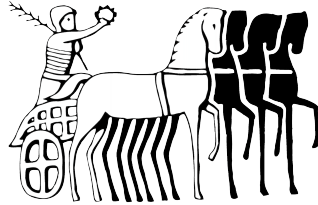


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2055
issued June 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation on land north-east of
Church Green, High Street, Stock, Essex,
CM4 9BS: May 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/04c
ECC code: SKHS24**

**Archaeological evaluation on land north-east of
Church Green, High Street, Stock, Essex,
CM4 9BS: May 2024**

NGR: TQ 68703 98687 (centre)

Planning ref.: 22/02311/FUL

**CAT project ref.: 2024/04c
CAT Report 2055**

**ECC code: SKHS24
OASIS id: colchest3-524386**

**report prepared by Dr Elliott Hicks
with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton**

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commissioned by the landowner

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land north-east of Church Green, High Street, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies within the historic core of Stock, in the midst of numerous historic buildings. A possible Iron Age enclosure and possible Roman cemetery are situated to the east. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land north-east of Church Green, High Street, Stock, Essex on 2nd May 2024. The work was commissioned by the landowner and took place in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services, the Historic Environment Advisor advised that, to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission an archaeological evaluation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2024a) and agreed in advance with Historic Environment Advisor Mark Baister.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Gurney 2003; Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief and Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The proposed development site is situated in the south-western part of the village of Stock, on a parcel of land on the north-west side of the High Street. It lies within the boundary of the Stock Conservation Area.

Geological

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the site has a bedrock geology of Bagshot Formation (sand) with superficial deposits of Stanmore Gravel Formation (sand and gravel).

Prehistoric

Prehistoric remains within the vicinity of the proposed development site consist of a possible Iron Age enclosure (EHER 9135) to the east.

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

Roman

Also to the east of the site is a possible Roman cremation cemetery (EHER 5380). Recorded in the late 19th century, the site was said to contain a number of Roman vessels containing burnt bones.

Medieval

Roughly 80m to the south-east of the site is the Church of All Saints (NHLE No. 1236734, EHER 5378). The earliest feature of the church is said to have its origins in the 14th century. However, C A Hewitt proposed a date of 13th century for its timber-framed belfry. A 15th-century date has also been offered for the church's foundation.

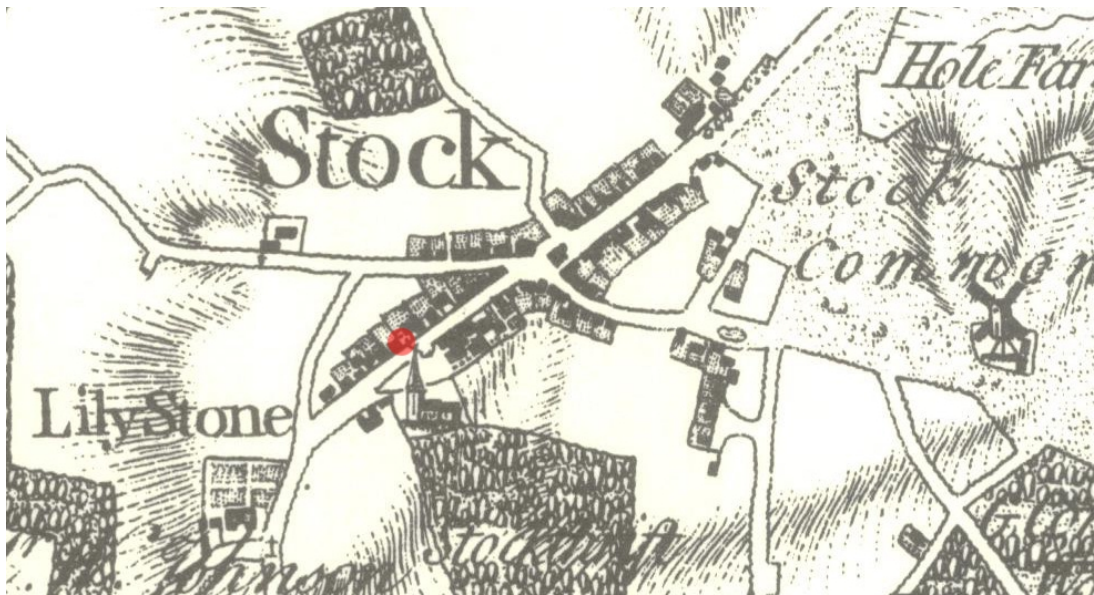
Post-medieval

Most of the nearby heritage assets recorded by the HER are post-medieval in date and are almost exclusively listed buildings. Below is a summary of some of the closest:

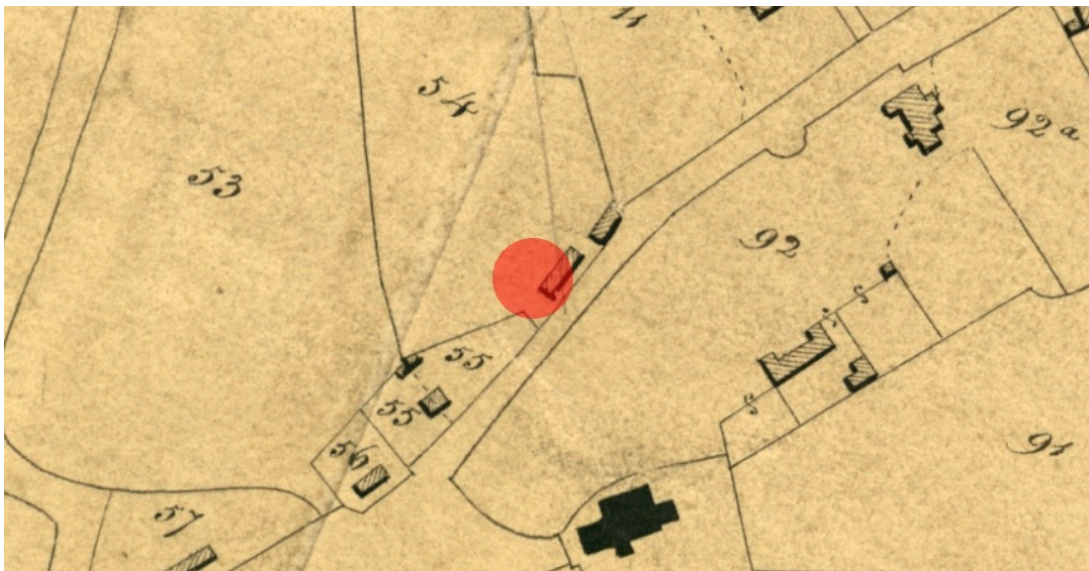
- The site is situated on land associated with Church Green Cottage, a Grade II-listed timber-framed building (NHLE No. 1236735).
- 125m north-west: a 19th-century cast iron pump with a wooden casing.
- 120m south-west: The Almshouses (NHLE No. 1264436, EHER 5345) a 17th-century brick-built building constructed by Richard Twedye.
- 120m south south-west: Bellman's Farm House (NHLE No. 1264435, EHER 30887) a 17th- or 18th-century timber-framed building
- 170m south-west: the now de-listed former national school, which was founded in 1839.
- 190m north-east: Drivers (NHLE No. 1236674, EHER 30862) a 19th-century timber-framed building.
- 220m north-east: Tudor Cottage (NHLE No. 1236673, EHER 30861) an 18th-century timber-framed building with a brick frontage.
- 240m north-east: Brick House (NHLE No. 1236672, EHER 30860) an early timber-framed building with an 18th-century brick frontage.
- 275m north-east: 40 High Street (NHLE No. 1236671, EHER 30858) an 18th- or 19th-century brick house.
- 210m east north-east: White House (NHLE No. 1264460, EHER 30871) a 16th- or 17th-century timber-framed building with later alterations.
- 255m east north-east: Wellingham (NHLE No. 1236711, EHER 30870) a 19th-century timber-framed building.

Stock was an important centre for the production of pottery in the post-medieval period. However, this pottery production appears to have been centred in the High Street area, some 500m to the north-west.

Chapman and André's 1777 map of Essex (Map 1) depicts Stock as a small settlement centred upon the north-east/south-west aligned High Street. Buildings are present around the area of the proposed development, although the map is not detailed enough to indicate whether any were located within the site boundary.



Map 1 Extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex, 1777. The approximate location of the proposed development highlighted in red.



