

# Archaeological evaluation at Lynfield House, 33 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BD

February 2017



**by Laura Pooley**

with contributions by Stephen Benfield  
figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Jane Roberts and Alec Wade

**commissioned by Martin Gray, Arcady Architects Ltd  
on behalf of Stonebond Properties Ltd**

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**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [lp@catuk.org](mailto:lp@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1064**

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (three trial-trenches) was carried out at Lynfield House, 33 High Street, Stock, Essex in advance of the demolition of extensions to the present house, construction of a new garage and two new houses, and residential conversion and extensions to a barn. Pottery manufacture was an important industry in Stock from the 16th to the 19th centuries, with kilns and pottery waste found at several locations within 300m of the site on Mill Road, Common Lane and Common Road. The evaluation revealed modern pits, postholes, a brick plinth, a ditch/linear and infilled pond with drainage ditch, all of which appear to be associated with garden features and an old builder's yard.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Lynfield House, 33 High Street, Stock, Essex which was carried out on 1st February 2017. The work was commissioned by Martin Gray of Arcady Architects Ltd, on behalf of Stonebond Properties Ltd, in advance of the demolition of extensions to the present house, construction of a new garage and two new houses, and residential conversion and extensions to a barn. Works were 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 evaluation*, 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 2017).

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 northeast 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.

In 2015, evaluation to the south of the development site on land adjacent to 'Farthings', 10 The Square revealed no significant archaeological features or finds with only a post-medieval ditch and pit, and undated pit and posthole present (CAT Report 887).

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

#### **4 Results** (Figs 2-3)

Three trial-trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed new buildings. They were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Due to the high water table parts of the trenches flooded before features could be fully excavated (see below).

##### **Trench 1 (T1): 8m long by 1.6m wide**

Trench 1 should have measured 15m long by 1.8m wide. However, due to problems with access, modern services and the location of the trench close to the existing swimming pool it had to be reduced in size.

It was excavated through a modern patio surface and sub-base (L4, c 140-150mm thick, patio bricks set into concrete with compacted gravel) onto levelling material (L5, c 300mm thick). Layer L5 consisted of medium grey/brown sand with large quantities of gravel and modern brick and tile fragments (not retained), which was probably imported to level the site before the construction of the swimming pool. Beneath L5 was natural clays and gravels (L5).

A large modern pit (F9) was partially excavated before it began to fill with water. It contained large quantities of modern building waste (not retained). A modern brick plinth (F8) was also recorded. Both were probably associated with a builder's yard which was situated here before the current property (landowner, pers comm).

##### **Trench 2 (T2): 15m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 2 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 240-270mm thick) onto late post-medieval/modern subsoil (L2, c 150-170mm thick) which sealed natural clays and gravels (L5).

A large infilled pond (F5) was not excavated. The current landowners filled in the pond when their children were young (landowner, pers comm). A V-shaped gully (F6) containing 18th-19th century pottery may have been a drainage ditch associated with the pond.

##### **Trench 3 (T3): 13m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 3 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 300-340mm thick) onto late post-medieval/modern subsoil (L2, c 270-340mm thick) which sealed natural clays and gravels (L5).

Three modern postholes (F1-F3) were excavated forming a probable fence, and a modern pit or garden feature (F4) was only partially excavated due to flooding. Ditch/linear feature F7 was not excavated as the southern end of the trench completely flooded. Modern finds were recovered from the surface of the feature.



**Photograph 1** T1, looking NW



**Photograph 2** T2, looking SE



**Photograph 3** T3, looking NNE

## 5 Finds

*by Stephen Benfield and Laura Pooley*

A small quantity of post-medieval and modern finds were recorded from eight contexts. All of the finds are listed and described by context in Table 2. The pottery fabrics follow the Essex post-Roman Fabric series (Cunningham 1985 & *CAR 7*) and the fabrics referred to here are listed in Table 1 by fabric code and name.

