

**No.3 MANOR AVENUE  
HORNCHURCH  
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING  
  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**FEBRUARY 2012**



**No.3 MANOR AVENUE  
HORNCHURCH  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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## CONTENTS

	Page No.
<b>SUMMARY</b>	1
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	2
<b>2.0 BACKGROUND</b>	3
<b>3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</b>	4
<b>4.0 METHOD</b>	4
<b>5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS</b>	4
<b>6.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS</b>	5
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	5
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	6

### **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX 1 Trench Data

APPENDIX 2 Contents of Archive

APPENDIX 3 HER Summary Sheet

### **FIGURES**

Fig. 1 Location of archaeological evaluation trenches

Fig. 2 Trench 1, all features

Fig. 3 Trench 2, Section 1

### **PLATES**

Plate 1 Trench 1 under excavation

Plate 2 Sondage in trench 2

Plate 3 Trench 1 after excavation

Plate 4 Trench 2

**No.3 MANOR AVENUE**  
**HORNCHURCH**  
**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Client: Haverbridge Construction

NGR: TQ 53190 88965

Site Code: MNA 12

Oasis No: essexcou1-118349

Date of Fieldwork: 19th January 2012

**SUMMARY**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out on a parcel of land at No. 3 Manor Avenue, Hornchurch in advance of the construction of a two storey building and garages. Two north-south aligned evaluation trenches, measuring 20m by 1.5m and 10m by 1.5m respectively, were excavated across the 0.14ha site.*

*The required investigation was prompted by a lack of information about the archaeological potential of the area, which is situated to the west of the Ravensbourne brook and is likely to have been attractive area for settlement and exploitation in the prehistoric period.*

*At the start of the evaluation Trench 2 was moved approximately 10m to the southwest and shortened by 10m (from 20m) due to presence of an existing garage. Two modern features, containing a piece of factory-made pottery and small lumps of coal, were identified and excavated. Both were located in trench one. In order to expose an extended stratigraphic sequence and determine the presence or absence of any underlying gravel terrace associated with the nearby Ravensbourne brook, a sondage was excavated at the north end of trench 2. It showed the geology of the site consisted of sandy soil to a depth of at least 2m below the existing ground surface.*

*The investigation did not reveal any archaeological remains and while this may in part be due to the reduction in area sampled caused by the shortening of Trench 2, the results would appear to suggest that the proposed development will have no impact upon the archaeological record.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out on a parcel of land at No. 3 Manor Avenue, Hornchurch in advance of the construction of a detached 2 storey building with accommodation in the roof, comprising 9no 2-bed flats with garages to the rear of the site (P1741.11). The archaeological work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Haverbridge Construction.

As the site lies in an area of unknown archaeological potential English Heritage GLAAS advised the London Borough of Havering that an archaeological evaluation was required in order to determine the presence or absence of any remains within the site. This advice is based upon guidance contained in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment and the Condition states:

*“No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological work shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority”.*

The investigation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2012).

Copies of this report will be supplied to Haverbridge Construction, English Heritage GLAAS, Greater London Historic Environment Record and the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC). A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at the LAARC.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Topography and Geology (Fig. 1)**

The 0.14ha site is located on the north side of Manor Avenue, Hornchurch at NGR TQ 53190 88965 and was formerly a domestic garden (Fig. 1). The British Geological Survey (England and Wales Sheet 256 North London 1994) shows the study site to lie on an area of Black

Park Gravel, overlooking the route of the Ravensbourne brook/stream to the east of the site, with Boyn Hill Gravels to the east and west.

## **2.2 Archaeology and History**

The Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) indicates that very little archaeological investigation has taken place within the wider vicinity of the site to date, although the plot is located on a gravel terrace overlooking the Ravensbourne brook/stream. Cartographic evidence appears to indicate that the site has been partially developed since the 1950's but evidence for earlier post-medieval structures may well be present.

