

Archaeological monitoring at The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex, CM9 8TP

November 2018-June 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley
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commissioned by David Taylor (AFT Design)

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex during groundworks for an extension to the public house. The works uncovered foundations of 18th- or early 19th-century date, one of which enclosed part of a late 17th- or early 18th-century brick floor. These remains correspond to an annexe attached to the northern part of the public house detailed on 19th-century OS mapping of the area, which was demolished at some point during the mid 20th century.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring at The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex during 27th November 2018 to 20th June 2019. The work was commissioned by David Taylor of AFT Design on behalf of Julian Webb prior to the construction of an extension to the public house, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological monitoring at The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Maria Medlycott (ECCPS 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (ClfA 2014a)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b)*.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The EHER shows that the proposed development site is located within the medieval core of Purleigh, adjacent to All Saints' Church (EHER 7929-30). The Bell itself is a Grade II listed building which comprises a pair of 15th-century timber-framed houses converted to a public house in the post-medieval period (EHER 38563; NHLE no. 1306793). There is a high likelihood that archaeological remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods are present in the area of the proposed extension.

In 2014 an evaluation to the northeast of the development site (in advance of the construction of a new car park and storage for the pub) revealed a post-medieval/modern ditch and two pits of a similar date in Trench 1. A modern service was present in Trench 2 (CAT Report 815).

In 2016 monitoring of a gas pipe on the western and northern edges of the development site did not reveal any significant archaeological remains (CAT Report 1032).

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

During 27th November 2018-16th September 2019, a CAT archaeologist oversaw the following groundworks:

- a) a root investigation trench, 9m long, 0.45m wide and 1-1.2m deep;
- b) the reduction of an area measuring 70m² by 0.65m to accommodate a piling mat for the new extension;
- c) the reduction of an area measuring 374m² by up to 0.25m to accommodate a new car park;
- d) grading and clearance of the bank extending along the western boundary of the site.

Four layers were recorded. The root investigation trench and grading and clearance work penetrated modern topsoil (L1, c 0.27m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown silt) and an accumulation layer (L2, c 0.25-0.27m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay) into natural (L3, firm, moist medium yellow/orange clay, encountered at a depth of 0.52-0.55m below current ground level [bcgl]). The development area was reduced through modern tarmac and its sub-base (L4, c 0.25m thick) into L3.

Wall foundation F1, which was of 18th- or early 19th-century date, was uncovered at the southern end of the root investigation trench. It was built with unfrosted bricks.



Map 1 Foundation F1 – looking northwest

Wall foundation F2, which dated to the 18th or early 19th century, lay within the area reduced to accommodate the piling mat. It consisted of two separate foundations, one aligned WNW-ESE, the other NNE-SSW, and was built out of unfrosted bricks laid in two rows directly on natural clay.



Photograph 2 Foundation F2 – looking northeast

Brick floor F3, which was of late 17th- or early 18th-century date, was located in part of the area bounded by wall foundation F2. It was constructed out of unfrosted bricks laid on their side directly on natural clay.



Photograph 3 Brick floor F3 – looking east southeast

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered just nine sherds of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of nearly 5kg (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	Rims	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
Post-Roman pottery	7	335	67	4	0.89	3
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	2	4,534	2,267	-	-	-
All	9	4,869	541	4	0.89	3

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Post-Roman pottery

This material was classified using the fabric groups from CAR 7 (2000) and consists of seven sherds and three vessels (rim EVREP) while the EVE is 0.89. This material consists of:

A cooking pot with a blocked neckless rim in medieval sandy greyware (fabric 20) which dates to 1250/1275-1375/1400 (CAR 7 2000, 94, 97 fig. 60 no. 18). This came from F3 (2).

Two transfer printed Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric 48D) vessels from layer L4 (3) dating to the 19th-20th century. One vessel is decorated with three different panel designs for Thorley's animal feed.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were two complete bricks:

F2 (1): 215 mm x 102 mm x 60 mm, unfrogged, with creased and cracked bottom and sides, orange coloured with occasional pebbles. This is possibly an 18th/early 19th century red brick according to Ryan's Essex brick typology (Ryan 1996, 95).

F3 (2): 215 mm x 107 mm x 50 mm, unfrogged, creased bottom, dark orange coloured with darker purple patches. This brick is rather narrow and is perhaps a late 17th to early 18th century brick (Ryan 1996, 95).

Summary

Table 2 provides a brief dating summary for the features and layers with datable ceramic finds.

