

Archaeological evaluation at Purley Farm House, Colne Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1TH

May 2022



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commissioned by Homeowner

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Purley Farm House, Colne Road, Coggeshall, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. Purley Farm has origins in the late 18th/early 19th century and is located within an area of known cropmarks. Several possible unurned cremations and medieval pottery sherds have also been found in the vicinity. Trenching at Purley Farm House revealed two large 19th-century pits.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Purley Farm House, Colne Road, Coggeshall, Essex on the 3rd May 2022. The work was commissioned by the homeowner in advance of the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a two-storey four-bedroom replacement, a garage/cart lodge with accommodation and an outbuilding.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor 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 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for historic building recording and trial trenching evaluation at Purley Farm House, Colne Road, Coggeshall* (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS in advance of the work commencing (CAT 2022).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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 field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

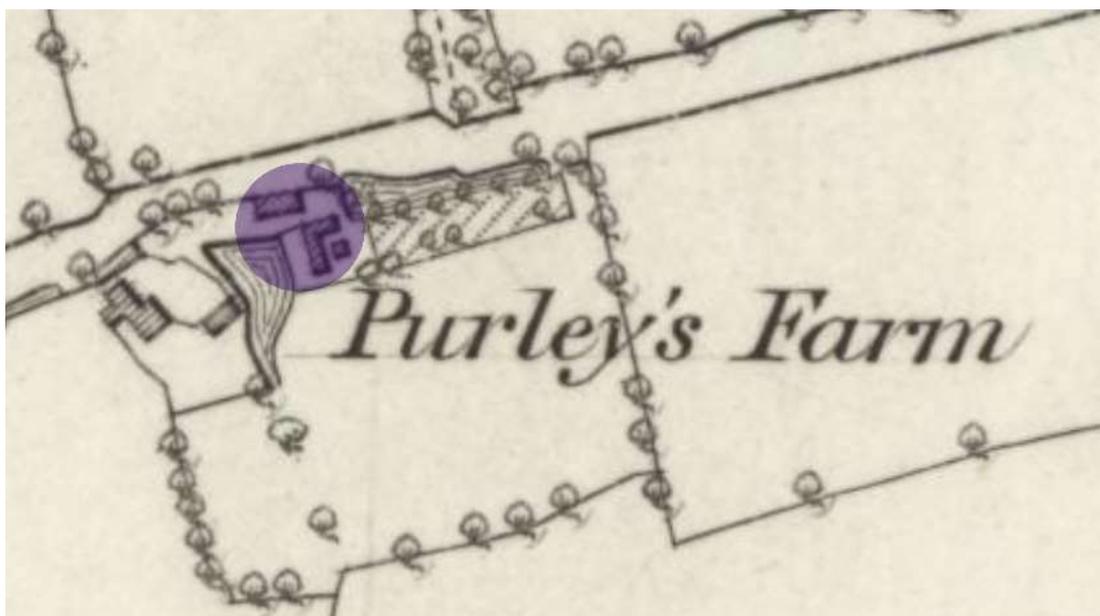
3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

