

**HOUSE EXTENSION AT
PLEACHFIELD, VICARAGE ROAD
PLESHEY
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

October 2010

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

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EHER Summary Sheet

Site Name/Address: Pleachfield, Vicarage Road, Pleshey, Essex	
Parish: Pleshey	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 6640 1474	Site Code: PY 16
Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring	Site Director/Team: Andy Letch ECC FAU
Dates of Work: September 2010	Size of Area Investigated: 3 x 5m
Curating Museum: Chelmsford	Funding Source: Mrs E. Duke
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HER Nos. SAM 22; HER 1126-7
Final Report: Summary in EAH	
Periods Represented: Post-medieval & modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Monitoring works were undertaken during the excavation of the footprint of a small extension on the north-east side of Pleachfield, a large late 18th-century brick house situated on the northern fringes of the village. The house is situated 100m north of the main settlement area, just inside the north bailey ditch to Pleshey Castle (fig. 1). The bailey ditch represents the post-1167 medieval town enclosure (SAM 22) and remains a prominent feature of the landscape, although its accompanying bank was levelled in the post-medieval period. The area of groundworks lies adjacent to a recent house extension and patio built by the previous owners, which was not subject to archaeological works.</p> <p>Up to 0.5m of modern bedding (context 1) was removed by machine onto a dark silty clay 19th-century garden soil (context 2) overlying natural chalky boulder clay (context 3) that sloped downwards towards the ditch (fig. 1, plate 1). The north-western end of the trench was occupied by modern brick rubble and sand behind the retaining wall for a patio built against the slope of the ditch (plate 2). No archaeological features were observed to represent either occupation of the site or the earthwork bank, and all finds were post-medieval or modern in date.</p> <p>An evaluation undertaken in 2004 on the driveway to the house recorded medieval features (13th-15th century in date) interpreted as lying within the backlands to the main settlement (Roy 2004). The more recent monitoring works would appear to support this interpretation and suggest that the main settlement was focused around Back Lane and The Street to the south and therefore closer to the castle mount (fig. 1).</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: Roy, M. <i>Pleachfield, Vicarage Road, Pleshey: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching</i> (FAU report no. 1346)	
Author of Summary: A. Letch	Date of Summary: 13th October 2010

Finds report by Helen Walker

A small number of finds were recovered from the topsoil, comprising pottery (four sherds weighing 29g) and glass (one fragment, weighing 1g), described as follows

- An abraded sherd of internally glazed post-medieval red earthenware
- A sherd of bone china
- A rim sherd of modern white earthenware showing a pale blue transfer-printed foliage design
- A fragment of window glass, uncoloured but with slight iridescence

The most closely datable artefact is the transfer-printed china, which dates from the 1830s to 20th century. The other finds could also be of this date. Medieval pottery was found during an earlier excavation of this site in 2004 (ECC FAU internal report 1346).

All finds from the current excavation have been discarded.

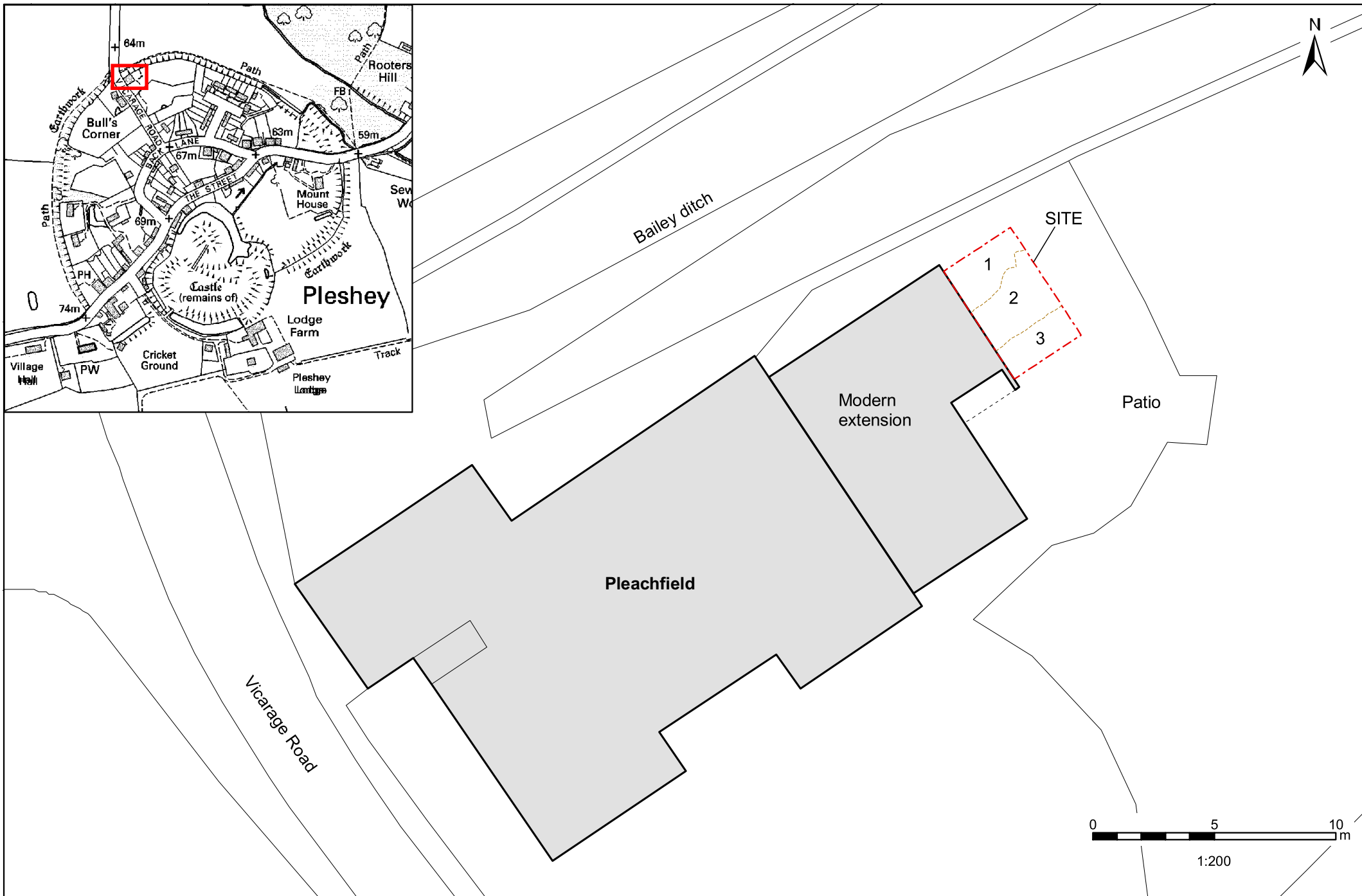


Fig.1. Location of area of archaeological monitoring

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Plate 1 Monitored area viewed to south-west



Plate 2 Monitored area viewed to north-west, overlooking the bailey ditch