Feature/Layer	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F2	-	BR	18th/early 19th century?
F3	F20	BR	Late 17th-early 18th century?
L4	F48D	-	19th-20th century

Table 2 Approximate dates for the individual features and layers

6.2 Metal finds

by Laura Pooley

From L4 (finds no. 4) came a cylindrical lead object wrapped in iron, probably a weight, 91.3mm high, c 83mm diameter, 3.2kg. Post-medieval/modern. Discarded.

6.3 Human remains

by Dr Elliott Hicks

Some human bones were disturbed during grading and levelling at the northwestern edge of the site, which forms a boundary of the graveyard attached to the adjacent All

Saints' Church (see Fig 2). They were returned to the churchwarden for immediate reburial.

7 Discussion

Groundworks at this site revealed wall foundations of 18th- or early 19th-century date, one of which encloses part of a late 17th- or early 18th-century brick floor. These remains appear to correspond with an annexe which was formerly attached to the pub, which is detailed on OS mapping of the area compiled in the late 19th century (see Map 1 below). The fact that the wall foundations bounded an older floor indicates that the annexe was constructed in the late 17th or early 18th century and was subsequently renovated. Later OS maps show that this annexe still existed during the first half of the 20th century but, by 1960, it had been pulled down in a general clearance of the area which also involved the demolition of two other nearby buildings and the infilling of the pond situated immediately to the east.

Despite being located in the medieval core of Purleigh, no archaeological remains of medieval date were encountered at the site, although a sherd of a medieval cooking pot was found.



Map 1 Essex (1st ed./rev. 1862-96) LXII.1, rev. 1895; pub. 1896. The annexe is indicated by the blue arrow.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks David Taylor of AFT Design and Julian Webb for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------|--|
| Brown and Glazenbrook | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8 (EAA 8). |
| CAR 7 | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter |
| CAT | 2018 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 815 | 2015 | <i>Archaeological investigation at The Bell Public House, The</i> |

CAT Report 1032	2016	<i>Street, Purleigh, Essex, Phase I: trial-trenching, October 2014</i> <i>EHER Summary Sheet: The Bell, The Street, Purleigh, Essex, CM3 6QJ</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2018	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring at The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24).</i>
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex: From the Roman conquest to the Reformation</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: one box

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1489)

Original site records (layer sheets, feature sheets, finds sheet, sections, plan)

Photographic thumbnails and log

WSI and brief

Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1489)

Photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Graphics files

WSI and brief

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be

permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession number COLEM:
2018.119.

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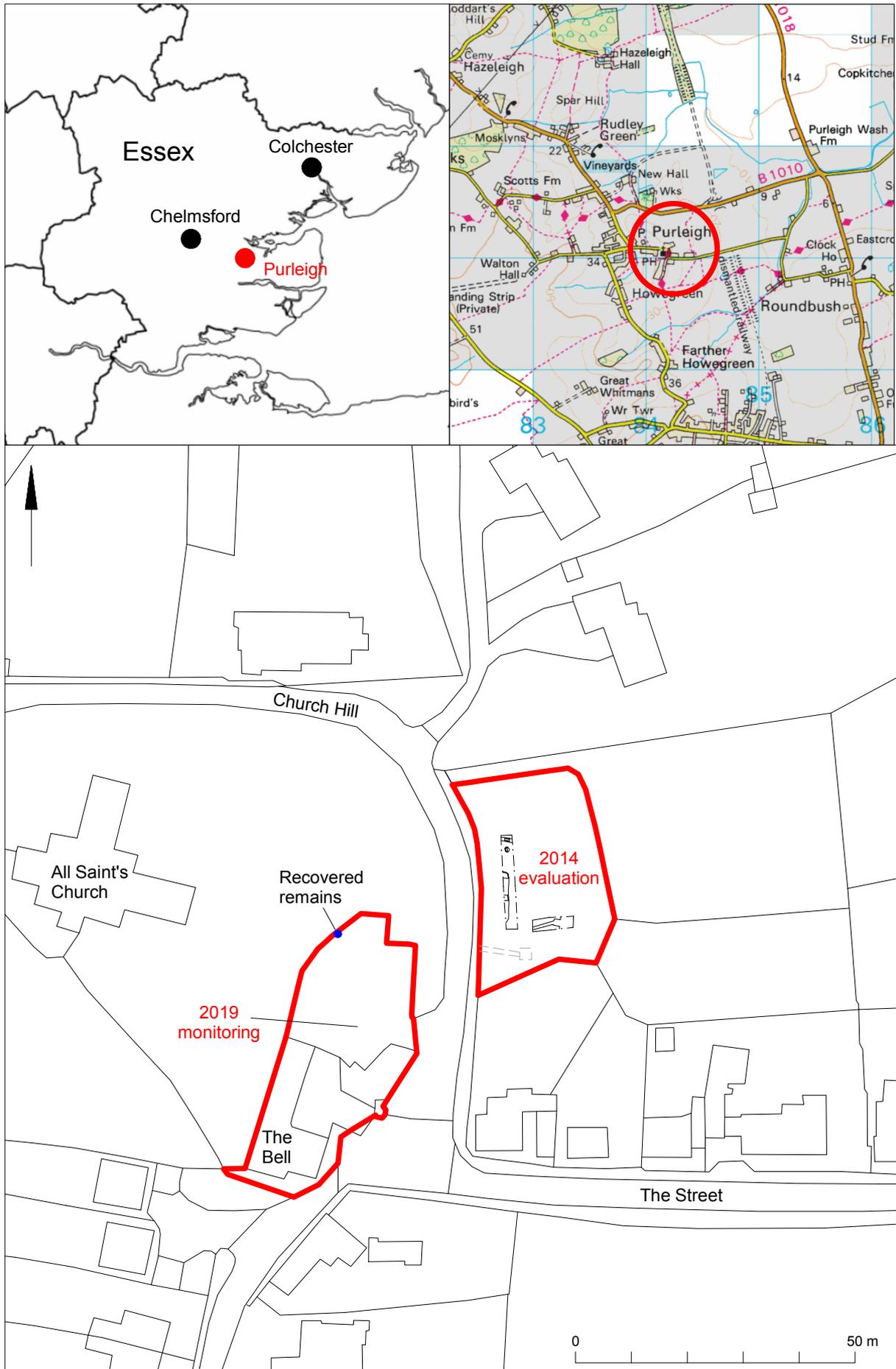
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 30.10.2019

