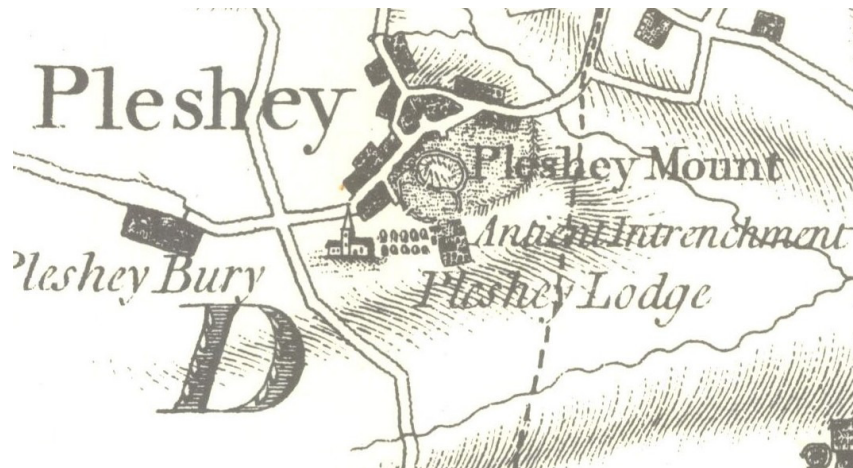


Archaeological monitoring at Mount Stores, The Street, Pleshey, Essex, CM3 1HE

February 2020



by **Chris Lister**

figures by Chris Lister and Sarah Carter
fieldwork by Robin Mathieson

**commissioned by Andrew Stevenson Associates
on behalf of Mr & Mrs Gibb**

NGR: TL 6645 1452 (centre)
Planning ref.: 19/00478/NMAT/1
CAT project ref.: 20/02n
ECC code: requested
Chelmsford Museum accession code: requested
OASIS ref.: colchest3-388660



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CAT Report 1528
March 2020

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	1
5	Results	2
6	Finds	2
7	Discussion	2
8	Acknowledgements	2
9	References	2
10	Abbreviations and glossary	3
11	Contents of archive	3
12	Archive deposition	3
	Appendix 1 Context list	5
	Figures	after p5
	OASIS summary sheet	

List of photographs and figures

Cover: extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex (1777)

Photograph 1	Trench for underground LPG tank looking south-west	2
Fig 1	Site location	
Fig 2	Results	
Fig 3	Representative section	

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Mount Stores, The Street, Pleshey, Essex during excavations for the installation of an underground LPG tank. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological deposits or material were observed during this work.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for archaeological monitoring at Mount Stores, The Street, Pleshey, Essex which was carried out on 28th February 2020. The work was commissioned by Andrew Stevenson Associates on behalf of Mr & Mrs Gibb and comprised the excavation of a trench for an underground LPG tank. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett 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).

Due to time constraints and the limited scope of the works all archaeological work was carried out in accordance with verbal instructions from Alison Bennett and without written scheme of investigation (WSI). All work was, however, carried out in accordance to standard monitoring practices.

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 field excavation (CIfA 2014a)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 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 (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The site is located in the garden of Mount Stores, a Grade II listed 18th-century timber-framed and plastered house, part of which was in use as a shop in the 20th century, hence the name (NHLE 1265041). The property is located immediately to the north-west of the adjacent to the enclosure earthwork of the scheduled area of Pleshey Castle and town enclosure (SM EX22 HA 1002191 EHER 1126). Pleshey Castle is a good example of a motte and bailey type of earthwork built in the 12th century with an unusually well-preserved town enclosure. The castle was slighted in 1157-8 but refortified in 1167. Only a short length of the north bailey remains, its line possibly marked by Back Lane. As the site lies within the medieval town enclosure, there is a high potential for archaeological finds and features relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement.

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to record any archaeological deposits which would have been disturbed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

On 28th February 2020 in heavy rain, a CAT archaeologist monitored the excavation of a 3.9m by 1.8m rectangular trench for an underground LPG tank.

