

**An archaeological excavation  
at the Hope Inn,  
16 High Street, Tollesbury, Essex**

**October 2011**



**commissioned by Plater Claiborne Architecture and design  
on behalf of Mr Robert Cannon**

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## 1 Summary

*The Hope Inn is located on the north side of the High Street in the centre of the historic settlement of Tollesbury. Tollesbury is sited on small peninsula, bounded by the River Blackwater on the south and the Old Hall Marshes and Salcott Channel to the north and east. During the medieval period Tollesbury was one of the richest parishes in east Essex, with two manors, (Tollesbury Hall and Bouchiers Hall) and two sub-manors (Medlycott 2004). The principal occupations at this time were agricultural but there were also many oyster fishermen.*

*This is the report on an excavation in the car park to the west of the Hope Inn, which revealed the remains of medieval and post-medieval buildings. This took the form of compacted clay floors and evidence of a timber-framed building along the High Street frontage. Finds associated with these contexts date the building to the 12th to 14th centuries. This structure was subsequently replaced in the 17th to 18th centuries by two post-medieval buildings, which survived until their demolition in the mid 20th century.*

## 2 Introduction (Figure 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on the archaeological excavation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the Hope Inn, 16 High Street, Tollesbury, Essex (site centre: NGR TL 9574 1048).
- 2.2 The proposed development comprises the demolition of the Hope Inn and the redevelopment of the site for housing. The site is located on the High Street, in the historic settlement of Tollesbury.
- 2.3 A planning application for the development of the site was submitted to Maldon District Council in 2010 (MAL/10/1087).
- 2.4 Given the archaeological potential of the site, and following *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2010), a full archaeological condition was recommended to be attached to the planning consent.
- 2.5 Based on the recommendation, two stages of fieldwork were carried out by CAT: a photographic survey of the standing building in April 2011 (CAT Report 592) and an evaluation by trial-trenching in July 2011 (CAT Report 614). This work was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Management (HEM) team officer (Maria Medlycott: HEM 2011a) and a corresponding WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT and agreed with the HEM team (CAT 2011a).
- 2.6 As a result of the findings from the evaluation, it was decided that T1, located in the pub car park, would be expanded to include the full dimensions of the proposed building. A second brief detailing the required archaeological work for this subsequent phase was issued by the HEM team (Maria Medlycott: HEM 2011b). This brief was fulfilled by CAT carrying out the excavation described here in accordance with a WSI produced by CAT and agreed with the HEM team (CAT 2011b).
- 2.7 The excavation was carried out in October 2011, commissioned by Plater Claiborne Architecture and Design on behalf of Mr Robert Cannon.
- 2.8 In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was carried out in accordance with CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

## 3 Archaeological and historical background (Figure 7)

The site has potential for surviving archaeological remains of medieval or later date. The area is thought to lie within the medieval historic core of Tollesbury (EHER

45657, Medlycott 2004) and was part of the Tollesbury Hall manor. The extent of the village in the medieval period can be estimated from the distribution of surviving medieval buildings. The area is shown as built-up on the Chapman & André map of 1777. The 'Hope Inn' named on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1874-5 was replaced in 1923 by the present Hope Inn. In the Conservation Area Appraisal for Tollesbury, the Inn is described as a 'landmark' structure, typical of its date, with Arts and Crafts elements in its styling.

## 4 Aim

The aim of the excavation was to preserve by record the archaeological remains which would be destroyed by the redevelopment of the site.

## 5 Results (Figures 1-5, 9-12)

### 5.1 Methodology

The excavation area was centred on the westernmost of the three evaluation trenches, T1, which remained open after the evaluation (Fig 1). This was an area of hard standing covered in tarmac that served the Hope Inn as a car park. When the decision was taken to expand the evaluation trench, the contractor removed the tarmac, hoggins and underlying crush (L1) with a mechanical excavator to the extents of the proposed building. This was not carried out under archaeological supervision, but a subsequent site visit (26th July 2011) confirmed that the archaeology observed during the evaluation phase had not been damaged, apart from the north-west corner of the site where a percolation test-pit was machined through the archaeology to the full depth of the foundation trench. The site remained open at the stripped level until October, when CAT returned to fulfil the terms of the second HEM team brief.

Using the contractor's mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless bucket, the remnants of L1 were removed from the excavation area under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The removal of L1 revealed archaeological features cutting distinct surfaces. The machining was then stopped and the area cleaned by hand. As the brief required only the excavation of the foundation footprint, the centre of the stripped area was photographed and planned, but no further excavation was carried out. The archaeology of the stripped area consisted mainly of surfaces and the remains of brick walls, cut by post-medieval and modern pits. After these contexts had been planned, the foundation trenches were dug under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The south foundation trench was excavated first, with the west, north and east trenches following in sequence. This revealed a series of pits, post-holes and ditches beneath the layers exposed by the initial strip. Although individual finds suggest Iron Age and Roman activity in the immediate vicinity, the archaeology of the site has been grouped as follows;

Period 1: medieval

Period 2: post-medieval

Period 3: modern

### 5.2 Period 1: medieval (Figures 2-4)

Seventeen contexts on the site are dated to the medieval period and have been assigned to three phases (Periods 1a-c). Period 1a consisted of a soily accumulation layer (L9), which appeared to cover the majority of the site. Finds recovered from L9 included pottery sherds dating from the late 12th to the 14th centuries, and also two Iron Age sherds, which must be residual.

Period 1b had the greatest number of medieval contexts (ten). In the eastern half of the north foundation trench there was a c 30cm thick deposit of silty clay (L14) with abundant oyster shell, fragments of animal bone and pottery dating from the late

12th to the 15th or early 16th centuries, as well as a fragment of Roman CBM. The east foundation trench showed that the southern extent of L14 was only 1m from the north edge of the site, and that this layer was cutting L9. L14 sealed a large pit (F32) which contained a small quantity of animal bone and two pottery sherds, one tentatively dated to the Iron Age, whilst the other dates to the 12th to the 14th centuries. This feature was not fully excavated as it continued below the dig depth of the foundation trench. L14 also sealed an undated ditch (F35), the fill of which was similar to datable medieval features. The remainder of the contexts in Period 1b were ditches and pits cutting L9. F23 was a ditch dating to the 13th to 15th or early 16th centuries, and appears to be a continuation of undated ditch F35. Ditch F31 contained a single small sherd of pottery which could be either Iron Age or medieval in date. This feature is a continuation of undated ditch (F21). The ditches F23/F35 and F21/F31 are aligned roughly north-south and may represent early medieval boundaries.

Only one of the pits (F20) contained datable evidence. Pottery from this large pit dated to the medieval period, although two sherds of probable Iron Age pot were also recovered. This feature was deeper than the dig depth of the foundation trench and its full depth was not ascertained. Although containing no dating evidence, the pits F22, F28 & F30 were either sealed by or cut by medieval contexts and so have been assigned to this phase.

Period 1c is distinguished by structural features: a yellowy-orange compacted clay floor (L7), c 10cm thick and laid directly over L9 covering most of the site, and a shallow foundation (F26) for a ground-plate of a timber-framed building. Finds of pottery from L7 date from the late 12th to the 14th centuries. F26 was a thin linear depression approximately 26cm wide with a base of horizontal peg-tiles laid in three or four courses. This was perpendicular to the street frontage. Finds from the upper fill of F26 included a pottery sherd dated to the 13th to the 16th centuries and a sherd dated to the 19th or 20th century. L7 had a possible north edge where the extent of the clay stopped in a line parallel to the street frontage, although no sign of any east-west aligned ground-plate was observed. North of the clay floor was a patch of dirty, sandy gravel, possibly a ridge of the natural geology (L4) rising to the surface. A mottled dirty clay layer (L10) extended north from L7 on the east side of the site. Although no finds were recovered from this, it is likely that L10 is equivalent to L7 and represents a northwards projection of the building. At the request of the ECC monitor, an area of burning visible in the clay floor L7 was investigated. This exposed a large expanse of burnt clay with significant amounts of charcoal and a sub-rectangular area of bright orange fired clay (L11). No finds were recovered from this layer. In addition to these features, L7 had five very thin but charcoal rich deposits. These deposits were all close to the hearths.

### 5.3 Period 2: post-medieval (Figures 2-3, 5)

At the east edge of the site was a gravel and peg-tile yard surface (L8). This was intermittently covered by compacted patches of whitish lime mortar (L13). L8 was 4-10 cm in thickness, with the greater density of peg-tile to the north. Closer to the street frontage to the south there was a higher instance of gravel over peg-tile and the layer was thicker than at the north end. The finds from L8 consist of a small quantity of animal bone, pottery sherds, clay pipe fragments, an unidentifiable iron object and a fragment of an ivory ring. Finds from the surface of L8 date from the 15th to the 19th or 20th centuries, whilst those from the lower part of the yard surface include pottery and CBM dating to the 13th to 18th centuries.

Further post-medieval activity took the form of two brick-built hearths (F13 and F16) and two walls (F12 and F14). An additional brick foundation (F18) may be part of a third hearth. The hearths and the wall foundation F12 were all on the same alignment. F13 was a back-to-back hearth constructed from bricks dating to the 18th or 19th centuries, whilst hearth F16 and possible hearth F18 were made from bricks dating to the 17th or 18th centuries. The wall foundation F12 was constructed from bricks dating to the 18th or 19th centuries, but also included late medieval or early post-medieval bricks. The foundation F14 was different in construction to the others,

being formed from half-bricks dated to the late medieval or early post-medieval periods. F14 was aligned at a different angle to the other brick features.

Four pits (F7, F19, F29 & F33) were also recorded. F7 was a small, shallow pit filled with oyster shell. F19 was a small, shallow pit with an ashy fill. F29 contained complete oyster shells, peg-tile and clay pipe stems. F33 had straight sides and a flat bottom. The west part of this feature contained complete oyster shells, similar to F29, but the east part was cut by a continuation of hearth F16. This suggests that F16 was also a back-to-back hearth. The excavated section showed that the bricks of F16 were only one course deep. However, beneath the bricks there were large sub-rounded stones and septaria blocks. Included in this sub-foundation was a base fragment from a very large medieval mortar.

Two post-holes (F25 & F37) were observed during the excavation of the foundation trench. F25 was a large post-hole with lightly tapering sides and a blunt point and contained a single pot sherd dated to the 16th to the 18th centuries. F37 was a small post-hole with no finds.

#### 5.4 Period 3: modern (Figures 2-3)

Approximately one third of the contexts recorded during the excavation were modern pits. Nine of these (F8-11, F24, F36 & F38-40) cut the gravel and peg-tile yard surface (L8). These were predominantly sub-circular and of similar depth. Six of the pits were excavated when the foundation trench was dug and the finds recovered were all 19th- or 20th-century pot sherds. The remaining modern features (F15, F17 & F27) were pits cutting the clay floor L7, filled with modern demolition debris, which included concrete and wood.

## 6 The finds

*by Stephen Benfield with Adam Wightman (animal bone)*

### Introduction

The types of bulk finds and the total quantities recovered (other than small finds) are set out in Table 1. All of the pottery is listed by context and finds number in Appendix 2. A small number of individually numbered small finds (SF) are listed and described separately.

Bulk finds types	no.	wt (g)
Pottery	192	2650
Ceramic building material (CBM)	74	21311
Fired clay	1	86
Clay pipe	21	78
Glass	3	29
Iron nails	2	22
Stone	2	3606
Animal bone	45	782
Shell	3	74

**Table 1.** Type and quantities of finds

#### 6.1 Prehistoric pottery

##### Introduction

A small quantity of hand-made prehistoric pottery was recovered from four features (F20, F31, F32 & F34) and from one layer (L9). The pottery consists of a total of seven sherds, together weighing 33g with an average sherd weight of 4.7g. The fabrics used to describe the pottery are listed in Table 2 and a full catalogue of the pottery is provided in Appendix 2. None of this pottery is illustrated.