Appendix 1 Ceramic and pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	Discard	No.	Weight g	Rim	Base	Form	Comments	Date
F2		1	CBM	-	NO	1	2,387	-	-	BR	215 x 102 x 60, unfrogged, creased sides & bottom	18th-early 19th century?
F3		2	Pottery	F20	NO	1	36	1	0	Cooking pot	Blocked neckless rim	1250/1275-1375/1400
F3		2	CBM		NO	1	2,147	-	-	BR	215 x 107 x 50, unfrogged, creased bottom	Late 17th-early 18th century?
L4		3	Pottery	F48D	NO	3	53	1	1	?	Black transfer printed design: LONDON 18[19th-20th century
L4		3	Pottery	F48D	NO	3	246	2	0	?	Brown transfer printed panel designs for Thorley's animal feed	19th-20th century



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to previous archaeological interventions and proposed development (dashed blue lines) .

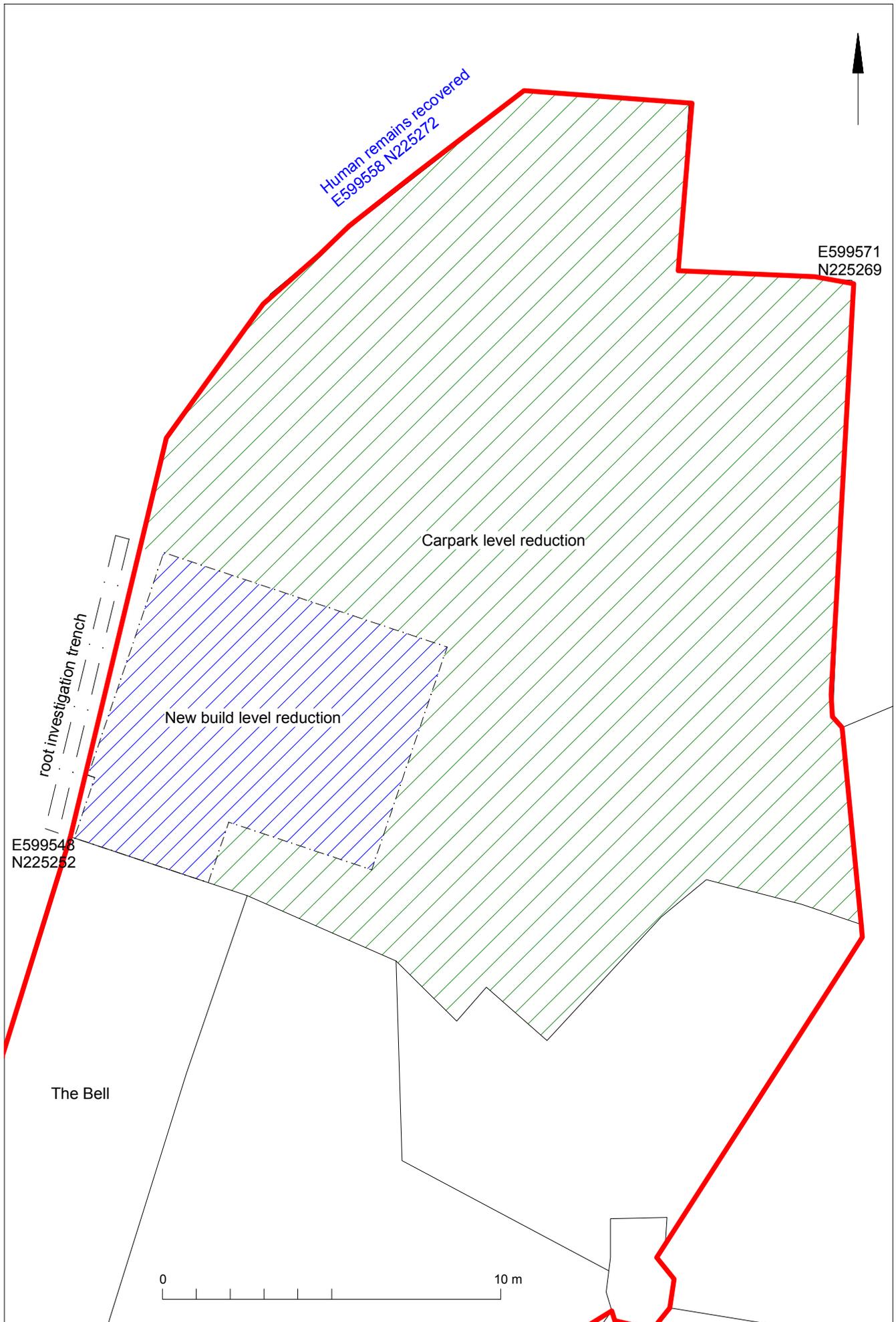


Fig 2 Monitoring areas, including location of human remains.