After the turf was removed two layers were recorded. A 0.42m thick layer of sandy silt topsoil (L1) overlay a natural layer of silty clay (L2). L1 contained peg tile, modern bottle glass and white china. L2 was removed across the trench to a depth of 0.05m in order to confirm that was indeed natural geology and not an archaeological deposit. As the composition of L2 remained consistent and was devoid of artefacts it was concluded that this was natural and that further excavation under archaeological supervision was not necessary.



Photograph 1 Trench for underground LPG tank - looking south-west

6 Finds

Peg tile fragments, modern bottle glass and white china were observed within L1 but were not retained for post-excavation analysis.

7 Discussion

Groundworks at this site revealed no significant archaeological contexts.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrew Stevenson Associates for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by R Mathieson. Figures are by C Lister and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

9 References

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

Brown, N & 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties*

Glazebrook, J		2. <i>Research agenda and strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2019	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
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	2011a	<i>Pleshey Historic Town Assessment Report</i>
Medlycott, M	2011b	<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
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
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
LPG	Liquid Propane Gas
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: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:
 The report (CAT Report 1528)
 Original site records (sections/plans)
 Photographic thumbnails and log
 Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1528)
 Photographs, photographic thumbnails and log
 Graphics files
 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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code: requested

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Distribution list:

Andrew Stevenson Associates
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

