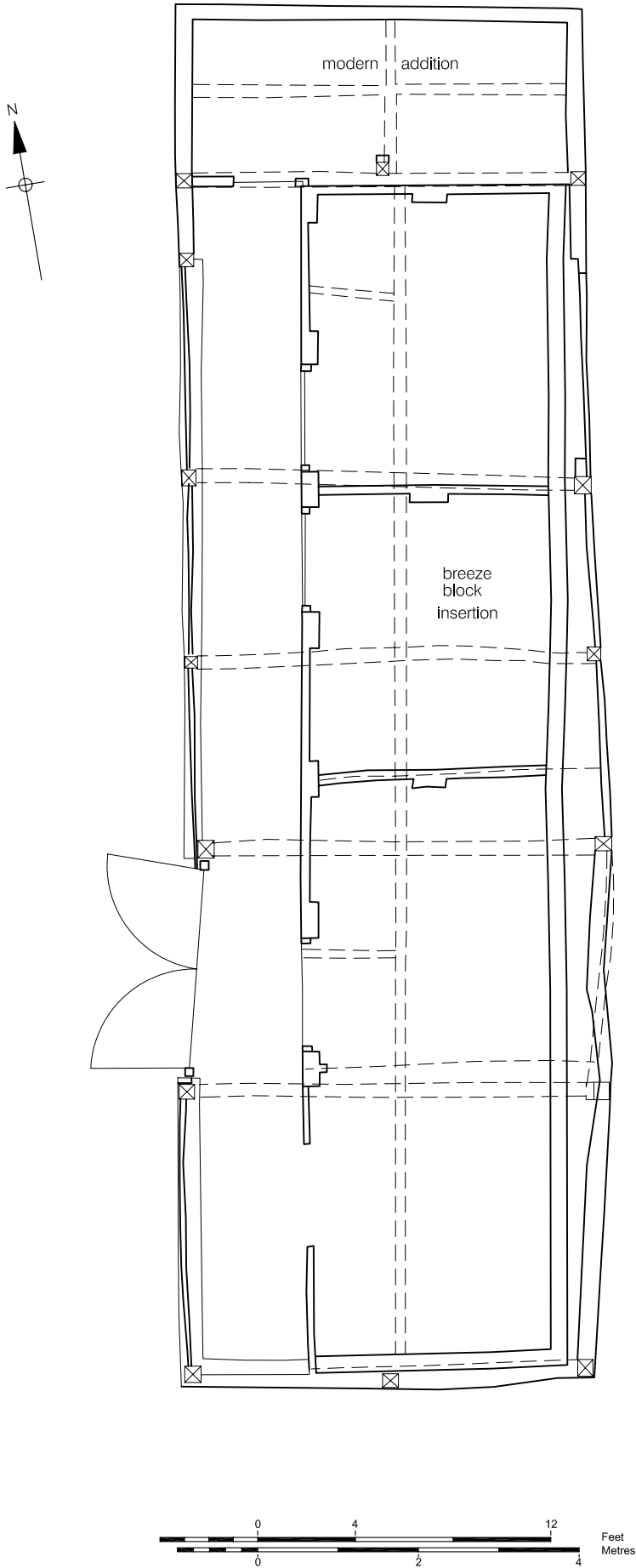


Figure 11
Plan of timber-framed barn
1:80



Plate 1: South facing elevation of farmhouse



Plate 2: Interior of farmhouse showing previous double doors



Plate 3: West facing elevation of dutch barn



Plate 4: West facing elevation of timber barn



Plate 5: Roof trusses in timber barn



Plate 6: Slots in roof truss in timber barn

APPENDIX 4

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OASIS ID: preconst1-12431

Project details

Project name	Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon
Short description of the project	<p>This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at the Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon (Fig. 1). The central National Grid Reference is TQ 0543 9034. The field evaluation was undertaken between 9th and 13th January 2006 and consisted of eight trial trenches (Trs 1-8) (Fig. 2) and a report on three standing buildings (see Appendix 3). The commissioning client was John Ross on behalf of Harefield Parochial Charities. The earliest deposits encountered were natural sands and gravels some of which had been bioturbated. A posthole and ditch of unknown date were recorded cutting the natural layers along with a number of natural features such as treebowls. Ploughsoil was recorded in the north and southwest of the site which was cut by three ditches (one a recut) of post-medieval date. The trenches were sealed by topsoil apart from that in the southwest which was sealed by 20th century made-ground and the remnant of a yard surface.</p>
Project dates	Start: 09-01-2006 End: 13-01-2006
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DFU 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth >0.25m
Monument type	TIMBER BARN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ONE SHERD OF POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods &	'Sample Trenches'

techniques

Development type Housing estate

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON HAREFIELD the Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon.
Study area	1.00 Hectares
National grid reference	TQ 0543 9034 Point
Height OD	Min: 86.66m Max: 87.81m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project design originator	Jon Butler
Project director/manager	Jon Butler
Project supervisor	Elliott Wragg
Sponsor or funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local museum
Digital Contents	'none'

Digital Media available	'Database','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Assessment of an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Dairy Farm, Breakspear Road North, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wragg,E.
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
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