

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1908  
issued March 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation on land east of  
Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing,  
Essex, CM6 3SU: January-February 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/07f  
ECC code: WVST22**

**Archaeological evaluation on land east of  
Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing, Essex,  
CM6 3SU: January-February 2023**

**NGR: TL 67357 23766 (centre)**

**Planning ref.: UTT/22/0676/DFO**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/07f  
CAT Report 1908**

**ECC code: WVST22  
OASIS id: colchest3-508514**

**report prepared by  
Harvey Furniss**

**fieldwork by Harvey Furniss with Charlie Hodges,  
Alice Parker, and Gabrielle Smith**

**commissioned by Sophie Gittins  
on behalf of Granville Developments**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Harvey Furniss	Project Officer
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Laura Pooley	Post Excavation Manager
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Philip Crummy	Director of Archaeology
<b>Issued:</b>	24/03/2023	

**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

*tel.:* 01206 501785

*email:* [hf@catuk.org](mailto:hf@catuk.org)

*web:* [www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk](http://www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk)

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	5
7	Conclusion	5
8	Acknowledgements	6
9	References	6
10	Abbreviations and glossary	6
11	Contents of archive	7
12	Archive deposition	7

Appendix 1	Context list	8
------------	--------------	---

Figures	after p8
---------	----------

OASIS summary sheet

## List of photographs and figures

Cover: Trench 5 oblique angle.

Photograph 1	Trench 1, view north north-east.	2
Photograph 2	Trench 2, view north.	3
Photograph 3	Trench 3, view west.	3
Photograph 4	F2 in Trench 4, view south-east.	4
Photograph 5	Trench 5, view west.	4
Photograph 6	F1, view north-west.	5

Fig 1	Site location.
Fig 2	Results.
Fig 3	Representative sections.

## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land east of Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing, Essex, in advance of the construction of seventeen new dwellings and their associated groundworks. Despite lying on the eastern fringe of the historic village of Stebbing, archaeological remains on site amounted to the vestiges of a post-medieval pond.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land east of Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing, Essex on 30th January to 1st February 2023. The work was commissioned by Sophie Gittins on behalf of Granville Developments and took place in advance of the construction of seventeen dwellings, with associated landscaping, parking and other groundworks.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor 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 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for trial trenching and excavation at Land East of Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing* written by Katie Lee-Smith and 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 2022).

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 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>).

To the south, west and north-west of the site are cropmarks including:

- a double-ditched trackway with one opening up into a funnel-shaped area (EHER 1312, west of Collops Farm),
- linear features, small pits and a ring enclosure/pond feature (EHER 14084, south of Church End)
- linear features (EHER 1408, south of Lucas Farm).

Many of the linear field systems are not depicted on historic mapping of the area indicating it pre-dates the 19th century.

The site also lies within the vicinity of the Porter's Hall moated site (a scheduled ancient monument, NHLE 1008701). The grade II\* listed hall is timber-framed and plastered, and dates to at least the 16th century (EHER 1237, NHLE 1322338), with other grade II listed buildings on site consisting of a 17th-century timber-framed barn (EHER 36678, NHLE 1112730) and outbuilding (EHER 36684, NHLE 1306802), and a timber-framed house which was formerly used as a dovecote (EHER 36681, NHLE 1112731).

To the west of the site on the junction of Stebbing Road and Warehouse Road is Warehouse Farmstead, a timber-framed grade II listed house dating from the 15th century (EHER 36742,

NHLE 1112741). Other grade II listed buildings that are part of the farm complex include a 17th- to 18th-century barn with attached cartlodge (EHER 36746, NHLE 1168957) and a late 18th-century barn (EHER 36744, NHLE 1112742).

Little archaeological work has been undertaken near the site. Archaeological monitoring at Porters Hall Cottage in 2011 did not reveal any archaeological features or finds (Scruby 2011). During an evaluation in 2022 on land off Warehouse Road, four trenches revealed c 28 features. Only a few were possible to excavate due to excessive flooding, but features included a large rectangular pit, two ditches and two circular pits. Find included a small quantity of residual medieval pottery in later features (ASE 2022).