Fabric code	description	no.	wt (g)
HMS	Hand-made, sand-temper	2	10
HMS/F	Hand-made, sand/flint-temper	5	23
	<i>Total</i>	7	33

**Table 2.** Prehistoric pottery by fabric type

### Discussion

The prehistoric pottery sherds are all small and abraded. The majority share a similar range of inclusions in a sandy fabric, most notably white quartz and some flint. The flint does not appear to have been calcified and these may both be natural inclusions in the clay, or in sand added to the clay and are not necessarily selected tempering agents. Two of the sherds have only sand-temper. One of these two sherds (F32(45)) is in a dark grey, fine sand fabric and might possibly be of later date, but the sherd is very small and abraded and a prehistoric date appears almost certain.

In terms of dating, the fabrics and the similarity of fabric between many of the sherds suggest a relatively homogeneous group which is probably of Iron Age date. There is one rim sherd (L9(23)). This is very abraded, but is from a bowl with an externally thickened rim which has traces of angled-slash decoration across the top. This piece is almost certainly Iron Age and the fabrics of the other prehistoric sherds also suggest a probable Iron Age date.

Much of this pottery is residual in later dated contexts, although single sherds of prehistoric pottery were the only datable finds recovered from two features, ie ditch F31(41) and pit F34(42).

## 6.2 Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery

### Introduction

In total 185 sherds of pottery with a total weight of 2617g were recovered. This assemblage can be dated to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The pottery was recorded by count and weight for each finds number by context. The fabric types recorded refer to the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham & Drury 1985; *CAR 7* 2000) and are listed below (Table 3). Fabric 21(T) has been used additional to the series to record oxidised (red) wares of probable late medieval or early post-medieval transitional date.

Fabric code	description	no.	wt (g)	date range
20	Medieval sandy grey wares (general)	83	836	L12-14C
21	medieval sandy orange wares (general)	2	53	13-15C
21A	Colchester-type ware	24	200	13-15/E16C
21(T)	medieval sandy orange wares (transitional)	4	106	15-16C(?)
22	Hedingham ware	3	3	13-14C
40	post-medieval red earthen wares (general)	48	1160	16/17-18C
40A	Metropolitan slipware	1	92	17C
45D	Frechen stoneware	1	2	L15/16-17C
45M	Modern English stone ware	2	56	19-20C
46	Tin-glazed earthenware (general)	7	21	L16/17-18C
48A	Chinese porcelain	1	17	18C
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthen wares	8	37	18/19-20C
51A	late slipped kitchenware	1	34	L18/19-20C
	<i>Total</i>	185	2617	

**Table 3.** Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery by fabric type

### Discussion

The majority of the pottery can be dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval pottery (Fabric 20, 21, 21A, 21(T), & 22) makes up about 63% by count and about 46% by weight of all the pottery recovered. Post-medieval/modern pottery (Fabric 40, 40A, 45D & 46) account for about 31% by count and about 49%

by weight. The modern pottery (Fabric 45M, 48A, 48D & 51A) account for only a small part of the assemblage.

#### *Medieval*

The medieval pottery is dominated by medieval sandy grey wares (Fabric 20), dated from the late 12th to the 14th centuries and sandy orange wares of Colchester type (Fabric 21A) dated from the 13th to the 15th or early 16th centuries. There are also a few sherds in an orange micaceous fabric which are probably Heddingham ware (Fabric 22). A small quantity of sandy orange wares are quite fine and appear to be late medieval/early post-medieval transitional wares (Fabric 21(T)). Overall the pottery indicates that the earliest occupation dates to the 13th to the 14th century.

The vessels types recorded in sandy grey wares are cooking pots, jugs and a flat rimmed bowl. These came from the layers L14 and L9. Only two vessel types were provisionally identified in Colchester sandy orange wares (Fabric 21A), a baluster jug from L14(32) and a jug or cistern with white painted design under brown glaze from F23(16). However, almost all of the sherds in this fabric are glazed, most commonly green, but also yellow, brown and cream, although none are otherwise decorated. It should be noted that a group of Colchester ware, including a sherds from a jug decorated with applied strips and roundels (dated c 1250-1350), was recovered during the evaluation (CAT Report 614, table 4 & plate 9), although the group also included a rim from a jar with external lid-seating (dated c 15th to early 16th century).

Fabric 20 pottery made up the majority of pottery associated with L14, L12 & L7 and much of the small quantity of pottery from L9. Apart from L7, which only produced a small quantity of Fabric 20 and Fabric 22, Fabric 21A was also associated with these layers. Fabric 20 is also the latest-dated finds type from the feature F32 and Fabric 21A with F23.

#### *Post-medieval*

The post-medieval pottery is dominated by red earthen wares (Fabric 40) dated to the 16th or 17th to 18th centuries. The vessel forms recorded are both bowls, one similar to CAR 7 fig 137 no. 61, with the glaze in the base worn from use. There are also a few sherds of tin-glazed earthen wares (Fabric 46), one from a bowl form and a sherd of German stoneware vessel, probably from Frechen (Fabric 45D) which, at Colchester, is most common in the 17th century (CAR 7, 284).

Most of the Fabric 40 pottery was associated with L8 (which also produced two sherds of modern pottery, possibly intrusive in this context) and a single sherd of Fabric 40 was recovered from the post-hole F25.

#### *Modern*

A small quantity of 18th or 19th to 20th century pottery was recovered. Most of this consists of Staffordshire type white earthen wares (Fabric 48D). One small base from a tea bowl in a fine white fabric with blue painted decoration is possibly Chinese porcelain (Fabric 48A). The bottom of the footring of the bowl is unglazed (CAR 7, 306).

Modern pottery was associated with F8, F24 & F26 and two sherds were also recovered from L8(17).

### **6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)**

#### **Summary**

There are seventy four pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) together weighing 21,311g. This consists almost entirely of brick and peg-tile pieces (Table 4) recovered from thirteen contexts. Many of the bricks were recovered as samples from walls or footings (F12, F13, F14, F16 & F18) and are whole or near complete bricks; other pieces were recovered from F8, F20, L8, L8/9 & L9). The peg-tiles were mostly recovered as broken pieces from layers or surfaces, (L7, L8, L9 & L14) with the largest quantity (31 pieces, weighing 2084g) coming from L8. Peg-tiles were also recovered from F26 & F29. The bricks were recorded and identified following the Essex brick typology (Ryan 1996, 94-96).

Code	CBM type	no.	wt (g)
<i>Roman:</i>			
RBT	Roman brick and tile	1	13
<i>Post Roman:</i>			
B	brick	15	17366
PT	peg-tile	55	3750
UT	unidentified tile	1	61
UN	unidentified CBM	2	121
<i>Total</i>		<i>74</i>	<i>21311</i>

**Table 4.** Ceramic building material (CBM) by type

## Discussion

One small piece of abraded brick or thick tile (13g), recovered from L14(29) is in a pale orange fabric which contrasts with the other CBM recovered. It is considered that this piece is probably Roman. This is the only find which might be Roman to be recovered from the site, either during the evaluation (CAT Report 614) or the excavation.

The largest quantity of CBM (by weight) is roofing tile in the form of peg-tiles. Peg-tiles are probably only common in Essex from the late 13th or 14th centuries, but continue essentially unchanged into modern times (Ryan & Andrews 1993, 97). A small quantity of peg-tile from L14 is associated with pottery dated to the medieval period, some of which could date as late as the 15th century although most is dated earlier (late 12th or 13th to the 14th century). The majority of the peg-tile comes from the yard surface L8 where it is associated with pottery dated as post-medieval (16th or 17th to the 18th century) but is possibly residual in these contexts.

All of the brick is likely to date to the post-medieval and modern periods. The bricks can be broadly dated in line with the criteria and descriptions for dated bricks in the Essex brick typology (Ryan 1996, 94-96). Although close dating is difficult, none of the brick appears to be earlier than late medieval/post-medieval. Several pieces of brick (dated as post-medieval or modern) were recovered from the fill of features or from layers associated with medieval pottery, but probably either the pottery is residual in these contexts or the brick is intrusive. One piece (1858g) was recovered from L9(11) associated with pottery dated to the late 12th to the 14th centuries and another from L8/9(39) (25g) associated with pottery dated to the 13th to the 15th centuries. A single piece of brick (517g) from the pit F20(22) is associated with medieval pottery dated to the 13th to the 15th or 16th centuries. A piece of brick from the yard surface L8(38) is dated as 17th or 18th century which is broadly the same date range as the pottery recovered with it.

The bricks recovered as samples from various walls or footings are usually the only finds dating evidence for that context. The sample bricks listed with suggested date ranges below.

Brick samples:

### **F12 wall**

F12(45) Complete, orange sandy, 230 x 110 x 55mm, white lime mortar on one face, grey on face at one end (weight 2600g). Dated 15th-17th century.

F12(45) Complete, orange sandy, 220 x 110 x 60mm, white lime mortar on base, side & top face (weight 3000g). Dated 18th-19th century.

### **F13 brick back-to-back hearth**

F13(53) Complete, red, sandy, 225 x 110 x 65mm, small, shallow frog(?), white lime mortar on upper surface (weight 3000g). Dated 18th(?)-19th century.

### **F14 wall**

F14(50) One end of brick, 120 x 50mm, brownish red, sandy fabric (weight 1304g). Dated late medieval/post-medieval.

### **F16 brick back-to-back hearth**

F16(49) Brick piece, 110 x 50mm, brownish red, sandy fabric, sooted along one stretcher face, poss. fire place/chimney brick (weight 1322g). Dated late 17th-18th century(?).

F16(49) Brick piece, 110 x 50mm, sandy orange fabric (weight 812g). Dated late 17th-18th century(?).

#### **F18 wall foundation**

F18(56) Brick, near complete, broken in two joining pieces, brownish red, sandy, grey glaze, 110 x 45mm (weight 839g). Dated late 17th-18th century(?).

F18(56) Brick piece, orange, sandy fabric, 110 x 45/50mm (weight 78 g). Dated late 17th-18th century(?).

F18(56) Brick piece, red, sandy fabric, 110 x 50/55mm (weight 791g). Dated late 17th-18th century(?).

### **6.4 Fired clay**

There is a single piece of fired clay (86g) from L9(19). This is a small, slab-like piece about 25 mm thick. The fabric is an oxidised orange colour with fine sand, which crumbles at the edges of under pressure from a fingernail and so is identified as fired clay rather than CBM.

### **6.5 Clay pipe**

Twenty-one pieces from clay pipes, were recovered from four contexts: two features, F8(48) & F29(26) and two layers, L8(37 & 38) & L14(29). They are almost entirely stem pieces with just one pipe bowl present. The stem pieces can be broadly dated from the 17th to the 19th or 20th century. The largest number associated with one context (fourteen) come from the yard surface L8. With these is a broken pipe bowl (L8(17)) datable to the early to mid 18th century (CAR 5 Type 9-10).

### **6.6 Glass**

There is a very small quantity of vessel glass consisting of two pieces (9g) from the pit F8(48). These are in a very dark green glass and almost certainly from the same vessel. One piece is from the lower body wall and base edge and shows the vessel is most probably a straight-sided bottle, almost certainly a wine bottle, dating to the mid 18th century or later.

A small, irregular, melted lump of glass (20g) was recovered from the modern pit F24(19). This is a pale green glass with a thin, white deposit over the surface, except at the broken at the ends of the piece. The glass has clearly been subject to heating at high temperature, presumably incidentally, sufficient to melt it.

In addition there are two small pieces of window glass which were recorded as small finds (see below).

### **6.7 Iron nails**

Pieces of an iron nail and a probable nail head were recovered. Of themselves these are not closely datable. The near complete nail is from F25(20) and is associated with pottery of post-medieval date. The other, is a small round iron disc which is most probably a corroded nail head; although there is no indication of a scar from the shank. This came from L7(12) and is associated with medieval pottery.

#### **L7(12)**

Nail(?) fe (2g). Corroded small round disc (diameter 15mm), probably a nail head but there is no indication of a shank scar.

#### **F25(20)**

Nail(?) fe (20g). Corroded nail, shank broken into two pieces, point missing. Head round with one side broken away and missing. Max surviving length 70mm.