All of the closely dated pottery is of late post-medieval-modern (17th-18th century) or modern (19th-early 20th century) date. A few sherds are not so closely dated but all appear to be of late medieval/post-medieval, post-medieval or modern date. One small, dark surfaced sherd (4) is probably late medieval or early post-medieval; while two small oxidised earthenware sherds (3 & 6) appear to be modern flowerpot – although an earlier dating of transitional late medieval/early post-medieval cannot be entirely excluded. One thick, oxidised sherd (4) has an external, cream coloured deposit or deposits. Most of that deposit is similar to a thick slip, a decorative technique more typical of medieval pottery than later. However, at least some of this deposit, or a second (later) deposit partly covering it, appears to have been acquired post-breakage as it covers a broken edge. The sherd has an orange-red fabric similar to some of the post-medieval earthenwares and is probably most likely a late medieval or post-medieval oxidised ware/red earthenware.

| Fabric code | Fabric name                             |
|-------------|---|
| Fabric 21   | medieval sandy orange wares (general)   |
| Fabric 40   | Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenwares |
| Fabric 40B  | Stock-type black glazed ware            |
| Fabric 48E  | Yellow ware                             |
| Fabric 51B  | Flowerpot                               |

**Table 1** Pottery fabrics

| Feature (and finds) numbers | Description  | Date                       |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| F1 (1)                      | <b>CBM:</b> fragment of modern roof-tile (156g)<br><b>Animal bone:</b> three fragments of animal bone (22g)  | Modern                     |
| F2 (3)                      | <b>Pottery:</b> Fabric 40 (3 sherds, 20g) sherds from two pots, base sherd with internal glaze and two sherds, probably from a mug, with ripple effect to surface and internal & external clear glaze, mid-late 17th-18th century. Fabric 51B(?) (1 sherd, 2g), 19th-early 20th century(?).  | 19th-early 20th century    |
| F3 (5)                      | <b>CBM:</b> fragment of peg-tile (40g), 14mm thick   | ?Post-medieval             |
| F4 (4)                      | <b>Pottery:</b> Fabric 21 (1 sherd, 2g) small body sherd with dark surface and red-orange fabric, not glazed, probably late medieval-early post-medieval. Fabric 40(?) (1 sherd, 18g) abraded oxidised (red-orange) fabric, cream deposit on surface and over break on one side – possibly a surface slip and another (later?) deposit acquired post-breakage – similar orange fabric to some of the post-medieval red earthenwares, broadly dated as late medieval(?) or post-medieval c15/16th-18th century(?). Fabric 40 (1 sherd, 6g) body sherd, internal & external glaze, L17th/18th-19th century. Fabric 40B (1 sherd, 2g) probably from a drinking vessel, mid-late 17th-early 18th/18th century.<br><b>CBM:</b> fletton brick, incomplete (896g), painted white, frogged (OER), painted white, 103mm wide, 65mm thick, late 19th – 20th century; fragment brick (70g); fragments of peg-tiles (7: 238g), 12-14mm thick, one vitrified with peg-hole (12mm dia) | late 19th – 20th century   |
| F6 (8)                      | <b>Pottery:</b> Fabric 40 (1 sherd, 206g), rim from large storage jar with part of handle scar, flanged rim, internal & external clear glaze, 18th-19th century.   | 18th-19th century          |
| F7 (6)                      | <b>Pottery:</b> Fabric 40 (3 sherds, 34g) clear glaze on one small sherd, otherwise unglazed but with some internal glaze splash on one sherd, 17th-18th century. Fabric 51B(?) (1 sherd, 4g), 19th-early 20th century(?).<br><b>CBM:</b> fragments of peg-tile (6: 364g), 12-13mm thick   | 19th-early 20th century(?) |
| F8 (7)                      | <b>CBM:</b> brick, incomplete (1.7kg), 110mm wide, 70mm thick, narrow frog, 'soft-red' 19th-20th century   | 19th-20th century          |
| L2 (2)                      | <b>Pottery:</b> Fabric 40 (8 sherds, 368g) from several pots: rim from a deep bowl with internal green coloured & clear glaze; rim from a large dish/pancheon with internal clear glaze; base with internal clear glaze, two body sherds with internal & external clear glaze, glazed handle sherd; 18th-19th century. Fabric 48E (1 sherd, 32g) rim from a bowl with slightly concave flanged rim, L18th-19th century.  | L18th-19th century         |