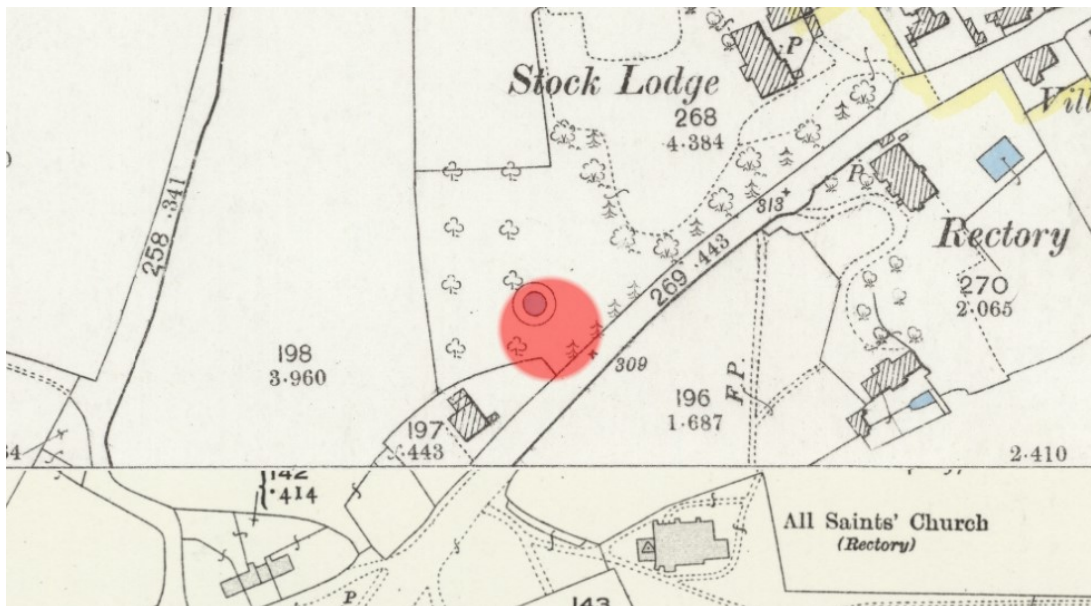
Map 2 Extract from tithe apportionment map, 1841. The approximate location of the proposed development highlighted in red.

On the tithe map of the area compiled in 1841 (Map 2), the site is depicted as part of a garden with a house that fronts on to the road. The house is rectangular in shape with a smaller rectangular outbuilding to its north-east. The accompanying apportionment records the plot as a house and gardens owned by William John Wright and occupied by Henry Henderson. Thirty years later, on the 1st edition 6-inch OS map (Map 3), these buildings were no longer extant, and the proposed development site was instead located in gardens of Stock Lodge and a circular pond was present in the north-west of the area.

