

# Archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to 27 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BD

June 2021



**by Sarah Veasey**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton, Laura Pooley and Alec Wade  
figures by Chris Lister and Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Megan Seehra

**commissioned by landowner**

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**CAT Report 1706**  
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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on land adjacent to 27 High Street, Stock, Essex, during the groundworks for the construction of a house, garage, summer house and garden wall. The site is located in the centre of the historic village of Stock, where pottery manufacturing was an important industry from the 16th until the 19th century. The only feature uncovered during the monitoring works was a single natural feature, although a good assemblage of post-medieval finds were recovered from the topsoil and a layer of made-ground.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land adjacent to 27 High Street, Stock, Essex from 6th to 29th June 2021. The work was commissioned by the landowner during the construction of a dwelling, garage, summer house and garden wall.

In response to consultation, Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) 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* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording at land adjacent to 27 High Street, Stock* (ECCHEA 2020), written by Alison Bennett. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the requirement for archaeological monitoring (CAT 2020), and was approved by ECCHEA in advance of the groundworks.

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* (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 draws on the Brief and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Evidence of early occupation at Stock comes from an area c 90m south-southwest of the development site and includes a possible Iron Age enclosure (EHER 9135) and a probable Roman cremation cemetery (EHER 5380). A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age gully was identified during archaeological monitoring (EHER 46565) c 290m to the south-east.

In the later period, pottery manufacture was an important industry in Stock from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The discovery of the Stock pottery industry began in 1971, when groups of glazed and unglazed 17th- and 18th-century sherds, glaze splashed peg-tiles and saggars were discovered in two locations in Stock – on Common Lane and Mill Road (EHER 5391). In her 1985 publication of the Stock material, Carol Cunningham (1985, 83) quite logically suggested that there was an unlocated kiln site midway between the two groups of finds. This remained the supposition until Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (FAU) carried out an evaluation at 71 Mill Road, between the two groups of finds, and found no kiln related material (Ennis 2007). Therefore, as a result of the 2007 work, it appeared that the 1971 and 1975 finds represented two separate kiln sites. In 2011, an evaluation by CAT c 209m to the southwest at 'Pottery House' revealed 15kg of pottery and 3.7kg of broken and glaze-splashed pegtile fragments dumped in a pit at the rear of the property (CAT Report 598). During an evaluation at

2 The Paddock CAT found the back-garden of the property revealed a deep deposit of topsoil which contained a notable quantity of post-medieval pottery sherds and peg-tile fragments which may derive from a nearby kiln (CAT Report 704, EHER 48334). However, no archaeological remains or finds were found during investigations at the adjacent 2 The Paddock (CAT Report 1272), 3 The Paddock (CAT Report 1580) or at Caer Luel The Paddock (CAT Report 1201).

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

#### 4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify, excavate and record any archaeological contexts revealed during groundworks.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Four areas of foundation trenching were excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. These were for a summer house, a garage, the main house and a garden wall.

##### Main house

The foundation trenches for the main house covered an area of 213 square meters. The trench measured 0.60m wide and 0.70m deep. The majority of the trench was excavated through a layer of tarmac (L4, c 0.08m thick), a layer of topsoil (L1, c 0.25m thick, friable firm dry dark grey-brown clayey silt with 5% stone inclusions) and a layer of made-ground (L2, c 0.22-0.24m thick, firm dry-moist medium-dark silty clay with 75% stone inclusions) into natural (L3, encountered 0.55m below current ground level [bcgl], firm moist light yellow-brown clay). On the north-western edge of the trench L4 was not present.



**Photograph 1** Main house foundation trench – view W

The central area of the foundation trench has previously been disturbed by an in-ground swimming pool (Fig 2). The base of the pool was deeper than the natural clay and had been backfilled with rubble, for this reason this area was not monitored.

The only feature uncovered was a natural gully (F1, soft wet light-medium grey-brown-blue silty clay).



