Home Farm, Moor Place,
Much Hadham, Hertfordshire
Report 1: Archaeological monitoring
Phase I: The 'new builds'
14th to 24th October, 2013

report prepared by
Mark Baister

on behalf of
Foxley Builders

CAT project ref.: 13/09e
Planning references: 3/12/1075/FP
NGR: TL 42232 18825

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House,
Off Circular Road North,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436273304
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of foundations for four new dwellings at Home Farm, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. During the excavations, a fragment of modern pottery and two residual prehistoric worked flints were recovered from the topsoil. Two modern features were observed cut into the natural clay; a silt trap/soakaway, and a burial of a juvenile cow. Nothing else of archaeological interest was discovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This document describes Phase I of the archaeological monitoring carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in October 2013 at Home Farm, Moor Place, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. This is the first document in a series detailing distinct phases of archaeological monitoring, and describes only the four "new builds" mentioned within the planning application (Plots 8, 11, 12 and 15). Subsequent phases will deal with the extensions to existing properties and additional work, such as the installation of drainage and service runs. All monitoring was carried out by professional archaeologists from CAT.

Collectively, all documents detailing archaeological monitoring will be referred to as 'Report 1'. 'Report 2' will detail the extensive building recording undertaken by CAT at Home Farm and will be a separate entity to this monitoring report.

Home Farm is part of the much larger Moor Place estate, which lies to the west of Much Hadham, a civil parish and one of the oldest villages in the district of East Hertfordshire. The village is situated on the B1004 road, midway between Ware and Bishop's Stortford. The proposed development site comprises Home Farm, located approximately 300m to the south-east of Moor Place House, and an area of open fields to the east of the farmyard enclosure. The main access is via Kettle Green Road which connects to Much Hadham High Street to the east. The national grid reference for the stable block, which lies at the north-west corner of the complex, is TL 42232 18825.

Foxley Builders commissioned CAT to carry out the specified archaeological monitoring. The monitoring for Phase I was carried out between the 14th and 24th October 2013 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by CAT (CAT 2013). Post-excavation work was carried out in October 2013. In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was carried out in accordance with standard policies and procedures as outlined in CAT 2012, IfA 2008a, IfA 2008b, MoRPHE, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

3 Archaeological background

A desktop archaeology survey for Home Farm was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU 2012) on behalf of Foxley Builders to accompany a planning application to East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC) for the residential development of Home Farm. The following historical and archaeological background is taken from their findings.

Moor Place is a residential and agricultural estate centred on the Grade I listed Moor Place House which dates from the late 18th-century (HHER 9590). This extensive estate includes a number of listed buildings of a variety of grades and dates. Buildings within the Home Farm estate include a listed 18th-century stable and carriage house, a barn, a granary and cottages along with modern agricultural buildings. These are laid out over three yards, broadly representing the development of the farm through the 17th to 20th centuries.

Moor Place originated as an estate of the Bishops of London, held in the 15th-century by a family named More. A substantial house was built in the mid-17th century, probably by Sir Richard Atkins, who is said to have created a small park on the estate. The present house, located to the west of the site of the 17th-century house, was built

in the late 18th-century by James Brebner Gordon, from designs by Robert Mitchell. Moor Place is the only surviving house in England which can be attributed with certainty to Mitchell. In the late 19th-century the estate was acquired by the Norman family.

There is potential for archaeological remains associated with the pre-Georgian Moor Place estate to be present on the site. The possibility that even earlier remains may also be present cannot be discounted.

There are no nationally designated below ground heritage assets within the site, but the site does lie within an area of Archaeological Significance (EH 188) in the locally listed park and garden of Moor House.

Reference to historic Ordnance Survey mapping indicates that there have been changes on the site through the 19th and 20th-century mostly comprising the loss of some structures, for example additional bays on the east end of the garages.

4 Aim

The archaeological monitoring was intended to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may be disturbed during building operations.

5 Methodology (Fig 2)

The foundations of the four 'new builds' were all excavated by mechanical excavators equipped with toothless buckets under constant archaeological supervision.

Plots 8, 11 and 12 were excavated straight from the current ground level to the required foundation depth (which varied from 1m to 2.5m). When the concrete had been laid and set, it was necessary for some of the baulks of earth retained between the foundations to be reduced by varying amounts. This reduction was continually monitored.