## 6.8 Stone

Two large, cobble-size pieces of stone were recovered. Both are of types which can be found local to the area. One is a rounded cobble of sandstone/quartzite (2327g) which came from the cut for a wall foundation F33(51). A small part of one face/edge is laminating from the stone and is friable, similar to some stones that have been heated, suggesting this stone might have been exposed to heat on this side. The other is a rounded, hard lump of septaria (1279g) which came from the pit F20(22). The piece is bun-shaped and one of the broad surfaces is smooth. This might result from wear, suggesting it could have been used as a cobble stone; but it may well be a natural abrasion such as might occur on a beach or shore line context and which may have been the source of both of these stones.

## 6.9 Small finds

Eleven objects were allocated individual small find (SF) numbers. These are listed and described below. Of specific interest is part of a medieval stone mortar (SF11) and part of an ivory ring (SF13).

### *Copper alloy*

A modern button (SF2) which was recovered from F17(18). There are also three fragments of degrading copper-alloy sheet from a post-medieval pit, F20(21).

SF2 F17(18) Copper-alloy button (3.4g) diameter 19mm. Complete, plain, round button. Loop on back flattened to one side. Loop [set inside circle with legend around outside: **H & W EXTRA TR(E)BLE GILT** in stamped lettering with gilt. This may be a survival of a gilt coating which originally covered the whole button. (Dated modern).

SF3 F20(21) Copper-alloy sheet. Three small degraded pieces (3.9g).

### *Iron*

There are two pieces of iron (SF9 & SF10) which might be parts of iron objects other than nails. One (SF9) is associated with a probable medieval context (L14), the other (SF10) with a surface of post-medieval-modern date (L8/L9).

SF9 L14(29) Possible small iron object or possibly part of an object (5g).

SF10 L8/9 Possible iron object. Composite pieces of iron, or thin hooked fragment which is, or has become welded to corroding nail shaft or similar object (26g).

### *Quernstones*

Four pieces from quernstones (SF6-8 & 12) were recovered from four contexts and are listed below. All are pieces from lava quernstones which would have been imported from a source in the Rhineland (CAR 5, 38). Lava quernstones were first imported in the Roman period and the trade continued in the mid-late Saxon and medieval period, (CAR 2,75). Given almost complete absence of any significant finds of Roman or Saxon date, these pieces of quern can be confidently dated to the medieval period.

Querns other than of lava are exceptionally rare in Essex in the medieval period (Major 2004, 396). They are also generally much rarer than those of Roman date. This is probably because of the much greater use of wind- and water-powered mills and also common prohibitions on domestic milling for flour. Milling for flour was frequently under the control of the local authority (feudal lords) who owned the local mills (windmills and watermills) and exacted a payment called 'mulcture' for their use (Greenway & Sayers 1998, 53). These rights were jealously guarded. An example of this is recorded for Bury St Edmunds in c 1191 when there was a dispute with the Abbot involving a new windmill (Greenway & Sayers 1998, 53-54). This mill had been built without the knowledge or permission of the Abbot and his fury, once he knew of its existence, caused it to be rapidly demolished by the owner. The issue of potential financial loss from the existing Abbey mills is a central concern in the dispute. Because of this, quernstones from medieval sites frequently represent the

grinding of malt for use in brewing (Major 2004, 396) and it is probable that the quernstones here may have been used for this purpose.

Medieval querns in Essex are mostly poorly dated within the medieval period, but quernstones of this type were probably rare by the later 16th century (Major 2004, 396). Pieces of the querns here are associated in one pit context (F32) with pottery dated as late 12th to 14th century (SF8) and in one layer (L14) with pottery dated as late 12th to 14th century and 13th to 15th or early 16th century (SF6 & SF7). One piece is from a later dated context (L9) associated with medieval (12th to 14th century) pottery and finds of probable post-medieval date (SF12).

SF6. L14(34). Lava quernstone. Piece (234g) with grinding surface which appears to be pecked. Thickness 25mm.

SF7. L14(36). Lava quernstone. Small piece (13g) with flat grinding surface. Thickness 30mm.

SF8. F32(35). Lava quernstone. Small piece (100g) with flat grinding surface. Thickness 28mm.

SF12. L9(19). Lava quernstone. Top stone(?) piece (26g). Flat, slightly roughly grinding surface, smooth, uneven non-grinding surface. Part of round, central pivot hole which expands slightly in diameter toward the top of stone. Thickness 38mm.

#### *Stone mortar*

Part of the lower half of a stone mortar was recovered (SF11). The stone has kindly been examined and described by Keith Oak.

The stone is a very crystalline, slightly sandy limestone with small crushed fossil fragments. An interesting characteristic are the many blackish, curved fragments of fossils (up to 1.5mm). I am not aware of any limestones with this characteristic feature. However, it could be Purbeck burr stone. The grains are about 1.5mm on average. The Munsell colour is very pale orange (10YR 8/2) to greyish orange (10YR 7/4).

In terms of dating, an early example of a mortar from London (in Caen stone) is associated with a context dated to the mid 11th century (Riddler forthcoming) but the majority of stone mortars come from contexts dated to the 12th or 13th centuries and later (Biddle & Smith 1990, 890-91; Dunning 1977, 320;). Finds from Kings Lynn indicate that mortars of Purbeck stone are primarily a product of the 13th to the 14th centuries (Dunning 1977, 324) and at Winchester, Purbeck mortars appear to have become the more dominant type by the later medieval period (Biddle & Smith 1990, 891). Despite a probable relatively short-use life, the close dating of stone mortars is made difficult by their survival as residual finds in later deposits (Biddle & Smith 1990, 891). The mortar here is residual and is not closely dated. It was recovered from the base of a post-medieval wall foundation cut F33(52).

Mortars made of Purbeck stone are especially important on sites located to the west of London while Caen stone is more important at sites in the southeast of England and along the southern coasts, for example at Kings Lynn and at Dover (Riddler, forthcoming). However, individual sites may vary and there are no published mortars from Colchester other than of Purbeck stone (CAR 5, 40).

Illustrated Fig 12, SF11. F33(52). Part of the lower half of a limestone mortar; probably Purbeck burr stone but stone type not certainly identified. About one quarter of the base survives along with part of the lower wall which remains to a maximum height of about 95mm. There are no indications of any handles or ribs on the surviving piece. Moulded base with steep, slightly curving, rounded wall. Smooth surface finish on the moulding, wall smooth but slightly rough finish and pitted especially toward surviving top. Base very smooth but with spaced, pecked tooling marks. Interior fairly smooth, but worn and slightly pitted. The top of the broken wall edge appears to have been smoothed over. Weight approximately 3300g. The curve of the edge of the base indicates it was originally about 260mm in diameter. (Dated medieval).

### *Glass*

Two small pieces of dark, olive-brown window glass (4g) were recorded as small finds (SF4). These come from the surface L8(40) almost all of the closely dated finds from which are of post-medieval date.

SF4. L8(40). Two pieces of window glass (4g). Dark olive/brown in colour.

### *Ivory*

A section from a ring made from a cream coloured ivory was recovered from the surface L8(17). Other finds from this context are of 18th- or 19th to 20th-century date, with residual finds of post-medieval date.

SF13. L8(17). Part of a ring (approximately 30% of circumference), diameter approximately 50mm (internal diameter approximately 40 mm). The body of the ring is round in section, approximately 5mm diameter, with a smooth 'polished' surface. The grain of the ivory can be seen running across the curvature of the ring. Weight 1.4g

## **6.10 Shell**

Three oyster shells (74g) were recovered from the pit F29(26) associated with finds of post-medieval/modern date.

## **6.11 Animal bone**

by Adam Wightman

Only a small quantity of animal bone was recovered. In total there are forty-five pieces with a combined weight of 782g. The bone is listed by context in the finds appendix. Most of the closely identified bone is cattle, with some sheep and one bird bone that is probably chicken. Evidence of butchery marks is common. A mixture of quality of preservation levels seen among the bone may be related to how long the bone was sub-aerially exposed.

## **7 Discussion** (Figures 4-8)

### **7.1 Period 1: medieval**

Three distinct phases of medieval activity on the site were identified during the excavation. Period 1a is associated with the soily accumulation L9 and must date to the early medieval period. The scarcity of finds from this layer suggests the area was open ground in the early medieval period, probably fields on the outskirts of the settlement which was grouped around the 11th-century St Mary's Church and the 13th-century manor-house, Tollesbury Hall.

Period 1b represents the expansion of the settlement, with greater activity taking place on the site. During this period, L9 was cut by ditches and pits, and in particular by the oyster shell-filled L14, which must represent the start of human occupation near to the site. It is possible the two ditches (F21/F31 & F23/F35) represent early plot boundaries.

The third phase of activity, Period 1c, was the actual occupation of the site. The clay floor L7 indicates there was a building on the site by the late 14th century. As no foundations were observed, it is logical to assume this would have been a timber-framed structure with the beams of the ground-plate sitting directly on the ground. There is possible evidence for this on the east side of the site, where F26 may be the remains of a ground-plate demarcating the eastern edge of the building. The flat peg-tiles seen in the foundation trench were probably an attempt at damp coursing. Due to the lack of structural elements, it is not clear what plan-form this building took. It may have been a medieval hall-house aligned parallel to the street, similar to Roebuck House and nos 4-6 High Street (Fig 6). If this is the case, then there is a good chance that the area of burning, L11, represents the hearth of this building and that the extent of the building was further west than the current property boundary. If

the patch of dirty sandy gravel north of L7 does indeed mark the north edge of the structure, then there is a strong likelihood that there was a cross-wing at the east end, represented by the disturbed clay floor L10 (Fig 4).

## 7.2 Period 2: post-medieval

At some point during the 17th or 18th centuries the medieval building was demolished and the plot divided. Two timber-framed houses were built on the site, each at a slightly different alignment to the earlier structure, with brick back-to-back hearths (Fig 5). The dating of these hearths gives an earlier construction date for the west house. The gravel and peg-tile surface was probably laid down at this time. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1874-5 and 1897 (Fig 7) clearly show both of these post-medieval buildings. The east building is shown as a long, thin structure aligned north-south, with a projection to the east, whilst the west building is shown with a wider frontage but not extending as far north. Figure 8 shows an artist's impression of what the interior of these buildings would have looked like.

The development of Tollesbury can be mapped using the surviving timber-framed buildings. As the distance increases from the focus of the settlement (immediately to the north-west of St Mary's Church and Tollesbury Hall), the age of the surviving timber-framed buildings generally decreases (Fig 6). This indicates that, in Tollesbury, timber-framed buildings replaced earlier timber-framed buildings right up until the early 19th century. Proximity to the church and manor-house probably reflected the wealth and status of the owner. Consequently these buildings were probably better constructed and maintained than those further out which, over time, needed to be replaced.

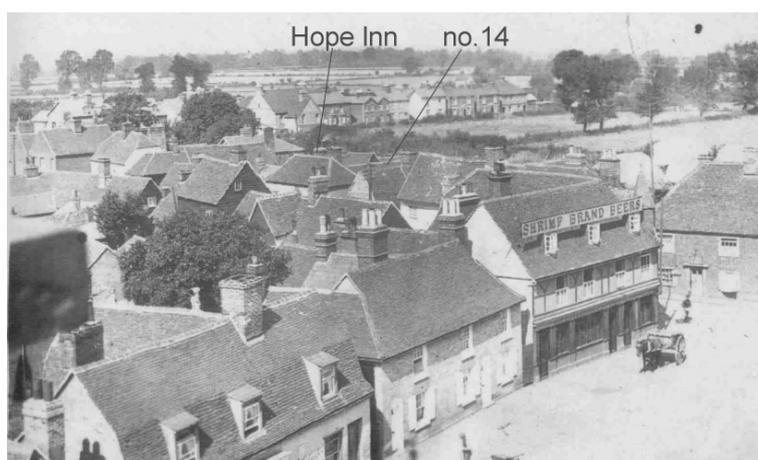
The Ordnance Survey maps of 1874-5 and 1897 also show there was an additional building located between the Hope Inn and the post-medieval structures identified in the excavation. Plate 1 shows the two-storey Hope Inn with a single-storey extension to its east and the additional building in the foreground on the left of the photograph. The additional building is shown to be a free-standing single-storey structure divided into two cottages and appears to be of timber-framed construction with a peg-tile roof. It is separated from the Hope Inn and the other buildings shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1874-5 and 1897 by narrow alleys on either side. These are closed off by a picket fence and gate. The gravel and peg-tile surface corresponds to the west alley exactly.