#### 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 and Appendix 1)

Five trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist which uncovered a geological feature and a pond. The layers within all five trenches consisted of a topsoil (L1- c. 0.26m in thick) overlying a subsoil (L2 – c. 0.13m in thick) both on top of the natural (L3).

Geological feature F1 was located at the southern end of Trench 1 and was linear in plan, with steep sides and V-shaped in profile.

Pond F2 was spread across the centre of Trench 4 and could be assumed to be sub-circular in plan despite the feature being obscured by the limit of excavation. Post-medieval pottery, peg-tile and brick were recovered from the feature (see Section 6).



**Photograph 1** Trench 1, view north north-east.



**Photograph 2** Trench 2, view north.



**Photograph 3** Trench 3, view west.



**Photograph 4** F2 in Trench 4, view south-east.



**Photograph 5** Trench 5, view west.



**Photograph 6** F1, view north-west.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Ceramic and Pottery finds

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation uncovered five sherds of pottery (79g) and four pieces of ceramic building material (352g) from pond backfill F2 and topsoil L1. Between them, L1 and F2 produced four sherds (68g) of post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric F40) dating to c 1500-19th/20th century. The sherds included a 17th-century tripod pipkin (EVE:0.08) from L1. One sherd (11g) of Metropolitan slipware (fabric 40A), dating to the 17th-18th century, also came from pond backfill F2 along with three pieces of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (205g) and one brick fragment (147g).

### 6.2 Animal bone

*by Adam Wightman*

A single fragment (13g) of animal bone was recovered from F2. The bone belonged to a cow and was identified as a metacarpal. The fragment was not retained.

## 7 Conclusion

The archaeological remains from the evaluation at Stebbing serve as a reminder of the village's recent agricultural past. The landowner informed those on site that a series of ponds had gone out of use in his lifetime and had been subsequently backfilled at the south edge of this particular parcel of land by his family. The material above and within F2 was dated to the post-medieval period which conform to the backfilling and levelling of the pond in recent history. As a result, the works at Stebbing did not reveal any archaeological activity older than a post-medieval pond

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Sophie Gittins for commissioning the work on behalf of Granville Developments. The project was managed by A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by H Furniss with C Hodges, A Parker, and G Smith. Figures were compiled by C Lister, H Furniss, and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

## 9 References

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

ASE	2022	<i>Land off Warehouse Road, Stebbing. Archaeology South East</i>
Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)</i>
CAR 7	2000	<i>CAR 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land east of Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing, Essex, CM6 3SU, by Emma Holloway</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation. Revised October 2020</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Revised October 2020</i>
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct. Revised October 2021</i>
Cotter, JP	2000	<i>CAR Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.</i>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation At Land East of Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing, by K Lee-Smith</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)</i>
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley &amp; J Sidell</i>
Medlycott, M	1999	<i>Historic Towns in Essex - Kelvedon- Historic Towns Assessment Report. Essex County Council</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>
Scruby, A	2011	<i>Porters Hall Cottage, Stebbing, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring. Essex County Council Archaeology Field Unit Report 2310</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

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, or a drain: can contain 'contexts'
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigation <b>S</b> , <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

section (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s  
WSI written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** not retained

**Digital record**

CAT Report 1908

ECCPS brief

Digital photographs

Site data

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2023

**Distribution list:**

Sophie Gittins

Granville Developments

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

## Appendix 1:

### Context list

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Trench number</b>	<b>Finds Number</b>	<b>Layer type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
L1	All	2	Ploughsoil	Firm, dark greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional stone and flint inclusions	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Compact, mid orangey brown silty clay with manganese inclusions	Post-medieval
L3	All	-	Natural	Compact light yellowish-brown gravelly clay	Post-glacial

