

Archaeological monitoring at The Star, 62 High Street, Standon, Hertfordshire, SG11 1LB

January 2020



by Dr Elliott Hicks

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fieldwork by Robin Mathieson and Sarah Carter

commissioned by Zoe Horton (GBA Designs Ltd)

NGR: TL 3959 2226 (centre)
Planning ref.: 3/19/1077/FUL
CAT project ref.: 19/06g
OASIS ref.: colchest3-358893

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CAT Report 1515
February 2020

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Star, 62 High Street, Standon, Hertfordshire during groundworks for single-storey extensions to the northern side and rear of the property. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only feature uncovered was the foundation trench for the existing building.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring at The Star, 62 High Street, Standon, Hertfordshire during 28th to 31st January 2020. The work was commissioned by Zoe Horton of GBA Designs Ltd prior to the construction of single-storey extensions to the northern side and rear of the property, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning (HCCERP), Historic Environment Advisor Simon Wood 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).

In response to this condition, a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT (CAT, 2019) and agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor. All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI.

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 watching briefs (ClfA 2014a)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b)*.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER), request number 57/19.

The proposed development site is located to the southwest of the historic core of the village of Standon and within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 88, as identified in the Local Plan. The 500m HER search area also includes part of Area of Archaeological significance No. 96.

Historic landscape

The Hertfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation map (HLC) shows that the development site is located within a built-up area – urban development (code *ba*) and areas of enclosed meadow pasture (code *mp*). The surrounding search area includes a pre-18th-century irregular enclosure (code *if*) and later enclosure - 18th-century or later (code *le*) to the east. To the south is an industrial area (code *in*) and 19th-20th century woodland plantation (code *wp*). To the southwest areas of allotments (code *ag*).

Archaeology (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

The Star Inn is a Historic England Grade II Listed building (no. 1176714). This timber-framed public house was first documented in 1727 but is thought to date to at least the 17th century (MHT10043). As the site lies near to the church (see below) it is thought there could be evidence of earlier structures below.

Prehistoric

The findspot of a Late Iron Age gold stater recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme lies in the vicinity (MHT25965).

Roman

No Roman monuments are listed within the search area, although a few finds have been recorded. These include: two Roman coins found in the garden of a cottage at Mill End in c 1878 (MHT1509, found less than 300m N); a Roman coin (MHT26180, found less than 200m NNE); a Roman pin (MHT26186); and a fragment of a Roman bracelet (MHT26187).

Medieval

The Domesday Book refers to the manorial holding of 'Standone'. The earliest reference to it as a medieval borough is in 1262. The manor, probably established in the Saxon period, was first held by Archbishop Stigand. By 1086 it belonged to Rohais, daughter of the lord of Longueville and wife of Richard de Tonbridge, the Lord of Clare. It remained in this family until the death of Gilbert de Clare at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. The manor had a number of sub-manors including Plashes and Doos (Dowsetts). The manor of Standon had a comparatively large population at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 (although it was probably quite scattered). The only larger settlements in Hertfordshire at the time were Ware, Hertford and St Albans (MHT2675).

The medieval and later village concentrates around the parish church, thought to be potentially Saxon in origin but rebuilt in the 13th century (MHT4366, 72m ESE), and the manorial mill (MHT5766, 256m SW) at Mill End, where the road to Bishop's Stortford crosses the river.

Other key medieval monuments include the site of 'Our Lady Bridge' Chapel (MHT2766, 223m N). Records show it stood on the site of the present Road Bridge (MHT5148, 223m N), built in 1858 after a flood. Another is The Moors, a small area of common land by the river (MHT12484, 206m NNW).

