

**PASSMORE HOUSE  
THIRD AVENUE, HARLOW  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (PHASE 2)  
EVALUATION, EXCAVATION AND MONITORING**



Essex County Council

**Field Archaeology Unit**

**December 2010**

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**Front cover: Passmore House, rear view looking west**

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EVALUATION, EXCAVATION AND MONITORING**

**Client:** Vale Stabilisation Services

**National Grid Reference:** TL 4438 0908

**Planning Application No.:** HLW/0397/06

**Scheduled Monument No:** SM 29468

**Site Code:** HAPH 08

**ECC FAU Project No.:** 1879

**OASIS Reference:** essexcou1-41005

**Dates of Fieldwork:** 10 April - 9 December 2008

**SUMMARY**

*An archaeological investigation was carried out at Passmore House, Harlow, a Grade II-listed country house built in 1727, before its conversion into a residential care home. The house was built on the site of a medieval moated manor designated a Scheduled Monument and the archaeological recording was carried out under the terms of a scheduled monument consent. This work followed an earlier assessment of the results of a previous excavation carried out inside the south-western room of the present house in 1999 and a borehole and trial-pit survey carried out in 2007 (Allen and Pocock 2007). The assessment concluded that medieval and post-medieval remains survived beneath and around the existing house, although the conversion works involved only limited areas of new build within the scheduled monument area.*

*Evaluation of the area of a new residential block east of the house (Trench 1), outside the scheduled area, did not identify any archaeological remains and no further work was required.*

*Archaeological recording was concentrated within the scheduled monument area around the existing house. Study of historic maps and monitoring of groundworks (Trenches 4-6) has established the outline of the medieval moated enclosure, and the eastern line of the moat*

*was found to be staggered, with its northern section aligned well to the east of the original projection. Waterlogged organic moat fills were recorded to a depth of 2m, almost certainly representing the original medieval moat, although unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered to confirm this. The northern sections of the moat were deliberately filled during the construction of the 1727 house, but its southern end was kept open as a garden feature.*

*Limited excavation (Trenches 2-3) recorded an earlier manorial building range predating the 1727 house, extending for at least 8m to its south. It had flint sleeper walls for a timber-framed superstructure, is dated to the 16th century by brick foundation courses, and was related to a brick-lined garderobe (privy) recorded in the 1999 excavation to its north. The southern building range was refurbished, probably in the 17th century, through the insertion of a course of reused 16th-century bricks, most likely as underpinning for the repair of timber-framing. This refurbishment was contemporary with the foundations of an earlier phase of building beneath the walls of the south-western room of the 1727 house, interpreted in the 1999 excavation as a brick-built parlour with a fireplace.*

*The construction of the present house in 1727 was recorded in detail (Trench 2), confirming that it was a completely new build, even though it incorporated the footings of the earlier phase of the house. The earlier building range to the south was demolished (Trench 3) and moat was mostly infilled and levelled over to landscape the area around the house. Later additions to the house include a 19th-century extension in the courtyard and a Victorian conservatory at its south-west corner, both since demolished. The recent refurbishment and conversion of the house has as far as possible retained its original 18th-century character.*

*Overall, limited investigation of the scheduled monument area around Passmore House has confirmed the survival of earlier manorial remains to the south of the house, in the southern part of the moated enclosure. Although the building phases that were recorded date to the 16th and 17th centuries, there is evidence to suggest the survival of medieval building remains in this area also. Correlation with the sequence excavated in 1999 indicates that the southern building range was related to earlier phases of the main house surviving beneath its south-western room.*

*It is recommended that the eastern limit of the designated scheduled monument area be redefined to follow the most recently recorded line of the eastern side of the moat.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the results of an archaeological investigation carried out in 2008 during the conversion of Passmore House, Harlow, Essex to a residential rehabilitation home. Passmore House was built in 1727 on the site of a medieval moated manor house (Fig. 1) and all below-ground archaeological remains within the moated enclosure are protected as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments Act 1979 (SM 29468). The house and outbuildings are not included as part of the monument but are Grade II listed (LB 119576-9). The conversion works involved refurbishment of the existing house, with limited areas of new build within the scheduled monument area. Outside the scheduled area the modern caretaker's house was demolished and a new residential block constructed in its place.

The archaeological investigation represents a second phase of work following an earlier assessment of a previous excavation carried out inside Passmore House in 1999 and trial pits dug in 2007 (Allen and Pocock 2007). This assessment enabled a mitigation strategy to be developed for archaeological recording before and during construction works.

The archaeological investigation was undertaken by the Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Hazle McCormack Young architects, agent for the developer, Vale House Stabilisation Services. It was carried out under the terms of a condition placed on planning consent by Harlow District Council (HLW/0397/06), following advice from the Essex CC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM) in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (DoE 1990). Since the development had an impact upon the scheduled monument, English Heritage's Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Essex was consulted and scheduled monument consent was obtained from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. The archaeological work followed the brief issued by ECC HEM (2008) and the written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by ECC FAU (2008).

Copies of this report have been supplied to Hazle McCormack Young (including copies for Vale House Stabilisation Services and Harlow District Council Planning Department), English Heritage, the Essex CC Historic Environment Management team, and the Essex Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of this report has been uploaded onto the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The site archive and finds, together with copies of this report, will be stored at Harlow Museum.



## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and Site Description**

Passmore House is situated off Third Avenue, 1km south of the centre of Harlow New Town (Fig. 1; TL 4438 0908). It is an 18th-century brick country house built in what was then farmland in the parish of Great Parndon, 4km south-west of Harlow Old Town (Fig. 2). Weatherboarded timber outbuildings and stables dating to the 18th century extend to the east of the house, enclosing a small courtyard, with more recent additions. The house lies at 50m OD on a gentle slope overlooking the Todd Brook, which runs 20-30m to its north, and is flanked by a tributary stream 70m to the south-west. The surface geology of the Harlow area is clay till of the Anglian glacial period, with areas of sandy gravel.

The house is located on the site of a medieval moated enclosure measuring up to 50 x 70m internally (Fig. 1). The southern arm of the moat survives as a pond to the south of the house, and its western and eastern arms are visible as slight depressions in the ground surface. Part of the eastern arm is shown as still being open on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition of 1896-7, terminating just short of the outbuildings to the east of the main house. The northern arm of the moat was formed by the Todd Brook, which is shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition as much broader where it ran to the north of the house, suggesting it had been artificially widened at that point. Although the stream has since been restricted to a narrower channel, changes in its course show where it would have been joined by the moat's western and eastern arms. The moat was fed from a tributary of the Todd Brook that rises to the south of the site. The presumed limits of the moated enclosure form the boundary of the area designated as a scheduled monument (Fig. 1).

The development mainly comprised refurbishment and conversion of the existing house and its outbuildings. New construction was as follows (Fig. 3, shaded red):

- A conservatory at the south-west corner of the main house;
- A covered gallery linking the main house and the former stables;
- Demolition of a modern addition to the stables and rebuilding as a kitchen;
- Demolition of the modern caretaker's house east of the stables, and construction of a new two-storey residential block and a covered link passage.

All of these works lay inside the area of the scheduled monument, except for the construction of the new residential block to the east. In addition, new mains services were constructed both inside and outside the scheduled area.

## **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

This background is based on the earlier archaeological assessment report (Allen and Pocock 2007), which used information held in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) at County Hall, Chelmsford, and English Heritage's Register of Listed Buildings (LB). The assessment made particular use of two reports held in the EHER:

- An interim report on the excavation carried out in 1999 in the south-western room of Passmore House (Andrews 1999);
- The scheduled monument designation (English Heritage 2000).

Passmore House (Fig. 3) was built in 1727, representing a rebuilding of an earlier brick-fronted timber-framed house, part of which survives as the southern rooms of the present house (EHER 31765; LB 119576). The outbuilding extending to the east of the house is probably part of the original 1727 layout (EHER 31766; LB 119577), with the stables on the east side of the courtyard added later in the 18th century (EHER 31767; LB 119578). The house's entrance was originally on its east side, facing the courtyard, but had probably been replaced by the existing main doorway in its north frontage by 1777, as Chapman and André's map of that date shows the house as being approached by a driveway from the north-west (Fig. 2). The house is set within a medieval moated enclosure (EHER 3718) designated a scheduled monument (SM 29468). Although the moat has not been dated by fieldwork, moated manor houses were common features of the medieval Essex landscape.

The small manor that preceded Passmore House can be traced to a Saxon estate granted to Baron Ranulf after the Norman Conquest (Rumble 1983), but in the 12th century the manor was transferred to Southwark Priory. The name *Passemer* first appears in a document of 1199, and the Passemer family held the manor as tenants until at least 1475. Soon after this the Bevis family succeeded to the tenancy, and the will of George Bevis, dated 1543, suggests that they acquired full title to the manor after the Dissolution. In 1622 the property was divided into two, and the indenture lists a great barn, hayhouse, stable, milkhouse, malthouse and tanhouse in addition to the main house. Passmore was sold to Jonathan Nunn in the early 18th century, and he was responsible for the extensive rebuilding which resulted in the present house. Although the house is shown on Chapman and André's map of 1777, it unfortunately lies just outside the area of the highly detailed Altham estate map of 1616. The house was acquired by Harlow District Council in 1972 and served as the town's museum until 1999.

Parch marks indicating the presence of stone foundations have been observed in the grass to the south of the present house, between it and the pond. These have been interpreted as the remains of medieval manorial buildings, onto which the earlier southern rooms of the present house were added before they were themselves incorporated in the 1727 rebuilding (Jones 1994; Andrews 1999). The parch marks have unfortunately not been surveyed.

An excavation was carried out in 1999 by the Harlow Archaeological Group in the western room of the older southern part of the house. The excavation results (Andrews 1999; Allen and Pocock 2007) suggest that in its original form this room was a parlour with a brick fireplace dating to the later 16th century or later. The parlour overlay the remains of a small brick room and a brick-lined pit for a garderobe (privy) dated by Andrews to the 15th century. These abutted a substantial flint foundation beneath the south wall of the present house, interpreted as the north wall of an earlier medieval building to the south of the house.

In 2007 a geotechnical investigation consisting of eight trial pits and four boreholes was carried out around the house, its outbuildings and the modern caretaker's house. The trial pit records suggested that medieval and post-medieval deposits survived beneath modern overburden and above the natural clay to a depth of up to 0.8m (Allen and Pocock 2007). Trial pits dug around the 18th-century and later outbuildings (Fig. 3, TP3-TP7) recorded their footings cutting a levelling layer of redeposited natural clay with brick and tile rubble, which infilled the eastern arm of the moat. Trial Pit 6 to the south-east of the stables recorded an organic lower fill of the moat beneath the levelling layer, at a depth of 1.2m. Boreholes to the east of the stables (Fig. 3, BH2 and BH4) also recorded organic moat fills, indicating that it was over 2m deep. Confirmation that this was a linear moat and not a large pond was provided by a borehole to the east, next to the former caretaker's house (Fig. 3, BH3), which recorded only shallow modern disturbance and no organic fills or groundwater. Overall, this evidence showed that part of the eastern arm of the moat was located further east than had originally been thought, in a staggered layout.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to record any archaeological deposits within the scheduled monument area that would be disturbed by groundworks for refurbishment of the existing house. Preliminary evaluation was required for the area of the new residential block to the east of the main house, which lay outside the scheduled area.

The main research objective for the project is in line with the archaeological research agenda for the region (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). Moated manor houses were an important feature of the medieval and early post-medieval landscape, and a better understanding of this type of site will contribute to a wider understanding of rural settlement and economy in these periods.

The specific objectives of the archaeological investigation were as follows (Fig. 3):

1. To evaluate the area of the new residential block east of the house by a trial trench;
2. To record and excavate potential remains of the medieval and later buildings in the area of the new conservatory and service trenches to its south;
3. To record the western and eastern arms of the moat, and any other remains related to the medieval moated site or the existing house, through monitoring of groundworks and service trenches.

## **4 METHOD**

The archaeological investigation was carried out in accordance with the standards of the Institute for Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999a; 1999b; 1999c) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers for the East of England (Gurney 2003). The Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit is recognised as a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Field Archaeologists.

The investigation (Fig. 3) consisted of evaluation (Trench 1), excavation (Trenches 2 and 3), and monitoring of groundworks (Trenches 4-6 and Courtyard).

The evaluation and excavation trenches (Trenches 1-3) were cleared of topsoil down to the uppermost archaeological level by a mini-excavator with a flat-bladed bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. Archaeological deposits were then recorded and excavated by hand, using the Field Archaeology Unit's recording system (ECC FAU 2006), and all finds from excavated deposits were collected. In Trenches 2 and 3 some areas were machine-excavated to expose wall footings, but all stone and brick walls were left in situ, with brick samples taken for dating purposes. Detailed plans and sections were recorded and levels were taken for the areas of controlled excavation in Trenches 2 and 3. Due to the absence

of an Ordnance Datum benchmark in the area, levels were reduced to OD by reference to the 50m contour which runs immediately to the south-west of the existing house, while the slate damp-proof course of the south wall of Passmore House was also used as a common reference point. Absolute levels are considered to be accurate to within 100mm.

Monitoring of service trenches (Trenches 4-5) and the foundation trenches for the passage to the new residential block (Trench 6) were carried out in short breaks in groundworks, with limited recording and hand-excavation. Due to practical limitations it was decided to concentrate on recording the western and eastern arms of the moat, and structures exposed during clearance of the courtyard to the east of the main house. Finds were retrieved for dating purposes where possible.

No soil samples were taken for environmental analysis because exposure of organic moat deposits was limited. Unfortunately, where moat fills were extensively exposed in Trench 5 they could not be sampled due to contamination.

## **5 FIELDWORK RESULTS**

Full details of individual site contexts, by trench, are given in Appendix 1.

### **5.1 Evaluation - Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4)**

Trench 1 was excavated to evaluate the area of a new residential block to the east of the house and its outbuildings (Figs 3 and 4). It was located to the south of the modern caretaker's house and measured 10.2 x 1.2m. It lay outside the scheduled monument area.