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Trench number</b>	<b>Finds Number</b>	<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
F1	1	-	Geological feature	Firm, light mottled orange grey silty clay >1.58m (L) x 0.4m (W) x 0.24m (D) Feature extending beyond the limit of excavation.	Undated
F2	4	1	Pond	Friable, dark greyish-brown clay 0.9m (L) x 0.87m (W) x 0.30m (D) Feature extending beyond the limit of excavation.	Post-medieval

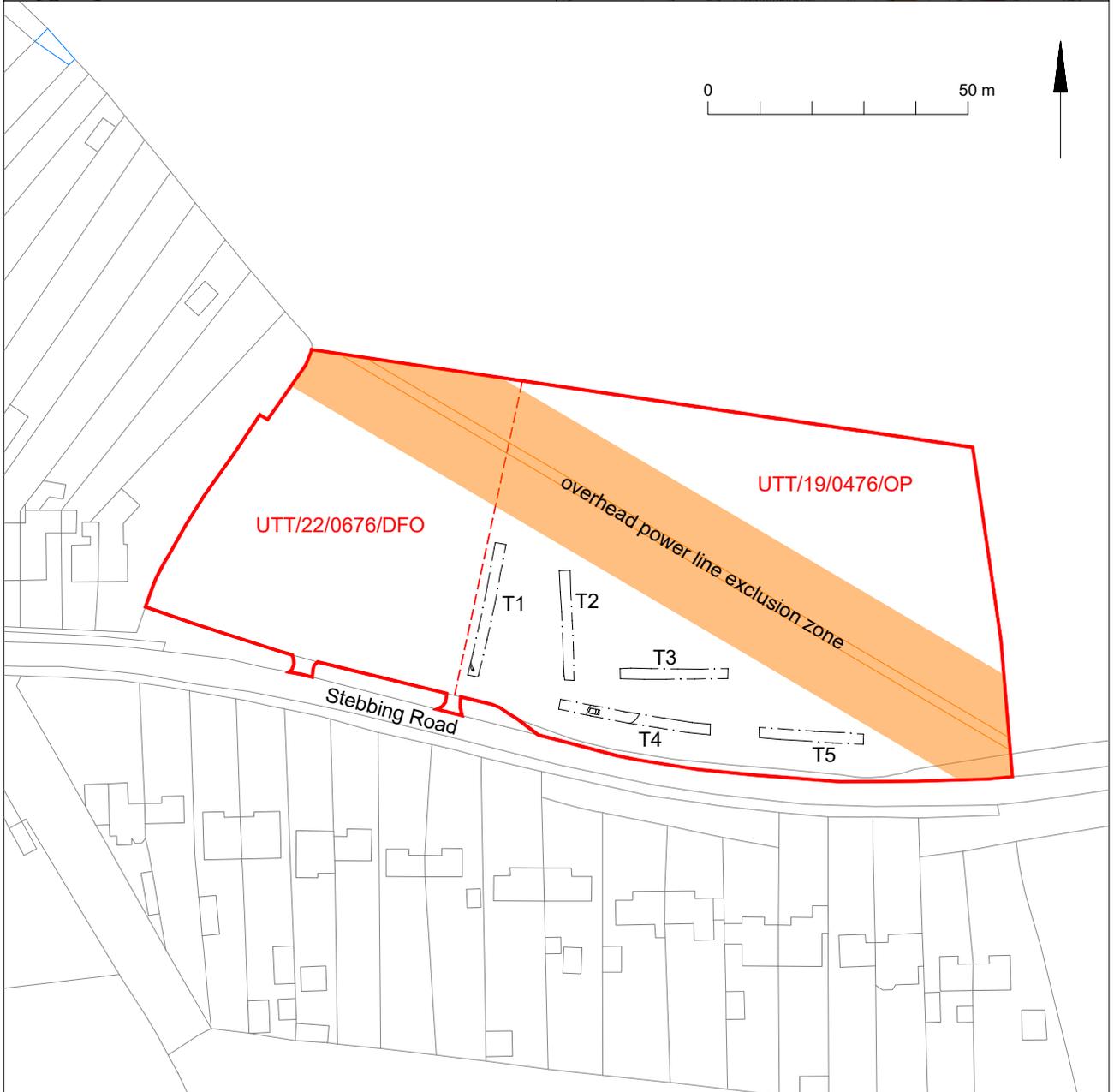
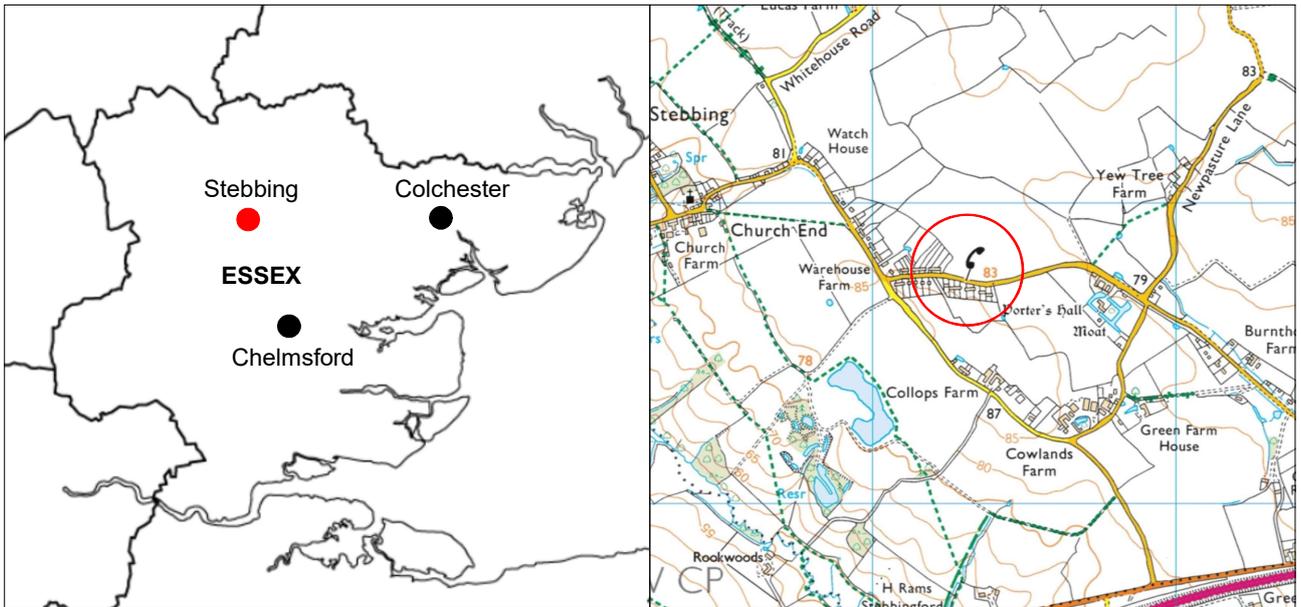