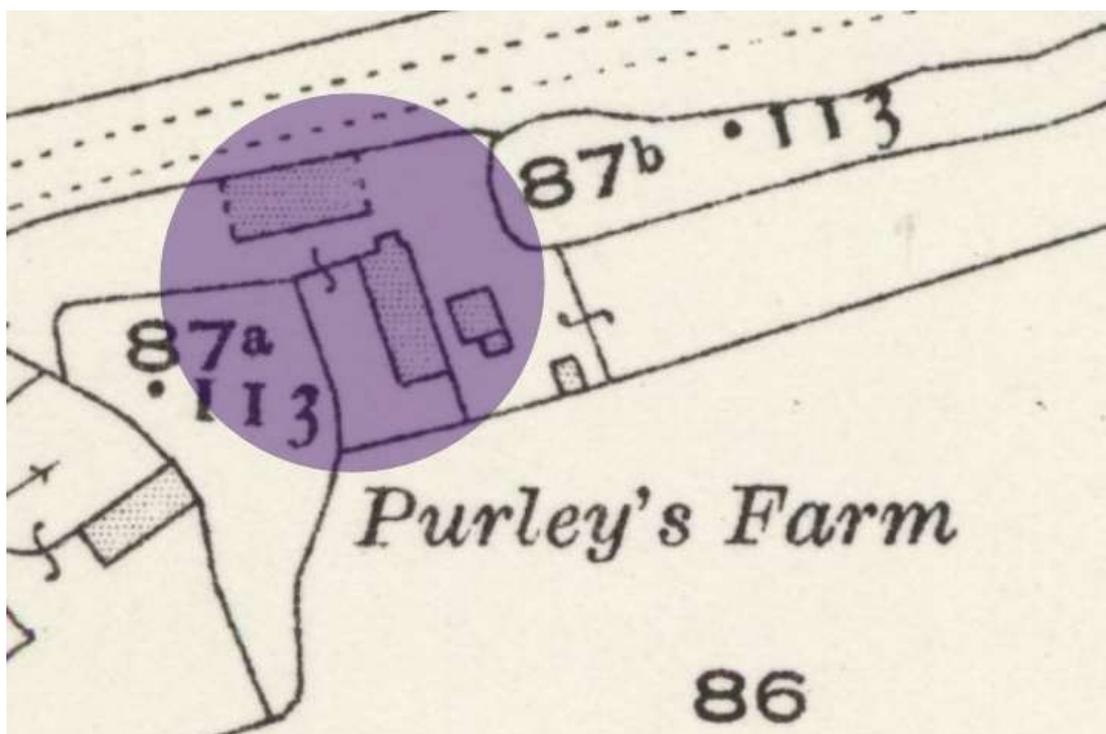
While Purley Farm is depicted on the Tithe Map, it is not present on the Chapman and André map, thus dating its origin to somewhere between 1777 and c 1840. On the tithe map a large L-shaped building has been identified as a house, with a smaller building fronting the road and another to the east of the L-shaped building. The large building is identified as a house on the Tithe Map but is more akin in size and shape to a barn, perhaps indicating that the building has been misidentified.

By the third edition OS map (1923), the large L-shaped building had been reduced in size and is now rectangular in shape, with the building fronting the road and the smaller square building remaining relatively unchanged. It is possible the existing house is represented by the smaller square building.

Although the building fronting the road is clad in corrugated metal, a timber-frame is visible in the overhang. It has an unusually long single-pitched roof, the function and origin of which are unknown.



Map 1 Extract of the 1st edition OS map (1881). The site highlighted in purple.



Map 2 Extract of the 3rd edition OS map (1923). The site highlighted in purple.

To the east of the proposed site, work on a pipeline revealed one definite and several possible unurned cremations as well as medieval pottery sherds (EHER 45174).

Cropmarks are located to the west, south and east of the development (EHER 14241, 14248, 47532), many of which appear on 1st edition OS map. Some of the cropmarks do not appear on historic mapping but they are likely old field boundaries. Purley's Farm is also the possible site of a moat (EHER 8783), although no historic mapping supports this theory.

The development site is also located approximately 1km south-east of the Markshall Estate (EHER 47208). This is an ancient landscape that contains an assemblage of visible features that date to the 1600's and earlier.

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Each trench was 10m long by 1.8m wide.

T1 was stripped through topsoil (L1, c 0.12-0.22m thick) into natural (L3).

T2 was excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.12-0.18m thick) and a layer of make-up (L2, c 0.27-0.44m thick) into natural (L3, c 0.40m below current ground level [bcgl]).

Two large 19th-century pits were uncovered, one in T1 and one in T2. Large quantities of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) were observed in pit F1, a sample of which was recovered. Pit F2 also produced a small quantity of CBM along with several sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery, a whetstone and a small quantity of other finds.

A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.



Photograph 1 F1 oblique - view north-east.



Photograph 2 F2 and T2 representative section - view west.



Photograph 3 T2 trench shot - view south south-west.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

A small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) was recovered totalling 17 sherds at 1,057g with a pottery EVE of 1.24 (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	12	332	28	0.13
CBM	26	5,360	206	
All	38	5,692	150	0.13

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM

This material was recovered from pits F1 and F2 (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F1	Pit	3	3,874	1,291	0.00
F2	Pit	35	1,818	52	0.13
Total		38	5,692	150	0.13

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features.