Trench 1 did not identify any archaeological remains. Natural yellow clay was recorded at a depth of between 0.6 and 0.9m, sloping down from east to west, and was overlain by brown-grey subsoil 0.3m thick containing no datable finds (3). This was truncated to the west by a layer of large rounded cobbles related to construction of the caretaker's house and the whole trench was then covered by a 0.4m thick layer of modern garden soil and turf. The garden soil was cut by a ceramic live sewer (8) backfilled with redeposited natural clay (10) over silt (9), both containing modern finds, a redundant pipe trench (48), and a square pit containing large fragments of modern slate, tile, brick and ceramic drain pipes (6).

## **5.2 Excavation - Trenches 2 and 3 (Fig 3)**

Trenches 2 and 3 were excavated to locate the postulated medieval buildings south of the present Passmore House, in the area of the new conservatory and the drainage run to its south (Fig. 3). As the sequences recorded in both trenches are closely related they are described together.

### **5.2.1 16th century (Figs 5 and 8; Plates 1-6)**

Natural yellow clay was recorded in the base of both trenches at a depth of 0.4-0.5m (49.64-49.74m OD). Two parallel flint walls (35/54 and 38/52) were constructed from the surface of the natural clay, 4.4m apart and extending south for at least 8m at right angles to the south wall of the existing house. All the walls recorded were left in situ. Walls 35 and 38 in Trench 2 were only partially exposed (Plates 1 and 2), but walls 52 and 54 in Trench 3 were more fully exposed and recorded in greater detail.

The full sequence of construction was recorded in Trench 3, where the foundation of the western wall 54 was exposed by machine-excavation (Fig. 8, section 1). It was substantial, 0.7m wide and 0.8m deep, and was constructed of roughly laid flint nodules in yellow sandy mortar with occasional 16th-century orange-red half-bricks (62), forming an off-set 0.15m wide on its eastern, inner face (Plate 3). Its western, outer face was capped by two courses of complete orange-red 16th-century bricks laid in stretcher bond to form a levelling for the construction of the upper wall 54 (Plate 4). Since the wall was left in situ these could not be sampled. Wall 54 was 0.55m wide and was built up from foundation 62 to 0.2m above the level of the natural clay, in regularly-laid, well-faced flint courses in yellow sandy mortar (Plates 3 and 4).

The wall was built in a vertical-sided foundation trench (55), with foundation 62 occupying its full width, but above the foundational off-set the walling was built up against the western side of the trench only. The eastern edge of foundation trench 55 was only recognised in section (Fig. 8, section 1), as the infill between the inner face of the wall and the edge of the trench was indistinguishable from the natural clay through which it was cut.

The foundation of the eastern wall 38 was recorded in Trench 2, where a box-section was excavated against its western, inner face (Plate 2). It again consisted of roughly-laid flint with occasional fragments of 16th-century brick (50), forming an internal off-set, above which the upper wall, 0.55m wide, was constructed of regularly-coursed and well-faced flint in yellow sandy mortar (38). Foundation 50 was recorded to a depth of 0.8m (48.83m OD), the same level as the base of foundation 62 for the western wall 54 in Trench 3.

The foundations of wall 35 in the west of Trench 2 and wall 52 in the east of Trench 3 were not exposed, but the upper parts of these walls were identical in their construction to walls 54 and 38 (Plates 5 and 6). The walls all stood 0.2-0.3m above the surface of the natural clay, were faced both internally and externally, and had a well-finished surface consistently at a level of around 49.8m OD. This suggests that they were sleeper walls supporting a timber-framed superstructure rather than the upper walling being carried on up in flint. The substantial construction of the walls implies a major building.

Evidence for internal surfaces is very limited. In the west of Trench 2 a thin layer of brown clay with small fragments of crushed brick, tile and mortar (26) overlay the natural clay and abutted the western wall 35. In Trench 3 the area between the two walls contained small patches of crushed brick or tile (60) in the surface of the natural clay. These represent construction layers, but could also have been the patchy remains of the base of a tile or brick floor that has been robbed.

In Trench 2, construction layer 26 was cut by a narrow brick wall (36) representing an internal partition running nearly parallel to the western wall 35. Wall 36 was built of 16th-century orange-red whole and half-bricks in yellow sandy mortar, and consisted of a single brick course that would originally have been two bricks wide. The wall was cut to the north by a roughly rectangular pit (27) 0.3m deep, with near-vertical sides and a flat bottom. This pit was also visible as an area of subsidence in the unexcavated strip to the east, and would have measured 1.7 x 0.8m overall. The regular shape of the pit suggests it was dug to rob a brick structure such as a pier base at the north end of wall 36. The pit was filled with grey-brown silt-clay (28) containing a small amount of late 15th-16th century pottery, post-medieval brick fragments, and a sherd of residual medieval pottery.

Trenches 2 and 3 recorded the walls of an earlier building predating the existing Passmore House, extending south from it, measuring 5.5m wide externally and over 8m long. The northern end of the building lay under the existing house but its full southern extent was not traced as this lay outside the area affected by the construction works. Bricks incorporated in its flint foundations date the building to the 16th century, while late 15th/16th-century pottery was recovered from robber cut 27 in Trench 2.

### **5.2.2 17th century** (Figs 6 and 8; Plates 7-10)

The flint walls of the previous phase were capped by a single course of reused 16th-century orange-red bricks (Fig. 8, sections 2 and 3), although in Trench 3 the brick capping of the western wall 54 had been robbed (Fig. 8, section 1). All the brickwork of wall capping 51 in Trench 3 was removed as a bulk sample, but the other walls were left in situ, with only single sample bricks recovered for study.

The brickwork capping both walls (37/51 and 34) consisted almost entirely of half-bats, with very few whole bricks (Plates 7-10). These were laid along the edges of the walls to form regular faces made up of headers, with brick rubble infill, in yellow and off-white chalky sandy mortar. This was distinct from the mortar used in the underlying flint walls, confirming that the brick capping represents a new phase of construction. The bricks all had worn surfaces and edges and had clearly been reused (see 6.3, Sample Bricks), so must have been laid some time after their 16th-century date of manufacture. The brickwork was consistently even and level at around 49.9m OD.

In Trench 3 a small buttress (61) was built up against the base of the eastern, outer face of wall 51/52 (Plate 8). It was constructed of flint nodules and tile fragments in chalk-flecked yellow mortar. Yellow-brown silt-clay with patches of off-white mortar and chips of brick and tile (56) consolidated the base of the wall on either side of the buttress (Fig. 8, section 2). Similar material (57) was also deposited as a construction layer to the east, while an equivalent silt-clay deposit (59) was built up against the outer face of the western wall 54. Unfortunately none of these construction deposits contained closely datable finds.

In both Trenches 2 and 3 a levelling layer 0.3m thick of yellow-brown silty clay (20/21/29, 44 and 58) was laid between the two walls, raising the internal area to 49.9m OD, the same level as the brickwork (Fig. 8, sections 1 and 2). This levelling contained fragments of brick, peg-tile, chalk and charcoal lenses, but essentially represents redeposited natural clay. It was excavated by hand only in limited areas and was mainly removed by machine. As with the previous phase, no evidence has survived of an internal floor surface, and it is again suggested that a tile or brick floor had been robbed.

The brickwork capping the two walls was not of sufficient quality to represent a substantial rebuilding in brick, and instead it is suggested that a single course of reused bricks was inserted as underpinning during repair or rebuilding of a timber-framed superstructure.



Along the northern edge of Trench 2, brick courses 34 and 37 abutted the brick foundations of an earlier wall (40/43) beneath the south wall of the existing Passmore House (Plates 9 and 10). Wall 40 extended for 4.9m from the eastern end of Trench 2 and wall 43 1.1m from its western end, with a 0.8m-wide gap in between interpreted as a doorway.

Wall 40 consisted of two foundation courses of reused 16th-century orange-red half-bricks, in the same yellow and off-white chalky sandy mortar as was used in brick courses 34 and 37. Wall 40 was constructed at the top of clay levelling 20/44 related to brick courses 34 and 37 (Plate 9), confirming that all these walls were contemporary. Red-brown clay with mortar and fired clay (42) at the base of wall 40 was deposited to consolidate the top of the underlying pit 27 (Plate 10). The lower foundation course of wall 40 was faced with unevenly-laid headers, at the same level as the brickwork of the abutting brick courses 34 and 37, which was similarly faced with headers. The upper foundation course, however, was much more regularly built, with stretchers and headers laid to a consistent level at 49.88m OD. Although only its top course was recorded, foundation 43 to the west was of identical construction, again forming a consistent level. The more regular construction of the upper course of 40/43 suggests that it could have supported a brick superstructure.

Wall 40/43 was structurally very different from the overlying wall of the existing Passmore House, built in 1727, and represents the foundation of an earlier south wall of the house. It was of similar construction to walls 34 and 37/51 to its south, with all these walls built on foundations of bricks reused some time after their 16th-century date of manufacture. The close relationship of these walls is significant, as it suggests that the earliest phase of the main house was contemporary with the refurbishment of the building range to its south. This building phase clearly predated the 1727 house and implies an earlier arrangement in which one or more rooms in the south-western part of the house existed together with the earlier building to the south. This phase is impossible to date precisely, given the use of recycled 16th-century bricks, but a 17th-century date is most likely.

### **5.2.3    1727 and later** (Figs 7 and 8; Plates 9-10)

The foundations of the existing Passmore House, built in 1727, were recorded on the north and east sides of Trench 2, overlying the earlier southern wall 40/43 of the previous phase. There is evidence for demolition of the earlier building range to the south of the house.

Along the north side of Trench 2 the brick foundations of the south wall of Passmore House (39) were recorded up to the level of the slate damp-proof course and are visible on photographs as brickwork weathered darker red (Plates 9 and 10). The lowest foundation

course consists of headers and occasional stretchers laid on a bed of light brown mortar as a levelling over the earlier foundation 40/43, forming a foundational off-set one brick wide at 49.98m OD (Plates 9 and 10, below scale). Above this, four further courses of headers and occasional stretchers in light brown mortar carry the foundation up to the slate damp-proof course at 50.28m OD, above which the wall of the house is built of very regular orange-red bricks in light brown mortar, laid in Flemish bond. The different brick and mortar types and the high quality of the brickwork distinguish the 1727 build from the underlying foundation 40/43 of the previous phase.

Along the east side of Trench 2 the south wall of Passmore House turns to form a gabled bay that extends southwards for 2.8m. The west wall of the bay is built on a brick foundation course of headers and occasional stretchers (46) that overlaps the foundational off-set of the south wall and ends in a stepped foundation pier at the bay's south-west corner. Above this three brick courses in light brown mortar, laid in Flemish bond (45), carry the foundation up to the slate damp-proof course and the main walling above.

Within Trench 2 the areas to the west and east of the earlier walls 34/35 and 37/38 (Fig. 8, section 3) were levelled with deposits 0.3m thick of grey-brown silty sandy clay containing mortar, brick and peg-tile fragments (13 and 47). Levelling 47 also containing pottery dated to the late 16th-early 18th century, consistent with the 1727 construction date of the existing house. This raised the level to that of the foundational off-set of the south wall of the house and represents a general levelling of the surrounding area as part of its construction. Indeed, foundations 45/46 for the bay extending along the east side of Trench 2 were built directly on top of levelling 47.

Trench 3 provides evidence for demolition of the building south of the main house (Fig. 8, sections 1 and 2). The east wall 51/52 and the internal levelling 58 were overlain by a thin layer of grey-brown gravelly silt-clay mixed with finely broken-up demolition debris, including brick, tile and mortar fragments (63). This was cut by a shallow robber trench (65) in the top of the west wall 54, containing more fragmented brick and tile debris (64). There is no dating evidence for the demolition of the building to the south, but this most likely occurred when the present Passmore House was built.

A garden path at the west end of Trench 3 lay above the natural clay and beneath modern topsoil, consisting of coarse yellow gravel bedded in silt-clay, with an edging of reused 17th-century bricks (66). Gravel also spread to the east of the path, filling a shallow channel dug

to aid drainage. The path was aligned roughly north-south and would have run alongside the western end-wall of Passmore House.

In Trench 2 a Victorian conservatory measuring 6.7 x 2.8m was added at south-west corner of Passmore House, in the angle of its south wall and the projecting bay to the east (Plate 1). The conservatory was founded on sleeper walls built of three courses of London-type frogged stock bricks (14, 15 and 16), with a cobbled floor (12, 17, 23 and 24). A section through its west wall is illustrated (Fig. 8, section 3). A pair of under-floor heating pipes originally ran along the north side of the conservatory, along the south wall of Passmore House. An overlying layer of gravelly sand (11) formed the bedding layer for the modern patio which replaced the conservatory.

### **5.3 Monitoring – Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 8)**

Trench 4 represents monitoring of a 20m length of trench for a mains electricity cable, where it crossed the projected western line of the moat 8m to the west of Passmore House (Fig. 3). The trench was 0.5m wide and was machine-excavated to a depth of 0.95m.

The moat was identified as a cut feature around 9m wide (74) recorded in the base of the trench, with orange natural clay exposed on either side. Most of the moat and its fills remained undisturbed beneath the base of the trench, but the uppermost 0.20m of its profile was visible in section (Fig. 8, section 4). The uppermost moat fill exposed was blue-grey clay-silt (71). Above this the top of the moat was filled with a 0.35m-thick layer of yellow-brown clay-silt (72), which extended beyond its edges to form a general levelling, although leaving a depression above the moat as a result of subsidence. Levelling 72 was overlain by topsoil with occasional brick and tile fragments (73), 0.27m thick, increasing to a thickness of 0.55m where it filled the depression in the top of the moat. No dating evidence was recovered from the moat fill, but, the interpretation of feature 74 as the western arm of the moat is supported by its location and the waterlain character of its fill.

### **5.4 Monitoring - Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 9; Plates 11-13)**

Trench 5 represents monitoring of a 14m length of a sewer trench running to the south of Passmore House and its outbuildings, crossing the eastern arm of the moat as recorded on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition of 1896-7 (Fig. 3). The trench was machine-excavated to a depth of 1.2m (Fig. 9) and two manholes measuring around 2.0 x 1.8m were cut along its line to provide sewer connections (Manholes 5 and 6). Manhole 6 to the east was concreted before it could be recorded but Manhole 5 remained open, although initially full of water (Plate 11). Timbers and deposits exposed within Trench 5 were planned and photographed,

and Manhole 5 was pumped out and cleared back to clean edges for construction of the sewer connection, exposing the strata through which it was cut (Plate 12).

