

Archaeological trial trenching at the Church of Our Lady and St Joseph, Mill Road, Stock, Essex

September 2010



report prepared by
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on behalf of the Church of Our Lady and St Joseph

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1 Summary

Evidence for activity dating to the post-medieval period was uncovered on land behind the church of Our Lady and St Joseph, Stock, Essex. Eleven features (post-holes, shallow pits and linears) dating to the 17th/18th century indicate a post-medieval presence on the periphery of the historic core of the village and some 130m from Mill Road. Post-holes and a large quantity of peg-tile were identified in the south-east corner of the excavation area. However, early map evidence does not indicate any structures in the vicinity of the excavation area.

Numerous sherds of post-medieval red earthenware, most probably manufactured in the village of Stock, was recovered from ten contexts, and peg-tile with as similar fabric suggests locally produced tile was also recovered. A few pieces of overfired pottery that might be from kiln wasters or represent part of a vessel (saggar) used when firing some of the pots in the kilns are likely to have come from a kiln in the vicinity of the site.

A sherd of flint-tempered prehistoric pot probably dating to the period of the later Bronze Age-Early Iron Age was the only evidence for activity prior to the post-medieval period.

The presence of a high quantity of well-rounded flint gravels throughout the deposits attests to the location of the site over a layer of pebbles called the Bagshot Pebble Bed. This beach gravel was formed as the shoreline of a warm sea passed over Essex during the Eocene Epoch (about 55 million years ago).

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on the archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Our Lady and St Joseph Church, Mill Road, Stock, Essex, between the 19th of August 2010.
- 3.1 The proposed cemetery is within the historic core and conservation area of the medieval village of Stock (TQ 6911 9868) (Fig 1). It is to be located directly south of an existing burial ground in a grass field to the rear of the Catholic church of Our Lady and St Joseph (Fig 2). The church is situated along Mill Road, which leads eastwards from the centre of the village. The site lies within the postulated extent of the medieval and post-medieval settlement, and within close proximity of Roman and possibly prehistoric activity.
- 3.2 A planning application for a change of use of an area of land roughly 35m x 35m to a burial site within the grounds of the Church of Our Lady and St Joseph was submitted in March 2010 (10/00300/FUL).
- 3.3 Given the proximity of the site to known archaeological remains, the Historic Environment Management Team of ECC advised that an evaluation be completed in advance of planning consent being granted. This advice followed the guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990).
- 3.4 A brief detailing the required archaeological work (archaeological trial-trenching) was written by the HEM officer (Teresa O'Connor: HEM 2010). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT in response to the HEM team brief and agreed with the HEM team (CAT 2010).
- 3.5 Apart from the WSI (above) all work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

Stock may have early (possibly Iron Age) origins. The site lies close to a possible Iron Age enclosure, which would have surrounded a settlement site. The Historic Environment Record records that until fairly recently a northern boundary ditch of possible Iron Age origin survived in the pasture behind houses in Mill Road (HER 5382, 9135). Roman finds and features indicative of settlement activity have been

uncovered in the past, including a possible Roman cemetery indicated by a large number of urns recovered at the site of a former Roman Catholic School (St Joseph's). Opened in 1891, with a cemetery for Catholics being opened in 1898 in the grounds behind the school, the building was converted into a church after the school closed in 1937. This church, now the church of Our Lady & St Joseph, is situated 60m to the north of the area under investigation (Fig 2).

The proposed development also lies within the extent of the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement at Stock.

4 **Aim**

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence and significance of any surviving archaeology and record the deposits prior to the change of use of land to a burial site. This information would then enable an informed decision to be taken on the preservation or otherwise of any deposits and the need for further work and/or mitigation. This follows the guidelines provided for in *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990).

5 **Results** (Figs 3-4)

Three evaluation trenches were excavated in the positions shown on Figure 3 (Trenches 1-3, or T1-T3). Trenches 1 and 3 were roughly 35m long and covered the width of the proposed cemetery along the northern and southern boundaries. Trench 2 was roughly 20m long on a north-south alignment between Trenches 1 and 2 on the western boundary of the proposed cemetery. The location of Trench 2 was to be determined based on the findings of the east-west trenches. However, due to the lack of significant archaeology, it was located along the western boundary to assist the later planting of hedging around the cemetery's perimeter. The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. Two layers were removed: modern turf and topsoil between 100mm and 350mm thick (L1), and a subsoil horizon (L2) (Fig 4). L2 was a compact medium brown silt with frequent gravel (small to medium rounded stones) that contained frequent pottery and tile fragments. It sealed the natural geology (L3), which was a silty brown/orange clay with common gravel.

This section gives a summary of the excavated sequence from each trench.

T1: summary

The machine excavation of this trench incorporated an investigation into the presence/absence and extent of possible tree roots from the lime trees in the adjacent cemetery boundary. This work was undertaken to fulfil the requirements of the Chelmsford Borough Council Tree Officer (James McCarthy). This involved the machine excavation of Trench 1 5m south of the tree line until a substantial tree root, the natural geology (L3), or archaeological deposits were reached.