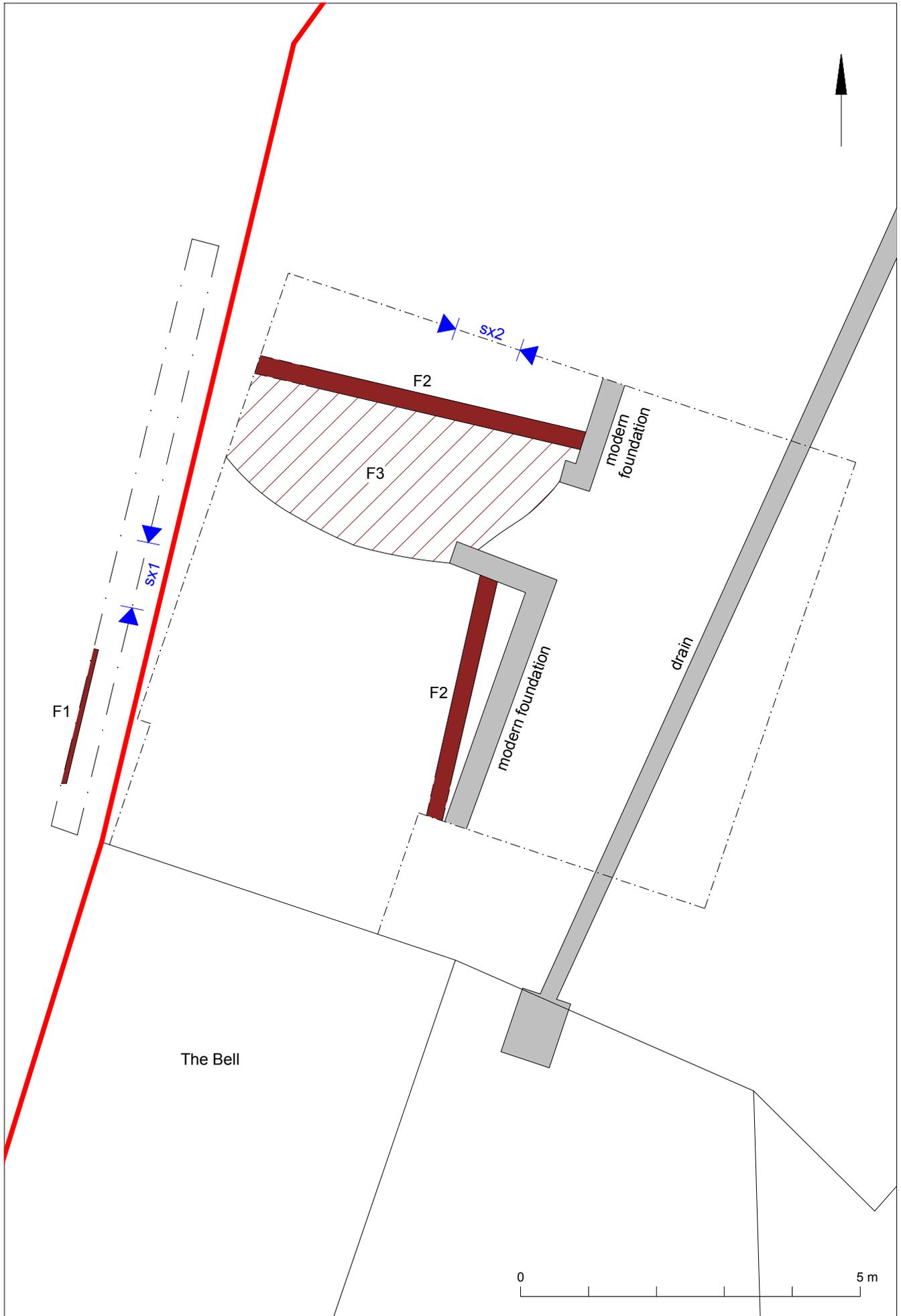


Fig 3 Monitoring results

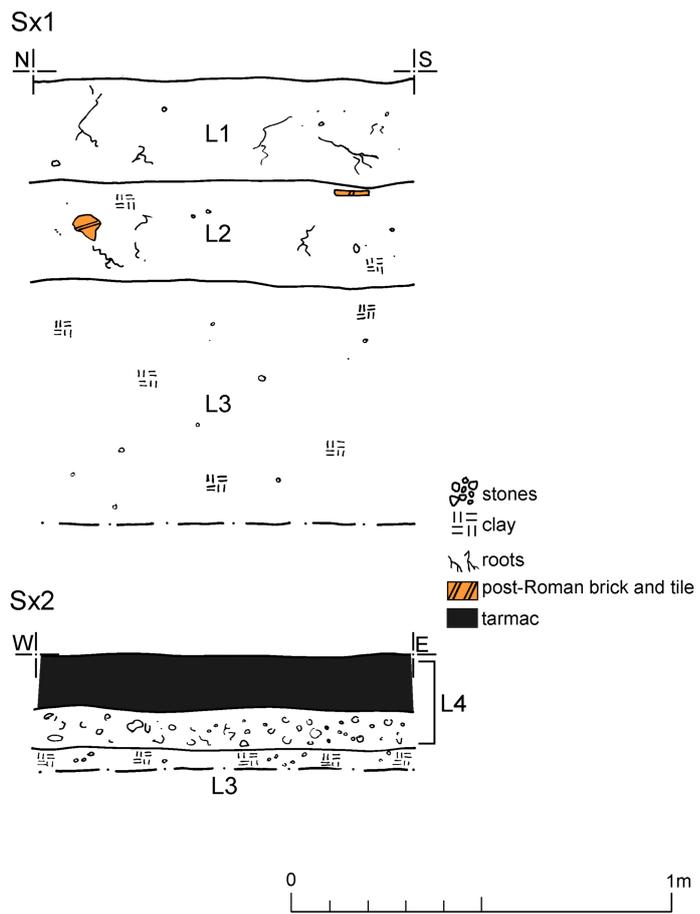


Fig 4 Representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-333861

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex, CM3 6QJ
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex during groundworks for an extension to the public house. The works uncovered foundations of 18th- or early 19th-century date, one of which enclosed part of a late 17th- or early 18th-century brick floor. These remains correspond to an annexe attached to the northern part of the public house detailed on 19th-century OS mapping of the area, which was demolished at some point during the mid 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 27-11-2018 End: 20-06-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/11d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	MAL 18/00145/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.119 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	PUB18 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK FLOOR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LEAD OBJECT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LEAD OBJECT Modern

Investigation type "Watching Brief"
 Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England
 Site location ESSEX MALDON PURLEIGH The Bell Public House, The Street
 Postcode CM3 6QJ
 Study area 0.09 Hectares
 Site coordinates TL 84171 01993 51.685921641974 0.664610182313 51 41 09 N 000 39 52 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project brief originator HEM Team Officer, ECC
 Project design originator Laura Pooley
 Project director/manager Chris Lister
 Project supervisor Ben Holloway
 Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2018.119
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2018.119
 Digital Contents "other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
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