**Plate 1** Tollesbury High Street before 1910 (Lovell 1989b)

Plate 2 is a bird's eye view of Tollesbury taken from the tower of St Mary's Church showing the rooftops along either side of the High Street. The easily identifiable gambrel roof of no. 14 High Street is in the centre of the photograph with the hipped roof of the earlier Hope Inn to its left. The extension to the Hope Inn is obscured by the buildings on the south side of the High Street, as is most of the freestanding single-storey building. To the left of this the rooftops of the post-medieval buildings found during excavation can be seen. As the map evidence suggests, the building to

the east is quite narrow but extends north from the street for a long way. The photograph clearly shows that the peg-tile roof is in two sections. The part of the building closest to the street has a hipped roof with a lower ridgeline than the rest of the building and a chimney stack, which would appear to be in the right position to be F13. The rest of the building (two thirds of the overall length) appears to be an earlier structure with a gable roof and a single chimney stack at the north end. The other building identified in the excavation is aligned to the street and has a half-hipped mansard roof covered in peg-tile, with an internal chimney stack. The extension to the north-south building appears to have been built up against the west structure. This would suggest the west building pre-dates the one to the east (or at least pre-dates the extension), a theory supported by the brick dates from the hearths.



**Plate 2** Bird's eye view of Tollesbury High Street (Lovell 1989a)

### 7.3 Period 3: modern

Period 3 encompasses the pits cutting the gravel and peg-tile surface and the demolition of the post-medieval buildings. This was probably all 20th-century activity. The structure immediately west of the Hope Inn was probably demolished along with the pub in 1923. A photograph of the new Hope Inn, taken in 1925, shows the plot to be vacant (CAT Report 592, 3). The post-medieval structures identified in the excavation are shown on the 1960 1:10,560 OS map but are absent from the 1974 1:2500 OS edition. They were probably demolished during the late 1960's or early 1970's to provide greater car parking for the public house and surrounding businesses.

The conclusion that can be drawn from the excavation of the car park at the Hope Inn is one of continuous domestic occupation from the 14th century onwards. The finds from the excavation support this: domestic pottery and food production waste in small quantities recovered from the buildings as opposed to the greater quantity of finds one would expect if the gardens of the properties were excavated.

## 8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Plater Claiborne Architecture and Design for commissioning the excavation.

The fieldwork was conducted by Adam Wightman and Chris Lister. The project was monitored by Maria Medlycott on behalf of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

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## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBA	Council for British Archaeology
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
HEM	Historic Environment Management Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museum under accession code 2011.35.

## 12 Contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of the excavation brief issued by ECC HEM team
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment

### 2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photographic record
- 2.2 Digital photographic contact sheet
- 2.3 Site photographic record on CD
- 2.4 Context sheets (F1-40; L1-14)
- 2.5 Finds register

### 3 Research archive

- 3.1 Copy of the site report (CAT Report 636)
- 3.2 Finds reports and data
- 3.3 Sundry plans and papers

### Not in file

The finds occupy 1 box  
6 x A3 SX drawing sheets  
2 x A1 manual planning sheets

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## Appendix 1

### Hope Inn, 16 High Street, Tollesbury - excavation

#### Context list

Ctxt	Description	Date
F7	small shallow pit	medieval
F8	small pit	modern
F9	small pit (not excavated)	modern
F10	small, straight-sided pit	modern
F11	medium sized pit (not excavated)	modern
F12	brick wall (unfrogged bricks)	post-medieval 18th-19thC
F13	back-to-back brick hearth	post-medieval 18th-19thC
F14	brick wall (unfrogged bricks)	Late medieval/early post-medieval
F15	large shallow pit filled with modern demolition material	modern
F16	Back-to-back brick hearth (unfrogged bricks) with foundation of stone and septaria blocks and a large piece of stone mortar	post-medieval 17th-18thC
F17	large shallow pit filled with modern demolition material, very similar to F15	modern
F18	brick foundation (unfrogged bricks) with large number of vitrified bricks, not burnt in situ	post-medieval 17th-18thC
F19	very shallow depression in clay floor L7, filled with ashy clay	post-medieval
F20	large pit	medieval 13th- 15thC
F21	ditch N-S aligned probably equals F31 – boundary ditch?	medieval
F22	pit	medieval
F23	ditch N-S aligned probably equals F35 – boundary ditch?	medieval 13th- early 16thC
F24	small shallow pit, one of a pair with a dark charcoal-rich fill	modern
F25	post-hole, quite deep – possibly an old fence post from an earlier phase of the modern boundary	post-medieval
F26	N-S aligned linear of peg-tile laid flat, seen in the footings trench and corresponding to a shallow depression bordering the clay floor L7. Cuts top of F23	medieval 13th- early 16thC
F27	small pit filled with white mortar cutting top of F22	modern
F28	small pit with indeterminable relationship with F22	medieval
F29	small pit	post-medieval
F30	pit	medieval?
F31	ditch N-S aligned probably equals F21 – boundary ditch? Cutting F30	medieval
F32	large pit with sloping sides, deeper than dig depth so not fully excavated	medieval 12th- 14thC
F33	pit (or overly large cut for wall F16), has large stones and septaria blocks and a large fragment of medieval mortar acting as foundation for unfrogged brick wall F16	post-medieval 17th-18thC
F34	post-hole cutting into natural L4	post-medieval
F35	ditch N-S aligned probably equals F23 – boundary ditch? Cut by L14	medieval
F36	pit, may be associated with F8 and F10, cuts surface L8	modern
F37	small, shallow post-hole observed during reduction of L9	post-medieval
F38	small pit, one of a pair with a dark charcoal-rich fill	modern
F39	large pit with modern CBM and concrete in fill	modern
F40	Large pit cutting L8	modern

L1	thick layer of tarmac, hoggin and crush that formed the car park surface	modern
L4	natural sand	natural
L7	yellowy orange clay floor disturbed by later features, covers most of site	medieval 12th-14thC
L8	hard compacted surface of peg-tile and stones	post-medieval 17th-18thC
L9	mid-brown silty sand, garden soil? beneath clay floor L7	medieval late 12th-14thC
L10	mottled yellowy brown disturbed clay floor cut by brick walls F12-14	medieval 12th-14thC
L11	Area of burnt clay within L7 with high amounts of charcoal	medieval
L12	layer of charcoal and ash covering L13/F6 in SE corner of site	modern
L13	compacted layer of white mortar sealing L8, equals F6	post-medieval
L14	thick deposit of mid-brown silty clay with abundant oyster shell and charcoal flecking –midden?	medieval late 12th-14thC

## Appendix 2

### Bulk finds catalogue

CBM: RBT-Rom brick & tile, PT-peg-tile (dated 13/14C+), PAN=pantile (dated L17C+), B-other brick, UT=unidentified tile, UN=unidentified CBM. CBM fabric: r=red. AB=Animal bone

ctxt	finds no.	ctxt type	material	type/form	description	fabric/ colour	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	period	spot date
F8	48	pit	pot	bowl	rim, cream slip with brown mottle over	51A		1	34	mod	19-20C
F8	48	pit	pot	cup/bowl	porcelain, blue painted pattern, prob. tea bowl, no glaze on footring, no identification marks	48A		1	17	mod	18C
F8	48	pit	pot	bowl	pale blue with darker blue decoration,	46		1	3	p-med-mod	L16/17-18C
F8	48	pit	pot			48D		2	17	mod	18/19-20C
F8	48	pit	pot	plate	rim	40A		1	92	p-med	17C
F8	48	pit	pot	bowl	rim, handle	40		22	525	p-med/mod	16/17-18C
F8	48	pit	glass		dark green, wall from straight sided? wine bottle 18C+			2	9	p-med/mod	p-med/mod 18C+(?)
F8	48	pit	CP		stem			1	10	p-med-mod	p-med-mod
F8	48	pit	CBM	B	frag	r		1	64	p-med/mod	p-med/mod
F8	48	pit	AB	cattle	cattle- vertebrae (juvenile), humerus with cut marks			2	39		
F12	45	wall (p-m)	CBM	B	complete, orange sandy, 230 x 110 x 55, white lime mortar on one face, grey on face at one end	r		1	2600	med-p-med	15-17C
F12	45	wall (p-m)	CBM	B	complete, orange sandy, 220 x 110 x 60, white lime mortar on base, side & top face, 18-19C red	r		1	3000	mod	18-19C
F13	53	brick back to hearth	CBM	B	complete, red, sandy, 225 x 110 x 65, small, shallow frog(?), white lime mortar on upper surface	r		1	3000	p-med/mod	18(?) -19C
F14	50	wall (p-m)	CBM	B	brownish red, sandy, 120 x 50 mm, one end of brick, corner sides blackened	r		1	1304	L-med-p-med/mod	L-med-p-med/mod

ctxt	finds no.	ctxt type	material	type/form	description	fabric/colour	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	period	spot date
F16	49	wall foundation	CBM	B	brownish red, sandy, 110 x 50, sooted along one stretcher face, poss. fire place/chimney brick	r		1	1322	p-med/mod	L17-18C(?)
F16	49	wall foundation	CBM	B	sandy orange, 110 x 50 mm			1	812	p-med/mod	L17-18C(?)
F18	56	brick foundation	CBM	B	broken in two joining pieces, brownish red, sandy, grey glaze, 110 x 45	r		1	839	p-med/mod	L17-18C(?)
F18	56	brick foundation	CBM	B	orange, sandy, 110 x 45/50	r		1	784	p-med/mod	L17-18C(?)
F18	56	brick foundation	CBM	B	red, sandy, 110 x 50/55	r		1	791	p-med/mod	L17-18C(?)
F20	22	pit	CBM	B	brownish red, sandy, width 110 mm, patchy grey on surface, prob. p-med/mod	r		2	517	L-med-p-med/mod	L-med-p-med/mod
F20	22	pit	stone	septaria	naturally rounded septaria stone, upper surface smooth in placed, worn?, poss used as a cobble?			1	1279		
F20	22	pit	pot			20		3	14	med	L12-14C
F20	22	pit	pot		sandy red fabric with grey core, yellow & green glaze, probably Colchester product	21A		1	3	med	13-15/E16C
F20	47	pit	pot		body sherd, quartz/flint-temper, poss. prehistoric	HMS/F		2	4	preh	IA(?)
F23	16	pit or ditch	pot		white painted design, brown glaze	21A		1	18	med	13-15/E16C
F23	16	pit or ditch	AB	cattle	cattle- probably all fragments from a radius, poorly preserved- soft and powdery.			7	45		
F24	19	pit	pot		misc	48D		5	13	mod	19-20C

