

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1834  
issued September 2022**

**Archaeological monitoring at 35 Mill Road,  
Stock, Essex, CM4 9LN: August 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/07p  
ECC code: SKMR22b**

**Archaeological monitoring at 35 Mill Road,  
Stock, Essex, CM4 9LN: August 2022**

**NGR: TQ 69245 98822 (centre)**

**Planning ref.: 21/00188/FUL**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/07p  
CAT Report 1834**

**ECC code: SKMR22b  
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**fieldwork by Adam Ronn**

**commissioned by the homeowner**

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 35 Mill Road, Stock, Essex in advance of the construction of an extension to the property. The site is located close to a possible Iron Age settlement, Roman burial ground, and post-medieval pot, tile and brick industry. Monitoring of groundworks revealed a significant depth of modern made-ground sealing natural. There were no archaeological remains.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 35 Mill Road, Stock, Essex on 8th and 9th of August 2022. The work was commissioned by the homeowner, and took place during groundworks for the construction of an extension to the rear of the property.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was advised by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council. This set condition was for an archaeologist to monitor the groundworks and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological monitoring* detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

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

The local landscape of Stock is undulating rising to around 94 metres OD. The geology comprises of London clay to the east and claygate member to the west, overlain by Bagshot formation sand/gravels and Head clay silt/sand/gravel in the river valleys (Bennett 2006, 30). The medieval and post-medieval core of the village survives in good condition and is protected as a conservation area (Bennett 2006, 133).

The development site itself is located on the northern edge of a purported Iron Age enclosure (EHER 9735), and to the north of a probable Roman cremation cemetery (EHER 5380) discovered in the late 19th/early 20th century.

From the 16th to the 19th century, Stock had a thriving brick, tile and pottery industry which formed an important part of the local economy. Discoveries relating to this industry include an 18th-century brick-and-tile kiln c 250m to the north-east of the development site (EHER 5507) along with significant quantities of kiln waste recovered c 130m north-east (CAT Report 704, EHER 48334), c 150m east (junction of Mill Road and Unwin Place, EHER 5391) and 210m to the west (16-20 Mill Road, CAT Report 598). Evidence also shows that Stock Common, to the north of the development site, was an important source of clay for pottery manufacturing.

Recent archaeological investigations at The Paddocks (CAT Reports 1201, 1272, 1580, 1709) and on the High Street (CAT Report 1706), uncovered no significant archaeological remains.

#### 4 Aim

The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to identify: 1) remains associated with the Iron Age enclosure; 2) evidence or finds related to the local historic pottery manufacturing industry; and 3) to record the stratigraphic sequence of deposits affected by the development.

#### 5 Results

All groundworks were carried out by mechanical excavator under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The footprint of the extension is 9.7m long by 4m wide, and a foundation trench, 16.3m long, 0.7m wide and 1.1m deep, was dug along three of the sides.



**Photograph 1** Representative section 1, looking north-west.

The western half of the site had been laid to patio and the stratigraphy was as follows:

- patio slabs (L1, 0.02m thick), crush (L2, 0.15-0.25m thick) and builder's sand (L3, 0.1m thick) sealed
- buried topsoil (L4, 0.3m thick) which overlay
- made-ground (L5, 0.3-0.75m thick).

In the eastern half of the site the stratigraphy was:

- topsoil (L4, 0.17-0.32m thick) mixed with patches of mortar (L6, c 0.05m thick) and sand (L3, 0.1-0.33m thick), which sealed
- made-ground (L5, 0.4-0.75m thick).



**Photograph 2** Representative section 2, looking south-east.



**Photograph 3** The soakaway, looking south-south-west.

Natural (L7) undulated considerably, probably the result of truncation by L5. It was visible in some places from c 0.75m below current ground level, but was deeper than 1.1m in others.

Finds from made-ground L5 included not only post-medieval/modern pottery, peg-tile, glass and a cutlery handle, but also pieces of modern plastic. In conversations with the homeowners, they mentioned that the previous occupants had begun work on an extension which was not completed, and it is possible that the made-ground dates to these groundworks.

The soakaway, 1.5m by 1.5m and approximately 1.5m deep, cut topsoil (L4) and subsoil (L8) into natural. The soakaway was too deep and the edges too unstable to investigate the depths of the layers.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

*by Matthew Loughton*

Four fragments of post-medieval red earthenware (64g), including a large bowl/pancheon (EVE: 0.07), were recovered from L5 (finds no. 1-2) along with six fragments of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (380g). The pottery dates to c 1500-19th/20th century.

### 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

*by Laura Pooley*

Two joining fragments (128.4g) from the push-up base of an olive green glass wine bottle came from L5 (finds no. 1). From the same feature was a piece of plain bone cutlery handle with the scant and unidentifiable remains of the iron utensil surviving (25.4g). Both date to the post-medieval/modern period.

