

**GRANARY COTTAGE
30 MULBERRY GREEN
HARLOW
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

June 2010

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**GRANARY COTTAGE
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

Client: Mr and Mrs Paxman
FAU Project No.: 2229
NGR: TL 4785 1155
Planning Application No.: HW/PL/09/00285
Site Code: HAGC10
Date of Fieldwork: 13th May 2010

An archaeological trial-trench evaluation was conducted at Granary Cottage in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling. The site is located to the east of Harlow Old Town, on the south side of Mulberry Green. A grade II listed c. 18th-century barn is located along the northern edge of the property (Listed building no. 119511).

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.07m, at which level the orange silty clay drift geology of the area was exposed. The topsoil, 0.52m thick, overlay a silty clay levelling layer, 0.45m thick, containing late 18th- to early 19th-century pottery and tile as well as late 16th- to 17th-century brick.

Three shallow linear horticultural features were aligned north-west to south-east and cut into the natural silty clay. The very shallow nature of each feature indicates severe truncation. Each of them contained a light grey silt fill and yielded no finds. The northern end of the trench was severely root-disturbed.

The residual 16th- to 17th-century brick suggests post-medieval activity on the site but only evidence of horticultural practice was revealed within the trench.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological trial trenching evaluation at Granary Cottage, 30 Mulberry Green, Harlow in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling (Fig. 1). The fieldwork was undertaken in response to a condition (HW/PL/09/00285) placed upon the new development by Harlow District Council, following advice from the Essex CC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM) given in line with Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (DoE 1990), now replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by ECC HEM (2010) and a written scheme of investigation by ECC FAU (2010) and was monitored by ECC HEM on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

Bound and digital copies of this report will be supplied to the Mr and Mrs Paxman (including a copy for the Local Planning Authority), ECC HEM and the Essex CC Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of the report will be uploaded on the online access to the index of archaeological investigations (www.oasis.ac.uk). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at Harlow Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location, Topography and Geology (Fig. 1)

The site is located to the north-east of the centre of modern Harlow and to the east of Harlow Old Town, on the south site of Mulberry Green. It is bounded to the north by Mulberry Green, to the south by Gilden Way and to the west and east by residential properties. The trench was located in the eastern area of the property currently used as a garden. A grade II listed c. 18th century barn is located along the northern edge of the property (Listed Building no. 119511).

2.2 History and Archaeology

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Historic Town Assessment for Harlow (Medlycott 1999) held at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The proposed development lies within an area of known archaeological potential, immediately adjacent to the poly-focal and later medieval settlement of Old Harlow (EHER 3625). A scheduled ancient monument – a mound or barrow known as 'Harlow Mound' or the 'Moot Mound'- lies immediately to the south of Gilden Way (EHER 21) and c. 300m from the site. The monument is

not securely dated, although Roman coins and pottery have been found in its vicinity (EHER 111). Archaeological investigation to the south of Gilden Way in December 2007 revealed two later prehistoric ditches and an Early Saxon sunken-featured building (Germany 2008).

The immediate area of the site contains a number of medieval foci such as Harlowbury, Churchgate and Old Harlow (Medlycott 1998). Mulberry Green was probably originally a small post-medieval settlement in its own right. While Mulberry Green is now subsumed by Old Harlow, which itself is now part of Harlow New Town, a number of buildings dating to the 16th, 17th and 18th century survive, including the barn along the northern edge of the property which dates to the 18th century. The Tithe map and award of 1848 show the site as a cottage and garden, while the first edition Ordnance Survey (1867-1895) shows that the trenched area was a garden plot containing a number of mature trees which may have been cleared by the time the second edition Ordnance Survey (1896 – 1912) was produced.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the investigation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits within the development area and to preserve, by record, any archaeological deposits that might be destroyed by the construction of the new dwellings.

The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Establish if the site contains archaeological remains (e.g. former property boundaries) relating to the development of the historic town of Old Harlow
- Look for indications of former backland craft and industrial activity, in particular activity predating the 18th century barn along the northern boundary of the site.