All the pottery came from F2 and dates from the medieval (fabrics F20, F21A) to the post-medieval/modern (fabric F40) periods (Tables 3-4). Noteworthy sherds included a jug (EVE: 0.13) in Colchester-type ware (fabric F21A) dating to c 1200-1550 and an anthropomorphic handle with face and beard from a chafing dish in Colchester-type ware (fabric F21A) dating to c AD 1350-1500 (Cotter 2000, 150-154) (Fig 4.2).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	c 1150-1375/1400
F21A	Colchester-type ware	c 1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century

Table 3 Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	1	27	27	0.00
F21A	Colchester-type ware	6	164	27	0.13
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	5	141	28	0.00
Total		12	332	28	0.13

Table 4 Summary of the post-Roman pottery.

Twenty fragments (1,110g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile came from F1 and F2, along with three fragments of 19th-century brick (376g) from F2 and two 19th-century cream floor bricks (3,352g) from F1. One of the floor bricks was complete, measuring 235mm x 120mm x 45mm (Fig 4.3).

Both F1 and F2 date to the 19th century.

6.2 Miscellaneous objects

by Laura Pooley and Pip Parmenter

Fragments of animal bone, oyster shell, an iron nail and a whetstone came from F2 (Table 5).

Context	Finds no.	Description
F2	2	Animal bone: Four fragments, 69.0g, three ribs and one sacrum (dog-gnawed) from a large mammal. Oyster shell: Two shells, 21.7g. Iron nail: Incomplete with tip missing, square-sectioned shank, flat round head, 17.8g.
	3	Fig 5 Whetstone: Fragment of whetstone, roughly square-sectioned with all sides concave, broken at both ends, 161.6g.

Table 5 Miscellaneous finds from F2.

7 Conclusion

Evaluation trenching at Purley Farm House revealed two 19th century pits. The building material uncovered is likely from the demolition of buildings which previously inhabited the plot, such as those present on the historic mapping. The post-medieval pottery, whetstone and animal bone suggests that these buildings were domestic.

The earlier-dated pottery recovered from pit F2 is indicative of medieval occupation in the vicinity of the development site.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by S Veasey with C Lister and B Quinn. Figures were compiled by C Lister and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

9 References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an historic building recording and an archaeological evaluation at Purley Farm House, Colne, Road, Coggeshall, CO6 1TH,</i> by S Veasey
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2021
ECCPS	2021	<i>Brief for historic building recording and trial trenching evaluation at Purley Farm House, Colne Road, Coggeshall</i> by T O'Connor
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record

evaluation	a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork, which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area. This may take the form of an intrusive investigation of a percentage of the site, geophysical or topographical survey. The results of this investigation will establish the requirements for any further work.
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
Iron Age (Early)	Early Iron Age, period from c 600 – 400BC
Iron Age (Late)	Late Iron Age (LIA), period from c 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
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
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: Not retained

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1824)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be with the Archaeological Data Service.