In three locations, substantial tree roots were encountered and excavation ceased before archaeological deposits or the natural geology were encountered (Fig 3). In the west end of T1, a large modern rubbish dump was uncovered (F9) (Fig 3). Modern rubbish and building material fragments were incorporated in dark brown/grey silt and yellow/orange clay (Plate 1). Isolated investigations suggested the material was located in a large depression. A local gentleman recalled a pond once existed in this area (*pers comm*). F9 also contained some large blocks of shaped limestone/sandstone, which would have come from a grand building probably situated nearby.

In the east of the trench natural geology (L3) was reached and F10, F11 and F12 were identified (Fig 3). All three features were shallow with a stony medium brown clayey silt similar to the overlying L2 (F12- Fig 4). The pit F10 and ?linear terminal F11 contained post-medieval pottery dating to the 17th/18th century. A reddish brown layer of burnt soil with frequent charcoal (L4) was identified in the centre of the trench (Fig 4) and exposed on the baulks left for the tree roots. The layer was sealed by topsoil (L1) and overlay L2. It is likely to be the remains of a fire which the finds suggest occurred during the post-medieval period.



Plate 1: T1 view east, with the ?backfilled pond (F9) in the foreground



Plate 2: T3, view north-east, typical trench stratigraphy: L1, L2, L3

T2: summary

The topsoil was notably deeper in the northern part of Trench 2 than in the southern. This reflected the considerable slope from north to south in the excavation area, which can be seen by comparing the trench sections from Trenches 1 and 3 (Fig 4). The southern edge of F9 was encountered in the northern part of Trench 2 (Fig 3). The rest of the trench was excavated through the stony subsoil L2 until stony natural clay was reached. A shallow gully with a brown

silty clay fill containing frequent stones and peg-tile was identified and excavated. Pottery and tile from the gully indicates a 17th-18th century date.

T3: summary

As in the southern end of T2, T3 was cut through a thin layer of turf and topsoil only 100mm thick. However, L2 was thicker and contained more stones, peg-tile and pottery sherds than further up the slope (Fig 4) (Plate 2). The frequent pot sherds and peg-tile fragments recovered from the layer (the peg-tile fragments listed below in Section 6 represent a sample of those observed) date to the 17th/18th century. Pottery and tile dating to this period was also found in four features (F1, F2, F4, F5) cutting the natural. However, the abundance and spread of pottery and tile in L2 indicate that the layer had been modified/deposited in the post-medieval period rather than the finds had simply belonged to cut features that were not observable during the reduction of the homogenous subsoil.

Eight probable features were identified and recorded cut into the natural stony clay F1-F8) (Fig 3). Five post-holes were excavated (F1-F5) (Fig 4) of which four contained post-medieval pottery and peg-tile and three probable pits (F6-F8). Both F6 and F7 were very shallow and contained no finds, and F8 was so shallow that it was more likely to be residual L2 on top of natural gravel than the base of a pit. F8 was recorded as the base of a possible feature due to the presence of a sherd of prehistoric flint-tempered pottery, the only find dated prior to the post-medieval period. The fill of the features was generally a medium brown silt clay with frequent stones. No charcoal, daub, or other inclusions were noted in any of the features.

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The types of finds material and the total quantities recovered are set out in Table 1. These are listed by context in Appendix 1.

| Finds type | no. | wt (g) |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Pottery | 40 | 305 |
| Ceramic building material (CBM) | 24 | 412 |
| Clay pipe | 1 | 2 |

Table 1: Type and quantities of finds

Pottery *Incorporating comments by Howard Brooks (post-medieval pottery).*

In total forty sherds of pottery were recovered from ten contexts (Table 3). The pottery consists of one prehistoric sherd with the rest being of post-medieval date. The pottery was recorded using the prehistoric pottery fabric series (Brown 1988) and the medieval pottery fabric series (Cunningham & Drury 1985 & CAR 7) commonly used for assemblages in Essex. The fabrics referred to are described in Table 2. Pottery vessel form types refer to Cunningham & Drury 1985.

For each context the fabric type, sherd count and weight was recorded and an overall pottery spot date provided (Table 3). Fabric 40 has characteristic variants that appear to follow broad chronological divisions (CAR 7, 192-93). This is noted in Table 3 where the presence of two fabric variants ('standard' fabric and 'low fired brickearth' fabric) is recorded in the notes.

| Fabric code | Fabric name | period |
|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| B | hand made, common flint-temper of small-medium size | prehistoric |
| 40 | post-medieval red earthenware | post-medieval |
| 98 | miscellaneous unidentified medieval/post-Medieval ?English wares | Medieval/post-medieval |
| unident | unidentified ?overfired pottery fabric | post-medieval |