Plot 15 was excavated in a similar method, but differed in that prior to the digging of the foundations, the turf within the footprint of the building was removed. Depending on the depth of the topsoil, this partially exposed the natural clay and allowed for the potential identification of archaeological features prior to the excavation of the foundations proper. Consequentially, this removal of turf was continuously observed.

6 Results (Figs 2-5)

During the reduction of overburden and excavation of the foundations, three layers and two features were encountered:

Context	Description	Finds	Date
L1	dark black sandy silt modern make-up, 400mm-500mm thick across Plots 8, 11 and 12	modern brick, concrete, tarmac (none retained)	modern
L2	light yellow/brown clay, in places stained green from contamination. After approximately 500-750mm gives way to light white chalk (in plot 15 only)	-	post-glacial
L3	dark brown/black sandy silt topsoil, between 300mm and	modern pottery, modern brick, worked flint	modern

	500mm thick	(residual)	
F1	brick built silt trap/soakaway	one brick recovered from side	modern
F2	animal burial (juvenile cow) with dark brown/black clayey silt fill	animal bone, Fe nail, peg tile, modern pottery	modern

F1 (Plate I) was uncovered in the foundations of plot 11, and was constructed from with mould-formed bricks and fixed together with cement mortar. F2 (Plate II) was exposed in the foundations of plot 15.

Plate I F1, facing north-east.

Plate II F2, facing north-west.

On plots 8, 11 and 12, the natural clay (L2) was overlain by a layer of modern build-up (L1), stemming from the construction and subsequent demolition of farm buildings (Plate III, Fig 5). On plot 15, L2 was overlain by placed modern topsoil (L3), as the building was being constructed in a pre-existing garden (Plate IV, Fig 5).

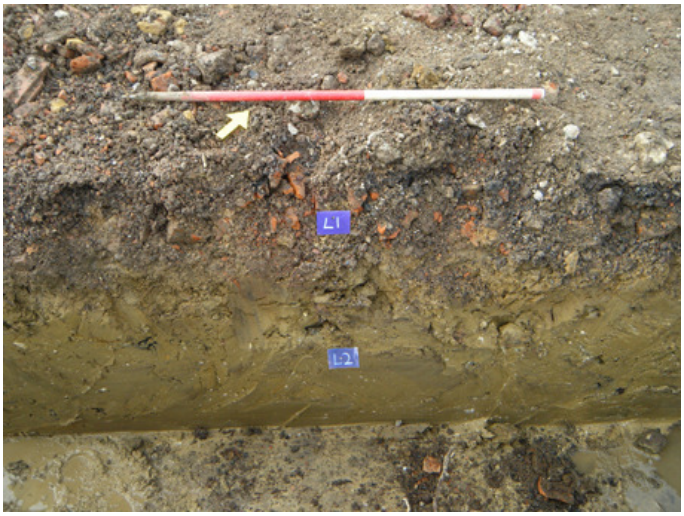

Plate III Plot 12 stratigraphy, facing north-west.

Plate IV Plot 15 stratigraphy, facing south-west.

7 Conclusion

Very little of archaeological interest was discovered during Phase I. Both features uncovered were of modern date and were of little relevance to the history of Much Hadham or the surrounding area.

The brick-built silt trap/soakaway (F1) was likely constructed in the mid-20th century, probably in the inter-war period (which would correspond with the demolished farm buildings on this part of the site). In style and function, it is similar to the Victorian method of deep agricultural drainage, a scheme which fell into disrepair during the agricultural depression the 1880s (Harvey 1980).

The juvenile cow burial (F2) was cut by a lead water pipe to the north and west (see Fig

4). From the mid-20th century onwards, lead water pipes were no longer being laid for water mains, which allows F2 to be tentatively dated to the late 19th, or possibly early 20th-century. The usual explanation for an isolated animal burial is the culling of an animal that has contracted an infectious disease, that the farmer would not want affecting the rest of their livestock.

Although exposing little of archaeological merit, the monitoring gave some insight into previous development on the farm. On plots 8, 11 and 12, and likely the entire north-east corner of the site (see Fig 2), the topsoil had been terraced away in order to make a flat base for the modern, recently demolished, farm buildings (Fig 2). This would account for the lack of topsoil (L3) on these plots, as well as the modern make-up (L1) lying directly above natural clay (L2). It also goes some way to explain the lack of archaeological features.

