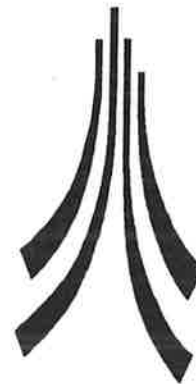


LANCASTER
UNIVERSITY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
UNIT



July 1996

LYME PARK NURSERY GARDENS
CHESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Commissioned and Funded By:

The National Trust

Lyme Park Nursery Gardens

Cheshire

Archaeological Evaluation

AUA 7547

Checked by Project Manager. Date
Passed for submission to client. Date

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July 1996

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David Hodgkinson directed the excavations and wrote the report. Contributions were provided by Kate Atkinson, of the National Trust, who undertook the documentary study, and background historical information was provided by Jeremy Ashbee.

Chris Wild undertook the survey of surface earthworks and Julia Robinson assisted the excavations. The illustrations were digitally produced by Jane Robson and Ruth Parkin. The report was edited and the project managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the former nursery garden at Lyme Park, Cheshire, in advance of a proposed car park development. The archaeological evaluation consisted of a documentary study, a topographic survey and the excavation of two trial trenches.

The documentary study was undertaken by National Trust staff and was assimilated with the results of the topographic survey and trial trenching programme. It identified that the area was first used as a nursery around 1850 and by 1870 was relatively well established. By 1922 the nursery garden contained a malmaison house, two cucumber houses and a melon house. The final layout of the garden was recorded in a plan of 1947 (fig 3), which showed a grid of uniformly square beds served by paths and flanked by greenhouses and cold frames. During the 1970's the area was planted with swede to use for deer feed.

The topographic survey recorded the earthwork features which were present within the former nursery garden. These included some garden features shown on the 1949 map, particularly a large platform base for greenhouses and also a track. The majority of the earthworks, however, were related to land clearance activities subsequent to the disuse of the area as a Nursery Garden.

The excavations revealed the formal layout of the nursery beds, which followed exactly the plan shown in the 1947 survey. The beds were separated by gravel paths with ceramic guttering tiles along the edges and appeared to date from the early twentieth century. The trenches were excavated down to natural deposits but did not reveal evidence of an earlier phase of activity and it is possible that repeated digging of the area has removed evidence of any earlier phases of the garden or pre-garden features.

The evaluation suggests that the latest phase of the garden, which is well-documented, is the only surviving archaeological phase of the garden and as the results confirm the accuracy of the 1947 cartographic evidence and the 1946 aerial photographic evidence it is considered that further evaluation would not be justified.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** In March an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) on behalf of The National Trust, of the former nursery gardens, at Lyme Park, Cheshire, in advance of development of the area into a car park. The aim of the evaluation was to establish the historic development and use of the gardens, as well as the survival of any earlier phases of this development. The evaluation is one element of a major landscape survey of the park, and the relevant section of the project design has been incorporated as Appendix 1.
- 1.2** The evaluation comprised three elements: a documentary study, a topographic survey and a trial trenching programme. The documentary study was undertaken by Kate Atkinson of the National Trust and the results have been incorporated within the present report and as Appendix 2. The fieldwork programme was undertaken by LUAU between 21st and 23rd March 1996 and comprised a detailed instrument survey of the area which recorded all topographic features and the excavation of two trenches to inspect the nature of below ground deposits.
- 1.3** The present report sets out the results of this work and incorporates a methodology statement, a summary historical background, the survey results, the sub-surface evaluation trench descriptions and a survey gazetteer. It provides an evaluation of the archaeological potential of the nursery gardens and statement of the impact of the car park proposals upon the archaeological resource.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project design

- 2.1.1 A project design was submitted by LUAU in response to a brief supplied by The National Trust (Mercia Region) for a major programme of landscape and building survey of Lyme Park. One requirement of this brief was for an evaluation of the Nursery park Garden in advance of its development into a car park (Section 3.9 Development Projects), which was further clarified by subsequent letters (4th December and 12th January) from the National Trust Archaeologist (Mercia region). The specifications within the brief have been formulated in conjunction with the Principal Archaeologist, Cheshire County Council and it was agreed that the evaluation be limited to two machine excavated trial trenches at this stage (National Trust Purchase order 51531).
- 2.1.2 Although the evaluation has been undertaken alongside the overall survey programme, the Project Design anticipated that the evaluation report would be produced independently of the main survey report; the relevant sections of this project design are incorporated as Appendix 1. The Project Design provided for a desk top study, a topographic survey of earthworks and a limited trial trenching programme. The work has been carried out in accordance with the Project Design.

2.2 Desk Top Study

- 2.2.1 The desk top study was undertaken alongside a similar study of the main Lyme Park Gardens, which are being undertaken by The Landscape Practice and therefore the present study concentrated specifically on documentation relating to the Nursery Garden.
- 2.2.2 The documentary material inspected during the desk top survey was largely from the private archive of Lyme Park. It ranged from early plans and photographs to oral testimonies and building receipts and provided a basic chronology of events pertaining to the Nursery Gardens. The results have been summarised (section 3) and are presented as Appendix 2.
- 2.2.3 Sets of aerial photographs held by the Air Photo Library at the National Monuments Record (NMR) were consulted; this produced a very informative vertical air photograph dating to 1946, which showed the latest phase of the Nursery Garden.

2.3 Topographic Survey

- 2.3.1 The whole of the nursery gardens were subjected to an instrument survey at LUAU Level 2 (LUAU 1996). This involved the generation of complete hachured interpretative drawings of the earthwork features. The instrument survey was complemented by a written description of the surveyed features, which have been included in the survey gazetteer (Section 8). In addition to the topographic

survey, the precise location of the evaluation trenches were recorded by instrument.

- 2.3.2 The detail survey was undertaken using a Carl Zeiss Elta 4 total station and datalogger. The digital data was processed using Microsurveyor software, and working plots were generated on an industry standard Computer Aided Draughting system (CAD). All archaeological features were checked and drawn up in the field.
- 2.3.3 The hand survey amended data was transferred to a CAD system and all survey draughting was undertaken within this system. The data was edited and superimposed onto base plans produced by Survey Systems Ltd. An extract of the base plan was produced using a computerised draughting package (Freehand).

2.4 Excavations

- 2.4.1 Two trenches were excavated in areas appropriate to test the layout of the nursery garden suggested by the Stockport Borough Council plan (1949). It was also intended to test for the presence or absence of archaeological features which predated the latest garden arrangement, and if established, to define their character, date and state of survival.
- 2.4.2 In line with current guidelines (ACAO 1993, 9) no significant archaeological deposits were entirely removed or underwent particularly intrusive inspection. Dating evidence was retrieved in the least destructive way, without compromising the integrity of the archaeological record. Archaeological deposits were left undisturbed, wherever possible, in order to minimise the chance of compromising the results of any further work.
- 2.4.3 Topsoil removal was undertaken using a mechanical wheeled excavator (tractor with back hoe) using a toothless ditching bucket and once archaeological features had been revealed, excavation was carried out manually. The evaluation of archaeological deposits, in some cases, necessitated the sample excavation of features to obtain satisfactory dating evidence.
- 2.4.4 All features and deposits were individually recorded on separate context sheets and accurate scale drawings (both plans and sections as appropriate), and a photographic record was taken of every trench. All artefactual evidence was removed for further study at LUAU. The recording methods employed by LUAU during the evaluation process accord with those recommended by English Heritage's Central Archaeological Services and in *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991).
- 2.4.5 All the excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the project proposals submitted by LUAU in agreement with the Principal Archaeologist of Cheshire County Council (Appendix 1).