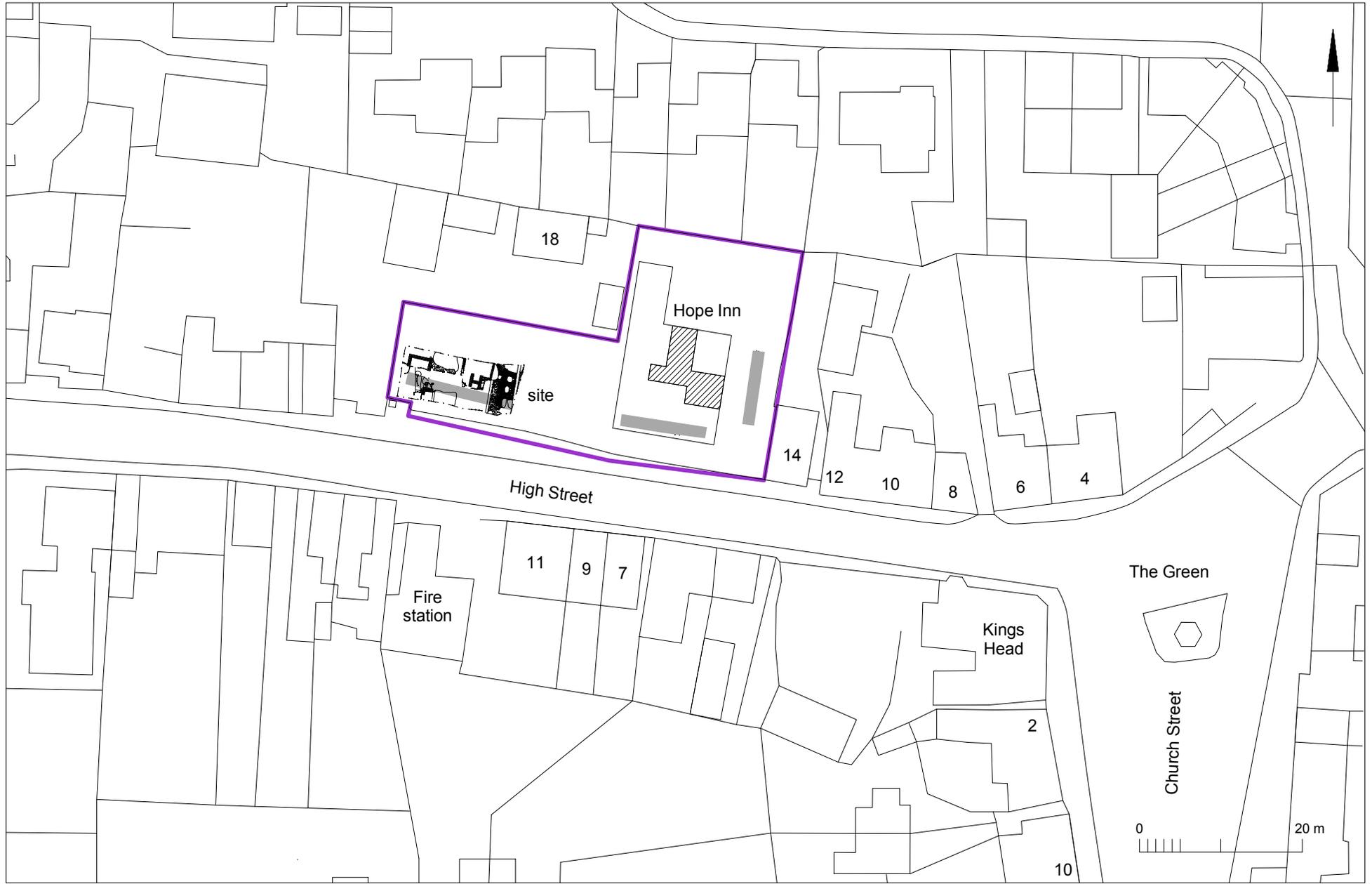
ctxt	finds no.	ctxt type	material	type/form	description	fabric/colour	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	period	spot date
F24	19	pit	pot			40		1	6	p-med/mod	16/17-18C
F24	19	pit	glass	melted piece	melted pale green glass, broken, white (slaggy?) surface			1	20		
F25	20	p-hole	pot		glazed	40		1	4	p-med/mod	16/17-18C
F26	24	dump/m-up?	pot			45M		1	37	mod	19-20C
F26	24	dump/m-up?	pot		cream glaze over white slip, red sandy fabric	21A		1	3	med(?)	13-15/E16C(?)
F26	25	dump/m-up?	CBM	PT		r	8-13	14	1325	med-p-med/mod	med-p-med/mod
F29	26	pit	CP		stems			2	5	p-med/mod	p-med/mod
F29	26		CBM	PT		r		3	45	med-p-med/mod	med-p-med/mod
F29	26		shell	oyster	complete shells			3	74		
F31	41	ditch	pot		body sherd, quartz & flint-temper, poss. prehistoric or earlier med(?)	HMS/F		1	3	preh(?)	IA(?)
F32	33	pit?	pot			20		1	4	med	L12-14C
F32	33	pit?	AB	cattle	cattle- mandible frags x2, molar (maxilla) cortical surface eroded, probable cut marks, adult			4	281		
F32	45		pot		abraded small body sherd, grey fabric, fine sand-temper, poss. prehistoric or med(?)			1	1	preh(?)	IA(?)
F33	51	wall foundation cut	stone	sandstone/quartzite	cobble, appears poss. to have been exposed to heat on one face/edge			1	2327		
F34	42	pit	pot		thick sherd with burnt residue inside	HMS		1	9	preh(?)	IA(?)
L7	12	clay floor	CBM	PT		r		1	32	med-p-med/mod	med-p-med/mod
L7	12	clay floor	pot		base, other sherds, external sooted, used	20		4	30	med	L12-14C
L7	13	clay floor	pot		traces of glazed, decorated surface	22		3	3	med	13-14C

ctxt	finds no.	ctxt type	material	type/form	description	fabric/colour	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	period	spot date
L7	15	clay floor	pot		external smoothed/burnished area	20		1	25	med	L12-14C
L8	17	yard surface	CP		bowl (broken) & stems (Car 5 Types 9-10)			3	17	mod	E-M 18C
L8	17	yard surface	pot		large thick vessel	40		6	94	p-med/mod	16/17-18C
L8	17	yard surface	pot		large open form	40		4	224	p-med/mod	16/17-18C
L8	17	yard surface	pot	bowl	bowl	48D		1	7	mod	18/19-20C
L8	17	yard surface	pot			45M		1	19	mod	19-20C
L8	17	yard surface	pot		Transitional(?) not glazed	21(T)		1	6	med/p-med(?)	15-16(?)
L8	17	yard surface	AB	cattle & sheep	cattle- teeth x6, mandible frags x3, tibia frag (heavily butchered); sheep-humerus distal end; lrg mammal axial frags x2			1	1		
L8	37	yard surface	CP		stems			9	24	p-med-mod	p-med-mod
L8	38	yard surface	CP		stems			5	14	p-med-mod	p-med-mod
L8	44	yard surface	pot	bowl	SV, joining sherds, bowl, straight sides with groove below rim (CAR 7 fig 137, 61), glaze worn in base, from use?	40		6	256	p-med/mod	16/17-18C
L8 lower	38	yard surface	pot		Transitional(?) not glazed	21(T)		2	20	med/p-med(?)	15-16(?)
L8 lower	38	yard surface	pot		jug/bowl rim & handle, Transitional(?) not glazed	21(T)		1	80	med/p-med(?)	15-16(?)
L8 lower	38	yard surface	pot			40		4	41	p-med/mod	16/17-18C
L8	38	yard	pot		brown with yellow & green slip/glaze	46		4	11	p-med/mod	L16/17-18C

ctxt	finds no.	ctxt type	material	type/form	description	fabric/colour	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	period	spot date
lower		surface									
L lower	38	yard surface	CBM	PT		r	11-13	10	444	med-p-med/mod	med-p-med/mod
L8 lower	38	yard surface	CBM	B	red, sandy 110 x 50 mm, not frogged	r	50	1	450	mod	17-18C
L8 lower	38	yard surface	CBM	UN	frag. red, sandy	r		1	11	p-med/mod	p-med/mod
L8 upper	37	yard surface	AB					16	263		
L8 upper	37	yard surface	pot		brown with yellow & green slip/glaze	46		2	7	p-med/mod	L16/17-18C
L8 upper	37	yard surface	pot			40		4	10	p-med/mod	16/17-18C
L8 upper	37	yard surface	pot			45D		1	2	p-med/mod	L15/16-17C
L8 upper	37	yard surface	CBM	PT	3 with rectangular peg holes, one with sunken margin, one with white mortar on base edge	r	9-14	20	1579	med-p-med/mod	med-p-med/mod
L8 upper	37	yard surface	CBM	UT	unident, fine sand orange fabric, slightly curved, 14 mm thick, smooth not sanded on base, possibly pan-tile (PAN)	or	14	1	61	p-med/mod(?)	L17C+(?)
L8/9	39	yard surface	CBM	PT	p-hole edge; thick 15 mm, one other grey	r g		1	83	med-p-med/mod	med-p-med/mod
L8/9	39	yard surface	CBM	B	frag. grey glaze	r		1	25	med-p-med/mod	15-17/18C
L8/9	39	yard surface	pot		handle	21		2	53	med	13-15C
L9	11	accum.	pot	jug(?)	large handle with slash decoration, prob from a jug	20		1	108	med	L12-14C
L9	11	accum.	pot		broken single body sherd	20		1	25	med	L12-14C
L9	11	accum.	CBM	B	broken, 2 joining pieces, near complete brick, 240 x 110 x 45, note	r		1	1858	p-med	15-E17C

ctxt	finds no.	ctxt type	material	type/form	description	fabric/colour	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	period	spot date
					thin brick at 45 mm, orange-red with grey surfaces, Tudor place brick(?), small square impression in one face						
L9	19	accum.	FC		slab piece approx 25 mm thick, orange sandy fabric, which can be which flakes under fingernail pressure, much of surface inc. areas across breaks stained black	or	25	1	86		
L9	23	accum.	pot	bowl	rim, abraded, quartz temper very visible, poss angled slash dec across top of external thickened flat rim, preh?	HMS/F		1	13	preh	IA
L9	23	accum.	pot		body sherd, quartz & flint-temper, poss. prehistoric	HMS/F		1	3	preh	IA(?)
L9 upper	28	accum.	pot	cooking pot	Cooking pot rim and 2 other sherds	20		2	18	med	L12-14C
L12	14	demo.	pot	bowl	expanded flat rim bowl	20		1	14	med	L12-14C
L14	31	dump/accum.	pot		body sherds	20		8	76	med	L12-14C
L14	31	dump/accum.	AB	cattle	cattle-1st phalanx, 3rd phalanx, molars x3; med/lrg mammal- axial frags x2.			7	118		
L14	43	dump/accum.	pot		rim edge	20		1	2	med	L12-14C
L14	43	dump/accum.	pot		red, sandy fabric with broad grey core, patchy green glaze over white slip, prob. Colchester	21A		3	28	med	13-15/E16C
L14 lower	32	dump/accum.	pot	baluster type jug	sherds prob. from a baluster type jug inc. thumbed base and other body sherds, earlier fabric(?) (CAR 7 108)	21A		9	107	med	13-14C(?)
L14 lower	32	dump/accum.	pot	cooking pot	Cooking pot rim and 4 other sherds one with thumb strip, one with surface smoothing	20		5	72	med	L12-14C

ctxt	finds no.	ctxt type	material	type/form	description	fabric/ colour	thick (mm)	no.	wt (g)	period	spot date
L14 upper	29	dump/accum.	CP		stem frag. inc. bowl foot			1	8	p-med	18C+
L14 upper	29	dump/accum.	pot		Cooking pot rim, rectangular section plain handle, thumb stripping	20		12	111	med	L12-14C
L14 upper	29	dump/accum.	pot		sandy red fabric with yellow glaze speckled with green, probably Colchester products	21A		2	8	med	13-15/E16C
L14 upper	29	dump/accum.	CBM	RBT(?)	small abraded piece in pale orange fabric, possibly Roman	or		1	13	Rom(?)	Rom(?)
L14 upper	29	dump/accum.	AB	cattle, sheep, bird	cattle- molar, mandible frag; sheep- metapodial; bird bone frag			4	28		
L14 upper	30	dump/accum.	CBM	PT		r		6	242	med-p-med/mod	med-p-med/mod
L14 upper	30	dump/accum.	pot	jug, cooking pot	Cooking pot rim (2 sherds), jug rim with part of round(?) handle, sherd from another handle, numerous body sherds one with external sooting	20		43	337	med	L12-14C
L14 upper	30	dump/accum.	pot		sandy red fabric with pale-deep green glaze, probably Colchester products	21A		3	17	med	13-15/E16C
L14 upper	30	dump/accum.	pot		sandy red fabric with very dark green glaze, probably Colchester products	21A		3	13	med	13-15/E16C
L14 upper	30	dump/accum.	pot		sandy red fabric with brown glaze, poss Colchester products or poss Fabric 40(?)	21A		1	3	med/p-med(?)	13-15/E16C(?)
L14 upper	30	dump/accum.	CBM		piece in brownish fabric with broad grey core, prob CBM			1	110	med-p-med/mod	med-p-med/mod
L14 upper	30	dump/accum.	AB	med/lrg mammal	med/lrg mammal- rib frags x2, axial frags x2.			4	7		



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to evaluation trenches and demolished Hope Inn.