In contrast, the natural clay in plot 15 is sealed by a placed topsoil. This, as well as the existence of a visible feature (F2) cutting the natural, suggests that modern development has not been as aggressive to on the west side of the site. As the project continues, and foundations begin to be excavated further to the west and north west, the potential for deposits of archaeological interest increases.

The only finds of interest were two residual prehistoric flint core fragments from the topsoil (L3) in plot 15. Beyond these finds, nothing of archaeological significance can be said about Phase I of the archaeological monitoring.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Foxley Builders for commissioning the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and fieldwork carried out by M Baister. The project was monitored by Hertfordshire County Historic Environment Unit Officer Alison Tinniswood.

9 References

CAT	2012	*Policies and procedures*
CAT	2013	*Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological strip, map and record at Home Farm, Moor Place, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire September 2013*
DCLG	2012	*National Planning Policy Framework*. Department of Communities and Local Government
EAA **14**	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, by David Gurney (editor)
EAA **24**	2011	*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the east of England*, East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott
ECC FAU	2012	*Home Farm, Moor Place, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire: Desktop Archaeological Survey - Version 3.*
English Heritage	2006	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE)
Harvey, Nigel	1980	*The Industrial Archaeology of Farming in England and Wales*
IfA	2008a	*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*
IfA	2008b	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material (brick, tile, tessera).
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHDC	East Hertfordshire District Council
HHER	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, held by Hertfordshire County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
HET	Historic Environment Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer	an accumulation or deposition of archaeological material
medieval	the period from AD 1066 to AD 1500
modern	the period from AD 1800 to present day
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
post-medieval	the period from AD 1500 to AD 1800

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Hertford Museum (an accession code has been requested).

12 Contents of archive

Finds archive

One finds bag containing two worked flints (all other finds discarded after report completed)

Paper archive

1 A4 wallet containing:

- this report
- original site record (context and finds sheets)
- section drawings
- digital photo log
- attendance record
- sundry papers
- digital photos on disc

Distribution list:

Foxley Builders
Alison Tinniswood, Hertfordshire County Historic Environment Unit Officer
Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, Hertfordshire County Council

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House
Circular Road North,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436273304
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by:
Date:

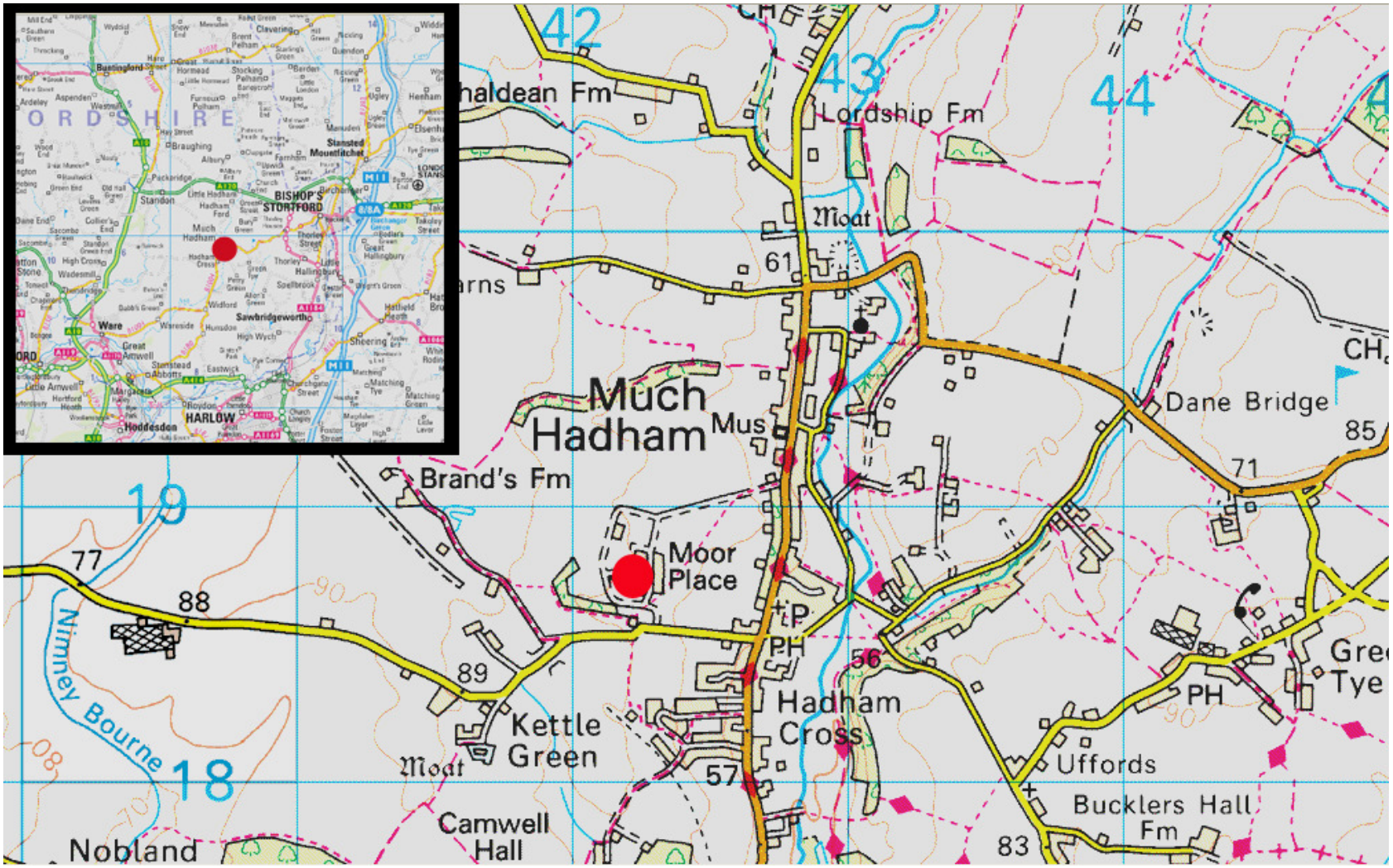

Fig 1 Site location.

