

**Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation  
land South of 'Pagets',  
The Street, Purleigh,  
Essex**

**January 2014**



**report prepared by Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks**

**on behalf of Mrs Maureen Stock**

Planning ref: 12/00797/MAL

CAT project ref.: 14/1c

HET code: PUP14

NGR: TL 8425 0203

Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code: 2014.13



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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**CAT Report 750**  
January 2014

## 1 Summary

Located on the eastern edge of Purleigh village, this square site consists of open landscaped gardens, grassed and interspersed with trees. An L-shaped evaluation trench (total length, 22m) was positioned within the footprint a proposed new build. There were no archaeological features, deposits or finds. Maps show the area as open ground, and it may always have been agricultural or horticultural land.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on the archaeological trial-trenching evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land South of 'Pagets', The Street, Purleigh, on 14th January 2014. The work was commissioned by Tim Murphy of Purcell on behalf of Mrs Maureen Stock. Post-excavation work was carried out in January 2014.

At the time of the evaluation the site was open, grassed and interspersed with trees, part of a garden. Proposed work is the construction of a single new build and associated infrastructure.

Site centre is NGR TL 8425 0203.

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The site is located on the eastern edge of the historic settlement of Purleigh, on the slope overlooking the coastal plain and the Blackwater Estuary. Purleigh is first recorded in AD 998, and again in AD 1086 as a Domesday settlement. The motte to the south of the church is thought to date to the mid 12th century, being constructed in response to the Anarchy. The church is 14th century in origin and is presumed to replace an earlier predecessor. The site abuts the rear of the historic village and there is the potential for backyard or industrial activity.

## 4 Methodology

Place Services of Essex County Council (ECCPS) were consulted by Maldon District Council in November 2013 (following appeal) for a planning application (12/00797/MAL). In response to consultation, ECCPS made the following recommendation to the LPA in line with advice given in *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012):

*" L2 Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme*

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work."

A brief detailing the required archaeological work (an evaluation by trial-trenching) was written by the Place Services officer (Maria Medlycott: ECC 2013). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT in response to the Place Services brief and agreed with the Place Services officer (CAT 2014).

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the recognised national standards as defined in IfA 2008a, IfA 2008b, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

## 5 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record and establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any remains and deposits likely to be disturbed by the proposed works.

## 6 Results of the evaluation (Figs 2-3)

This section gives an archaeological summary of the evaluation trench (T1), with context and finds dating information.



*Plate 1: view north along western side of evaluation trench*

### Trench 1: summary

T1 was L-shaped and positioned in the centre of the application site and within the footprint of the proposed new build. T1 was excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator, through modern topsoil 100mm thick (L1), this sealed natural boulder clay (L2). There were no archaeological features or finds.

## 7 Finds

None.

## 8 Discussion

The absence of archaeological finds and features supports the evidence from OS maps, which show this as open land likely to have been in horticultural or agricultural use.

The client (Mrs Stock) said that the land was previously owned by the parish church who intended to use it as a car park. Consequently the topsoil had been stripped and banded around the edge of the site. This would account for the lack of accumulated material which is normally seen sealing the natural ground (boulder clay in this case).

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr Tim Murphy of Purcell for commissioning the work, and Mrs Maureen Stock for funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway, and fieldwork was carried out by BH and M Baister. Figures 1-2 are by MB, and Fig 3 by Emma Holloway. The project was monitored for the ECC Place Services by Maria Medlycott.

## 10 References

Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

CAT	2014	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial trenching on land south of Pagets, The Street, Purleigh, Essex.</i> January 2014
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> , Department for Communities and Local Government
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>14</b> , ed by D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>24</b> , by Maria Medlycott
ECC	2013	<i>Archaeological Investigation at Land South of 'Pagets', The Street, Purleigh</i> . Essex County Council Brief, by Maria Medlycott
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>

## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
modern	from 1800 to nowadays
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from around 1530 to 1800 AD

## 12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museum under accession code COLEM 2014.13.

## 13 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none

**Paper record: One A4 wallet containing**

Copy of this report

ECC Brief

CAT WSI

Original site record (feature, layer, trench and finds sheets)

