

**An archaeological evaluation
by trial-trenching at Scotts Farm,
Lodge Lane, Purleigh, Essex
October 2011**



**report prepared by
Adam Wightman**

**on behalf of
Richard Emans**

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ECC project code: PUSF11

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1 Summary

During an evaluation by three trial-trenches at Scotts Farm, Purleigh, Essex, features associated with the modern farmhouse as well as the post-medieval phase of the farm were identified. The farmhouse of the post-medieval phase is shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1881 to the west of the current building.

No evidence was found for the medieval farmhouse having stood on the site of the present farmhouse. However, two possible medieval features and a small quantity of residual medieval pottery sherds suggest that the medieval farmhouse may have stood nearby, perhaps in the same location as the post-medieval farmhouse.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Scotts Farm, Lodge Lane, Purleigh, Essex (TL 582719 202572) (Fig 1). The fieldwork was carried out in October 2011.
- 2.2 A planning application for the demolition of the existing farmhouse and its replacement by a larger dwelling was submitted to Maldon District Council in 2011 (planning application no MAL/11/00244; Fig 2).
- 2.3 Given that Scotts Farm has its origins in the medieval period, the Historic Environment Management (HEM) team of Essex County Council advised that an archaeological evaluation be completed in advance of planning consent being granted.
- 2.4 A brief detailing the required archaeological work was written by the HEM team officer Maria Medlycott (HEM 2011). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CAT in response to the HEM team brief and agreed with the HEM team (CAT 2011).
- 2.5 In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the Colchester Archaeological Trust's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 1999, updated 2008). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). Other sources used are *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background (HEM 2011)

Purleigh is recorded in the Domesday Book (1066 and 1086), at which time the parish would have comprised a church (a priest is mentioned in the Domesday book) and hall on the higher ground as well as a number of other manors and a scatter of dispersed farms and cottages linked by a network of greens and lanes. The small motte to the south of the church is thought to have been built in the late 12th or early 13th century, possibly in response to the civil war of 1135-53.

Scotts Farm is typical of many medieval green-side farms. The farm was first recorded in 1235 when it belonged to Henry the Baker; 'Scott' was added to the name after 1524 when it became the property of a William Scotte (Reaney 1935). It was known as 'Scott and Bakers' for many centuries before being shortened to 'Scotts'. Scotts Farm was originally sited on the edge of Furzey (or Fuszey) Common or Green, the edge of which is marked by the cropmark of a large ditch (EHER no 16089).

The 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex shows the location of Scott and Bakers and indicates two buildings (probably the farmhouse and a barn). The 1st edition OS map of 1881 shows greater detail of the post-medieval farmhouse and farmyard, and this suggests that the post-medieval farmhouse stood immediately to the west of the current farmhouse. The precise location of its medieval predecessor is not known.

4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits prior to development. This information would then enable an informed decision to be taken on the preservation or otherwise of any deposits and the need for further work and/or mitigation.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Three trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator with a 1m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The site had not been cleared, so the trenches were located to avoid large obstacles while still evaluating within or as close as possible to the footprint of the proposed building (Fig 2). Therefore, the length, width and shape of the three trenches was varied. An archaeological summary of each evaluation trench follows below.

All three trenches were excavated into the same stratigraphic sequence (Fig 4); a layer of medium grey/brown clayey-silt topsoil (L1) overlay a subsoil of mixed silty-clay (L2), which in turn overlay the natural light brown clay (L3) (Fig 4).

