

# Archaeological monitoring and recording at Copt Hall, 2 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BA

September-October 2017



**by Adam Tuffey**

with contributions by Stephen Benfield  
figures by Adam Tuffey, Sarah Carter and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Adam Tuffey

**commissioned by Terry Vanner  
on behalf of Miranda and David Young**

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**CAT Report 1176**

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Copt Hall, Stock, in advance of the construction of a replacement outbuilding, utilising some of the pre-existing footprint. The development site lies on land with potential for archaeological remains pertaining to medieval and post-medieval pottery manufacture. A single pit was uncovered, which contained post-medieval pottery. This presents further evidence for post-medieval pottery manufacture in the town.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This archive report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at Copt Hall, 2 High Street, Stock, which was undertaken between 21st September-4th October 2017. The work was commissioned by Terry Venner, on behalf of Miranda and David Young, in advance of the construction of a replacement outbuilding, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT)

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Essex County Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett advised that to establish the scope of the archaeological impact of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording*, detailing the requisite archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2017), 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 Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report implements standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (CifA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CifA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 5)

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

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 brick and tile kilns to the east of the development area at Stock Bowling Club (EHER 5507), and medieval pottery and kiln waste from a sewer trench alongside Common Lane (EHER 5931). 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 southeast of the development area was dug for clay for pottery manufacture.

Earlier evidence of occupation in Stock comes from a site to the southeast of the development area (EHER 46565) where late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features were found. Evidence for an Iron Age enclosure and Roman cemetery has also been found south of Mill Road (EHER 9135 and 5380).

Recent evaluations in 2015 and 2017 on land adjacent to 'Farthings', 10 The Square (CAT Report 887) and 33 High Street (CAT Report 1064) revealed no significant archaeological remains.

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

#### **4 Aims**

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on the site.

#### **5 Results** (Figs 1-3)

Approximately 40m of trenching was dug under archaeological supervision. The trenches measured 0.60m in width and 0.54m in depth.

The trench was excavated through four layers with modern topsoil (L1, c 0.21m thick, friable, dry, medium brown/black, silty, loam) sealing a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.15m thick, friable, dry, dark grey/brown, silty, loam). Beneath this was natural mottled clay (L3, firm/hard, dry, light, yellowish grey/brown, silty, clay), but in the easternmost trench an imported levelling layer sat between L2 and L3 (L4, c 0.13m thick, firm, dry, medium, yellowish grey/brown clay).

Pit F1 measured 5m in width. The full dimensions of the feature could not be determined as it extended beyond the excavation area, and in other areas the foundations did not reach a sufficient depth so as to ascertain its extent. Modern foundation F2 cut F1.



**Photograph 1** Foundation trenches, looking N

## 6 Finds (Figs 4-6) by Stephen Benfield

### Introduction

A small quantity of finds recovered from the site fall into two distinct groups. One group of finds from topsoil L1 (find nos. 1 & 3) includes material of modern date (19th/late 19th-early 20th century). The finds from this group are of little or no archaeological significance and are listed and described in the finds table (Table 1). A more significant group of finds comes from a shallow pit F1 (finds no. 2). These are of post-medieval date (c 17th-18th/early 19th century) and include waste material from pottery production. The finds from this group are also listed in Table 1 but in addition are discussed below. It should be noted that sherds of glass identified as being of modern date were also recorded from this feature on site but were not retained. The pottery fabrics recorded refer to the Colchester (Essex) post-Roman pottery fabric series (CAR 7).

### The Waste Material

The pottery production waste from the site, although small in quantity, includes parts of at least two pots identified as saggars (Fig 4.1-2) and a tile piece of kiln furniture (Fig 4.3). The sagger pot rims can be compared with complete and near complete examples of saggars from the post-medieval potteries at Harlow which are jar shaped (Davey & Walker 2009, 152-155). The rim diameters of the illustrated Harlow pots are in the region of 160-240mm (*ibid* fig 75 & 76) and the rims of the pots here fall toward the lower end of that range at around 150mm and 190mm. The fabric of the saggars at Harlow is noted as being the same as that of the pottery. This may well be the case here, although the fabric of all of the sagger sherds is quite highly fired, almost stoneware hard (possibly resulting from use in a number of firings) making fabric comparisons difficult. The presence of small pieces of organic material in the inner surface of one of the sagger pots and the slightly uneven thickness around the rim might suggest a rather more workman-like approach in the production of these utilitarian vessels than the pottery.