The moat was identified as being at least 9m wide in the base of the trench (Fig. 9; Plate 13). Its western edge (115) was recorded at the west end of the trench, with dark grey organic clay-silt fill (116 and 117) extending eastwards along the remainder of the trench. In the base of Manhole 5 this fill was waterlogged and contained a matting of branches, twigs and partly decomposed plant remains. This material was not sampled for environmental analysis due to the difficulty of access and its contamination by later material fallen into the trench.

A plank lining (109) supported by timber posts 0.10m square (112 and 114) and several smaller posts (110 and 122) was recorded in the north side of Manhole 5 (Fig. 9; Plate 11). The lining comprised three tiers of planks laid horizontally one above another, standing to 0.8m above the base of the trench. A large branch (111) overlay the top of the planking and a circular post (113) had fallen into the organic fill in front of it. The plank lining would have extended to either side of Manhole 5, hidden behind the northern edge of the trench. The lining and its posts were removed by the building contractor during clearance of the manhole, revealing the cut for the northern terminal of the moat (119), with clean natural clay visible behind it (Plate 12). This confirms that the moat cannot have continued to the north of Trench 5 and that the plank lining was inserted as a revetment of the terminal of this section of the moat. The upper fill of the moat, overlying the organic fill 116/117, consisted of blue-grey clay-silt (120), clearly waterlain, extending almost to the top of the plank lining. This waterlain fill was also visible in the sections exposed by the contractor's cleaning-out of the manhole (Plate 12).

Two parallel rows of timbers 0.8m apart were recorded further east, immediately to the west of Manhole 6 (Fig. 9). A line of small rectangular posts and circular stakes along the north side of the trench (104, 107, 108 and 121) broadly continued the line of plank lining 109. A second length of plank lining (102) supported by timber posts up to 0.10m square (103, 105 and 106) was recorded along the south side of the trench, with waterlain fill 120 lying up against its northern face. To its south plank lining 102 was cut into natural clay (118) rather than moat fills and it must have formed the south side of a timber-lined channel extending eastwards from moat 115/119. The southern edge of a brick culvert (100) was recorded to the east of Manhole 6, with mortared brick rubble behind it (101), representing a continuation of the channel seen to the west. The bricks of the culvert are dated to the 19th century.

Trench 5 recorded the eastern arm of the moat as terminating in a plank-and-post revetment to the south of the outbuildings east of the main house, with a plank-lined channel extending to its east. Unfortunately, due to the absence of dating evidence it is impossible to tell whether the plank-lined moat terminal is of medieval or post-medieval date. However, fragments of post-medieval brick and tile in the moat fill, and the 19th-century brick culvert constructed over the channel to the east, confirm that this section of the moat was open until quite recently.

### **5.5 Monitoring – Trench 6 (Fig. 3; Plate 14)**

A further section across the eastern line of the moat was recorded in the foundation trenches for a passage linking Passmore House with a new residential block to its east (Fig. 3). Monitoring of these groundworks was carried out to record further evidence of the organic moat fill identified in Trial Pit 6 immediately to the south.

Trench 6 recorded the moat as 13m wide and 1.6m deep (157), although it would in fact have been around 2m deep, as up to 0.5m of modern overburden had already been stripped off its top. Moat 157 occupied the entire area between the outbuildings of the main house and the new residential block to the east (Fig. 3 and Plate 14) and had a broad flat bottom on silt-stained natural sandy gravel (156). It was initially filled with organic blue-grey silt-clay, up to 0.6m thick, waterlogged and containing small twigs and wood fragments (154), sloping down from its eastern edge (Plate 14). This fill was at a similar level to the organic moat fill recorded in Trial Pit 6 immediately to the south (Fig. 3). Primary fill 154 was very thin in the west, where it was overlain by brown silt-clay (155) up to 0.6m thick. A depression in the top of the moat fill was filled by very dark grey sand-gravel containing brick and peg-tile fragments (153), 0.18m thick, and the entire moat was then filled with successive thick deposits of grey-brown and yellow-brown silty and clayey gravel (150, 151, 152), up to 0.9m thick overall. Very little dating evidence was recovered from this sequence of fills, but they represent a gradual silting of the moat over a period of time, with the upper fills representing a deliberate infilling in the post-medieval period.

Trench 6 indicates that the eastern line of the moat was staggered, with moat 157 lying well to the east of the moat terminal 115/119 recorded in Trench 5 (Fig. 3). The two lengths of moat would have been linked by the plank-lined channel extending from the east end of Trench 5. Boreholes 2 and 4 to the north of Trench 6 confirm that the moat continued in that direction. The infilling of this section of the moat is not closely dated, but its clay and gravel upper fills are characteristic of the general levelling for the construction of Passmore House.

## **5.6 Monitoring - Courtyard**

Several disused brick structures were rapidly recorded during clearance of the courtyard and adjacent areas immediately to the east of Passmore House (Fig. 3).

### **5.6.1 Extension 75**

A small rectangular brick extension (75) measuring 6 x 2m was added to the east end of the northern, front part of the main house. Its foundation was 0.22m wide and 0.78m deep, consisting of five courses of mixed unfrogged and shallowly-frogged bricks dated to the late 18th-19th century, laid in sandy lime mortar in a variation of English bond. Despite the range of different bricks used, the extension was probably built a single phase in the earlier 19th century, incorporating reused bricks. A doorway inserted in the end wall of the main house provided access to its front range of rooms, but the extension probably represents no more than a single-storey passage or lobby added to give easier access to the courtyard. Later changes in the 20th century involved underpinning the southern half of the extension with concrete and modern bricks (76 and 79) and the insertion of a concrete floor (77 and 78).

### **5.6.2 Soakaways 69 and 70**

Two circular domed brick soakaways (69 and 70), one built up against the other, were rapidly recorded after removal of the modern courtyard surface. They were built of Victorian London-type stock bricks in chalky grey mortar, with internal cement render, and an 18th-century brick in the dome (68) of the western soakaway 69 was clearly reused. The eastern soakaway 70 had been capped, but a modern water pipe was inserted into the western soakaway 69. The soakaways were located next to a disused well recorded in a borehole as 7.9m deep (Fig. 3, BH1).

### **5.6.3 Cellar 81**

The south-eastern end of a brick cellar (81) belonging to a small outbuilding was recorded immediately to the north of the stables, beneath modern disturbance 0.6m deep (80). It measured 3.7m across east-west and at least 1.2m deep but its extent to the north-west is unknown. It was lined with seven courses of red-orange bricks laid in pale yellow-grey sandy mortar in English bond. Its clay fill (82) contained no dating evidence, but the high quality of its brickwork suggests the cellar was a relatively modern feature.

## **6 FINDS, by Joyce Compton**

### **6.1 Introduction**

The investigation produced finds from a total of sixteen contexts, and sample bricks were recovered from a further ten. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. The few finds from Trench 1 were wholly modern and were discarded following recording. The retained finds are described by category below.

### **6.2 Pottery, by Helen Walker**

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from Trenches 2 and 3 (55 sherds, weighing 704g, from seven contexts), ranging in date from late medieval to Victorian. The majority of the pottery is residual in recent contexts, but confirms the post-medieval date range of the sequence recorded in Trenches 2 and 3. Although residual, the presence of medieval pottery is of interest, suggesting the presence of earlier phases of occupation of the site that were not identified in the trenches that were excavated.

Most of the pottery came from layer 23/24/25 in Trench 2, the floor of a Victorian conservatory, and is a mixture of dates, spanning the 15th to 20th centuries. Finds from this layer include late medieval sandy orange ware, post-medieval red earthenware and sherds from a black-glazed ware drinking vessel, popular during the 17th century. One sherd of post-medieval red earthenware is of interest, showing rosette decoration, similar to that found on the 'Braintree ringers jar' dated 1685 (Cunningham 1985, fig.51). Later pottery comprises Chinese-style pearlware dated c. 1800, fragments from flowerpots dating to the late 18th century and ironstone china vessels which are probably Victorian.

Small amounts of pottery were recovered from earlier deposits in Trench 2. Pit 27 (fill 28), interpreted as the robbing of a 16th-century foundation, produced a few sherds of pottery current during the later 15th-16th centuries, with a residual sherd of early medieval ware dating to the 10th-13th centuries. Levelling 47, related to the construction of the existing Passmore House in 1727, contained the base of a small post-medieval red earthenware bowl or jar, dating to the late 16th to early 18th century, with a brown glaze which has pooled inside the base. There is an adhesion scar on the edge of the base where it accidentally stuck to something during firing, and it is therefore a semi-waster or second.

The only pottery recovered from Trench 3 was single sherd of unglazed late medieval sandy orange ware, residual in gravel path 66 related to the 1727 house.

The sandy orange ware, black-glazed ware and post-medieval red earthenware are almost certainly products of the nearby manufacturing centre at Potter Street, Harlow, as evidenced by the manufacturing faults seen on the base fragment, probably the result of poor stacking in the kiln.

### **6.3 Sample Bricks, by Pat Ryan**

Thirteen sample bricks were examined and dated, mainly from walls recorded in Trenches 2 and 3, with samples of incomplete bricks taken from walls in Trench 3 to provide a larger assemblage for study (Appendix 2.3). Many of the bricks are heavily coated in mortar but frogs were noted on those from walls 15 and 16 (Trench 2) and extension 75 (Courtyard). Moulding of a frog into the underside of bricks was introduced during the late 18th century, but the practice didn't become widespread until the mid 19th century.

The earliest examples are Tudor, from walls 36 and 37 (Trench 2) and wall 51 (Trench 3), while those from wall 34 (Trench 2) are also likely to be Tudor. Most of the Tudor bricks were reused in the structure in which they were recorded, in particular wall 51, from which a large number of worn reused brick fragments was recovered. Worn reused Tudor brick fragments were also recorded as making up wall 40/43, an earlier phase of footings beneath the south wall of the existing Passmore House (these bricks have obviously been left in situ). By contrast, Tudor bricks in wall 62 are thought to represent actual Tudor construction as they were deliberately laid as a double levelling course at the top of the foundation before the construction of the upper walling.

Smaller numbers of 17th- and 18th-century bricks are present, mainly because bricks of this date are still incorporated within the existing house, built in 1727. The bricks recorded in the south wall 39/45 of the 1727 house were noticeably larger and more regularly made than the earlier bricks recovered from the site, and the brickwork was of a very high standard.

Examples of 18th-century unfrogged bricks were retrieved from 19th-century extension 75 and soakway 68 in the courtyard, and evidently bricks were still being reused at this date. Typical 19th-century frogged London stock-type bricks were recovered from the conservatory in Trench 2, brick culvert 100/101 in Trench 5 and soakaway 69 in the courtyard.



#### **6.4 Other Brick and Tile**

Small fragments of post-medieval brick and tile (83 pieces, weighing 4918g) were recovered from ten contexts, with roof tiles forming the largest proportion. The fragmentary nature of most of this assemblage, along with the abraded condition of some of the fragments, suggests deliberate incorporation of these materials as hardcore into the matrix of the layers in which they were found.

#### **6.5 Other Finds**

Other finds are few. The Victorian conservatory floor 23/24 (Trench 2) produced a variety of smaller categories, ranging from clay tobacco pipe stems, window glass and iron nail fragments to animal bone, flints and shell. Animal bone and shell were found respectively in the underlying levelling layers 47 and 20 (Trench 2). A squared-off flint block was recovered from fill 117 of moat 115 (Trench 5), probably representing discarded building material.

#### **6.6 Comments on the Assemblage**

Small groups of finds were recorded, with the majority comprising sample bricks. Nevertheless, they have allowed a dating framework for the origins of Passmore House to be postulated. The earliest finds are a few medieval and late medieval pottery sherds, but these are all residual. Discounting later post-medieval and modern finds, the main body of the material spans the late 15th to 18th centuries. An interesting aspect of the brick assemblage is the evidence for large-scale reuse of brick in the earlier phases predating the present Passmore House. Of note is the reuse of Tudor half-bricks in walls 34, 37, 40 and 51 and the reuse of 18th-century brick in the 19th-century extension in the courtyard. By contrast, the deliberate use of whole Tudor bricks as a levelling course in wall foundation 62 is taken as evidence of a Tudor construction phase.

The modern finds from Trench 1 were discarded following recording. The recent sample bricks and the smaller brick, tile and shell fragments have also been discarded. All of the remaining finds have been retained.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Evaluation (Fig. 3)**

No archaeological remains were identified in Trench 1, which was excavated to evaluate the area of a new residential block to the east of Passmore House. After consultation with the ECC HEM monitoring officer it was agreed that no further investigation was required.

### **7.2 Excavation and Monitoring (Figs 3 and 10)**

Within the scheduled monument area the excavation of Trenches 2 and 3 to the south-west of Passmore House and the monitoring of Trenches 4-6 around it and the courtyard to its east recorded the following:

- The western and eastern sides of the presumed medieval moated enclosure;
- A 16th-century building range extending southwards from the south-west corner of the present Passmore House;
- A probably 17th-century refurbishment of the southern building range, contemporary with an earlier building predating the south-western room of the present Passmore House;
- The foundations of the present Passmore House, built in 1727, replacing the earlier building ranges;
- Later additions to the present Passmore House, including a 19th-century extension in the courtyard and a Victorian conservatory at its south-west corner.

#### **7.2.1 Moated enclosure (Figs 3 and 10)**

Both the western and eastern arms of the moat were recorded, with evidence of waterlogged organic primary fills that had formed over a long period of time. These were exposed only in limited areas and no dating evidence was recovered from them, but it is reasonable to assume that they represent the original medieval moat, although possibly disturbed to some extent by later clearance and infilling. The western arm of the moat ran as projected but its eastern arm was recorded as following a different alignment to previous projections. The southern length of the eastern arm was as mapped on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, terminating immediately to the south of Passmore House and its outbuildings, but its northern length was recorded as running 15m further east in a staggered layout, with the two lengths of moat linked by a narrow channel. This was most likely the original medieval moat layout, to which the later Passmore House and its outbuildings conformed. The original entrance to the moated enclosure was probably on this east side at the point of realignment, where the

channel linking the two moat sections was later bridged by a 19th-century culvert. Both western and eastern arms of the moat would have run up to the Todd Brook, forming the northern side of the enclosure, joining it at the either end of the wider section of the stream shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 1). In general, the sections of moat that were recorded were narrower than as shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping, but this is probably a reflection of the moat being poorly defined through erosion and vegetation along its upper edges.