Trench 1

Excavated in a staggered L-shape to avoid roots from the adjacent poplar tree, T1 was 17m long overall (Fig 3). Four archaeological features were recorded in this trench. The pit F4 cut into the natural clay (Fig 4) and continued beyond the north-eastern limit of excavation (Fig 3). The silty-clay fill of the pit contained a sherd of medieval pottery (see section 6 below) and a fragment of probable peg-tile. Four pottery fragments from a post-medieval bowl were found in proximity to F4 and may have been from the upper fill of the pit. Two lines of modern bricks laid on their sides positioned 10cm apart with a flat brick bridging the two lines (F5) is presumed to be a modern service-run (Fig 3). A probable linear feature with uncertain edges (F6; Fig 3) had a fill very similar to the natural clay L3. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from F6. Further medieval pottery sherds along with post-medieval pottery sherds and animal bone were recovered from near the base of the trench in close proximity to F6 during machine-excavation. A wider linear feature (F7), containing frequent peg-tile and post-medieval brick fragments (many with traces of cream lime mortar) in a silty-clay fill, was located at the southern end of T1 (Figs 3-4). It is probable that this material derives from the demolition of a post-medieval building which stood nearby. Post-medieval pottery sherds were also recovered from F7 along with two sherds of medieval pottery which were residual in a post-medieval context. A fragment of flowerpot recovered from the upper fill during machining could have come from the topsoil or a later intrusive feature.



Plate 1: T1, view north.

Trench 2

T2 was 6m long and 1m wide. At the north-eastern end of the trench, a yard surface constructed of flat, unmortared red bricks (F1) was encountered 150mm below modern ground-level (Fig 3). The bricks were not frogged and date to the late 17th to early 18th century. A shallow pit or linear feature (F2) continued beyond the south-western limit of excavation (Fig 3). This feature cut the natural clay (L3) and contained frequent fragments of modern brick and mortar.

Finds from the overlying soil (L1, L2) in T2 included modern pottery, peg-tile, modern/post-medieval brick and oyster shell.



Plate 2: T2, view north-east.

Trench 3

T3 was 9m long but only 0.6m wide due to the limited space between the existing building and the mature shrubs/trees to the north (Plate 2). A baulk was left in the centre of the trench where an iron water-pipe crossed the trench (Fig 3). A large pit (F3), containing modern/post-medieval brick and tile fragments, cut into the natural clay (L3) in the south-eastern half of the trench. Directly overlaid by topsoil, F3 continued down beyond 0.9m below modern ground-level. Modern glass and iron objects were observed in the fill and three fragments of post-medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fill. In the north-western half of the trench, the topsoil (L1) overlay a possible yard surface, path or roadway (L4; Fig 4). Constructed of slightly compacted rounded gravel mixed with broken brick and tile fragments, L4 directly overlay the natural clay. The pottery sherds recovered from L4 are post-medieval in date, with one residual rim fragment deriving from a medieval jug.



Plate 3: T3, view south-east.

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Finds were recovered which can be dated to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The bulk finds consist of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone and shell. These were recovered from nine contexts in the three evaluation trenches. The finds are listed and described by context and finds number for each trench in Table 1 (below). Pottery fabric types recorded refer to the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham & Drury 1985; *CAR 7*) and are listed in Table 2 (below). Bricks are dated by reference to descriptions in existing typologies for bricks in Essex (Ryan & Andrews 1993; Ryan 1996).

Table 1: spot-dated list of finds by context.