Table 2: Pottery fabrics used in this report

| ctxt | finds no. | Fabric | no. | wt (g) | abr | description/notes | ctxt spot date |
|------|-----------|---------|-----|--------|-----|---|-------------------------|
| F10 | 10 | 40 | 2 | 9 | | standard fabric | 17-18 C |
| F11 | 9 | 40 | 2 | 29 | * | low fired 'brickearth fabric, inc. black glazed round handle | 17-18 C |
| | | unident | 1 | 7 | | hard fired grey fabric, not glazed, corner of base or top of part enclosed vessel overfired or ?kiln furniture (see L2) | |
| F13 | 12 | 40 | 3 | 16 | | standard & 'brickearth' fabric, inc. black glazed round handle | 17-18 C |
| L4 | 8 | 40 | 1 | 11 | * | low fired 'brickearth fabric | 17-18 C |
| F1 | 2 | 40 | 2 | 15 | * | low fired 'brickearth fabric | 17-18 C |
| F2 | 3 | 40 | 2 | 3 | | standard & 'brickearth' fabric | 17-18 C |
| F4 | 4 | 40 | 3 | 15 | * | low fired 'brickearth fabric | 17-18 C |
| F5 | 5 | 40 | 1 | 8 | | ?standard fabric | 17-18 C |
| F8 | 7 | B | 1 | 7 | * | hand made flint-tempered, base (flat) & lower wall corner fragment, dark grey surfaces & fabric, common s-med crushed burnt flint | later prehist. (BA-EIA) |
| L2 | 1 | 40 | 2 | 41 | * | base sherds, 2 pots, low fired 'brickearth fabric | 17-18 C |
| | | 40 | 1 | 25 | * | rim, low fired 'brickearth fabric, prob. from a large storage jar (form C16) | |
| | | 40 | 1 | 14 | | simple rounded rim, low fired 'brickearth fabric, poss. from a large bowl | |
| | | 40 | 15 | 79 | * | most 'brickearth' fabric & some ?standard fabric | |
| | | 40 | 1 | 15 | | sherd, red fabric, silver patchy surface, overfired? | |
| | | 98 | 1 | 4 | | dark red fabric, grey core, dark internal glaze, unident. fabric type | |
| | | unident | 1 | 7 | | hard fired grey fabric, not glazed, overfired or ?kiln furniture (see F11) | |

Table 3: Pottery by context

One sherd of prehistoric flint-tempered pottery was recovered from F8. This is from the base corner of the vessel and shows that the base itself was flat. Overall the sherd most probably dates to the period of the later Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. It can be noted that this was the only find associated with F8.

The remainder of the pottery can all be dated to the post-medieval period. This consists almost entirely of sherds of Fabric 40, with just a few sherds of unidentified fabric type. Fabric 40 can be generally dated to the 17th-18th century and this is compatible with the assemblage here, but it can be noted that post-medieval red earthenwares encompassed by Fabric 40 were produced over a wider time range from the 16th-20th century.

Almost all of the sherds recovered are body sherds with just two rims and three base sherds recorded. None of the sherds are decorated other than with a single coloured glaze. Much of the pottery is abraded, with the glaze (where present) flaking from the pot body. This may be partly due to the fabric of the pots as most of the sherds are in a moderately soft orange fabric which can be identified as the 'low fired brickearth' variant of Fabric 40. This fabric variant is dated at Colchester to the period c 1675-1850 (CAR 7, 193)

Most of the contexts produced between one and three sherds, but with one larger group of twenty-two sherds recovered from the context L2. Among the group from L2 are two rim sherds. One of these can be identified as from a large storage jar

with a plain rim (i.e., not thumbled below the rim) of Cunningham form C16 (Cunningham & Drury 1985, fig 7 nos. 39 & 40). The other rim sherd is probably from a large bowl. There are also two round, black glazed handles, one from L4 and the other from F11.

Of interest among the pottery from L2 and from F11 are sherds which might be from kiln wasters or from pottery vessels used in kilns. Stock was a centre of production for post-medieval pottery coarse wares and kiln wasters have been recorded as surface finds from south of the common (Cunningham & Drury 1985, 83 & fig 49). Also, it is known that pottery saggars were used in conjunction with peg-tiles when firing some of the pottery (Cunningham & Drury 1985, 87 & fig 52). Saggars are usually specifically-made pottery vessels inside which another pot is placed when fired in the kiln; although it is known that sometimes old waster vessels were also used for this purpose at Stock (Cunningham & Drury 1985, 87).

One sherd from L2 has a slightly iridescent silver area on the surface where the glaze is crinkled and this might be overfiring representing a possible kiln second or waster. More significant are two small sherds in an unidentified grey fabric, one each from L2 and F11. These two sherds very are hard fired, possibly overfired Fabric 40, and are probably part of the same vessel. The sherd from F11 is part of the corner of a pot base showing it had a flat base with a vertical body wall above. The sherds probably represent either a kiln waster(s) or possibly part of a pottery vessel(s) used in a kiln.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

The ceramic building material (CBM) recovered consists of a total of 24 pieces and fragments, together weighing 412 g. These came from eight contexts (Table 4).