The moated enclosure formed two distinct areas to north and south of the break in its east side: a southern area measuring 40 x 20m internally, and a larger northern area measuring 50 x 50m. The timber revetment of the southern part of the moat's eastern arm, as recorded in Trench 5, was probably not an original medieval feature, and is more likely to have been added to reinforce the moat terminal when Passmore House and its outbuildings were constructed in 1727. The moat's western arm and the northern section of its eastern arm were capped by thick clay and gravel levelling layers containing post-medieval building debris, suggesting that they were deliberately infilled as part of the construction of Passmore House. By contrast, the moat's southern arm remained open as a pond, together with the southern section of the eastern arm, although the latter was infilled early in the 20th century.

The investigation identified no evidence of medieval buildings or other activity within the moated enclosure, although residual medieval pottery was recovered from Trenches 2 and 3 to the south-west of the present Passmore House. The previous excavation in 1999 beneath the south-western room of the existing house suggested that the northern end of a medieval building range was located here (Andrews 1999; Allen and Pocock 2007), an interpretation supported by late medieval pottery and other finds recovered from a garderobe (Fig. 10). This activity was dated by Andrews to the 15th century, but the results of the present investigation suggest a 16th-century date for the southern building range (see 7.2.2 below). The absence of firm evidence for medieval buildings or other features is probably a function of the limited areas investigated, and evidence of the original medieval manor may survive in other parts of the moated enclosure.

### **7.2.2 16th-century building** (Figs 3 and 10)

In Trenches 2 and 3 a building 5.5m wide extended for at least 8m south of the south-west corner of the present Passmore House. It was founded on substantial flint sleeper walls incorporating a double levelling course of 16th-century bricks at the top of the foundations. The upper walling was regularly faced and stood 0.2m above ground level, with a smooth level finish across the top, suggesting that it supported a timber-framed superstructure. The

north wall of the building range is represented by a substantial flint foundation previously recorded in the 1999 excavation beneath the south wall of Passmore House (Fig. 10).

Even it had a timber-framed superstructure, this southern building range was substantially built and represents a major manorial building predating the present Passmore House, as previously argued (2.2 above; Jones 1994; Andrews 1999). The brick foundation courses date the building to the 16th rather than the 15th century as suggested by Andrews (1999) from the 1999 excavation to the north. This later date for the building appears inconsistent with late medieval pottery recovered from the garderobe at the north end of the building in the 1999 excavation (Fig. 10). This discrepancy can only be resolved through further study of the 1999 evidence in comparison with that from the present investigation.

The building is too narrow to have been a hall and is more likely to represent a range of chambers added at a later date, especially in view of the small room and garderobe recorded at the north end of the range in the 1999 excavation (Fig. 10). It may be significant that the building range extended up the centre of the southern area of the moated enclosure. This is the most likely location of the original medieval manorial buildings, including the hall, perhaps laid out at the southern end of the moated site, with outbuildings across the wider area to the north. Although this is conjectural, it is the most likely interpretation of the limited evidence available.

### **7.2.3 17th-century rebuilding** (Figs 3 and 10)

In Trenches 2 and 3 there is evidence for refurbishment of the building to the south of Passmore House through laying a course of reused 16th-century bricks over the top of the earlier flint walls. The brickwork was not of a sufficiently high quality to represent wholesale rebuilding in brick and is interpreted as underpinning for rebuilding or repair of a timber-framed superstructure. This refurbishment was closely related to an earlier south wall of the south-western room of Passmore House, predating the construction of the present house in 1727. This foundation was also built of reused 16th-century bricks, but the brickwork was of better quality and the earlier phase of the main house could have been brick-built.

The 1999 excavation recorded all the walls of the south-western room of the main house as overlying earlier brick foundations, evidence for the existence of an earlier house, with one or more rooms in its south-west contemporary with a refurbishment of the earlier building range to the south (Fig.10). The 1999 excavation interpreted the south-western room of the earliest phase of the house as a parlour incorporating a brick fireplace dating to the later 16th century or later. Unfortunately the reuse of 16th-century bricks in the foundations of the earliest

phase of the house and the refurbished range to its south makes precise dating impossible, but a 17th-century date is most likely.

#### **7.2.4 Passmore House, 1727 and later** (Figs 3 and 10)

Recording of its foundations in Trench 2 confirm that the present house, built in 1727, was a completely new build distinct from the earlier building phase discussed above (7.2.3; Fig. 10). The construction of the present house is of high quality and noticeably superior to that of the foundations of the earlier phase of the house. The earlier building range to the south was demolished to make way for the present house, which occupied a more central location within the original moated enclosure. The moat was infilled over the northern half of the enclosure (above, 7.2.1), opening up the area between the house's new northern frontage and the Todd Brook, but the southern part of the moat was kept open, apparently enclosing a small garden to the rear of the house. The outbuildings and stables to the east of the house were ranged along the south side of opened-up northern part of the moated site, enclosing a small courtyard, and Chapman and André's map of 1777 shows the house as approached by a driveway from the north-west (Fig. 2). Overall, the construction of the present house in 1727 involved a completely new build following demolition of earlier manorial buildings and extensive landscaping of the moated enclosure.

The 1727 house survives relatively unchanged, although later additions recorded include a 19th-century passage or lobby added in the courtyard and a Victorian conservatory at its south-western corner, both since demolished. The outbuildings and stables to the east of the main house saw extensive later alterations, but these were not recorded in detail. The recent refurbishment and conversion works involved demolition of all the modern additions, with the core of the 1727 house retained.

## **8. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS**

The investigation has confirmed that important archaeological remains survive within the scheduled monument area around the existing Passmore House. Survival of archaeological remains is good, with evidence of post-medieval buildings, and potentially medieval remains also, surviving to a depth of at least 0.8m around the main house, while the primary fills of the moat also survive intact, to a depth of 2m (Fig. 3). Many of the archaeological remains were sealed by levelling or landscaping deposits for the construction of the present house, ensuring that they survive relatively undisturbed. Dating evidence was not particularly good,

partly due to the limited areas investigated, although sufficient material was recovered to establish a broad site chronology.

The investigation has established the layout of the moated enclosure and its sequence of infilling. Primary waterlogged organic fills of the presumed medieval moat survive intact in Trenches 4-6, although limited excavation was unable to recover any dating evidence to confirm their medieval date. The primary moat fills have potential for study of waterlogged plant remains, although there was no opportunity to carry this out as part of the current investigation.

The investigation has also confirmed the presence of an earlier manorial building predating the present house, with 16th- and 17th-century building remains recorded to its south in Trenches 2 and 3, and beneath its south-western room in the 1999 excavation (Fig. 10). Even though no medieval remains were identified, late medieval finds were recovered from the 1999 excavation and residual medieval pottery from Trenches 2 and 3 to its south. It is likely that the earliest manorial buildings lay in this area, at the southern end of the moated enclosure. Although the investigation failed to identify definite medieval remains, there is nevertheless potential for these to survive outside the limited areas investigated. Some problems remain in relating the building sequence recorded to the south of the house with the remains recorded beneath it in the 1999 excavation, which can only be satisfactorily resolved through study of the 1999 evidence, held in Harlow Museum.

Recording of the existing Passmore House was not part of the investigation brief, as the conversion and refurbishment works were carried out in a sensitive way to preserve the house's original character. Finally, it is recommended that the eastern limit of the designated scheduled monument area be redefined to follow the most recently recorded line of the eastern side of the moat.

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| ECC FAU                      | 2006 | <i>Site Recording Manual</i> . Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit   |
| ECC FAU                      | 2008 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Investigations (Stage 2) at Passmore House, Third Avenue, Harlow, Essex</i> . Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit WSI <b>1879</b>  |
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| English Heritage             | 2000 | <i>Scheduled Monument Designation: Passmore House moated site, immediately S of Todd Brook (SM 29468)</i> . Unpublished report, Essex Historic Environment Record  |

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IFA	1999b	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Institute of Field Archaeologists
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Jones, J.	1994	<i>Passmore. The story of a house</i> . Friends of Harlow Museum
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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

Context	Feature	Trench	Type	Description	Date
1		Tr. 1	Drain	Drainage gully filled with pea-grit	Modern
2		Tr. 1	Topsoil	Dark humic topsoil	Modern
3		Tr. 1	Subsoil	Mid brown grey clay-loam, frequent charcoal frags	Modern
4		Tr. 1	Foundation	Rounded flint cobbles	Modern
5		Tr. 1	Natural	Yellow-brown clay	Natural
6	6	Tr. 1	Pit	Rectangular, unexcavated	Modern
7	6	Tr. 1	Fill	Unexcavated	Modern
8	8	Tr. 1	Sewer	Sewer trench	Modern
9	8	Tr. 1	Fill	Dark grey silt	Modern
10	8	Tr. 1	Fill	Redep. natural clay, brick, tile, gravel	Modern
11		Tr. 2	Surface	Orange-brown sand, frequent gravel	Modern
12		Tr. 2	Surface	Mid grey clay-silt, rounded flint cobbles	19th C
13		Tr. 2	Levelling	Dark grey-brown clay-silt, brick, tile and mortar	1727
14	15/16	Tr. 2	Wall	Conservatory, 2 foundation courses frogged stock bricks	19th C
15	15	Tr. 2	Wall	Conservatory, N-S wall, frogged stock bricks, sandy mortar	19th C
16	16	Tr. 2	Wall	Conservatory, E-W wall, frogged stock bricks, sandy mortar, Flemish Bond	19th C
17		Tr. 2	Surface	Mid grey clayey silt and flint cobbles	19th C
18	18	Tr. 2	Root hole	Shrub bole	Modern
19	18	Tr. 2	Fill	Dark grey-black clay-silt, frequent tile, brick, mortar fragments	Modern
20		Tr. 2	Levelling	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, occasional gravels, chalk, tile and brick	17th C
21		Tr. 2	Levelling	Mid greyish black clay silt, frequent charcoal and burnt clay, occasional brick and chalk fragments	17th C
22			Unused		
23		Tr. 2	Levelling	Orange-brown sandy clay, frequent pebbles and gravels	Modern
24		Tr. 2	Surface	Mid brown silty clay flint cobbles, brick frags	19th C
25		Tr. 2	Surface	Orange brown silty clay, gravels, brick and tile chips	19th C
26		Tr. 2	Surface	Dark brown-grey clay, crushed brick, tile, mortar	16th C
27	27	Tr. 2	Pit	Sub-rectangular pit, W half excavated, near-vertical sides, flat base	16th C
28	27	Tr. 2	Fill	Grey silty clay	16th C
29		Tr. 2	Levelling	Mid brown-grey-orange silty clay, frequent gravel	17th C
30		Tr. 2	Natural	Root disturbed, greyish brown silty clay	Natural
31		Tr. 2	Natural	Mid orange-brown clayey silt with sand lenses, frequent gravels, manganese	Natural
32	32	Tr. 2	Pit	Circular, N half excavated	Modern
33	32	Tr. 2	Fill	Dark grey clay-silt, brick, tile, mortar	Modern
34	34	Tr. 2	Wall	W wall, single course reused 16th-century bricks, half-brick face, rubble core, chalky white-yellow sandy mortar	17th C
35	35	Tr. 2	Wall	W wall, flint in sandy yellow mortar, regular faces and top	16th C
36	36	Tr. 2	Wall	Internal wall, 2 courses, 16th-century bricks, yellow sandy mortar	16th C
37	37	Tr. 2	Wall	E wall, single course reused 16th-century bricks, half-brick face, rubble core, chalky white-yellow sandy mortar	17th C
38	38	Tr. 2	Wall	E wall, flint in sandy yellow mortar	16th C

Context	Feature	Trench	Type	Description	Date
39	39	Tr. 2	Wall	Passmore House, 5 brick foundation courses, mainly faced in headers, light brown mortar, lowest course off-set. Upper walling in Flemish bond	1727
40	40	Tr. 2	Wall	Passmore House, 2 courses reused 16th-century bricks, lower course faced with headers, upper course regularly laid headers and stretchers, chalky sandy mortar	17th C
41	41	Tr. 2	Found. trench	Foundation trench for wall 40	17th C
42	41	Tr. 2	Fill	Reddish mid brown clayey sand, charcoal, mortar and fired clay frags	17th C
43	40	Tr. 2	Wall	Passmore House, top course of reused 16th-century bricks, chalky sandy mortar	17th C
44		Tr. 2	Levelling	Orange-brown sandy clay	17th C
45	45	Tr. 2	Wall	Passmore House, 3 courses brick foundations	1727
46	46	Tr. 2	Wall	Passmore House, off-set brick foundation course and pier base	1727
47		Tr. 2	Levelling	Greyish brown sandy clay with frequent building debris	1727
48	48	Tr. 1	Ditch	Drain	Modern
49	48	Tr. 1	Fill	Dark topsoil backfill	Modern
50		Tr. 2	Wall	W all, foundation for 38, roughly laid flint in yellow sandy mortar, 0.10m off-set	16th C
51	51	Tr. 3	Wall	E wall, single course reused 16th-century bricks, half-brick face, rubble core, chalky white-yellow sandy mortar	17th C
52	52	Tr. 3	Wall	E wall, flint, sandy yellow mortar, regular faces and top, 0.2m high	16th C
53	53	Tr. 3	Found. trench	E wall, foundation trench for 52, unexc.	16th C
54	54	Tr. 3	Wall	W wall, flint, sandy yellow mortar, regular faces, top robbed, 0.2m high	16th C
55	54	Tr. 3	Found. trench	W wall, foundation trench for 54/62, vertical-sided, recorded in section	16th C
56		Tr. 3	Layer	Light yellow-brown silty clay with off-white mortar patches and brick/tile chips	17th C
57		Tr. 3	Layer	Mid yellow-brown silty clay with off-white mortar, tile and brick flecks.	17th C
58		Tr. 3	Layer	Mid yellow-brown slightly silty clay	17th C
59		Tr. 3	Layer	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	17th C
60		Tr. 3	Layer	Crushed brick fragments	16th C
61	61	Tr. 3	Buttress	E wall, flint buttress against 51/52	17th C
62	54	Tr. 3	Foundation	W wall, flint foundation, 16th-century double brick levelling course at top of outer face, 0.15m internal off-set	16th C
63		Tr. 3	Layer	Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent pebbles small flint, brick, chalk and mortar fragments	1727
64	65	Tr. 3	Fill	Dark grey brown sandy clayey silt with rare pebbles, brick and tile chips	1727
65	65	Tr. 3	Robber trench	Top of wall 54, recorded in section	1727
66		Tr. 3	Path	Mid greyish yellow-brown silty clay with coarse gravel, pebbles and tile frags	1727
67		Tr. 3	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay-silt	Modern
68	69	Court.	Soakaway	Brick dome on top of soakaway 69	19th C
69	69	Court.	Soakaway	Circular brick soakaway	19th C
70	70	Court.	Soakaway	Circular brick soakaway	19th C
71	74	Tr. 4	Fill	Pale blue grey clay-silt	Medieval?
72		Tr. 4	Levelling	Yellow-brown clay-silt	1727
73		Tr. 4	Topsoil	Dark brown/black clay-silt	Modern
74	74	Tr. 4	Moat	W arm of moat, top of cut exposed	Medieval?