Fig 1 Site location.

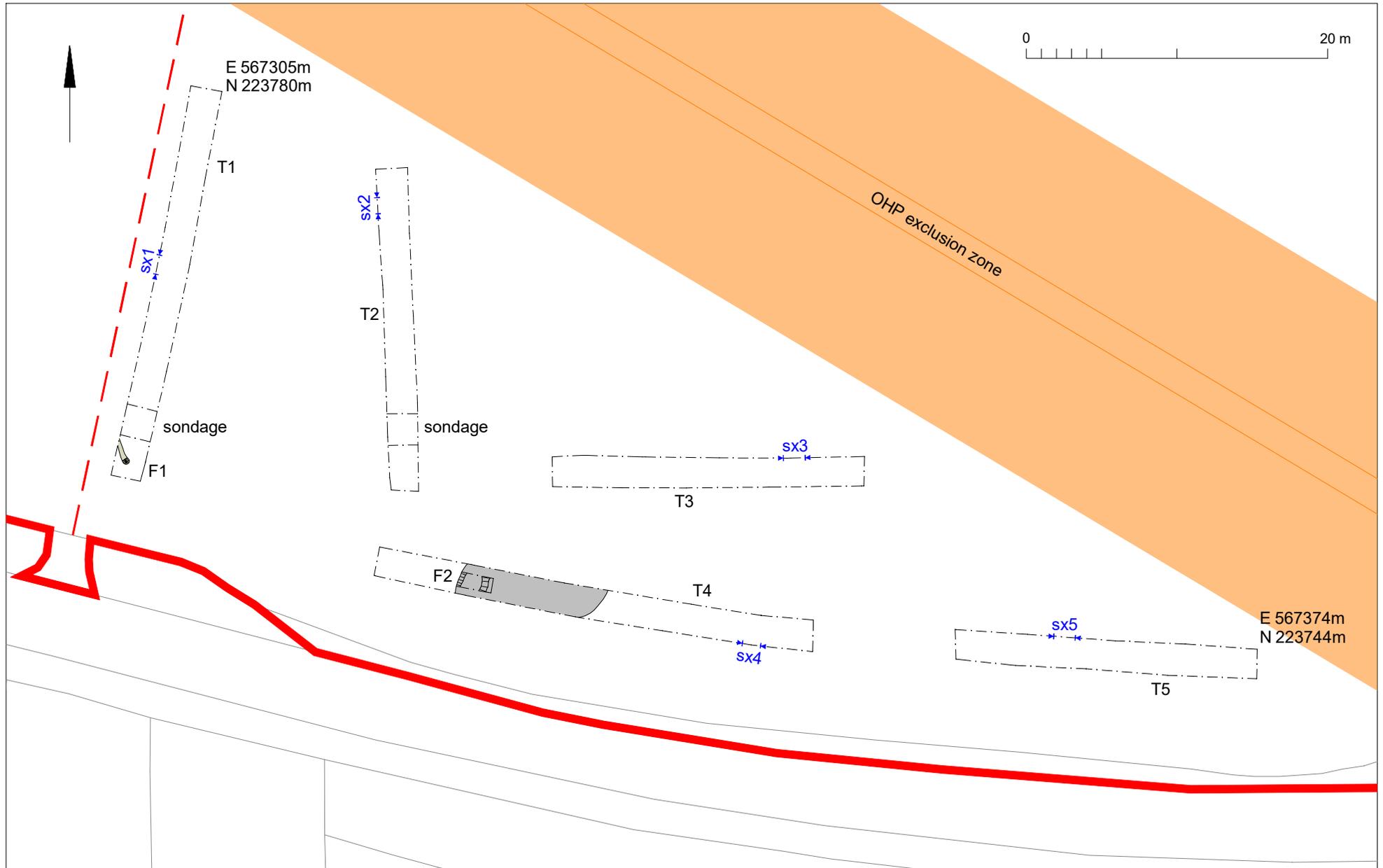


Fig 2 Results.

