

**LAND TO THE REAR OF 69 HIGH STREET
BILLERICAY
ESSEX:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



Essex County Council

**FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT
November 2010**

**LAND TO THE REAR OF 69 HIGH STREET
BILLERICAY
ESSEX:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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	ECC HEM
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LAND TO THE REAR OF 69 HIGH STREET
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SUMMARY

Client: D.J.W. Architectural Designs Ltd
FAU Project No.: 2256
NGR: TQ 6743 9467
Planning Application No.: 09/00324/FUL
Site Code: BL19
Dates of Fieldwork: 20/10/10 – 21/10/10

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken at land to the rear of 69 High Street, Billericay, in advance of the construction of two houses and associated infrastructure. Two trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed new dwellings. The trenches revealed evidence of post-medieval garden management as shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1874.

Trench 1 contained several layers of made ground indicating that the ground level was raised prior to the erection of a brick-built structure. Trench 2 contained several small gullies interpreted as flower beds and two postholes cut into the base of two gullies, perhaps representing a fence line.

The majority of the finds date to the post-medieval period, however a small quantity residual finds including Tudor red earthenware, a 17th century clay pipe and an ornamental roof tile dating from c.1500 onwards suggest earlier activity on the site, though no features dating to this period were revealed.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching at land to the rear of No. 69 High Street, Billericay (TQ 6743 9467), conducted by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) prior to the construction of residential properties and associated services. The fieldwork was undertaken in response to a condition (09/00324/FUL) placed upon the development by Basildon District Council following advice from Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM), given in line with 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 provided 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 D. J. W. Architectural Designs Ltd (including a copy for the Local Planning Authority), ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). 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 Chelmsford Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Geology and Topography (Fig. 1)

The site lies on the north-west side of Billericay High Street, at the rear of No. 69 (Barclays Bank), and is bounded by residential properties on three sides, with the Bank occupying the street frontage. The site slopes down to the north-west and the properties to the rear of the site are located on a considerably lower level.

Part of the site is currently used as a staff car park for the Bank, while the remainder is overgrown with nettles and was formerly covered with trees. An existing foul water drain crosses the western part of the site, running in a north-south direction and neatly bisecting one of the proposed house plots (Fig. 1).

The natural geological deposits comprise Bagshot Formation sand overlain by Stanmore Gravel Formation sand and gravel. A borehole survey of the site was conducted by B. A. Turner Subsidence Investigation prior to the archaeological evaluation (Turner 2010). Borehole 1 was located close to Trench 2 and revealed a deposit model of topsoils and subsoil overlying clayey silty gravel to a depth of 1.2m. Borehole 3 was located very close to Trench 1 and revealed topsoil above made ground to a depth of 0.8m overlying silty clay.

2.2 History and Archaeology

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and the Historic Town Assessment for Billericay (Medlycott 1998) held at County Hall, Chelmsford.

Billericay was founded in the 13th century by the monks of Stratford Langthorne Abbey, with a market potentially established as early as 1253, although the place name is not recorded until 1291. The Church of St Mary Magdalene is located opposite No. 69 High Street (EHER 25908). The origins of this Grade II* Listed Building date back to the 15th century, though it was entirely rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, c.1785 (Listed Buildings Online 112336). Five sherds of medieval pottery were found during an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of No. 51 High Street (EHER 14418).

The development site lies on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval core of the town, to the rear of the High Street and in an area that may have been used for backland activities related to the properties occupying the street frontage, such as industrial/ manufacturing processes, brewing, baking and rubbish disposal.

A 16th century timber-framed hall house is situated at Nos. 57 – 61 High Street (EHER 25921) and a late 18th to early 19th century red brick house stands at No. 63 (EHER 25922).

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the presence of absence, date, condition, character and significance of any archaeological remains.

4.0 METHOD

The site was investigated by two 20m long trial trenches targeted upon the new building footprints (Fig. 1). The topsoil and subsoil were stripped using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All identifiable archaeological deposits were investigated and recorded.

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological 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 (Appendix 1)

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 4; Plate 1)

Dimensions: 20m x 1.5m x 1.2m (max.)

Alignment: North-east to south-west

Trench 1 was located within the footprint of the north-westernmost building. Four modern (late 20th to early 21st century) pits were cut through the south-western half of the trench, truncating the majority of earlier deposits.

A pebbly deposit (15) was present at a depth of 0.9m below the present ground surface in the south-western end of Trench 1. The deposit contained no finds and was cut by two modern pits and overlain by a layer of made ground (16) which contained small quantities of coal, brick and pebbles, similar to the pebbles in layer 15. It is unknown whether layer 15 extended further to the north-east as made ground layer 16 became deeper and further excavation was not possible due to the already deep nature of the trench. Deposit 16 was cut by a post-medieval drainage gully. A very truncated patch of compact made ground (37) was present above layer 16.

Pebble deposit 17 was located 4.1m to the north-east of the trench edge and was very similar to layer 15, though it was located above made ground layer 16, which sealed deposit 15. Deposit 17 contained no finds and was cut at its north-eastern edge and truncated above by two modern pits. It overlies a post-medieval drainage gully.