Late-medieval to post-medieval

The village thrived during the post-medieval period. Smock Mill, a 19th-century windmill, is located in Hadham Road, southwest of the site (MHT4755, 186m SW), Standon railway station, northwest of the site, was built in 1863 (MHT5540, 272m NW), and a paper mill and saw mill formerly stood at Paper Mill Lane. The mill may be one noted in the Domesday Book (1086) which was given to the Knights Hospitaller by Gilbert de Clare in the mid 12th century and leased back to the manor in exchange for land in the mid 14th century. By 1713 the watermill had been converted for the manufacturing of paper and a drying house was added (MHT9487, 268m SW). After c 1862 the mill was converted for use as a saw mill (MHT5766, 259m SW). Another watermill with double pile house, steam mill timber-framed barn and watermill is located on Mill End (MHT5809, 289m N). A 'Meeting House' non-conformist chapel is located on Kents Lane, northwest of the site (MHT9488, 381m NW). There are a series of 18th-century almshouses along Hadham Road (MHT10029, 164m SE), which reputedly were originally used as weaving sheds and outbuildings for the adjacent Standon Workhouse (MHT10040, 128m SE). A late medieval to post-medieval jettied building at Knights Court is also located on Hadham Road. It is thought to have originated as a hospice for the Knights Hospitalliers, and was later used as a school from 1612 to c 1980 (MHT10031, 101m SE). The Post Office at 13 High Street is a late medieval open hall-house with a jettied street frontage with 19th- and 20th-century alterations (MHT10044, 214m NNE). There are also a number of post-medieval model farm complexes in the vicinity. Mill Farm, which originated in the late 17th to early 18th-century lies to the north (MHT11147, 358m N) and New Street Farm in Kents Lane to the northwest (MHT11148, 330m NW). Town Farm, to the north, was demolished in late

20th-century (MHT30662, 277m N). The site of a series of 19th-century earthworks, visible on 1879 OS mapping, lies on Paper Mill Lane (MHT30663, 203m SSW). Also located on Paper Mill Lane is the site of a row of post-medieval cottages which were demolished in 1974 (MHT31186, 139m SW). A vicarage formerly stood in Kents Lane (MHT30933, 454m NW). A post-medieval pit, possibly a garden feature was also recorded during monitoring work at 55 High Street (MHT12811, 115m NE).

Late post-medieval to modern

An early 20th-century steam-powered corn mill stands at Kents Lane (MHT5808, 270m NNW). A railway line linking Ware, Hadham and Buntingford opened in 1863, and was closed in down in 1965 (MHT30515, 140m W).

Undated

The only undated monument is a small area of common land at the junction of High Street and Paper Mill Lane (MHT12539, 97m SSE).

Finds spots

An evaluation behind Grafton House, 6 Stortford Road, carried out by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit revealed a quantity of post-medieval bone, some of which showed signs of butchery (MHT10049, 253m NE). Portable antiquities scheme finds spots in the area include: a medieval penny (MHT26181, found less than 200m to the NNE), a medieval halfgroat (MHT26190, found less than 200m to the NNE), and unstratified sherds of post-medieval salt-glazed pottery and a small fragment of clay tobacco pipe at 20 High Street (MHT31259, 171m N).

Listed buildings

The site is surrounded by twenty-one Historic England listed buildings within a 500m radius of the site (1 Grade I, 1 Grade II* and 19 Grade II). They all date from the medieval period to 19th century. They include a late 18th- to early 19th-century timber-framed structure at 30-32 High Street (MHT9486); a picturesque group of almshouses dating to the 17th century at 1 & 2 Church End cottages (MHT10030, 121m SW); the Old Windmill Inn, 53 High Street, which dates to the 17th century (MHT10036, 107m NE); the Falcon Inn at 2 Stortford Road, which dates to 1686 (MHT10037, 240m NNE); the Bell Public House, 4 High Street, which dates to 1727 (MHT10038, 217m N); Town Farm House, Mill End, a timber-framed and plastered late medieval open hall-house with 16th- and 18th-century additions (MHT10043, 267m N); 64 High Street, a timber-framed jettied house which dates to the 17th century (MHT12961, 38m SSE); a group of barns and farm buildings on Paper Mill Lane (MHT12963, 83m SSW); The Forge, 4 Stortford Road, a blacksmith's workshop and cottage built in the 19th century (MHT13431 242m NNE); Douro house at 68 High Street, a late 17th-century house (MHT16289, 65m SSE); and 49-51 High Street, originally a 14th-century timber-framed hall house with alterations made in the 17th and 19th centuries (MHT17811, 102m NE).