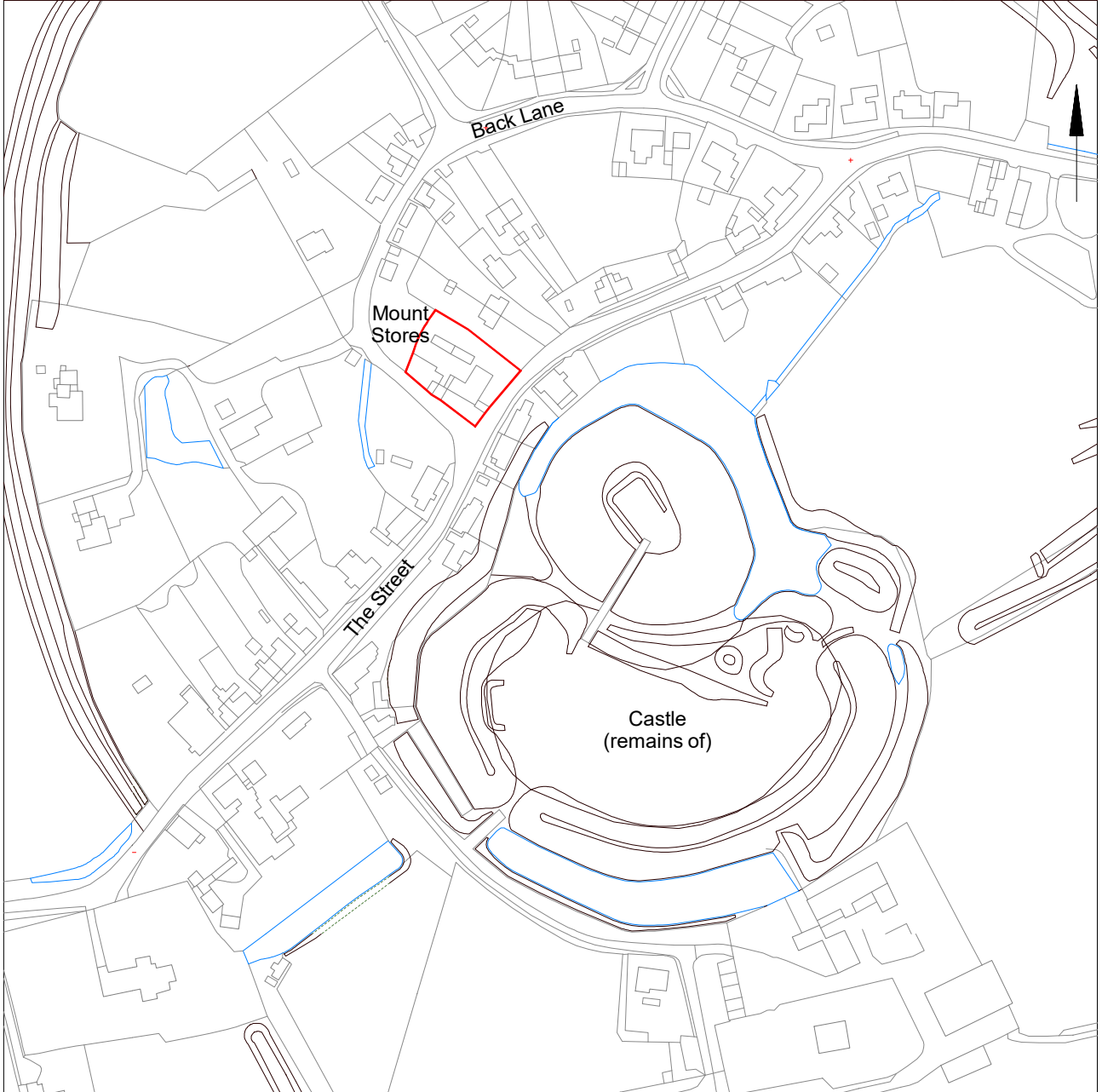
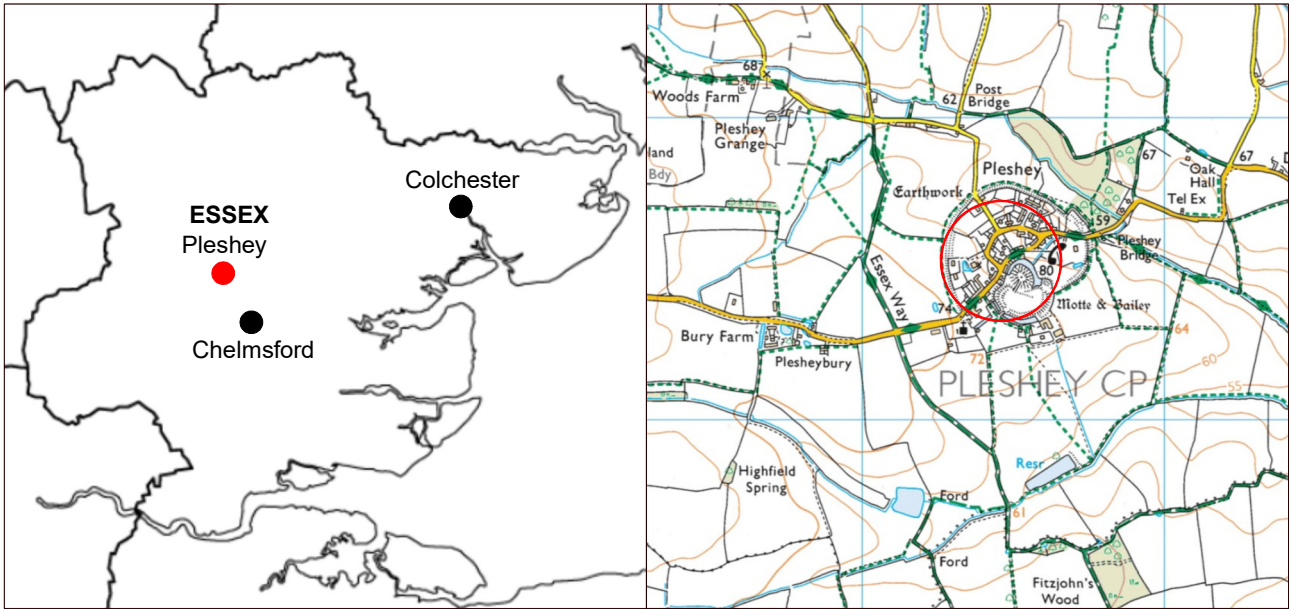
tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 12.02.2020