Made ground layer 18 (same as 24) was present in the middle of the trench and contained pebble and charcoal inclusions and frogged red bricks. Made ground layer 19 was deposited above made ground layer 18 and contained similar inclusions. A further made ground deposit (20) was present above deposit 19.

Pit 23 was cut through made ground layer 18, and was sealed by demolition material tip layer 27. It was not fully excavated as it extended below 1.2m. It contained at least two fills; fill 21 was the earliest and comprised redeposited natural mid orange brown clay. The upper fill (22) of pit 23 comprised brick rubble.

A series of demolition material tips were located above pit 23, these comprised deposits 25 to 31, full details of which are presented in Appendix 1. Layer 30 contained one fragment of a 17th century clay pipe stem and a shard of modern glass. Made ground deposit 20 sealed the tip layers and made ground layer 19.

Structure 32 was built upon the tip layers and was located at the north-eastern end of Trench 1 (Plate 2). The building measured 2m wide and extended beyond both the north-western and south-eastern trench edges. The walls were present to four courses, the height of which measured 0.52m, and comprised red frogged bricks measuring 0.26m x 0.11m x 0.06m. They were laid in a Flemish bond with lime mortar and probably date to the late 19th century. A brick floor was laid between the two walls and comprised irregularly placed bricks on bed, with a very few laid on edge and some ceramic tiles. The structure was demolished above the four courses and was backfilled with a modern silty deposit containing plastic tubing, window glass presumably from the former structure and other modern finds.

Natural clay was reached in the centre of the trench though it was present at a shallower depth at the south-eastern side of the trench, indicating that that ground did originally slope down to the north-west.

5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3, Plates 3 & 4)

Dimensions: 20m x 1.5m x 0.76m

Alignment: north-west to south-east

Trench 2 was considerably shallower than Trench 1, as it was positioned at the top of the slope. Several garden features were present in the south-eastern end of the trench. These comprised a series of gullies. Gullies 6 and 12 were aligned north-west to south-east and ran parallel to the site boundary. Gullies 2, 10, 33 and 35 were aligned north-east to south-west and were considerably wider than gullies 6 and 12. Several of the north-east to south-west aligned gullies intersected with 6 and 12. All of the gullies contained a similar mid brown silty sand fill indicating that they were contemporary.

Two small postholes cut through the base of two of the gullies (fig. 4). Posthole 4 cut the base of gully 2 and extended beyond the south-western trench edge. It contained the same fill as gully 1 and yielded ceramic tile. Posthole 8 cut through the base of gullies 5 and/or 10. Again its fill contained ceramic tile and was the same as the fill of the gullies. The postholes probably represent part of a shallow fence line cut into the base of the gullies, though no further postholes were found.

A large area of root disturbance was present towards the north-western end of the trench, thereby obscuring the terminus of gully 12. A modern made ground layer, similar to 18=24 in Trench 1, was present at the north-western end of the trench to a depth of 0.75m, whereupon the natural sandy gravel was reached.

6.0 FINDS

By Helen Walker

Finds were recovered from seven contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context (see Appendix 2). The finds are described by category.

Pottery

Pottery was recovered from a single context, context 1, the fill of gully 2, which produced three sherds weighing 10g. The pottery has been identified as Tudor Red Earthenware and comprises unfeathered, unglazed, body sherds, two of which join, all have one abraded surface. As the name suggests, Tudor Red Earthenware dates from the late 15th to 16th centuries, but it is possible that the pottery is later, as the fabric is little different from that of Post-Medieval Red Earthenware, which continues into the 19th century.

Brick and tile

Brick and tile fragments are the most common finds category, with twenty pieces, weighing 2853g, recovered from all but one context. Most of the weight total is accounted for by a virtually complete frogged brick, part of structure 32. Using the typology in Ryan (1996, 94-6) its dimensions suggest a 19th to 20th century date. The remaining finds in this category comprise fragments of roof tile, not artefacts that are closely datable, and most span the late medieval to post-medieval periods. A roof tile fragment from garden feature 35 has a slight camber, which indicates a date post c.1500 (Ryan 2007). Unusually, it shows a curved edge and may have formed part of an ornamental roof.

Clay-pipe

Two fragments of clay-pipe, weighing 16g were excavated from two contexts. They comprise an undiagnostic piece of stem from gully 6, and, from backfill 30, a fragment showing the remains of the spur at the base of the bowl, upon which the clay-pipe rested. The spur is flat and circular, which indicates a probable 17th century date.

Worked bone

Two pieces of worked bone were recovered from the fill of gully 2, comprising both halves of a knife handle with an iron tang. The (incomplete) handle is rounded in section (diameter 16mm) and has a rounded bulbous end. The handle is undecorated and there are no rivets or rivet holes to secure the two halves, suggesting that they were glued together. The tang ends about 25mm before the end of the handle. These features suggest a post-medieval date for the knife, especially as bone-handled knives were made until relatively recently. Its delicate appearance suggests it is for table use.