**Table 1** All finds by context

## 6 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation at Lynfield House revealed modern pits, postholes, a brick plinth, a ditch/linear and infilled pond with drainage ditch, all of which appear to be associated with garden features and an old builder's yard on the site. However, a few sherds of residual late medieval/early post-medieval pottery may suggest earlier activity in the area.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Martin Gray of Arcade Architects Ltd and Stonebond Properties Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with J Roberts and A Wade. Figures are by BH and E Holloway. 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>

|                  |       |  |
|------------------|-------|--|
| CAR 7            | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter  |
| CAT              | 2014  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT              | 2016  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Lynfield House, 33 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BD</i>   |
| CAT Report 887   | 2015  | <i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: land adjacent to 'Farthings', 10 The Square, Stock, Essex, CM4 9LH: October 2015</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>  |
| Cunningham, C    | 1985  | 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex' in Cunningham, C., & Drury, P., <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA Research Report <b>54</b> |
| DCLG             | 2012  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</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</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).  |
| Medlycott, M     | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )                                |
| 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                                       |
| EHER          | 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 (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   |
| post-medieval | from c AD 1500 to c 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       |
| wsj           | written scheme of investigation   |



## 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1064)

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: 2017.001.

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### **Distribution list:**

Martin Gray, Arcade Architects Ltd

Stonebond Properties Ltd

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [lp@catuk.org](mailto:lp@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 15.2.2017

### **Appendix 1 Context list**

| <b>Feature Number</b> | <b>Finds No.</b> | <b>Feature Type</b> | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Date</b>              |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| F1                    | 1                | Posthole            | Loose, wet, dark grey silt with common stones   | Modern                   |
| F2                    | 3                | Posthole            | Loose, wet, dark grey silt with common stones   | 19th-early 20th century  |
| F3                    | 5                | Posthole            | Loose, wet, dark grey/brown silt with common stones   | Modern                   |
| F4                    | 4                | Pit/Garden Feature  | Upper fill – dark grey silty-loam<br>Lower fill – pale orange/brown clay and gravel containing rubble fragments | late 19th – 20th century |
| F5                    |                  | Infilled pond       | Firm, moist, dark brown/black silty-clay  | Modern                   |
| F6                    | 8                | Gully               | Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay   | 18th-19th century        |
| F7                    | 6                | Ditch               | unexcavated   | 19th-early 20th century  |
| F8                    | 7                | Brick plinth        | Unfrogged bricks set in white mortar  | 19th-20th century        |
| F9                    |                  | Pit                 | Firm, moist, dark grey silty-clay   | Modern                   |
|                       |                  |                     |   |                          |
| L1                    |                  | Topsoil             | Firm, moist, dark grey/brown silt   | Modern                   |
| L2                    | 2                | Subsoil             | Firm, moist medium grey silty/clay  | Late 18th-19th century   |
| L3                    |                  | Natural             | Natural clays and gravels   | -                        |
| L4                    |                  | Patio and sub-base  | Patio bricks set into concrete on a compacted gravel base   | Modern                   |
| L5                    |                  | Levelling material  | Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sand with abundant modern brick/tile fragments                                   | Modern                   |