There is no recorded evidence for Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon or Medieval activity within 250m of the site, although the GLHER does note a late 16<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, called Balgores, which was recorded as standing empty by 1914 and was built over in the 1920's (GLHER 060369/00/00).

The 1867 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map shows a largely rural landscape, with open farmland, isolated cottages and farmhouses, including Heath House and Poundhouse Farm, and the land remained largely open and undeveloped throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, until the development of Manor Avenue and Manor Gardens, which are shown on the 1921 OS map. However, the land to the immediate north, south and east of the site still remained open and undeveloped at this date.

Consequently, the site had the potential to produce additional, as yet unknown, remains from virtually any period from the prehistoric period onwards, with perhaps the greatest potential for remains of Prehistoric, Medieval and Post-Medieval date.

## **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1 Aims**

The specific aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits that may be present and the likely impact of development upon them. Information provided by the evaluation would then have been used to determine the necessity for any further archaeological work to mitigate the impact of development, based on recommendations from the English Heritage monitoring officer.

### **3.2 Objectives**

In the event that significant archaeological remains were encountered this report would have aimed to place the results in context with the research objectives laid out in *A Research Framework for London Archaeology* (MoL 2002) and *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). As no features of significance were identified the project has little potential to contribute to any of the research agendas.

### **4.0 METHOD**

Two archaeological trial trenches aligned north-south, measuring 20m long by 1.5m wide and 10m long by 1.5m wide respectively, were excavated by a machine fitted with toothless ditching bucket under a supervision of an archaeologist. At the start of the evaluation Trench 2 was moved approximately 10m to the southwest and shortened by 10m (from 20m) due to presence of an existing garage.

Potential archaeological features were cleaned and hand excavated. Standard ECC FAU excavation and recording methodologies were employed throughout. ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and all work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 2010; 2008) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

### **5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Fig 2 & 3)**

The topsoil was consistent across the site and comprised 0.3m-0.4m of dark greyish black soft silty sand overlying 0.2m-0.35m orangey grey soft silty sand, which in turn overlaid light yellow-orange natural soft silty sand. On the request of the English Heritage monitoring officer, a 0.5m wide by 2m deep sondage was dug at the north end of trench 2, revealing that a further 0.3m of natural sand was underlain by 0.4m of very compact yellow-orange silty sand, which overlaid very soft light to dark orange-brown fine sand extending below the base of the sondage (Plate 2, Fig. 3).

Despite the fact the soil in trench 1, particularly in its northern end, was disturbed by tree roots, two possible features and a test pit were identified (Plate 3). The features were very shallow and turned out to be modern as one of them contained a piece of 20th century pottery (not retained) and the other small lumps of coal, while the test pit was dug by the



contractors prior to the start of works on the site. No features were identified in trench 2 (Plate 4).

## **6.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS**

Despite the proximity of the site to the Ravensbourne Brook, an area that is likely to have been attractive to Prehistoric and later communities, no traces of human activity earlier than the 20th century was discovered during the investigation, which for the Post-Medieval and Early Modern periods corresponds with information derived from historic map sources showing the late development of the area. A sondage excavated in Trench 2 showed that the geology of the site comprised soft sands and the gravel terrace of the Ravensbourne Brook was not observed.

While the absence of any archaeological remains may in part be due to the reduction in area sampled resulting from the shortening of Trench 2, the results would appear to suggest that the proposed development will have no impact upon the archaeological record.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ECC FAU would like to thank Haverbridge Construction for commissioning the work. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Trevor Ennis and Lukasz Miciak of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. The report was prepared by Lukasz Miciak with illustrations by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Adam Single of English Heritage GLAAS.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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|----------------------------|------|---|
| Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy, East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 8</i>           |
| ECC FAU                    | 2012 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trail Trenching at No. 3 Manor Avenue, Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering. ECC FAU 2533</i> |
| Gurney, D.                 | 2003 | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14</i>   |
| Museum of London.          | 2009 | <i>General Standards for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives Deposited with the Museum of London</i>   |
| Museum of London           | 2002 | <i>A Research Framework for London Archaeology</i>  |