Trench	context	Finds no	finds description	spot date
T1	L2/ F4	4	pottery post-medieval: Fabric 40, 4@43 g (bowl)	post-medieval (16th/17th-18th century)
T1	F4	5	pottery medieval: Fabric 20, 1@4 g (mid 12th-mid 14th century) CBM peg-tile(?), 1@6 g (medieval-post-medieval/modern)	medieval+ (pottery late 12th/13th-14th century)
T1	F6	6	pottery medieval: Fabric 20, 2@25 g (mid 12th-mid 14th century); Fabric 21/21A, 1@9 g (13th-15th/16th century)	medieval (13th-15th/16th century)
T1	F6/ L2	7	pottery medieval: Fabric 20, 3@34 g (base edge) (mid 12th-mid 14th century); medieval/post-medieval: Fabric 21 (late transitional), 1@38 g (base); post-medieval: Fabric 40, 1@12 g animal bone 3@96 g, medium-large mammal bone, split longitudinally	post-medieval (16th/17th-18th century) with ?residual medieval
T1	F7	7	pottery medieval: Fabric 20, 1@2 g (mid 12th-mid 14th century); Fabric 21/21A, 1@6 g (13th-15th/16th century), sooting on sherd surface	medieval (13th-15th/16th century)
T1	F7	8	CBM peg-tile, 2@90 g, thickness 14 mm (medieval-post-medieval/modern)	medieval-modern
T1	F7	10	pottery post-medieval: Fabric 40 (standard fabric), 4@34 g (late 16th-17th century); Fabric 40, 1@6 g; Fabric 51B (flowerpot), 1@8 g (19th-20th century) CBM : peg-tile, 1@431 g, red, sandy fabric, 13 mm thick, width 160 mm (medieval-post-medieval/modern)	modern (19th-20th century) with residual 16th/17th-18th century
T1	F7/ L2	11	pottery medieval/post-medieval: Fabric 21 (late transitional), 1@27 g, post-medieval: Fabric 40, 6@147 g (dish, deep bowls); Fabric 40 (black – drinking vessel), 1@7 g CBM : peg-tile 3@1,640 g, red, sandy fabric, 14 mm thick, width 155 mm, one with two round fixing holes (each at about one third spacing across tile) set in 15 mm from tile top edge (15 mm diameter at top - reduced to 10 mm at tile base) at one end (medieval-post-medieval/modern); brick, 1@1,433 g, orange-red, not frogged, no mortar, width 105 mm, thickness 55 mm (late 16th-early 17th century); brick fragment, 1@84 g, red, all surfaces have traces of cream lime mortar (post-medieval-modern) animal bone 5@139 g, medium-large mammal, mandible pieces plus other bone	post-medieval (16th/17th-18th century)
T2	F1	1	CBM brick, 1@993 g, red, not frogged, no mortar, width 100 mm, thickness 53 mm (late 17th-early 18th century)	post-medieval (late 17th-early 18th century)
T2	L1/ L2	9	pottery modern: Fabric 45M, 1@10 g; Fabric 51B (flowerpot), 1@12g CBM peg-tile, 1@160 g, 13 mm thick, (medieval-post-medieval/modern); brick, 1@1,202 mm, red, not frogged, no mortar, width 100 mm, thickness 50 mm (late 17th-early 18th century) Shell oyster 1@6 g	modern (19th-20th century)

Trench	context	Finds no	finds description	spot date
T3	F3/ L2	2	pottery post-medieval: Fabric 40, 3@72 g animal bone 2@11 g, medium-large mammal rib	post-medieval (16th/17th-18th century)
T3	L4	3	pottery medieval: Fabric 21A (late), 1@49 g (jug rim) (15th-16th century); medieval/post-medieval: Fabric 45C, 1@32 g (jug/mug base) (mid 15th-17th century); post-medieval: Fabric 40, 2@70 g (deep bowl); Fabric 40 (black), 3@36 g (handled drinking vessel) animal bone 5@114 g, mostly long bones from medium-large mammals, one appears to have been split longitudinally	post-medieval (16th/17th-18th century) with residual late medieval

Table 2: pottery fabrics recorded showing period/common date range.

Fabric code	Description	Fabric common date range
20	medieval sandy grey wares (general)	mid 12th-mid 14th century
21	medieval sandy orange wares (general)	13th-15th/16th century
21A	Colchester-type ware	13th-16th century
40	post-medieval red earthen wares (general)	16th/17th-18th century
45C	Raeren stoneware	mid 15th-17th century
45M	modern English stoneware (19th- to 20th-century types)	19th-20th century
51B	flowerpot (modern)	19th-20th century

7 Discussion

Seven archaeological features and an archaeological layer were recorded during the evaluation (F1-F7 and L4). Three of these contexts are modern (F2, F3, F5), three are post-medieval (F1, F7, L4) and two are possibly medieval in date (F4, F6).

