

**22 WOOLMERS MEAD
PLESHEY
CHELMSFORD
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



Essex County Council

**Field Archaeology Unit
November 2009**

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

Site name/Address: 22 Woolmers Mead, Pleshey, Chelmsford, Essex	
Parish: Pleshey	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 6657 1463	Site Code: PYWM09
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring and recording	Site Director/Group: Phillippa Sparrow, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 12/10/09 – 22/10/09	Size of Area Investigated: 5m x 9.5m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford	Client: Mr. L. Baines, landowner
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: 1148
Final Report: Summary in EAH round-up	OASIS Ref: essexcou1-65797
Periods represented: Prehistoric, Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological monitoring and recording investigation was conducted during groundworks for a new extension to the eastern side of the existing house at 22 Back Lane, Woolmers Mead, Pleshey, Chelmsford, Essex (Fig.1). The archaeological work was recommended and monitored by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team and was conducted in accordance with an archaeological condition placed upon planning consent.</p> <p>The objective of the investigation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, including any finds or features associated with Pleshey Castle and the construction of the north bailey which follows the line of Back Lane and occupation within the larger town enclosure.</p> <p>c.0.3m of topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed from across the building footprint by a tracked mini-excavator with a broad toothless bucket. Areas of modern disturbance associated with the construction of No.22 were identified but not recorded. The footings were then excavated using a narrow toothed bucket. Each footing trench was 0.6m wide, their lengths and depths varied (see Fig. 1).</p> <p>Two post-medieval pits were located within the eastern wall footing. Pit 1, present at a depth of 0.65m, contained brick/tile and a sherd of mid-19th century pottery. Three pieces of struck flint were also present, perhaps indicating that prehistoric remains were disturbed during the 19th century. Pit 1 was cut by modern Pit 3 which contained 20th century brick. The finds from Pit 3 were not retained. Feature 9 was situated to the south of Pits 1 and 3, at a depth of 0.32m. As this did not extend as far as the west wall footing, it is presumed to be a pit. It did not contain any finds. All three features were sealed by modern layers associated with the construction of the existing house and which were considerably thicker towards the northern end of the site at up to 0.65m. Two modern services were situated in the northern area of the extension</p>	

footprint, running on a north-east to south-west alignment. They did not extend into the southern wall footing trench.

No evidence was found relating to the construction of the castle or of medieval activity associated with Back Lane and the occupation of the town enclosure.

Previous Summaries/Reports:- None

Author of Summary:

Phillippa Sparrow

Date of Summary:

04 November 2009

APPENDIX

Finds note by Joyce Compton

Finds were recovered from a single context, representing the fill of pit 1. The finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, and full quantification details can be found in the table below. The finds are described briefly, as follows;

All of the datable finds are post medieval or modern, comprising brick and roof tile fragments and a single sherd of pottery. The largest brick fragment has uniform sides, with a depth of 68mm. This type of standard brick was made from the mid 19th century onwards. The pottery sherd derives from a plate in post-medieval red earthenware, with an internal green glaze, and has a broad date range of 17th to 19th centuries.

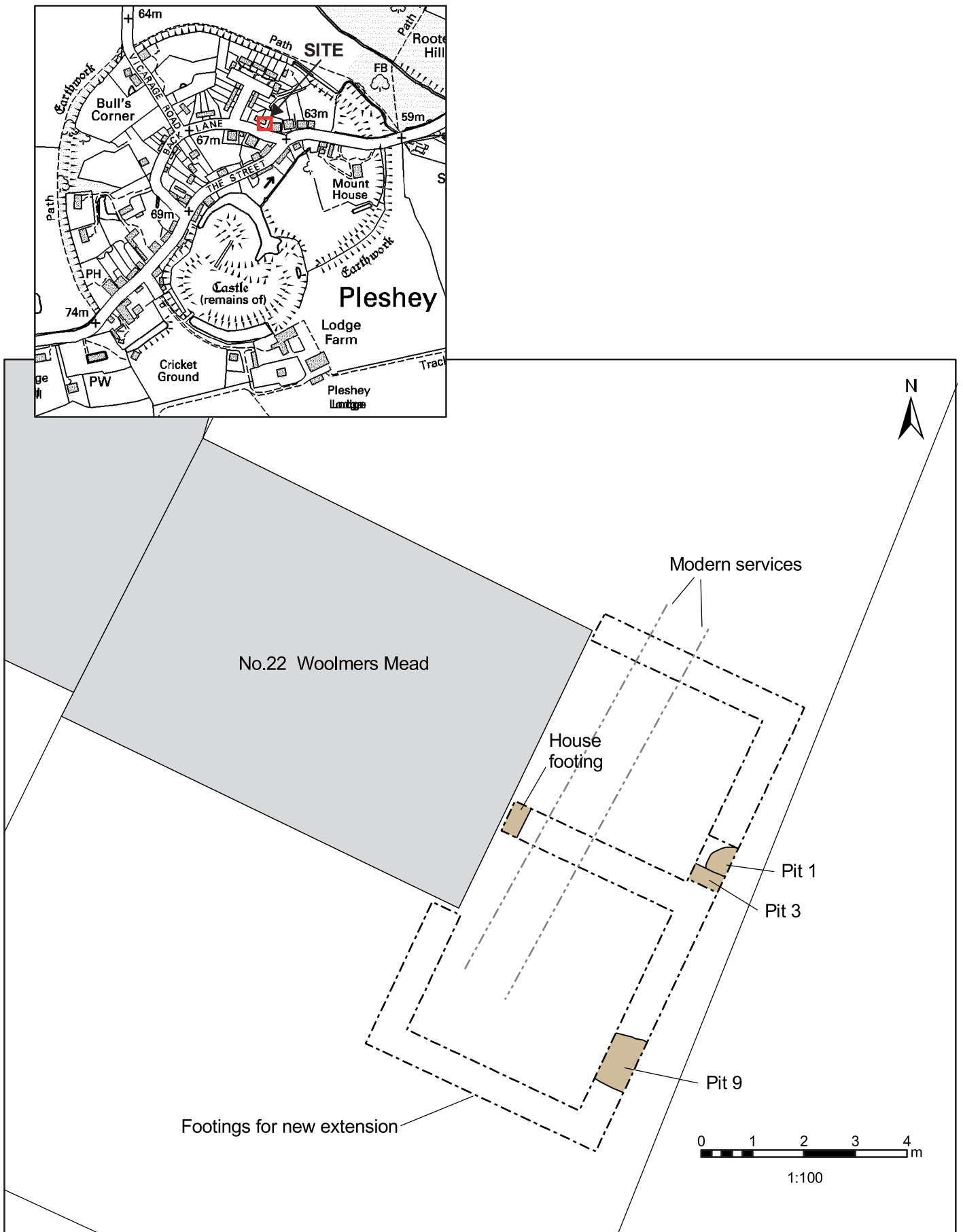
Also present are three flint chips, one of which may be a struck flake of possible prehistoric origin.

Comments on the assemblage

Most of the assemblage is of relatively recent date and thus no further work is required. The roof tile and smaller brick fragments have been discarded following recording. The remainder need not be retained beyond the archiving stage.

Finds data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	1	3	4	Flint chips	-
		4	530	Brick corner, depth 68mm, and fragments (these discarded 3/36g)	Post med/ modern
		6	226	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	8	Pottery; body sherd, PMRE, internal green glaze	Post med.



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological monitoring