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Trench	Measurements	Co-ordinates (end, centre)
1	20m x 1.5m x 0.7m , orientated N/S	N X = 553190.4 Y = 188958.4 S X = 553189.3 Y = 188938.6
2	10m x 1.5m x 0.6m, orientated N/S	N X = 553183.0 Y = 188978.3 S X = 553181.6 Y = 188968.0

## **APPENDIX 2: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE**

**Site Name: No. 3 Manor Avenue, Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering**

**Site Code:**

### **Index to Archive:**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Written Scheme of Investigation

#### **2. Research Archive**

2.1 Client Report

#### **3. Site Archive**

3.1 Trench recording sheet (x2)

3.2 Photographic Register

3.3 Site Photographic Record (prints of digital images)

3.4 Miscellaneous notes/plans

### **Not in File**

1 large plan/section sheets

## APPENDIX 3

### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b> No. 3 Manor Avenue, Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering		
<b>County:</b> Greater London	<b>District:</b> Havering	
<b>Village/Town:</b> Hornchurch	<b>Parish:</b> Hornchurch	
<b>Planning application reference:</b> P1741.11		
<b>HER Enquiry reference:</b> N/A		
<b>Funding source:</b> Developer – Haverbridge Construction		
<b>Nature of application:</b> Residential development		
<b>Present land use:</b> Garden		
<b>Size of application area:</b> 0.14ha	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 45 sqm	
<b>NGR (to 8 figures minimum):</b> TQ 53190 88965		
<b>Site code (if applicable):</b> MNA 12		
<b>Site director/Organization:</b> L. Miciak, ECC Field Archaeology Unit		
<b>Type of work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation		
<b>Date of work:</b>	<b>Start:</b> 20th January 2012	<b>Finish:</b> 20th January 2012
<b>Location of finds &amp; site archive/Curating museum:</b> LAARC		
<b>Related HER Nos:</b> N/A	<b>Periods represented:</b> N/A	
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> N/A		
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out on a parcel of land at No. 3 Manor Avenue, Hornchurch in advance of the construction of a two storey building and garages. Two north-south aligned evaluation trenches, measuring 20m by 1.5m and 10m by 1.5m respectively, were excavated across the 0.14ha site.</i></p> <p><i>The required investigation was prompted by a lack of information about the archaeological potential of the area, which is situated to the west of the Ravensbourne brook and is likely to have been attractive area for settlement and exploitation in the prehistoric period.</i></p> <p><i>At the start of the evaluation Trench 2 was moved approximately 10m to the southwest and shortened by 10m (from 20m) due to presence of an existing garage. Two modern features, containing a piece of factory-made pottery and small lumps of coal, were identified and excavated. Both were located in trench one. In order to expose an extended stratigraphic sequence and determine the presence or absence of any underlying gravel terrace associated with the nearby Ravensbourne brook, a sondage was</i></p>		

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**Author of summary:** L. Miciak