**Fig 4.1** F1 (2) Pottery sagger, rim sherd, slightly uneven, rounded bead rim, hard, fine sand red-brown fabric with grey interior and silver-grey (vitrified) surface, rare pieces of burnt-out organic matter in the interior surface. (rim diameter c 190mm)

**Fig 4.2** F1 (2) Pottery sagger, rim sherd, rounded bead rim, hard, fine sand red-brown fabric with grey interior and silver-grey (vitrified) surface, slightly curving body (rim diameter c 150mm)

The other piece of production waste here is a piece of kiln furniture. This is a triangular corner piece from a tile that has an area of glaze on the surface and a rectangular outline. The shape could indicate a foot or pedestal stand used for separating glazed pots in the kiln (see Davey & Walker 2009, fig 76), although this is not clear and pieces of pot base stuck to kiln tiles is not uncommon among glazed red earthenware production waste (CAT Report 598, plate 3). The shape of the tile itself suggests it may have been specially made for use as kiln furniture.

**Fig 4.3** F1 (2) piece of tile kiln furniture, triangular corner piece with parts of two original converging sides, thickness 11mm, area of glaze and outline of kiln stand or stuck pot edge in the glaze

Feature & finds nos.	Type/ description	Spot date
F1, 2 pit	<b>Note:</b> finds recorded as modern glass from this feature in the excavation records were not retained, possibly intrusive <b>Post-medieval pottery:</b> Fabric 40 (2 sherds, 56g) rim sherds from two pots, both either from a jar or a bowl form (c L16/17th-18th/19th century) - the fabric suggests a probable late 17th-early	Modern? (retained finds are post-medieval, c 17-E19C)

Feature & finds nos.	Type/ description	Spot date
	19th century date. Fabric 40B single sherd (6g) with ribbing on exterior (c 17th-18th century). <b>Pottery saggars:</b> There are four sherds in hard fired grey fabric that can be identified as from saggars (pottery vessels used to contain & protect other pots during the firing process). There are two rim sherds (from different pots) both with a simple, rounded bead (combined weight 100g). The fabric is a fine sand with occasional burnt out organic (chaff) fragments in the interior surface of the larger of the two sherds. The fabric is a red-brown and the interior surface is dark grey. The exterior surface is a vitrified, silver-grey colour. With these two small sherds in the same fabric, one (10g) lacking the silver-grey surface but with hints of high temperature slight vitrification of the surfaces and the other (4g) with a dark glaze covering the exterior. <b>CBM:</b> A single piece from a flat tile, similar in appearance to peg-tile but certainly used as kiln furniture (weight 76g, thickness c 11mm). Two surviving edges show the tile is of triangular shape. Uppers surface with area of glaze and small rectangular area within this where a probable foot or rest has been used in firing to prevent adhesion of a glazed pot.	
L1, 1 topsoil	<b>Modern pottery:</b> sherd from a modern flowerpot (Fabric 51B) (mid/late 19th-early 20th century). <b>CBM:</b> Several small chips from tile or brick <b>Animal bone:</b> single small piece	Modern (L19-E20C)
L1, 3 topsoil	<b>Modern CBM:</b> Whole red brick (220 x 105 x 68mm), sharp edges & flat surfaces, hard cement based mortar, possibly obscures a frog (19th/late 19th-early 20th century)	Modern (L19-E20C)

**Table 1** Catalogue of finds

### Discussion

Stock is known to have been a centre for the production of glazed earthenware pottery in the post-medieval period, and the industry is believed to have been active over a long period, broadly from the 16th to the 19th centuries. However, although finds of pottery manufacture waste have been recovered from several sites, the physical remains of any pottery kilns have yet to be located. It can be noted that the remains of a kiln have been located at Stock Bowling Club but was associated with debris from the manufacture of brick and tile rather than pottery (EHER 5507). The locations of previously recorded pottery production waste are mostly located around the area of Mill Road and Common Lane, to the southeast of the village centre (Fig 5). The site here is located further north, on the opposite side of High Street.

Although it might be possible for the production waste in F1 to have been dumped here from elsewhere (and modern glass is reported as being present among it) the more likely reason for its presence is that it comes from a pottery kiln operating on or close to the site. Close-dating of the pottery from the feature is difficult, but the fabric of the glazed red earthenware sherds (Fabric 40) appears consistent with the later 'low fired and brickearth fabrics' (CAR 7, 192) most usually associated with the later phase of post-medieval red earthenware production in the late 17th-early 19th century (c 1675-1850).

## 7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring and recording at Copt Hall revealed a post-medieval pit containing evidence of post-medieval pottery manufacture close to the development site.



## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Terry Vanner and Miranda and David Young for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by A Tuffey. Figures were prepared by AT, S Carter and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

## 9 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	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 2 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BA</i>
CAT Report 598	2011	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching at 16-20 Mill Road, Stock, Essex: March 2011</i>
CAT Report 887	2015	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: land adjacent to 'Farthings' 10 The Square, Stock, Essex, CM4 9LH: October 2015</i>
CAT Report 1064	2017	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Lynfield House, 33 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BD: February 2017</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Davey, W & Walker, H	2009	<i>The Harlow pottery industries</i> , Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 11
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 2 High Street, Stock</i> by Alison Bennett
Historic England	2016	<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 14).
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)
Philips, C	2003	<i>The Story of Stock and Buttsbury</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
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 (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, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** bag of pottery and tile

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1176)

ECCPS 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

## 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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE: 2017.121.

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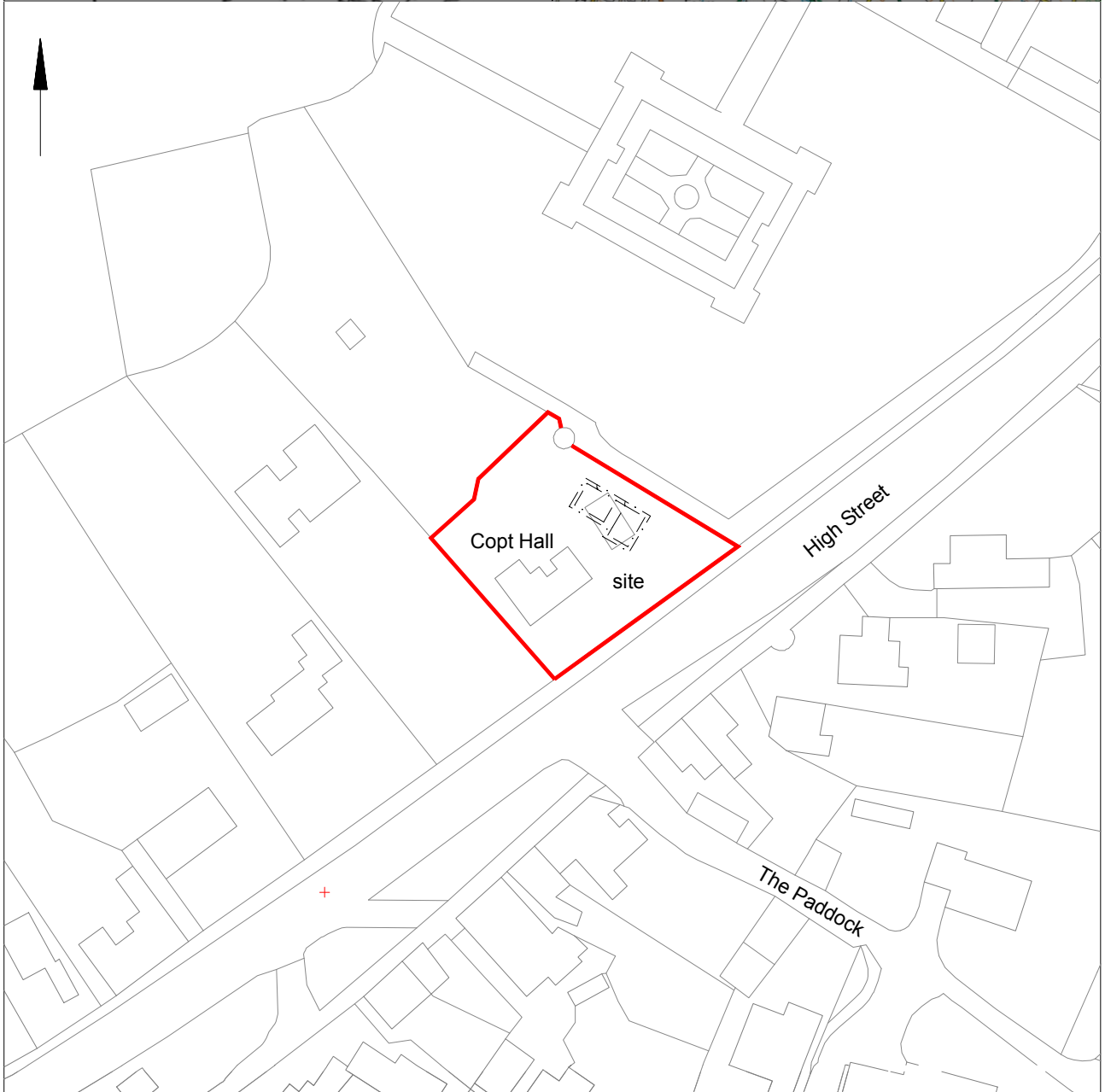
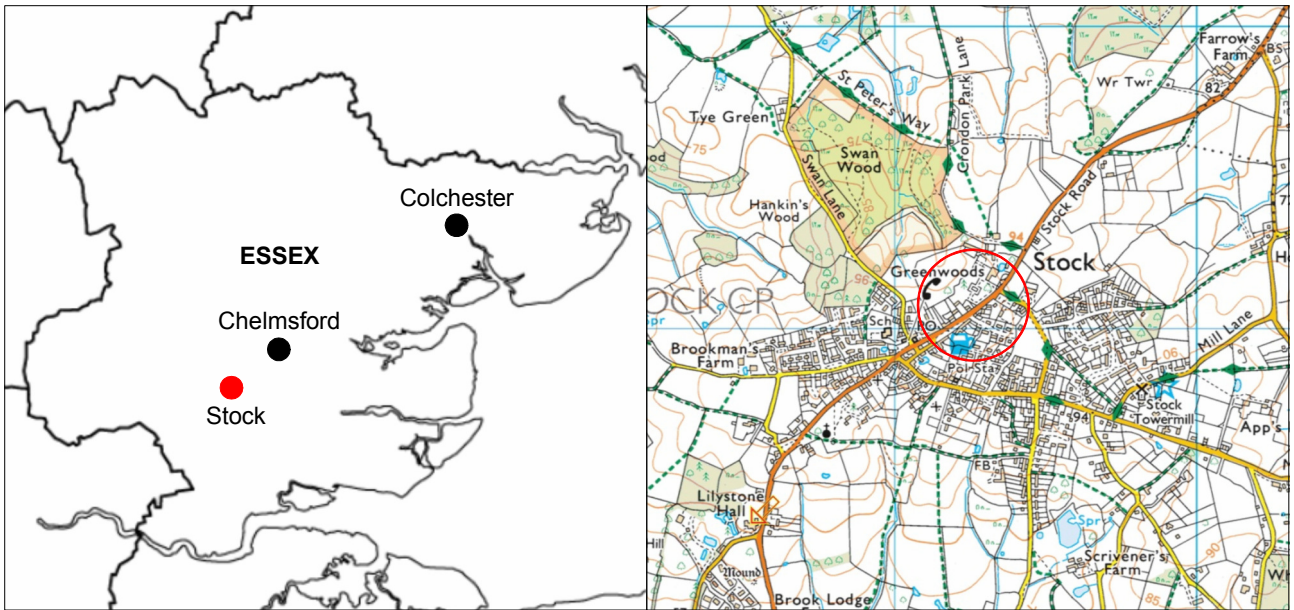
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Fig 1 Site location



