

**BAYLEYS  
BROOK STREET  
LITTLE DUNMOW  
ESSEX:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**



**Essex County Council  
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT  
December 2010**

**BAYLEYS  
BROOK STREET  
LITTLE DUNMOW  
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Prepared By: Phillippa Sparrow  Position: Supervisor	Signature:  Date:
Checked By: Mark Atkinson  Position: Unit Manager	Signature:  Date:

Document Ref.	2347_rep.doc
Report Issue Date	16th December 2010
Circulation	Mr. C. Horne (including a copy for the LPA)
	ECC Historic Environment Management
	Essex Historic Environment Record

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**Field Archaeology Unit,**  
Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ  
Tel: 01376 331470  
Fax: 01376 331428

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Essex CM1 1QH

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3. Gully 6. Looking south-west
4. Wall 8. Looking south-west
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**SUMMARY**

Client: Mr. C. Horne  
FAU Project No.: 2347  
OASIS Ref: 88990  
Planning Application No.: UTT/0562/10  
Site Code: LDBY10  
Dates of Fieldwork: 10th December 2010

*Archaeological monitoring and excavation was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of an extension to an outbuilding located to the north-east of Bayleys, a 16th-century grade II listed building located to the south of the village of Little Dunmow. Although the outbuilding is modern, historic mapping depicts this part of the property as being occupied by a range of earlier buildings associated with the house.*

*The topsoil strip revealed features associated with the post-medieval use of the site. The earliest features comprised a ditch and gully aligned north-east to south-west, on the same axis as the house. These were overlain by a flint and clay layer, a sand and gravel layer and a fragment of the south wall foundation of a building associated with the property known as 'Tile End' depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1875. The south-western wall of the 'Tile End' building still stands to a height of 0.5m to the south-west of the excavated area.*

*The majority of the archaeological features and deposits were cut by a modern water pipe and were disturbed by rooting from a mature tree located to the west of the excavated area.*

*The structure remains suggest that the former complex of buildings associated with the house were late post-medieval and perhaps constituted a small farm complex. No evidence relating to earlier (i.e. Tudor or medieval) use of the site was identified within the area of excavation.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring at Bayleys, Brook Street, Little Dunmow (TL 6605 2105), conducted by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) during groundworks for the erection of a new extension to an outbuilding. The fieldwork was undertaken in response to a condition (UTT/0562/10) placed upon the development by Uttlesford 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 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 Mr. C. Horne (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](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

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

The development area lies c.550m to the south-east of Little Dunmow and 200m north-west of the outskirts of Flitch Green. The site is bounded to the north by the dismantled Bishop's Stortford to Braintree railway and to the south, east and west by arable farmland.

The development area was laid to grass and a large mature tree was recently cut down to a stump just to the west of the extension location.

The natural geology comprises London Clay Formation clay, silt and sand overlain by Lowestoft Formation Diamicton - chalky till and outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays.

### **2.2 History and Archaeology**

This historical and archaeological background is based on information held in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The site is located to the east of Great Dunmow, a Roman small town, and c.1.4km to the south of Stane Street, the Roman Braughing to Colchester road.

Bayleys is a 16th-century Grade II listed building and the possible fragmentary remains of a moat have been recorded within the property boundaries and immediately north of the development area. However, site visits and analysis of the historic maps have indicated that the remains of the moat might rather be a former post-medieval drainage ditch and pond (EHER 1248, 1249 & 36823).

The site lies directly south of the dismantled Bishop's Stortford to Braintree railway line, and a former crossing point is located close to the north-west corner of the site (EHER 40336). The line was built in the 1860s and finally closed and was dismantled in 1971-2.

The site is depicted as *Tile End* on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875, with a long rectangular structure aligned east to west along the northern boundary in the location of the proposed development and the extant outbuilding. A further set of rectangular buildings are aligned north-west to south-east at the eastern end of the northern building. The long rectangular buildings were probably used as stables and stores. The site layout remains unaltered until the early 20th century when the current outbuilding is constructed. The eastern structure remains standing at this time.

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The general aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains prior to their damage or destruction by the development with the specific objective to interpret and place in context any archaeological remains exposed in relation to the post-medieval and earlier use of the site.