The location of the modern ?pit F3 corresponds with the supposed location of an old privy (landowner pers comm), and it is probable that the modern brick channel F5 is a silted-up drain or service conduit.

The brick yard surface (F1) is late post-medieval in date, but the compacted stone surface (L4) and demolished building material in linear feature F7 may date to earlier in the post-medieval period. All three contexts are associated with the post-medieval phase of Scotts Farm, the farmhouse of which is shown to the west of the current building on the 1st edition OS map of 1881. The absence of modern finds in F7, with the exception of a fragment of poorly-stratified flowerpot, suggests that the brick and tile from this context derive from the demolition of an ancillary building as opposed to the post-medieval farmhouse which was demolished in the 20th century.

No evidence was found for the medieval farmhouse having stood on the site of the present farmhouse. However, the two possible medieval features (pit F4, linear feature F6) and the residual medieval pottery sherds from L4 and F7 suggest that the medieval farmhouse stood nearby, perhaps in the same location as the post-medieval farmhouse.

8 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLEM 2011.72.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Richard Emans, who commissioned and funded this project. Site work was undertaken by A Wightman. The project was monitored by Maria Medlycott for Essex County Council.

10 References

Note: all CAT reports, except DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-1985</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	1999, revised 2008	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
CAT	2011	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological fieldwork at Scotts Farm, Lodge Lane, Purleigh, Essex</i> , by E Spurgeon
Cunningham, C, & Drury, P EAA 14	1985 2003	<i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA, Research Report, 54 <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney
HEM	2011	<i>Archaeological fieldwork, Scotts Farm, Lodge Lane, Purleigh, SEPT 2011</i> , by M Medlycott
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)
Reaney, P	1935	<i>The place-names of Essex</i> (Cambridge University Press)
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex</i>
Ryan, P, & Andrews, D	1993	'A brick and tile typology for Cressing Temple', in <i>Cressing Temple, A Templar and Hospitaller manor in Essex</i> , by D Andrews, 93-103

11 Glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ECC	Essex County Council
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a ditch or pit
HEM	Historic Environment Management
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil, stone, brick, etc
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century

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12 Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of the evaluation brief issued by the ECC HEM team
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment
- 1.4 A3 site plan provided by the developer

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photographic record
- 2.2 Context sheets (L1-L4, F1-F7, 3 x trench sketch sheets)
- 2.3 Attendance register
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Site photographic record on CD
- 2.6 A4 sheet of section drawings