Context	Feature	Trench	Type	Description	Date
75	75	Court.	Walls	Foundations for extension, 5 courses, unfrogged and frogged bricks	19th C
76	75	Court.	Wall	Concrete underpinning of wall 75	Modern
77	75	Court.	Layer	Concrete floor	Modern
78	75	Court.	Layer	Concrete floor	Modern
79	75	Court.	Wall	Modern brick underpinning of wall 75	Modern
80		Court.	Layer	Modern overburden	Modern
81	81	Court.	Cellar	Brick lining	Modern
82	81	Court.	Fill	Cellar infill	Modern
83-99			Unused		
100	100	Tr. 5	Culvert	Brick culvert (partial remains)	19th C
101	100	Tr. 5	Culvert	Brick backing to 100, loosely mortared	19th C
102	102	Tr. 5	Plank lining	Planking, one tier visible	Post-medieval
103	102	Tr. 5	Stake	Square stake supporting 102	Post-medieval
104	104	Tr. 5	Stake	Rectangular stake	Post-medieval
105	102	Tr. 5	Stake	Square stake supporting 102	Post-medieval
106	102	Tr. 5	Stake	Circular stake	Post-medieval
107	107	Tr. 5	Stake	Circular stake	Post-medieval
108	108	Tr. 5	Stake	Circular stake	Post-medieval
109	109	Tr. 5	Plank lining	Plank lining, N edge of moat, 3 tiers	Post-medieval
110	109	Tr. 5	Stake	Square stake supporting 109	Post-medieval
111	109	Tr. 5	Branch	Unworked branch at top of 109	Post-medieval
112	109	Tr. 5	Post	Square stake supporting 109	Post-medieval
113	109	Tr. 5	Post	Fallen semi-circular post in front of 109	Post-medieval
114	109	Tr. 5	Post	Square post supporting 109	Post-medieval
115	115	Tr. 5	Moat	W edge of moat, excavated by machine	Medieval?
116	115	Tr. 5	Fill	Waterlain, decomposed organic matter	Medieval?
117	115	Tr. 5	Fill	Waterlain, decomposed organic matter	Medieval?
118	118	Tr. 5	Channel	S edge of timber-lined channel	Post-medieval
119	119	Tr. 5	Moat	N terminal of moat = 115	Medieval?
120	115	Tr. 5	Fill	Grey-blue gravelly clay, waterlain	Post-medieval
121	121	Tr. 5	Stake	Rectangular stake	Post-medieval
122	122	Tr. 5	Stake	Square stake supporting 109	Post-medieval
123-49			Unused		
150	157	Tr. 6	Fill	Brown-grey silt-sand and gravel	Post-medieval
151	157	Tr. 6	Fill	Yellow-brown clay and gravel	Post-medieval
152	157	Tr. 6	Fill	Brown-grey silt-sand and gravel, rare brick and peg tile frags	Post-medieval
153	157	Tr. 6	Fill	Very dark grey sand and gravel, rare brick and peg-tile frags	Post-medieval
154	157	Tr. 6	Fill	Blue-grey silt-clay, semi-waterlogged, small twigs and wood frags, sloped down from E	Medieval?
155	157	Tr. 6	Fill	Pale brown silt-clay, mainly in W	Post-medieval
156	157	Tr. 6	Natural	Grey sandy silt and gravel	
157	157	Tr. 6	Moat	Flat-bottomed, no edges in trench limits	Medieval?

## APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

### 2.1 All Finds

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
2	Topsoil	1	226	Glass; complete bottle, blue-green, embossed with Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Discarded	Modern
		8	320	Pottery; white earthenware dish and plate rim and body sherds, one with blue transfer-printing and gold lines; white earthenware condiment pot (complete); brown teapot shoulder; modern stoneware bottle neck with pouring lip. Discarded	Modern
9	8	9	444	Pottery; white earthenware marmalade jar and plate sherds, two with blue transfer-printing; complete modern stoneware ink bottle. Discarded	Modern
13	Levelling	7	72	Brick fragments. Discarded	Post-med
		5	398	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole. Discarded	Post-med
15	Wall	1	2100	Sample brick, London stock-type, poorly mixed clay, shallow frog, 235 x 110 x 65mm. Discarded	19th C
16	Wall	1	2270	Sample brick, London stock-type, frogged, mortar on most surfaces, 230 x 105 x 65mm. Discarded	19th C
20	Levelling	2	2	Shell; oyster fragments. Discarded	-
		11	240	Roof tile fragments, 8/86g small frags. Discarded	Post med.
23	Surface	2	4	Iron nail, joining fragments. Discarded	-
		4	24	Animal bone; pig canine; sheep/goat mandible section with three molars; long bone shaft; bird bone. Discarded	-
		3	6	Shell; oyster, one valve and fragments. Discarded	-
		3	24	Flint lumps and flake. Discarded	-
		1	22	Burnt flint. Discarded	-
		1	1	Glass; window sherd, colourless, Discarded	Post-med.
		3	10	Clay pipe stems. Discarded	Post-med.
		8	755	Roof tile fragments, four with peg holes, 2/48g small pieces. Discarded	Post-med.
		38	515	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, some glazed, and incl. large flowerpot and white earthenware sherds	Post-med & modern
24	Surface	1	12	Animal bone fragment, poor condition. Discarded	-
		13	374	Roof tile, 11/210g small frags. Discarded	Post med.
		4	20	Pottery; body sherds	Post med.
25	Surface	1	14	Shell; oyster, one valve. Discarded	-
		1	2	Clay pipe stem. Discarded	Post med
		2	46	Pottery; body sherds	Post med.
28	27	3	40	Brick fragments. Discarded	Post med.
		3	38	Roof tile fragments. Discarded	Post med.
		4	10	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval & late medieval
34	Wall	1	1640	Sample brick, very pale buff, mortar on all surfaces, 110 x 57mm	Post-med.
36	Wall	1	2450	Sample brick, large pebble inclusion, mortar on most surfaces, 230 x 110 x 57mm	Post-med.
37	Wall	1	1965	Sample brick, mortar on all surfaces, 220 x 105 x 55mm	Post-med.
47	Levelling	1	4	Animal bone; long bone shaft. Discarded	-
		1	124	Brick, corner fragment. Discarded	Post-med.
		6	1285	Roof tile fragments, four with peg holes, 3/274g small/laminated pieces. Discarded	Post-med
		2	46	Pottery; joining base sherds	Post-med.

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
51	Wall	1	2040	Sample brick, skim of mortar on underside, 235 x 105 x 55mm	Post-med.
		6	6750	Brick fragments, three part-glazed/vitrified, two with flint inclusions, widths 100-110mm, depths 50-60mm	Post-med.
61	Buttress	2	110	Roof tile fragments. Discarded	Post-med.
62	Wall	4	2325	Brick fragments, two heavily mortared on one face, widths 110 and 120mm, depths 50-55mm	Post-med.
66	Path	2	2220	Sample brick, incomplete, with pebble inclusions, 225 x 105 x 55mm, and fragment, mortar on one face. Discarded	Post-med.
		5	670	Roof tile frags, one with peg hole. Discarded	Post-med.
		1	4	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
67	Topsoil	4	62	Pottery; modern earthenware body sherds; base sherd, slipware. Discarded	Modern
68	Soakaway	1	2690	Sample brick; regular-sided, mortared, 215 x 105 x 69mm. Discarded	Post-med.
69	Soakaway	1	2140	Sample brick; London stock-type, frogged, mortared, 235 105 x 65mm. Discarded	Post-med.
73	Topsoil	2	2880	Brick; roughly-made, 225 x 105 x 60mm; similar fragment (570g), depth 50mm. Discarded	Post-med.
		4	62	Brick fragments. Discarded	Post-med.
		10	348	Roof tile and ceramic drainpipe fragments. Discarded	Post-med.
75	Wall	3	7980	Sample bricks; north end – frogged, mortared, 220 x 110 x 65mm; south end – regular-sided, mortared x 2, 225 x 105-110 x 60-65mm. All discarded	Post-med.
100	Culvert	1	2010	Sample brick; 205 x 100 x 57-60mm. Discarded	Post-med.
101	Culvert	1	2830	Sample brick; heavily mortared, 210 x 105 x 57-60mm. Discarded	Post med.
117	115	1	200	Flint block. Discarded	-
		3	192	Brick fragments. Discarded	Post-med.
		2	210	Roof tile frags, one in brown fabric. Discarded	Post-med.

## 2.2 Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
23	Surface	3	56	Sandy Orange Ware: body sherds and broad strap handle with central groove, all unglazed, late medieval	15th-16th C
		13	93	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware: mixture of sherds, some internally glazed and some unglazed	16th-19th
		7	16	Black-Glazed Ware: fragments from mug(s)/tyg(s), one sherd showing rilled decoration, very dark green rather than black glaze	late 16th-17th C
		2	5	Pearlware: sherd from footring base and bowl rim showing Chinese-style cafe au lait rim	c.1800
		11	282	Flowerpot fragments including two collared flowerpot rims, one in a buff fabric. Discarded	late 18th-20th C
		2	61	Ironstone china: pedestal base of dish/tazza and remains of plate with grey transfer-printed geometric decoration. Discarded	mid 19th-20th C
24	Surface	4	20	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware, two glazed and two unglazed	16th-19th C
25	Surface	2	46	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware: glazed body sherd and large externally glazed sherd showing moulded and thumbbed rosette decoration, similar to that found on the Braintree 'ringers jar' dated 1685 (Cunningham 1985, fig.51)	late 17th C
28	27	1	5	Early Medieval Ware	10th-13th C
		1	1	Buff ware	14th-16th C
		1	2	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware, unglazed, reduced external surface	late 15th-16th C
		1	4	Raeren stoneware	late 15th-mid 16th C
47	Levelling	2	46	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware, joining sherds from pad base from small bowl or jar, all over brown glaze, internal pooling of glaze to one side of base and corresponding clay adhesion at external basal angle, a semi-waster	later 16th-earlier 18th century
66	Path	1	4	Sandy Orange Ware body sherd, unglazed with reduced surface, probably of Harlow manufacture but lacks the typical red and amber sands	14th-16th C
67	Topsoil	1	47	Post-medieval red earthenware flat base with partial internal glaze	16th-19th C
		2	7	Modern white earthenware with flow-blue decoration. Discarded	19th-20th C
		1	9	Modern buff earthenware with internal white slip-coating, probably from a mixing bowl. Discarded	19th-20th C
<b>Totals</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>704</b>		

## 2.3 Bricks

### Sample Bricks - complete

Context	Description	Date
15	Sample brick, London stock-type, poorly mixed clay, shallow frog, 235 x 110 x 65mm. Discarded	19th C
16	Sample brick, London stock-type, frogged, mortar on most surfaces, 230 x 105 x 65mm. Discarded	19th C
34	Sample brick, very pale buff, mortar on all surfaces, 110 x 57mm	16th/17th C (perhaps earlier)
36	Sample brick, large pebble inclusion, mortar on most surfaces, 230 x 110 x 57mm	Tudor
37	Sample brick, mortar on all surfaces, 220 x 105 x 55mm	Tudor
51	Sample brick, skim of mortar on underside, 235 x 105 x 55mm	Tudor
68	Sample brick; regular-sided, lime-mortared, 215 x 105 x 69mm. Discarded	18th C
69	Sample brick; London stock-type, frogged, mortared, 235 x 105 x 65mm. Discarded	19th C
75	Sample bricks; north end – frogged, lime-mortared, 220 x 110 x 65mm; south end – regular-sided, lime-mortared x 2, 225 x 105-110 x 60-65mm. Discarded	Late 18th/19th C
100	Sample brick; 205 x 100 x 57-60mm. Discarded	19th C
101	Sample brick; heavily lime-mortared, 210 x 105 x 57-60mm. Discarded	19th C

### Bricks - fragments

Context	Description	Date
51	Brick fragments, three part-glazed/vitrified, two with flint inclusions, widths 100-110mm, depths 50-60mm	Tudor
62	Brick fragments, two heavily mortared on one face, widths 110 and 120mm, depths 50-55mm	Tudor
66	Brick, incomplete, with pebble inclusions, 225 x 105 x 55mm, and fragment, mortar on one face	17th C

### Bricks in Passmore House - recorded but not sampled

Context	Description	Date
House	Bricks in south wall of Passmore House, above slate damp course. Orange-red, some darker red, even regular sides, 220 x 110 x 65mm, very well-laid in light brown lime mortar	1727
39	Bricks in foundation of south wall of Passmore House. Orange-red, some darker red, even regular sides, 190-220 x 110 x 65mm, light brown lime mortar	1727
40	Brick fragments in earlier foundation beneath south wall of Passmore House. Orange-red, length unknown, width/depth 110 x 55mm, chalky lime mortar	Tudor
43	Brick fragments in earlier foundation beneath south wall of Passmore House. Orange-red, length unknown, width/depth 110 x 55mm, chalky lime mortar	Tudor
45	Bricks in foundation of south wall of Passmore House. Orange-red, some darker red, even regular sides, 190-220 x 110 x 65mm, light brown lime mortar	1727
46	Brick fragments in foundation of south wall of Passmore House, headers. Orange-red, length unknown, width/depth 110 x 55mm, light brown lime mortar	17th C

