

**Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation:
land adjacent to 'Farthings', 10 The Square,
Stock, Essex, CM4 9LH**

October 2015



report prepared by Ben Holloway
with a contribution by Stephen Benfield,
and illustrations by Chris Lister and Emma Holloway

**commissioned by e&m design partnership
on behalf of G & G Essex Development Ltd**

Planning ref: 15/00247/FUL
CAT project ref.: 15/09j
HER project code: SKTS15
NGR: TQ 6914 9888
Chelmsford Museum accession code: pending
OASIS ref: colchest3-225623



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CAT Report 887
November 2015

1 Summary

Stock is known for its post-medieval pottery industry. An archaeological evaluation by three trial-trenches (28m in total length) in the footprint of proposed new building revealed no significant archaeological features or finds. The only features were a post-medieval ditch and pit, an undated pit and an undated post-hole. There was evidence of modern disturbance, probably caused by the construction of a tennis court.

There was no evidence of kilns or pottery production associated with the Stock pottery industries.

2 Introduction (Figs 1 - 3)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land SE of 'Farthings', 10, The Square, Stock, Essex, carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 30th October 2015. The work was commissioned by e&m design partnership on behalf of G&G Essex Developments, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

In response to consultation (Chelmsford City Council, February 2015, 15/00247/FUL), ECC Historic Environment officer 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* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work (ECC 2015), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECC (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with normal industry standards as laid out in EAA 14, EAA 24), ClfA 2014a, and ClfA 2014b.

3 Archaeological background

This section draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

That pottery manufacture was an important industry in Stock from the 16th to the 19th centuries has been shown by the discovery of dumps of post-medieval potsherds and kiln debris at three sites in Stock: near Common Lane and Mill Road, 250m east of the current site (EHER 5507, EHER 5391), and at Pottery House, 100m to the south-west (CAT Report 598). More recent excavations at 10 The Paddock (CAT Report 704) revealed large quantities of post-medieval pottery which is probably from the same kiln as the finds from Common Lane. Historical evidence shows that Stock Common, 300m to the NE, was dug for clay for pottery manufacture. Earlier evidence of occupation in Stock comes from a site just to the north of Mill Road (EHER 46565) where Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features were found.

4 Results

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. Two layers were removed: a tarmac tennis court and sub-base (L1) an accumulation horizon (L2). This revealed natural geological deposit (coarse gravel L3). In addition, T3 contained modern topsoil (L4) sealing L2. Minor modern disturbance on the site is probably associated with site levelling prior to the construction of the tennis

Trench 1: summary

T1, located on the western part of the site within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, contained undated pit F1.

Trench 1: contexts and dating

context	description	finds	period
F1	pit	-	Undated

Trench 2: summary

T2, located in the centre of the site within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, contained two post-medieval features, ditch F3 and pit F4.

Trench 2: contexts and dating

context	description	finds	period
F3	ditch	pot-16th-mid 17th century. post-med peg-tile	post-medieval
F4	pit	post-med peg-tile/brick	post-medieval

Trench 3: summary

T3, on the northern site edge within the footprint of the proposed new garage, contained undated post-hole F2.

Trench 3: contexts and dating

context	description	finds	period
F2	post-hole	-	undated

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield (02/11/2015)

A small quantity of medieval or post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from F3 & F4 in T2. The pottery, all from F3 (1), consists of sherds from the rim and base of a bowl(s) in glazed red earthenware (*CAR 7*, Fabric 40). The two base sherds join together and it is possible that all the sherds are part of one pot. The glaze is confined to the internal base and lower wall area (although there are some glaze splashes on the underside of one base sherd) indicating that these sherds belong to the earlier production period of this type of pottery, broadly the 16th-mid 17th century (*CAR 7*, 192). The relatively simple flanged rim could also be consistent with an early date. The CBM consists of pieces from peg-tiles and one small piece that is either peg-tile or a fragment of brick (from F4 (2)). The peg-tiles are broadly dated as medieval or post-medieval, but are unlikely to date prior to the 14th century (Ryan & Andrews 1993, 97) and given the associated pottery a post-medieval date appears most probable. One of the peg-tile pieces has a faint animal print on the upper surface which appears to be that of a cat. The finds are listed and described in Table 1.

