

**Archaeological investigation at
The Bell Public House,
The Street,
Purleigh, Essex**

Phase I: trial-trenching

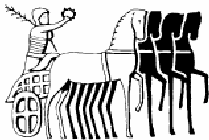
October 2014



Report prepared by Mark Baister

on behalf of Mr and Mrs Webb

CAT project ref: 14/10b
NGR: TL 84216 02032
HEA code: PUB14



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CAT Report 815
February 2015

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EHER Summary Sheet

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Cover – Site view, facing south-west.

1. Summary

This is the first half of a report detailing archaeological work undertaken within the vicinity of The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex (Fig. 1). Two trial trenches were excavated on the site of a new proposed car park and store. Three shallow post-medieval/modern features were uncovered, as well as one extensive modern service. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.

2. Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report on the trial-trenching carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land opposite The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex (Area 1 - Fig. 1, TL 84216 02032), on the 13th October 2014. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Webb following the direction of a brief prepared by Maria Medlycott, Historic Environment Advisor for Essex County Council (December 2013). The brief was issued in response to a planning application for the proposed development of the site, comprising the construction of a new car park and a store (Planning Ref: MAL/00835/12). Work proceeded in accordance with a WSI prepared by CAT (2014) in response to the above brief.

This is the first half of the report concerning this site. The second half of the report will detail a watching brief on groundworks for an extension to the north of the public house (Area 2).

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with local and national standards as detailed in CAT 2014, ClfA 2008a, ClfA 2008b, MoRPHE, EAA 8, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

3. Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the proposed development is located within the core of the historic settlement of Purleigh, and is adjacent to All Saints Church (HER 7929-30).

The Bell Public House itself is a listed Grade II historic building, and comprises a pair of 15th century timber-framed houses (HER 38563) which were subsequently converted into a public house in the post-medieval period.

As a result there was a high probability of archaeological remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval period being present in both areas of development (the extension and the new car-park).

4. 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, in particular with reference to any potential archaeological deposits relatable to the information provided in Section 3 above.

5. Methodology and Results (Fig 2)

This section provides an archaeological summary of the excavation of two trial trenches, including features, finds encountered and dating information. The trenches were smaller than called for in the brief due to some large hedges along the edge of the plot, and an in use open service to the south.

The two trial-trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. Four layers were encountered across the site –

Layer	Description
1	A modern dark black silty topsoil overlaying the whole site - in T1 this directly overlays natural clay of L2.
2	Natural post-glacial grey/yellow clay underlying whole site - this is found at a lower depth in T2.
3	A medium/dark black silty buried topsoil, only present in T2.
4	A medium brown silty buried topsoil, only present in T2.

Trench 1

Three shallow features were present in Trench 1, and they all were of a late post-medieval/modern date. F1 was a small linear running east-west across the north of the trench, and contained peg tile and modern pottery fragments. F2 was a small shallow pit in the northern half of the trench, again containing peg tile, and also fragments of clay pipe. F3 was a large but very shallow pit containing modern glass, peg tile and modern pottery fragments.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was devoid of archaeology and largely taken up by an out of use extensive modern service - possibly the forebear of the open service to the south.

6. Finds

Modern pottery, clay-pipe and peg tile were recovered from all of the features on the site. In addition fragments of modern glass were observed during machining of L1 but not recovered.

7. Discussion (Fig 3)

The small amount of archaeological remains uncovered opposite the Bell Public House seem to suggest this site was not at the heart of the medieval or post-medieval settlement of Purleigh. With only three very shallow features containing modern or late post-medieval finds, the site has no compelling evidence of settlement activity.

One thing that can be surmised is that the site has been terraced in the recent past. The additional layers of buried topsoil above the natural clay in Trench 2 suggest that originally the incline of the site would have been steeper to the east - which may account for the site's lack of settlement activity. The terracing to create a gentler slope could have occurred at the same time the service in Trench 2 was installed.

The second half of this report, discussing the watching brief to the north of the public house in the current car park (Fig 1 - Area 2), may yield more interesting results given its proximity to All Saint's Church.

8. Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mr and Mrs Webb for commissioning the project. The project was managed by M Baister, and the fieldwork was carried out by M Baister and R Mathieson. Figures are by MB. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Maria Medlycott.

9. References

CAT	1999	Policies and procedures (updated 2014)
CAT	2014	Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological investigation at The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex. October 2014 (CAT WSI By Mark Baister)
CIfA	2008a	Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation.
CIfA	2008b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.
<i>EAA 8</i>	2000	Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy, East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 8, ed. by Brown, N. and Glazenbrook, J.
<i>EAA 14</i>	2003	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Paper 14, ed. by David Gurney
<i>EAA 24</i>	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24, ed. by Maria Medlycott
Medlycott, M	2013	Brief for Archaeological Investigation at The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh December 2013.
MoRPHE	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage)

10. Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material (brick, tile, tessera).
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
EH	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
HEA	Historic Environment Advisor
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer	an accumulation or deposition of archaeological material
post-medieval	the period from AD 1500 to AD 1800
medieval	the period from AD 1066 to AD 1500
modern	the period from AD 1800 to present day
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey

11. Contents of the archive

Finds archive

No finds retained after report completed.