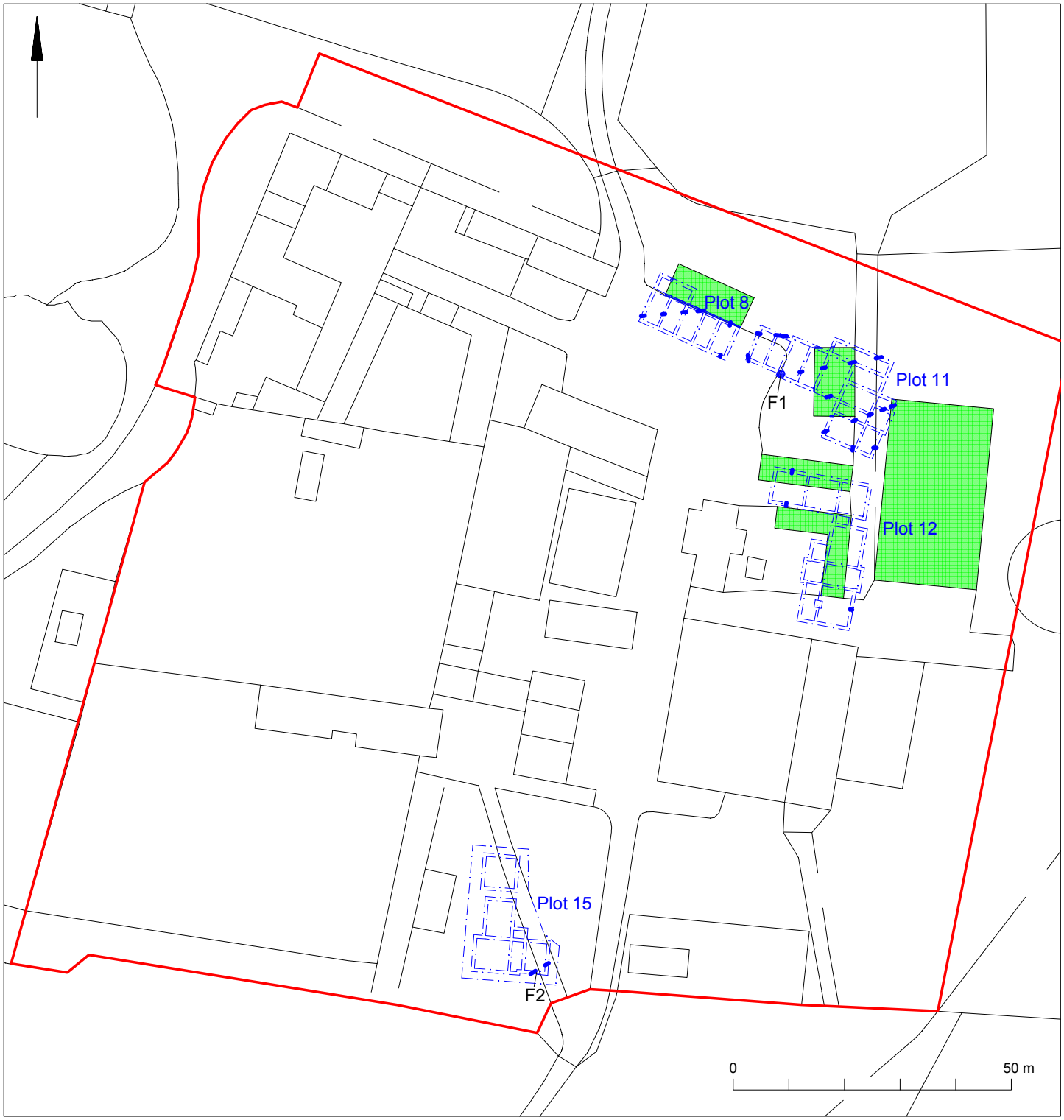

Fig 2 Phase I monitoring results. Demolished buildings shown in green.

