

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2110  
issued December 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation at Marvells, 5 High Street,  
Stock, Ingatestone, Essex: November 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/10e  
ECC code: EEX60549**

**Archaeological evaluation at Marvells,  
5 High Street, Stock, Essex: November 2024**

**NGR: TQ 69338 99070 (centre)**

**Planning district: Chelmsford  
Planning ref.: 24/00753/FUL**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/10e  
CAT Report 2110**

**ECC code: EEX60549  
OASIS id: colchest3-529178**

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**fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Matthew Perou and  
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**commissioned by Dean Weston  
on behalf of Alco Ltd**

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## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at Marvells, 5 High Street, Stock, Essex, ahead of the construction of an extension and outbuilding. Previous investigations have uncovered significant archaeological remains close to the development site. Notably, these include the remains of a post-medieval tile kiln immediately east of the site. The current excavations revealed two post-medieval debris layers dominated by peg-tile fragments but also containing pieces of brick. This material and the presence of a vitrified brick fragment, found in a pit, are likely to be associated with the nearby tile kiln.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Marvells, 5 High Street, Stock, Essex on the 18th November 2024. The work was commissioned by Dean Weston and took place ahead of the construction of an extension and outbuilding.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Planning Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor advised that, 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 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trenching and excavation at Marvells, 5 High Street, Stock, Ingatestone*, by Mark Baister (ECCPS 2024), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2024a).

In addition to the project brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Gurney 2003; Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024b).

## 3 Archaeological and geological background

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

The proposed development site is situated to the north of the village of Stock and situated on the south-eastern side of the High Street, just south of the junction with Common Road. The EHER shows that the proposed development site lies within an area with the potential to contain significant archaeological remains. Of particular importance are the remains of a (likely 18th-century) post-medieval tile kiln and associated industrial features/finds uncovered in 1980 to the east of the site at Stock Bowling Club (EHER 5507). There is a strong possibility that these remains extend into the area of proposed development and would be negatively impacted by groundworks associated with the proposals (ECCPS 2024).

### Roman

To the east of the site is the location of a possible Roman cremation cemetery (EHER 5380). Recorded in the late 19th century, the site was said to contain a number of Roman vessels. Other find spots include Late Iron Age and Roman coins (SMR 50547).

### **Medieval**

Roughly 600m to the south-west of the site is the Church of All Saints (NHLE No. 1236734, EHER 5378). The earliest feature of the church is said to be 14th century, with C A Hewitt proposing a date of the 13th century for the timber-framed belfry.

### **Post-medieval**

Most of the nearby heritage assets recorded by the HER are post-medieval in date and are almost exclusively listed buildings. Below is a summary of some of the closest:

- The site is located 42m north-east to Little Lattices (SMR 30863) an 18th-century timber-framed house.
- 70m west: Copt Hall (SMR 30852) an 18th-century red brick house.
- 75m south-west: Little Paddocks (SMR 30864) an 18th-century/early 19th-century brick house.
- 80m south-west: Bay Cottage (SMR 30865) an early 19th-century brick house.
- 90m south south-west: The Hoop Public House (SMR 30866) an 18th-century/early 19th-century timber-framed public house.
- 100m north of the site are houses adjoining Greenwoods on the south-east (SMR 30851) with a house dating to early/mid-19th century.
- 110m south-west: 23 and 25 (Keys) High Street (SMR 30867) an 18th-century/early 19th-century red brick house.
- 126m south-west: Compass Green (SMR 30868) an 18th-century/early 19th-century brick house.
- 140m south-west: 10 and 12 (Post Office) High Street (SMR 30853) a late 18th-century/early 19th-century red brick building.

CAT has undertaken multiple archaeological investigations in the area of Stock Common, an area bounded by the High Street, Common Road and Mill Road in an attempt to identify sites associated with the Stock post-medieval pottery industry.

An evaluation at the rear of the aptly named Pottery House on Mill Road identified 663 sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 15.5kg, along with 3.7kg of kiln debris from a single pit (CAT Report 598). Two evaluation trenches excavated at 10 The Paddock revealed a significant quantity of post-medieval pottery sherds and glaze-splashed tile fragments collected from the topsoil (CAT Report 704). Monitoring at 2 High Street identified a pit containing post-medieval pottery, interpreted as further evidence of the pottery industry (CAT Report 1176). Monitoring on land adjacent to 27 High Street in also identified a good assemblage of post-medieval finds from the topsoil and a layer of made ground (CAT Report 1709).