Paper archive

1 A4 wallet containing:

- this report
- original site record (context and finds sheets)
- section drawings
- digital photo log
- attendance record
- sundry papers
- digital photos on disc

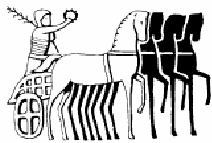
12. Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, C02 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (Accession code requested).

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Distribution list:

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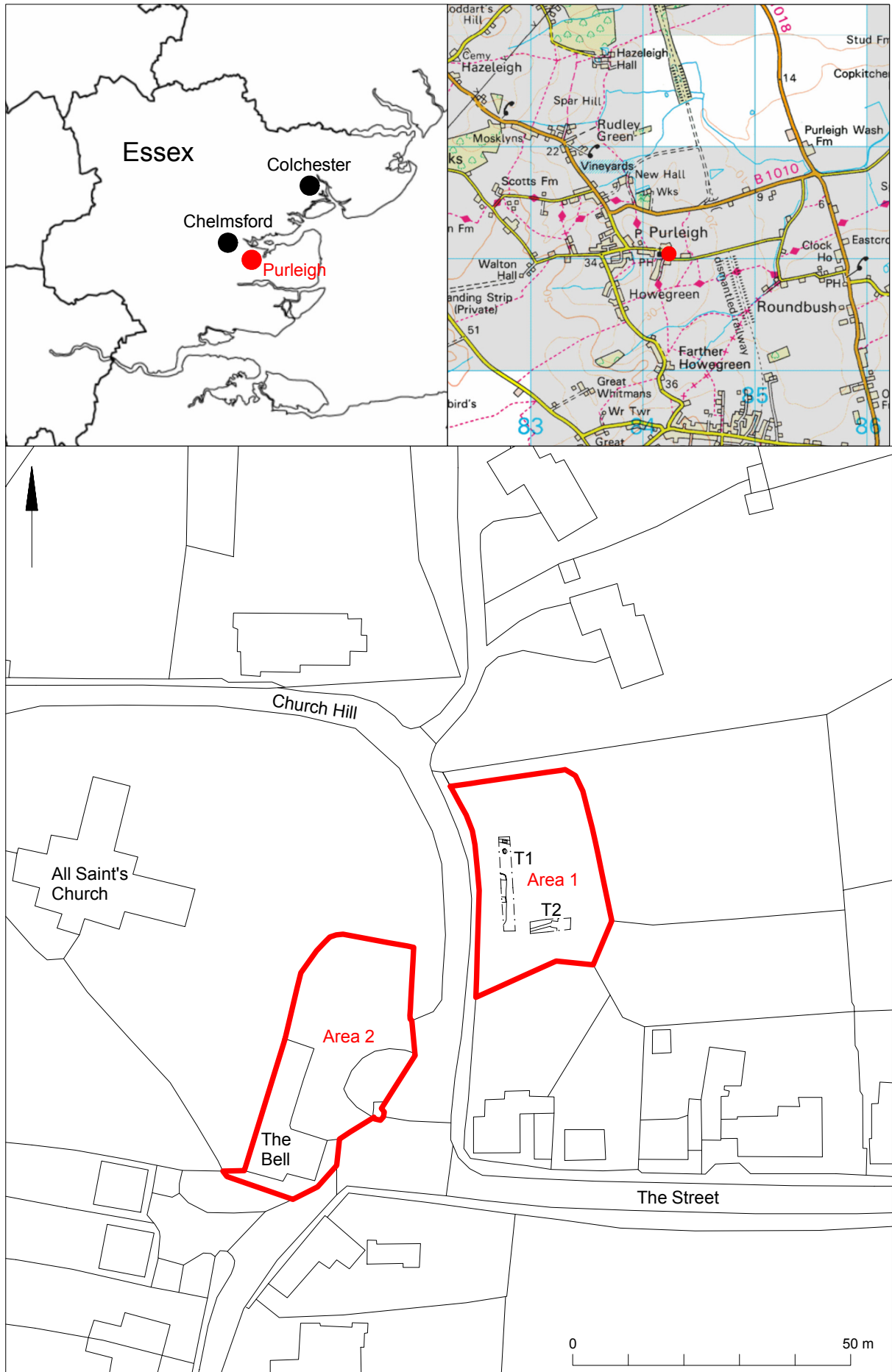
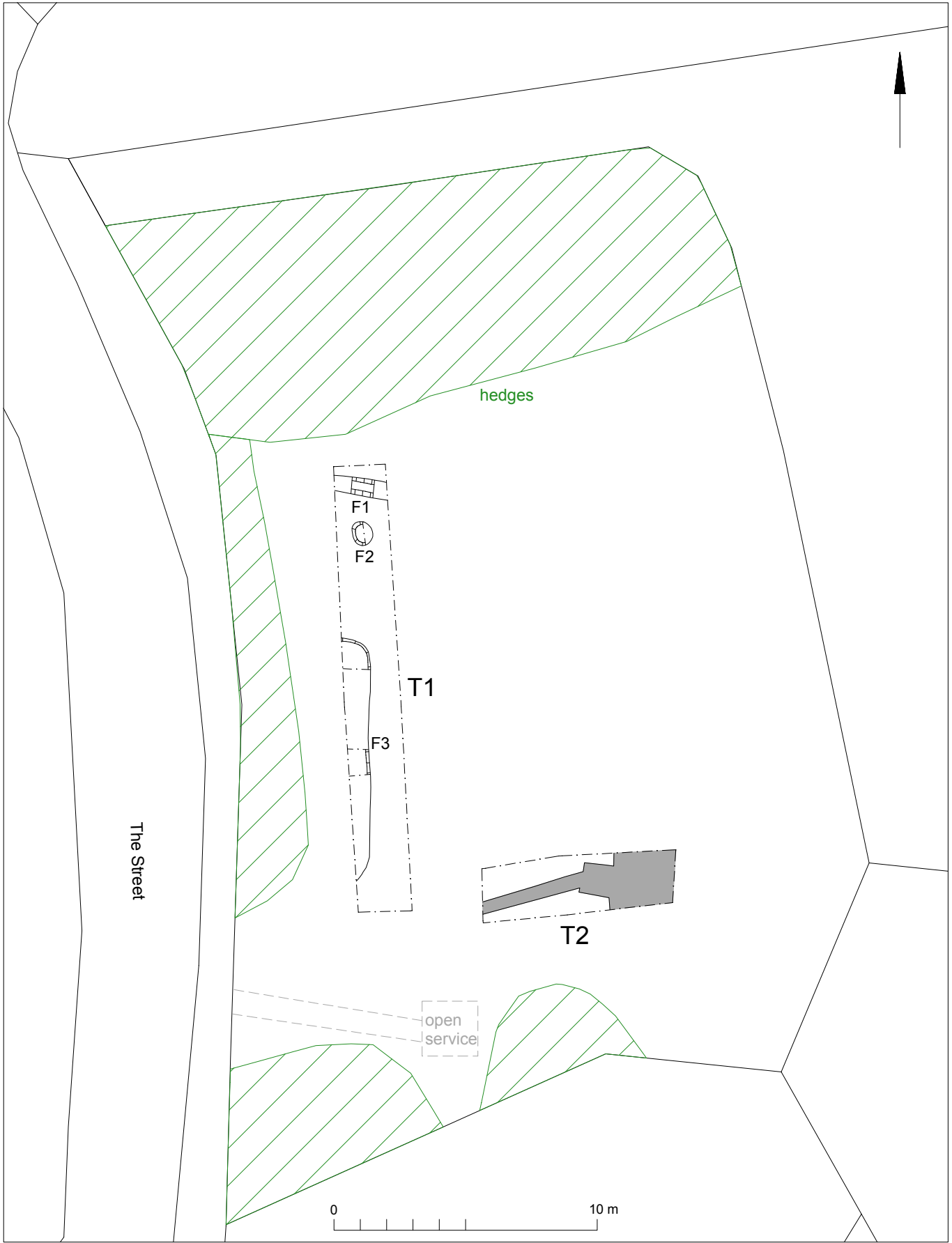
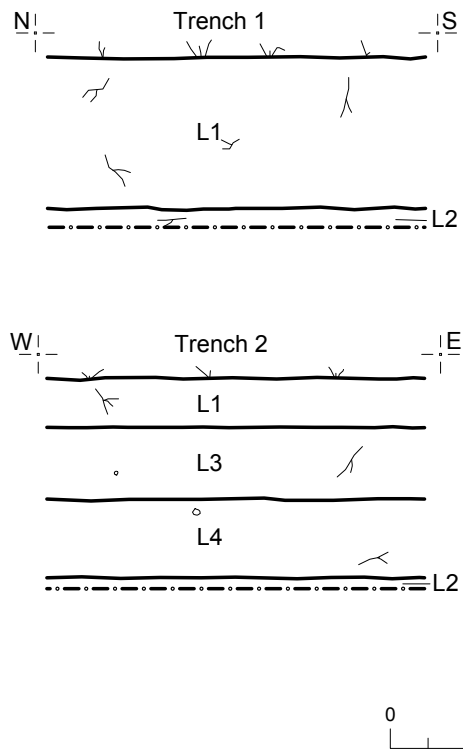


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Evaluation results.



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Fig 3 Representative sections of T1 and T2.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex	
Parish: Purleigh	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 84216 02032	Site code: CAT project code – 14/10b HEA Code – PUB14
Type of work: Evaluation and watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 13th of October 2014	Size of area investigated: 24m of trenching
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum: accession code requested	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related EHER numbers: -
Final report: CAT Report 815	
Periods represented: modern, post-medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>This is the first half of a report detailing archaeological work undertaken within the vicinity of The Bell Public House, The Street, Purleigh, Essex.</i></p> <p><i>Two trial trenches were excavated on the site of a new proposed car park and store. Three shallow post-medieval/modern features were uncovered, as well as one extensive modern service.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
ECC Monitor: Maria Medlycott	
Keywords:	Significance: neg
Author of summary: Mark Baister	Date of summary: February 2015