3. DESK TOP STUDY

3.1 Historical Background

- 3.1.1 The first record of a house at Lyme Park, the seat of the Leghs of Lyme, dates from 1466 and was described as 'one fair hall with a high chamber, kitchen, bakehouse, and brewhouse, with a granary, stable, bailiff's house, and a fair park, surrounded with paling' (Robinson 1991, 48). This building appears to have been demolished in the following century; the oldest fabric surviving in the present structure of the hall dates to the mid-sixteenth century, when the house was rebuilt by Sir Piers Legh VII. The entrance front was subsequently remodelled in 1676, but the most significant remodelling of the building was undertaken by the celebrated Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni, between 1727 and 1738, in the then fashionable Palladian style.
- 3.1.2 The area of Lyme Park was the subject of several radical campaigns of landscaping between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. Among these have been the setting-out of the pleasure grounds immediately around the house in the mid-sixteenth century, the contrivance of a pond to the south of the Hall in the first half of the seventeenth century and the creation of a system of formalised vistas from distant points within the park in the later seventeenth century. Documentary sources for these works are scarce, but pictorial evidence confirms that the geometric plan of the gardens had been created by the end of the seventeenth century. Further alterations to the design of the estate were undertaken by Leoni in conjunction with the remodelling of the hall; this involved the rebuilding of the cage in stone, the redesign of the ornamental lake in front of the south facade and the creation of a 'wilderness' area on Cage Hill

3.2 Nursery Garden

- 3.2.1 Cartographic evidence suggests that the Nursery Garden was established in the first half of the nineteenth century. Pollitt's map of 1825 (GMCRO E17/210/167) significantly showed the outline of the garden, but this was subsequently erased from the drawing and is now only identifiable by careful examination of the original (Mortimer pers comm). The outline could be a subsequent annotation of the map and does not necessarily indicate that the garden was in existence by that date. It is, however, more certainly shown on the Tithe map of 1850 (LP1471) which depicts it as enclosed to the north-west of the North front of the main house, adjacent to the stables. The earliest structure on the site was a symmetrical, single storey cottage (Gardeners Cottage) which has an 1864 datestone; however, this was not shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1871. The OS map did however show the extent of the nursery garden which was, by this time, delineated by paths.
- 3.2.2 It would appear that by the late 1870's the nursery garden was relatively well established, with a number of greenhouses having been ordered from Boulton and Paul of Norwich in 1877 (GMCRO E17/6/4). A census of 1891 (LP - uncatalogued) shows that although there was no head gardener at this time, four gardeners and a labourer were employed by the estate; however, financial records from c 1730, show that at that stage there were typically up to eight labourers employed and it is possible that itinerant labourers were employed that were not reflected on the census. By 1922, the nursery contained a malmaison house, two

cucumber houses, a melon house and a manure cart and pony (LP). The nursery and its structures would seem to have been modified during the 1920's, with repairs to the heating systems, pipes and structures, taking place in 1923-24 alongside the construction of a possible new greenhouse (LP 133).

- 3.2.3 The final layout of the nursery garden was recorded in a Stockport Borough Council plan of 1947 (LP1311 (figure 2)) and this closely corresponds with that shown on a vertical aerial photograph of 1946 (NMR 3G/TUD/UK/108). This depicted a grid work of uniformly square beds, served by paths. The Gardeners House was flanked on its eastern side by greenhouses and cold frames, the northern one of which was said to have been a vinery.
- 3.2.4 During the 1970's the area was ploughed and planted with swede to use for deer feed (S Bates Pers Comm). Although the area is still used for propagating plants under glass, the house is no longer occupied and the area no longer serves a horticultural function.

4. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 4.1** The results of the topographic survey indicate that the study area has been subjected to considerable change since the production of the Stockport Borough Council map of 1947 (LP1311). The majority of the features were wholly modern, and only three features were associated with its use as a nursery garden. The large flat platform (site 1) appears to have been constructed to level the naturally sloping ground surface, for the provision of a stable base for greenhouses. The track to the wooden hut (site 6) also marked on the 1947 plan is still present, and was well metalled and provided with drains. Site 7 is a large irregular, sub-circular depression shown on the 1946 air photograph (Fig. 3). The large linear depression (Site 8) corresponds with the line of a well metalled path or track shown on the 1946 vertical air photograph (NMR 39/TUD/UK/108); now it is much grassed over and its form is relatively ill-defined.
- 4.2** The remaining features were for the most part related to the subsequent insertion of a large main drain (Site 9). The mounds which were concentrated in the south of the site were all constructed from rubble and hardcore, possibly associated with the clearing of the paths and beds.
- 4.3** There were no surface features identified that indicated an earlier configuration of the nursery garden or pre-dated the nursery garden.

5. EVALUATION RESULTS

Two trenches were excavated within the area of the former nursery gardens during this phase of archaeological excavation.

5.1 Trench 1

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was excavated to examine the pathways and the small flower bed indicated on the 1947 Stockport Borough Council map (LP1311). It was also intended to inspect the nature of the lower-beds whether raised, walled or dug and if there were any earlier, pre-garden features.
- 5.1.2 Trench 1 was excavated on a north/south alignment and was 18m in length. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.62m at the northern end, where natural deposits of stiff orange clay were identified. The clay had been much disturbed by later activity and was uneven and mottled, throughout the trench. At approximately 2.5m and 5m from the northern end of the trench the natural ground surface shelved to the south. The stiff orange natural clay was overlain by a thin deposit of very mottled and mixed clay and loamy clay. This deposit was approximately 0.04m at its maximum depth and was present through out the trench directly above the clay.
- 5.1.3 A narrow 1.2m wide causeway edged by two ditches was revealed. The northern most ditch was extended throughout the width of the trench, approximately 11m from the northern end of the trench. It had a sharp break of slope to the north and cut into the disturbed clay; it was approximately 0.45m deep and was cut from c0.25m below the ground surface. The second cut ditch was very similar and was located 12.50m from the northern edge of the trench. The break of slope of the cut was to the south, and the depth was found to be c 0.42m deep
- 5.1.4 The causeway between the two cut features was covered by a spread of orange angular gravel bound in a coarse sandy matrix. This metalling was approximately 0.07m in depth; it was slightly cambered and was bounded on its southern edge by an alignment of ceramic tiles with moulded tops and also ceramic guttering along the northern edge of the causeway. The depth of the causeway from the trench top was 0.15m.
- 5.1.5 To the south of the southernmost ditch was a similar metalled surface, although this was slightly wider at 2.05m; it was also cambered and composed of the same angular orange gravel material. The southernmost metalled surface was bounded on both its northern and southern sides by alignments of flat ceramic tiles.
- 5.1.6 Between each of the metalled surfaces and contained within the cut features was a deposit of very dark brown, loamy clay. The loamy clay had an average depth of 0.25m but was up to 0.60m deep in places. This deposit was effectively the same as the overlying turf and topsoil deposit.

5.2 Trench 2

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 was excavated to the north-east of Trench 1. It was aligned north/south and measured 13.75m in length. At its deepest it was 0.40m where the stiff orange clay identified in Trench 1 was revealed. The natural clay subsoil was overlain by a thin deposit of c0.03 mixed clay and loamy clay.
- 5.2.2 A spread of orange and black gravel within a coarse sandy clay matrix overlay the clay subsoil and its southern edge was 3.20m from the southern edge of the trench. This metallated gravel surface was approximately 2.50m in width and was 0.05m in depth.
- 5.2.3 The gravel was overlain by a very dark brown loamy clay topsoil deposit, which varied in depth, from a maximum of 0.35m to a depth of 0.08m above the gravel spread.