### **APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE – SITE CODE HAPH08**

One A4 hard-cover ring-binder containing:

- 1 Copy of this report
- 1 Copy of the finds archive tables
- 1 Copy of the written scheme of investigation
- 1 Copy of architect's design plan 1223 305 C1, with areas of archaeological recording
- 1 Copy of an interim summary, by M. Pocock, May 2008
- 1 Copy of an interim summary of the 1999 excavation, by D. Andrews, June 1999
- 4 Context register sheets
- 4 Trench recording sheets, including context descriptions for Trenches 1 and 5
- 79 Context recording sheets (11-78, 80-82 and 150-157)
- 1 Plan register sheet
- 1 Section register sheet
- 3 Levels register sheets and TBM location plan
- 2 Photographic register sheets
- 24 Black and white prints and negatives
- 1 Computer disc containing 66 digital colour photographs

Held separate from folder:

- 5 Sheets of plan drawings
- 5 Sheet of section drawings
- 3 Boxes of finds



#### APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

<b>Site Name/Address:</b> Passmores House, Third Avenue, Harlow	
<b>Parish:</b> Harlow	<b>District:</b> Harlow
<b>NGR:</b> TL 4438 0908	<b>Site Code:</b> HAPH 08
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological evaluation, excavation and monitoring	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Matthew Pocock and Patrick Allen, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Date of Work:</b> April-November 2008	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> Small trenches
<b>Locationn of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Harlow Museum	<b>Client:</b> Vale House Stabilisation Services
<b>Further Work Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.:</b> SM 29468; EHER 3718, 316765-316767
<b>Final Report:</b> Essex Archaeology and History	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>Trenching and monitoring of groundworks was carried out at Passmore House, a Grade II listed country house built in 1727, before its conversion into a residential care home. The house was built on the site of a medieval moated manor designated a Scheduled Monument. A small excavation undertaken inside the south-western room of the house in 1999 identified medieval and post-medieval remains relating to the earlier manor house (Andrews 1999; Allen and Pocock 2007). Limited excavation to the south of the house (Trenches 2-3) recorded further remains of an earlier manorial building, while monitoring (Trenches 4-6) recorded the western and eastern arms of the medieval moat. Evaluation of the area to the east of the main house (Trench 1), outside the scheduled area, did not identify any archaeological remains. The main results are as follows:</p> <p><u>Moat.</u> Semi-waterlogged organic primary fills of the western and eastern arms of the moat were recorded, although no dating evidence was recovered to confirm that these were medieval. Environmental sampling was not carried out due to limited exposures and later contamination. The moat's western arm was as projected, but its eastern arm followed a staggered layout, part of which lay well to the east of its originally projected line. The northern part of the moat was deliberately infilled during the construction of Passmore House in 1727, but its southern end was kept open as a garden feature.</p> <p><u>16th-century building.</u> An earlier manorial building range was recorded to the south of the 1727 house, with mortared flint sleeper walls for a timber-framed superstructure. It is dated to the 16th century by a brick foundation course. It is probably related to a brick-lined garderobe pit recorded in the 1999 excavation.</p> <p><u>17th-century rebuilding.</u> The earlier building range was refurbished through the insertion of a course of reused 16th-century bricks, probably as underpinning for the repair of a timber-framed superstructure. This was contemporary with the foundations of an earlier phase of building beneath the walls of the south-western room of the 1727 house. In the 1999 excavation this was interpreted as a brick-built parlour with a fireplace.</p>	

1727 house. The present house was built, incorporating the footings of the earlier phase of the house in its south-western room. The earlier building range to the south was demolished to make way for the new house. The moat was mainly backfilled and levelled over at this time and the area around the house landscaped. Later additions to the house include a 19th-century extension in the courtyard and a Victorian conservatory at its south-west corner, both since demolished. The recent refurbishment and conversion of the house has as far as possible retained its original 18th-century character, with modern additions demolished.

**Previous Summaries/Reports:-**

Andrews, D.D. 1999: *Passmores Museum, Harlow, Excavation Summary Report*.  
 Unpublished report in the Essex Historic Environment Record

Allen and Pocock 2007: *Passmores House, Harlow, Essex. Archaeological Assessment by Trial Pits (Phase 1)*. ECC FAU Report 1733

**Author of Summary:** Patrick Allen

**Date of Summary:** November 2010

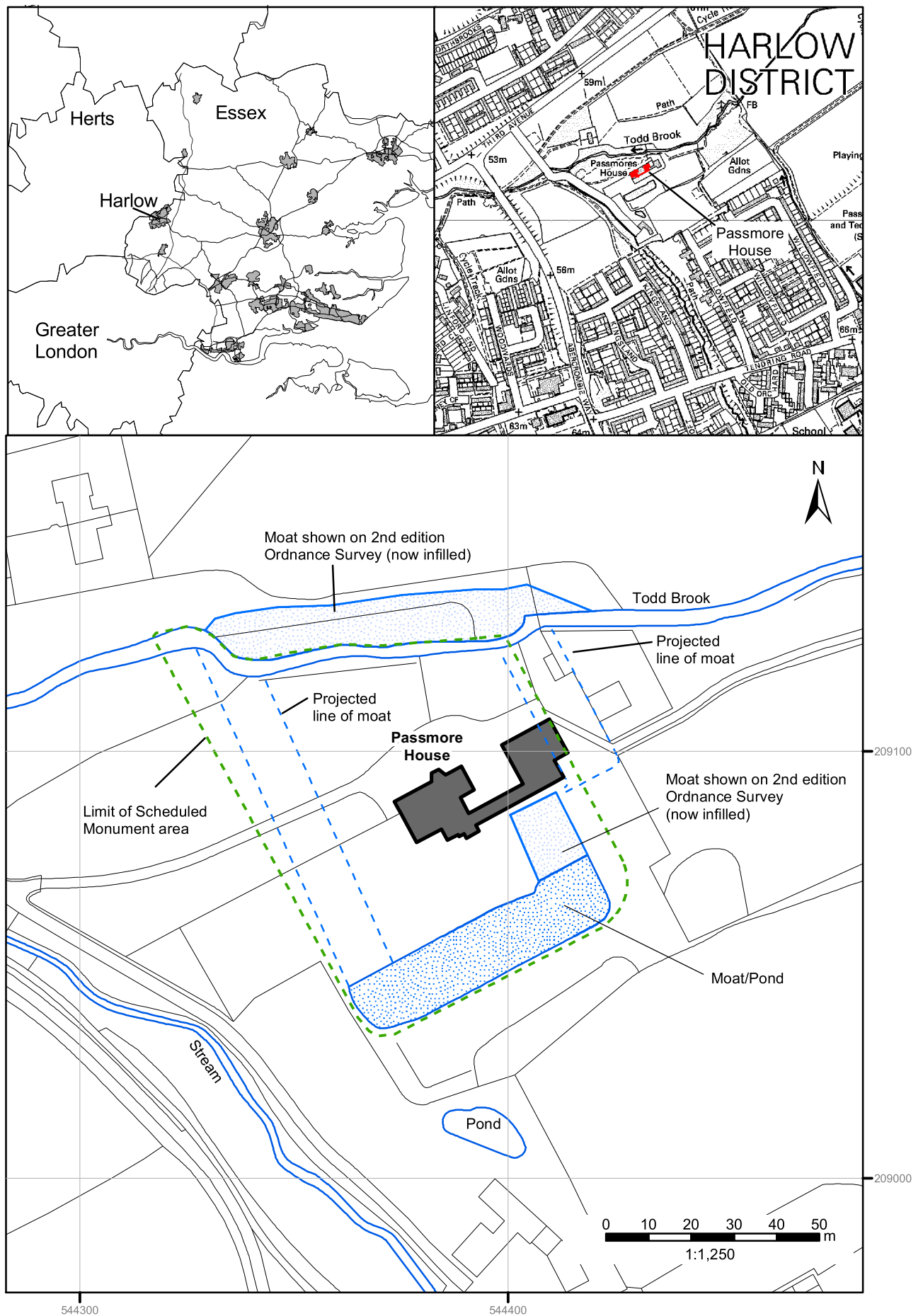


Fig.1. Location plan

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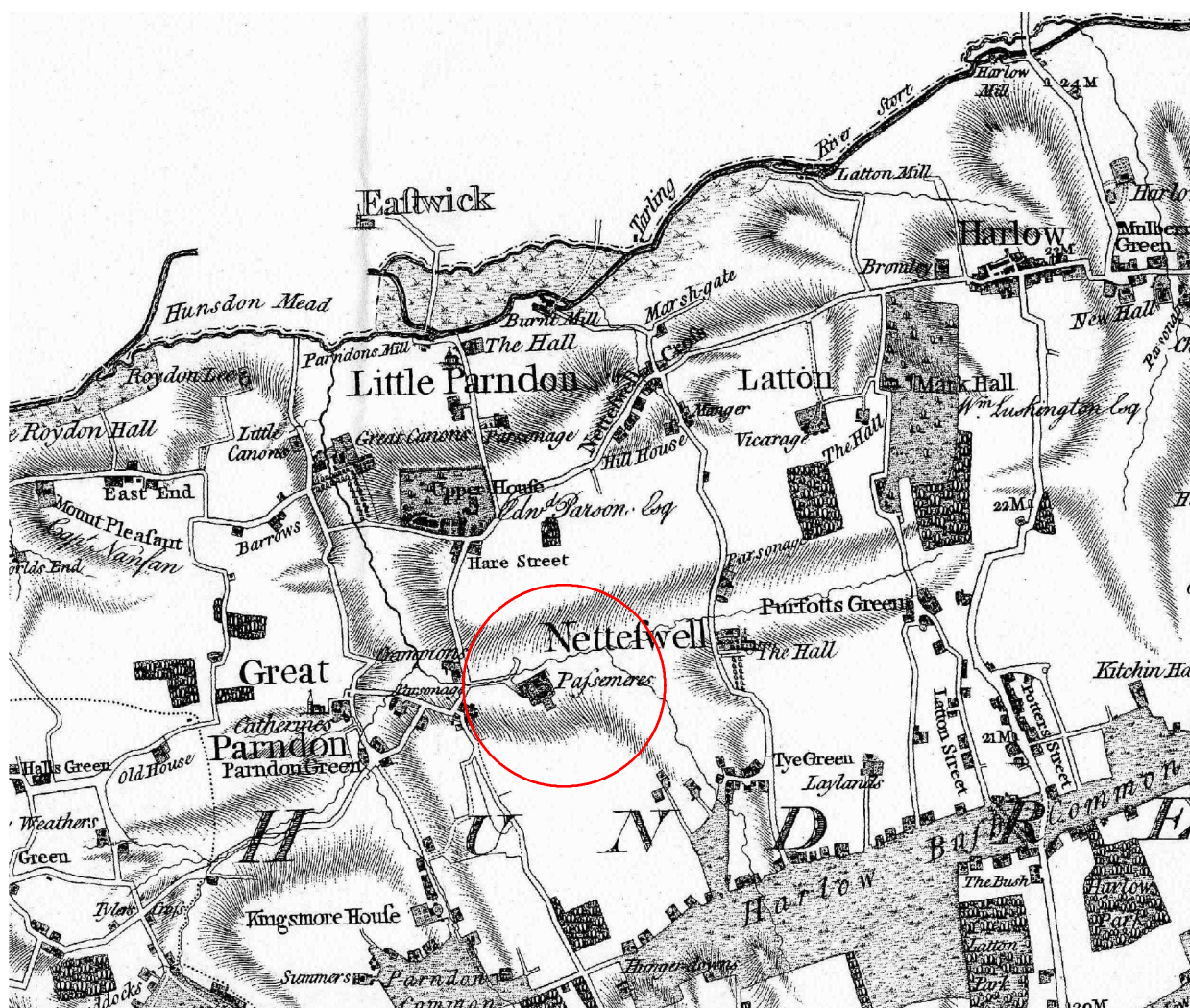
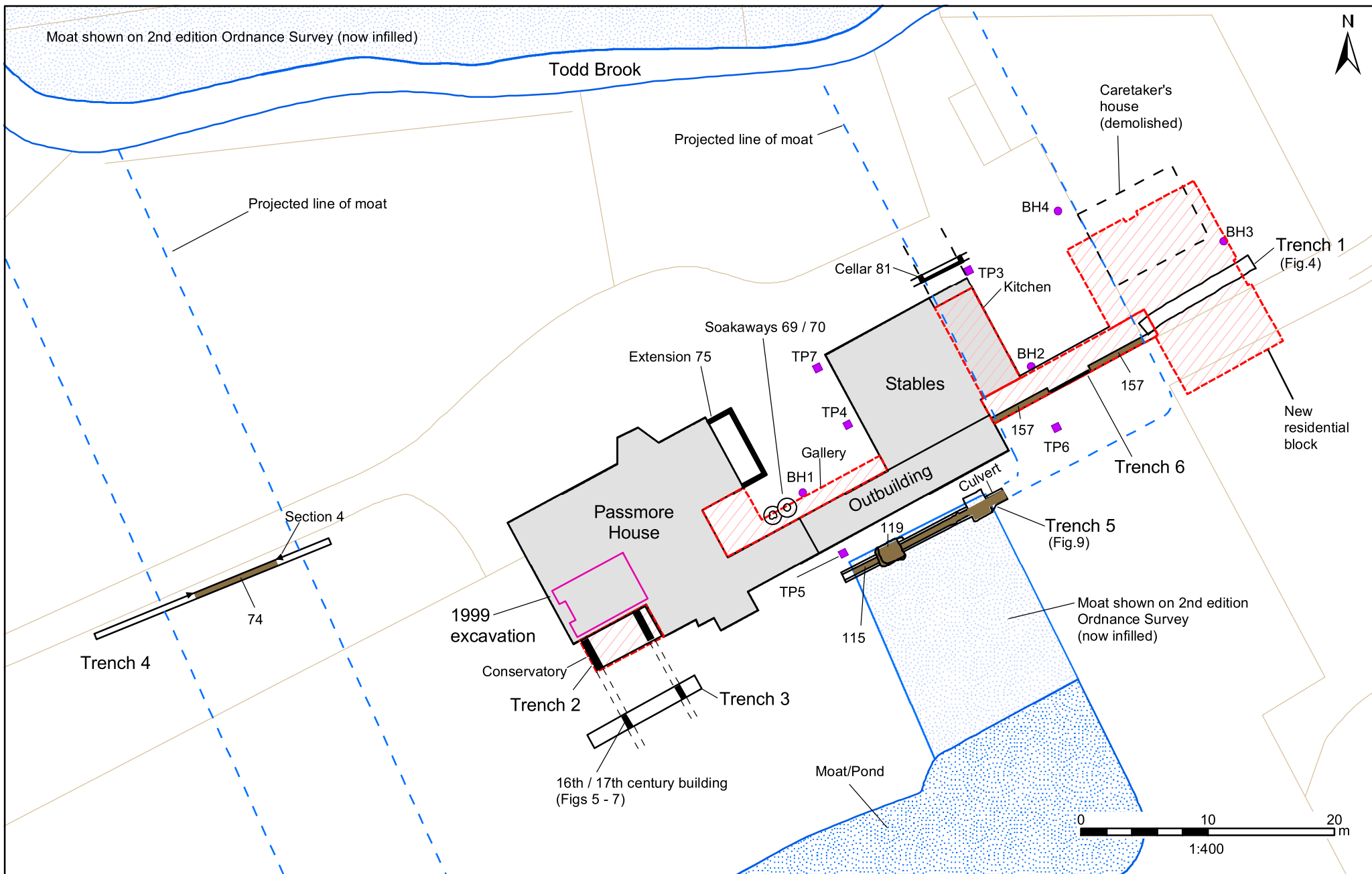