There were no archaeological remains found during investigations at 33 High Street (CAT Reports 1064), Caer Luel, The Paddock (CAT Report 1201), 7 Common Road (CAT Report 1244), 1, 2 & 3 The Paddock (CAT Reports 1272, 1580 & 1709) and 9 The Paddock (CAT Report 1831).

### **Geology**

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the site has a bedrock geology of upper Eocene Bagshot Beds, a series of sands and clays within the Bracklesham Group. Superficial deposits in the district comprise gravel and sand of the Stanmore Gravel Formation of Early Pleistocene date.

## **4 Aims**

The aims of the 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.

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<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

## 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Three trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench T1 was 6m long, T2 10m long and T3 12m long, all at 1.8m wide. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1

Trench T1 was oriented west-north-west/east-south-east. This trench cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.14m thick) and made-ground (L2, 0.24m thick) onto natural (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.38m). No features were observed in this trench.



**Photograph 1** Trench 1, looking east-south-east.

### Trench 2

Trench T2 was oriented north-west /south-east. The northeastern half of the trench was cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.13m thick) and made-ground (L2, c 0.27m thick) onto natural (L3, identified at a depth of 0.43m below current ground level). The southwestern half of the trench was cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.13m thick) and made-ground (L2, c 0.27m thick) onto a debris layer (L4, up to 0.10m thick) above natural (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.50m). Debris layer L4 was comprised mostly of peg-tile fragments with occasional brick pieces and small- to medium-sized rounded stones.

The only feature present was pit F1, roughly oval at 1.12m by over 0.45m and 0.35m deep, which had been truncated by one of the service trenches. Fragments of unfroged brick found throughout the fill of F1 date to before c 1850. One piece bore a black heavily vitrified surface indicating a firing temperature which had exceeded 900°C and could therefore be kiln waste.

### Trench 3

Trench T3 was oriented north-north-east/south-south-west and cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.28-0.3m thick) onto a spread of peg-tile and brick fragments (L5, c 0.15m thick at the NNE end and >0.46m thick to the SSW), presumably associated with the post-medieval tile kiln to the east of the site.



**Photograph 2** Trench 2, pit F1, looking south-east.



**Photograph 3** Trench 2, showing extent of L4 (left of trench), looking north-west.



**Photograph 4** Trench 3, looking south-south-west.



**Photograph 5** Trench 3, representative section 3b, looking north-west.



## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 27 sherds with a weight of 9.3kg, EVE of 0.03 and mean sherd weight of 344g (Table 1). CBM accounts for the majority of the assemblage by sherd count and sherd weight. This material was recovered from one feature and two layers (Table 3).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	3	62	21	0.03
CBM	24	9,238	385	-
<b>All</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>0.03</b>

**Table 1** Summary of the pottery and CBM.

#### Post-medieval pottery

Post-medieval pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000). The assemblage consists of three sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) with a weight of 62g and EVE of 0.03, which came from pit F1 and tile/brick spread L5.

#### Ceramic building material (CBM) (Fig 4)

CBM consisted of 24 fragments with a weight of 9.2kg and MSW of 385g which was recovered from one feature and two layers (Table 2). This consists of eight pieces (837g) of medieval/post medieval peg-tile and 15 pieces of un-frogged bricks with a weight of 6,966g. The un-frogged bricks included three narrower examples with dimensions of 170mm x 83/85mm x 40-50mm which are either 19th-century floor bricks or bats (three-quarter bats?) (see Fig 4). The other un-frogged brick fragments, although incomplete, have thicknesses ranging from 45-50mm (post-medieval/late 17th to early 18th century?) and 60-70mm (18th-early 19th century). Finally, a possible paver came from tile/brick spread L5. Burnt and vitrified bricks were recovered from the pit F1, debris layer L4 and tile/brick spread L5.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)
F1	PIT	8	1,813	227
L4	Debris layer	7	1,695	242
L5	Tile/brick spread	9	5,730	637
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>9,238</b>	<b>385</b>

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

#### Conclusion

Table 3 summarizes the dating evidence for the feature and layers which contained dateable pottery and CBM. The burnt and vitrified bricks suggest the presence of a brick/tile kiln dating from the late post-medieval to the early modern period (late 18th/early 19th century) in the vicinity of the site. None have been retained.