**Photograph 2** Main house foundation trench with swimming pool backfill – view W

### **Garage**

The garage foundation trench was approximately 28m long, 0.60m wide and 0.60m deep. The trench was excavated through concrete (L4, c 0.08m thick), topsoil (L1, c 0.20m), a layer of made-ground (L2, c 0.30m thick) and into the natural (L3, encountered c 0.50m bcgl). No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

### **Summer house**

The foundation trench for the summer house had a length of 24m, a width of 0.60m and a depth of 1.0m. It was excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.30m thick), a layer of made-ground (L2, c 0.60m thick) and into natural (L3, encountered c 0.90m bcgl). No archaeological features were observed although finds were recovered from the layers.

### **Garden wall**

The garden wall foundation trench was 29m long, 0.60m wide and 0.060m deep. It was excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.20m thick), a layer of made-ground (L2, c 0.30m thick) into the natural clay (L3, encountered c 0.50m bcgl). No archaeological features were uncovered in the garden wall foundation trench, but finds were recovered from the topsoil.



**Photograph 3** Site shot with Summer house foundation trench in foreground – view S



**Photograph 4** Garden wall foundation trench – view SW



**Photograph 5** Garage foundation trench – view NW

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material (Appendix 2) *by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The watching brief uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with 35 sherds with a weight of just over 1.6kg and 0.50 vessels (rim EVE) (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is 47g.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	19	501	26	0.50
CBM	16	1,146	72	-
<b>All</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0.50</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery.

Sherds of pottery and ceramics were recovered from two contexts: topsoil (L1) and made-ground (L2) (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
L1	Topsoil	14	364	26
L2	Made-ground	21	1,283	61
<b>Total</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>47</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific contexts.

### Post-Roman pottery

All the pottery is of post-Roman date and was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000) and Cunningham (1985) (Table 3) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). There were only 19 sherds with a weight of 501g and EVE of 0.50 (Table 4), and sherds of post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric F40) account for the majority of this material while various modern (19th-20th century) wares account for the rest. The post-Roman pottery came from two layers: topsoil L1 produced nine sherds with a weight of 205g and EVE of 0.37, and made-ground L2 contained 10 sherds with a weight of 296g and EVE of 0.13. Notable sherds included an oval casserole/brining trough (EVE: 0.07) and a large storage jar (EVE: 0.10) in post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric F40) and a shallow bowl/dish (EVE: 0.06) in Border ware (fabric F42).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F42	Border ware	16th-17th century
F45M	Modern English stoneware	19th-20th century
F48B	English porcelain	19th-20th century
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-20th century
F51A	Late slipped kitchenware	19th-20th century
F51B	Flowerpot	19th-20th century

**Table 3** Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	10	200	20	0.17
F42	Border ware	1	9	9	0.06
F45M	Modern stoneware	1	13	13	0.00
F48B	English porcelain	1	5	5	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	2	21	11	0.00
F51A	Late slipped kitchenware	2	170	85	0.03
F51B	Flowerpot	2	83	42	0.24
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0.50</b>

**Table 4** Details on the post-Roman pottery.

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

The CBM consists of 16 sherds with a weight of just over 1.1kg with a mean sherd weight of 72g (Table 5). CBM was recovered from the topsoil (L1) and made-ground (L2). The CBM consists of a variety of modern material although there was one piece of Roman box-flue tile (Table 5).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
<i>Roman</i>				
RFT	Roman box flue-tile	1	153	153
<i>Post Roman</i>				
PT	Peg-tile	3	83	28
BR	Brick	3	108	36
FT	Floor tile	1	46	46
MT	Modern tile	2	377	189
Mortar		6	379	63
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>72</b>

**Table 5** CBM by period and type.

Table 6 summarizes the dating evidence for the layers which produced dateable ceramic finds. The layers L1 and L2 both date to the 19th/20th century.

Context	Description	Post-Roman	CBM	Date Approx.
L1	Topsoil	F40 (oval casserole)/brining trough F42 (shallow bowl/dish) F45M F48D (plate) F51B (plant pot)	BR MT PT	19th/20th century
L2	Made-ground	F40 (large storage jar) F48B F51A	RFT BR FT MT PT	19th/20th century

**Table 6** Approximate dates for the individual layers.

## 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Fragments of 19th-/20th-century bottle glass came from L1 and L2 along with post-medieval/modern fragments of clay tobacco pipe, iron, copper-alloy and plastic.