T	Ctxt	Find no.	Form/ description	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	spot date
T2	F003	1	Pottery, post-medieval, rim and body sherds from a bowl(s), two joining, glazed internally on base and part of lower wall, simple flat (slightly dished) flanged rim, generally early features seen on pot of 16th-mid 17th century date (<i>CAR 7</i> , 192)	40	4	149	c E/M16- M 17C
T2	F003	1	CBM peg-tile, red (orange-brown) coloured pieces, 10 mm-12 mm thick, one coner piece with round (slightly squared) fixing hole with animal paw print on surface - probably a cat print	fine sand	3	280	med-p- med
T2	F004	2	CBM small piece of peg-tile 913 mm thick) and small piece of brick or peg-tile	fine sand	2	17	med-p- med

Table 1 Finds by context

6 Discussion

No significant archaeological features or finds were revealed by this evaluation. It is evident that this site has been levelled, probably when the tennis court was constructed. Of the excavated features, ditch F3 may be a field boundary predating the construction of the properties fronting onto The Square. The fill of post-hole F2 indicates it is a modern garden feature. Previous evaluation in this area has produced evidence of the Stock pottery industries. However, there was no evidence of kiln or pottery production on this site - the four sheds from ditch F3 are more likely to be 'consumer ware' than kiln product.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks E & M Design Partnership for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and E Sanford. Site plans and sections prepared by C Lister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the ECC by Alison Bennett.

8 References

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

CAR 7	2000	<i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report 7, by John Cotter
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at 10, The Square, Stock, Essex</i>
CAT Report 598	2013	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching at 16-20 Mill Road, Stock, Essex March 2011</i> , by Adam Wightman and Howard Brooks
CAT Report 704	2013	<i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 10 The Paddock, Stock, Essex</i> by Adam Wightman and Howard Brooks
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
ECC	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, land SE of 10, The Square, Stock</i>
Ryan, P, & Andrews, D	1993	'A brick and tile typology for Cressing Temple' in Andrews, D, <i>Cressing Temple. A Templar and Hospitaller manor in Essex</i> , 93-103

9 Abbreviations and glossary

ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD1800

residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing: this report (CAT Report 887)
ECCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation
Original site record (Feature, layer, finds, trench record sheets)
Site digital photos on CD, and photographic log. Sundry papers

11 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: 2015.117.