Context	Description	Post-medieval pottery	CBM	Date Approx.
F1	Pit	F40	BR PT	18th-earth 19th century
L4	Debris layer	-	BR (UN-FROGGED) PT	Post-medieval
L5	Tile/brick spread	-	BR (UN-FROGGED) PAVER?, PT	Late 18th-early 19th century

**Table 3** Approximate dates for the individual features and layers.

## 6.2 Iron nail

by Laura Pooley

An iron nail shank (23.1g) was recovered from F1 (finds no.2). It has been discarded.

## 7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at Marvells, 5 High Street, Stock, Essex revealed distinctive and extensive debris spreads of CBM dominated by peg-tile fragments but also containing pieces of brick dating from late 18th to the early 19th century. The abundance of CBM, its date, and the presence of a vitrified brick from pit F1 suggests that these remains are highly likely to be associated with the tile-kiln found to the east of the development site underneath Stock Bowling Club.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mark Lloyd Properties for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner, M Perou and P Spencer. Figures were compiled by X Smith and C Hill. The project was monitored for ECCPS 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, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> ).                                       |
| CAR 7                    | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J P Cotter. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.  |
| CAT                      | 2024a | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation at Marvells, 5 High Street, Stock, Ingatestone, CM4 9BD</i> , by Chloé Hill. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT                      | 2024b | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.  |
| CIfA                     | 2020a | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.                       |
| CIfA                     | 2020b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.                |
| CIfA                     | 2022  | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.   |
| CIfA                     | 2023a | <i>Standard for archaeological field evaluation.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.  |
| CIfA                     | 2023b | <i>Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.  |
| Cotter, J P              | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.  |
| ECC                      | 2024  | <i>Brief for archaeological trenching and excavation at Marvells, 5 High Street, Stock, Ingatestone</i> , by Mark Baister. Chelmsford: Essex County Council Place Services.                                      |
| 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> ).  |

Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<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	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex from the Roman conquest to the Reformation.</i> Chelmsford: Pat Ryan.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <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 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

**Digital:**

CAT Report 2110

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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 Archaeology Data Service (digital archive).

**Distribution list:**

Dean Weston

Alco Ltd

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench no.	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	1, 2, 3	-	Topsoil	Moist soft dark grey-brown silty loam with occasional small stones. Heavy rooting. Occasional peg tile and brick fragments.	Modern
L2	1, 2	-	Made-ground	Mid grey-brown silty clay to sandy silt with occasional pieces of modern ceramic building materials and small stones. Heavy rooting. Occasional peg-tile brick fragments.	Post-medieval
L3	1, 2	-	Natural	Firm mottled grey/orange silty clay with stone/gravel patches.	Post-glacial
L4	2	1	Debris layer	Mid reddish grey-brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium rounded to angular stones. Crushed and scorched peg-tile/brick fragments.	Post-medieval
L5	3	3	Debris layer	Peg tile and brick spread. Mid yellow-brown silty clay and abundant small to large pieces of peg-tile and occasional brick pieces.	Post-medieval/modern
F1	2	2	Pit	Firm mid yellow-brown clay. In addition, patches of mottled light grey-yellow clay, possibly natural (L3) derived. Frequent small to medium sized rounded stones. Some brick fragments that occur throughout the fill.	Post-medieval/modern

## Appendix 2 Pottery list

Context	Feature type	Find number	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wmd	Sooting (ext)	Charing (int)	Burning	Misfired	Organic Residue	Resin Lining	Abraision	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam	Comments	Start Date	End Date
F1	PIT	2	1	7	7	X	1	0	0									F40	?	?	0.03	?		1500	1800/1900
L5	TILE/BRICK SPREAD	3	2	55	28	X	0	0	1									F40						1500	1800/1900

## Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phs	Blind	PH diam. mm	L	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Vitrified surf.	Comments	Date	
F1	PIT	2	4	349	87	X	PT																MEDIEVAL-POST MEDEIVAL
F1	PIT	2	1	119	119	X	BR											X	X	X	GLASSY VIT EDGES	POST-MEDIEVAL-MODERN	
F1	PIT	2	2	583	292	X	BR																POST-MEDIEVAL-MODERN
F1	PIT	2	1	762	762	X	BR							?	?	60/65					RED, MICA RED/OR NODS	18TH-19TH CENTURY	
L4	?METALLING	1	2	134	67	X	PT																MEDIEVAL-POST MEDEIVAL
L4	?METALLING	1	3	750	250	X	BR							?	?	45,50			X	X			POST-MEDIEVAL
L4	?METALLING	1	1	318	318	X	BR																POST-MEDIEVAL-MODERN
L4	?METALLING	1	1	493	493	X	BR							?	110	?					OR, OR/RED NODS	POST-MEDIEVAL-MODERN	
L5	TILE/BRICK SPREAD	2	2	1089	545	X	BR							170	85	45					OR/RED, FINE S&MICA, OR/RED NODS. RED FLOOR BRICK OR CLOSER THREE-QUARTER BAT? See Fig 4.	19TH CENTURY	
L5	TILE/BRICK SPREAD	2	1	528	528	X	BR							?	83	40					OR/RED, FINE S&MICA, OR/RED NODS. RED FLOOR BRICK OR CLOSER THREE-QUARTER BAT?	19TH CENTURY	
L5	TILE/BRICK SPREAD	2	1	748	748	X	BR							?	85	50					OR/RED, FINE S&MICA, OR/RED NODS. RED FLOOR BRICK OR CLOSER THREE-QUARTER BAT?	19TH CENTURY	
L5	TILE/BRICK SPREAD	2	1	1435	1435	X	PAVER							160+	140+	45					OR/RED, FINE S&MICA, OR/RED NODS	19TH CENTURY	
L5	TILE/BRICK SPREAD	3	2	354	177	X	PT		X				10										MEDIEVAL-POST MEDEIVAL
L5	TILE/BRICK SPREAD	3	1	791	791	X	BR														OR/RED		POST-MEDIEVAL-MODERN
L5	TILE/BRICK SPREAD	3	1	785	785	X	BR							?	?	70		X	X	?	STARTING TO VITF		LATE 18TH-19TH CENTURY

