

Archaeological evaluation at Elizabeth Cottage, Mill Road, Stock, CM4 9RG

September 2021



by **Megan Seehra**

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fieldwork by Sarah Veasey and Chloe Hill

commissioned by Andrew Turk (Turk Homes Ltd)

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OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

Archaeological evaluation was carried out at Elizabeth Cottage, Mill Road, Stock during the construction of a single dwelling. The development site is within a village that had a thriving pottery industry from the 16th to 19th centuries. The site is also near prehistoric activity, and a Roman cremation cemetery. Despite this, only three 19th- to 20th-century features were found.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological evaluation at Elizabeth Cottage, Mill Road, Stock which was carried out on the 23rd September 2021. The work was commissioned by Andrew Turk of Turk Homes Ltd in advance of the construction of a single dwelling. The work was 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* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological trial trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2021), 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 Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

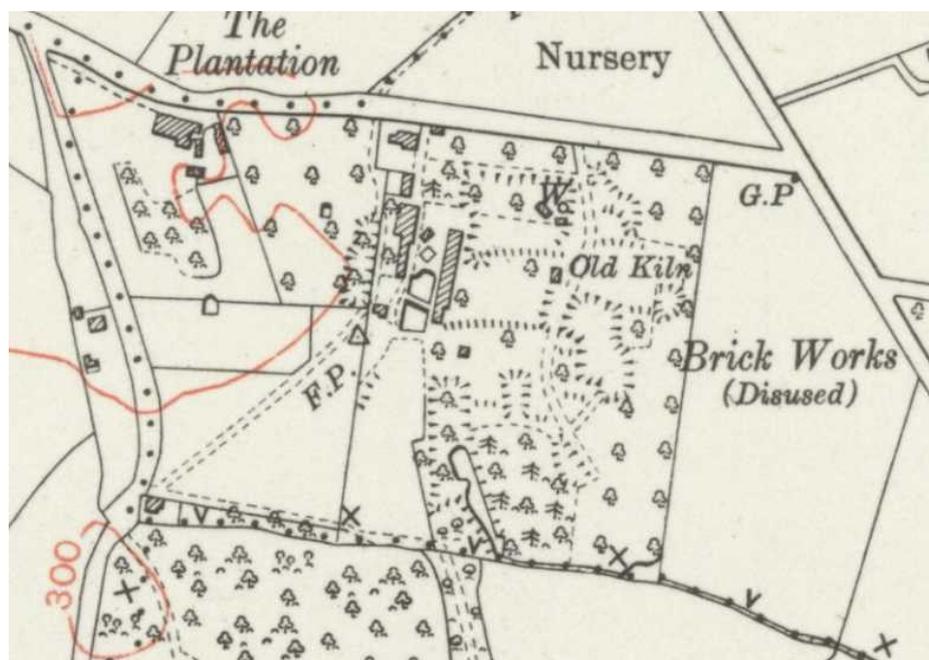
Evidence of early occupation in Stock comes from an area c 1.2km west of the development site and includes a possible Iron Age enclosure (EHER 9135) and a probable Roman cremation cemetery (EHER 5380). A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age gully was identified during archaeological monitoring (EHER 46565) c 1km to the north-west.

Elizabeth Cottage is located on the site on a former brick works (EHER 15541). It is thought to have operated from at least 1863 (if not earlier) until 1917, during this time it had two operators – John Banham (1863 till early 1890's) succeeded by Thomas Henry Webster (1890's -1917). The brick works is visible on the 1st edition OS map (Map 1) and on the later 1924 OS map (Map 2), where it is labelled as disused.

Jarvis (1934) wrote 'There was a brick-works in the Mill Road until about 1900 and was for many year a flourishing concern. Within living memory as many as 50 hands were employed there'. Whilst there are minor traces of Stock bricks in the buildings on the site, no major traces of the brick works survive above ground. The last building in Stock to have been constructed of Stock's local bricks is Christ Church in the High Street.



Map 1 Extract of the 1st edition OS map (1881) showing the brick works.



Map 2 Extract of the 1923 OS map, showing the brick works now as disused.

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)

Three trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Due to various obstructions on the site (tree-protection zones, a large disused bonfire area and overhead cables), all three trenches were moved from the positions originally proposed in the WSI. The new positions of the trenches can be seen on Figs 1-2.