The CBM was recorded by number and weight for each context. The fabrics are broadly described, both for groups of CBM sharing a similar fabric and for individual pieces, in Table 4.

| ctext | finds no. | type | description | abr. | no. | wt (g) | spot date |
|-------|-----------|---------|--|------|-----|--------|--------------------|
| F10 | 10 | unident | orange , frags. fine sand | | 1 | 2 | |
| F13 | 12 | p-tile | orange, fine sand fabric, body 11 mm thick | | 1 | 5 | med/post-med |
| L4 | 8 | p-tile | orange, fine sand fabric, grey core, body 11 mm thick | | 1 | 9 | med/post-med |
| F1 | 2 | p-tile | orange, fine sand fabric, body 11 mm thick | | 1 | 36 | med/post-med |
| | | unident | orange , frags. fine sand | * | 2 | 10 | |
| F2 | 3 | tile | orange, fine sand fabric, body 13 mm thick, prob. p-tile | * | 2 | 32 | prob. med/post-med |
| | | unident | orange , frags. fine sand | * | 2 | 4 | |
| F4 | 4 | unident | orange , frags. fine sand | | 2 | 4 | |
| F5 | 5 | p-tile | orange, fine sand fabric, body 12 mm thick | | 1 | 10 | med/post-med |
| L2 | 1 | p-tile | orange, fine sand fabric, body 11-12 mm thick, contain clear pale clay streaking | * | 3 | 110 | med/post-med |
| | | p-tile | orange, fine sand fabric, body 11-14 mm thick | | 6 | 168 | med/post-med |
| | | p-tile | orange & dark grey, fine sand fabric, body 12 mm thick | | 1 | 20 | med/post-med |
| | | unident | orange , frags. fine sand | | 1 | 2 | |

Table 4: Ceramic building material (CBM) by context

All of the identifiable CBM consists of pieces of fragments from peg-tiles. The few unidentified fragments could also derive from peg-tiles. While not closely datable of themselves, there appears no reason to suppose that these tiles are of different date to the post-medieval pottery recovered, that is c 17th-18th century.

The fabric of these pieces is mostly orange/pale red in colour with relatively fine or medium sanded inclusions. Most contain some sandy, dark red (ferrous) inclusions

and in some pieces fine, pale firing clay which can be streaky or pellet like is visible. It is noted that some pieces which have clear inclusion of pale clay, especially some of the tiles from context L2, have a silty feel where abraded. On most pieces the fabric is of one colour, or only slightly lightens or darkens across the break and only a very few pieces have a distinct darker (grey) core.

There is a broad similarity between fabric of some of the tiles and the pottery. Probably all of the pottery recovered was made at Stock and this suggests that the tiles could also be of local production.

Miscellaneous finds

There is part of a clay pipe bowl from L4 (T2). The plain, broad bowl indicates a date after late 17th century.

Discussion

Only one find can be dated prior to the post-medieval period. This is a small sherd of prehistoric flint-tempered pottery, probably dating to the period of the later Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, which was recovered from F8. In contrast to the relatively common finds of post-medieval date associated with other contexts, this was the only find associated with F8.

The post-medieval finds consist of pottery, mostly recovered in association with peg-tile pieces, and part of the bowl of a clay pipe. The pottery is all post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), a type of pottery which is known to have been made at Stock and which can be broadly dated to the period of the 17th-18th century. A significant proportion of the pottery has a relatively soft fabric, corresponding to the low fired 'brickearth' variant of Fabric 40, which might to the late 17th-18th century (*CAR 11*, 192). The clay pipe probably dates to after the late 17th century.

Many of the finds (pottery & tile) show degrees of abrasion, which might indicate some period of depositional history prior to arriving in the contexts from which they were recovered. However, a significant proportion of the pottery has a relatively soft fabric which would easily suffer some abrasion. A few of the tile pieces are also in a relatively soft fabric. Similarities between the fabric of the pottery and the fabric of some of the tiles suggests at least some of the tiles could be of local manufacture.

A few pieces of overfired pottery from context L2, might be from kiln wasters or represent part of a vessel (saggar) used when firing some of the pots in the kilns here. It is not considered that any of the softer fabric pottery sherds represent significantly underfired pots.

7 Discussion

The only evidence uncovered for activity prior to the post-medieval period was a small sherd of prehistoric flint-tempered pottery, probably dating to the period of the later Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, which was recovered from F8.

All of the other finds dated to the post-medieval period, with the majority of the features also belonging to this period. The presence of a significant quantity of post-medieval building material and pottery in association with five post-holes is intriguing. An examination of the Chapman & Andre map of 1777 and the early Ordnance Survey maps does not show any structures in the vicinity of the site, the nearest being located some 130m north on Mill Road. As such, any structure would have probably been little more than a small, tiled ancillary building. Alternatively, the finds could simply represent the disposal of rubbish near to a fence line. The presence of frequent post-medieval finds throughout L2, and the abraded nature of the pot and peg-tile, may suggest that the rubbish was subsequently ploughed into the soil. This soil layer contained a high quantity of well-rounded flint gravels due to the location of the site over a layer of pebbles called the Bagshot Pebble Bed. This beach gravel was formed as the shoreline of a warm sea passed over Essex during the Eocene Epoch (about 55 million years ago) (Lucy 1999:45).