4.0 METHOD

The site was investigated by one trial trench measuring 6m x 1.5m x 1.07m (max) (Fig. 1). The topsoil was stripped using a tracked mini-excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. It was not possible to excavate the full 8m-long trench as proposed in the Written Scheme of Investigation due to the presence of an unmapped greenhouse parallel to the northern boundary of the site. As

such the trench was widened to 1.5m in order to investigate a similar total area. All identifiable archaeological deposits were recorded and investigated.

The Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit is recognised as a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 1999) and the Association of Local Government Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU uses its own recording system.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The archaeological features were cut into the natural silty clay. Full details of the archaeological features and deposits are supplied in Appendix 1.

The trench was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.07m, at which level the orange silty clay drift geology of the area was exposed (Fig. 2; Plate 1). The topsoil, 0.52m thick, overlay a silty clay levelling layer, 0.45m thick, containing late 18th- to early 19th-century pottery and tile as well as late 16th- to 17th-century brick (Fig. 3).

Three shallow linear features (3, 5, and 11) were aligned north-west to south-east and cut into the natural silty clay (Fig. 2, Plates 2 and 3). The very shallow nature of each feature (average depth of around 60mm) indicates severe truncation. Each of them contained a light grey silt fill and yielded no finds. Features 7 and 9 contained a similar fill and are therefore likely to be associated.

A small root channel which ran parallel to footing 11 contained late 18th- to early 19th-century pottery, a clay pipe stem fragment, oyster shell, animal bone fragments and ceramic tile within a fill similar to layer 2 (Plate 3). This is undoubtedly related to the very disturbed and rooted area at the northern end of the trench (deposit 15).

6.0 FINDS

By Helen Walker

6.1 Introduction

A small number of finds was recovered from two contexts and all of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context (Appendix 2). All the finds appear to be modern, and from the pottery evidence, most likely date to the late 18th to earlier 19th century. No evidence of earlier industrial activity was revealed, although a stock brick, datable from the late 16th to early 17th century, indicates there may have been a post-medieval building on the site. The finds are described by category below.

6.2 Pottery

Both contexts produced pottery, amounting to three sherds, weighing 45g. A flanged rim from a Creamware plate or dish was recovered from layer 2, its almost white colour (as opposed to the buttery colour of mid 18th century Creamware) suggesting a date of late 18th to earlier 19th century. A second sherd of Creamware from context 14 may be from the same vessel. The only other find is a sherd of modern flowerpot from layer 2.

6.3 Brick and tile

Brick and tile fragments, amounting to six pieces, weighing 1721g, were recovered from both contexts. The tile comprises one piece of post-medieval or modern roof tile and a number of tiny undiagnostic fragments. There are two bricks both from layer 2, comprising an undiagnostic fragment and a part-brick. The dimensions and characteristics of the part brick (see catalogue) suggest it is a stock brick datable to the late 16th to early 17th century (cf. Ryan 1996, 95).

6.4 Animal bone and shell

Both contexts produced animal bone, amounting to six pieces, weighing 10g. All the bone is fragmented and the type of animal from which it came is not identifiable, although the piece of bone from layer 2 is hollow and may be bird bone. One fragment of oyster shell was recovered from context 14.

6.5 Other finds

A piece of post-medieval clay-pipe stem was recovered from context 14.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND ASSESSMENT

The evaluation trench partially revealed five archaeological features containing no finds. Though none of these features can be accurately dated, their stratigraphic relationship with layer 2 (located below) indicates that they pre-date the 18th to 19th century deposition of layer 2. The shallow and narrow linear features are likely to represent horticultural bedding trenches, as they contained a silt fill, ideal for plant cultivation, though now leached to a pale grey.

The 1848 Tithe map and award show that the trench was located within either plot 343 or plot 345, although the plot numbers shown on the tithe are not clear (Table 1). No buildings were present in the location of the trench and no detailed land use in the trenched area is recorded. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows that the site formed part of an orchard between 1867 and 1895; the orchard is not depicted on any later maps. None of the available maps show alterations to the site that would require the ground to be raised and levelled. The 18th-century barn running along the front of the property is present on the current ground surface, which would indicate that the site was levelled prior to the construction of the barn, this is supported by the late 18th century finds recovered from layer 2. The modern finds within layer 2 are likely to be due to bioturbation and the recent use of the site as a garden. A residual late 16th- to early 17th-century brick present in layer 2 suggests activity of this date within the area of the site.