Trench 1 was 10m in length, 1.8m in width, and 0.55m in depth. It was dug on a rough NNW-SSE orientation. No archaeological features were found, but there was a modern service at the SSE end. Only two layers were observed in this trench. L4 was a turfed topsoil and was 0.35m thick, and sealed the orange-brown clay natural (L3). The natural was observed from c 0.4-0.55m deep.

Trench 2 was 20m in length, 1.8m wide, and was 0.56m in depth. It was orientated on an NW-SE alignment. A large modern pit containing brick, coal and clinker was present but not excavated at the south-east end of the trench. Three more modern services were also observed. A post-medieval to modern make-up layer was on the surface (L2, c 0.3m thick) which sealed the clay natural (L3, observed from c 0.56m deep)



Photograph 1 Trench 1, looking north-west



Photograph 2 Trench 2, looking north-west

Trench 3 was 10m long, 1.8m wide, and was excavated to a depth of 0.49-0.69m. It was on an N-S orientation. A possible modern gravel surface/path (F1) on an E-W orientation was observed at the south end of the trench. It was c 1m in width, and at least c 0.05 in depth. Modern finds were recovered from the fill, including a coin. A probable tree throw (F2) was also monitored and excavated at the north end of T3. It was less than 1m wide, and c 0.15m in depth. Modern finds were also recovered from this feature. Three layers were observed in T3. L1 was the modern yard surface c 0.25-0.29m thick, consisting of areas of block paving and small gravel. Below this was L2, a modern make-up with large amounts of CBM fragments. This was c 0.4m thick. It sealed L3, the clay natural, which was observed at a depth of c 0.5-0.7m.

A full description of context information can be seen in Appendix 1.



Photograph 3 Trench 3, looking south

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic and Pottery finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of pottery and CBM totalling six sherds with a weight of 387g and EVE of 0.27. This material came from features F1 and F2. Feature F1 contained three sherds (12g) of 19th/20th Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric 48D) including a bowl (EVE: 0.03) and two sherds (235g) of pan-tile dating from the 17th century onwards. Feature F2 contained a piece of 19th/20th Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) plate (EVE: 0.24) decorated with a willow-pattern design.

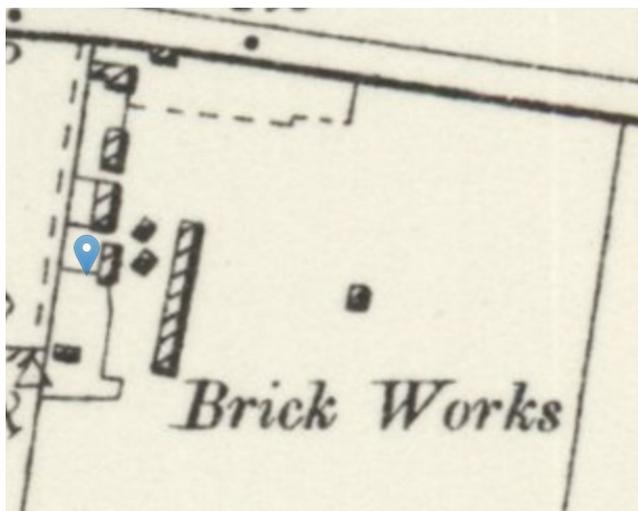
6.2 Small finds

by Laura Pooley

A 19th-century penny in very poor condition and completely illegible came from F1 (finds no. 2), 34mm diameter, 12.9g.

7 Conclusion

An OS map from 1898 (map 3) shows that this site was a former brick works, with structures that by the 1960s (map 4) were no longer there. As previously mentioned in this report, the brick works were shown to be disused by 1923. It is likely the modern features found were from the site's function as a brick works. In spite of being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no surviving archaeological deposits were encountered during the evaluation.



Map 3 OS map (1898) showing the brick works.