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E&M Design
Alison Bennett Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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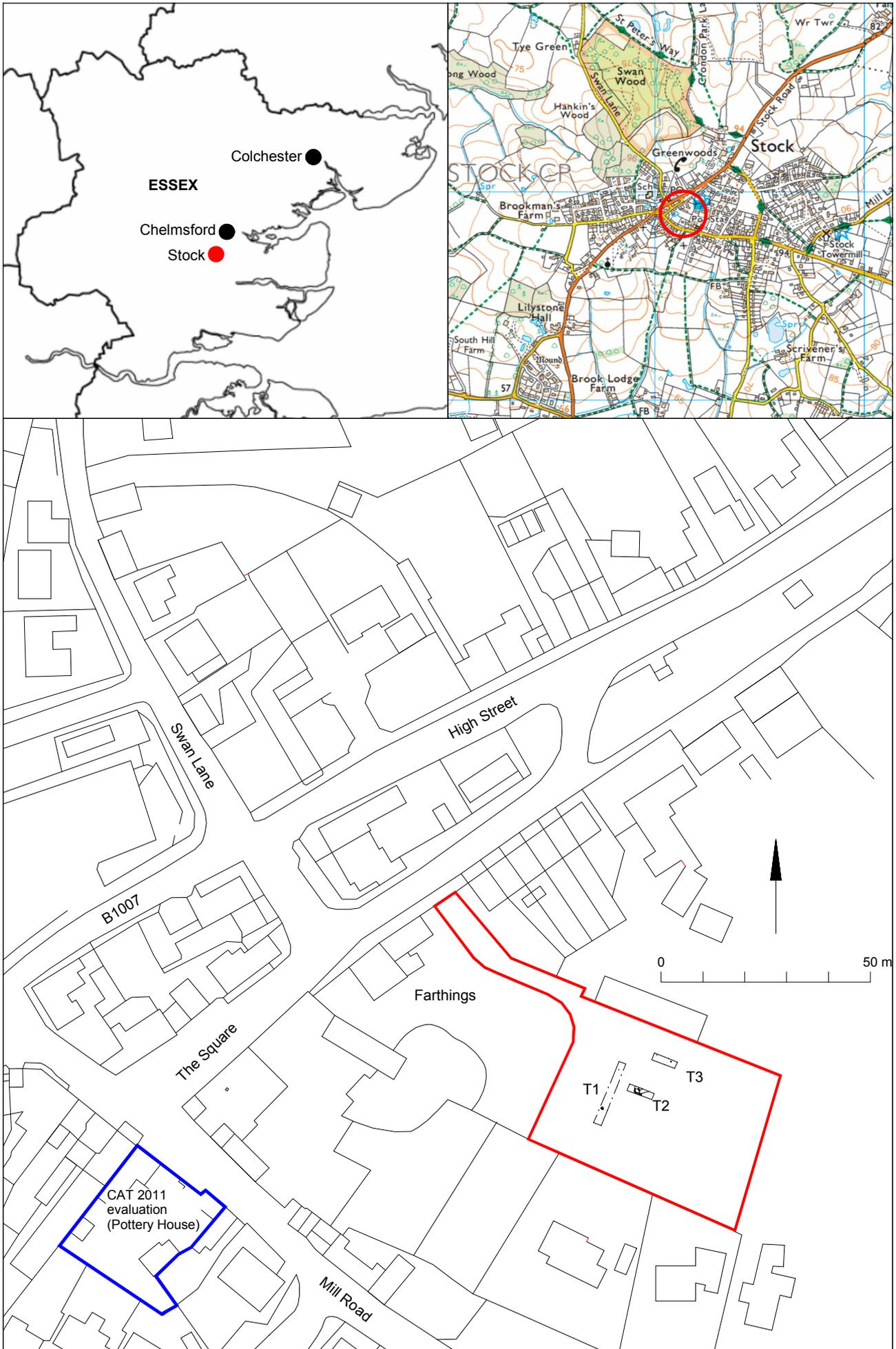


Fig 1 Site location.