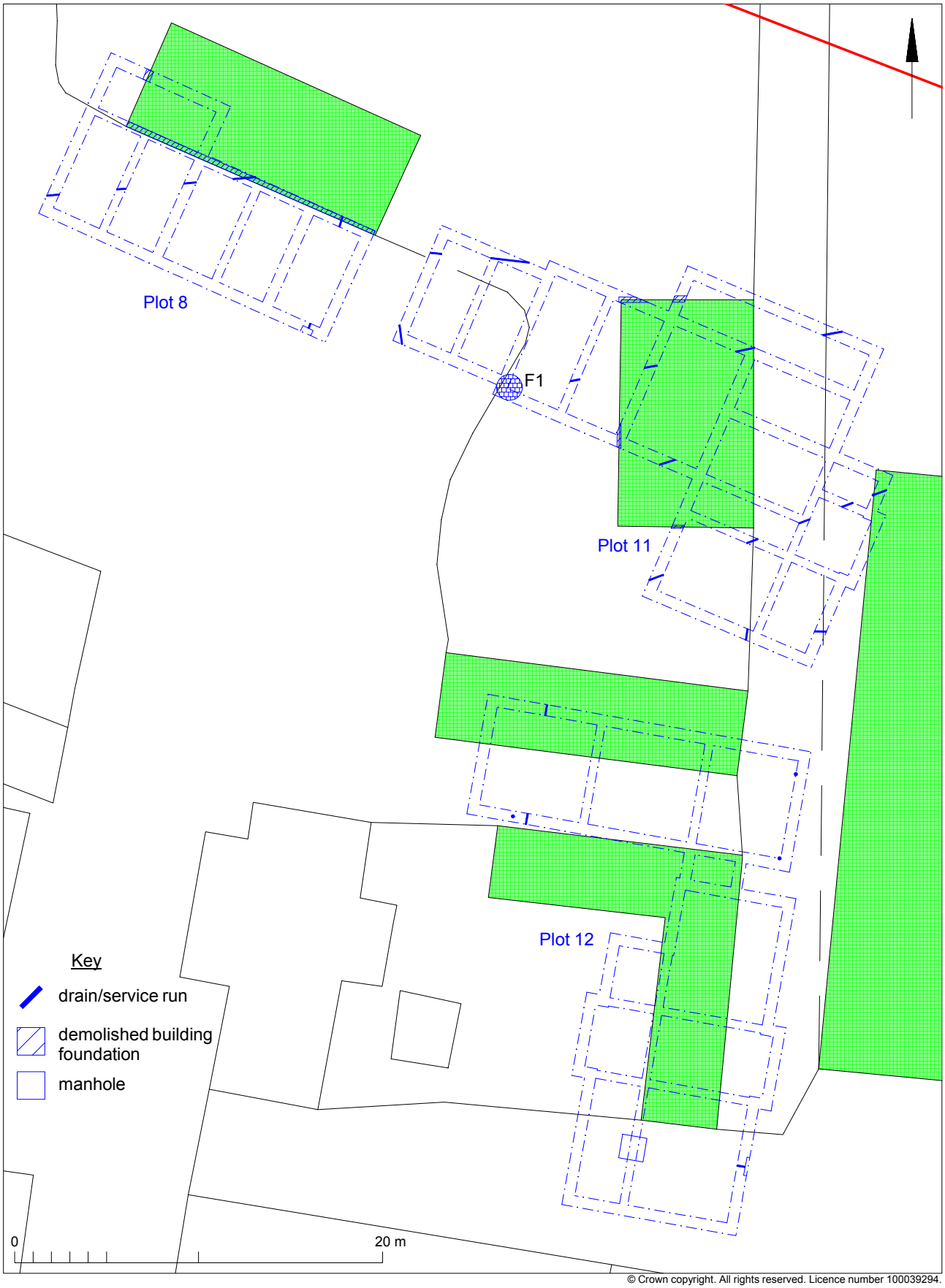

Fig 3 Plots 8, 11 and 12 monitoring results. Demolished buildings shown in green.

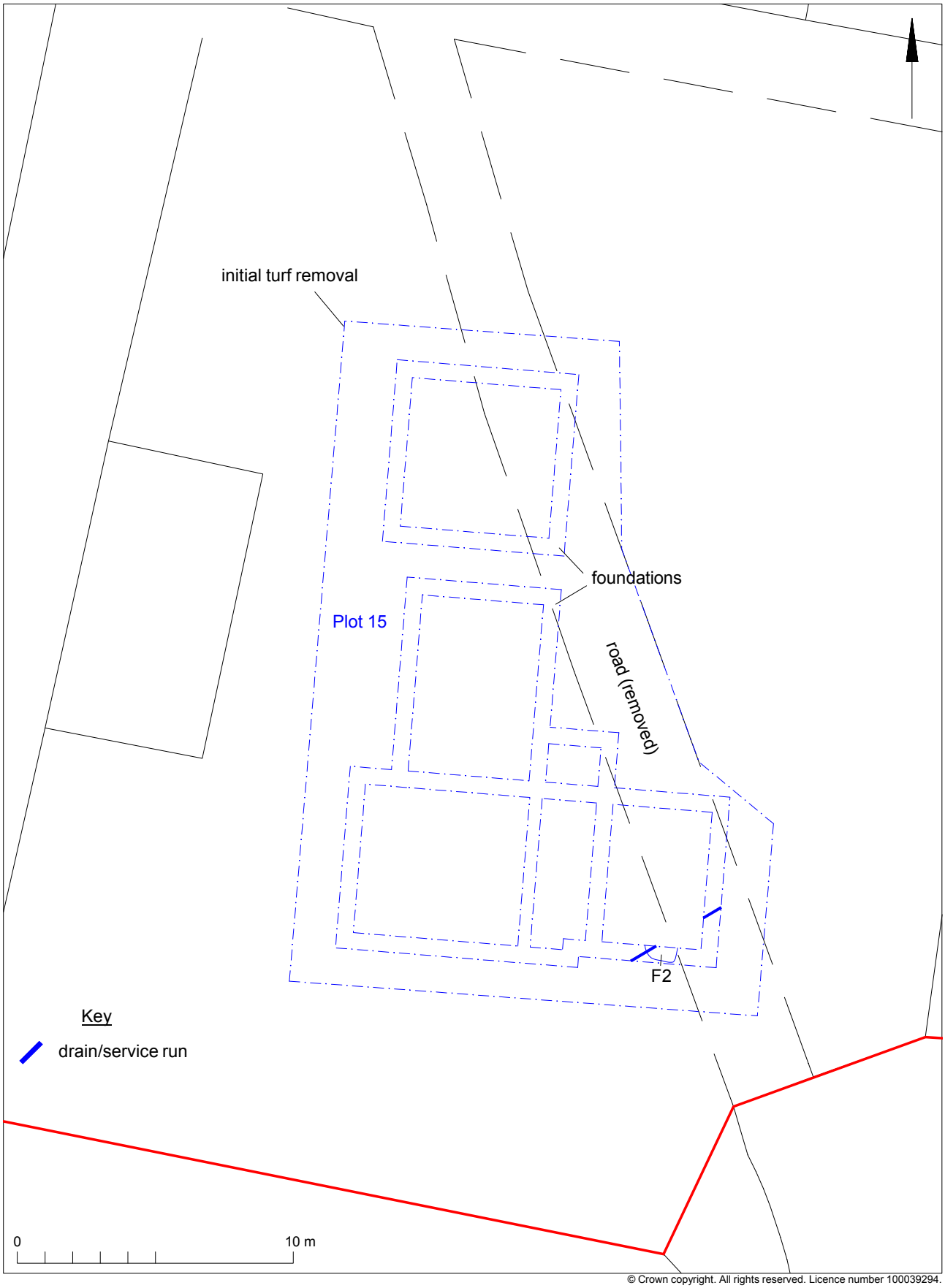

Fig 4 Plot 15 monitoring results.