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

On 28th and 31st January 2020, a CAT archaeologist oversaw the following groundworks:

- a) foundation trenching to the side of the property, 19.3m long, 0.7m wide and 1.3m deep;
- b) foundation trenching to the rear of the property, 5.1m long, 0.6m wide and 1m deep.

Five layers were recorded. The foundation trenching to the side of the property was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.01-0.22m thick, soft, moist dark grey/black loam with occasional small stones) and subsoil (L2, c 0.37-0.54m thick, firm, moist beige clay with chalk flecks) into natural (L3, firm, moist dark grey clay with occasional chalk pieces). The trenching to the rear of the property was excavated through modern tarmac and underlying crush (L4, c 0.19-0.22m thick) and a make-up layer (L5, c 0.66-0.69m thick, firm, moist medium grey silty-clay with brick flecks and 5% stones) into L3.

Post-medieval foundation trench F1 was uncovered in the foundation trenching to the side of the property. It was 1.1m wide with a brick ledge 0.25m wide.



Photograph 1 F1 – looking east

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Discussion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-significant area, the only feature uncovered was the foundation cut for the existing building.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Zoe Horton of GBA Designs Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by R Mathieson and S Carter. Figures are by C Lister, R Mathieson and S Carter. The project was monitored for Hertfordshire County Council by Simon Wood.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT | 2018 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CIfA | 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 |

Historic England (HE)	2015	Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14) <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> , by S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<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

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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.
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain ‘contexts’
HCCERP	Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
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
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1515)
Original site records (sections, plans)
Photographic thumbnails and log
WSI

Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1515)
Photographic thumbnails and log
Graphics files
WSI
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 Ware Museum.

Distribution list:

Zoe Horton (GBA Designs Ltd)