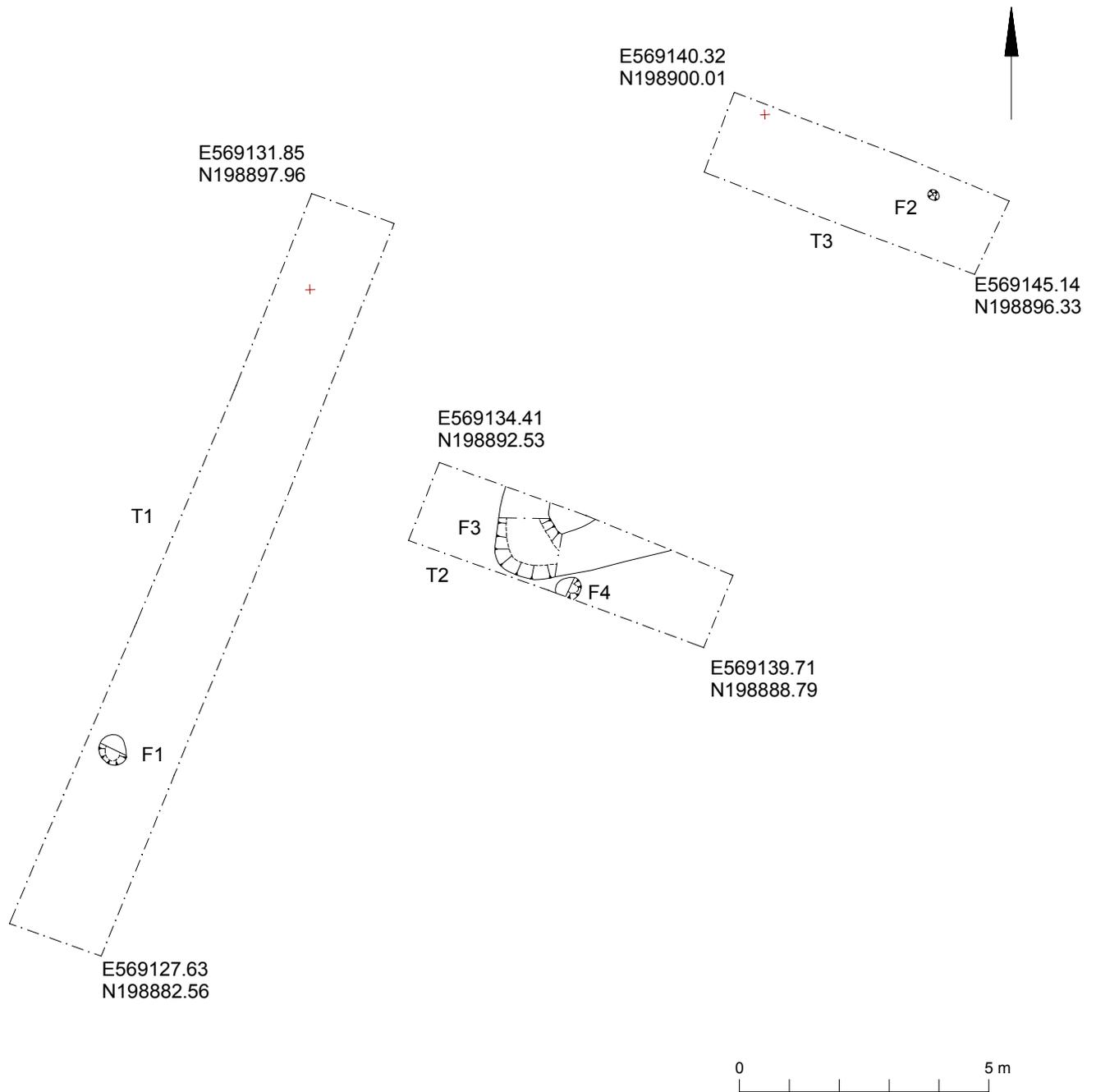


Fig 2 Results.