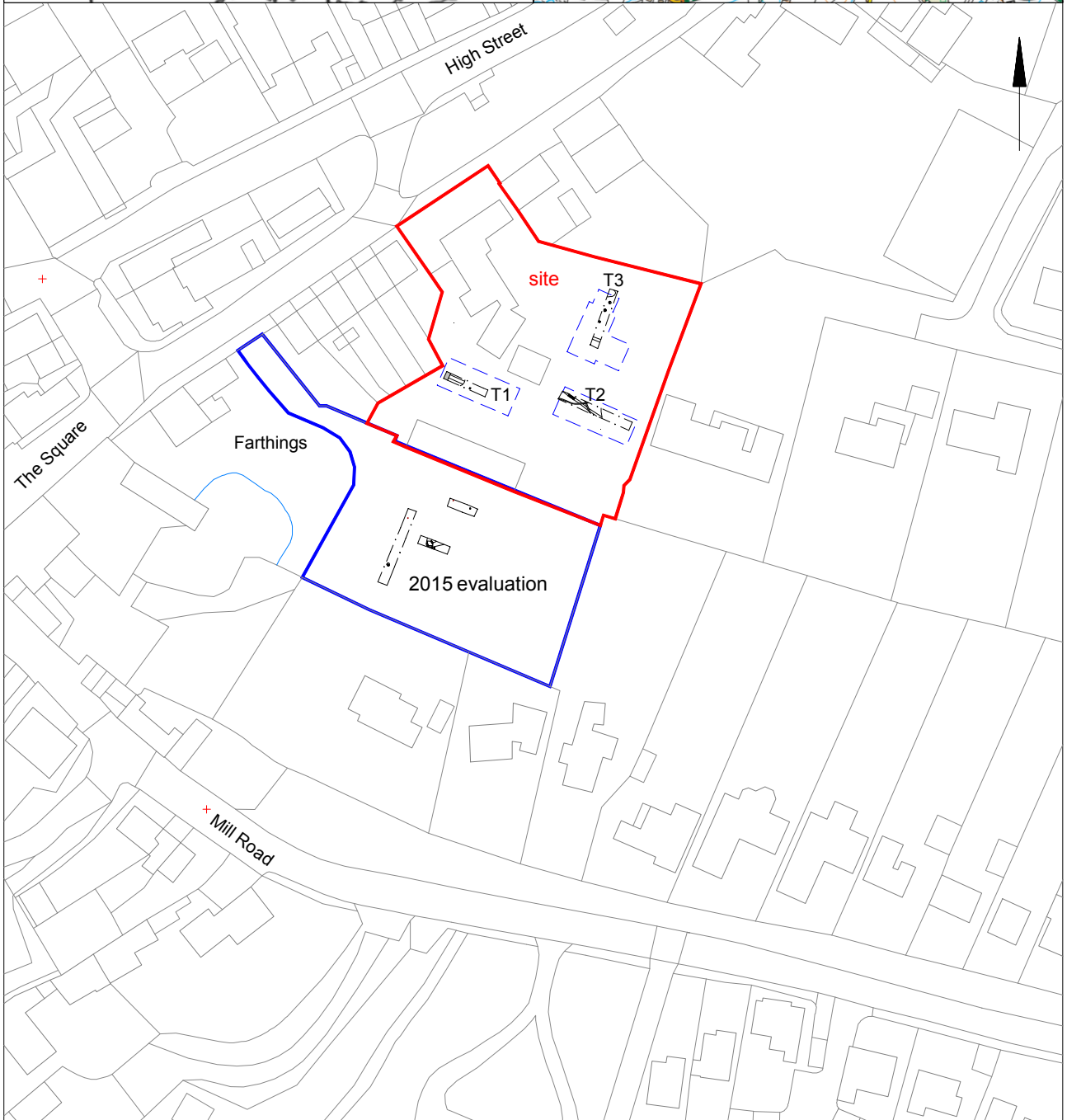
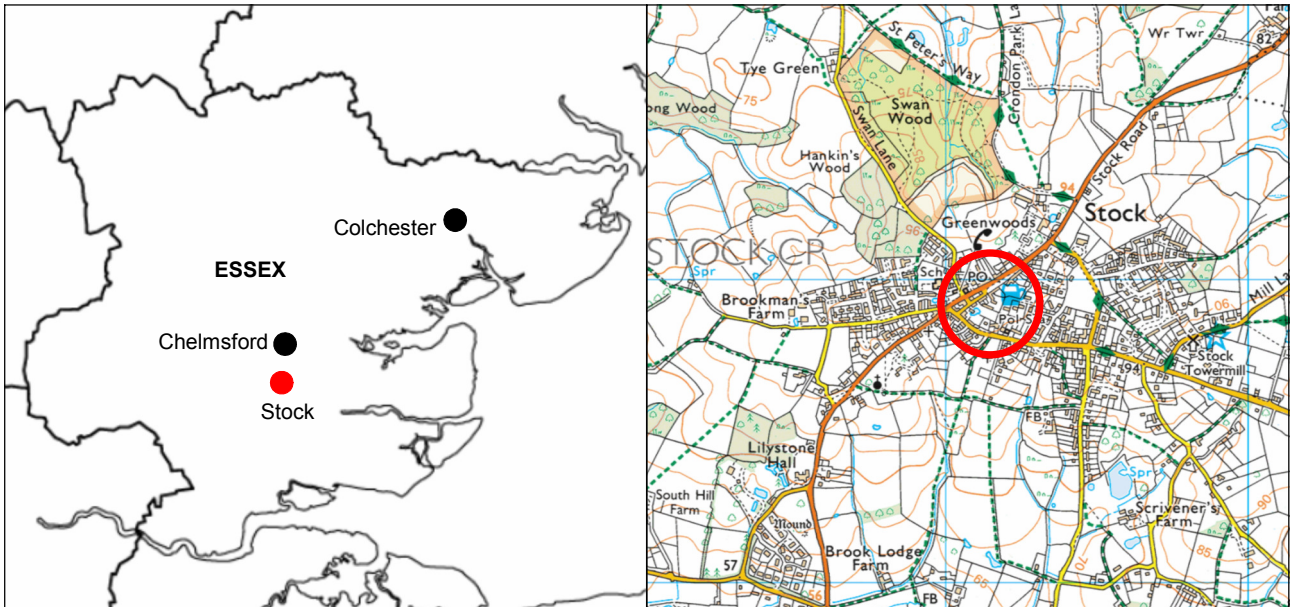