Other finds

Other finds comprise a piece of modern vessel glass (wt 4g) from backfill 30, and a small fragment of unidentifiable animal bone (wt 3g) from gully 2.

Comments on the assemblage

There is no evidence from the finds of medieval activity at this site. Potentially the earliest find is the pottery, which may be Tudor, with the clay-pipe and perhaps the knife handle attesting to post-medieval activity, but finds are present in such small quantities that any activity on site cannot have been very significant. The relative preponderance of roof tile suggests a building may have stood in the area.

7.0 CONCLUSION AND ASSESSMENT

The stratigraphy revealed in both trenches is indicative of landscaping and ground levelling associated with the creation of a managed garden. As stated above, the ground level naturally slopes down to the north-west, this was noted prior to the archaeological evaluation as the houses to the rear of the property are built on a considerably lower ground surface to that present in the evaluation site. The start of a made ground layer 3.6m from the north-western end of Trench 2 shows the level to which the site was raised. This layer was very similar to layer 18=24 found at the base of Trench 1. No features predating the post-medieval period were cut into the natural clay of Trench 1.

Structure 32 in the north-eastern end of Trench 1 was built upon a series of tipped layers containing demolition material. The placement of the structure upon the layers of alternate brick rubble and sandy deposits suggests that the ground was deliberately raised prior to the construction of this small building. This building is probably shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1874; however, due to differences of scale it is impossible to accurately superimpose the map onto the current site but a small rectangular structure is shown on the 1874 OS map in roughly the same location as Structure 32. At only 2m wide, this would not have been a substantial building and is likely to have been a small brick shed or outbuilding.

The 1874 map also shows pathways aligned parallel and perpendicular to the site boundaries and along the same alignment as the gullies found in Trench 2. The shallow nature of the gullies combined with their loose fills suggests they were flowerbeds. Pebbly deposit 17 might represent a pebbled pathway, in a recreational garden. Its occasional and recreational use would explain a lack of compaction. Deposit 15 might represent an earlier gravelled area, created prior to the surface built-up.

The high content of demolition material within tip layers 25-31 might suggest that an earlier structure was present and demolished prior to the raising up of the ground in the northern area of the site. This might explain the presence of an ornamental roof tile dating from c.1500 onwards within the fill of gully 35, the small quantity of Tudor red earthenware within gully 1 and the 17th century clay pipe in tip layer 30.

Layers 37 and 20 in Trench 1 had very similar compositions, inclusions and depth below the present ground surface, therefore possibly indicating that they were deposited at the same time. They both sealed a series of made ground layers and may therefore represent a final levelling layer. Layer 20 was cut by the demolition of structure 32 which therefore indicates that layer 20 was present during the life of the small building.

The archaeological evaluation revealed evidence of post-medieval landscaping and as such the aims of the investigation have been broadly achieved. A small quantity of residual Tudor and 17th century finds were found within post-medieval features. No earlier finds or features relating to backland activity were revealed. It is likely that any such evidence would have been present closer to the street frontage, in the area disturbed by the modern Barclays bank building and its car park. Any further archaeological investigations within the site are likely to reveal more post-medieval garden features and evidence of landscaping.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ECC FAU would like to thank D. J. W. Architectural Designs Ltd for commissioning and funding the archaeological investigation.

The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Phillippa Sparrow and Andrew Letch. The finds were processed by Phillippa Sparrow, analysed by and reported upon by Helen Walker. The figures were drawn by Andrew Lewsey.

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Gurney, D.	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14
IFA	1999	<i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation.</i> Institute of Field Archaeologists
Ryan, P.	1996	<i>Brick in Essex: from the Roman conquest to the Reformation</i> (Chelmsford)
Ryan, P.	2007	' <i>Dating Essex Roof</i> ', unpublished guidelines
Turner, B. A.	2010	<i>Trial Pit and Borehole Investigation</i> Unpublished report. B. A. Turner Subsidence Investigation, Chelmsford

APPENDIX 1: FIELDWORK DATA

All dimensions are given in metres.