Context no.	Finds no.	Description
L1 or u/s	1	<b>Clay tobacco pipe:</b> Fragment of stem, 1.4g <b>Glass:</b> 15 fragments of bottle glass, colourless, pale green, pale blue and brown, 489.9g, 19th/20th century. <b>Iron:</b> Fragment, 13.3g.
L1	3	<b>Glass:</b> Three fragments of bottle glass, blue and brown, 125.5g, 19th/20th century.
L1	4	<b>Iron:</b> 1) Three fragments of iron strip, 0.73-0.8m long, 0.18m wide and 0.4m thick, 54.2g. 2) Iron nail, 5.4g, modern. <b>Plastic:</b> Two fragments of crumpled plastic, 5.3g, modern. <b>Charcoal/coke/clinker:</b> Two fragments, 2.0g.
L2	3	<b>Glass:</b> 1) Three fragments of glass bottle, colourless and brown, 331.7g, 19th/20th century. 2) Complete pill bottle with metal screw cap, 8.1g. Bottle embossed B.W. & CO. TABLOID. Screw top embossed WELLCOME CHEMICAL WORKS / OVER / 270 / HIGHEST / AWARDS. Burroughs Wellcome Chemical Works. Early 20th century. <b>Copper-alloy:</b> Fragment of hollow copper-alloy pipe, 29.1g, machine-made, 19th/20th century. <b>Iron:</b> Iron ring, 15.7g, possibly a machinery fitting.

**Table 7** Miscellaneous finds.

## 6.3 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The watching brief produced seven pieces of animal bone from L1 in poor to fair condition weighing a total of 154g. Most of the bone was of juvenile pig (probably from the same individual) that had been butchered. The use of a saw to dismember part of the carcass would indicate that this activity was of post-medieval date. Two pieces of otherwise undiagnostic medium sized mammal bone may also be pig. The only other species identified in the assemblage was rabbit (one piece).

Context	No. of	Weight	Species	Comments
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	pieces	(g)		
L1, find no. 4	4	140	Pig	Complete radius (1), ulna (1), femur (1) and tibia (1) with unfused proximal and distal metaphysis. The distal metaphysis of the tibia has been removed by a transverse saw cut. The ulna has a small transverse cut mark on the face of the semilunar notch associated with dismemberment.
	1	2	Rabbit?	Near complete humerus (1) with periostosis affecting the proximal joint.
	2	10	Medium-sized mammal	Fragment of a rib (1) with a transverse cut mark and the complete proximal epiphysis of a humerus that has been burnt black.
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>152</b>		

**Table 8** Animal bone by context.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite being located in the centre of the historic village of Stock, monitoring works on land adjacent to 27 High Street only uncovered a single natural feature. A good assemblage of post-medieval finds were recovered from the layers L1 and L2, dating them both to the 19th to 20th centuries.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the landowner for funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by M Seehra. The project was monitored for ECC by Alison Bennett.

## 9 References

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

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- CAT Report 1580 2020 *Archaeological evaluation at 3 The Paddock, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BG: July 2020*, by E Hicks
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- CIfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
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- Cunningham, CM 1985 *A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex in Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford AD 1450-1750* (Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report no. 5/CBA Research report no. 54), 1-16.