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report
- 3.2 Finds report

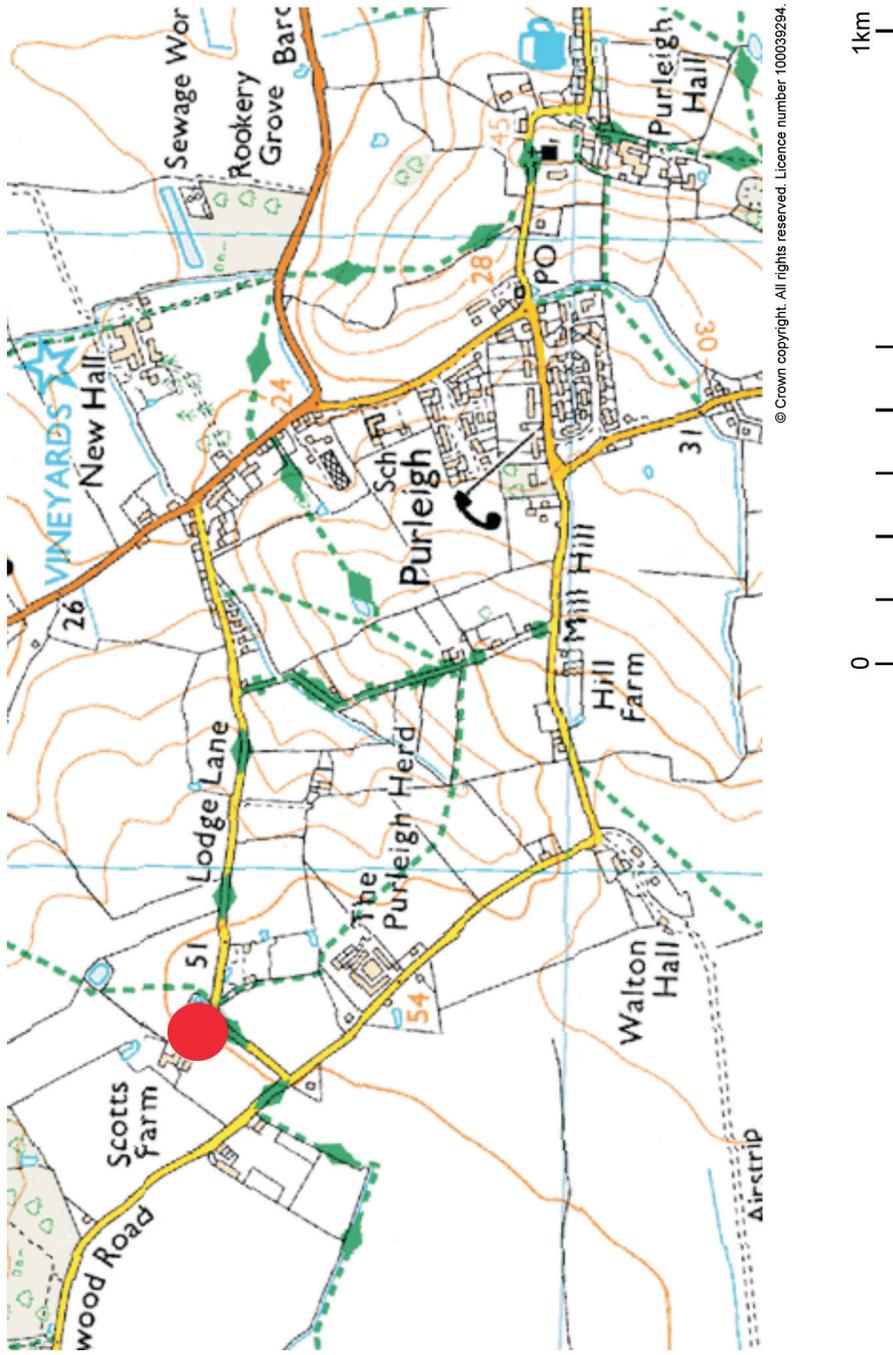