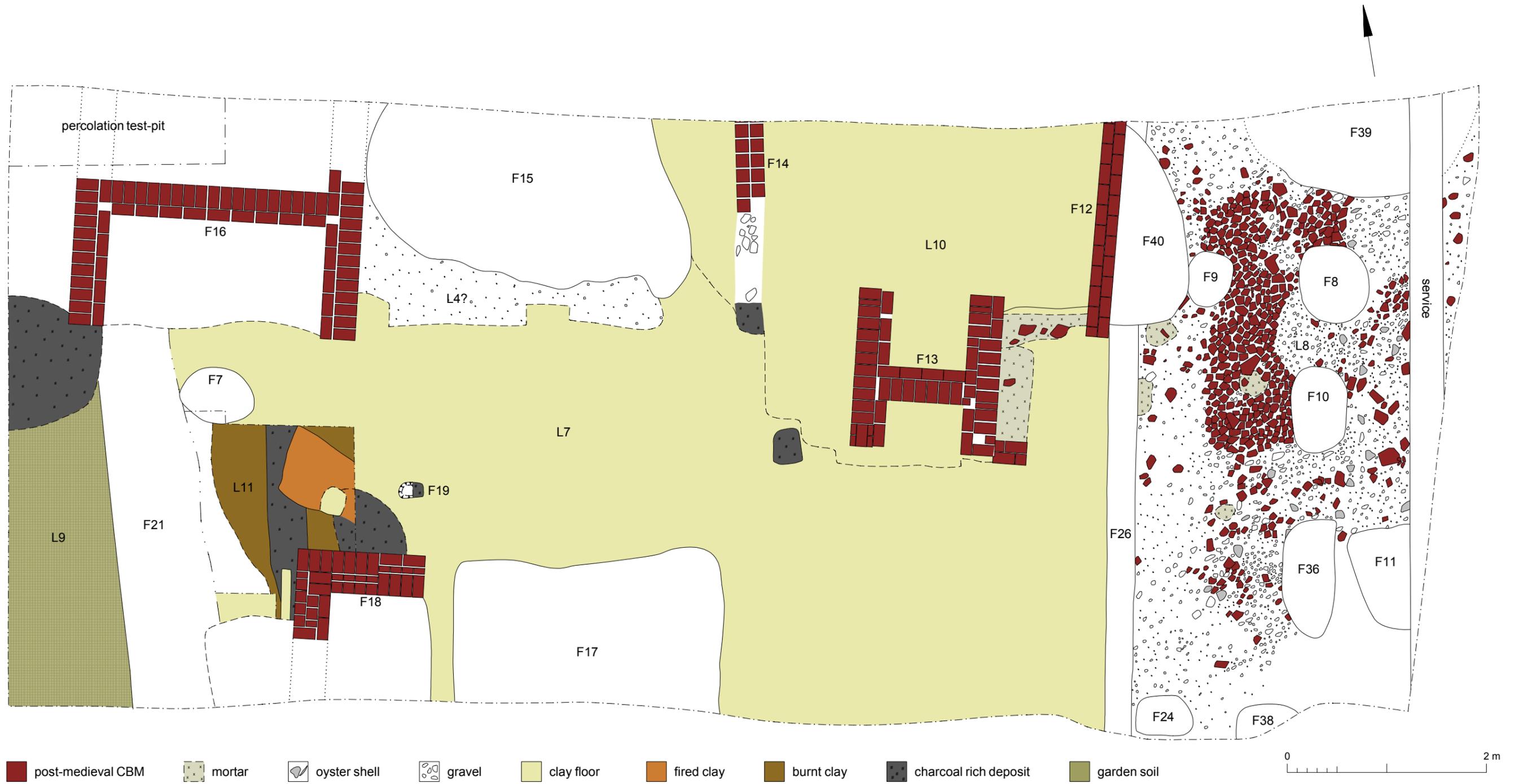


Fig 2 Hope Inn excavation: results from initial strip.

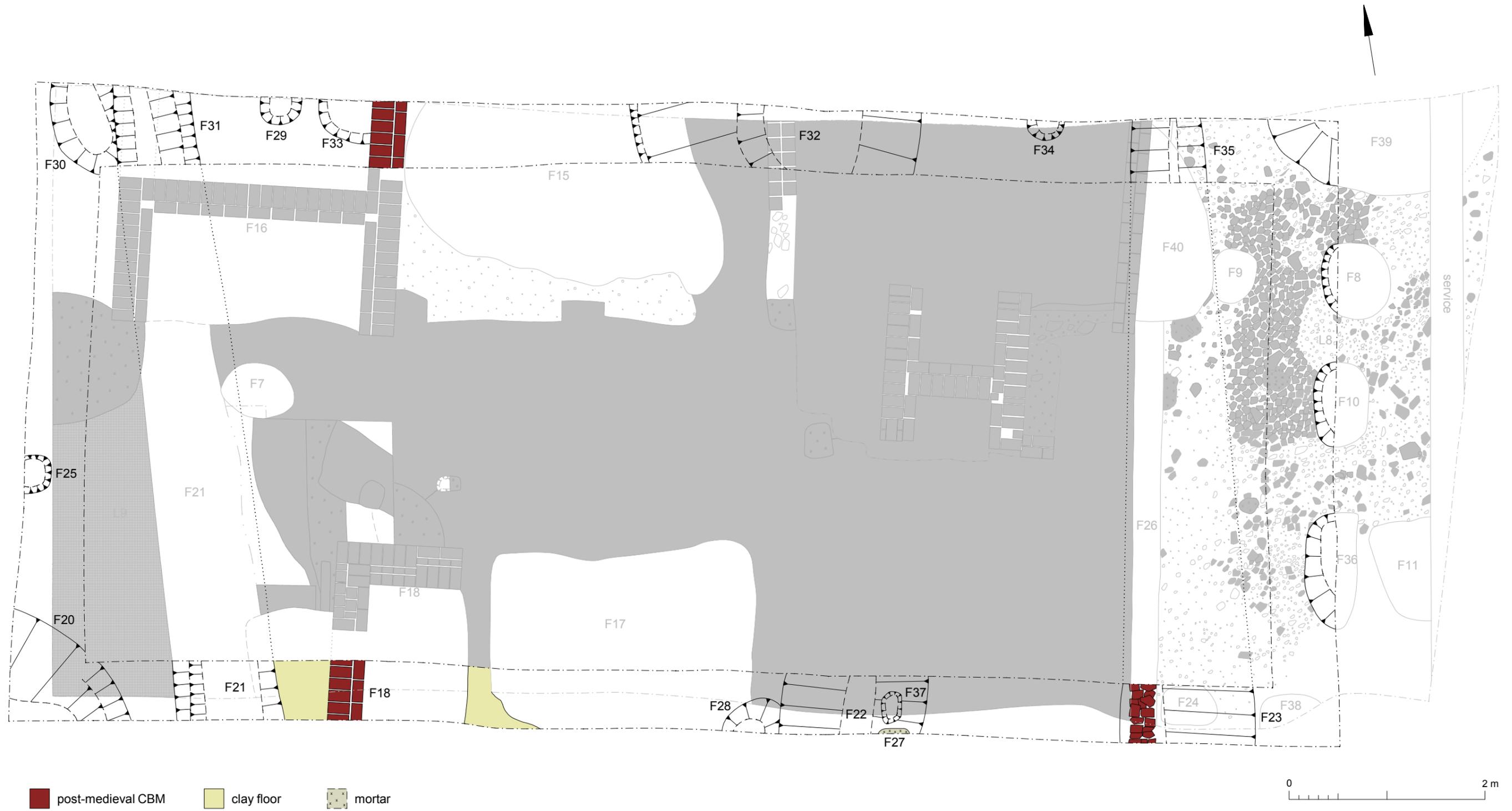


Fig 3 Hope Inn excavation: results from the foundation trench.

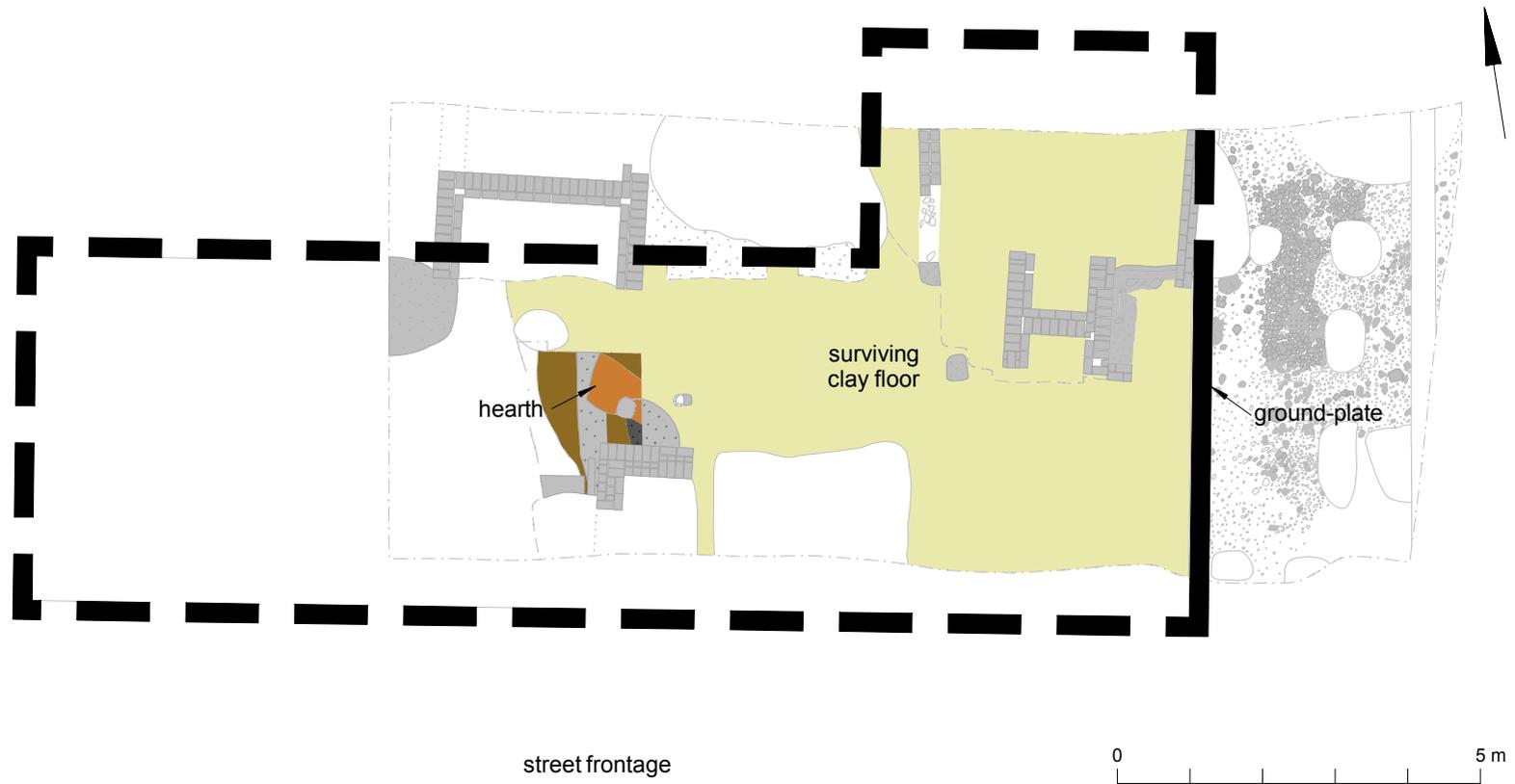


Fig 4 Speculative footprint of medieval building with cross-wing to the east.



Fig 5 Speculative footprint of post-medieval buildings.