5.3 Finds

- 5.3.1 Pottery, of a later nineteenth or twentieth century date, was found in Trenches 1 and 2. There was no pre-nineteenth century pottery recovered. Eighteen sherds of ceramic were recovered from Trench 1 and 13 from trench 2.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1** The trial trenches were located to identify the arrangement of the nursery gardens and to test for the presence of archaeological deposits which may have pre-dated the nursery. The excavation of the trenches revealed that the 1947 Stockport Borough Council nursery gardens plan (LP1311), was exceptionally accurate. The metallated surfaces identified during the evaluation correspond almost exactly with the location of the pathways shown on the map and in at least one instance the difference between the map and the ground features was only 0.25m.
- 6.2** This layout was established certainly before 1947 and probably coincides with the construction of the Gardener's Cottage in the north of the site which has an 1864 datestone.
- 6.3** The positioning of the two trenches allowed the approximate size of the large flower-beds to be estimated and checked against the plan. This gave a square measurement of 20m (65') with the path widths of either 2.15m (7') or 0.8m (2.5').
- 6.4** The excavation of the trenches demonstrated the nature and form of the flower-beds, which comprised large areas of dug soil separated from the pathways by alignments of ceramic guttering that were laid facing into the path to channel water running from the cambered paths. The tiles from the path along with pieces of slate, modern flat window glass and flower pot sherds were the only artefacts recovered from the trenches and were all modern in date.
- 6.5** The irregular nature of the natural subsoil would suggest that the area had been intensively worked resulting in the uneven distribution of clay clods throughout the clay loam deposit. There was some evidence for informal terracing within Trench 1, where a pair of steps appeared to have been cut, on either side of the northern path, possibly due to the sloping nature of the site.
- 6.6** No evidence was found for earlier activity on the site, which in part may be attributable to the intensive cultivation which disturbed the subsoils to a considerable depth, as evidenced by the disturbed upper surface of the natural clay. However, it is significant that the artefactual material is exclusively nineteenth of twentieth century in date, which would suggest that the lack of early features is not attributable solely to disturbance.
- 6.7** In summary the form and character of the garden is clearly defined by both the 1947 Stockport Borough Council plan and the 1946 aerial photograph (NMR 3G/TUD/UK/108) and the excavations have confirmed the accuracy of the 1947 plan and have demonstrated the sub-surface survival of the primary garden features, particularly the paths. No evidence of an earlier phase of garden activity or pre-garden features was identified, which is reinforced by the predominantly twentieth century artefactual evidence. The natural deposits in this area are relatively shallow and the fact that the beds had been repeatedly dug over a relatively long period of time would have had a drastic effect on earlier

archaeological deposits and therefore there is therefore a reduced likelihood that any earlier features will have survived.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT

7.1 Impact

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation of the Nursery Garden at Lyme Park, Cheshire, effectively substantiated the Stockport Borough Council garden plan (1947) and the photographic evidence relating to the layout of the area. The topographic survey revealed that there were no features earlier than the Nursery Garden within the study area and indicated that the majority of earthworks were associated with the insertion of a drain after the Nursery garden had ceased to function.
- 7.1.2 The garden features identified are relatively shallow (as little as 0.08m below the present surface) and will therefore be disturbed by the construction of the car park.
- 7.1.3 The garden features identified by the evaluation are relatively modern, but have some significance in relation to the Lyme Park formal gardens and the social history of the house. They are not, however, of sufficient interest to warrant further recording work or to prevent the general development of the area.

7.2 Recommendations

- 7.2.1 The evaluation has identified that the archaeological resource closely corresponds with the very informative 1947 garden plan and the 1946 photograph. It is considered that further trial trenched evaluation will only reinforce the accuracy of the documented material and would not be justified in these circumstances. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological works are undertaken within the area of garden beds, in the southern part of the plot or the greenhouse platform on the western side of the plot.
- 7.2.2 It is understood that the present car park proposal will not affect the platform containing the cottage and greenhouses at the northern end of the site; however, if this area were to be developed in the future, it is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken in the course of the works programme.

8. SURVEY GAZETTEER

Site no **1**
Grid Ref. NY 9662 8253
Site type Platform
Period Nineteenth/Twentieth century
Dimensions 50m by 25m

Description

A large platform situated on the western side of the site, edged to the east by a north/south straight sided terrace edge and to the south by a broader terrace edge which follows the line of the garden boundary. The platform supported a series of temporary greenhouses and cloches as shown on the Stockport Borough Council 1947 plan. The present cloches are relatively late and are on the site of a substantial roofed greenhouse structure shown on the 1946 air photograph (NMR 3G/TUD/UK/108).

Site no **2**
Grid Ref. NY 96652 82483
Site type Depression
Period Modern
Dimensions 10m by 5m

Description An elliptical depression at the southern end of the survey area. The sides and base were rough and made from broken ground. The base contained modern building debris. There is no evidence of it on the 1946 air photograph (NMR 3G/TUD/UK/108) and would appear to post-date the disuse of the garden.

Site no **3**
Grid Ref. NY 96656 82471 - 96701 82493
Site type Mounds
Period Modern
Dimensions c 35m x 9m, 7m x 3.5m

Description An area of small irregular mounds, standing to a height of no more than 0.20m and consisting of modern building debris and earth. They extend across the south western corner of the site. The northern side of the easternmost mounds is gently sloping, whereas the southern side has a sharp break of slope, where the ground surface drops away. There is no evidence of the mounds on the 1946 air photograph (NMR 3G/TUD/UK/108) and these would appear to post-date the disuse of the garden.

Site no **4**
Grid Ref. NY 96666 82464
Site type Bank
Period Nineteenth/twentieth century
Dimensions 10m by 1.50m

Description An east/west aligned bank located at the southern end of the survey area. The bank stood to a height of c0.20m at its maximum but was more difficult to discern at its eastern and western ends. At the eastern end of the bank, there were a number of small holly shrubs on top of the bank, suggesting that it may have been a hedge. The bank is parallel to the garden boundary and runs along the edge of a wooded part of the garden shown on the 1946 air photograph (NMR 3G/TUD/UK/108) and is possibly a relict element of a former boundary marker.

Site no **5**
Grid Ref. NY 96657 82447 - 96685 82467
Site type Bank
Period Modern
Dimensions c0.75m wide by 0.15m high
Description The track, site 6, had a length of small bank along its western side which was non continuous.

Site no **6**
Grid Ref. NY 96657 82445 - 96719 82523
Site type Track
Period Twentieth century ?
Dimensions c 100m length 3m width
Description A well laid north-east/south-west metalled track leading from the gate way in the far south of the site to the hut on the eastern side of the survey area. The track predated the present hut as the track could be seen to continue below the structure and further on to the west where it petered out. The track had a length of small bank along its western side which measured c0.75m in width, 0.15m in height and was non continuous. The track was slightly cambered and contained drains along its length.

Site no **7**
Grid Ref. NY 9671 8252
Site type Depression
Period Nineteenth/twentieth century
Dimensions 8m in diameter
Description A crescent shaped depression to the immediate north-west of the wooden hut. It had sharply sloping sides on its eastern edge, the western sides were gently sloping and was approximately 1m deep. It had an undulating base and was flanked by trees on its western and northern sides. It is shown on the 1946 air photograph (NMR 3G/TUD/UK/108) but its form is largely obscured by tree canopies.