Fig.2. Chapman and André map of 1777 (Courtesy of Essex Record Office)



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Fig.3. Location of trenches



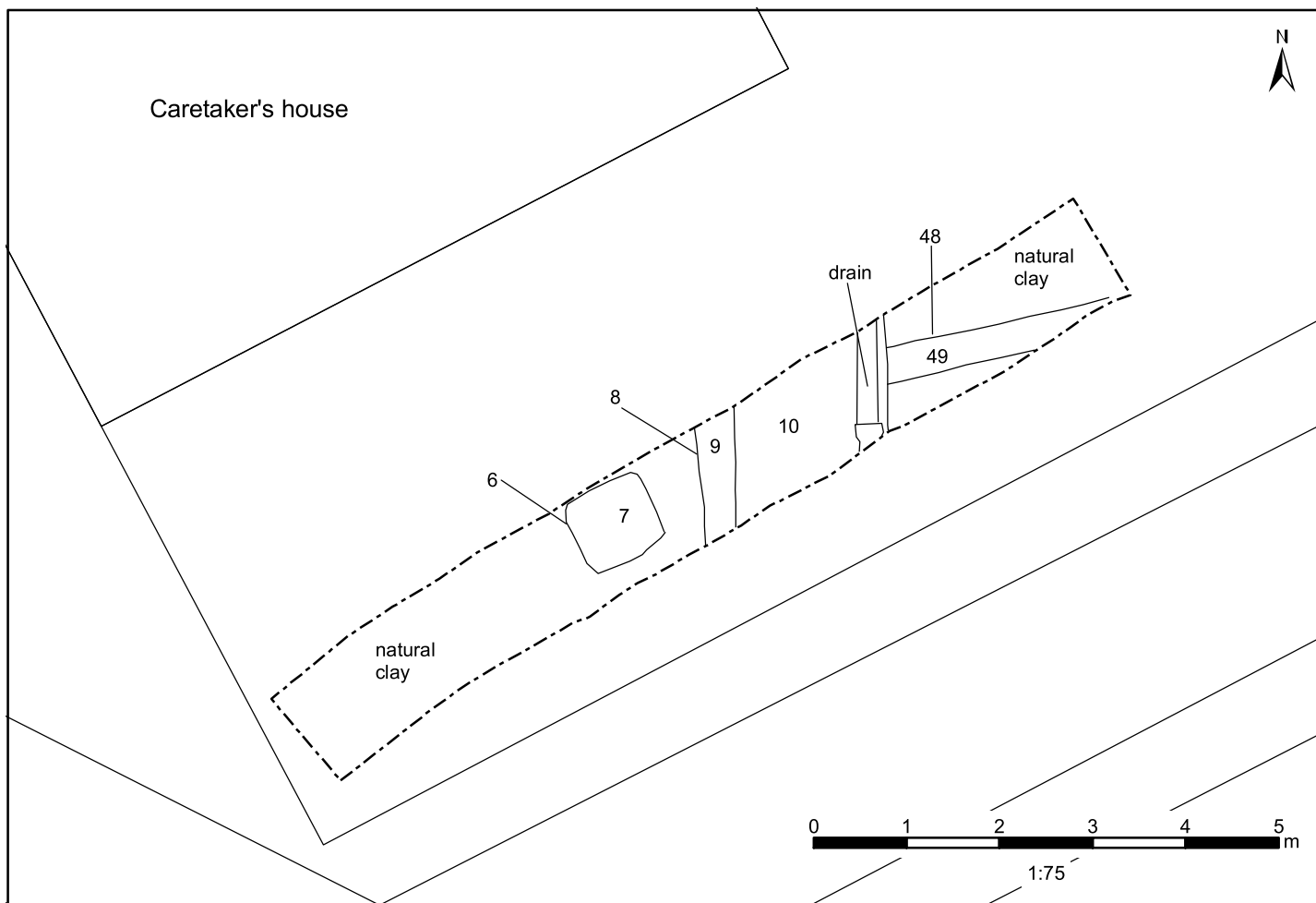


Fig.4. Trench 1

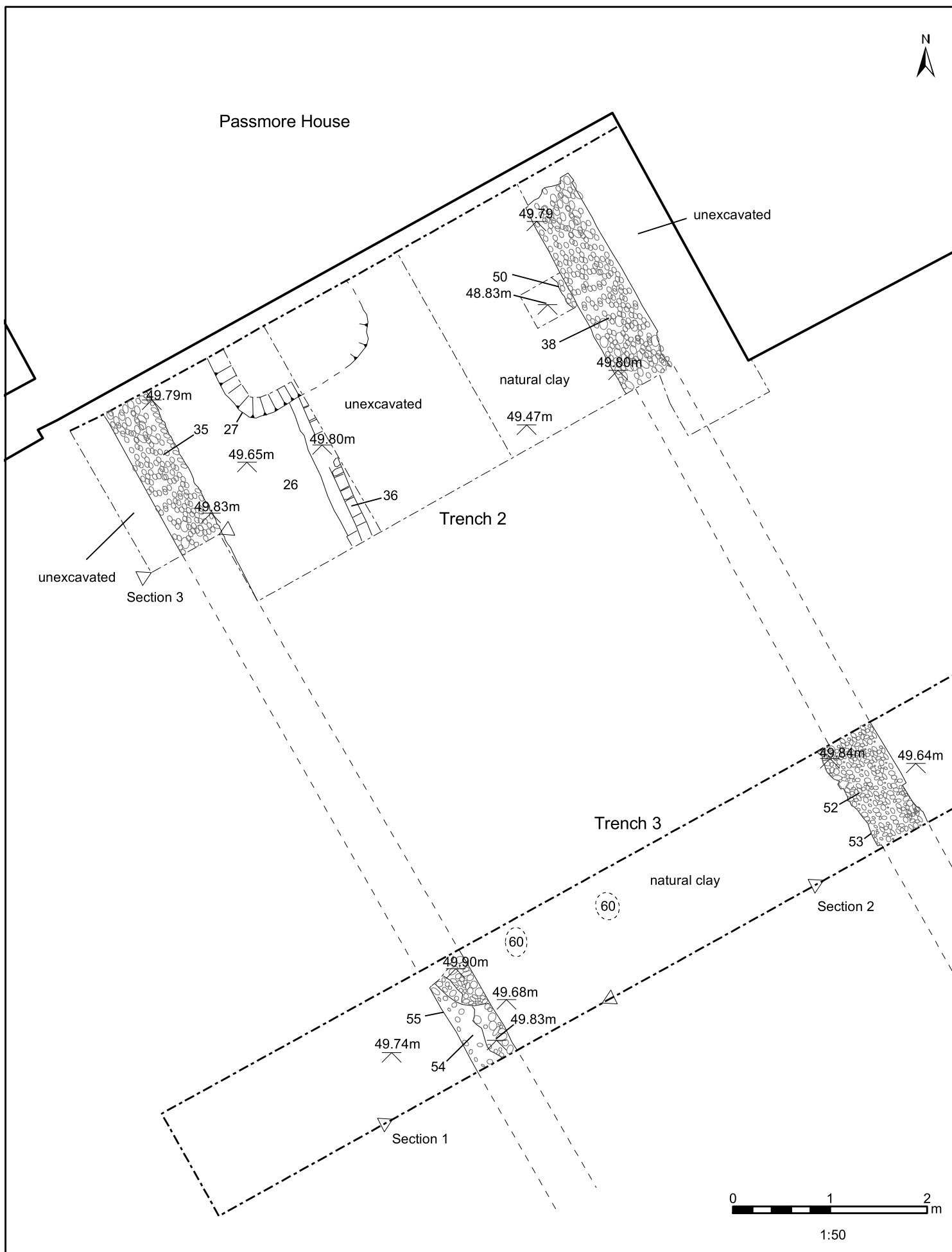


Fig.5. Trenches 2 and 3; 16th century

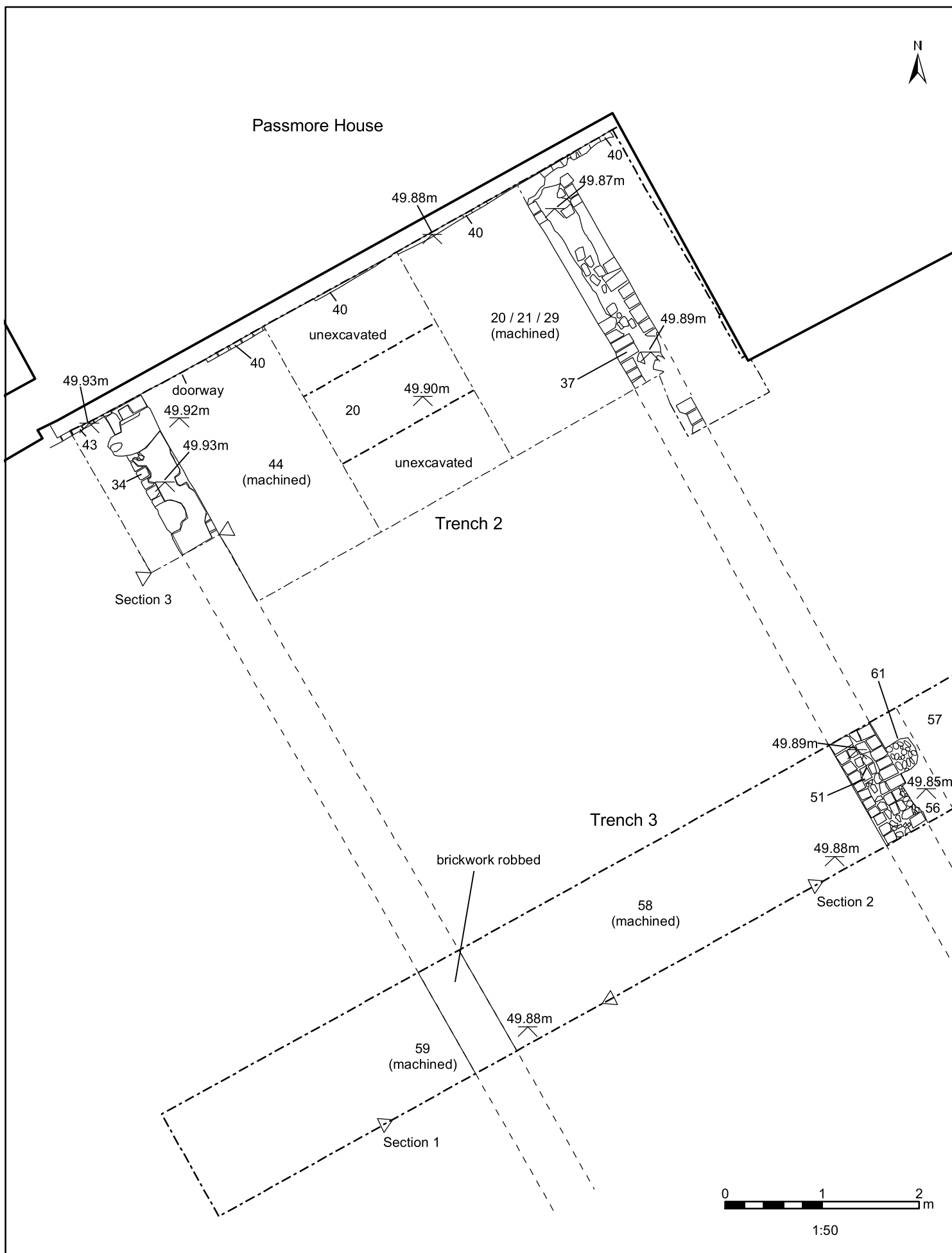


Fig.6. Trenches 2 and 3; 17th century



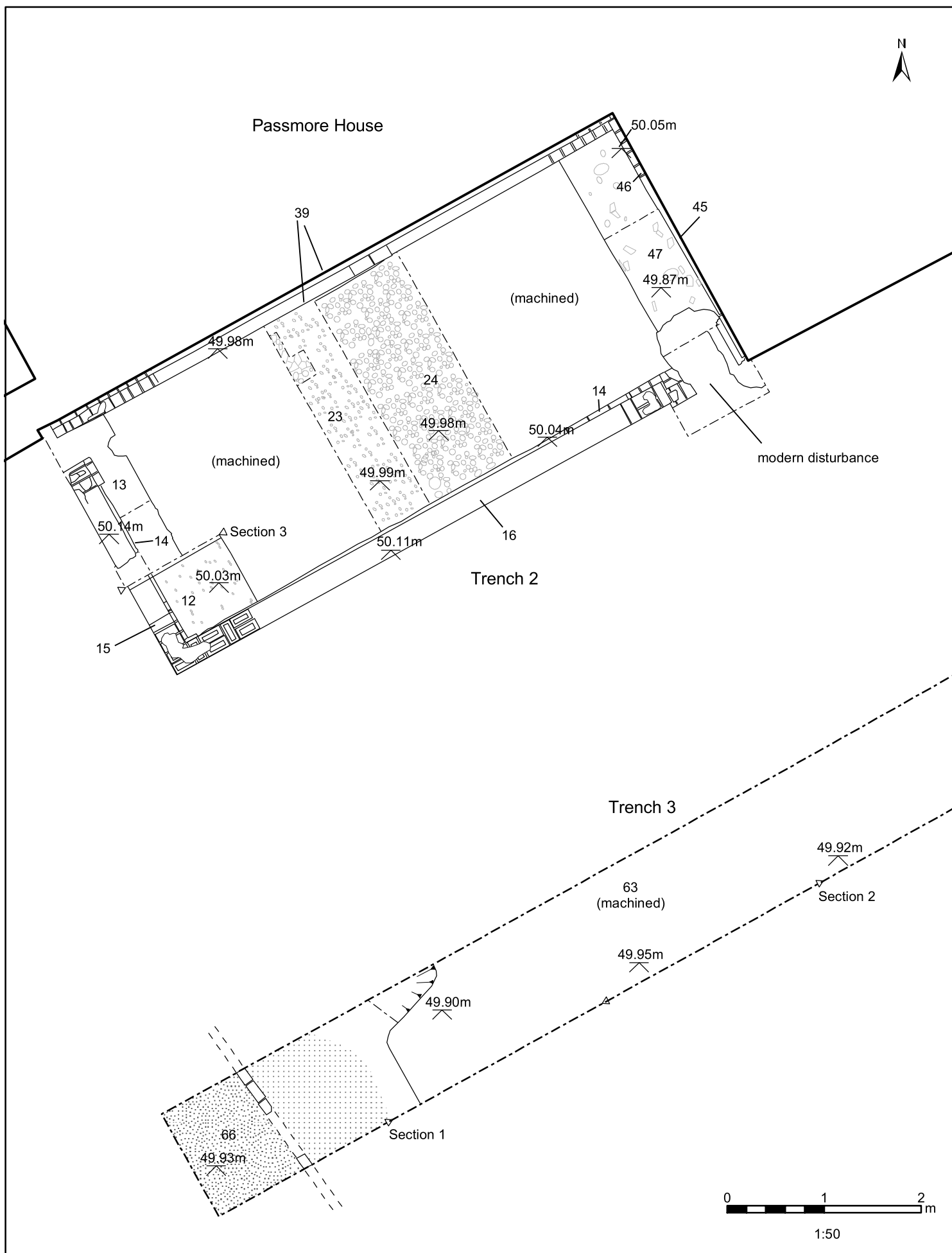


Fig.7. Trenches 2 and 3; 1727 and later

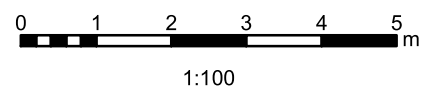
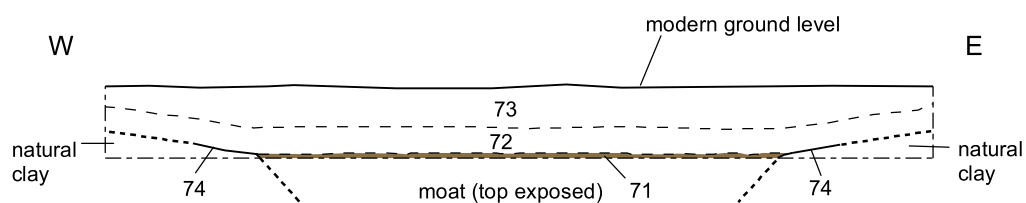
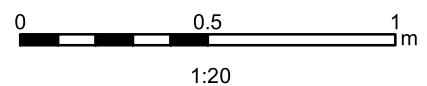
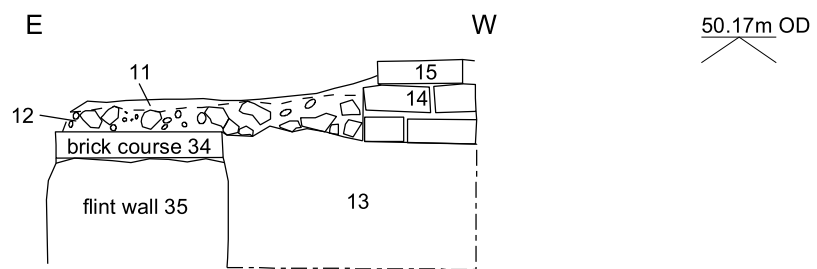
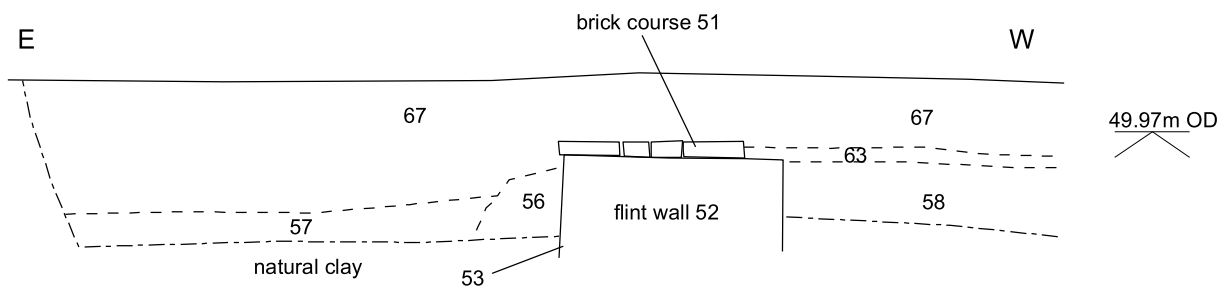
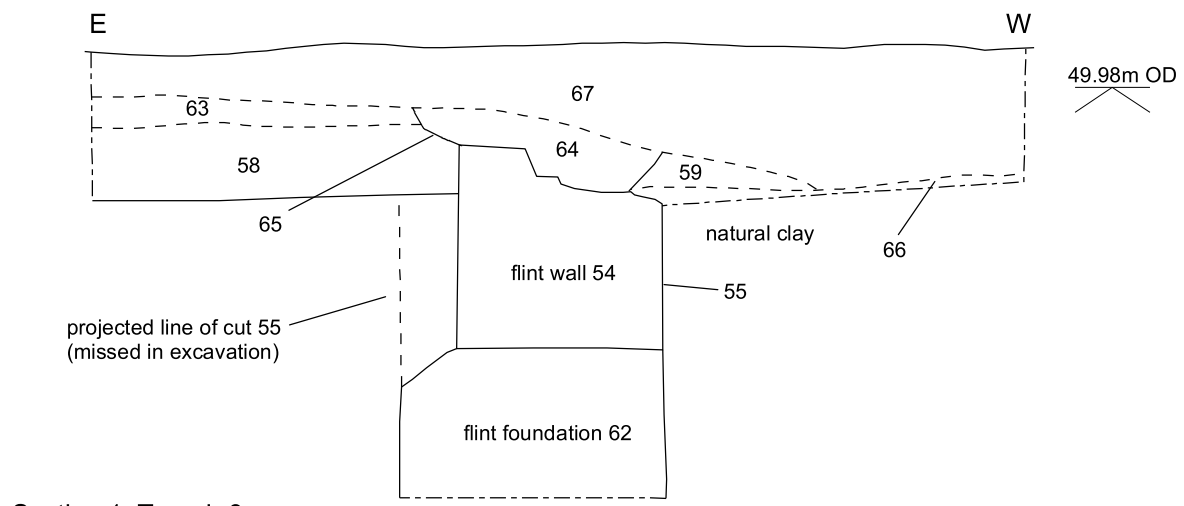


Fig.8. Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4

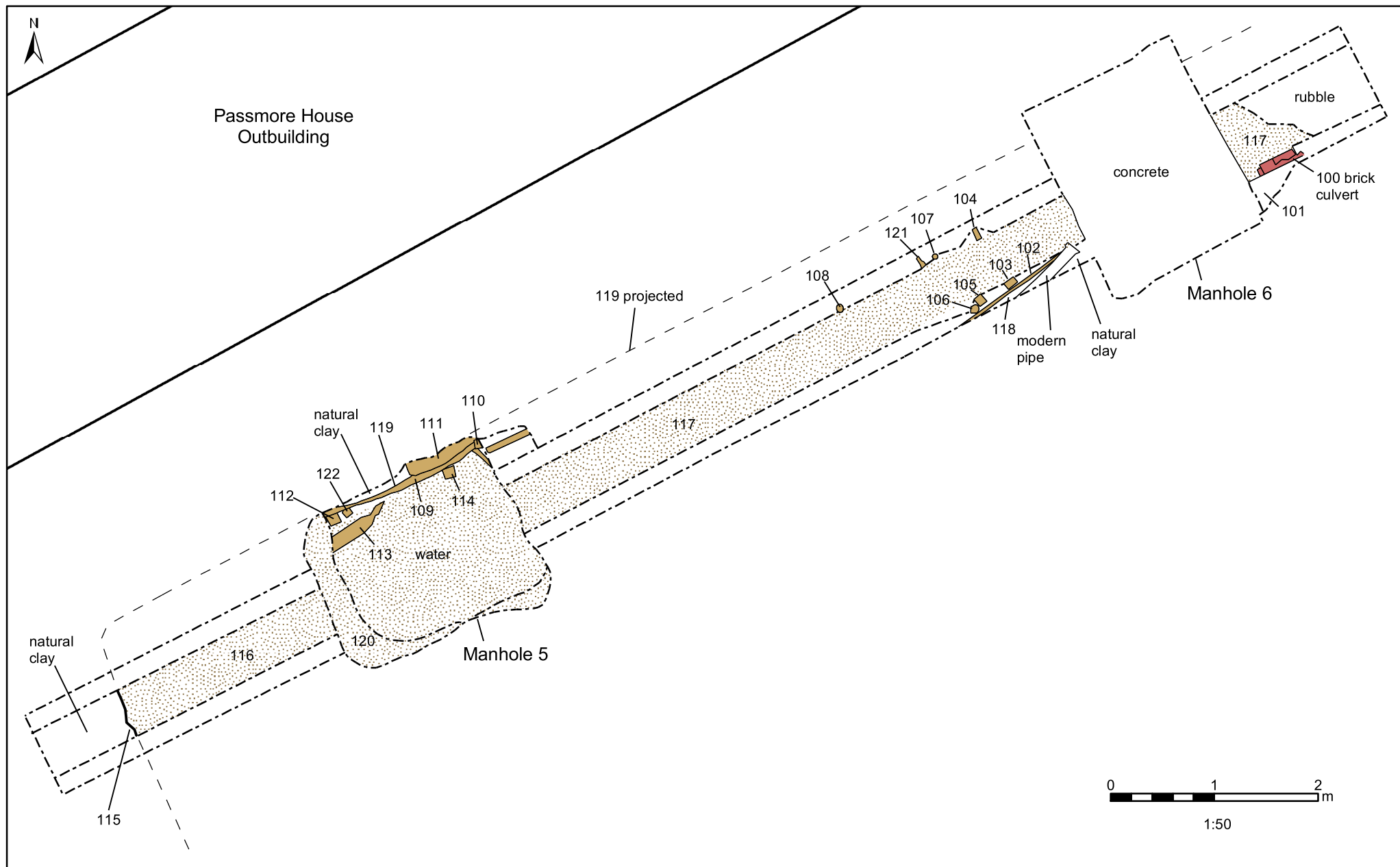


Fig.9. Trench 5



Fig.10. Interpretive structural block plans (1:125)



Plate 1. Trench 2 looking east, showing the west face of 16th-century flint wall 38, with 17th-century brick capping 37. The wall was constructed from the level of the natural clay in the foreground. Passmore House is to the left and in the background, with the Victorian conservatory wall to the right (1m scale)



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking east, showing a detail of 16th-century flint wall 38, with regular facing above a roughly laid foundation 50 (1m scale)





Plate 3. Trench 3 looking west, showing the inner face of 16th-century flint wall 54, with foundation 62 exposed showing bricks at the top of the foundation and regularly faced construction above (0.5m scale)



Plate 4. Trench 3 looking east, showing the outer face of 16th-century flint wall 54, and foundation 62 exposed with a double brick course at its top (0.5m scale)





Plate 5. Trench 3 looking east, showing 16th-century flint wall 52. The top of the wall had an even surface interpreted as supporting a timber-framed superstructure (0.5m scale)