### **4.0 METHOD**

The archaeological work comprised the excavation of the topsoil across the extension footprint by a mechanical excavator with a toothless, bladed bucket under archaeological supervision. The archaeological features revealed were then excavated, recorded, planned and photographed. A small number of finds comprising animal bone and ceramic brick and tile were recorded, they were not retained as the bone was poorly preserved and the brick and tile were undiagnostic and could only loosely be assigned a post-medieval date.

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with *IFA* standards and by-laws (IFA 1997), and especially the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA

1999), and ALGAO's *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, EAA Occ Paper 14 (Gurney 2003) throughout the project. The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the *IFA*.

## 5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The topsoil was stripped to a maximum depth of 0.33m whereupon the natural chalky, sandy clay was exposed. A ditch and a gully were cut into the natural substrate and one flint wall foundation was present at the south-western edge of the excavation (Fig. 2; Plate 1). A mid to late 20th century water pipe cut through the southern area of the excavation. A high degree of root disturbance had affected the majority of the excavated area, originating largely from a mature tree located to the west of the outbuilding.

Ditch 1 and gully 6 were aligned north-east to south-west, located parallel to each other and separated by a distance of 1.5m. Ditch 1 contained two fills; the top of the basal fill (2) corresponded to the level of the water table (Fig. 3; Plate 2). The upper fill (3) contained fragmentary animal bone and brick and tile fragments (not retained due to poor preservation and undiagnostic characteristics respectively). Gully 6 was extremely shallow and may have been truncated (Fig. 3; Plate 3). The ditch and gully were aligned on the same axis as the 16th century house and were overlain by later post-medieval features thereby indicating that they perhaps formed part of the original property layout.

Both the ditch and gully were overlain by a 0.15m thick patchy flint and clay layer (deposit 5). Sand and gravel layer 4 was present to an average thickness of 0.1m directly above 5. Neither layer contained finds but both were located in the south of the extension footprint and did not extend beyond the northern edge of ditch 1. Historic mapping depicts the south-eastern wall of a large structure close to the location of the north-western edge of ditch 1, therefore indicating that layers 4 and 5 represent a surface surrounding the building.

A short, fragmentary length (0.2m) of a flint wall foundation (8) was present at the south-western edge of the excavation and corresponds with the south-eastern wall of a building depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1875 (Plate 4). Wall 8 was located above layer 4 therefore suggesting that it was a later extension to the late post-medieval structure. However, root disturbance in this area of the site hinders any definitive interpretation (Fig. 3).

A large natural feature with irregular sides and an undercutting base was revealed in the northern area of the site and contained a disturbed, loose fill and no finds.

The south-western wall of the demolished 19th century building still stands to a height of 0.5m (four courses) to the south-west of the excavated area (Plate 5). It comprises a core of flint nodules in lime mortar with red bricks laid at the corners and is probably indicative of the nature of the wall represented by foundation 8

## 6.0 CONCLUSION AND ASSESSMENT

Archaeological monitoring revealed features associated with the development of the property throughout the post-medieval period. The gully and ditch were possibly part of the original property layout for the 16th century house, while the wall foundation and layers 4 and 5 were associated with the late post-medieval development within the property, depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey as 'Tile End', a probable modest farm complex with the building shown to the west of the extension footprint possibly representing the original barn (Fig. 1).

The archaeological monitoring and excavation revealed no evidence predating the post-medieval period. It is probable that any occupation evidence related to the early use of the 16th century building, and any potential structural predecessors, would be located much closer to the extant house. Despite the close proximity of the excavation area to the ditch or putative moat, no evidence associated with its construction or use was revealed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ECC FAU would like to thank Mr. C. Horne for commissioning and funding the archaeological investigation. Thanks are also due to Kevin Gooch for his co-operation and assistance.