Site no **8**
Grid Ref. NY 96708 82549 - 96701 82528
Site type Linear depression
Period Nineteenth/twentieth centuries
Dimensions 30m by 10m
Description A north-east/south-west aligned linear depression, running from immediately east of the house to site 7. This feature was difficult to discern and corresponds with the line of a path visible on the 1946 air photograph (NMR 3G/TUD/UK/108).

Site no **9**
Site type Drain
Grid Ref. NY 96676 82537
Period Modern
Dimensions 1.5m by 1.5m
Description A modern concrete drain cover located within the centre of the survey area.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

9.1 Lyme Park Archive and Greater Manchester County Record Office

GMCRO E17/210/16	Pollitt's map	1824
GMCRO E17/6/4	Letter prior to repairs of 1923	1877/78
LP1471	Tithe Map	1850
LP1103	Ordnance Survey, 1st edition map	1871
LP (Chron. seq. drawer)	Memories of Dora Addison (daughter of head gardener)	1907-22
LP133?/130?/1344	Drawings of Mark Rowlinson	1912
LP1311	Stockport Borough Council Survey Plans of Nursery	1947

9.2 Aerial Photographs

RCHM(E) NMR 39/TUD/UK/108 Frame 5089

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APPENDIX 1
PROJECT DESIGN

**Lancaster
University
Archaeological
Unit**

Revised January 1996

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LYME PARK
NURSERY GARDENS**

PROJECT DESIGN

Extract from the Project design for an archaeological survey of Lyme Park (January 1996); the extract specifically relates to the archaeological evaluation of the Nursery Gardens.

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from The National Trust for an archaeological evaluation of the nursery gardens of Lyme Park.

1. INTRODUCTION

Lyme has been the home of the Legh family for the last 600 years. Although the Mansion is c1520 in origin it has been substantially added to particularly by Giacomo Leoni and Lewis Wyatt in the 18th and 19th centuries. It is set within extensive gardens and includes an Orangery built by Wyatt. Although the mansion is well documented, relatively little archaeological work has been undertaken to evaluate the park as a whole. A restoration plan survey has been undertaken Elizabeth Banks Associates and a boundary survey has been undertaken by Mr J Coulthard.

The proposed survey programme is intended to augment the earlier surveys and would significantly increase the knowledge of the historical content and significance of the landscape. The aim of the recording programme is to enhance the management and the presentation of the archaeological resource.

The total area of the park estate is about 5.34 sq km, and it is proposed that the full extent of the park is subject to a non-intensive survey, including land that is not under National Trust ownership.

LUAU has considerable experience of the documentary, landscape and building surveys, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 15 years. LUAU employs a qualified surveyor (Jamie Quartermaine BA DipSurv MIFA) who has over 12 years experience of surveying buildings and landscapes, having worked closely with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and the Lake District National Park Authority on a number of projects. Recent similar projects include the Rufford New Hall landscape survey (Lancashire) and Rufford Old Hall building survey (for the National Trust), the identification survey of the Haweswater Estate (Cumbria), the Vale Royal Hall landscape and building survey (Cheshire) the Bolton Castle (North Yorks) building survey and the Risley vernacular building survey (Cheshire). LUAU has the professional expertise and resource to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. LUAU and all its members of staff operate subject to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct.

The following project design sets out the objectives of the project, provides a methods statement demonstrating how these can be met and defines the resource implications of the methods statement.

2. OBJECTIVES

The primary purpose of the project is to inform future management decisions with regard to conservation matters relating to the archaeological content of the park land. The aims of the project are set out in the brief written by Jeremy Milln of the National Trust and are as follows:

2.1 Development Projects

Archaeological evaluations are required in advance of development proposals at the Nursery Gardens, Swine yard, the Cage and the stables.

3. METHODS STATEMENT

3.1 Stage 1: assessment Survey - Nursery Gardens

It is understood that there is a requirement to undertake an archaeological assessment of the Nursery Gardens in advance of its conversion into a visitors car park. This would involve documentary research to evaluate the historical development and use of the gardens. The generation of a survey of earthwork features using the SS survey as a base. Evaluation trenching would be required to evaluate sub-surface remains. The report will summarise the results of the assessment and will incorporate recommendations for the management of the area as well as a programme of further work.

3.1.1 Documentary Work

The documentary work on the historical development of the gardens will be undertaken by the Landscape practice and the costs assume that this work will be undertaken in conjunction with the main garden analysis

element of the project. It will evaluate primarily from cartographic and other documentary sources the history and development of the gardens.

3.1.2 Surface Survey

A surface survey will be undertaken of the area of the gardens and will be undertaken in conjunction with the Survey Systems control network and will incorporate the topographic detail provided by the SS survey. The archaeological element of the survey will be undertaken with total station equipment and will record all extant earthwork features. The data will be incorporated with the SS survey data within a CAD system.

3.1.3 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching programme will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then briefly test their date, nature, and quality of preservation. Excavation will normally be limited to the upper surface of significant archaeological deposits, unless further work is regarded by ourselves and the county archaeologist as essential in order to complete the full evaluation. This element of the trial trenching is invaluable in order to assess those areas of the garden where there is a potential for archaeological deposits to survive which are not visible on the surface. The trial trenching will target features of suspected archaeological significance which are visible as earthworks or linear features identified during the surface survey. The precise location and extent of this trenching would be agreed with all relevant parties prior to trial trenching.

It is proposed to employ a combined trial excavation approach to identify both early garden features as well as any earlier structural elements. The more subtle garden features would be excavated by means of manual excavation and would be typically 2m x 2m in size. The more substantial elements would be localised and so would require a greater extent of trenching; it is therefore proposed also to excavate a series of 15m x 2m trenches by machine (with a standard six foot toothless ditching bucket) which would maximise the speed and efficiency of the operation. Although the removal of overburden will be undertaken by machine, hand digging will be undertaken in areas of archaeological sensitivity. All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be accurately located with regard to surrounding features, by use of a Total Station. The number of trenches will be subject to the results of the documentary and surface surveys and therefore costs are submitted per trench. The numbers of trenches will be subject to a site meeting which should involve all interested parties; LUAU, The National Trust and possibly a representative of the planning authority.

Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the excavation of the trenches, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. As a matter of course the Unit uses a U-Scan device prior to any excavation to test for services.

Land disturbed as a result of this work will be reinstated to the Client's satisfaction, although LUAU as a matter of course replaces material in a stratigraphic manner and relays the surface, if possible. It is presumed that the Client will have responsibility for site security. LUAU would take responsibility for temporary fencing arrangements to exclude livestock or any other farming activities. In addition, any deep sections of open trench would be fenced off to prevent any accidents occurring to LUAU/client staff.

3.1.4 Reporting

One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client. This report will be independent of the main project report and will primarily identify the needs for further work. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the overall stratigraphy, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered from the excavations will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted and the potential of the site for palaeoenvironmental analysis will be considered. The* report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail.

This report will identify areas of defined archaeology, the location of trenches, and whether the results of the sampling were positive or negative. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the site within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, and plans if appropriate; it can be

tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion. The report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on 3.5" disk (IBM compatible format).

The report will make a clear statement of the likely archaeological implications of the development. It will highlight whether, as a first option, the preservation *in situ* of significant archaeological features should take place and possible strategies for the mitigation of the impact of the development, including design modification, will be considered. When preservation is neither possible, nor practical, a further stage of archaeological work may be required. In this case, recommendations for such mitigation measures will be submitted.

