

# Archaeological evaluation at 75 Mill Road, Stock, Essex, CM4 9LR

September 2016



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**commissioned by Robin Duffy Consulting Ltd  
on behalf of Bill Wright, Silverswan Homes Ltd**

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Chelmsford Museum accession code: CHMRE 2016.110

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**CAT Report 1018**

October 2016

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Results	1
5	Finds	3
6	Discussion	3
7	Acknowledgements	4
8	References	4
9	Abbreviations and glossary	4
10	Contents of archive	4
11	Archive deposition	5

Figures

after p5

## List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1	T1, looking W	2
Photograph 2	T2, looking W	3
Photograph 3	T3, looking W	3

Fig 1	Site location
Fig 2	Results
Fig 3	Feature and representative trench sections

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out at 75 Mill Road, Stock, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings. Pottery manufacture was an important industry in Stock from the 16th to the 19th centuries. However, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 75 Mill Road, Stock, Essex which was carried out on 16th September 2016. The work was commissioned by Robin Duffy (Robin Duffy Consulting Ltd) on behalf of Bill Wight, Silverswan Homes Ltd, in advance of the construction of two new dwellings, and 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* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2016).

In addition to the brief and 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 field evaluation* (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 utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The proposed development lies on land with archaeological potential for remains associated with medieval and post-medieval pottery manufacture. Pottery manufacture was an important industry in Stock from the 16th to the 19th centuries. This has been evidenced by the finding of post-medieval pottery kilns to the northwest of the development area at Stock Bowling Club (EHER 5507), and medieval pottery and kiln waste has also been recovered from a sewer trench alongside Common Lane (EHER 5391). Recent excavations at 10 The Paddock revealed large quantities of post-medieval pottery, which indicates a nearby kiln (EHER 48334). Historical evidence shows that Stock Common to the north of the development area was dug for clay for pottery manufacture. Earlier evidence of occupation in Stock comes from a site just to the north of the development area (EHER 46565) where Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features were found.

For further details of the history of Stock see Phillips (2003).

## 4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Three trial-trenches were excavated across the development site. All of the trenches were dug by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision.

**Trench 1 (T1) – L-shaped, 12m and 10m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench T1 was excavated through modern topsoil (L5, c 60-180mm thick), hoggin laid on matting (L6, c 50-150mm thick) and buried topsoil (L2, c 110-180mm thick). Sealed beneath L2 was natural silty-sand (L4). A modern land drain and two areas of modern disturbance were recorded.

**Trench 2 (T2) – L-shaped, 10m and 6m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench T2 was excavated through modern topsoil (L5, c 70mm thick), building demolition (L1, c 100-150mm thick) and buried topsoil (L2, c 70-120mm). Beneath L2 was a layer of sandy-silt with abundant stones/gravels (L3, c 150-170mm) sealing natural silty-sand (L4).

**Trench 3 (T3) – 15m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench T3 was excavated through modern building demolition (L1, c 260-280mm thick) and buried topsoil (L2, c 130-180mm). Beneath L2 was a layer of sandy-silt with abundant stones/gravels (L3, c 140-170mm) sealing natural silty-sand (L4). A modern land drain was identified and a single modern posthole (F1) excavated.



**Photograph 1** T1, looking W



**Photograph 2** T2, looking W



**Photograph 3** T3, looking W

## **5 Finds**

A fragment of modern brick and coal was recorded in F1 but not retained for post-excavation analysis.