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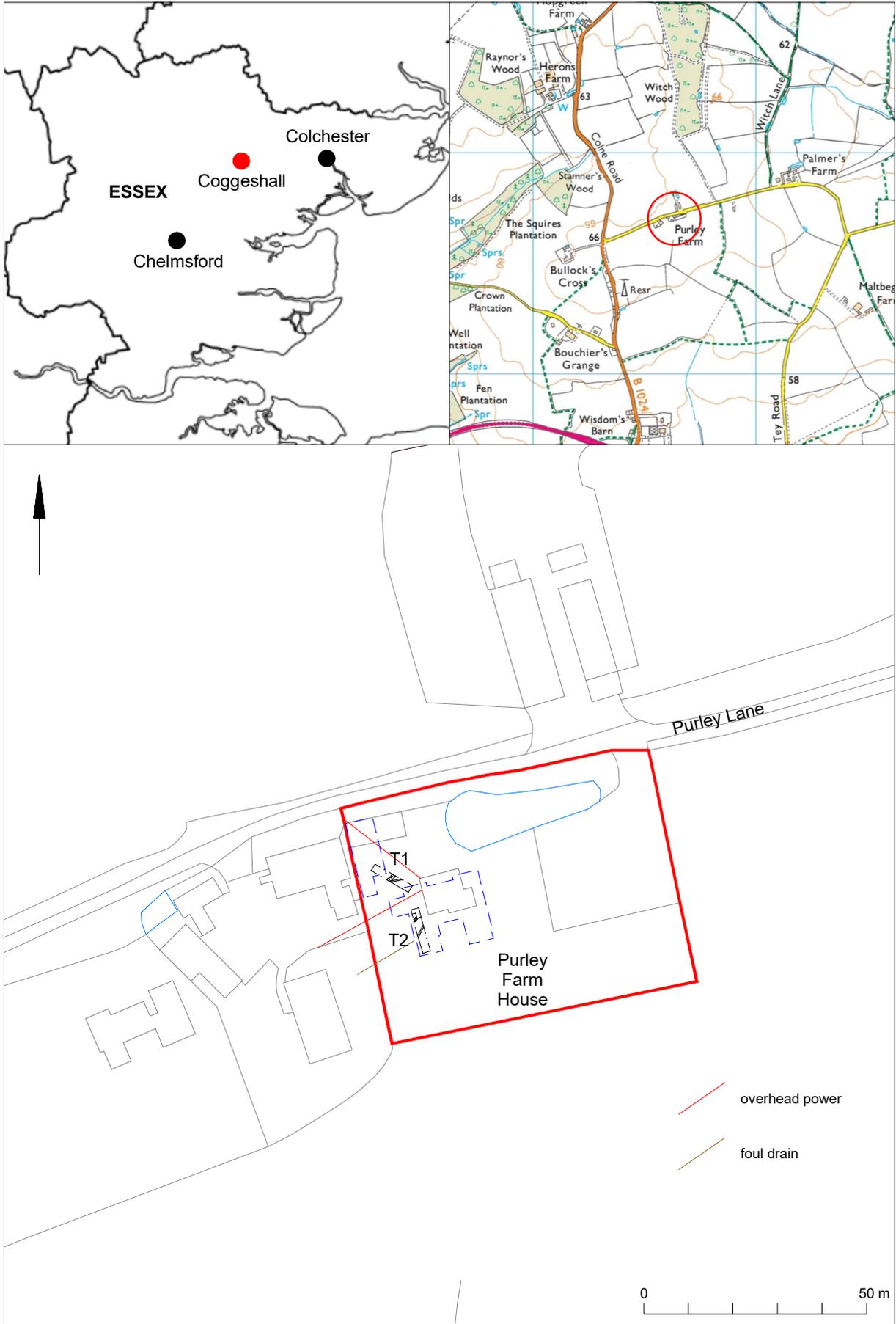