3.2 Nursery Gardens Stage 2: Development Survey/Excavation

While LUAU would be very interested to tender for the second stage archaeological evaluation works in advance of this and other identified development projects, it is realised that there is insufficient information on which to base a costing until the results of the stage 1 have been completed. LUAU would be happy to submit costs and a project design on completion of stage 1, when a more comprehensive specification is formulated, irrespective of our success in tendering for the project detailed here.

3.3 Archive

The results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. LUAU conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. The expense of preparing such an archive is part of the project cost, but only represents a very small proportion of the total. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Central Archaeological Services format, both as a printed document and on 3.5" disks as ASCII files, if appropriate. A synopsis (normally the index to the archive and the report) should be placed in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record. It is normal LUAU practice to make a copy of the archive available for deposition with the National Archaeological Record in London. Three security copies of the archive will be made.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1 Health and Safety

LUAU will provide copies of their written Health and Safety Statement on request. Risk assessments are carried out in advance of all projects. All site procedures are undertaken in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1991, revisions 1993) and the Health and Safety at Work act 1974.

4.2 Insurance

The insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of LUAU in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of LUAU or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £ 2m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

5. OUTLINE RESOURCES

6.1 LUAU Personnel

LUAU employs skilled and experienced personnel and would not employ trainees or students on the proposed project

6.1.1 Management

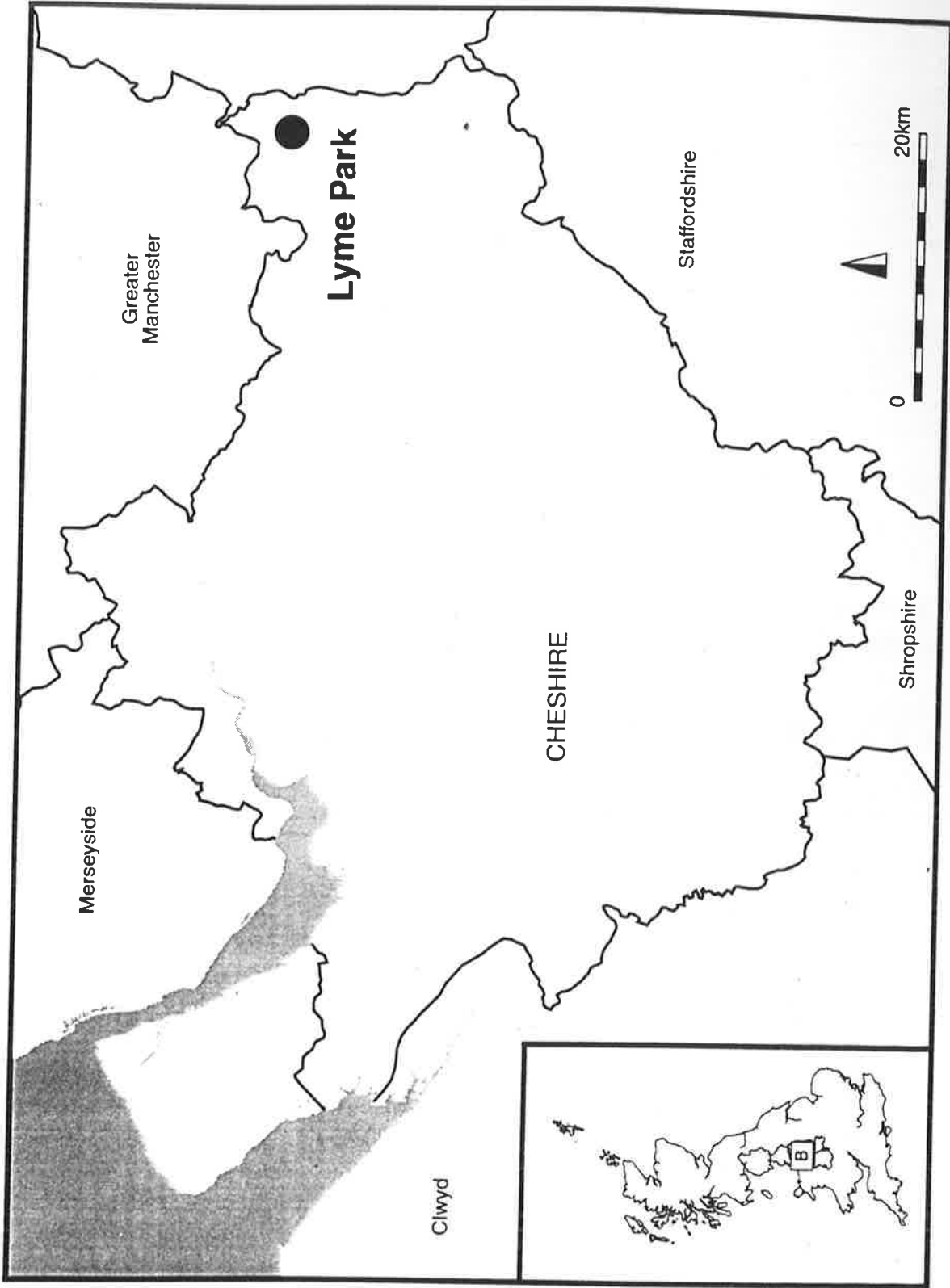
The project will be under the project management of **Jamie Quartermaine, BA Surv Dip, MIFA** (Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. His membership of IFA recognises his survey skills and experience as an area of competence. He will monitor the progress of the project ensuring adherence to all agreed programmes and timetables. He has many years experience of surveying upland and estate landscapes, particularly in the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

Richard Newman BA PHD MIFA will provide an academic overview and advice on the landscape history of the area, He has a PHD in landscape history and previous projects include survey and analysis of gardens at Llanmihangel house, Glamorgan and a study of estate landscape surveys for English Heritage.

APPENDIX 2
LYME PARK NURSERY GARDENS DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1. Lyme Park location plan
- Figure 2. Nursery Gardens study area location plan
- Figure 3. NMR 1946 Aerial photograph (3G/TUD/UK/108)
- Figure 4. Nursery Gardens map transposed from Stockport Borough Council 1947 plan (LP1311)
- Figure 5. Nursery Gardens map showing results of survey and trial trenching
- Figure 6. Nursery Gardens map incorporating evaluation results and 1947 plan (LP1311)
- Figure 7. Evaluation Trench 1 plan.