The post-medieval pottery recovered was all red earthenware (Fabric 40), a type of pottery which is known to have been made at Stock and which can be broadly dated to the period of the 17th-18th century. There is also a broad similarity between the fabric of some of the tiles and the pottery, perhaps suggesting that the tiles could also be of local production. A few pieces of overfired pottery that might

be from kiln wasters or represent part of a vessel (saggar) used when firing some of the pots in the kilns are likely to have come from a kiln in the vicinity of the site.

No modern finds were noted in the topsoil except in the area of the ?backfilled pond F9. There is no record of a pond that would correspond with F9 on any of the old maps examined. However, the continued use of this piece of land as an area for waste disposal was indicated by a large heap of garden waste that was moved by the machine prior to the excavation of T1.

8 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE 2010.121.

9 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Peter Johnson for commissioning the evaluation. The fieldwork was conducted by Adam Wightman assisted by Nigel Rayner and Mark Baister. The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor on behalf of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

10 References

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

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
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| IfA | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Lucy, G | 1999 | <i>Essex Rock; A Look Beneath the Essex Landscape</i> , Essex Rock and Mineral Society. |
| MoRPHE | 2006 | <i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> (English Heritage) |

11 Glossary

| | |
|---------------|--|
| context | specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made |
| EHER | Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC |
| feature | an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts' |
| HEM | Historic Environment Management Team |
| IfA | Institute for Archaeologists |
| layer | distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil |
| medieval | period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII |
| modern | period from the 19th century onwards to the present |
| natural | geological deposit undisturbed by human activity |
| NGR | National Grid Reference |
| post-medieval | after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century |

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Appendix 1: bulk finds

| Tr no. | Ctxt | find no. | pot no. | pot. wt (g) | CBM no. | CBM wt (g) | other finds/notes | spot date |
|---------|------|----------|---------|-------------|---------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| T1 | F10 | 10 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 2 | | post-med |
| | F11 | 9 | 3 | 36 | | | | post-med |
| T2 | F13 | 12 | 3 | 16 | 1 | 5 | | post-med |
| | L4 | 8 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 9 | clay pipe rim & bowl piece, 1 @ 2 g | post-med |
| T3 | F1 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 3 | 46 | | post-med |
| | F2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 36 | | post-med |
| | F4 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 2 | 4 | | post-med |
| | F5 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 10 | | post-med |
| | F8 | 7 | 1 | 7 | | | | prehistoric |
| (T All) | L2 | 1 | 22 | 185 | 11 | 300 | | post-med |

Appendix 2: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing;

1 Introduction

- 3.1 Copy of the excavation brief issued by ECC HEM.
- 3.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 3.3 A4 site plan provided by developer

2 Site Archive

- 3.1 Digital photo record
- 3.2 Attendance register
- 3.3 Context sheets (F1-F13, L1-L4)
- 3.4 Finds register
- 3.5 Site photographic record on cd