**Date of summary:** January 2012

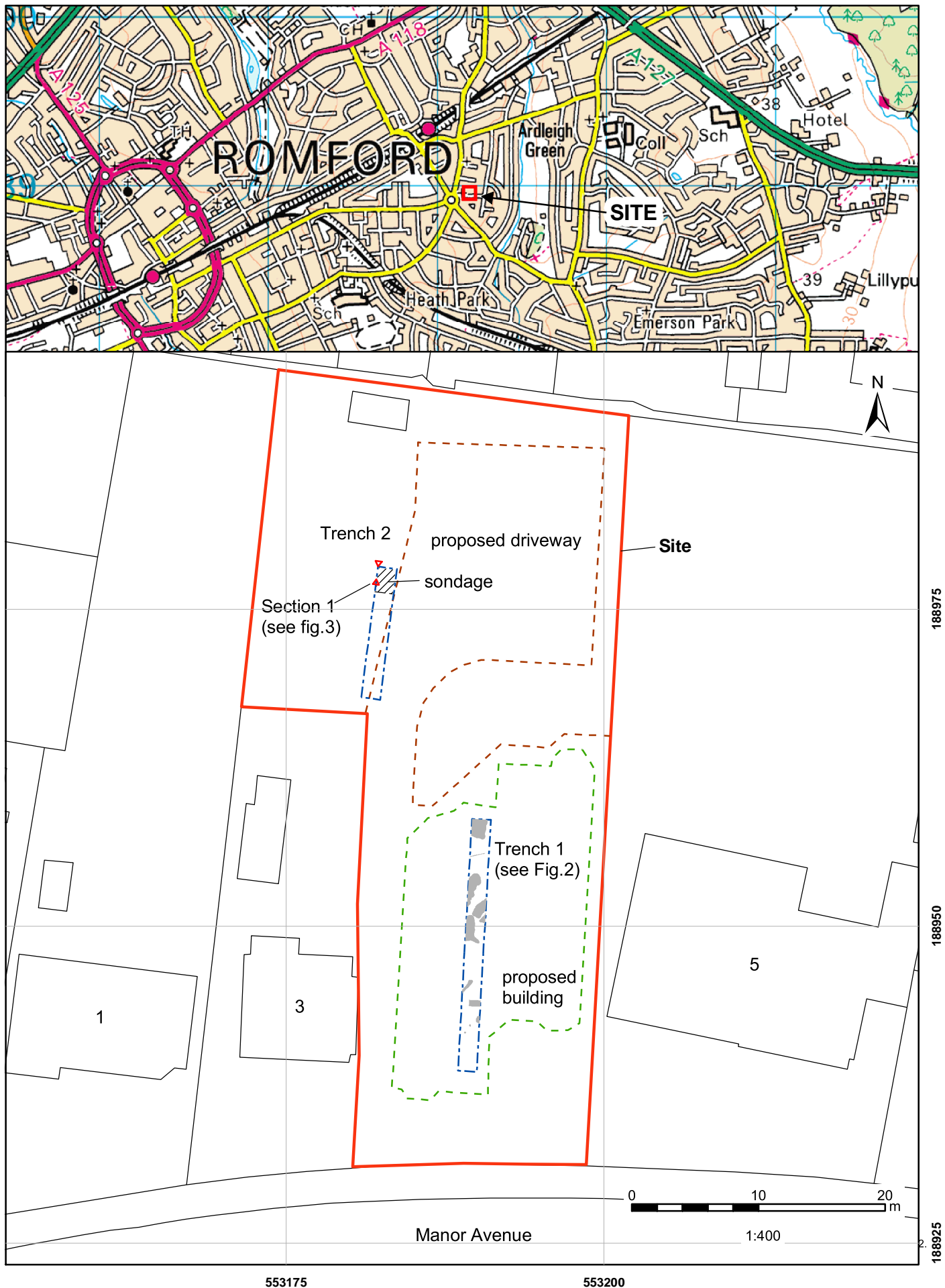


Fig.1. Locations of archaeological evaluation trenches

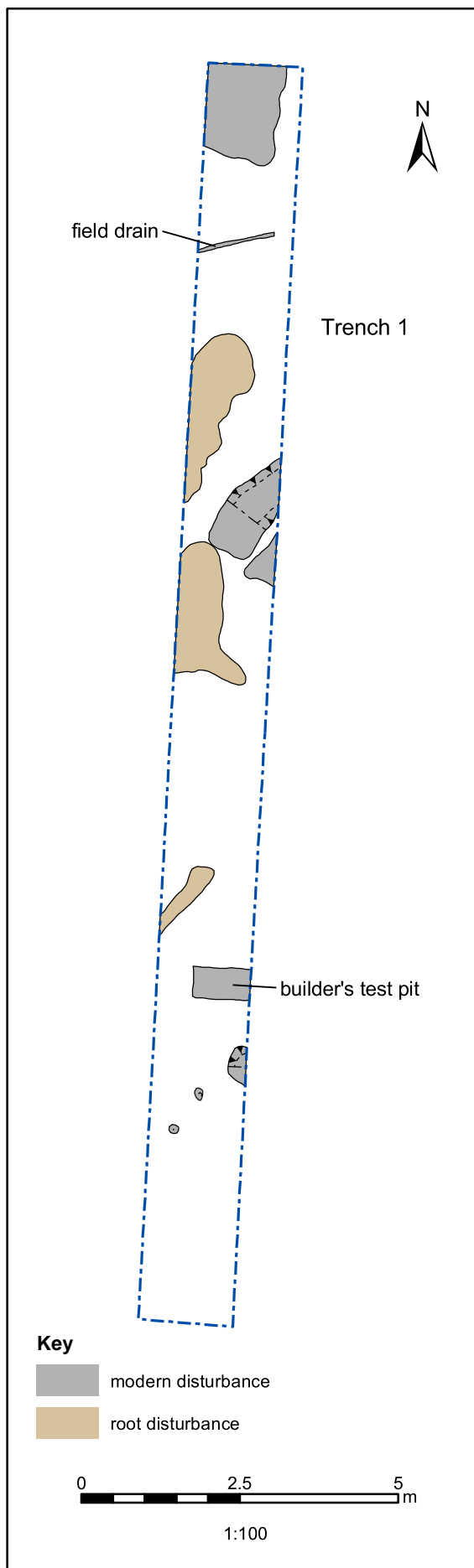


Fig.2. Trench 1 all features