Context	Feature	Trench	Type	Measurements	Description
1	2	2	Fill	1.5m+ x 1.24m+ x 0.08m	Only fill of shallow gully 2. Mid brown silty sand with frequent rounded gravel, rare charcoal and tile flecks. Friable.
2	2	2	Cut	1.5m+ x 1.24m+ x 0.08m	Gully in south-east end of trench. Aligned NE-SW. Shallow with very gradually sloping sides and an uneven gravel base. Parallel to cut 10 and contemporary with cut 6.
3	4	2	Fill	0.2m+ x 0.3m x 0.15m	Only fill of shallow posthole 4. Mid brown silty sand with frequent rounded gravel, rare charcoal and tile flecks. Friable.
4	4	2	Cut	0.2m+ x 0.3m x 0.15m	Cut of an irregular slightly triangular posthole in SE end of trench. Steep sides with slightly concave base. Extends beyond trench.
5	6	2	Fill	5.4m+ x 0.42m+ x 0.11m	Only fill of shallow gully 6. Mid brown silty sand with frequent rounded gravel, rare charcoal and tile flecks. Friable.
6	6	2	Cut	5.4m+ x 0.42m+ x 0.11m	Linear gully in SE end of trench. Aligned NW – SE with shallow sides and uneven base. Overlies posthole 8 which is cut into base of 6. Contemporary.
7	8	2	Fill	0.42m x 0.33m x 0.24m	Only fill of shallow posthole 8. Mid brown silty sand with frequent rounded gravel, rare charcoal and tile flecks. Friable.
8	8	2	Cut	0.42m x 0.33m x 0.24m	Roughly circular posthole in base of gully 6. Vertical sides and sloping base, essentially flat. Same fill as 6.
9	10	2	Fill	1.5m+ x 1.09m x 0.08m	Only fill of shallow gully 10. Mid brown silty sand with frequent rounded gravel, rare charcoal and tile flecks. Friable.
10	10	2	Cut	1.5m+ x 1.09m x 0.08m	Linear aligned NE – SW in SE end of trench. Shallow dies and slightly uneven base.
11	12	2	Fill	8m+ x 0.23m x 0.09m	Only fill of shallow gully 12. Mid brown silty sand with frequent rounded gravel, rare charcoal and tile flecks. Friable.
12	12	2	Cut	8m+ x 0.23m x 0.09m	Linear along SW side of trench. Aligned NW – SE. Gradual and shallow sides with a concave base.
13	-	-	-	-	VOID
14	-	-	-	-	VOID
15	-	1	Deposit	4.06m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.16m+	Light grey yellow pebbles and silty sand with occasional brick and tile. Loose at SW end of trench. Cut by two modern pits.
16	-	1	Made ground	5.7m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.44m+	Light yellow brown sandy silty with coal and charcoal inclusions. Compact.
17	-	1	Made ground	1.4m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.12m	Mid grey brown pebbly silty with charcoal inclusions. Friable.
18	-	1	Made ground	2.7m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.38m	Mid grey brown pebbly brick and sandy silt with frequent pebbles, charcoal and frogged red bricks. Compact.
19	-	1	Made ground	2.36m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.3m	Orange brown clayey silt with brick and charcoal inclusions. Compact.
20	-	1	Made ground	6m+ x 1.5m+ x	Grey brown sandy clayey silt with frequent brick and charcoal inclusions and occasional

				0.24m	pebbles. Firm.
21	23	1	Fill	1.2m+ x 0.28m+ x 0.2m	First fill of small pit cut into layer 18. Mid orange brown clay with occasional pebbles. Firm.
22	23	1	Fill	0.92m+ x 0.18m+ x 0.2m+	Upper fill of small pit. Red brick rubble and chalk. Firm to compact
23	23	1	Cut	1.2m+ x 0.28m+ x 0.2m+	Cut of small modern pit. Partially machine excavated.
24	-	1	Made ground	0.8m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.2m+	Same as 18? Mid grey brown pebbly brick sandy silt with frequent pebbles, charcoal and brick fragments. Compact.
25	-	1	Backfill	0.2m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.3m+	Dark orange brown clay with frequent pebbles. Firm.
26	-	1	Backfill	0.52m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.16m+	Red and white chalk and bricks. Demolition material - dump.
27	-	1	Backfill	3.5m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.2m	Orange sand and gravel with rare charcoal. Redeposited natural.
28	-	1	Backfill	1.4m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.3m+	Red and white chalk and bricks. Demolition material - dump.
29	-	1	Backfill	2.16m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.24m+	Mid orange brown silty sand with occasional charcoal. Firm to compact.
30	-	1	Backfill	1.4m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.24m	Red and white brick and chalk. Firm
31	-	1	Backfill	2.8m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.22m	Mid yellow brown silty sand and chalk. Compact.
32	-	1	Structure	1.5m+ x 2m	Small rectangular brick structure in north-eastern end of trench, extended beyond NW and SE edges. Frogged brick 0.26m x 0.11m x 0.06m. Flemish bond. Height of 4 courses – 0.52m. Mortar – soft lime. Brick floor present. Laid on bed, some on edge. Also contained some tile. Demolished during 20th century – backfill had plastic tubing.
33	33	2	Cut	1.5m x 0.25m+ x 0.06m	Cut of shallow feature with concave base. Cut by modern service.
34	33	2	Fill	1.5m x 0.25m+ x 0.06m	Mid grey brown slightly clayey silt with frequent pebbles. Loose.
35	35	2	Cut	1.5m+ x 1.1m x 0.10m	Cut of shallow garden feature. Concave base.
36	35	2	Fill	1.5m+ x 1.1m x 0.10m	Mid grey brown slightly clayey silt with frequent pebbles. Loose.
37	-	1	Made ground	0.5m+ x 1.5m+ x 0.2m	Mid grey brown sandy silty with occasional charcoal, frequent pebbles. Compact.