3 Research Archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report
- 3.2 Finds report

Not in file

- 1 A3 section sheet

Not in file

The finds occupy less than one box

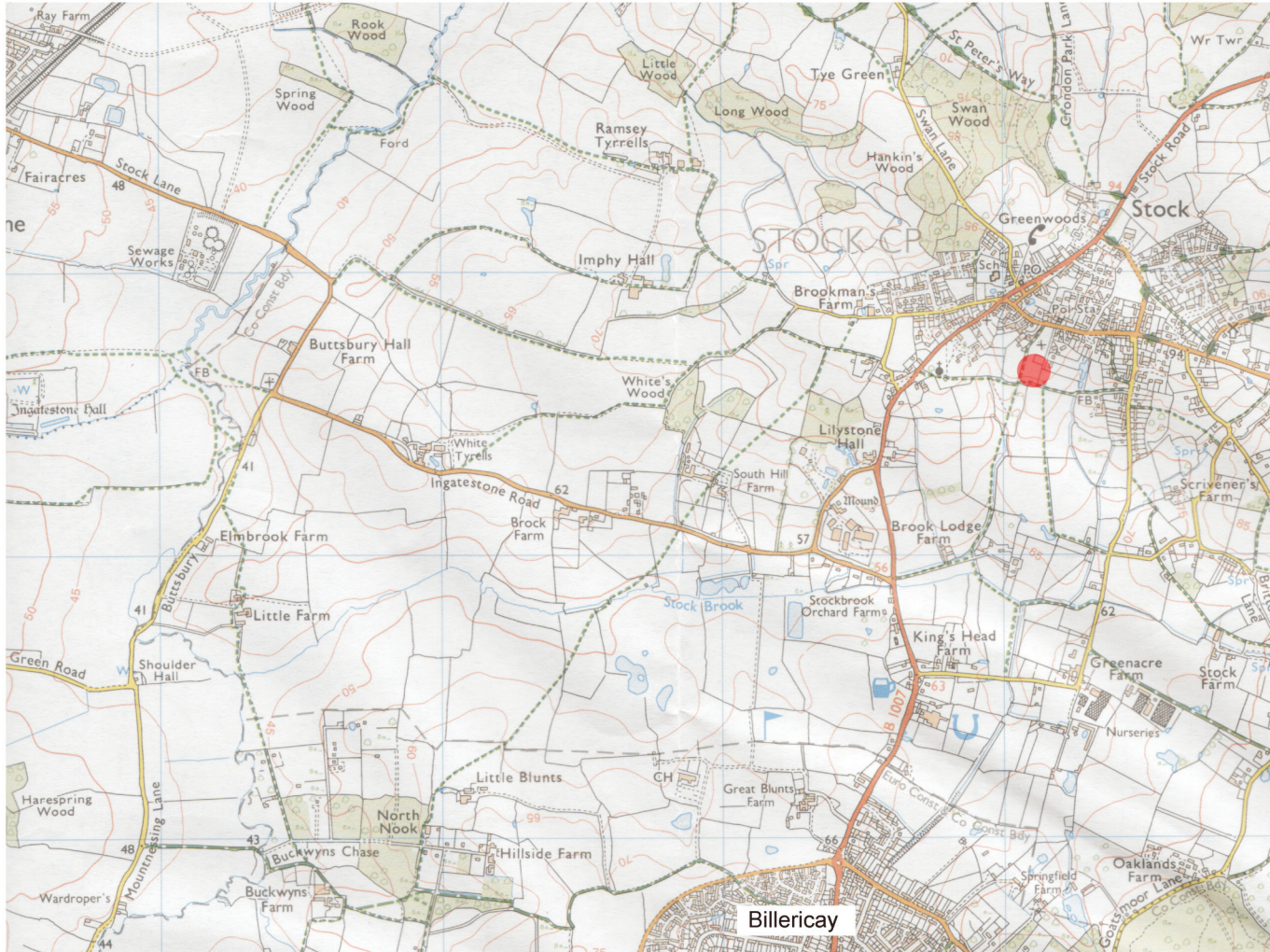


Fig 1 Site location, shown as red dot.

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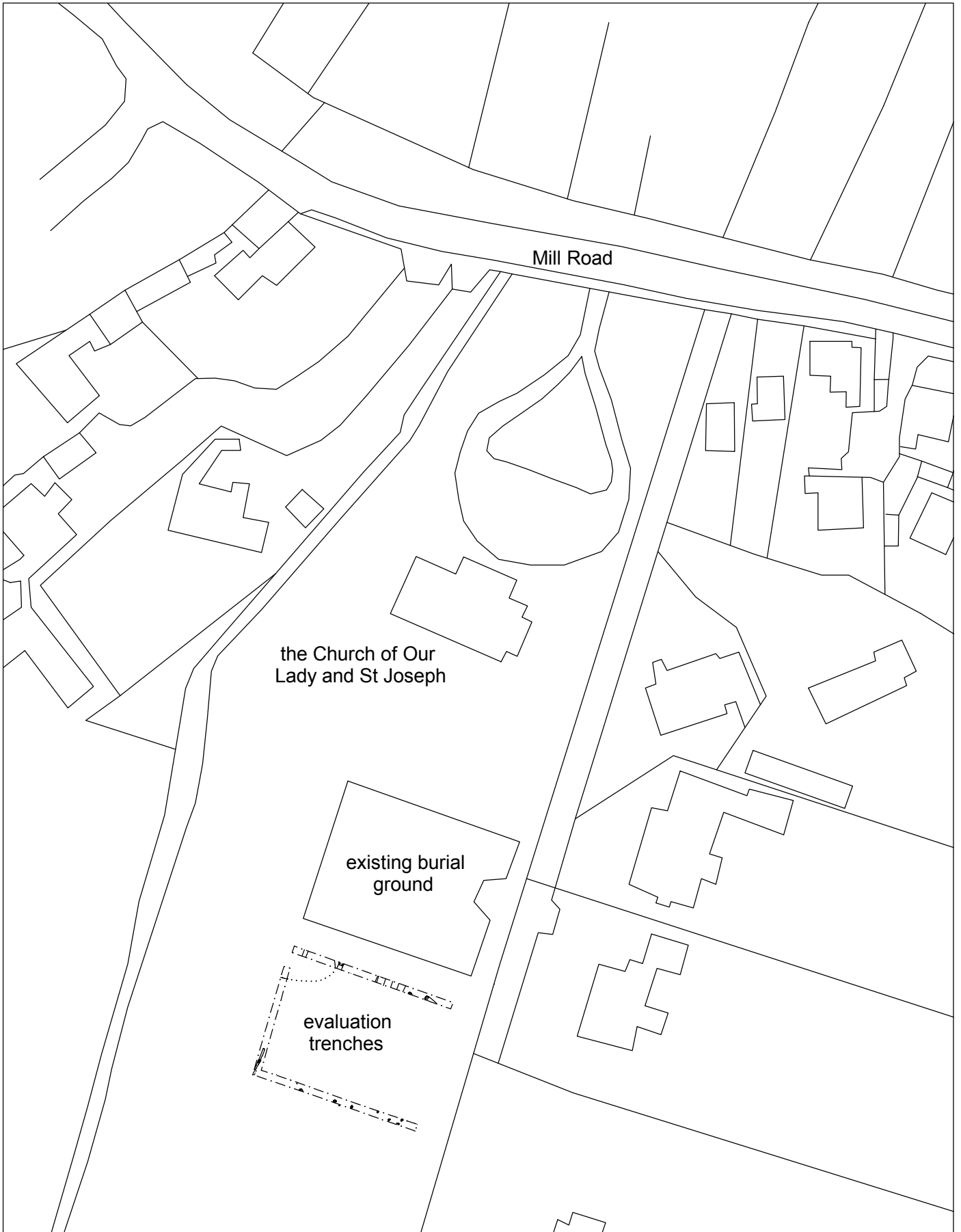