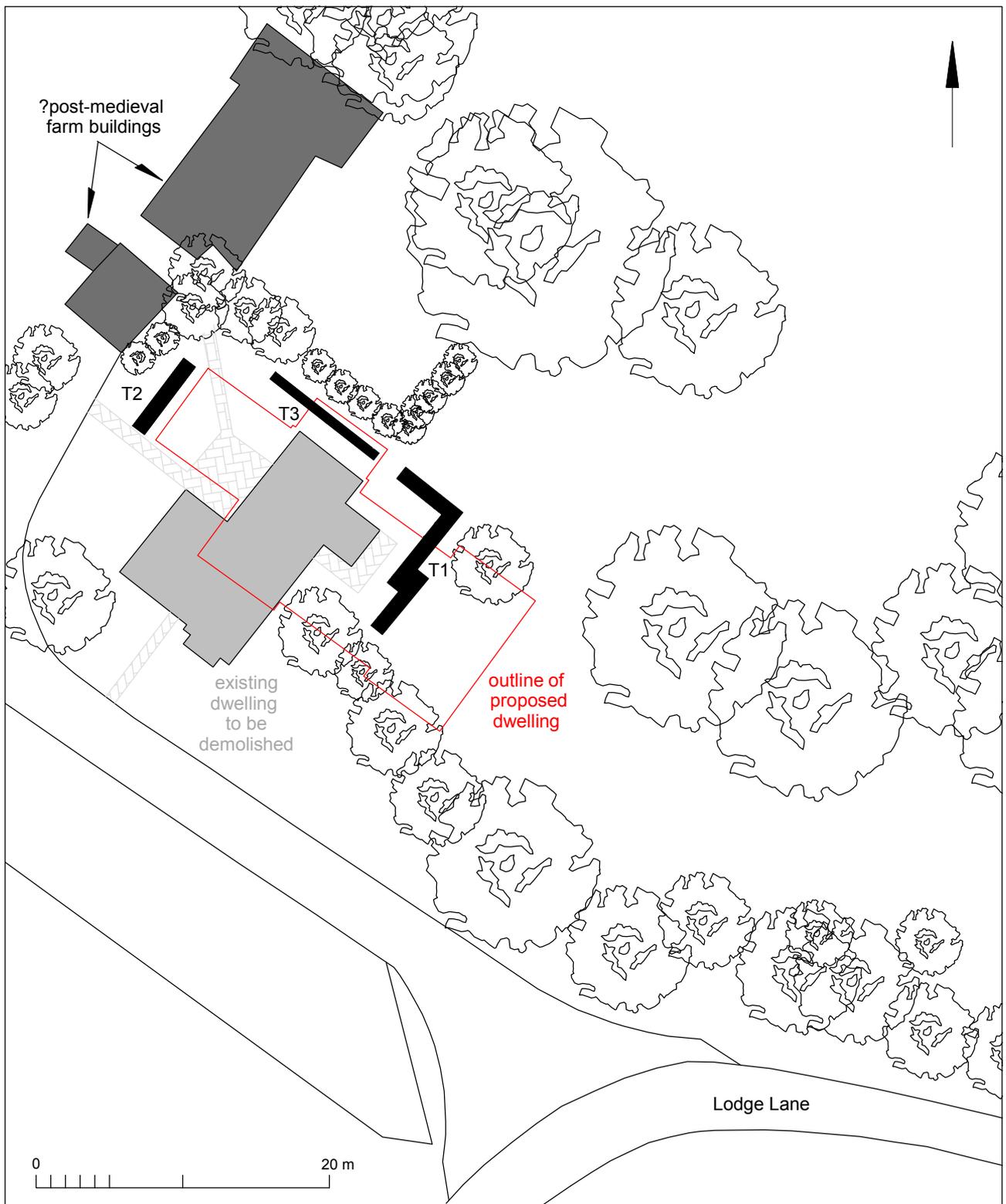
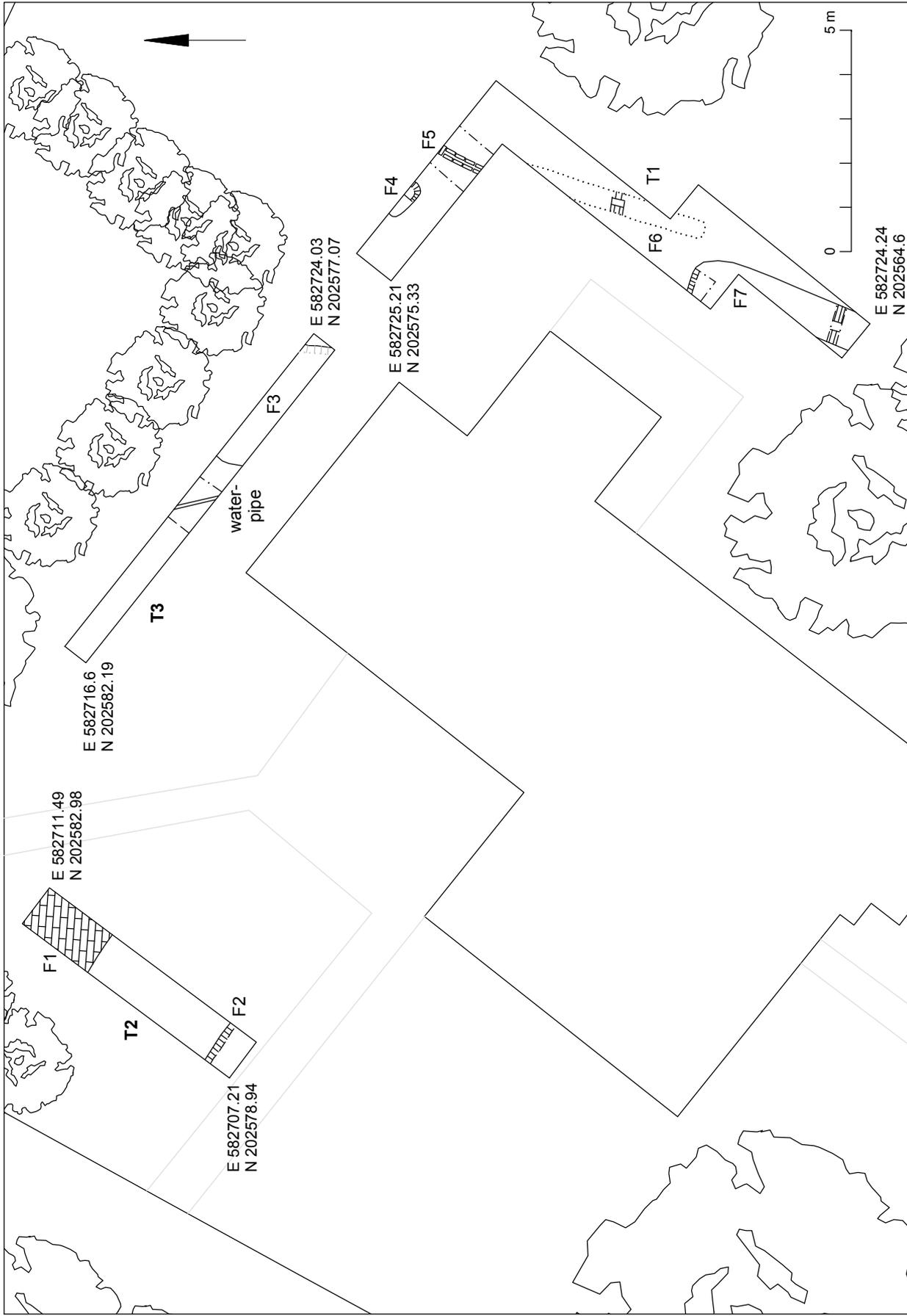