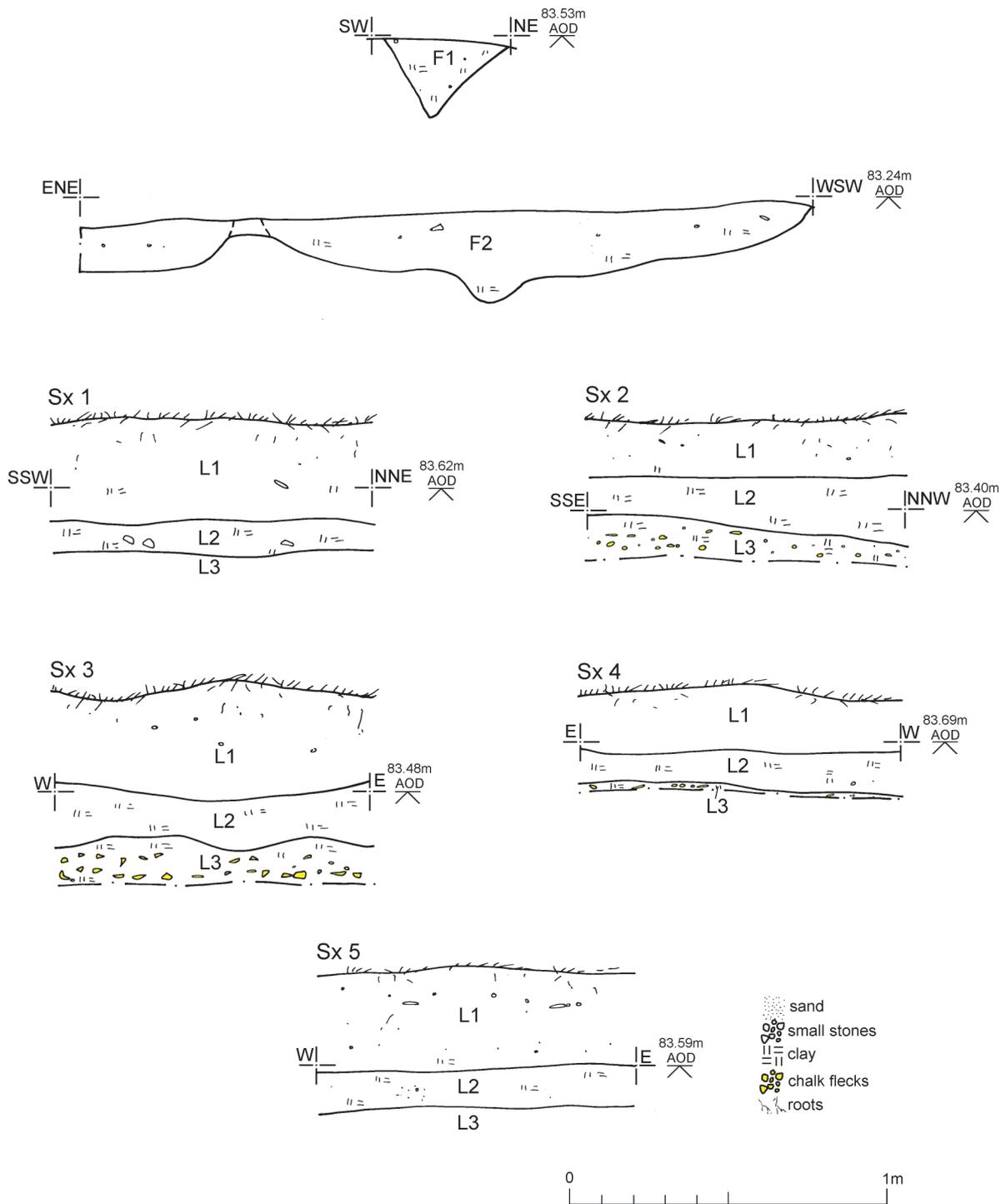


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

## Summary for colchest3-508514

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-508514
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land east of Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing, Essex, CM6 3SU
Sitename	Land east of Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing, Essex, CM6 3SU
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/07f
Planning Id	UTT/19/0476, UTT/22/0676
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	30-Jan-2023 - 01-Feb-2023
Location	Land east of Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing, Essex, CM6 3SU NGR : TL 67357 23766 LL : 51.8873299625419, 0.430405183355792 12 Fig : 567357,223766
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Stebbing
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land east of Warehouse Villas, Stebbing Road, Stebbing, Essex, in advance of the construction of seventeen new dwellings and their associated groundworks. Despite lying on the eastern fringe of the historic village of Stebbing, the only archaeological remains on site were a backfilled post-medieval pond.
Keywords	Pond - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Vessel - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Peg Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	H, Furniss
HER Identifiers	HER Monument No - WVST22
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;