## **6 Discussion**

Despite being located within an important area of medieval and post-medieval pottery manufacture, no significant archaeological horizons were identified. The modern drains

and disturbance are probably associated with the now demolished house, and the posthole was probably part of an old fence.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Robin Duffy and Bill Wight (Silverswan Homes Ltd) for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, J Roberts and A Wade. Figures are by BH and AW. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

## 8 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at 75 Mill Road, Stock, Essex, CM4 9LR</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological 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>
ECC	2016	<i>Brief for Archaeological trial trenching and excavation at 75 Mill Road, Stock</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
Philips, C	2003	<i>The Story of Stock and Buttsbury</i>

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	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 of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 10 Contents of archive

**Findings:** n/a

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1018)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

## 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 CHMRE: 2016.110.

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### Distribution list:

Robin Duffy, Robin Duffy Consulting Ltd  
Bill Wight, Silverswan Homes Lts  
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



### Colchester Archaeological Trust

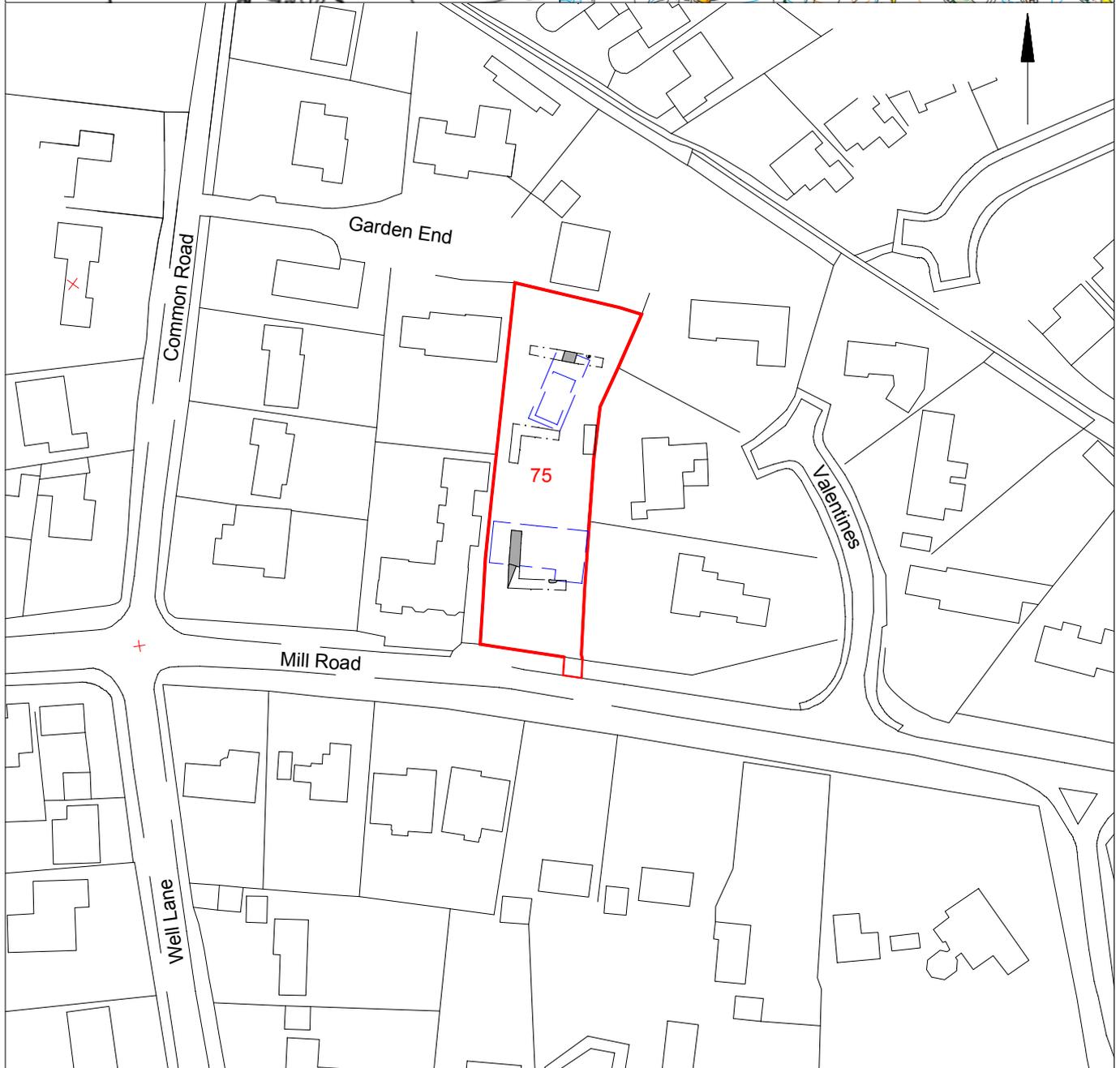
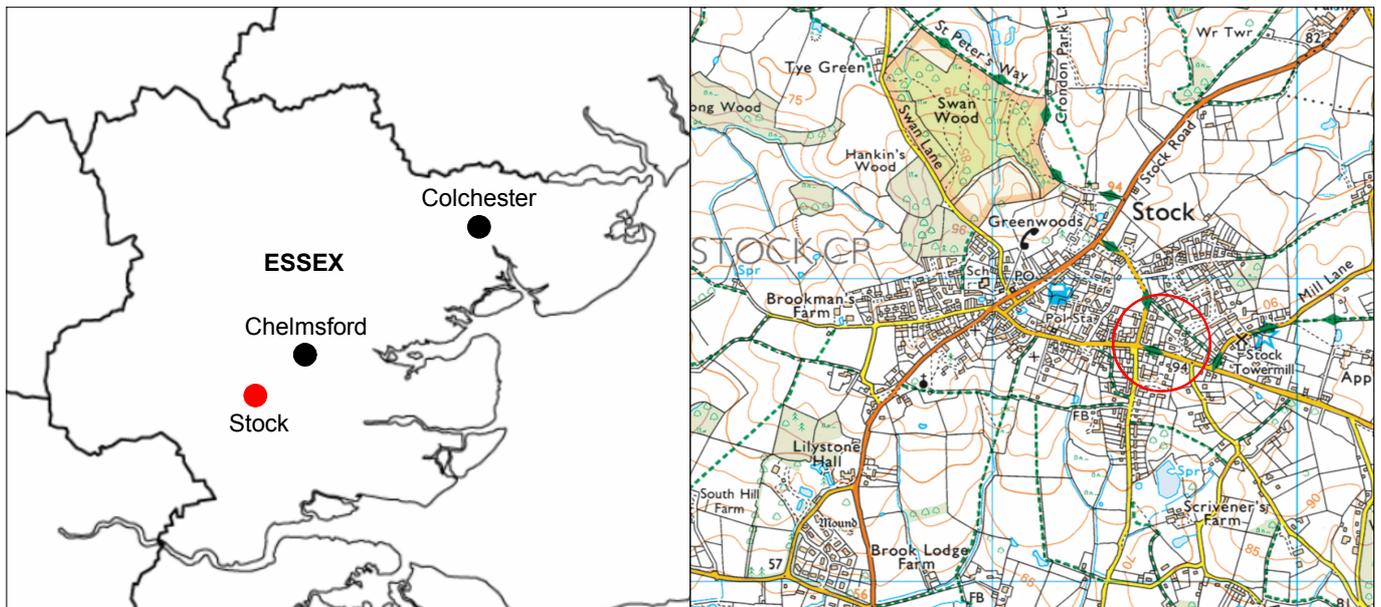
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Fig 1 Site location in relation to demolished structures (dashed blue lines)