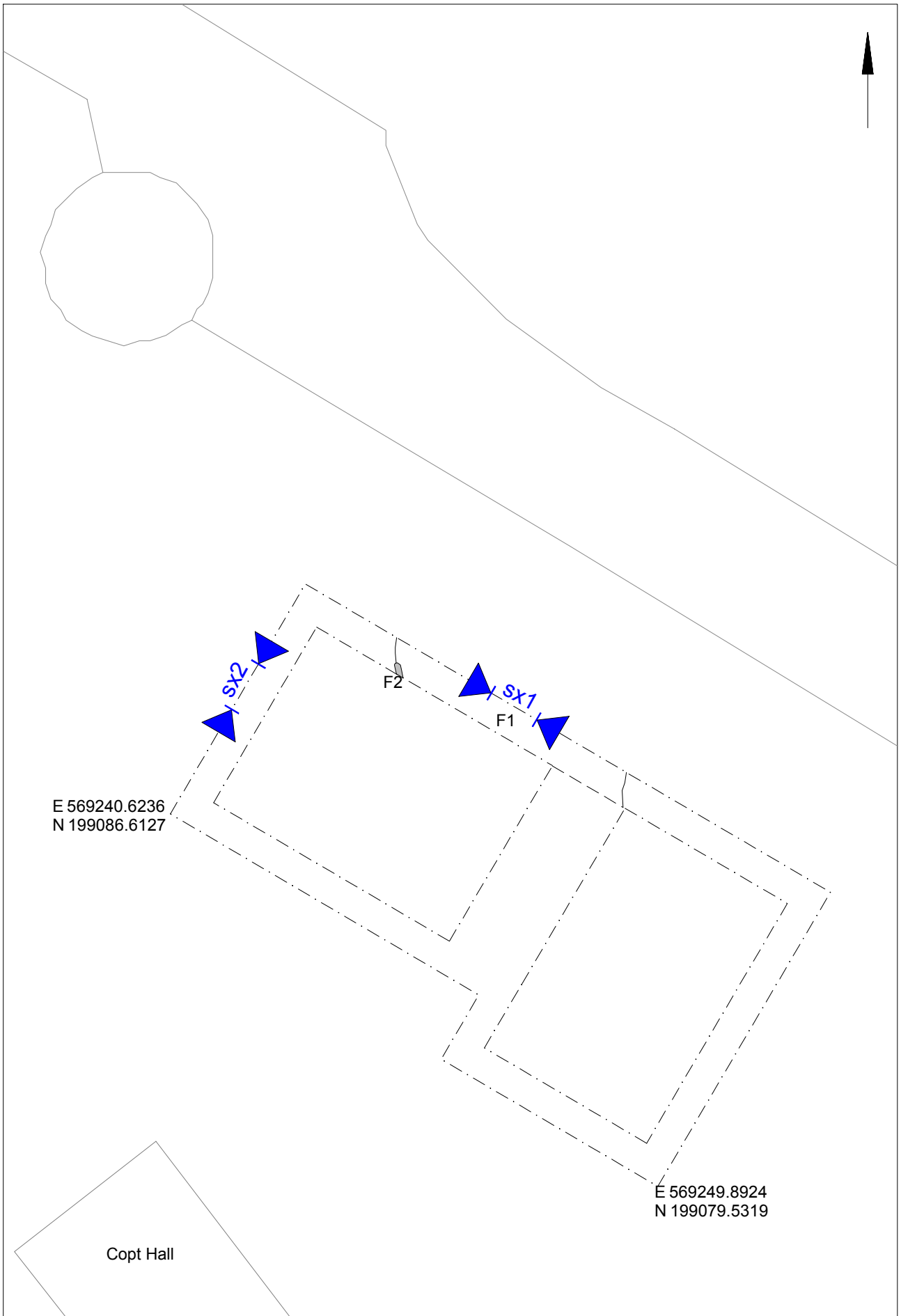
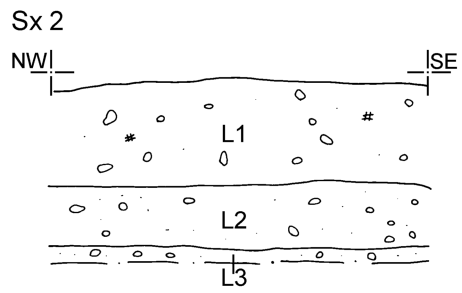
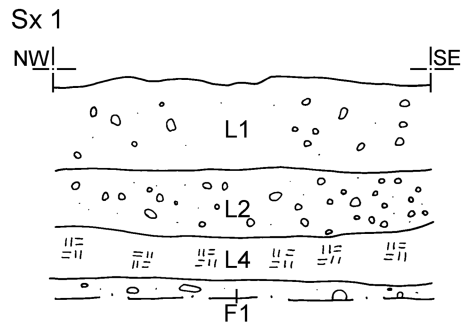