Based on Bartholomews digital data with permission

Figure 1: The location of Lyme Park

LYME PARK

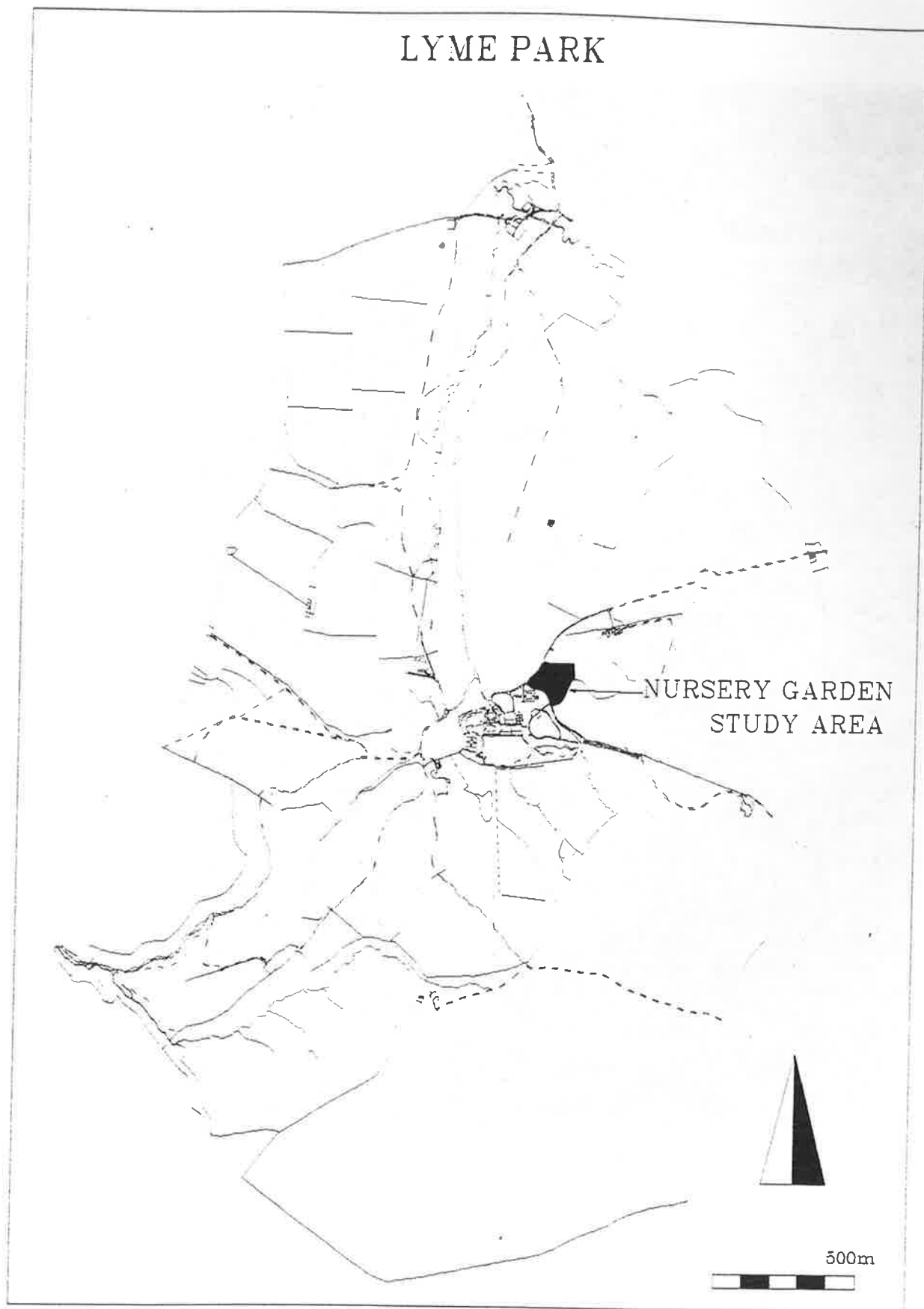


Figure 2. Study area location plan

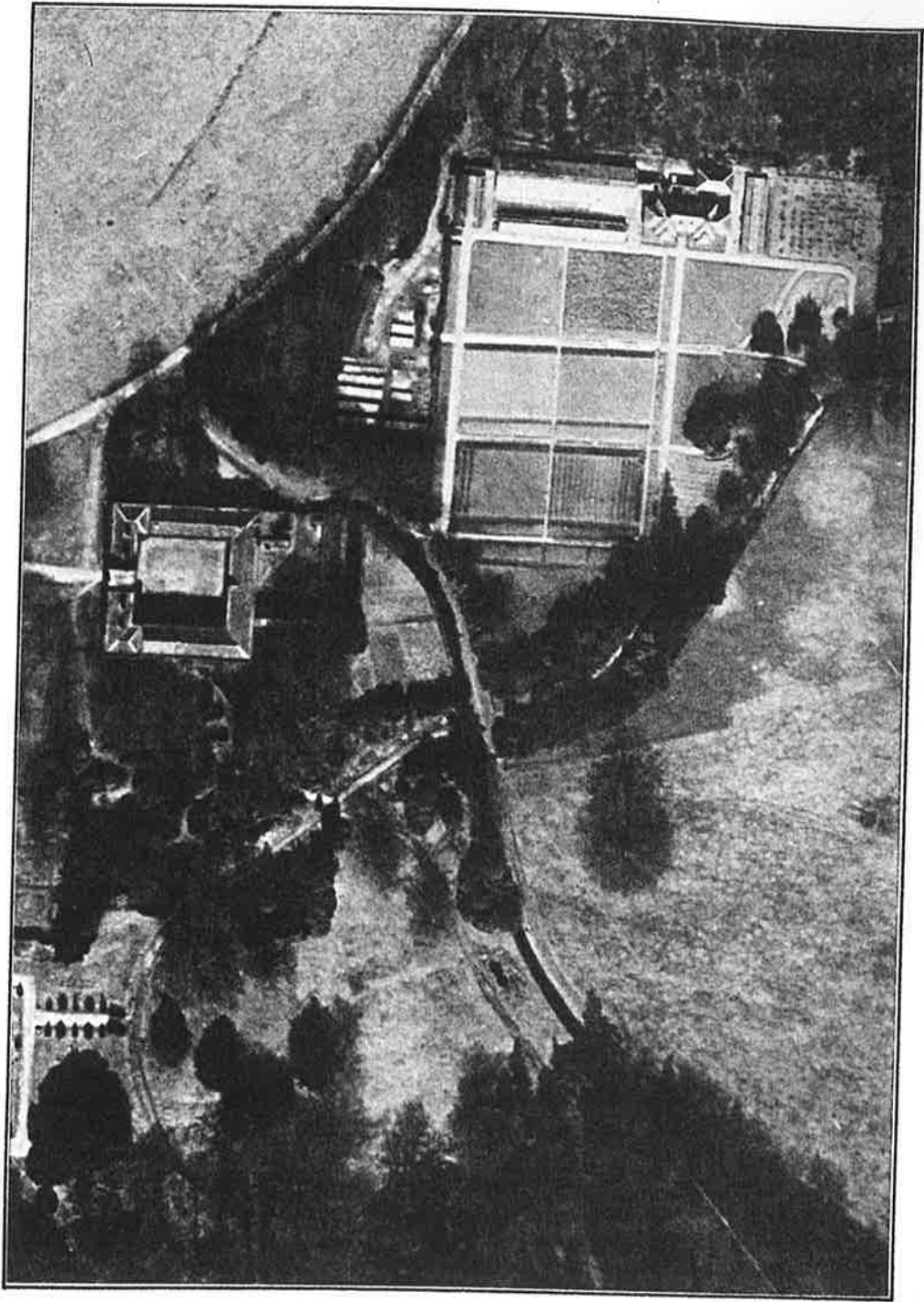


Fig.3 NMR 1946 Aerial Photograph (3G/TUD/UK/108)