Appendix 1 Context list

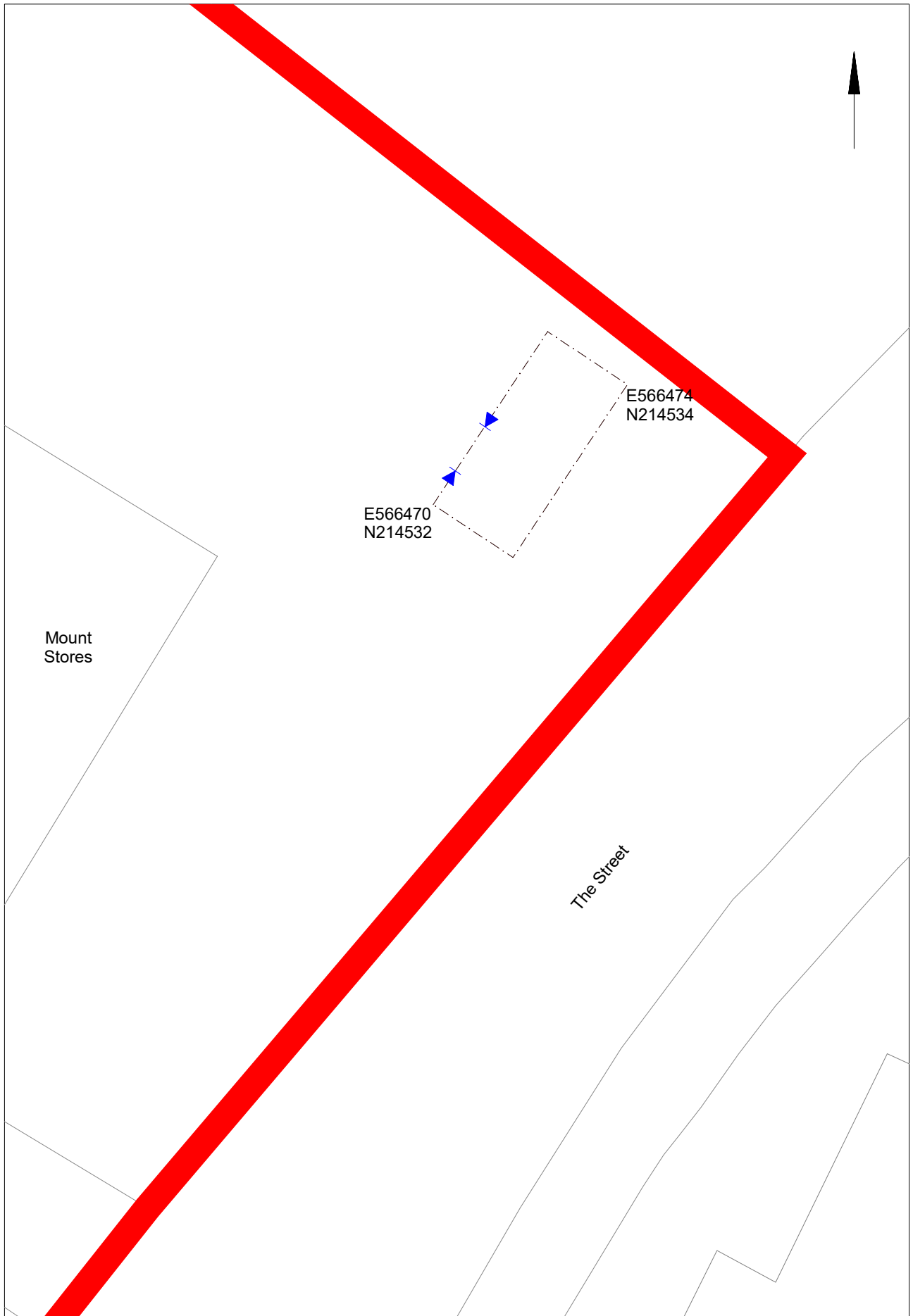
Context number	Finds number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Soft, damp, dark brownish/black sandy-silt	Modern
L2	-	Natural subsoil	Firm, damp, medium yellowy/brown silty clay with chalk flecking	-



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Fig 1 Site location.