Fig 1 Site location.

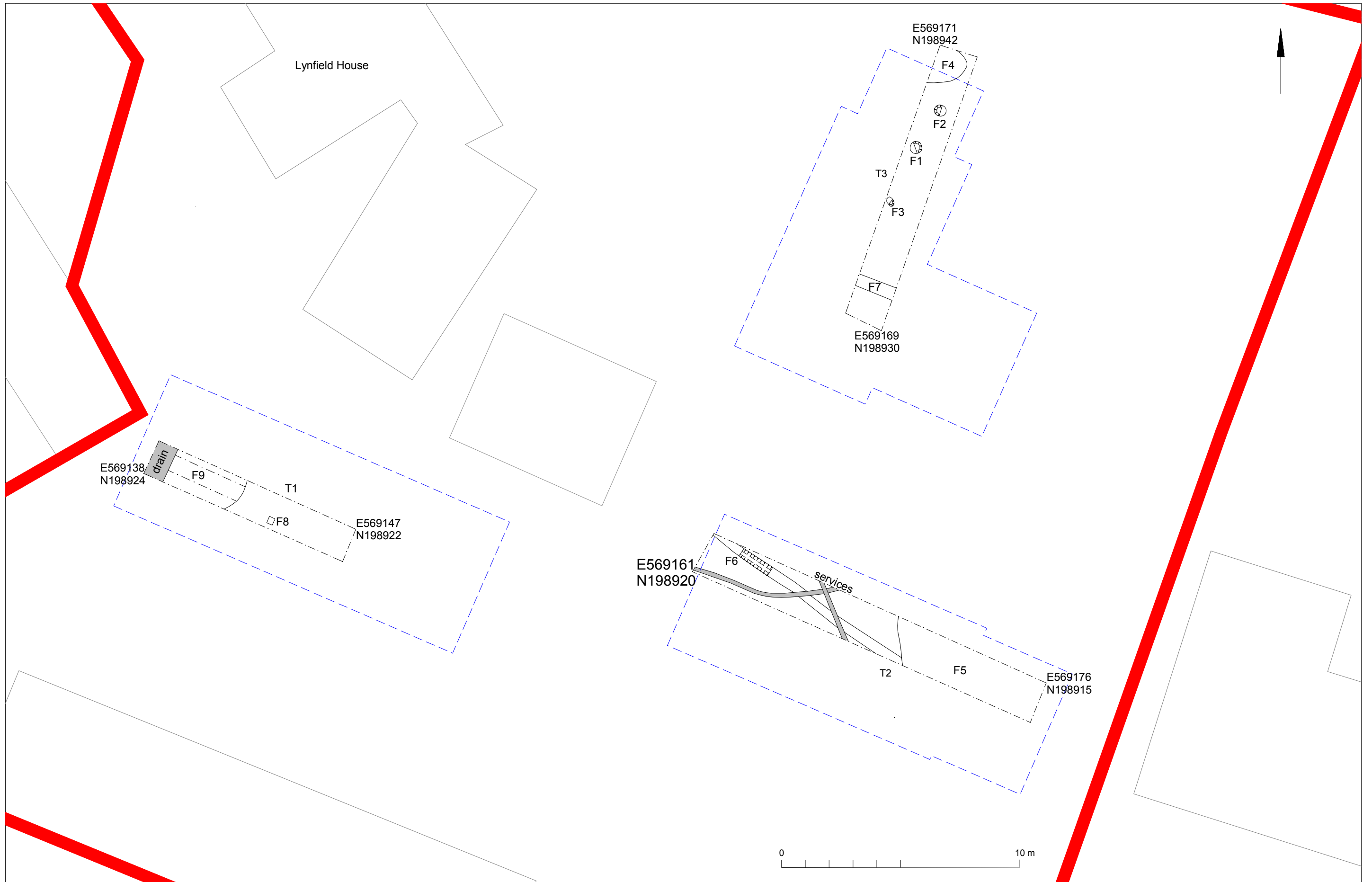


Fig 2 Results

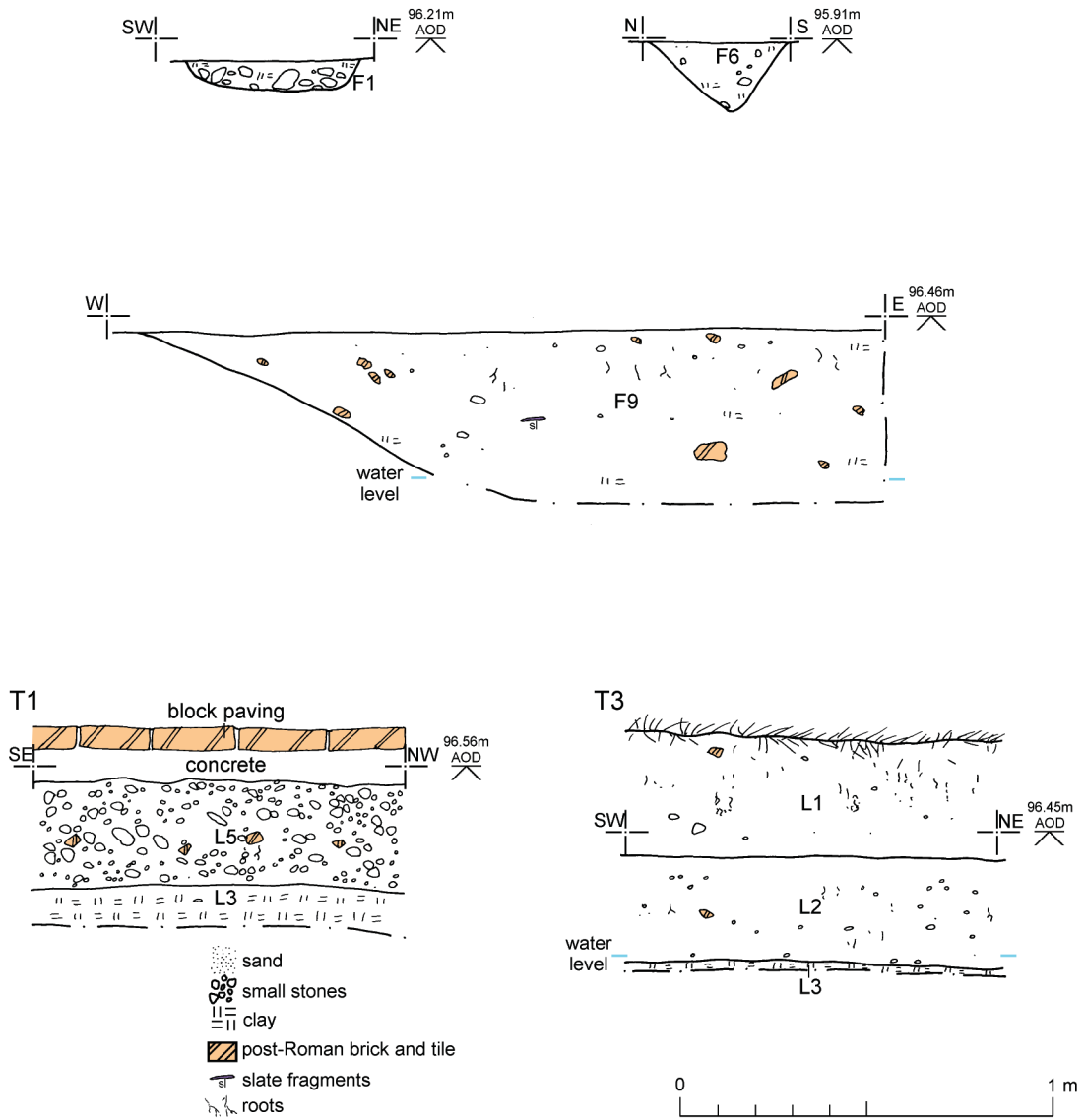


Fig 3 Feature and representative trench sections.

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-272056**

### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | Archaeological evaluation at Lynfield House, 33 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BD  |
| Short description of the project       | An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (three trial-trenches) was carried out at Lynfield House, 33 High Street, Stock, Essex in advance of the demolition of extensions to the present house, construction of a new garage and two new houses, and residential conversion and extensions to a barn. Pottery manufacture was an important industry in Stock from the 16th to the 19th centuries, with kilns and pottery waste found at several locations within 300m of the site on Mill Road, Common Lane and Common Road. The evaluation revealed modern pits, postholes, a brick plinth, a ditch/linear and infilled pond with drainage ditch, all of which appear to be associated with garden features and an old builder's yard. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 01-02-2017 End: 01-02-2017   |
| Previous/future work                   | No / Not known  |
| Any associated project reference codes | 16/12m - Contracting Unit No.   |
| Any associated project reference codes | CHL 16/00933/FUL - Planning Application No.   |