Section drawings

Sundries

Photo log and photos on CD

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**Distribution list:**

Mrs Maureen Stock

Tim Murphy, Purcell

Maria Medlycott, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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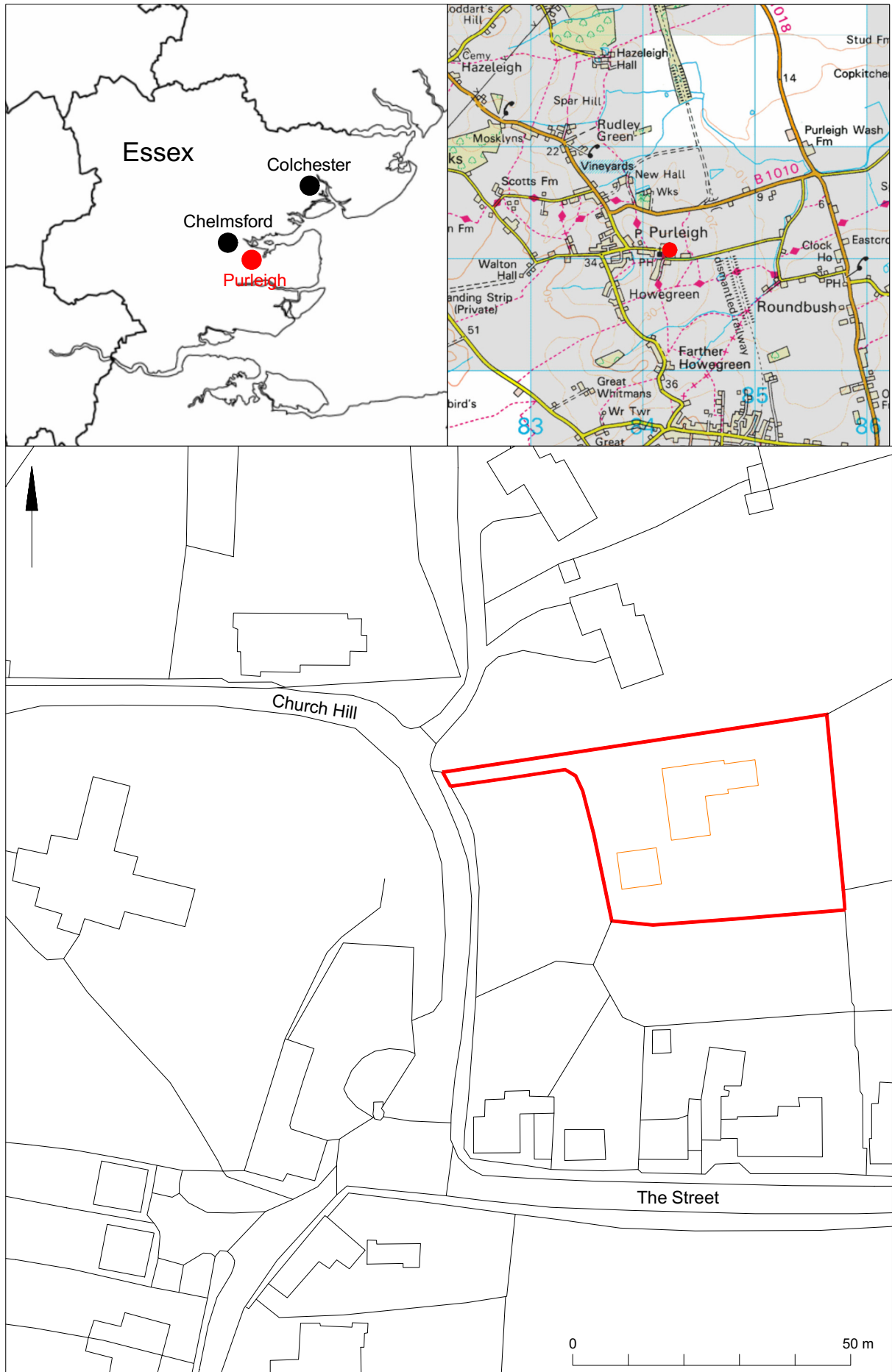


Fig 1 Site location.