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Fig 2 Results.

0 5 m

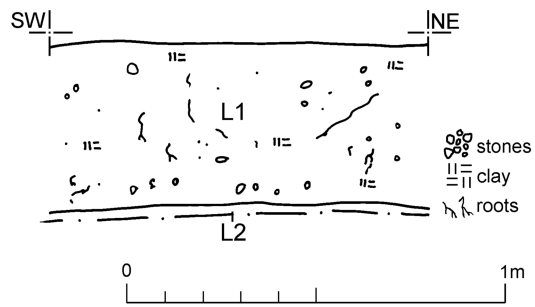


Fig 3 Representative section.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-388660

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Mount Stores, The Street, Pleshey, Essex CM3 1HE - February 2020
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Mount Stores, The Street, Pleshey, Essex during excavations for the installation of an underground LPG tank. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological deposits or material were observed during this work.
Project dates	Start: 28-02-2020 End: 28-02-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	20/02n - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD PLESHEY Mount Stores, Pleshey
Postcode	CM3 1HE
Study area	7 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6645 1452 51.804019435883 0.414473519054 51 48 14 N 000 24 52 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	none
Project design originator	none
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Robin Mathieson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr & Mrs Gibb

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at Mount Stores, The Street, Pleshey, Essex CM3 1HE - February 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Lister, C
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1528
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	Comb-bound A4 booklet
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html
Entered by	Chris Lister (cl@catuk.org)
Entered on	12 March 2020

OASIS:

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Site: Pleshey Mount Stores WB

Site code: PY34

Layer No.

Interpretation Top soil

Period

1

Location Gas tank pit

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black
✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand charcoal oyster daub brick tile
✓ ✓ ✓

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

RECORDING 1:10 rep sx drawing and photo

Plan nos

Section nos

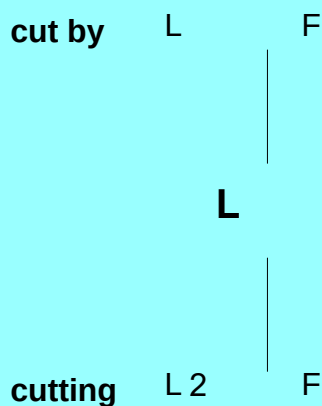
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS Modern clay pipe, glass and china plate - Not retained

Find Nos:

NOTES Top soil located in the gas tank pit. Modern finds found in the layer. 45cm in depth, seals L2.



By RM Date

Site: Pleshey Mount Stores WB

Site code: PY34

Layer No.

Interpretation Natural
Period

2

Location Gas tank pit

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black
✓ ✓

Soil sand silt clay loam clay silt sand
Type ✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

RECORDING 1:10 rep sx drawing and photo

Plan nos

Section nos

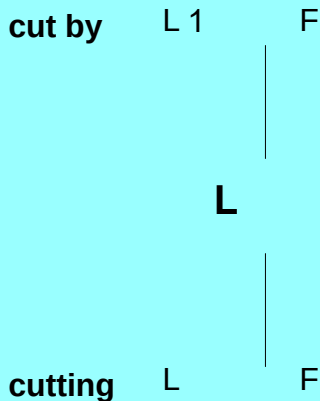
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS

Find Nos:

NOTES Firm natural clay.