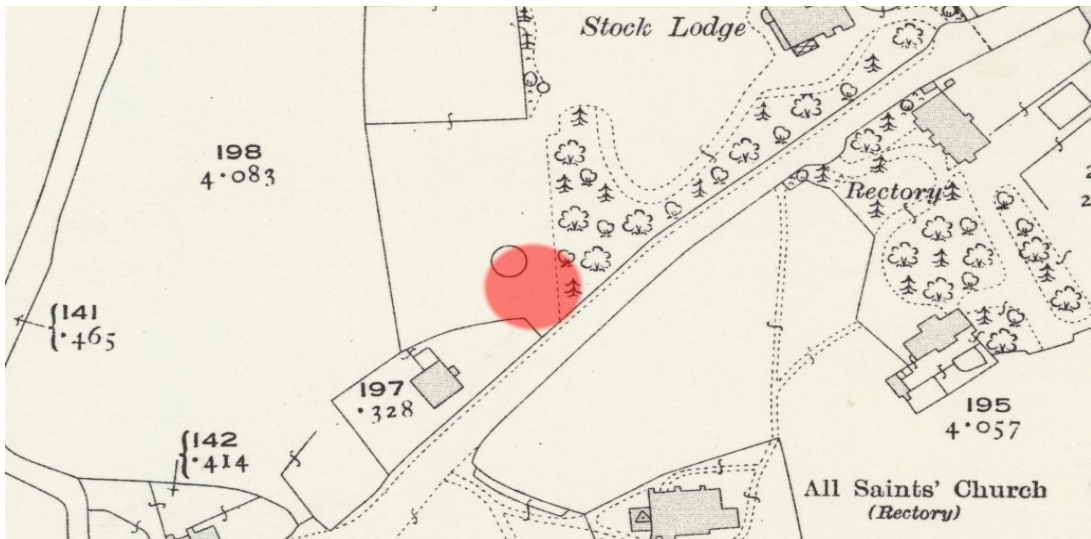


Map 3 Extract from 6-inch OS map, 1873. The approximate location of the proposed development site highlighted in red.

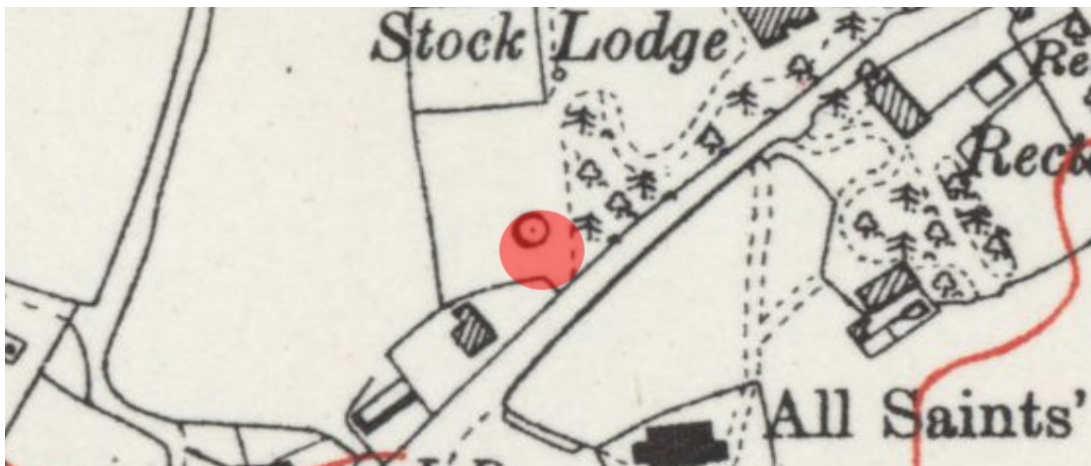
The area around the site changed very little between 1873 and 1938 (Maps 4-6). By the time that the 1970 edition of the Ordnance Survey map was published, the pond had been filled in and the boundary for Church Green Cottage had expanded to encompass the development site (Map 7).



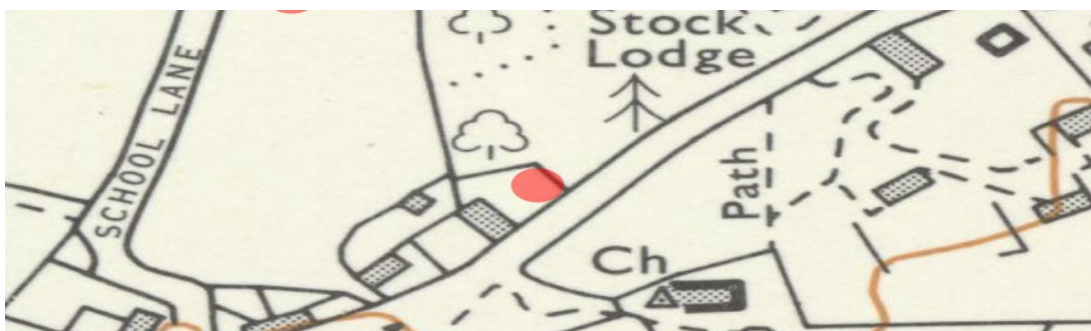
Map 4 Extract from 25-inch OS map, 1895. The approximate location of the proposed development highlighted in red.



Map 5 Extract from 25-inch OS map, 1919. The approximate location of the proposed development highlighted in red.



Map 6 Extract from 6-inch OS map, 1938. The approximate location of the proposed development highlighted in red.



Map 7 Extract from National Grid OS map, 1970. The approximate location of the proposed development highlighted in red.

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

One trial-trench was excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 5m long and 1.8m wide.