343	Cottage and garden owned and occupied by Henry Webb
345	Upper Mead owned and occupied by Henry Webb

Table 1. Harlow Tithe Award 1848

The very shallow depth of each of the archaeological features encountered indicates that they were considerably truncated, probably at the time the site was levelled. Interpretation of the features, therefore, is tentative as only the bases were present. The confidence level for this site is therefore low.

The aims and objectives of the investigation have been partially achieved – archaeological evidence predating the 18th-century construction of the barn was identified; the form and fill of the features suggests they were horticultural bedding trenches however, severe truncation has hindered definitive interpretation. None of the features contained finds and therefore they cannot be attributed a more specific date than pre-18th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit would like to thank Mr and Mrs Paxman for commissioning and funding the archaeological investigation. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Phillippa Sparrow of ECC FAU, and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Adam Garwood of the Essex CC Historic Environment Management team. The finds were processed, analysed by and reported upon by Helen Walker. The figures were drawn by Andrew Lewsey.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ECC FAU	2010	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial trenching at Granary Cottage, 30 Mulberry Green, Harlow, Essex.</i>
ECC HEM	2010	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching at Granary Cottage, 30 Mulberry Green, Harlow, Essex</i>
Germany, M.	2008	<i>Monument 24858, South of Gilden Way, Harlow, Essex. Archaeological Evaluation. ECC FAU report 1857</i>
Gurney, D.	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14</i>
IFA	1999	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
Medlycott, M.	1998	<i>Harlow: Historic Towns Project Assessment Report ECC HEM</i>
Ryan, P.	1996	<i>Brick in Essex: from the Roman conquest to the Reformation. Chelmsford</i>

ESSEX RECORD OFFICE SOURCES CONSULTED

Harlow Tithe Award EROD/CT 164A

Harlow Tithe Map ERO D/CT 164B

APPENDIX 1 FIELDWORK DATA

All dimensions are given in metres.

Context	Fill	Type	Measurements	Description
	1	Topsoil	6m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.52m	Dark black brown sandy silt.
	2	Subsoil/levelling layer	6m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.45m	Mid orange brown silty clay. Very flat surface present immediately below the topsoil.
3	4	Linear	1.1m+ x 0.28m x 0.08m	Linear aligned north-west to south-east located in the south-west corner of the trench. Steep edge and flat base. Very shallow. Contained a very light grey chalky silt fill. No finds.
5	6	Linear	2.4m+ x 0.3m+ x 0.05M	Linear aligned north-west to south-east located in the south-west corner of the trench. Steep edge and flat base, narrower and shallower than feature 3. Very shallow. Contained a very light grey chalky silt fill. No finds.
7	8	Linear	0.2m+ x 0.21m+	Not excavated. Cut of similar feature to the above linears. Located very close to trench edge. Same fill as 4 and 6. Possible continuation of 11.
9	10	Linear	0.12m x 0.52m x	Not excavated. Cut of similar feature to the above linears. Located very close to trench edge. Same fill as 4, 6 and 8.
11	12	Linear	2.48m x 0.46m x 0.06m	Linear aligned north-west to south-east.. Steep edge and sloped base. Very shallow. Contained a very light grey chalky silt fill. No finds.
13	14	Root channel	1.52m x 0.25m x 0.08m	Irregular sides and base, aligned north-west to south-east. Fill 14 was the same as layer 2.
15		Root disturbance	2.2m+ x 1.5m+	Not excavated. Root disturbance in the north-north-western end of the trench.