APPENDIX 2: FINDS

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
1	2	3	10	Tudor red earthenware, unfeathered body sherds, all with one abraded surface	Late 15th to 16th centuries or later
		4	96	Roof tile fragments, three at 12mm thickness, one at 15mm thickness, which has a buff fabric (discarded)	Late med to post-med
		4	20	Crumbs of brick or tile without surfaces (discarded)	-
		2	13	Worked bone; both halves of a knife handle with an iron tang	Post-medieval
		1	3	Animal bone, fragment, unidentifiable (discarded)	-
3	4	1	49	Roof tile fragment, thickness 15mm (discarded)	Late med to post-med
		1	16	Crumb of brick or tile without surfaces (discarded)	-
5	6	1	5	Clay-pipe stem, diameter of hole is 2mm (discarded)	Post-medieval
		2	77	Roof tile fragment, thickness 13mm, plus crumb (discarded)	Late med to post-med
7	8	5	155	Roof tile fragments thickness 13mm, plus crumb (discarded)	Late med to post-med
30	backfill	1	4	Vessel glass, fragment from recessed base, clear glass, no opaqueness (discarded)	Modern
		1	11	Clay-pipe, stem and spur	17th C
32	structure	1	2300	Brick, virtually complete, L 240mm, W 105, D 65mm, orange-red fabric, frog, no impressed marks visible, mortar attached, a 'Soft Red' (discarded)	19th to 20th C
36	35	2	140	Roof tile, thickness 13mm, the larger fragment has a slight camber and a curved edge (smaller fragment discarded)	Post-c.1500
		29	2899		

APPENDIX 3: ARCHIVE INDEX

BL19 LAND REAR OF 69 HIGH STREET, BILLERICAY, ESSEX: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief for evaluation
- 1.2 WSI for evaluation

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Evaluation report
- 2.2 Finds report
- 2.3 CD Rom