The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Phillippa Sparrow. The figures were drawn by Andrew Lewsey. The site was monitored by Richard Havis of ECC HEM on behalf of the LPA.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

ECC FAU	2010	<i>Written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring at Bayleys, Brook Street, Little Dunmow, Essex.</i>
ECC HEM	2010	<i>Bayleys, Brook Street, Little Dunmow Archaeological Brief.</i>
Gurney, D.	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14</i>



## APPENDIX 1: FIELDWORK DATA

Context	Type	Description	Finds
1	Cut	Cut of ditch. Aligned WSW-ENE. Steep sides and rounded base. Below layer 5. 5m+ x 0.81m x 0.4m.	See 3.
2	Fill	Lower fill of ditch 1. Grey sandy clay with frequent chalk and occasional charcoal.	-
3	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 1. Light brown grey silty sandy clay with lots of rooting and occasional charcoal.	Post-medieval brick, tile and bone fragments (not retained)
4	Layer	Orange sand and gravel layer. Cut by modern plastic water pipe. Present in southern part of site. Above layer 5.	-
5	Layer	Grey clay and flint cobbles. Below layer 4. Cut by water pipe. Above foundation cut 6 and ditch 1.	-
6	Cut	Gully – severely truncated – v shallow. Vertical sides and flat base. Aligned WSW-ENE. Cut by water pipe. 2.5m+ x 0.4m x 0.1m.	-
7	Fill	Only fill of 6. Light brown grey silty clay with occasional charcoal.	-
8	Structure	Flint and lime mortar wall foundation. Only extended 0.2m into western side of excavation. No bricks. Severely disturbed by rooting from a large mature tree to the west. 0.2m+ x 0.38m x 0.31m. Located just below the topsoil. Relationship between it and layer 4 was unclear due to root disturbance.	-

## APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INDEX

LDBY10      BAYLEYS, BROOK STREET, LITTLE DUNMOW, ESSEX

### Index to the Archive

File containing:

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Brief for archaeological monitoring
- 1.2 WSI for archaeological monitoring

**2. Research Archive**

- 2.1 Client report
- 2.2 CD Rom (containing pdf version of report, wsi, brief and digital photographs)