APPENDIX 2 FINDS DATA

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	Layer	1	20	Pottery: creamware, flanged rim from plate or dish	Later 18th C – 1830s
		1	24	Pottery: flowerpot fragment	19th to 20th C
		3	229	Roof tile comprising two tiny fragments and one larger fragment with a corner	Post-medieval
		2	1477	Brick comprising one part brick with mortar attached, dark orange, large pebble and flint inclusions, no frog, width 108mm, depth 61mm and one fragment, red with calcareous inclusions, depth 61mm	Late 16th to early 17th C
		1	1	Animal bone, hollow bone fragment	-
14	Rooting	1	1	Pottery: creamware sherd from flat base	Later 18th C – 1830s
		1	3	Clay-pipe stem	Post-medieval
		3	15	Roof tile fragments	Post-medieval
		5	9	Animal bone fragments	-
		1	3	Shell: oyster fragment	-
		19	1782		

APPENDIX 3 ARCHIVE INDEX

SITE NAME GRANARY COTTAGE, 30 MULBERRY GREEN, HARLOW, ESSEX
SITE CODE HAGC10
TYPE OF WORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Index to the Archive:

Document wallet containing:

- 1. Introduction**
 - 1.1 HEM design brief
 - 1.2 FAU written scheme of investigation
 - 1.3 Client report x 2
 - 1.4 CD containing digital photographs & copy of report, pdf-formatted

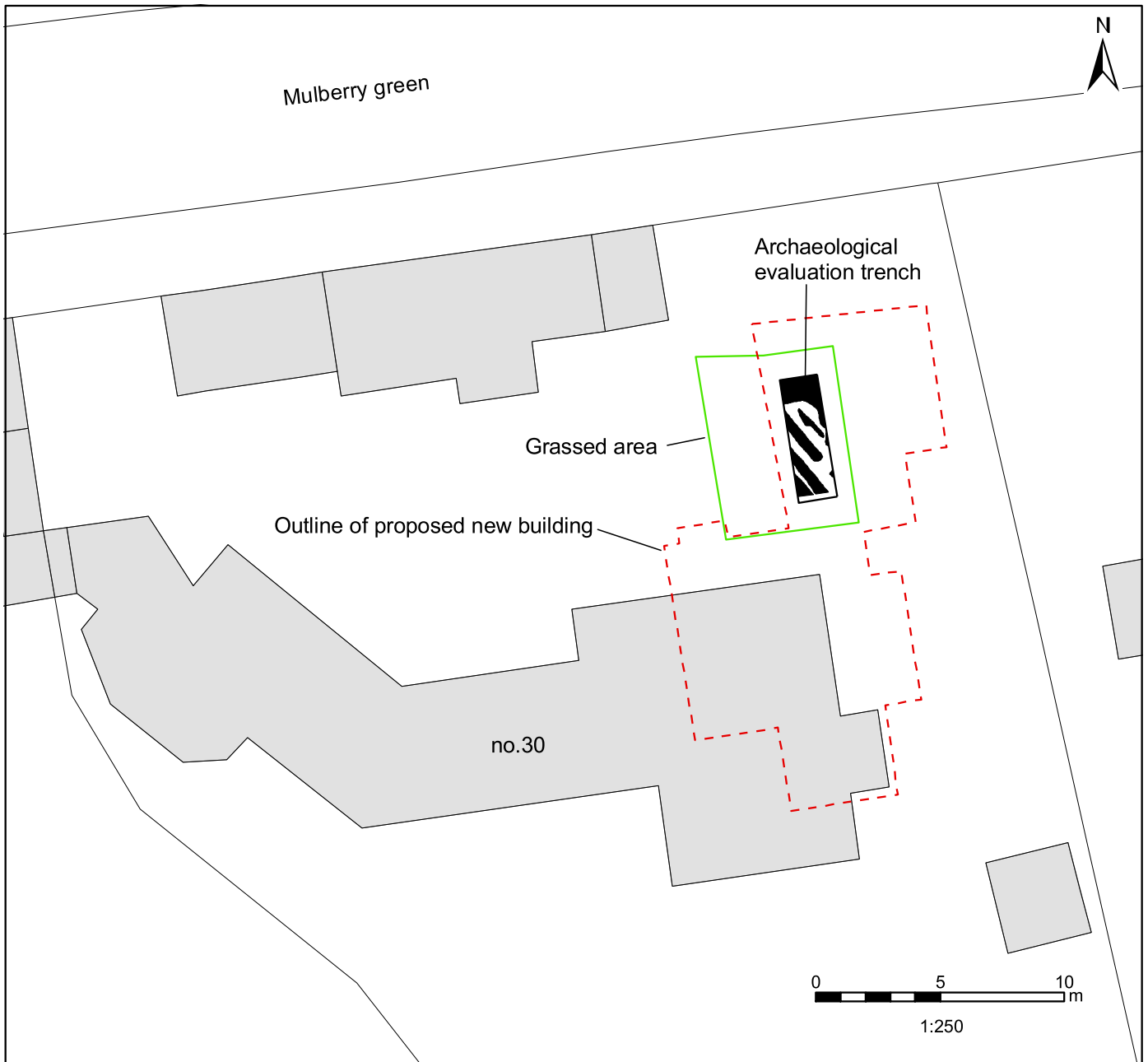
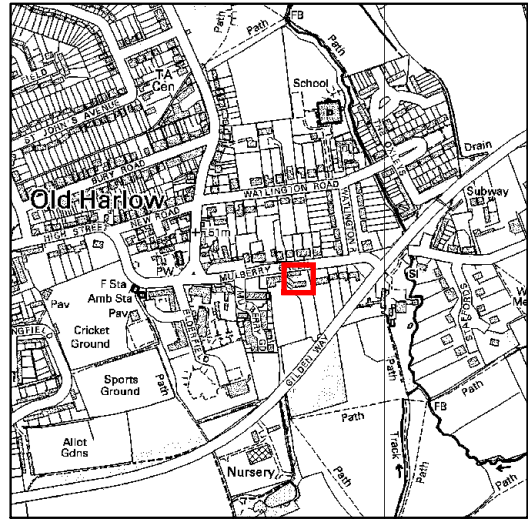
- 2. Site Archive**
 - 2.1 Context register
 - 2.2 Context sheets (Numbers 1-15)
 - 2.3 Trench record sheet
 - 2.4 Sections and plan register
 - 2.5 Digital photo register
 - 2.6 Photograph Contact Sheet
 - 2.7 Site notes
 - 2.8 Miscellaneous plans