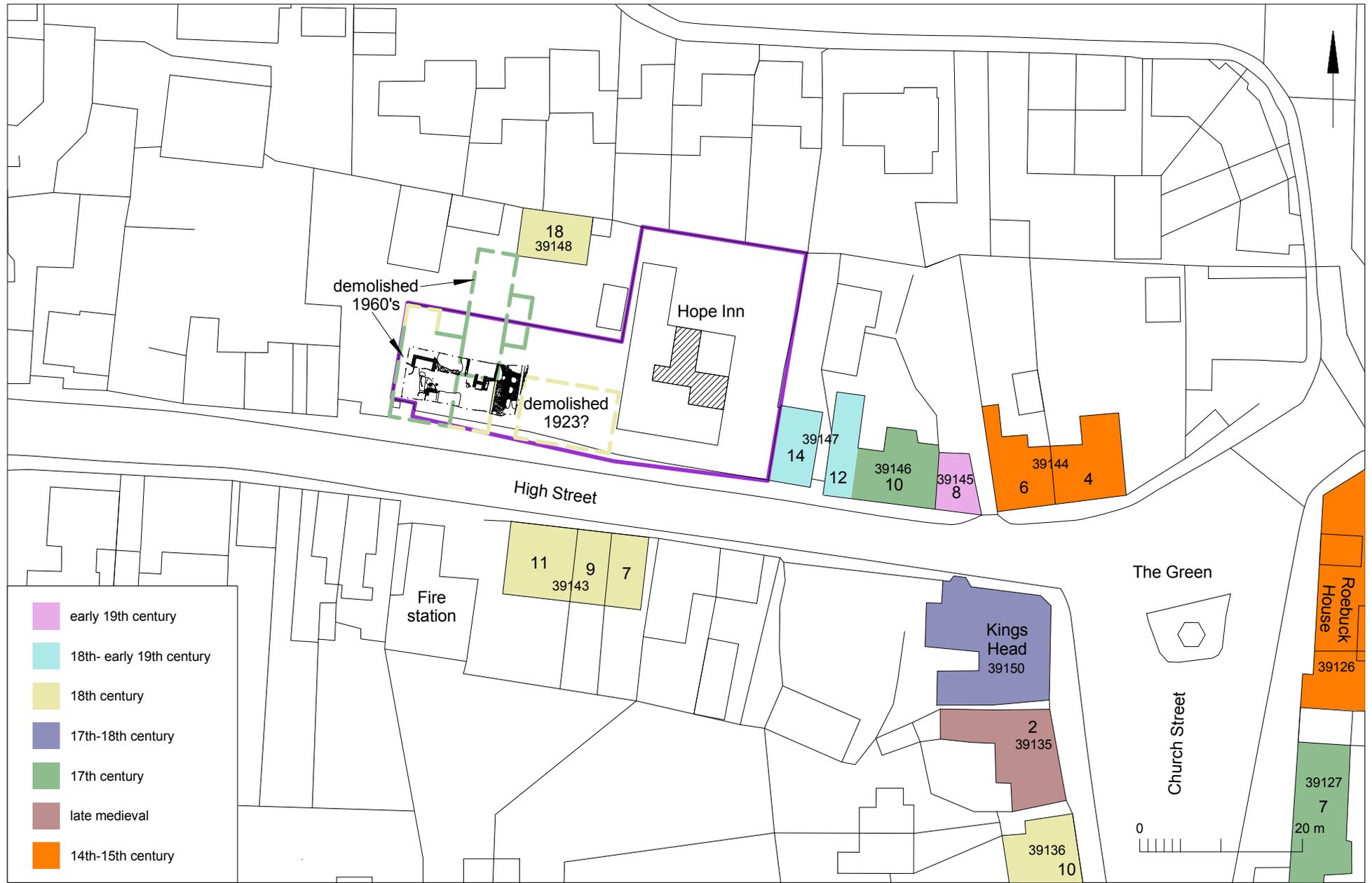
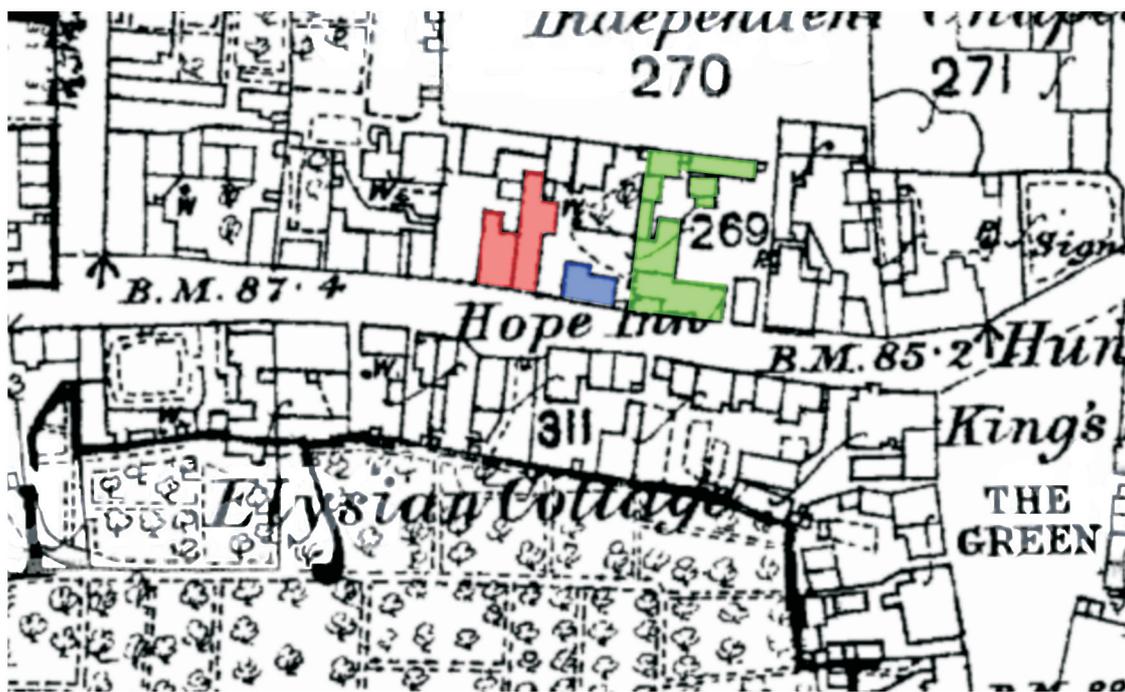
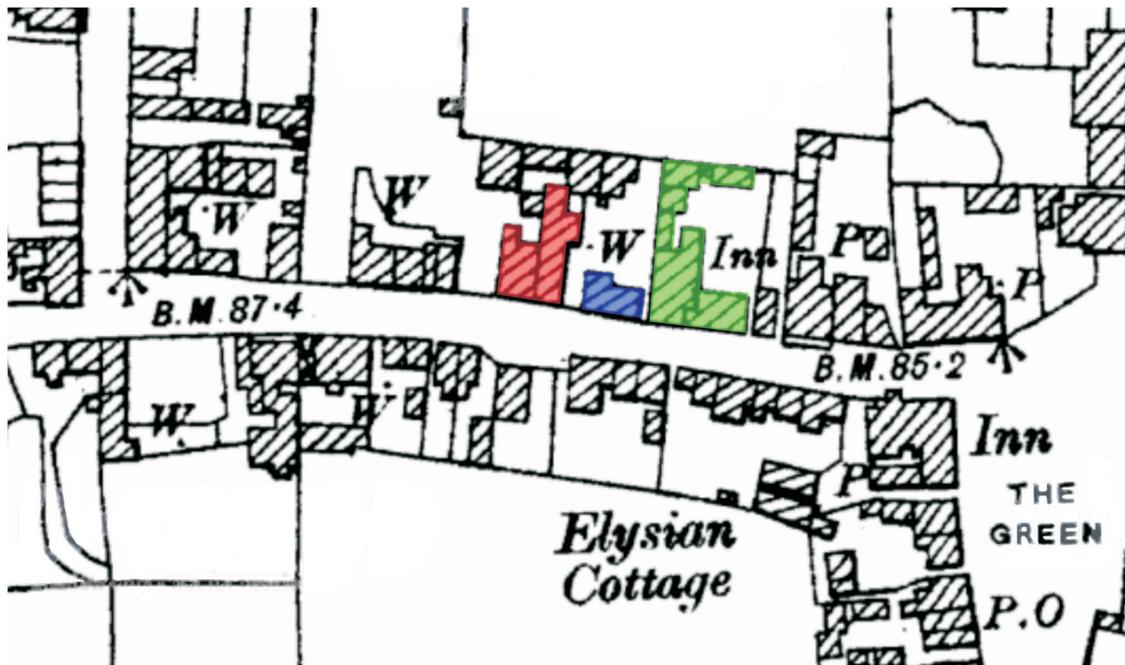


Fig 6 Grade II listed timber-framed buildings and footprints of demolished post-medieval buildings (EHER numbers included on plan).



1874-5 1st edition Ordnance Survey map



1897 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map

Fig 7 Tollesbury High Street showing the post-medieval cottages encountered during the excavation (red), the pre-1923 Hope Inn (green) and the cottages (blue) demolished in 1923 for the re-building of the Hope Inn.

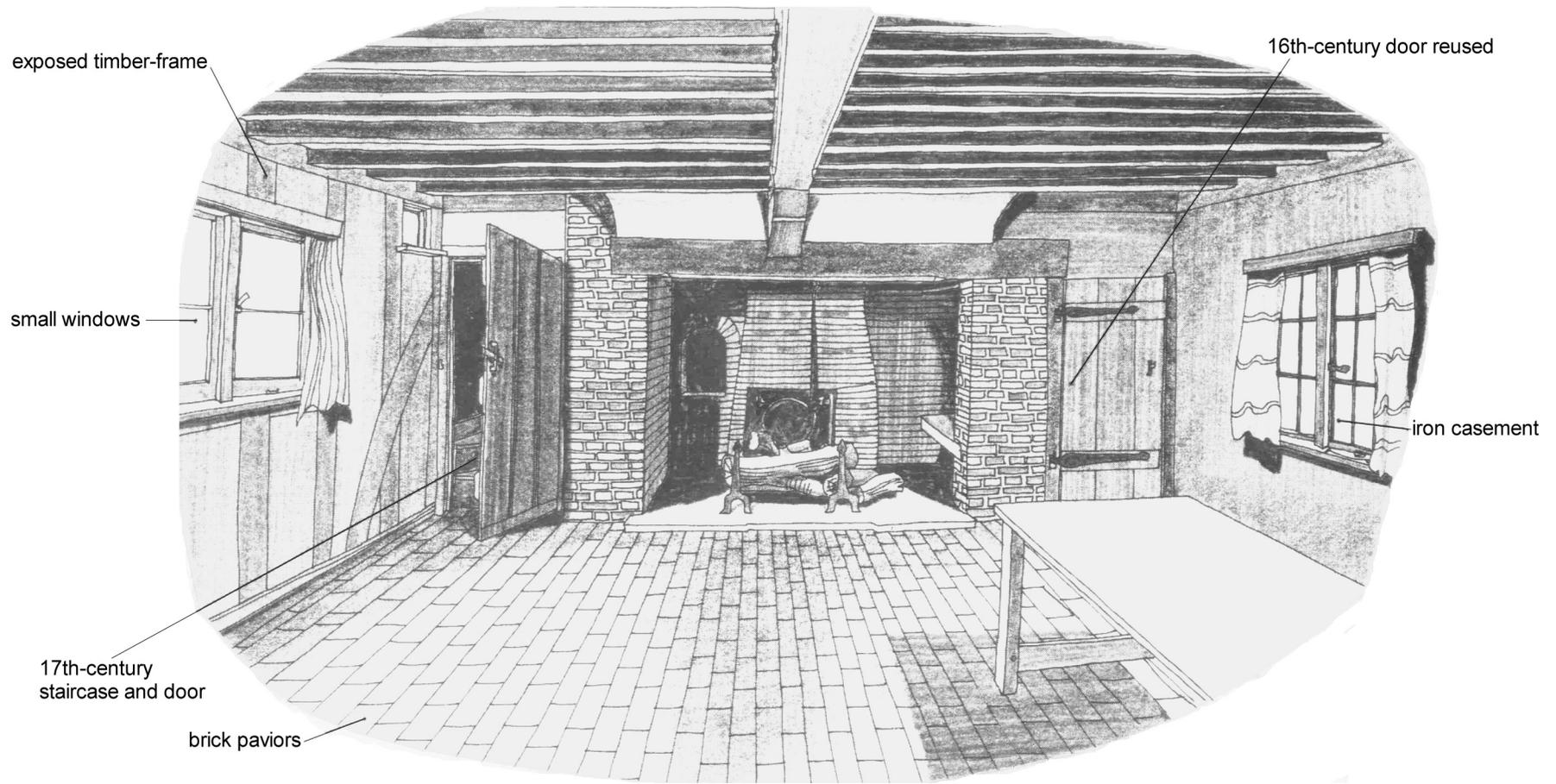
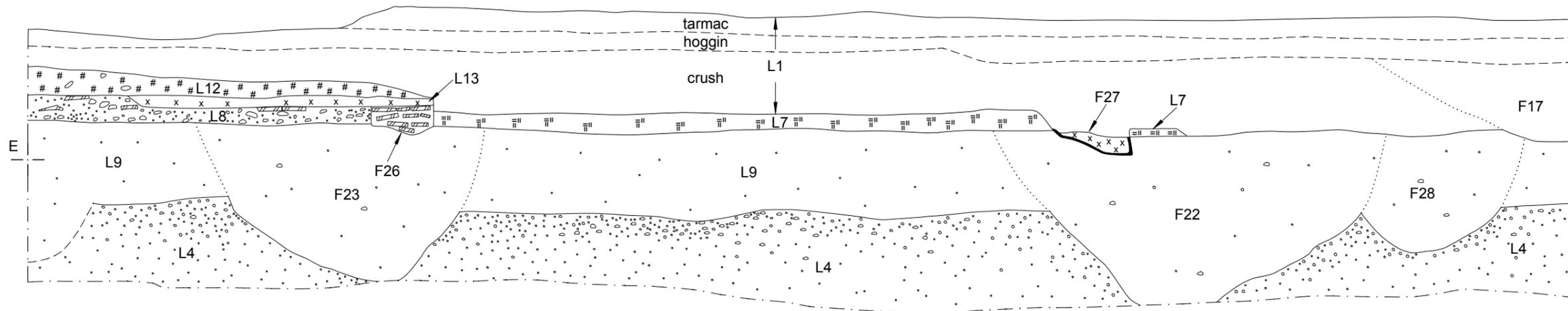