Simon Wood, Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning

Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

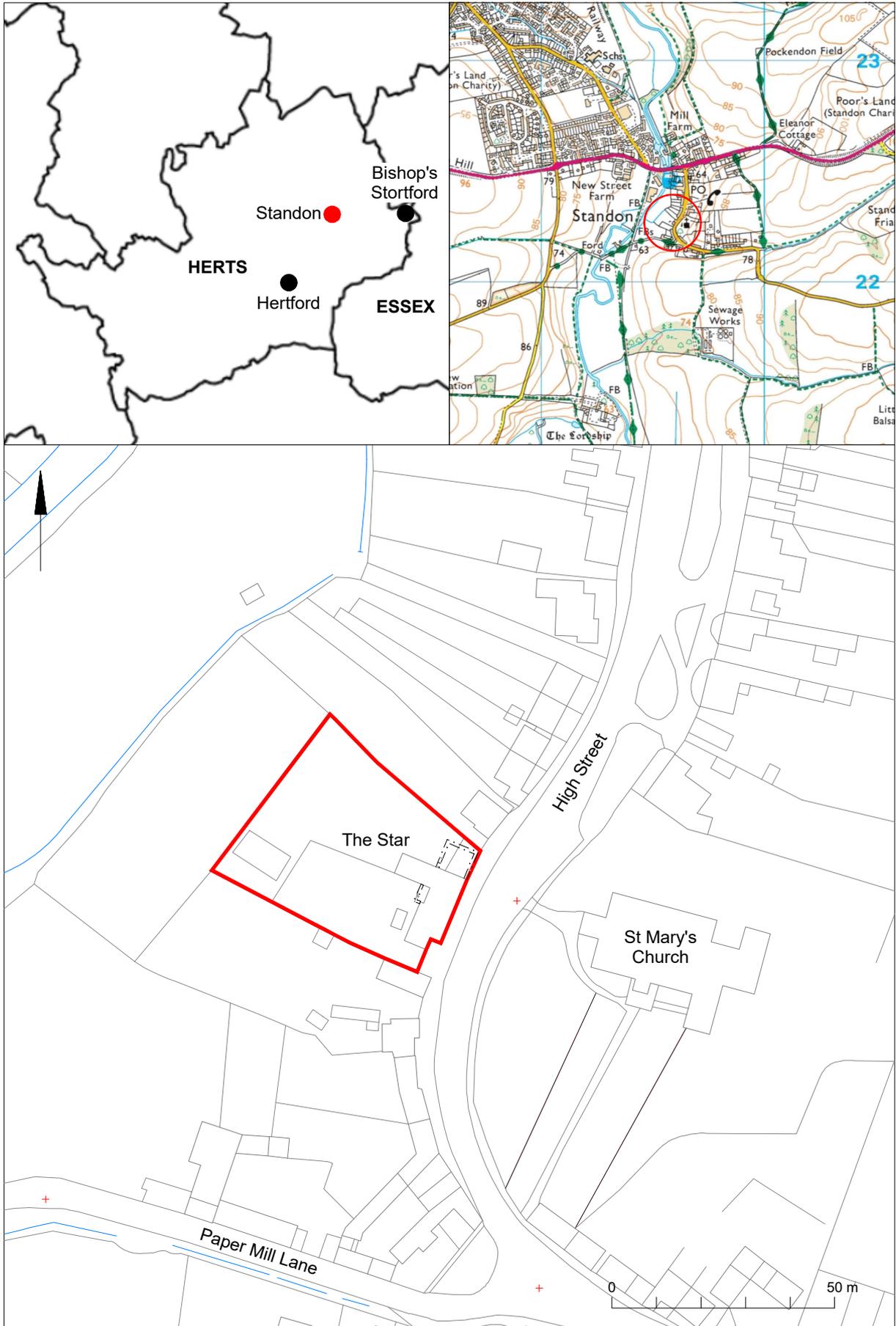
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Date: 05.02.2020



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Fig 1 Site location.