## 7 Conclusion

Monitoring at 35 Mill Road, Stock revealed a significant depth of modern made-ground sealing natural, which was possibly associated with groundworks for a planned extension that was never completed by the previous homeowners. There were no archaeological remains.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by A Ronn. Figures are by A Ronn, E Holloway and L Pooley. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Mark Baister.

## 9 References

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

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Health &amp; safety policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written scheme of investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 35 Mill Road, Stock, Essex, CM4 9LN</i>
ECCPS	2021	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring at 35 Mill Road, Stock, by Mark Baister</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,</i>

Historic England Medlycott, M	2016	<i>conservation and research of archaeological materials Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	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	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 1800
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

**Finds:** none retained

**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:

Homeowner  
Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council  
Essex Historic Environment Record



## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context	Description	Date
L1	-	Patio	Patio slabs	Modern
L2	-	Crush	Crush	Modern
L3	-	Builder's sand	Friable/firm dry medium yellow/orange sand	Modern
L4	-	Topsoil	Soft/friable dry light grey/brown clayey-silt and inclusions of: gravel 1% stone 2%	Modern
L5	1, 2	Subsoil	Soft/friable, dry, medium brown clayey-silt and inclusions of gravel 1% stone 1%	Modern
L6	-	Mortar	Mortar	Modern
L7	-	Natural	Clay	Post-glacial
L8	-	Subsoil	Mid brown silt	Undated

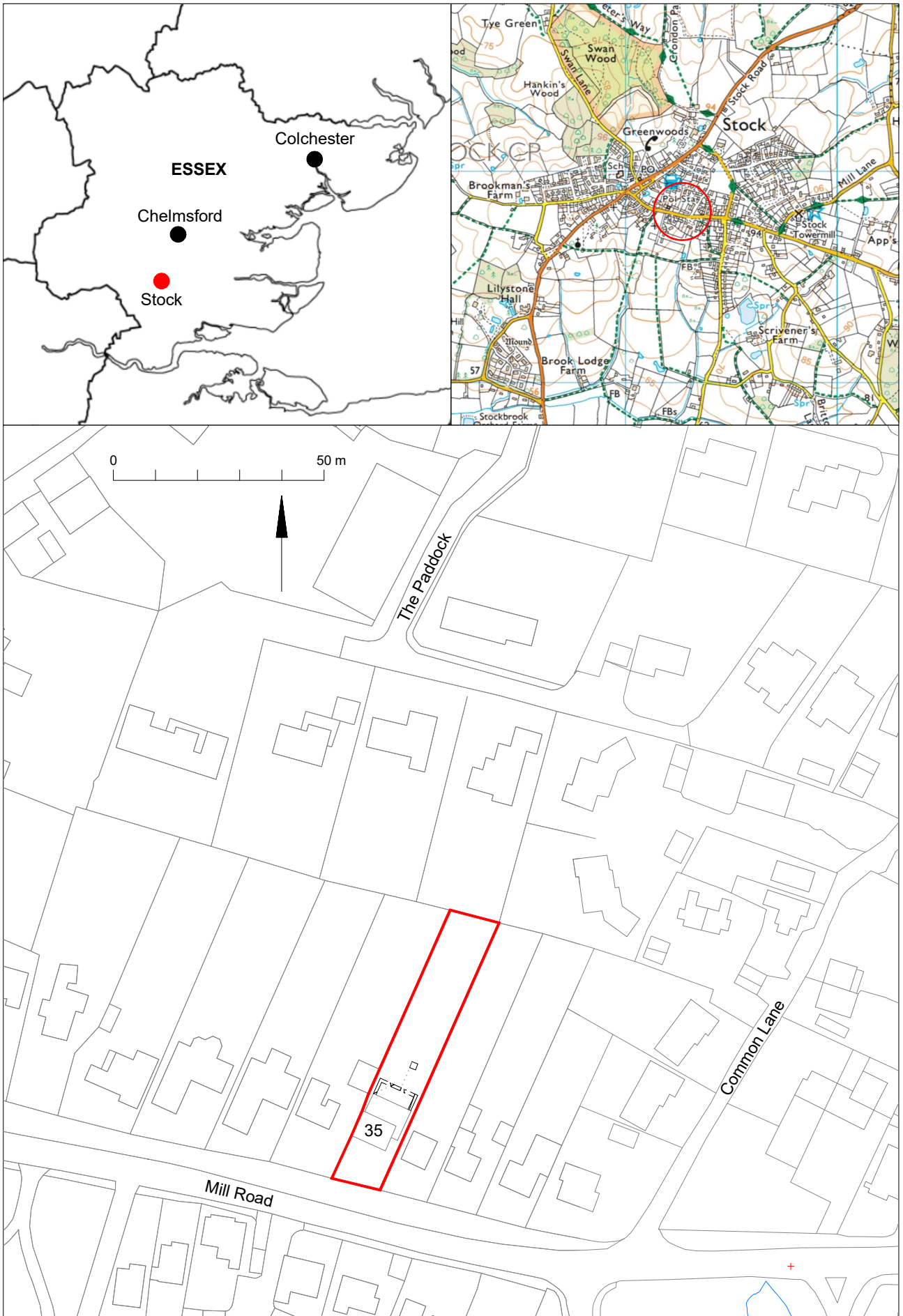


Fig 1 Site location.