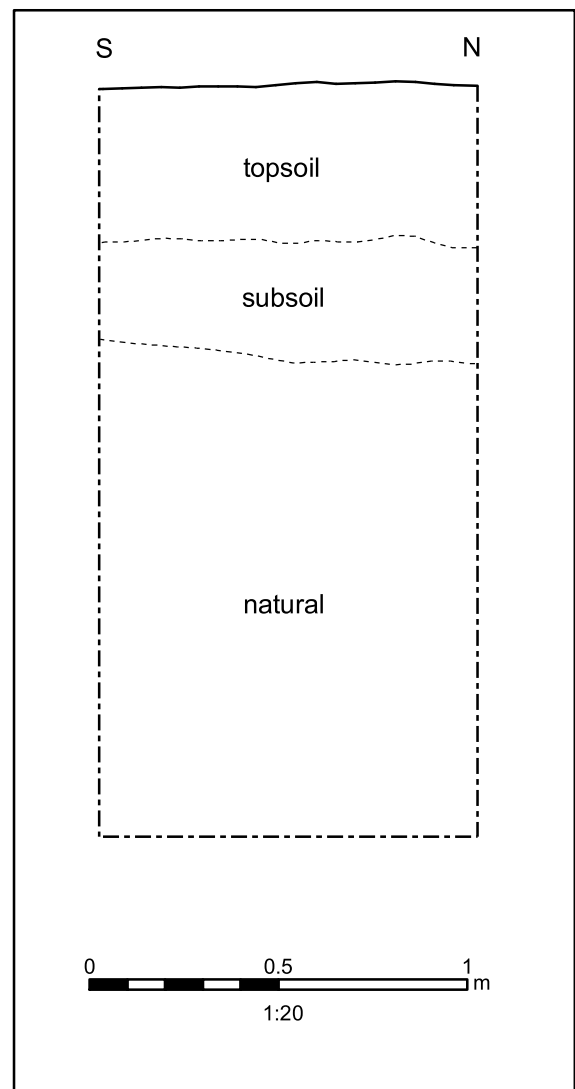


Fig.3. Trench 2, Section 1





Plate 1. Trench 1 under excavation



Plate 2. Sondage in trench 2





Plate 3. Trench 1 after excavation



Plate 4. Trench 2