| Any associated project reference codes | SKHS16 - HER event no.  |
| Any associated project reference codes | CHMRE: 2017.001 - Museum accession ID   |
| Type of project                        | Field evaluation  |
| Site status                            | None  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 5 - Garden  |
| Monument type                          | PITS Modern   |
| Monument type                          | POSTHOLES Modern  |
| Monument type                          | BRICK PLINTH Modern   |
| Monument type                          | POND Modern   |
| Monument type                          | DRAINAGE DITCH Modern   |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Modern  |
| Significant Finds                      | CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern  |

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Methods & techniques             | ""Sample Trenches""                           |
| Development type                 | Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)  |
| Prompt                           | Planning condition                            |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

### Project location

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Country           | England  |
| Site location     | ESSEX CHELMSFORD STOCK Lynfield House, 33 High Street                    |
| Postcode          | CM4 9BD  |
| Study area        | 0.26 Hectares  |
| Site coordinates  | TQ 6916 9893 51.663144670233 0.446167959041 51 39 47 N 000 26 46 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 95.8m Max: 96.6m  |

### Project creators

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name of Organisation         | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Project brief originator     | CBC Archaeological Officer      |
| Project design originator    | Laura Pooley                    |
| Project director/manager     | Chris Lister                    |
| Project supervisor           | Ben Holloway                    |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer                       |

### Project archives

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive Exists?  | No   |
| Digital Archive recipient | Chelmsford Museum  |
| Digital Archive ID        | CHMRE: 2017.001  |
| Digital Contents          | "none"   |
| Digital Media available   | "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"                                      |
| Paper Archive recipient   | Chelmsford Museum  |
| Paper Archive ID          | CHMRE: 2017.001  |
| Paper Contents            | "none"   |
| Paper Media available     | "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section" |

### Project bibliography 1

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
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