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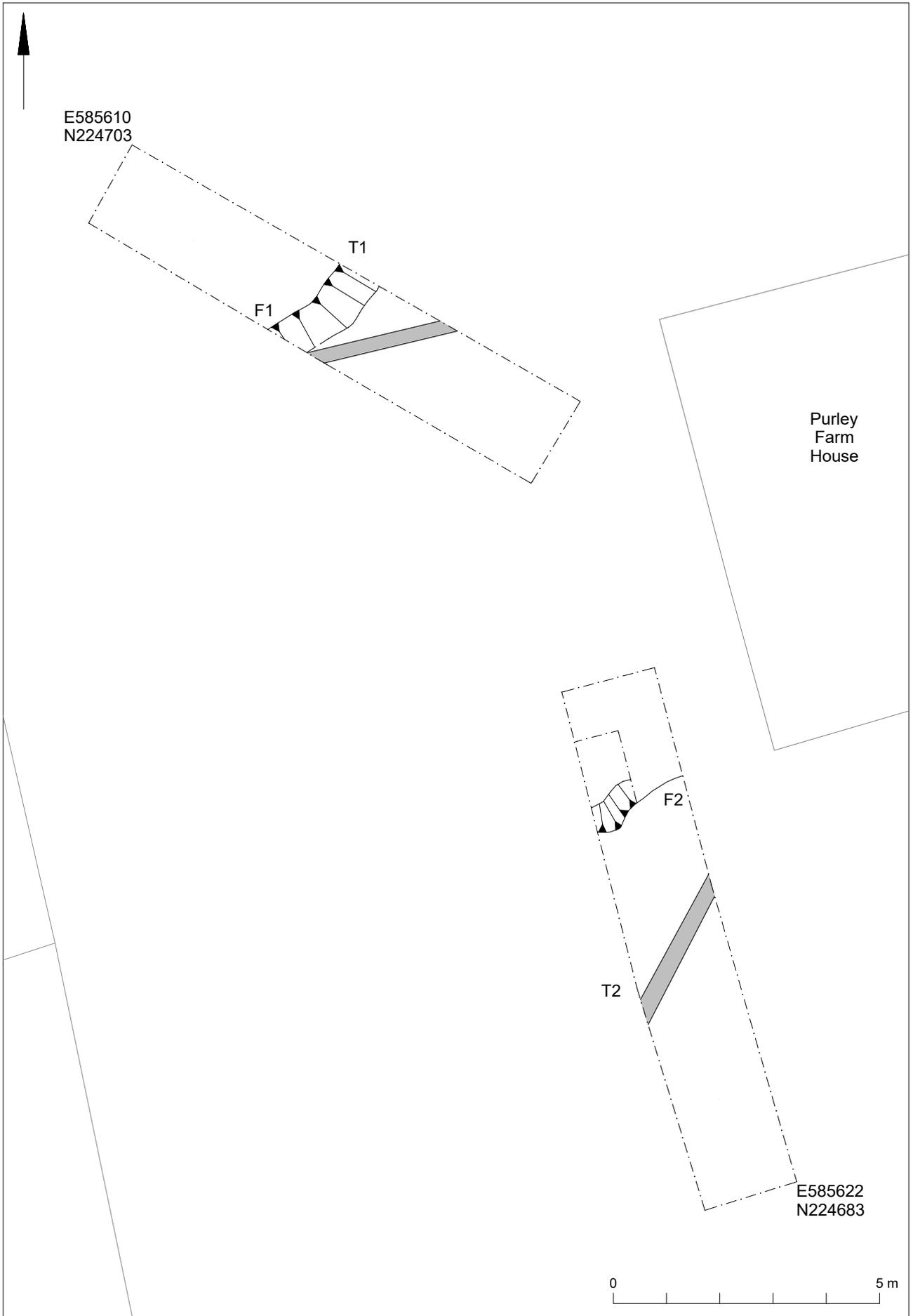
Appendix 1 Context list