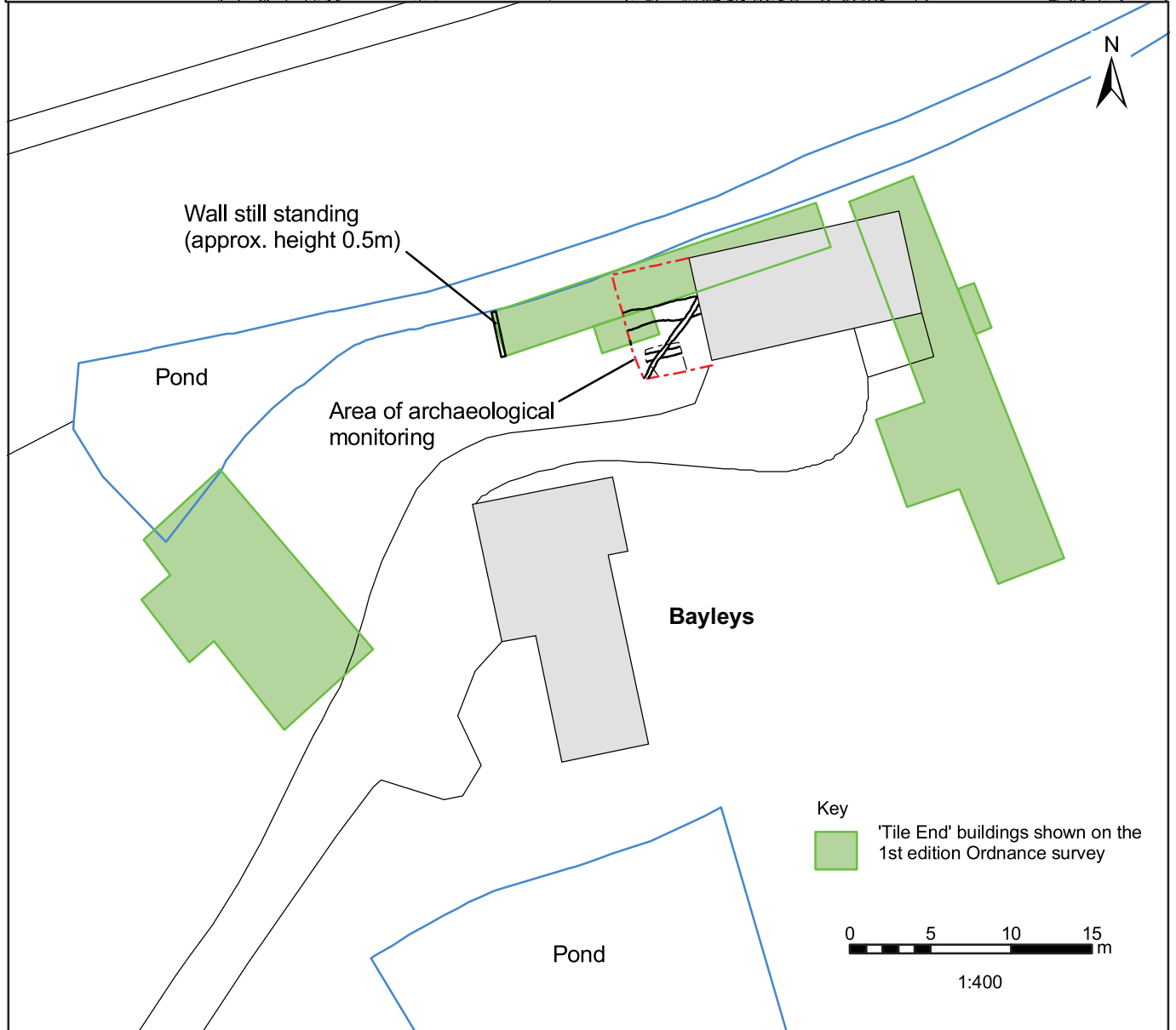
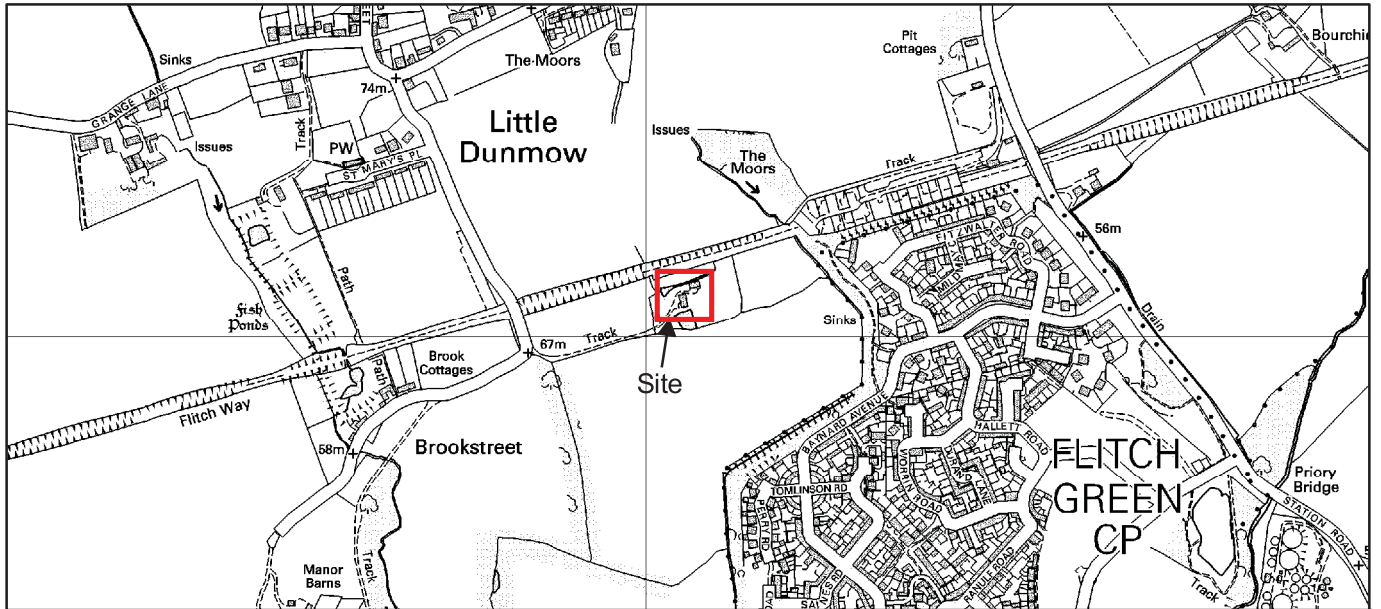
**3. Site Archive**

- 3.1 Context record register
- 3.2 Context record sheets (1-8)
- 3.3 Photographic register
- 3.4 Photograph contact sheet
- 3.5 Miscellaneous maps and plans
- 3.6 One small sheet of permatrace containing section drawings and area plan