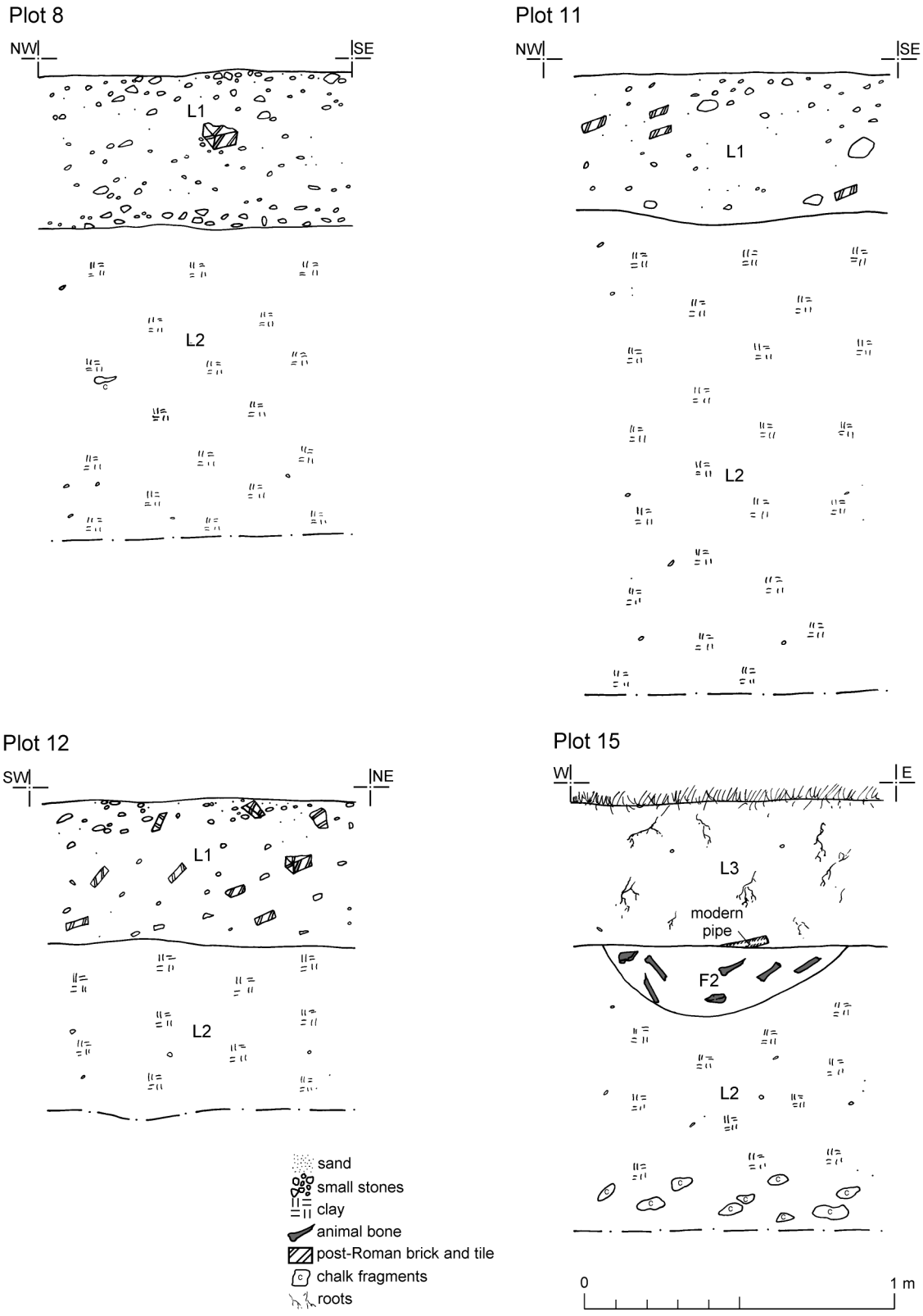

Fig 5 Plots 8, 11, 12 and 15: representative trench sections.