3. Site Archive

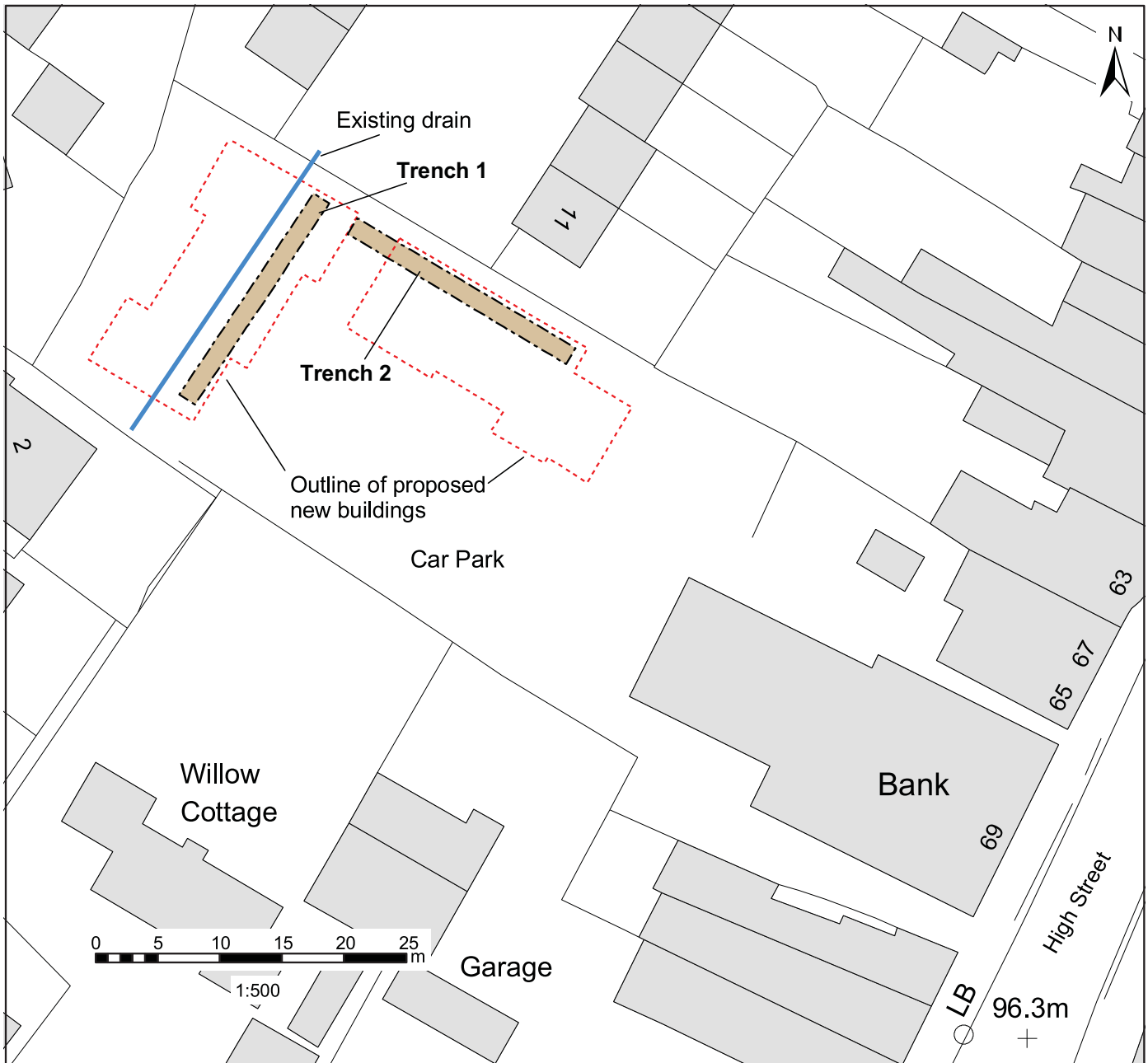
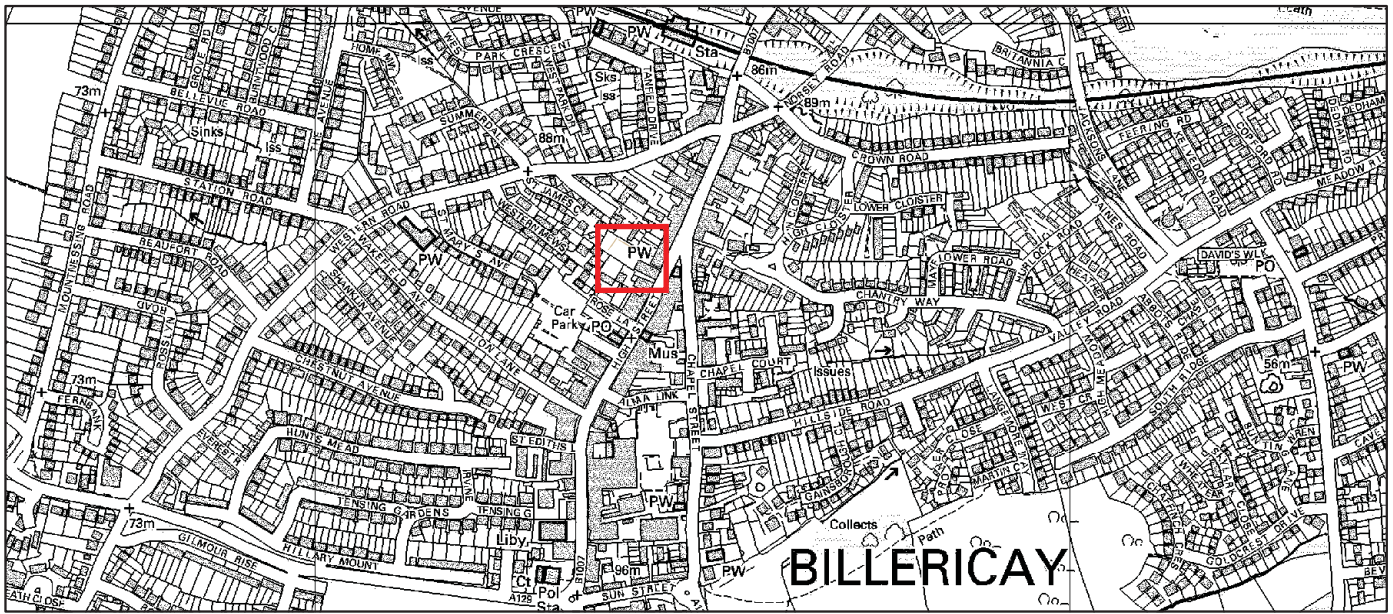
- 3.1 Trench record sheets
- 3.2 Context record register
- 3.3 Original context records 1 – 37 (excluding 13 and 14)
- 3.4 Plans register
- 3.5 Sections register
- 3.6 Levels register
- 3.7 Photographic register
- 3.8 Photograph contact sheet
- 3.9 Miscellaneous maps and plans

Not in Files:

Site Drawings (3 permatrace sheets)

APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

Site Name/Address: Land to the rear of 69 High Street, Billericay, Essex	
Parish: Billericay	District: Basildon
NGR: TQ 6743 9467	Site Code: BL19
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Team: Phillippa Sparrow ECC FAU
Dates of Work: 20/10/10 – 21/10/10	Size of Area Investigated: Two 20m x 1.5m trenches
Curating Museum: Chelmsford Museum	Funding Source: D. J. W. Architectural Designs Ltd
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HER Nos. None
Final Report: Summary in EAH	OASIS Ref: essexcou1-85203
Periods Represented: Post-medieval and modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken at land to the rear of 69 High Street, Billericay, in advance of the construction of two houses and associated infrastructure. Two trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed new dwellings. The trenches revealed evidence of post-medieval garden management as shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1874.</i></p> <p><i>Trench 1 contained several layers of made ground indicating that the ground level was raised prior to the erection of a brick-built structure. Trench 2 contained several small gullies interpreted as flower beds and two postholes cut into the base of two gullies, perhaps representing a fence line.</i></p> <p><i>The majority of the finds date to the post-medieval period, however a small quantity residual finds including Tudor red earthenware, a 17th century clay pipe and an ornamental roof tile dating from c.1500 onwards suggest earlier activity on the site, though no features dating to this period were revealed.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: P. Sparrow	Date of Summary: 11th November 2010