No finds retained

### APPENDIX 3: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

<b>Site Name/Address:</b> Bayleys, Brook Street, Little Dunmow, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Little Dunmow	<b>Borough:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 6605 2105	<b>Site Code:</b> LDBY10
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Monitoring	<b>Site Director/Team:</b> Phillippa Sparrow ECC FAU
<b>Dates of Work:</b> 10/12/10	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> c. 25m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Curating Museum:</b> Saffron Walden Museum	<b>Funding Source:</b> Client
<b>Further Work Anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.</b> 1248, 1249, 36823
<b>Final Report:</b> Summary in EAH	<b>OASIS Ref:</b> essexcou1-88990
<b>Periods Represented:</b> post-medieval	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p><i>Archaeological monitoring and excavation was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of an extension to an outbuilding located to the north-east of Bayleys, a 16th-century grade II listed building located to the south of the village of Little Dunmow. Although the outbuilding is modern, historic mapping depicts this part of the property as being occupied by a range of earlier buildings associated with the house.</i></p>	
<p><i>The topsoil strip revealed features associated with the post-medieval use of the site. The earliest features comprised a ditch and gully aligned north-east to south-west, on the same axis as the house. These were overlain by a flint and clay layer, a sand and gravel layer and a fragment of the south wall foundation of a building associated with the property known as 'Tile End' depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1875. The south-western wall of the 'Tile End' building still stands to a height of 0.5m to the south-west of the excavated area.</i></p>	
<p><i>The majority of the archaeological features and deposits were cut by a modern water pipe and were disturbed by rooting from a mature tree located to the west of the excavated area.</i></p>	
<p><i>The structure remains suggest that the former complex of buildings associated with the house were late post-medieval and perhaps constituted a small farm complex. No evidence relating to earlier (i.e. Tudor or medieval) use of the site was identified within the area of excavation.</i></p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> P. Sparrow	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 16th December 2010