Not in File:

1 sheet of permatrace – site sections and plan

APPENDIX 4 EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: Granary Cottage, 30 Mulberry Green, Harlow, Essex	
Parish: Harlow	District: Harlow
NGR: TL 4785 1155	Site Code: HAGC10
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Team: Phillippa Sparrow ECC FAU
Dates of Work: 13th May 2010	Size of Area Investigated: one 6m x 1.5m x 1.07m (max) trench
Curating Museum: Harlow Museum	Funding Source: Mr. and Mrs Paxman
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HER Nos. 31698
Final Report: Summary in EAH	OASIS Ref: essexcou1-76868
Periods Represented: Post-medieval	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: <i>An archaeological trial-trench evaluation was conducted at Granary Cottage in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling. The site is located to the east of Harlow Old Town, on the south side of Mulberry Green. A grade II listed c. 18th-century barn is located along the northern edge of the property (Listed building no. 119511).</i></p> <p><i>The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.07m, at which level the orange silty clay drift geology of the area was exposed. The topsoil, 0.52m thick, overlay a silty clay levelling layer, 0.45m thick, containing late 18th- to early 19th-century pottery and tile as well as late 16th- to 17th-century brick.</i></p> <p><i>Three shallow linear horticultural features were aligned north-west to south-east and cut into the natural silty clay. The very shallow nature of each feature indicates severe truncation. Each of them contained a light grey silt fill and yielded no finds. The northern end of the trench was severely root-disturbed.</i></p> <p><i>The residual 16th- to 17th-century brick suggests post-medieval activity on the site but only evidence of horticultural practice was revealed within the trench.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: P. Sparrow	Date of Summary: 8th June 2010