The trench was cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.22-0.25m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-loam) and subsoil (L2, c 0.22-0.25m thick, firm moist medium grey clay) onto natural (L3, firm, moist light/medium grey clay with frequent gravel, encountered at a depth of 0.47-0.49m below current ground level).

There were no archaeological features remains.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking west south-west

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

A small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) was recovered from subsoil L2. This consisted of two sherds (141g) of post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric F40) including a large bowl pancheon (EVE:0.11) and one sherd (24g) of Westerwald stoneware (fabric F45E) dating to 1600-1800. The CBM consisted of one sherd (31g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile. None of this material was retained.

7 Conclusion

Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological features were encountered, although a small amount of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile was recovered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the landowner for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS Mark Baister.

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).
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.
CAT	2024a	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation on land north-east of Church Green, High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BS.</i>
CAT	2024b	<i>Health & Safety Policy.</i>
CIfA	2020	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i>
CIfA	2020a	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.</i>
CIfA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.</i>
CIfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.</i>
CIfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological field evaluation. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.</i>
CIfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.</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	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24).
MHCLG	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHF	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
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	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigation S , 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
WSI written scheme of investigation

11 Archive deposition

Digital record: This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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Distribution list:

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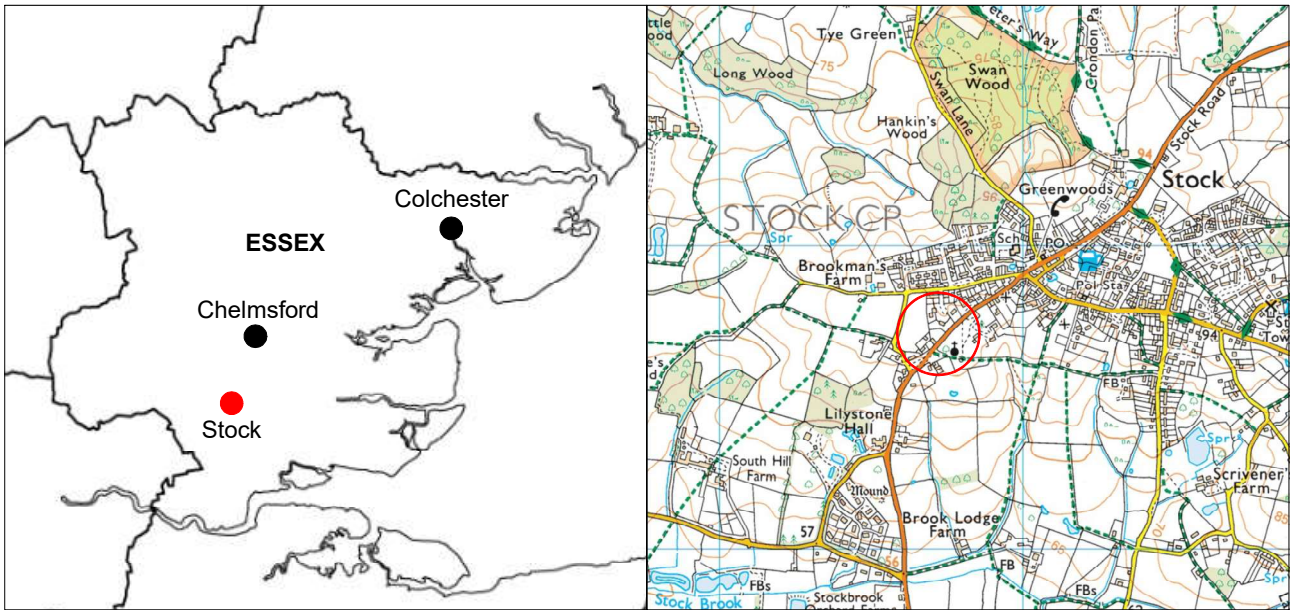
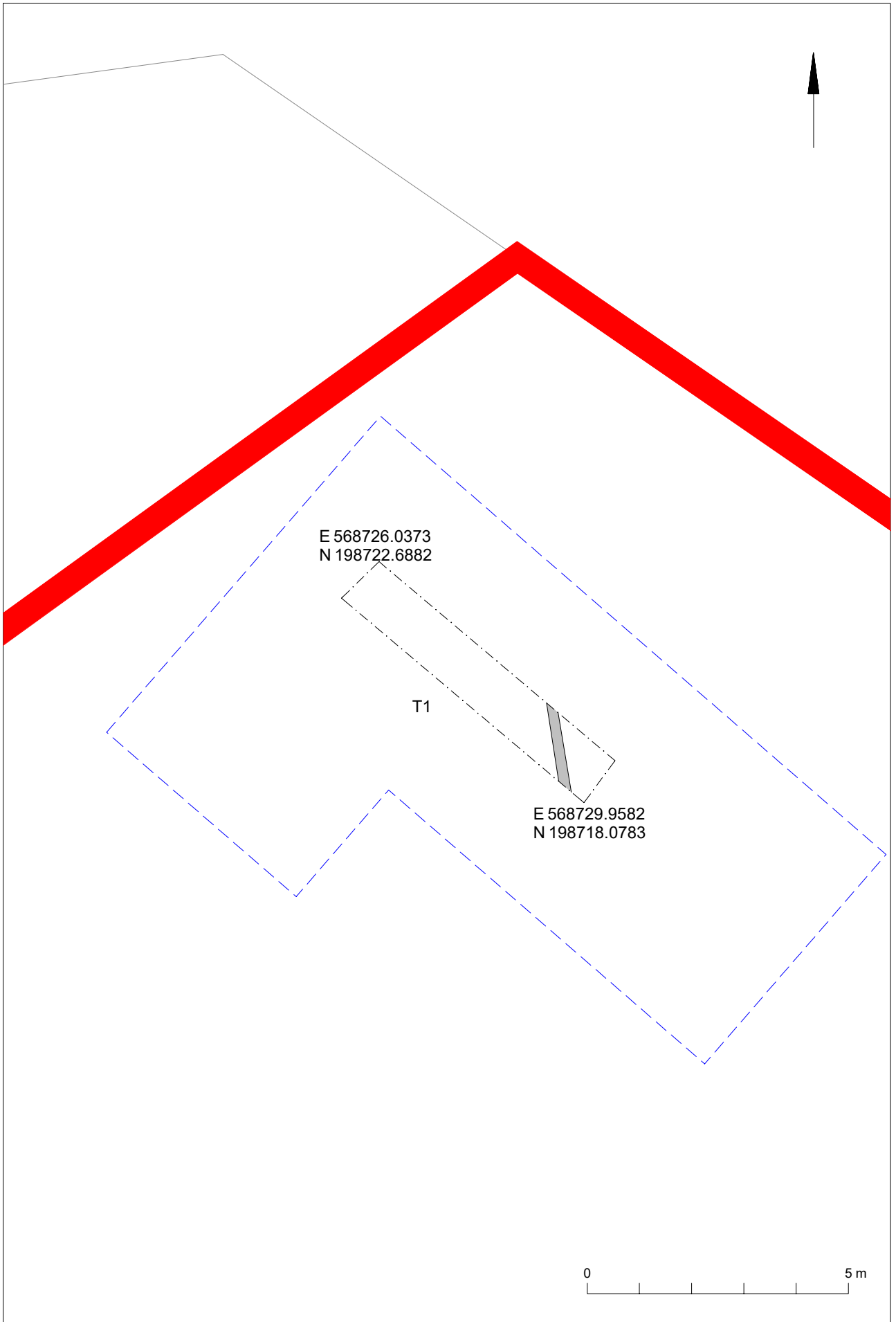


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue lines).



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Fig 2 Evaluation results (modern services in grey).

OASIS Summary for colchest3-524386

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-524386
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land north-east of Church Green, High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BS: May 2024
Sitename	Land north-east of Church Green, High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BS
Sitecode	SKHS24
Project Identifier(s)	2024/04c
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	22/02311/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	02-May-2024 - 02-May-2024
Location	Land north-east of Church Green, High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BS NGR : TQ 68703 98687 LL : 51.66164354523427, 0.437770098991114 12 Fig : 568703,198687
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Chelmsford Parish : Stock
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land north-east of Church Green, High Street, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies within the historic core of Stock, in the midst of numerous historic buildings. A possible Iron Age enclosure and possible Roman cemetery are situated to the east. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - SKHS24
Archives	