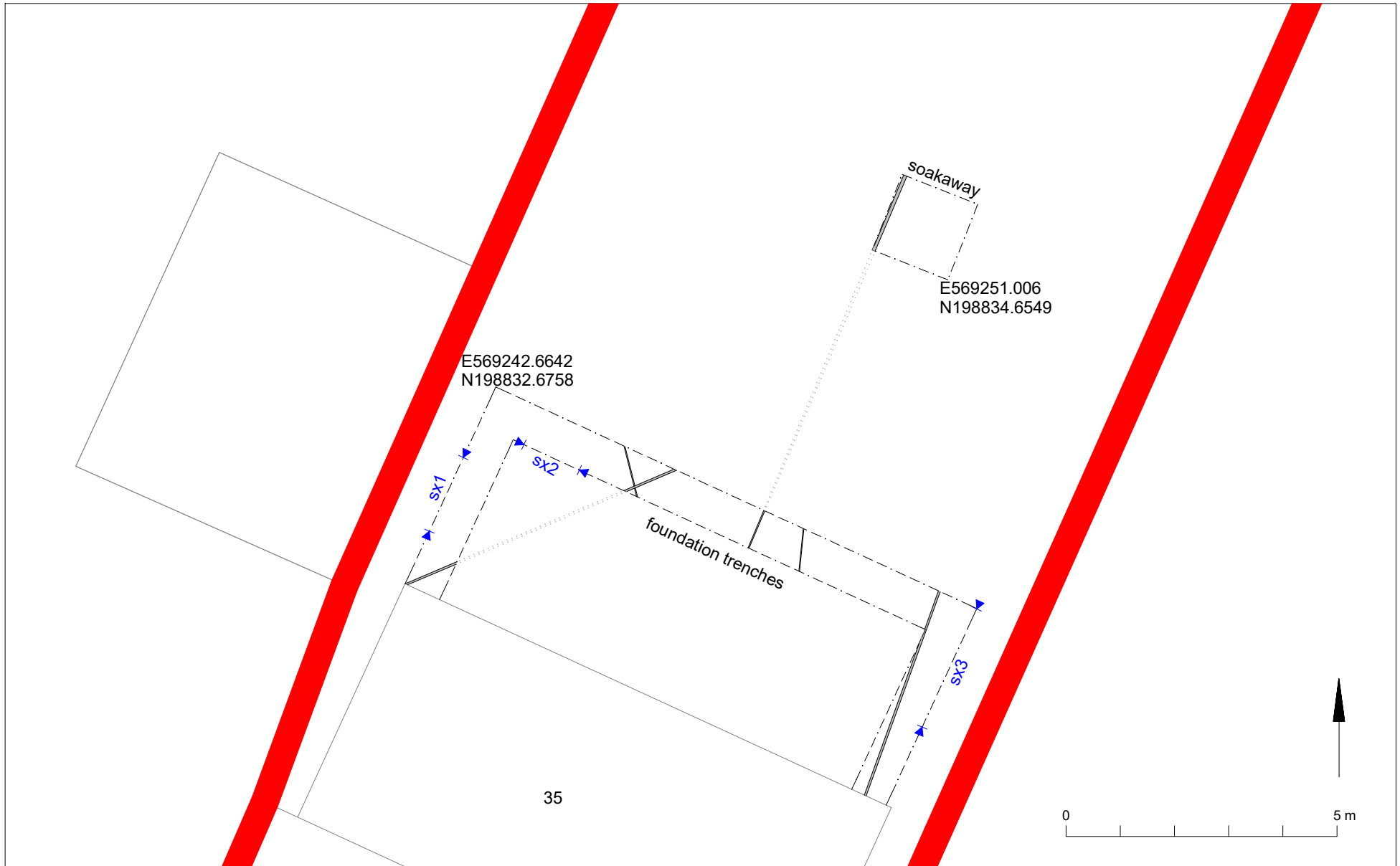


Fig 2 Results (modern services in grey)