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological evaluation trench

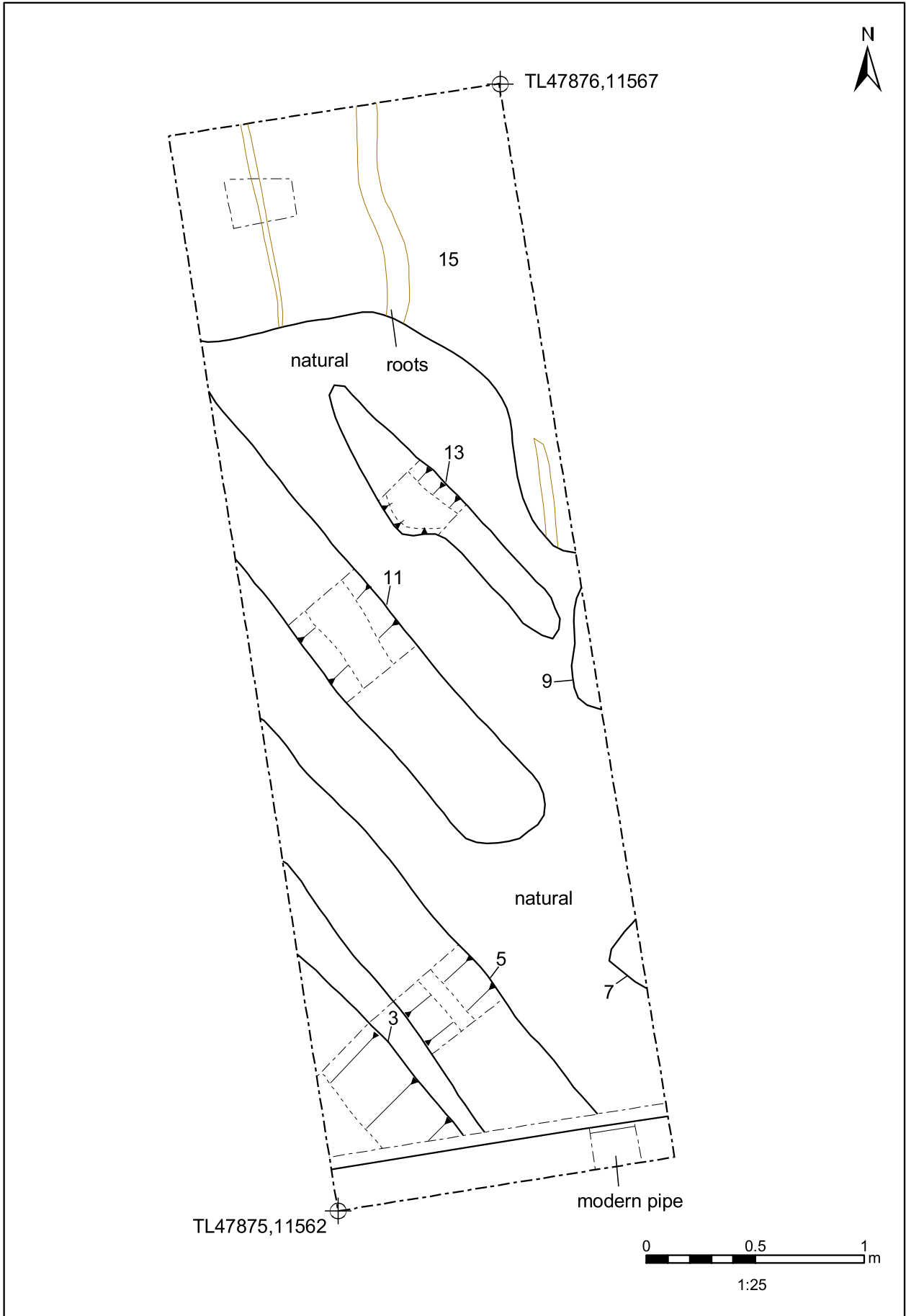


Fig.2. Trench plan

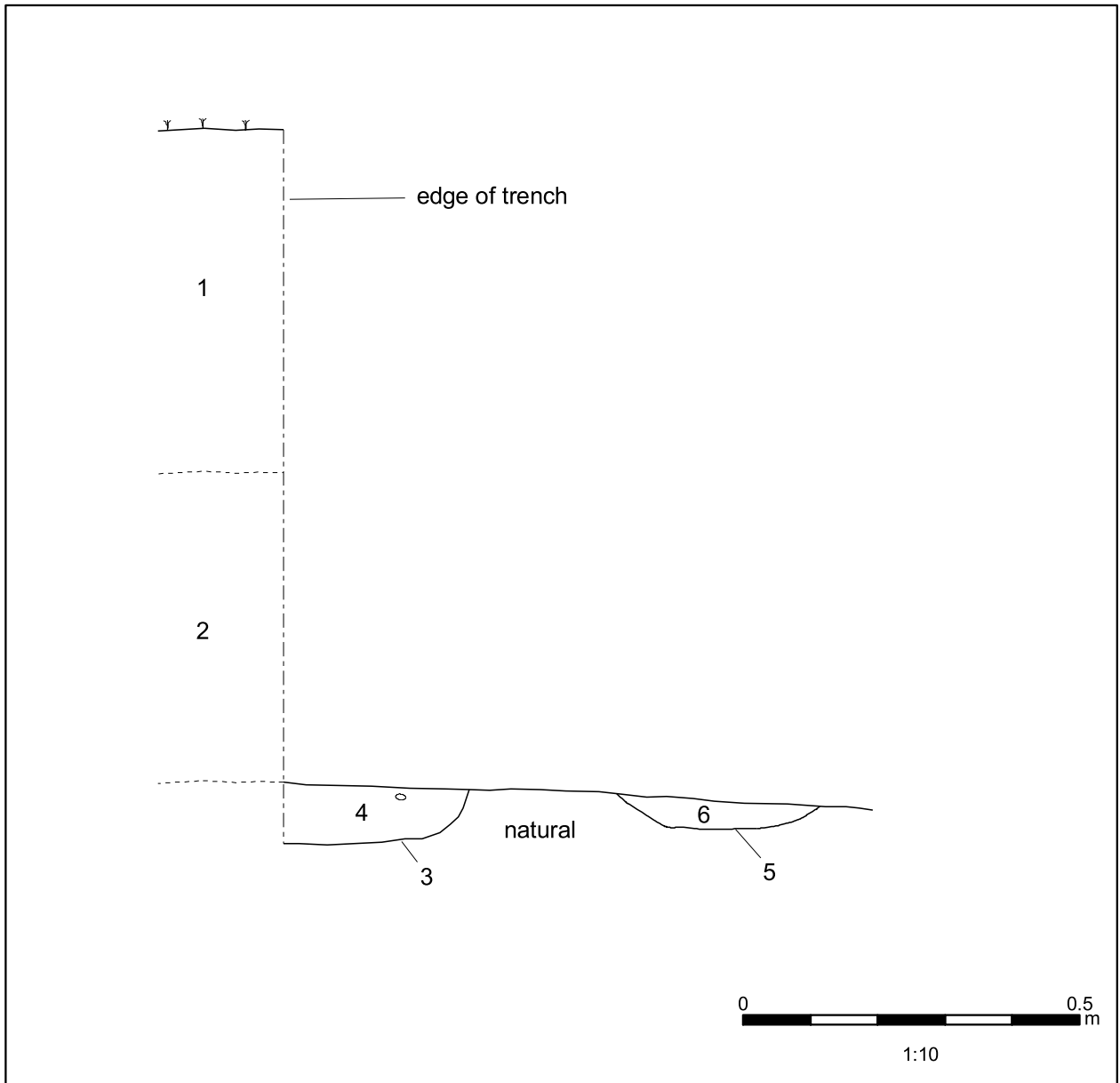


Fig.3. Section 1

Plates



Plate 1. Trench, post-excavation. Looking north. 2m scale.

Plates



Plate 2. Features 3 and 5. Looking north-west. 0.5m scale.



Plate 3. Features 11 and 13, looking north-west. 0.5m scale