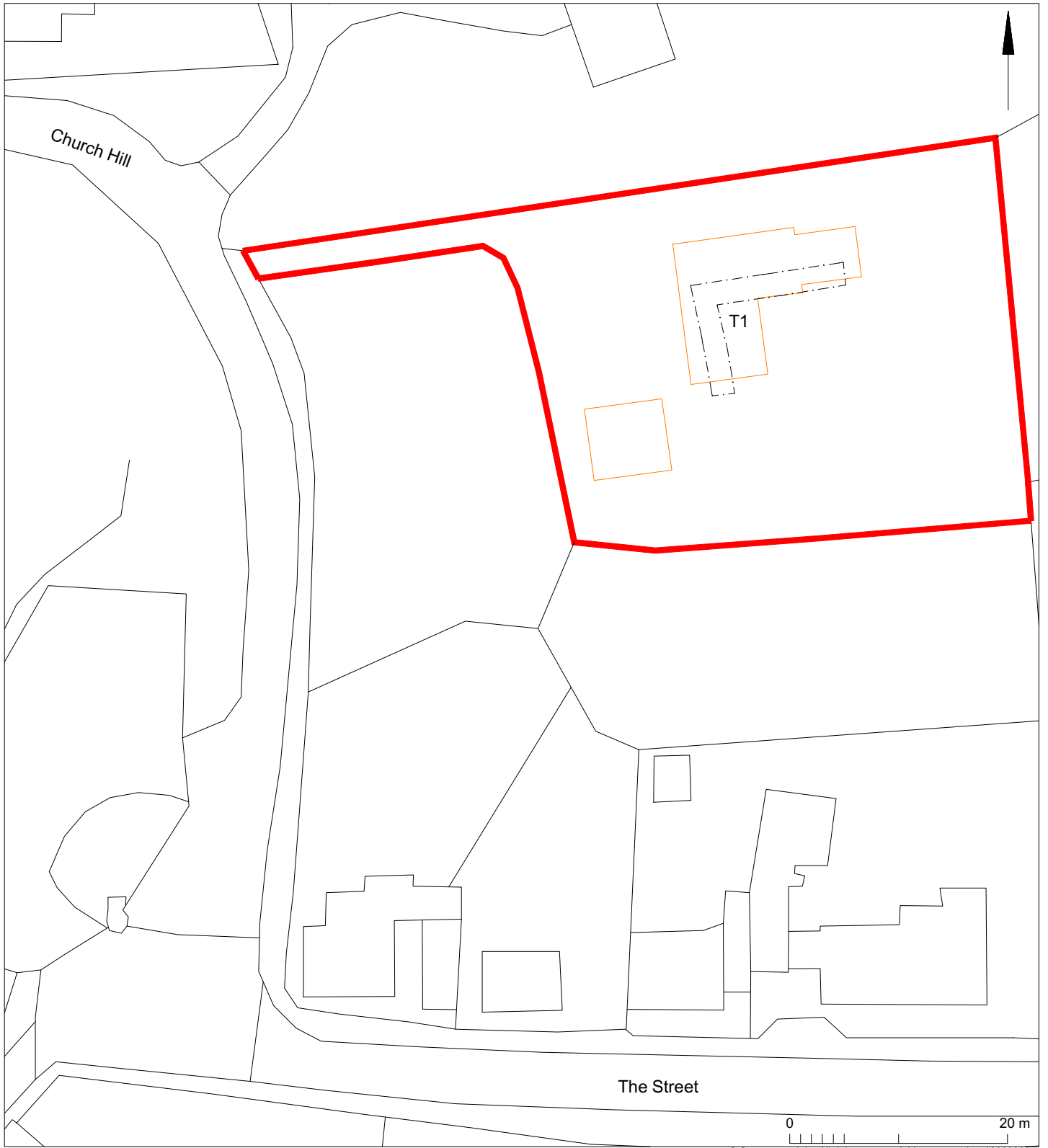


Fig 2 Evaluation results. Proposed development shown in orange.

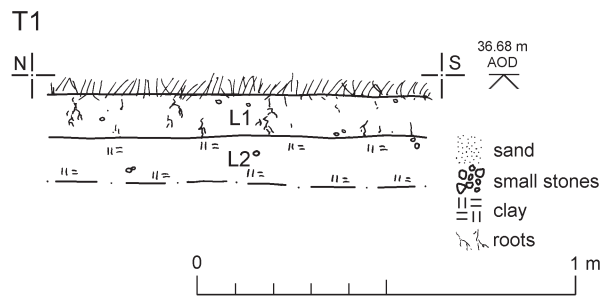


Fig 3 Representative trench section.



# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Land South of 'Pagets', The Street, Purleigh, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Purleigh	<b>District:</b> Maldon
<b>NGR:</b> TL 8425 0203	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code – 14/1c HET Code – PUP14
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 14th January 2014	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 22m (linear)
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code : 2014.13	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER number:</b> --
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 750	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>Located on the eastern edge of Purleigh village, this square site consists of open landscaped gardens, grassed and interspersed with trees. An L-shaped evaluation trench (total length, 22m) was positioned within the footprint a proposed new build. There were no archaeological features, deposits or finds. Maps show the area as open ground, and it may always have been agricultural or horticultural land</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> --	
<b>EHER officer:</b> Maria Medlycott	
<b>Keywords:</b> --	<b>Significance:</b> neg
<b>Author of summary:</b> Ben Holloway	<b>Date of summary:</b> January 2014