Map 4 OS map (1961) showing area without buildings.
Site location is blue marker

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrew Turk of Turk Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey and C Hill. Figures are by S Veasey. The project was monitored for 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>

CAT	2020	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation and excavation at Elizabeth Cottage, Mill Road, Stock, CM4 9RG</i> by S Veasey
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECCPS	2021	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation at Elizabeth Cottage, Mill Road, Stock.</i> By A Bennett
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Jarvis, D.	1934	<i>Stock, Essex – Its History and Romance</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	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
Bronze Age (Late)	Late Bronze Age, period from c 1000 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EH	Essex Historic Environment Record
evaluation	a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork, which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area. This may take the form of an intrusive investigation of a percentage of the site, geophysical or topographical survey. The results of this investigation will establish the requirements for any further work.
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 (Early)	Early Iron Age, period from c 600 – 400BC
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	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1715)

ECCPS brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record)

Site digital photos and log
Inked sections
Digital record
The report (CAT Report 1715)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Graphic files
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 accession code (tbc).

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Distribution list:

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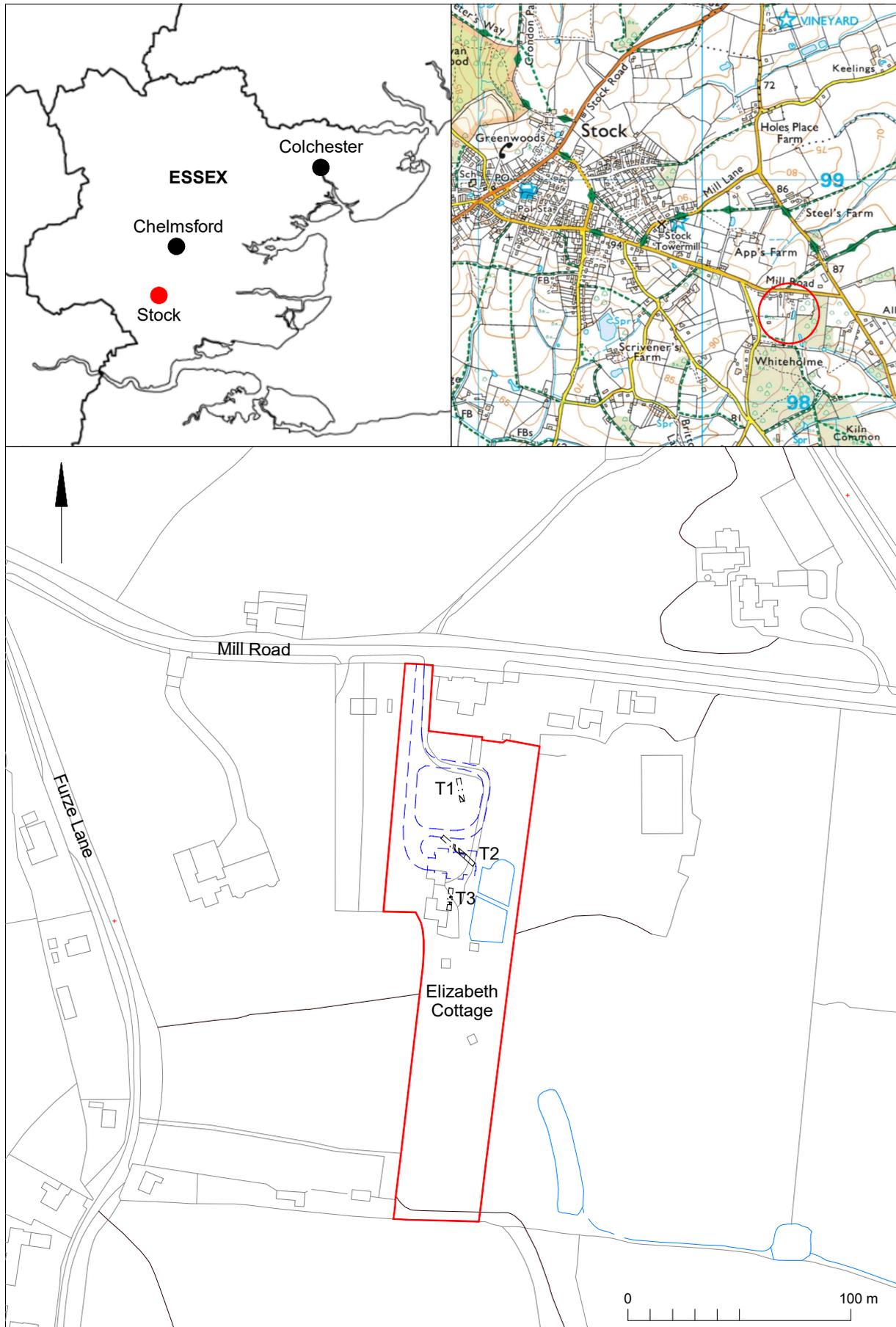
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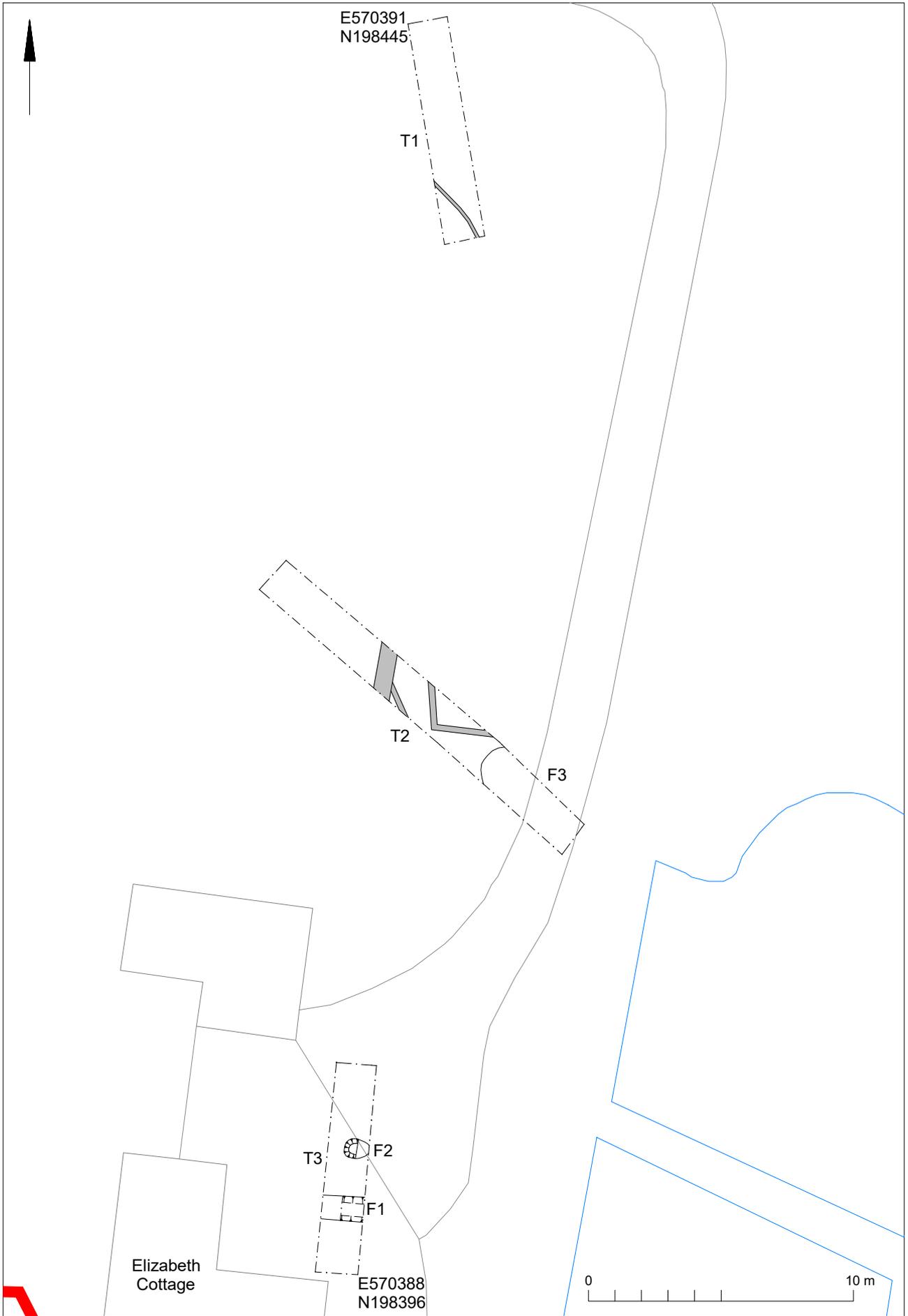
Appendix 1 Context list