Fig 1 Site location (marked by a red dot) .



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Fig 2 Site plan.



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Fig 3 Results.

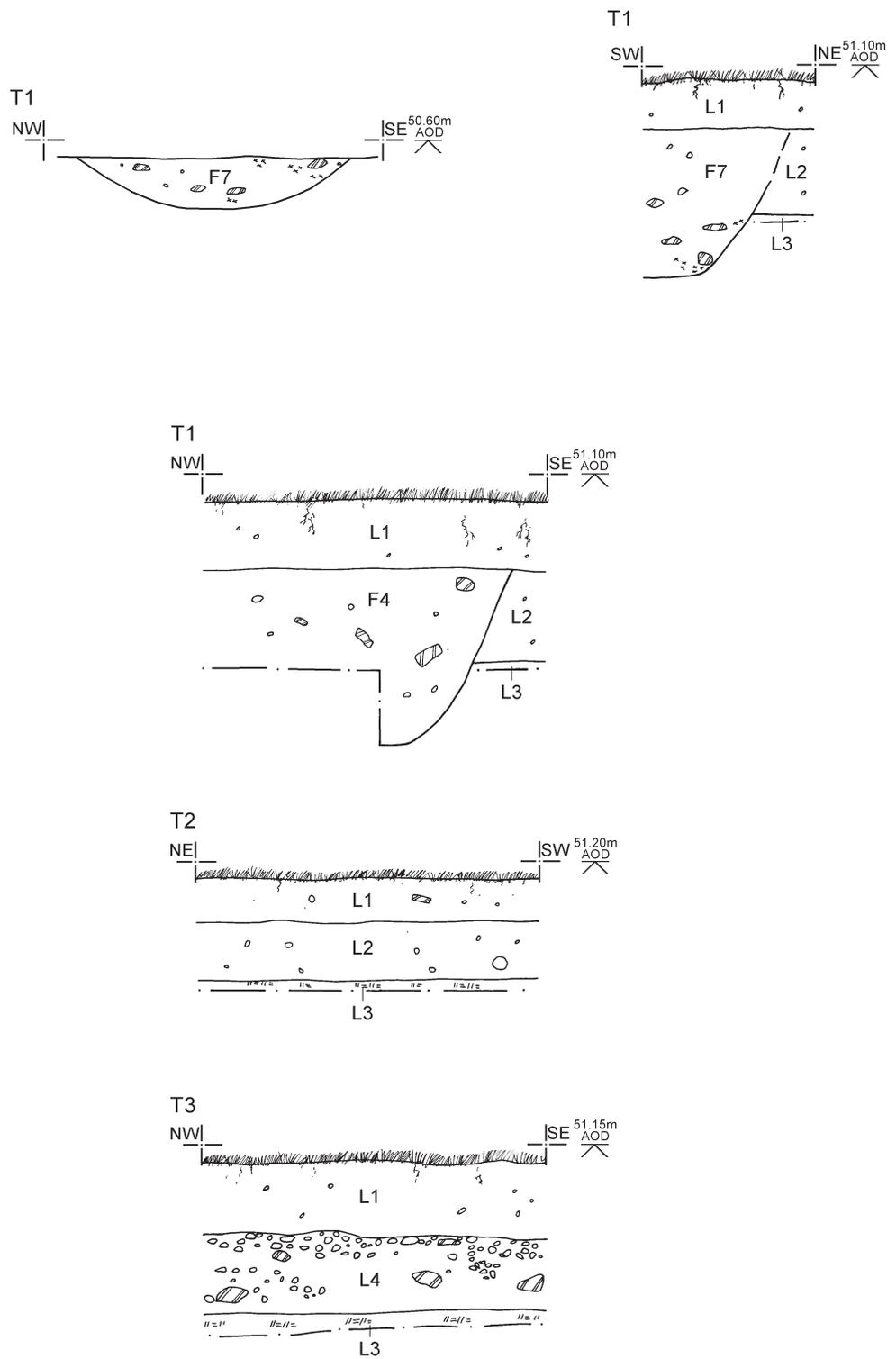


Fig 4 T1: F7, sections; T1-T3: representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Scotts Farm, Lodge Lane, Purleigh, Essex	
Parish: Purleigh	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 582719 202572	Site codes: HEM - PUSF11 CAT project - 11/10a Museum accession - COLEM 2011.72
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: October 2011	Size of area investigated: 32 m of trench in 650 sq m site
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER and UAD nos: 16089
Final report: CAT Report 618 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>During an evaluation by three trial-trenches at Scotts Farm, Purleigh, Essex, features associated with the modern farmhouse, as well as the post-medieval phase of the farm, were identified. The farmhouse of the post-medieval phase is shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1881 to the west of the current building.</i></p> <p><i>No evidence was found for the medieval farmhouse having stood on the site of the present farmhouse. However, the two possible medieval features and residual medieval pottery sherds suggest that the medieval farmhouse stood nearby, perhaps in the same location as the post-medieval farmhouse.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Keywords: post-medieval, farmhouse, medieval, pottery, gravel surface	Significance: *
Author of summary: Adam Wightman	Date of summary: December 2011