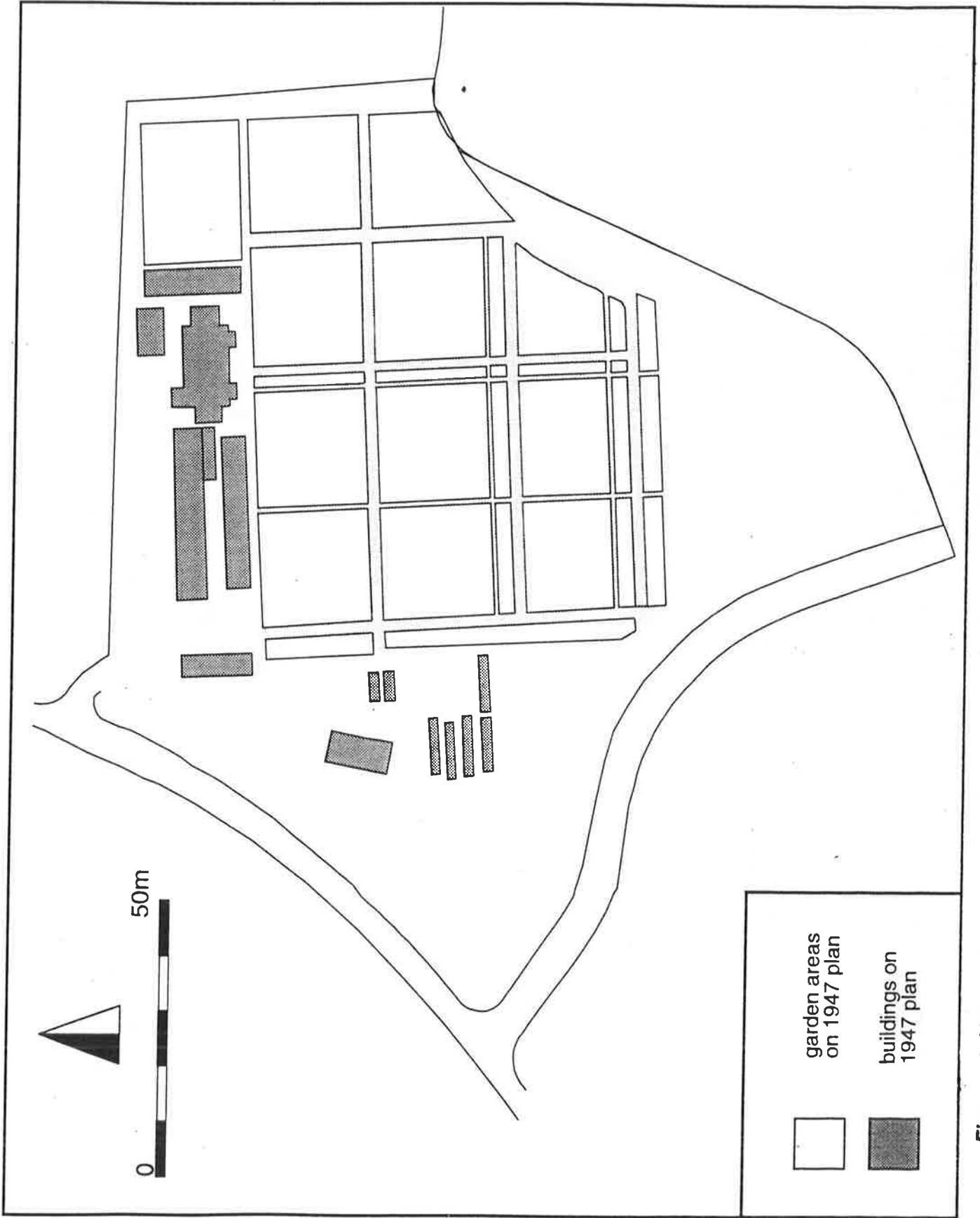


Figure 4 Nursery Gardens map transposed from Stockport Borough Council 1947 plan (LP1311)