ECCPS	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at The Sweyne Park School, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh</i> by A Bennett
Ennis, T	2007	<i>71 Mill Road, Stock. Archaeological monitoring and recording.</i> ECC Field Archaeology Unit Report 1746, February 2007
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )
Hillson, S	2016	<i>Mammal bones and teeth: An introductory guide to methods of identification.</i> Abingdon: Routledge
Historic England Medlycott, M	2016 2011	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Phillips, C	2003	<i>The Story of Stock and Buttsby</i>
Schmid, E	1972	<i>Atlas of animal bones.</i> Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
Iron Age (Middle)	Middle Iron Age, period from c 400 – 100BC
Iron Age (Late)	Late Iron Age, period from c 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
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>
prehistoric	the period prior to the Roman invasion of Britain, i.e. pre AD 43
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** None retained

### Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:  
The report (CAT Report 1706)  
CAT written scheme of investigation  
Original site record (plans and sections)  
Site digital photos and log  
Inked sections

### Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1706)  
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation  
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log  
Graphic files  
Site data  
Survey data

## 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 the accession code: CHMER:2020.078

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Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date: 08/10/21

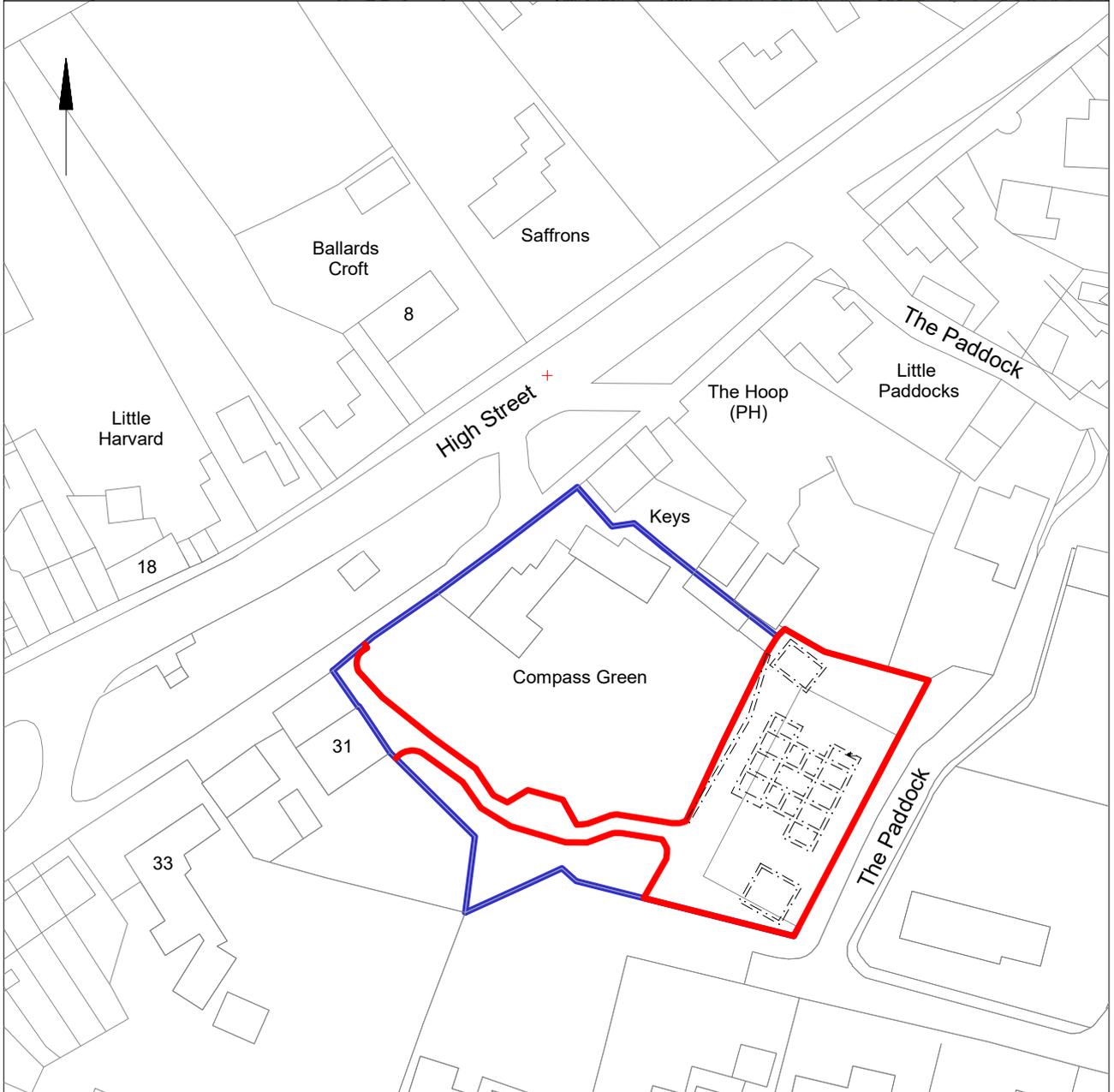
Appendix 1 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wmd	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Residue	Resin Lin.	Gritted	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Date
L001	TOPSOIL	1	2	83	42		2	0	0																			F51B	PLANT POT	0.16	140	19th-20th century		
L001	TOPSOIL	1																										F51B	PLANT POT	0.08	210	19th-20th century		
L001	TOPSOIL	1	1	46	46		1	0	0																		F40	OVAL CASSEROLE/BRINING TROUGH	0.07	320	c.1500-19th/20th century			
L001	TOPSOIL	1	2	33	17		0	0	1																		F40				c.1500-19th/20th century			
L001	TOPSOIL	1	1	18	18		0	0	1																		F48D	PLATE			19th-20th century			
L001	TOPSOIL	1	1	9	9		1	0	0																		F42	SHALLOW BOWL/DISH?	0.06	210	16th-17th century			
L001	TOPSOIL	4	1	3	3	X																					F48D				19th-20th century			
L001	TOPSOIL	4	1	13	13																						F45M				19th-20th century			
L002	SUBSOIL	1	1	22	22		1	0	0																		F51A	BOWL	0.03	620	19th-20th century			
L002	SUBSOIL	1	3	24	8		1	0	0																		F40	LARGE STORAGE JAR	0.10	180	c.1500-19th/20th century			
L002	SUBSOIL	2	1	12	12	X																					F40				c.1500-19th/20th century			
L002	SUBSOIL	3	2	80	40		0	0	1																		F40				c.1500-19th/20th century			
L002	SUBSOIL	3	1	148	148		0	0	1																		F51A				19th-20th century			
L002	SUBSOIL	3	1	5	5	X																					F40				c.1500-19th/20th century			
L002	SUBSOIL	3	1	5	5	X																					F48B				19th-20th century			