Trench no.	Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
All	L1	-	Topsoil	Firm moist medium/dark brown/black silty loam with brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 8%	Modern
All	L2	-	Make-up	Firm moist medium/dark yellow/brown silty clay with brick flecks, tile flecks	Post-medieval
All	L3	-	Natural	Hard moist light yellow/brown clay	Post-glacial
T1	F1	1	Pit	Firm moist light orange/grey/brown silty clay with daub flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks 5.90m wide and dug to a depth of 0.75m.	19th century
T2	F2	2	Pit	Firm moist medium orange/grey/brown silty clay with daub flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: gravel 2% stone 2% 1.79m wide and 0.70m deep	19th century



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



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Fig 2 Evaluation results. Modern services in grey.

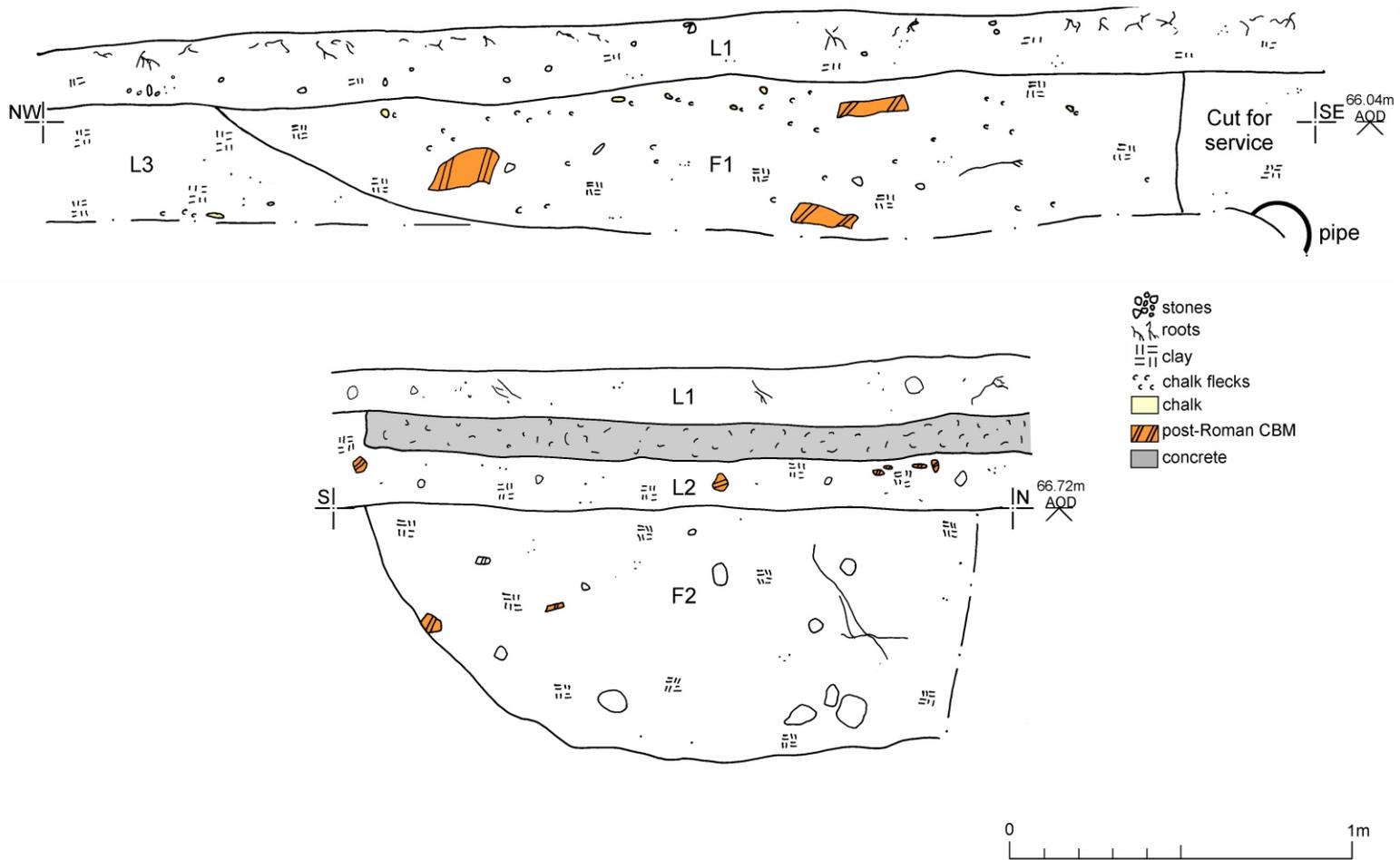


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.



Fig 4 Medieval pottery from F2 (1-2) and a complete floor brick from F1 (3).



Fig 5 Whetstone from F2.

Summary for colchest3-505009

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-505009
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at Purley Farm, Colne Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1TH
Sitename	Purley Farm, Colne Road, Coggeshall
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/02n
Planning Id	21/03055/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	03-May-2022 - 03-May-2022
Location	Purley Farm, Colne Road, Coggeshall NGR : TL 85640 24696 LL : 51.8898993199333, 0.696267816479092 12 Fig : 585640,224696
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Braintree Parish : Coggeshall
Project Methodology	Two trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Each trench was 10m long by 1.8m wide.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Purley Farm House, Colne Road, Coggeshall, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. Purley Farm has origins in the late 18th/early 19th century and is located within an area of known cropmarks. Several possible unurned cremations and medieval pottery sherds have also been found in the vicinity. Trenching at Purley Farm House revealed two large 19th-century pits.
Keywords	Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Jug - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Chafing Dish - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Peg Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Brick - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Whetstone - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - CGPF22
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;