Fig 2 Results

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



-  small stones
-  large stones
-  charcoal
-  clay



Fig 3 Representative sections



Fig 4 F1: Sagger pottery (1-2) and kiln furniture fragment (3).



Fig 5 Showing the locations in Stock of previous excavations and locations of brick and tile kilns

- 1) Brick and tile kilns (EHER 5507)
- 2) 10 The Paddock (EHER 48334)
- 3) Medieval pottery and kiln waste (EHER 5391)
- 4) Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch (EHER 46565)
- 5-6) Rough location of possible Iron Age enclosure and Roman cemetery (EHER 5380 and 9135)

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-296787**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BA
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Copt Hall, Stock, in advance of the construction of a replacement outbuilding, utilising some of the pre-existing footprint. The development site lies on land with potential for archaeological remains pertaining to medieval and post-medieval pottery manufacture. A single pit was uncovered, which contained post-medieval pottery. This presents further evidence for post-medieval pottery manufacture in the town.
Project dates	Start: 21-09-2017 End: 04-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/09q - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHL/16/01077/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/01078/LBC - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHMRE:2017.121 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	SKHS17 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	KILN FURNITURE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition



**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD STOCK 2 High Street
Postcode	CM4 9BA
Study area	0.09 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 69282 99083 51.664482358145 0.448004549294 51 39 52 N 000 26 52 E Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Sarah Carter
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Adam Tuffey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Physical Archive ID	CHMRE:2017.121
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHMRE:2017.121
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHMRE:2017.121
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

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