Appendix 2 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	FL CORN.	MNI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. Vt.	Rect. Vt.	Bl. vt.	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phs	Blind	L.	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date		
L001	TOPSOIL	1	1	31	31	X	BR		0																																		MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL	
L001	TOPSOIL	4	2	53	27	X	PT		0																																			MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL
L001	TOPSOIL	4	1	55	55	X	BR		0																																		MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL	
L001	TOPSOIL	4	1	20	20	X	MT		0								X																								STAMP: ]ELD[	20TH CENTURY		
L002	SUBSOIL	1	1	30	30	X	PT		0																				X												10 MM PH	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL		
L002	SUBSOIL	1	1	153	153	X	RFT		0																																	ROMAN		
L002	SUBSOIL	3	1	22	22	X	BR		0																																	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL		
L002	SUBSOIL	3	1	46	46	X	Floor tile		0																																	19TH-20TH CENTURY		
L002	SUBSOIL	3	1	357	357	X	MT		0								X																								STAMP: PP//C/	20TH CENTURY		





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0 50 m

Fig 1 Site location.

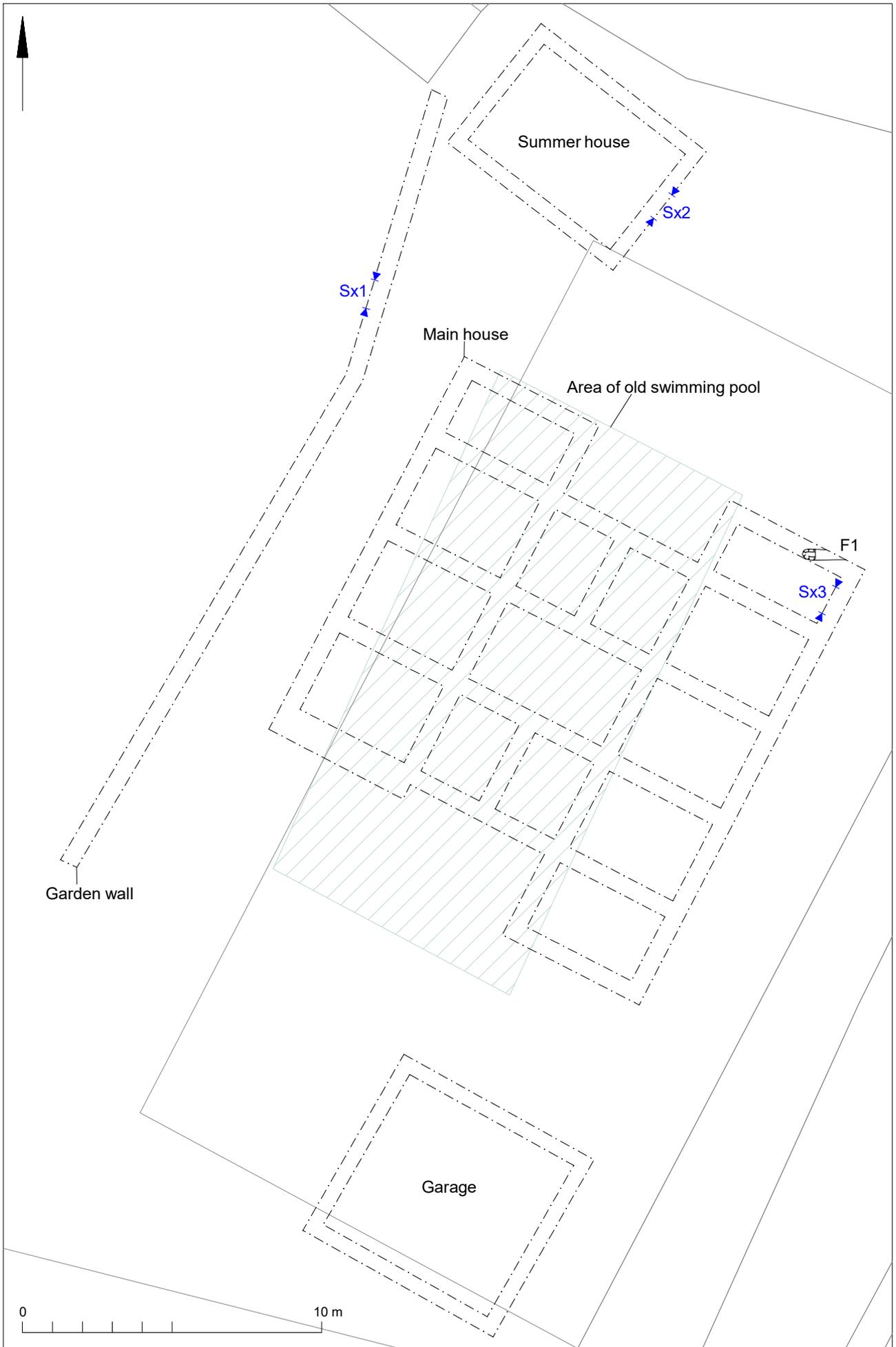


Fig 2 Results.