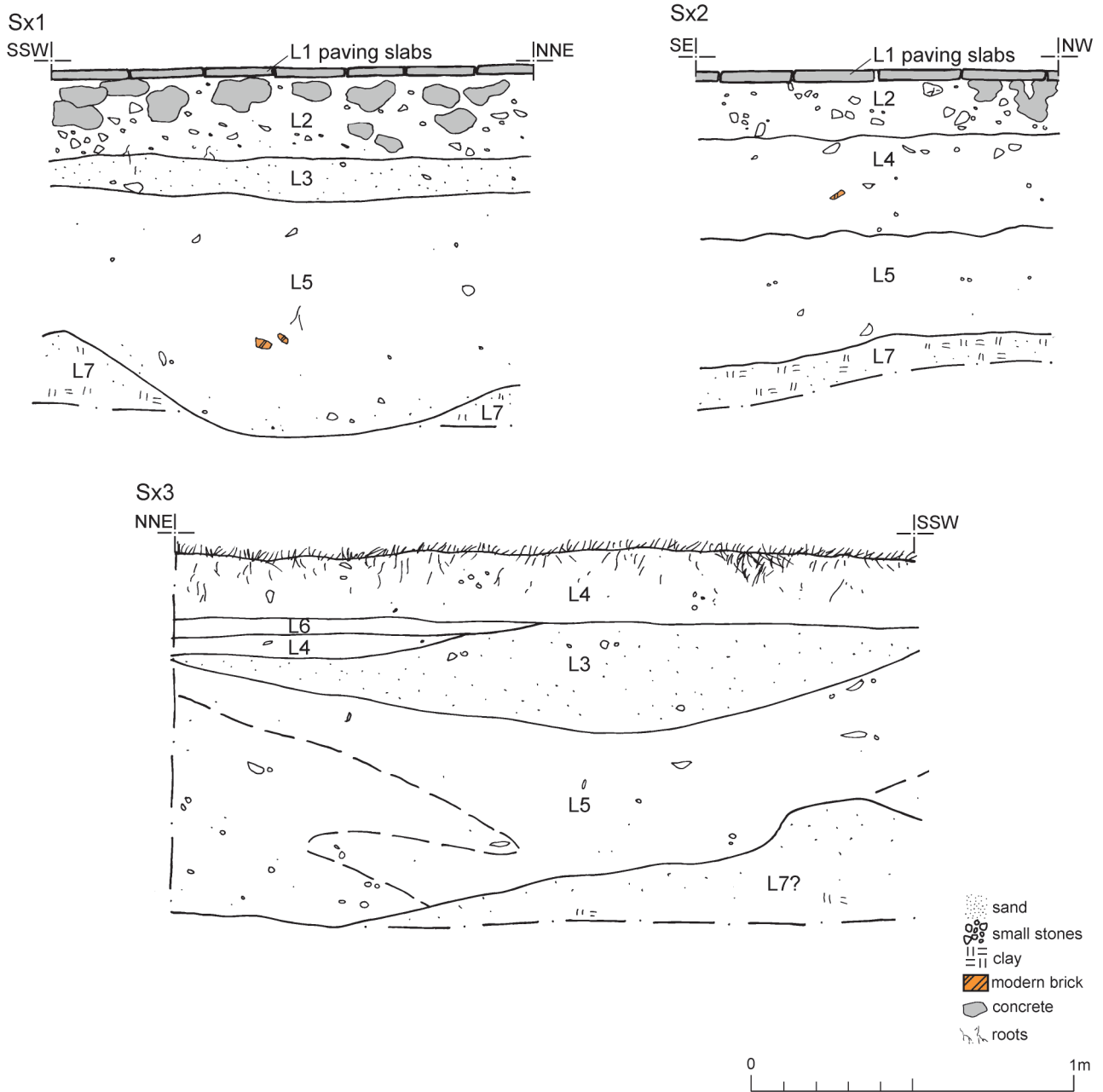


Fig 3 Representative sections.

## Summary for colchest3-508338

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-508338
Project Name	Watching Brief at 35 Mill Road, Stock, Essex, CM4 9LN
Sitename	35 Mill Road, Stock, Essex
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/07p
Planning Id	21/00188/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	08-Aug-2022 - 09-Aug-2022
Location	35 Mill Road, Stock, Essex NGR : TQ 69245 98822 LL : 51.6626934354967, 0.445664127253786 12 Fig : 569245,198822
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Chelmsford Parish : Stock
Project Methodology	Watching brief carried out on all groundworks as outlined in the brief and WSI
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 35 Mill Road, Stock, Essex in advance of the construction of an extension to the property. The site is located close to a possible Iron Age settlement, Roman burial ground, and post-medieval pot, tile and brick industry. Monitoring of groundworks revealed a significant depth of modern made-ground sealing natural. There were no archaeological remains.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A, Ronn, L, Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - SKMR22b
Archives	