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological monitoring

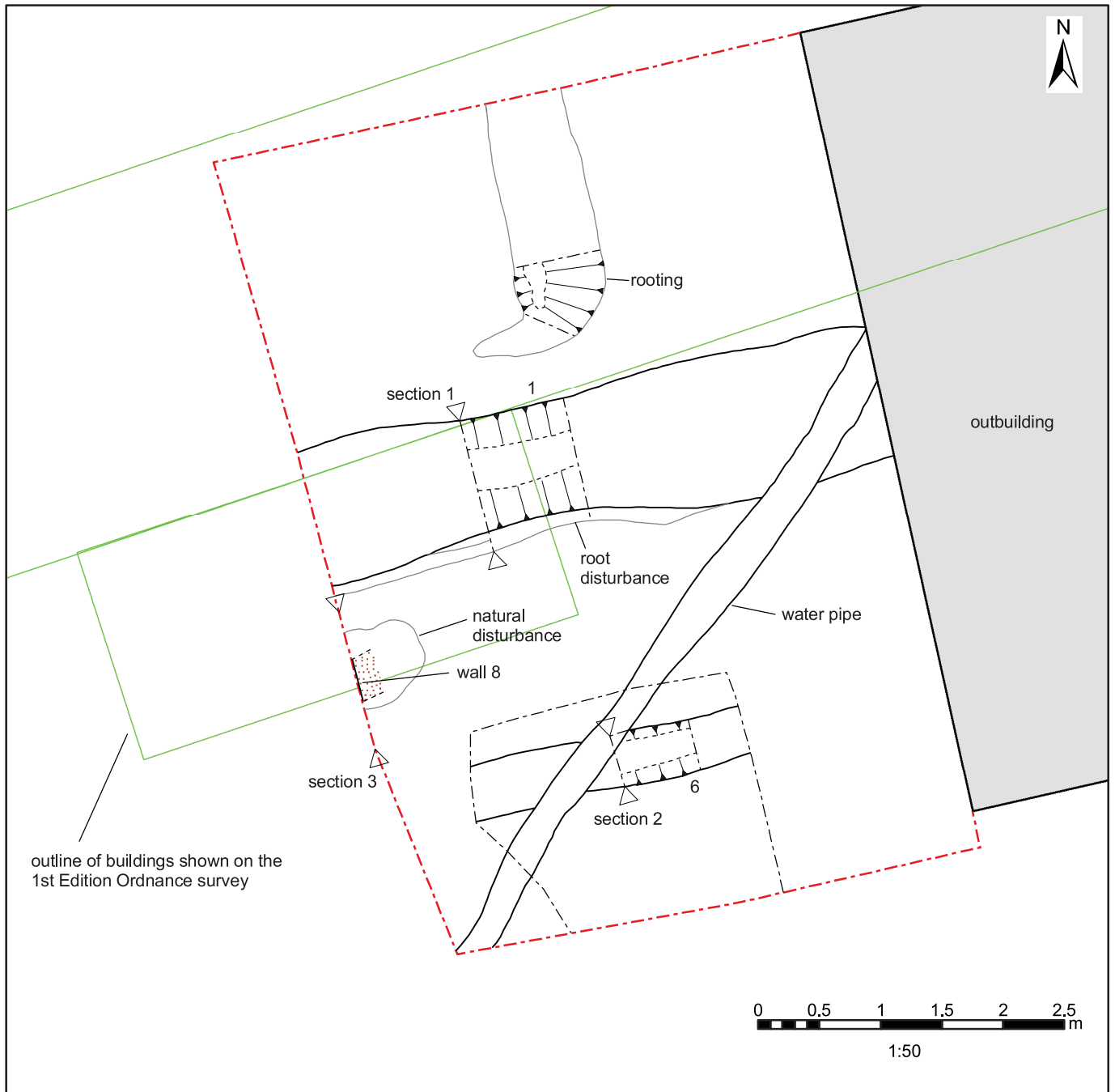


Fig.2. Plan of all features

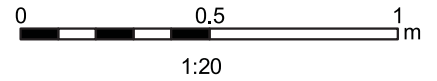
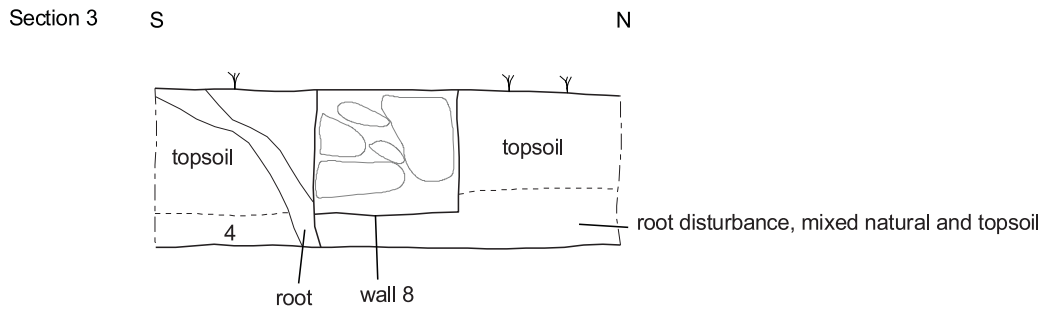
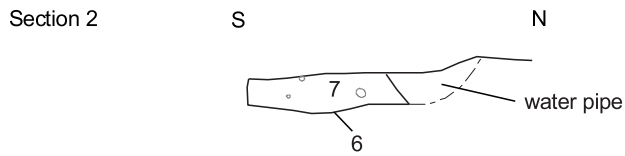
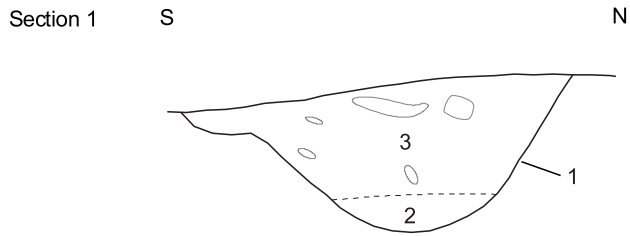


Fig.3. Sections 1 - 3

## Plates



Plate 1. Site. Looking north-east. 1m scale



Plate 2. Ditch 1, looking south-west. 0.5m scale.



Plate 3. Gully 6. Looking south-west. 0.5m scale.



Plate 4. Wall 8. Looking south-west. 0.5m scale





Plate 5. South-western wall of 'Tile End' building. Looking north-east.