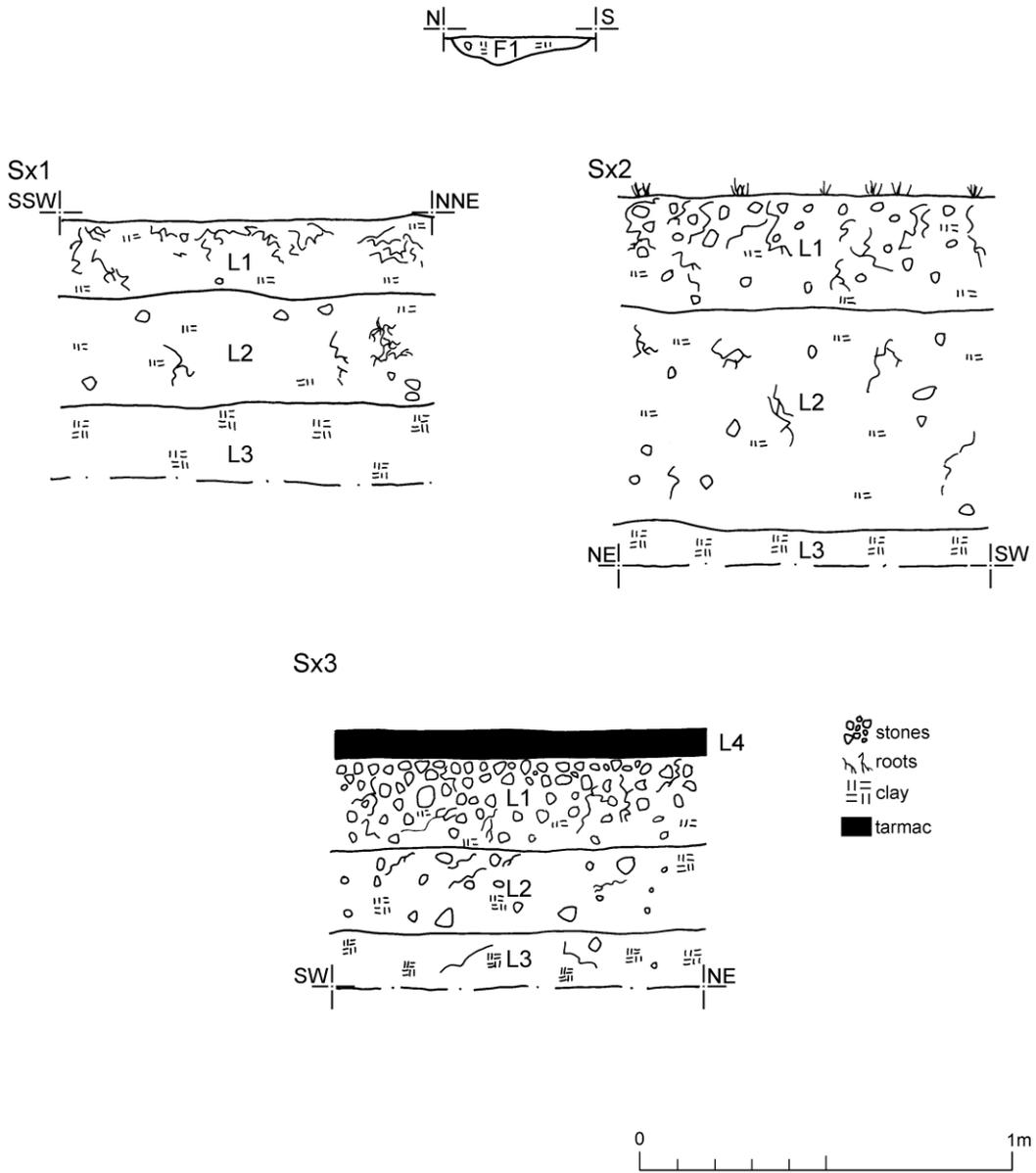


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-401871**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to 27 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BD.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out on land adjacent to 27 High Street, Stock, Essex, during the groundworks for the construction of a house, garage, summer house and garden wall. The site is located in the centre of the historic village of Stock, where pottery manufacturing was an important industry from the 16th until the 19th century. The only feature uncovered during the monitoring works was a single natural feature, although a good assemblage of post-medieval finds were recovered from the topsoil and a layer of made-ground.
Project dates	Start: 06-06-2021 End: 29-06-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CHMER:2020.078 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	SKHS21 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	19/01486/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2020/08f - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD STOCK land to the rear of Compass Green, 27 High Street, Stock, Essex
Postcode	CM4 9BD
Study area	1237 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 6924 9895 51.663300180197 0.447333363718 51 39 47 N 000 26 50 E Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Peter Stoner

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Physical Archive ID	CHMER:2020.078
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Archive ID	CHMER:2020.078
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHMER:2020.078
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to 27 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BD:

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## OASIS:

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