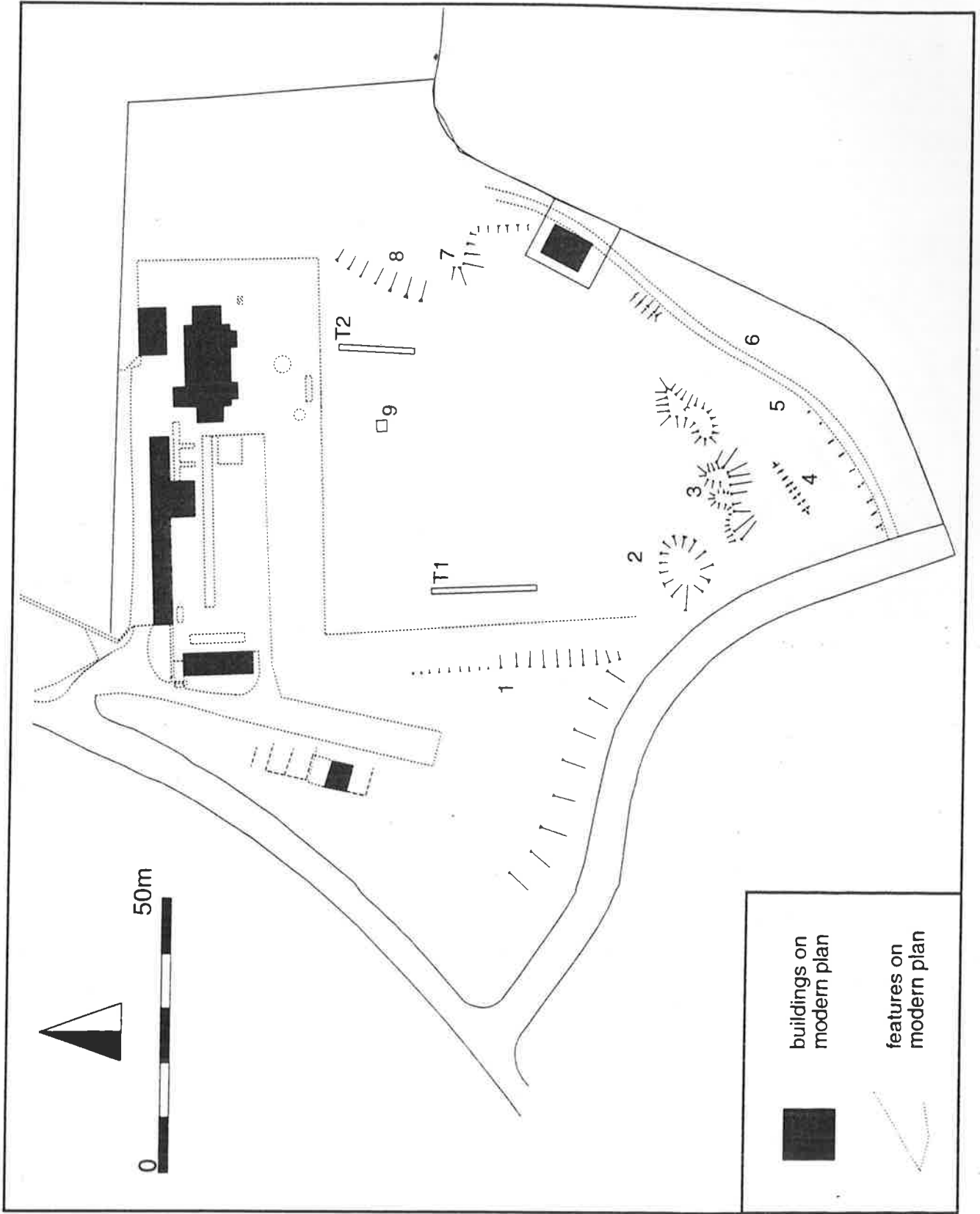


Figure 5 Nursery Gardens map showing results of survey and trial trenching

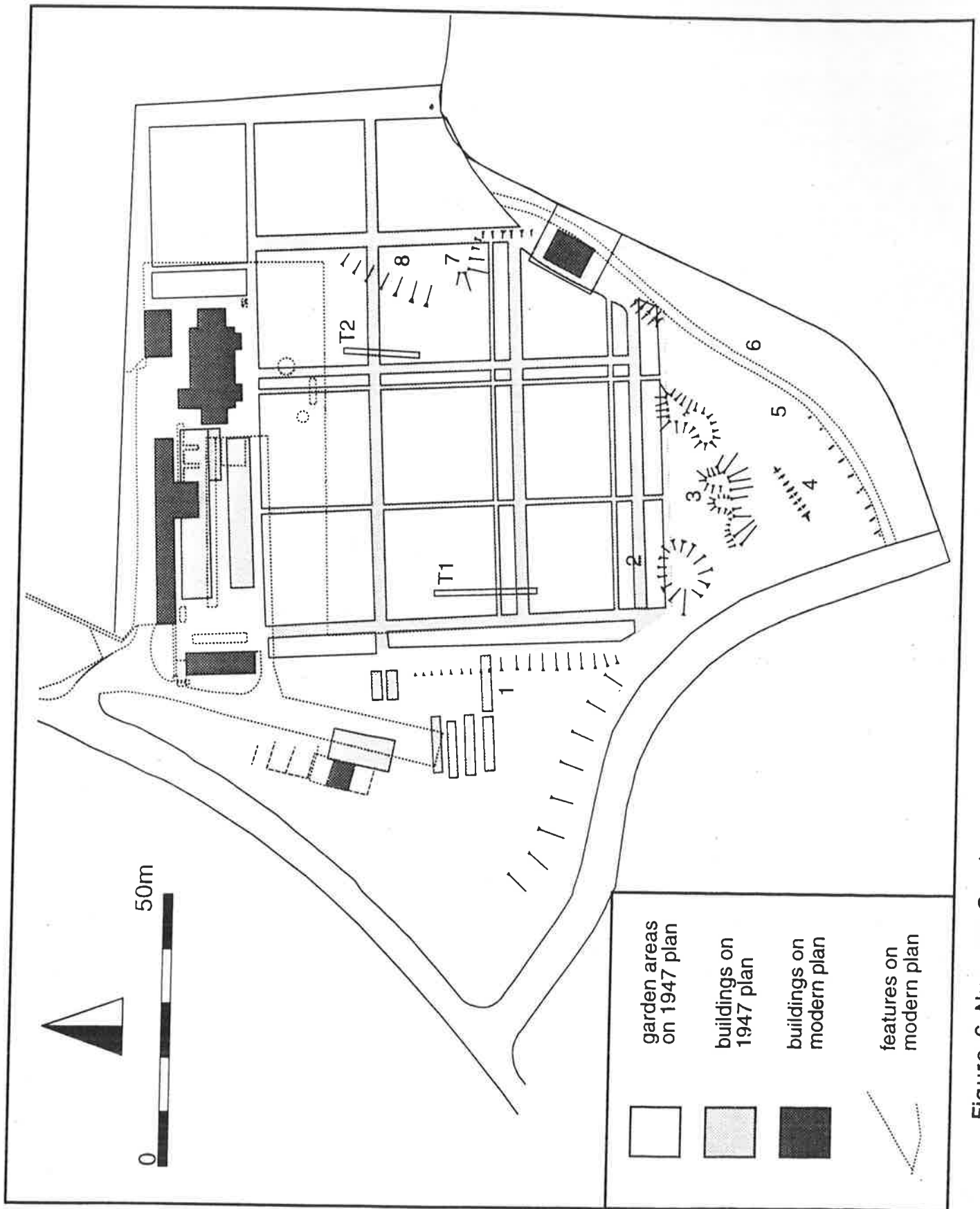


Figure 6 Nursery Gardens map incorporating evaluation results and 1947 plan (LP1311)

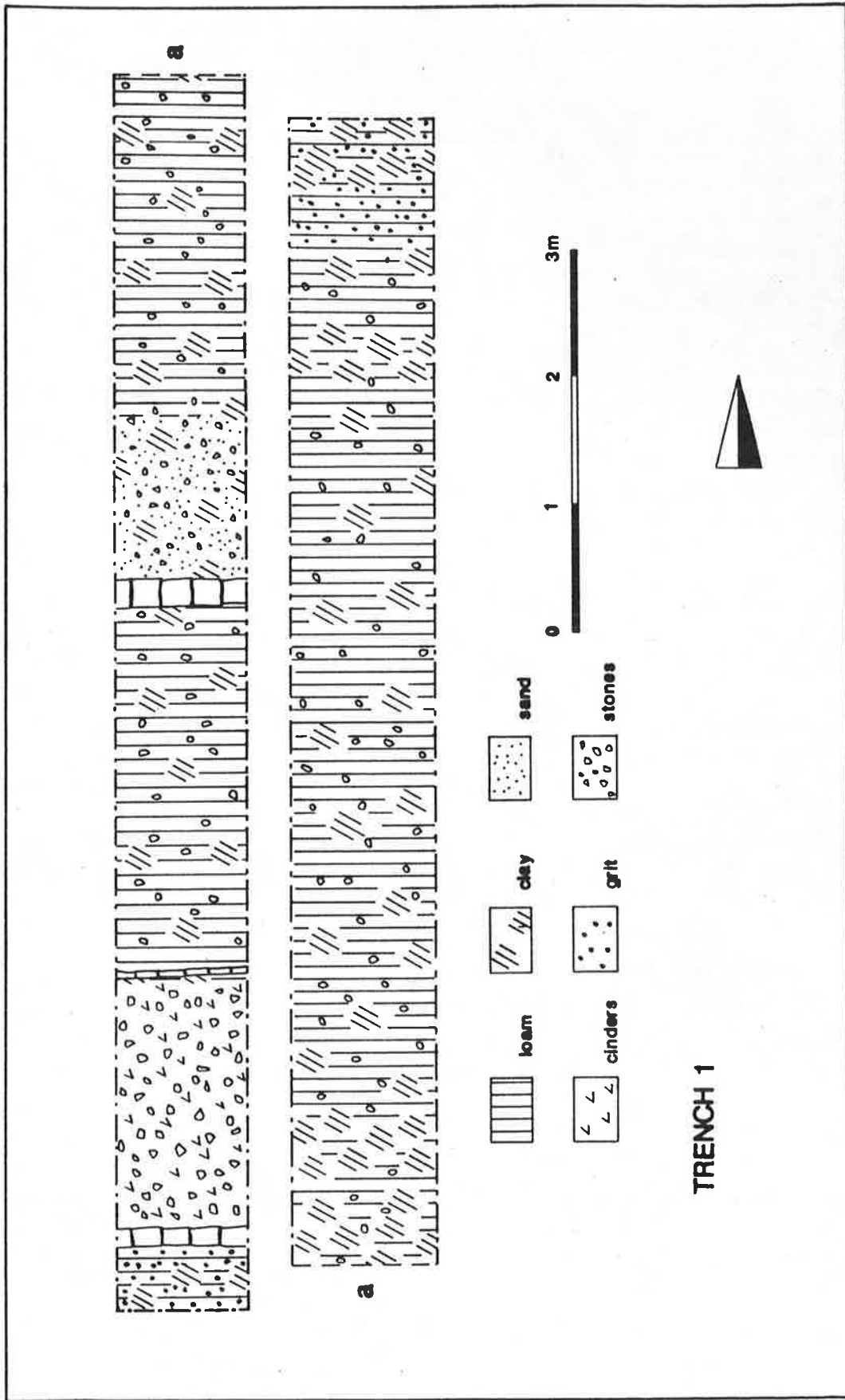


Figure 7 Evaluation Trench 1 plan