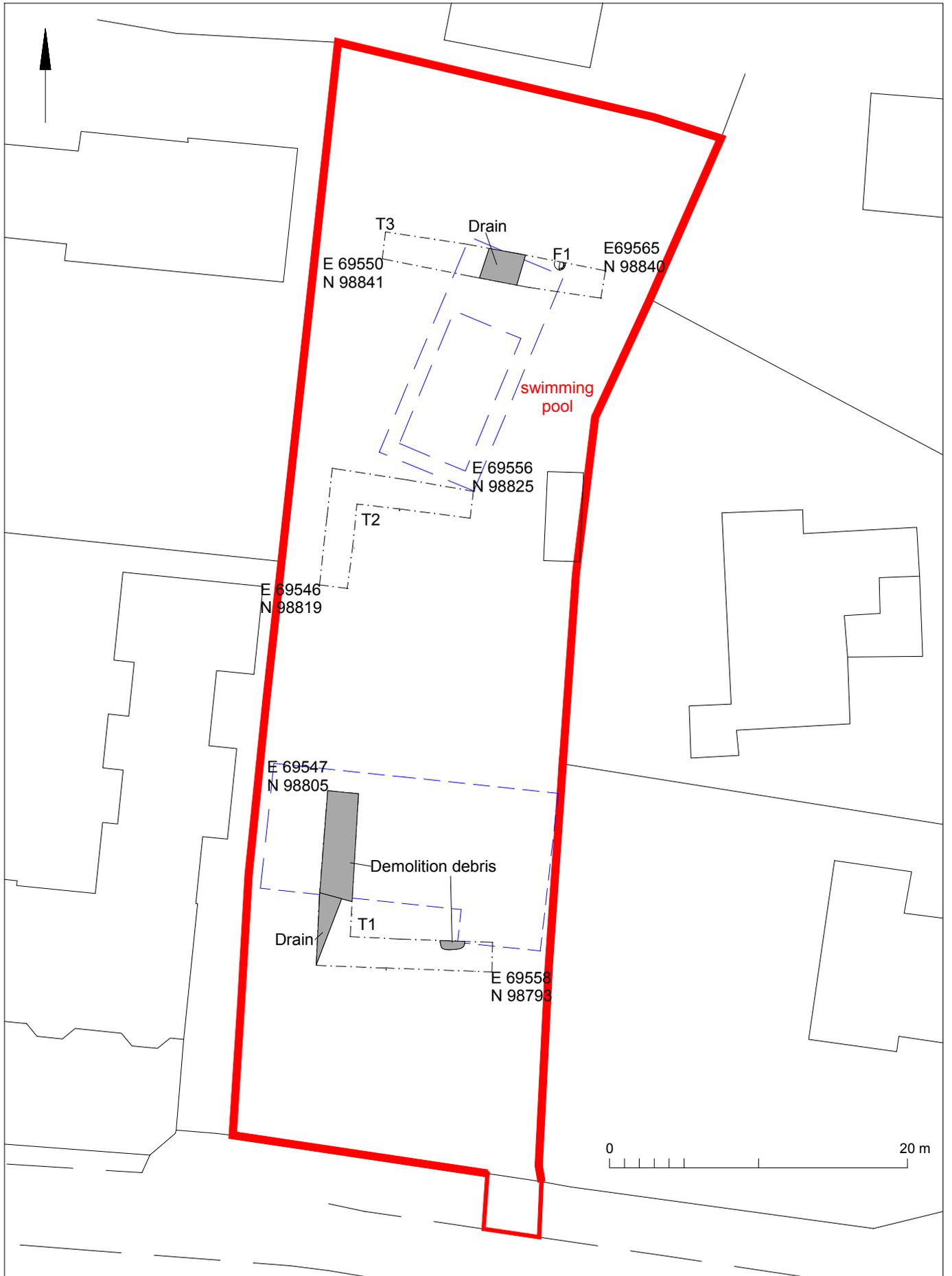


Fig 2 Results

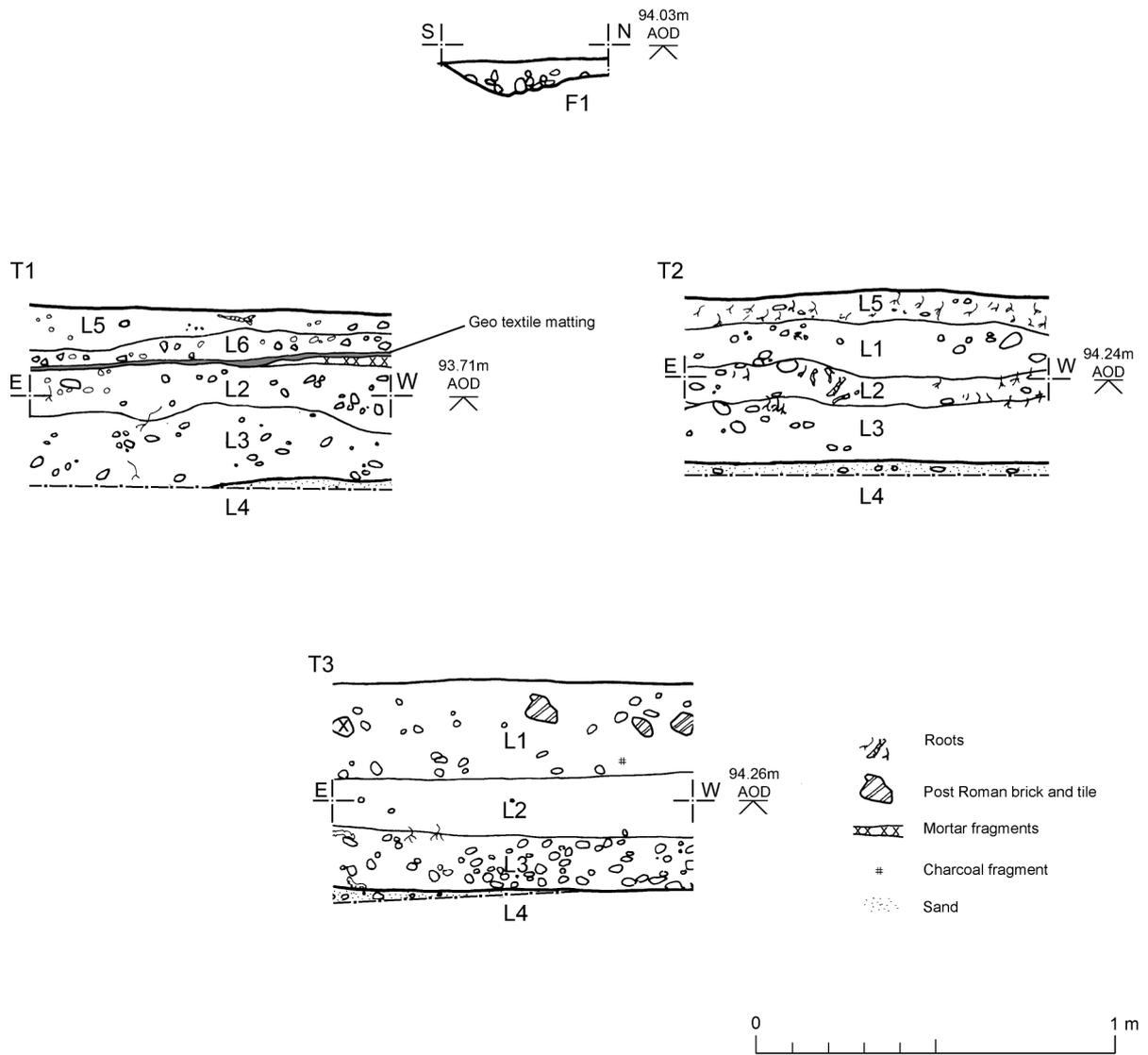


Fig 3 Feature and representative trench sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 75 Mill Road, Stock, Essex, CM4 9LR	
<b>Parish:</b> Stock	<b>District:</b> Chelmsford
<b>NGR:</b> TQ 69550 98800 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code: 16/09a ECC project code: SKMR16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-262330
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 16th September 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Three trenches totalling 53m long by 1.8m wide (95.4m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Chelmsford Museum accession code CHMRE: 2016.110	<b>Funding source:</b> developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related EHER number:</b> EHER 5391, 5507, 46565, 48334
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1018	
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out at 75 Mill Road, Stock, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings. Pottery manufacture was an important industry in Stock from the 16th to the 19th centuries. However, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> –	
<b>Keywords:</b> –	<b>Significance:</b> –
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2016