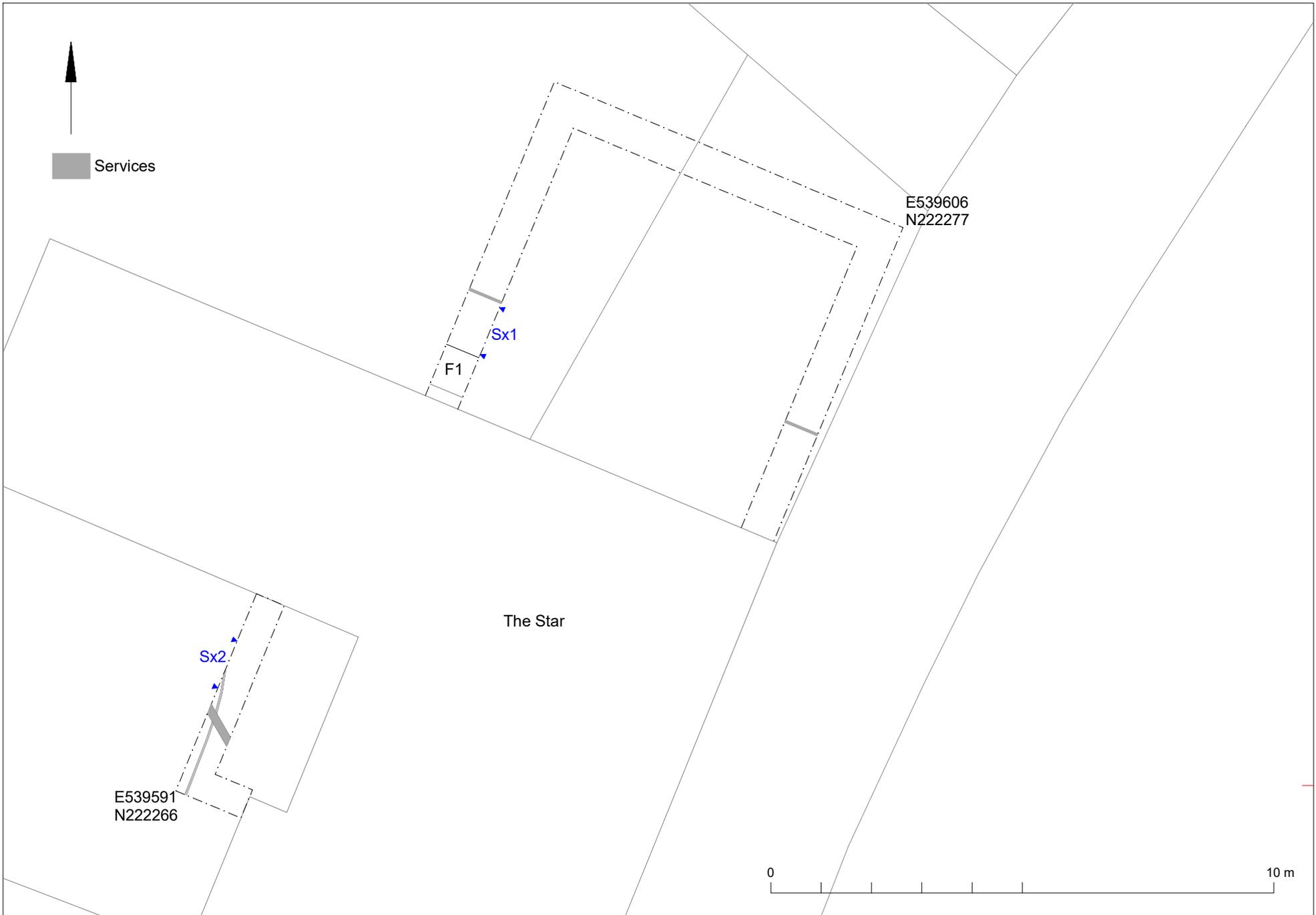


Fig 2 Results.