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches

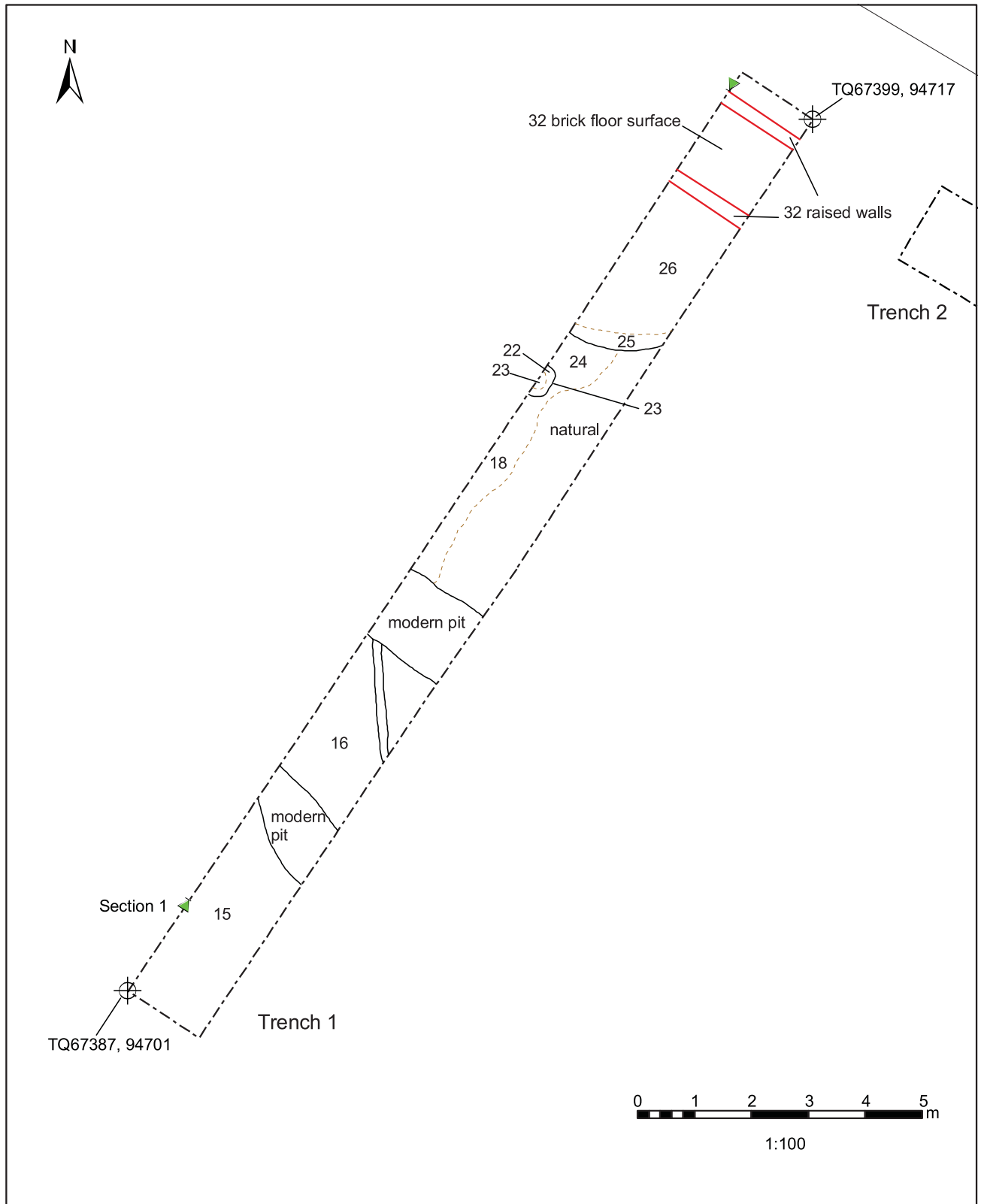


Fig.2. Trench 1 plan

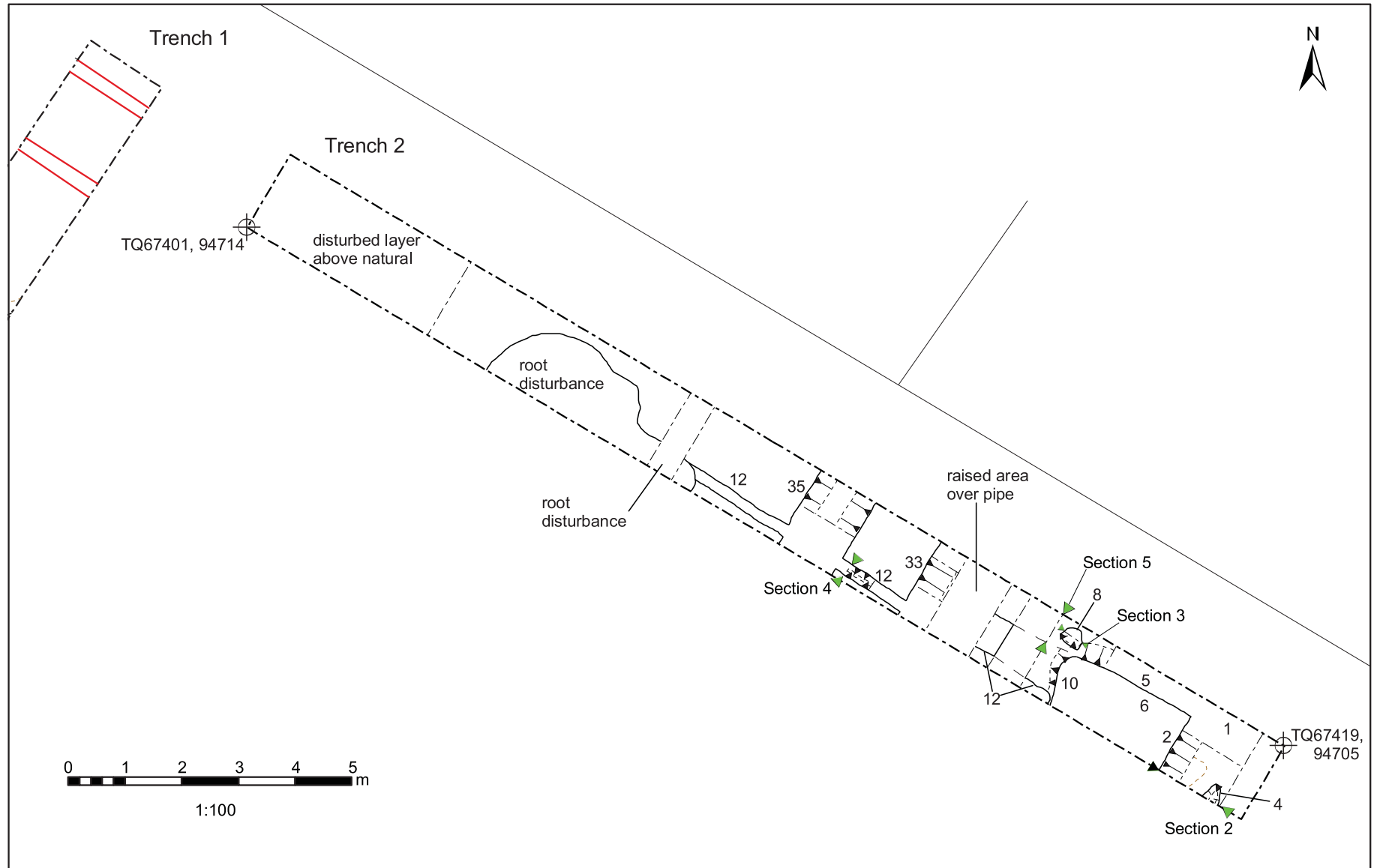
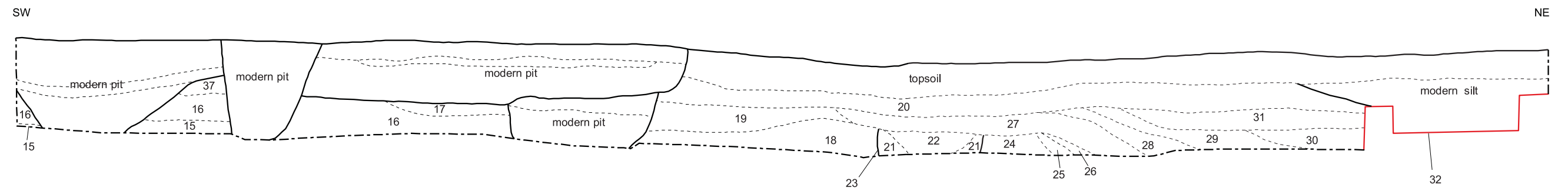
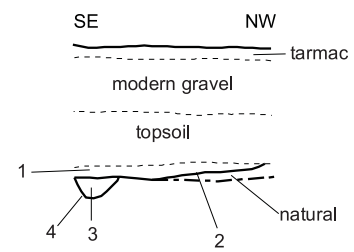


Fig.3. Trench 2 plan

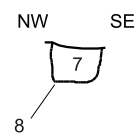
Section 1



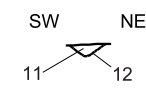
Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Section 5

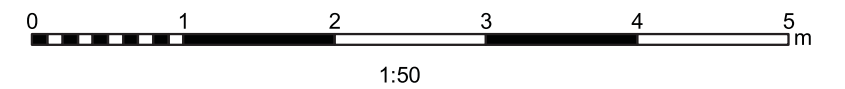
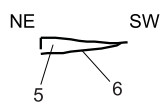


Fig.4. Sections 1 - 5

PLATES



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south-west. 2m scale.



Plate 2. Structure 32, north-east. 2m scale.

PLATES



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north-west. 2m scale.



Plate 4. Trench 2, looking W. 2m scale.