Fig 8 Interior of typical timber-framed house, taken from ECC publication *Conservation in Essex no. 4, Historic Buildings*.



-  post-Roman brick and tile
-  clay
-  gravel
-  mortar
-  charcoal

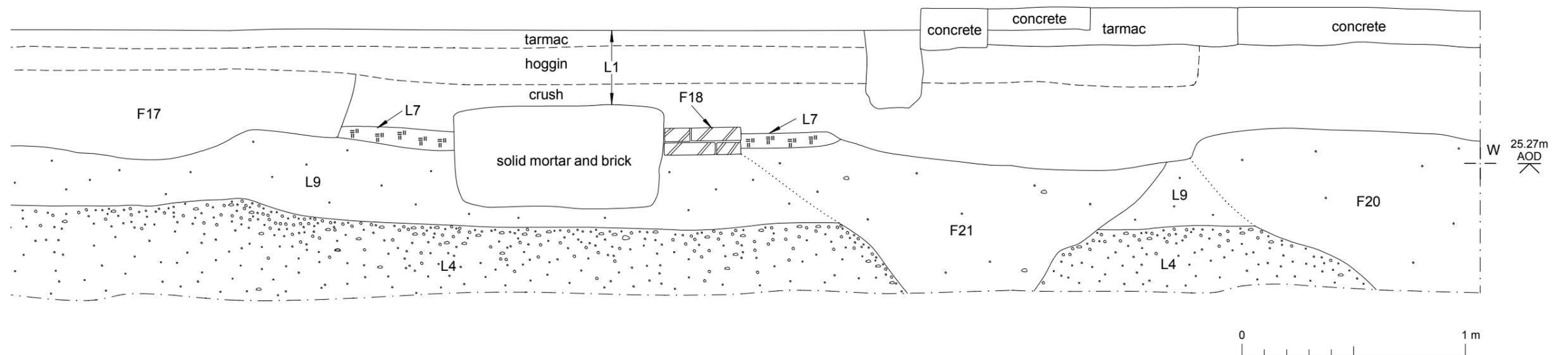


Fig 9 Running section of south foundation trench.

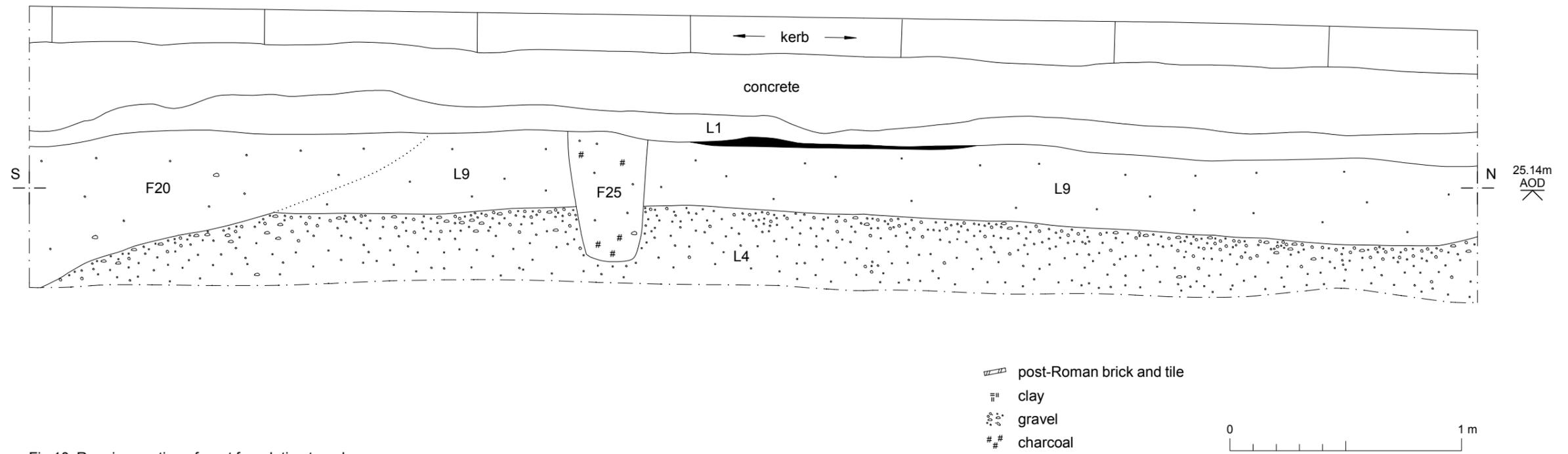
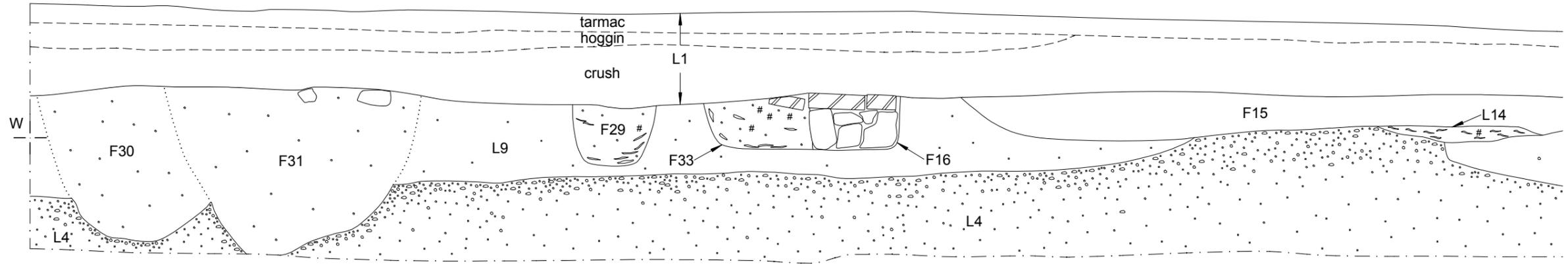


Fig 10 Running section of west foundation trench.



-  post-Roman brick and tile
-  clay
-  gravel
-  mortar
-  charcoal
-  oyster shell

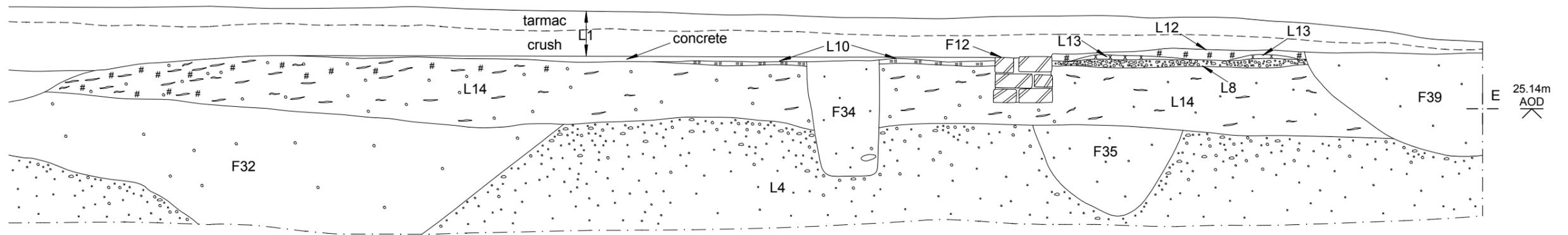
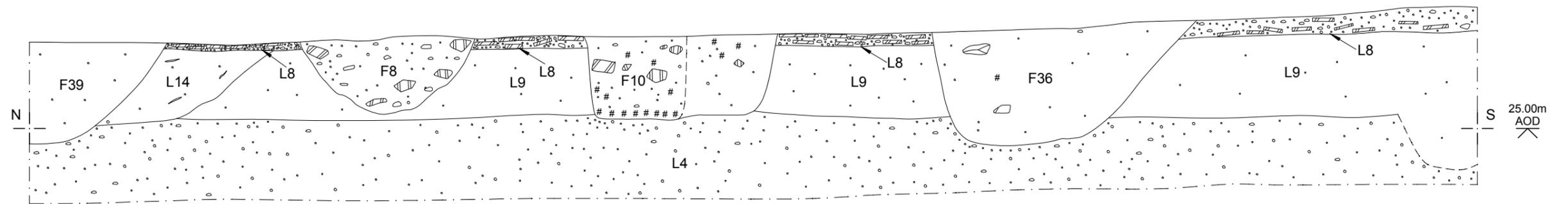


Fig 11 Running section of north foundation trench.



-  post-Roman brick and tile
-  oyster shell
-  gravel
-  charcoal



Fig 12 Running section of east foundation trench.



Fig 13 Medieval limestone mortar fragment.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Hope Inn, 16 High Street, Tollesbury, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Tollesbury	<b>District:</b> Maldon
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9574 1048 (c)	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project – 11/04f Museum accession – COLEM 2011.35
<b>Type of work:</b> Excavation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> October 2011	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.0096 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Client
<b>Monitored by:</b> Maria Medlycott of Essex Historic Environment Team	
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b> 39126-7, 39135-6, 39143-8, 39150
<b>Final report:</b>	CAT Report 636
<b>Periods represented:</b>	12th-20th century
<p><b>Summary:</b></p> <p><i>The Hope Inn is located on the north side of the High Street in the centre of the historic settlement of Tollesbury. Tollesbury is sited on small peninsula, bounded by the River Blackwater on the south and the Old Hall Marshes and Salcott Channel to the north and east. During the medieval period Tollesbury was one of the richest parishes in east Essex, with two manors, (Tollesbury Hall and Bourchiers Hall) and two sub-manors (Medlycott 2004). The principal occupations at this time were agricultural but there were also many oyster fishermen.</i></p> <p><i>This is the report on an excavation in the car park to the west of the Hope Inn, which revealed the remains of medieval and post-medieval buildings. This took the form of compacted clay floors and evidence of a timber-framed building along the High Street frontage. Finds associated with these contexts date the building to the 12th to 14th centuries. This structure was subsequently replaced in the 17th to 18th centuries by two post-medieval buildings, which survived until their demolition in the mid 20th century.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Reports 592 & 614	
<b>Keywords:</b> medieval, clay floor, timber-framed	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Chris Lister	<b>Date of summary:</b> March 2012