By RM Date



001



002



003



004



005



006



007



008



009

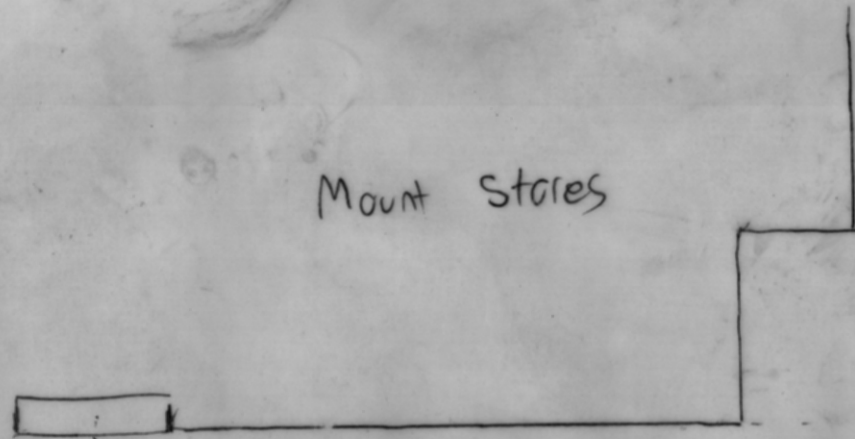


010

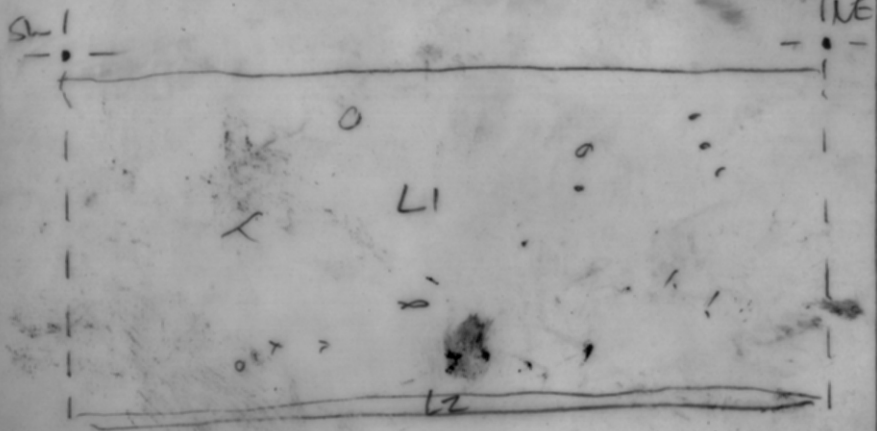
Filename	Description
PY34_Photograph_001.jpg	Pre excavation shot
PY34_Photograph_002.jpg	Site shot
PY34_Photograph_003.jpg	Site shot
PY34_Photograph_004.jpg	Excavated trench for underground LPG tank - looking north-east
PY34_Photograph_005.jpg	excavated trench for underground LPG tank looking north
PY34_Photograph_006j.pg	Excavated trench for underground LPG tank - looking south-east
PY34_Photograph_007.jpg	Excavated trench for underground LPG tank - looking south-west
PY34_Photograph_008.jpg	excavated trench for underground LPG tank - looking west
PY34_Photograph_009.jpg	Site shot
PY34_Photograph_010.jpg	Representative section in trench - looking north-west

1:50
RM 28/02/2020

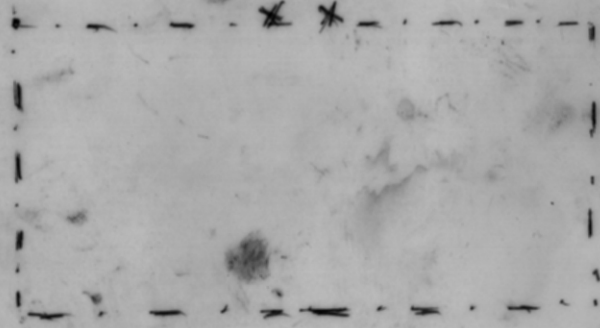
Mount Stores



1m Rep SX 1:10 RM 28/02/20 SE Facing



1m Rep SX



Pleshey Mount Stores WB