Plate 6. Trench 2 looking north-west, showing 16th-century flint wall 37 exposed during building works. As in Plate 5, the top of the wall had an even surface interpreted as supporting a timber-framed superstructure (the wall is 0.55m wide)





Plate 7. Trench 3 looking east, showing 16th-century wall 52, capped by brick course 51. The bricks are 16th-century but reused, and are interpreted as having been laid during replacement or repair of a timber superstructure in the 17th century (0.5m scale).



Plate 8. Trench 3 looking west, showing wall 52, with brick course 51. A small flint buttress 61 was added to reinforce the outer face of the wall (0.5m scale)





Plate 9. Trench 2 looking north, showing the south wall of Passmore House in the background, built on 17th-century brick wall 40 in off-white mortar (lowest two courses below scale). This was abutted by brick capping 37 of wall 38, on the right (1m scale)



Plate 10. Trench 2 looking north, showing the south wall of Passmore House in the background, built on earlier brick walls 40/43 (lowest two courses below scale), abutted by brick capping 34 of flint wall 35, on the left (1m scale)





Plate 11. Trench 5, Manhole 5, looking north-east, showing plank lining 109 at the terminal of moat 115/119 (below string line) as originally exposed before the manhole was pumped out (manhole is 1.8m square)



Plate 12. Trench 5, Manhole 5, looking north-east after it had been cleaned out, with the section in the top left showing natural clay at the terminal of the moat (119), while the other sections show waterlain moat fill 116/117/120 (manhole is 1.8m square)



Plate 13. Trench 5 looking west from Manhole 5, showing organic fill 116 extending up to the western edge of moat 115 in the background, with natural clay visible beyond



Plate 14. Trench 6 looking east, showing the section across moat 157, with the top of organic primary fill 154 visible in the base of the trench. The new residential block is in the background