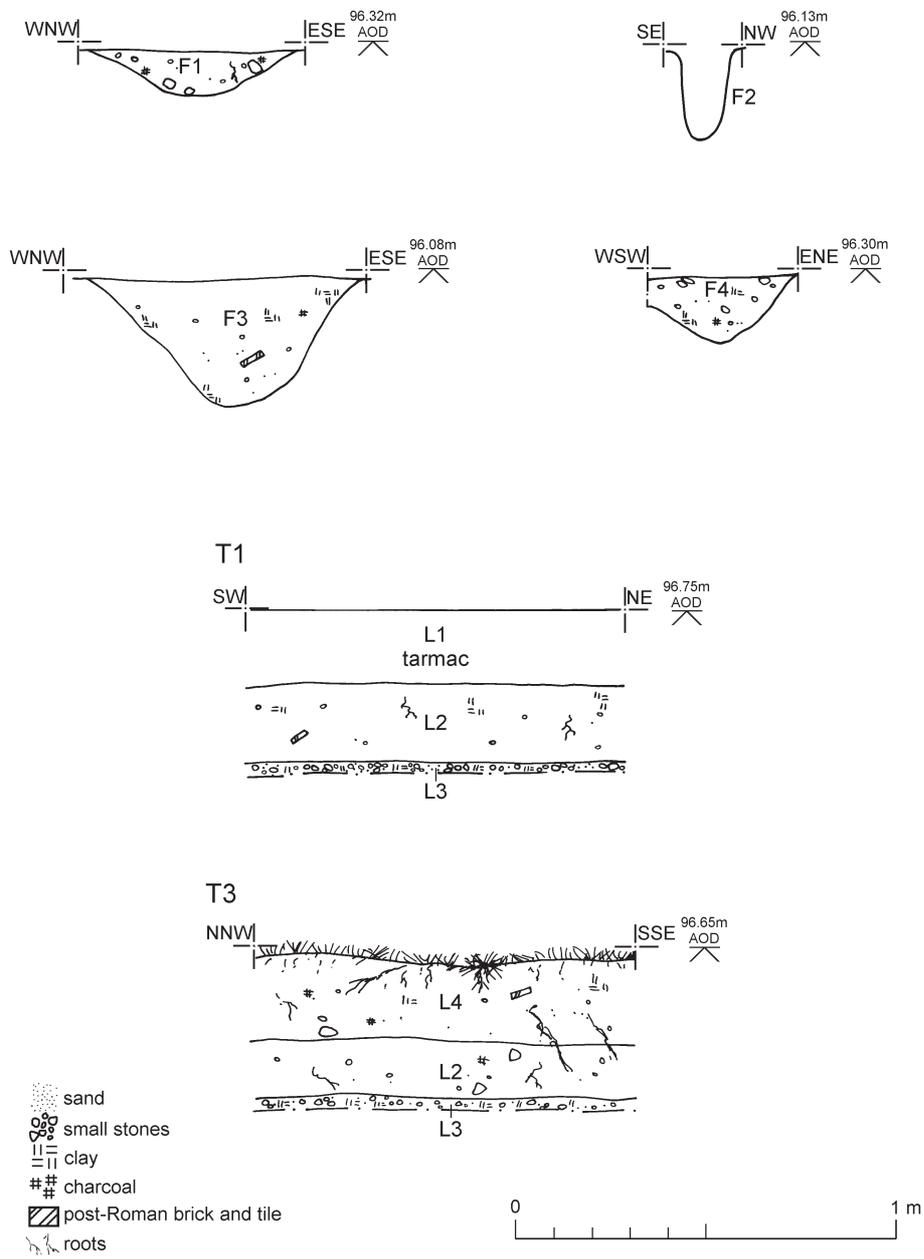


Fig 3 Feature sections (F1-4) and representative trench sections (T1-2).

Essex Historic Environment Record

Summary sheet

Address: 10, The Square, Stock, Essex	
Parish: Stock	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TQ 6914 9888 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 15/09j HER project code: SKTS15 15/00247/FUL
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 30th October 2015	Size of area investigated: 50.4m ² of trenching
Location of curating museum: Chelmsford Museum accession: pending	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related EHER numbers: EHER 5507, 5391, 48334, 46565
Final report: CAT Report 887	
Periods represented: post-medieval and modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Stock is known for its post-medieval pottery industry. An archaeological evaluation by three trial-trenches (28m in total length) in the footprint of proposed new building revealed no significant archaeological features or finds. The only features were a post-medieval ditch and pit, an undated pit and an undated post-hole. There was evidence of modern disturbance, probably caused by the construction of a tennis court.</i> <i>There was no evidence of kilns or pottery production associated with the Stock pottery industries.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
ECC Monitor: Alison Bennett	
Keywords:	Significance: -
Author of summary: Ben Holloway/ Howard Brooks	Date of summary: November 2015