Fig 2 Location of evaluation trenches

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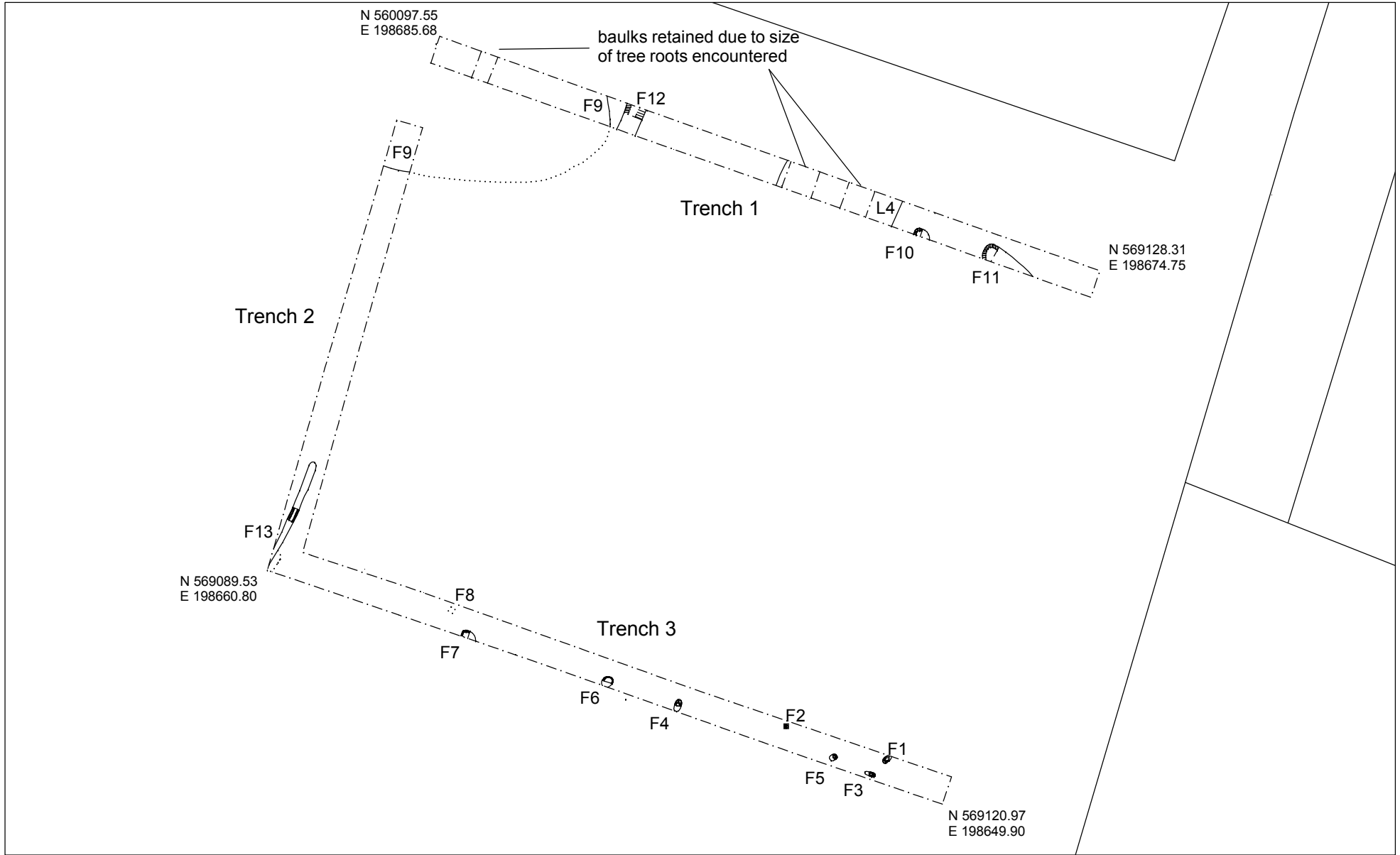