Trench no.	Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
T3	L1	-	Yard surface	Block paving and small gravel	Modern
T2, T3	L2	-	Make-up	Firm moist medium/dark grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: tile/brick 60%	Post-medieval-modern
All	L3	-	Natural	Firm moist medium yellow/orange/brown clay	Post-glacial
T1	L4	-	Turfed topsoil	Soft dry medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks	Modern
T3	F1	1, 2	?Gravel path	Firm moist medium yellow/brown clay and inclusions of: stone 75%	Modern
T3	F2	3	Pit/tree-throw	Firm moist light orange/grey silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 15% pot 5%	Modern
T2	F3	-	Pit	Firm moist medium/dark grey/brown/black silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Modern



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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 Results. Modern services in grey.

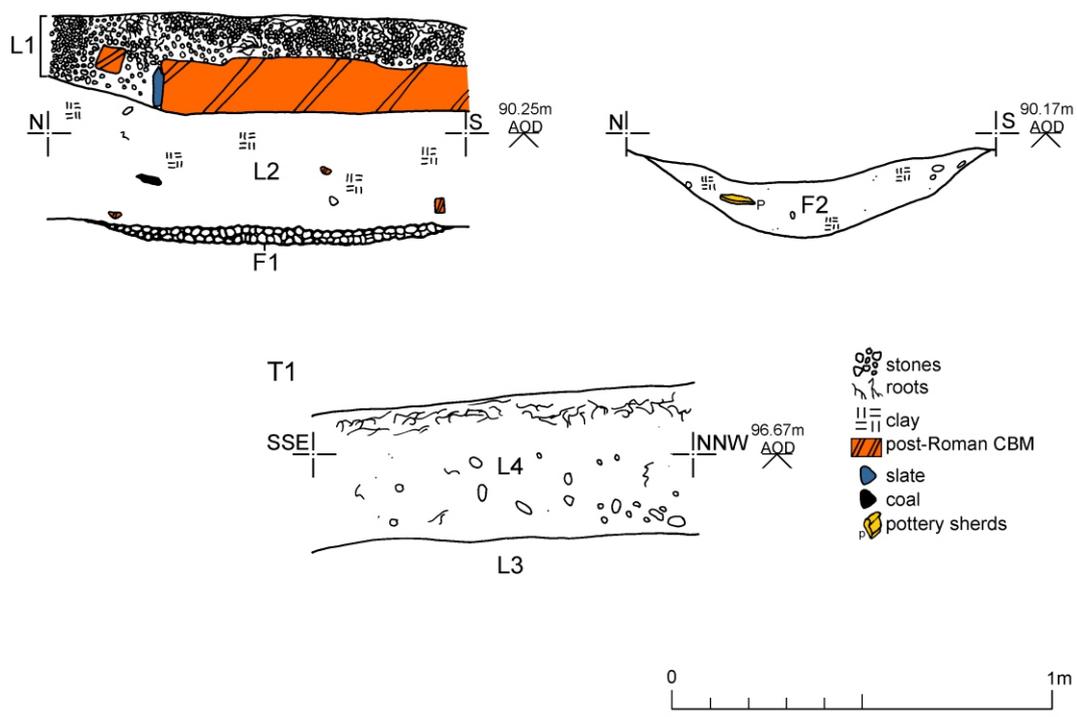


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-428549

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation and excavation at Elizabeth Cottage, Mill Road, Stock, CM4 9RG
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation and excavation was carried out at Elizabeth Cottage, Mill Road, Stock during the construction of a single dwelling. The development site is within the limits of village that had a thriving pottery industry from the 16th to 19th centuries. The site is also nearby prehistoric activity, and a Roman cremation cemetery. Despite this, only three 19th to 20th century features were found.
Project dates	Start: 23-09-2021 End: 23-09-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2021/08d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHL 20/00773/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SKMR21 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	GRAVEL PATH Modern
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	""""Targeted Trenches""""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD STOCK Elizabeth Cottage, Mill Road, Stock
Postcode	CM4 9RG
Study area	0.05 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 7038 9840 51.658013362322 0.463534120867 51 39 28 N 000 27 48 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Sarah Veasey
Project director/manager	Adam Wightman
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Megan Seehra
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Turk Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	SKMR21
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID	SKMR21
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

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