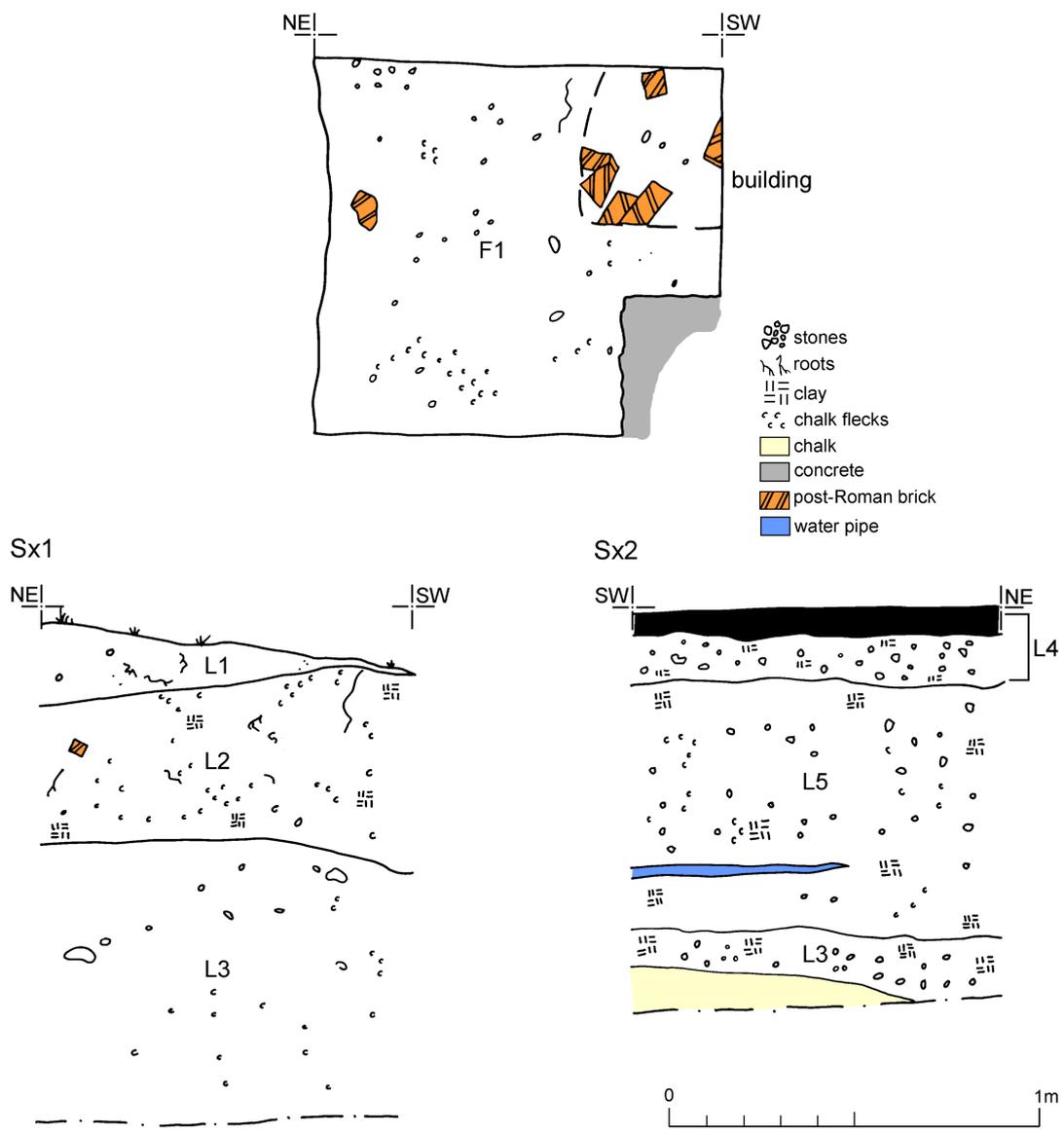


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

APPENDIX

HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: The Star, 62 High Street, Standon, Hertfordshire, SG11 1LB		
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Standon		Parish: Standon
Planning application reference: 3/19/1077/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Developer		
Nature of application: Single-storey extensions to the northern side and rear of the property.		
Present land use: Commercial		
Size of application area: 0.18ha		Size of area investigated: 20.7m ²
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 3959 2226 (centre)		
Site code (if applicable): CAT project code 19/06g		
Site director/organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT)		
Type of work: Archaeological monitoring		
Date of work: January 2020	Start: 28th January 2020	Finish: 31st January 2020
Location of finds & site archive/curating museum: Ware Museum		
Related HER Nos: none		Periods represented: none
Relevant previous summaries/reports: n/a		
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Star, 62 High Street, Standon, Hertfordshire during groundworks for single-storey extensions to the northern side and rear of the property. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only feature uncovered was a foundation cut for the existing building.		
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks		Date of summary: 04.02.2020

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OASIS ID: colchest3-358893

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at The Star, 62 High Street, Standon, Hertfordshire, SG11 1LB.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Star, 62 High Street, Standon, Hertfordshire during groundworks for single-storey extensions to the northern side and rear of the property. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only feature uncovered was the foundation trench for the existing building.
Project dates	Start: 28-01-2020 End: 31-01-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	3/13/0266/FP - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	3/19/1077/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/06g - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	FOUNDATION TRENCH Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE STANDON The Star, 62 High Street, Standon, Hertfordshire
Postcode	SG11 1LB
Study area	0.18 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3959 2226 51.880946789226 0.028263027742 51 52 51 N 000 01 41 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, HCC
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Robin Mathieson
Name of sponsor/funding body	GBA Design Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Ware Museum
Digital Archive ID	2019/06g
Digital Media available	"Text","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Ware Museum
Paper Archive ID	2019/06g
Paper Media available	"Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography**1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at The Star, 62 High Street, Standon, Hertfordshire, SG11 1LB: January 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1515
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	5 February 2020

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