Fig 3 Results



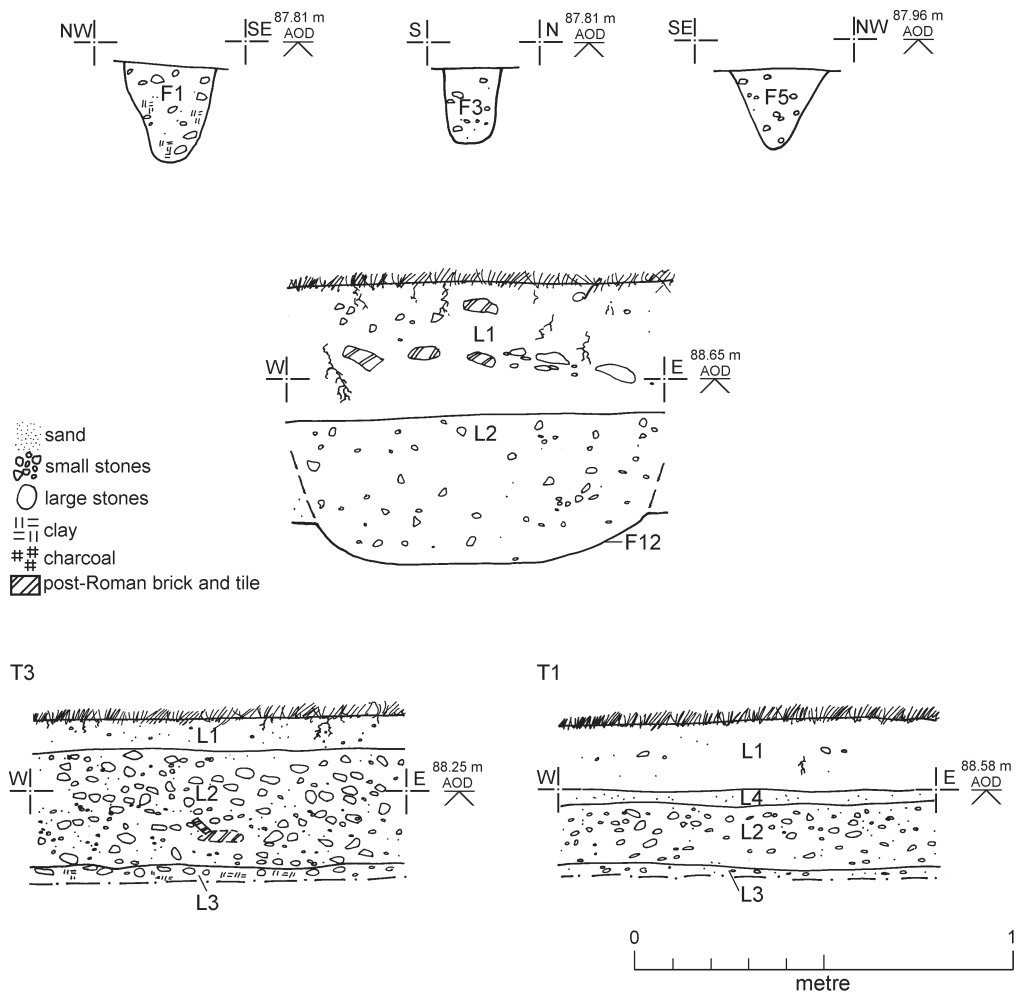


Fig 4 F1, F3, F5 and F12: sections. T3 & T2: representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

| | |
|--|--|
| Site address: The Church of Our Lady and St Joseph, Mill Road, Stock. | |
| Parish: Stock | District: Chelmsford |
| NGR: TQ 6911 9868 | Site code: CAT project – 10/8b HEM project code: SKOL10 |
| Type of work: Evaluation | Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Date of work: August 2010 | Size of area investigated: 1225m ² |
| Curating museum: Chelmsford Museum accession: CHMRE 2010.121 | Funding source: Developer |
| Further seasons anticipated? no | Related EHER nos: 5382, 9135 |
| Final report: CAT Report 564 and summary in <i>EAH</i> | |
| Periods represented: prehistoric, post medieval | |
| <p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Evidence for activity dating to the post-medieval period was uncovered on land behind the church of Our Lady and St Joseph, Stock, Essex. Eleven features (post-holes, shallow pits and linears) dating to the 17th/18th century indicate a post-medieval presence on the periphery of the historic core of the village and some 130m from Mill Road. Post-holes and a large quantity of peg-tile were identified in the south-east corner of the excavation area. However, early map evidence does not indicate any structures in the vicinity of the excavation area.</i> <i>Numerous sherds of post-medieval red earthenware, most probably manufactured in the village of Stock, was recovered from ten contexts, and peg-tile with as similar fabric suggests locally produced tile was also recovered. A few pieces of overfired pottery that might be from kiln wasters or represent part of a vessel (saggar) used when firing some of the pots in the kilns are likely to have come from a kiln in the vicinity of the site.</i> <i>A sherd of flint-tempered prehistoric pot probably dating to the period of the later Bronze Age-Early Iron Age was the only evidence for activity prior to the post-medieval period.</i> <i>The presence of a high quantity of well-rounded flint gravels throughout the deposits attests to the location of the site over a layer of pebbles called the Bagshot Pebble Bed. This beach gravel was formed as the shoreline of a warm sea passed over Essex during the Eocene Epoch (about 55 million years ago).</i></p> | |
| Previous summaries/reports: none | |
| Keywords: post-medieval pottery, Bagshot Pebble Bed | Significance: * |
| Author of summary: Adam Wightman | Date of summary: September 2010 |