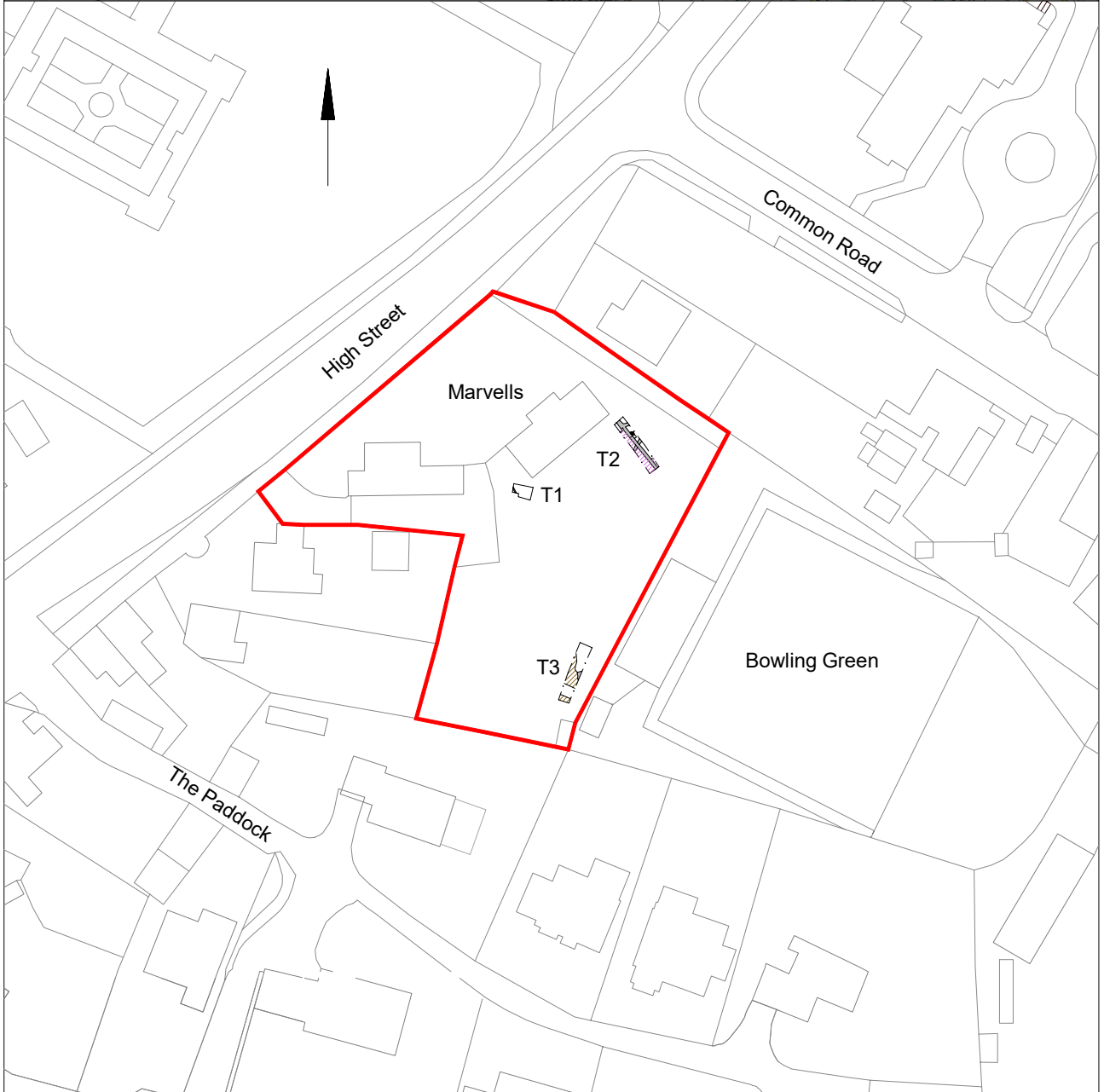
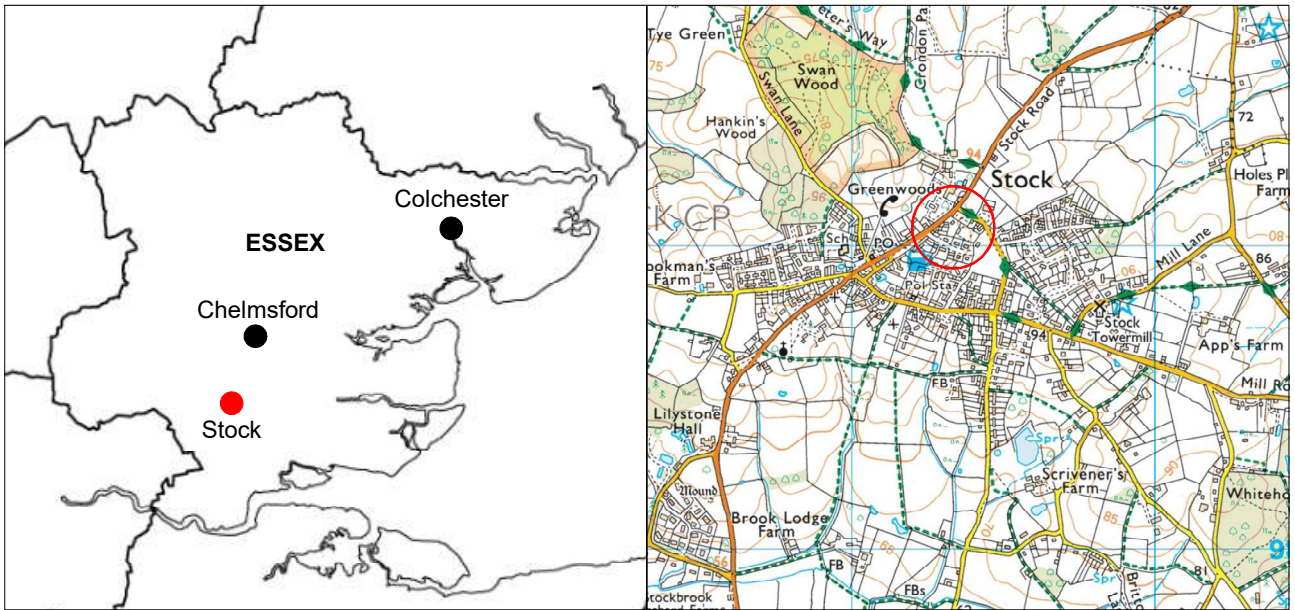
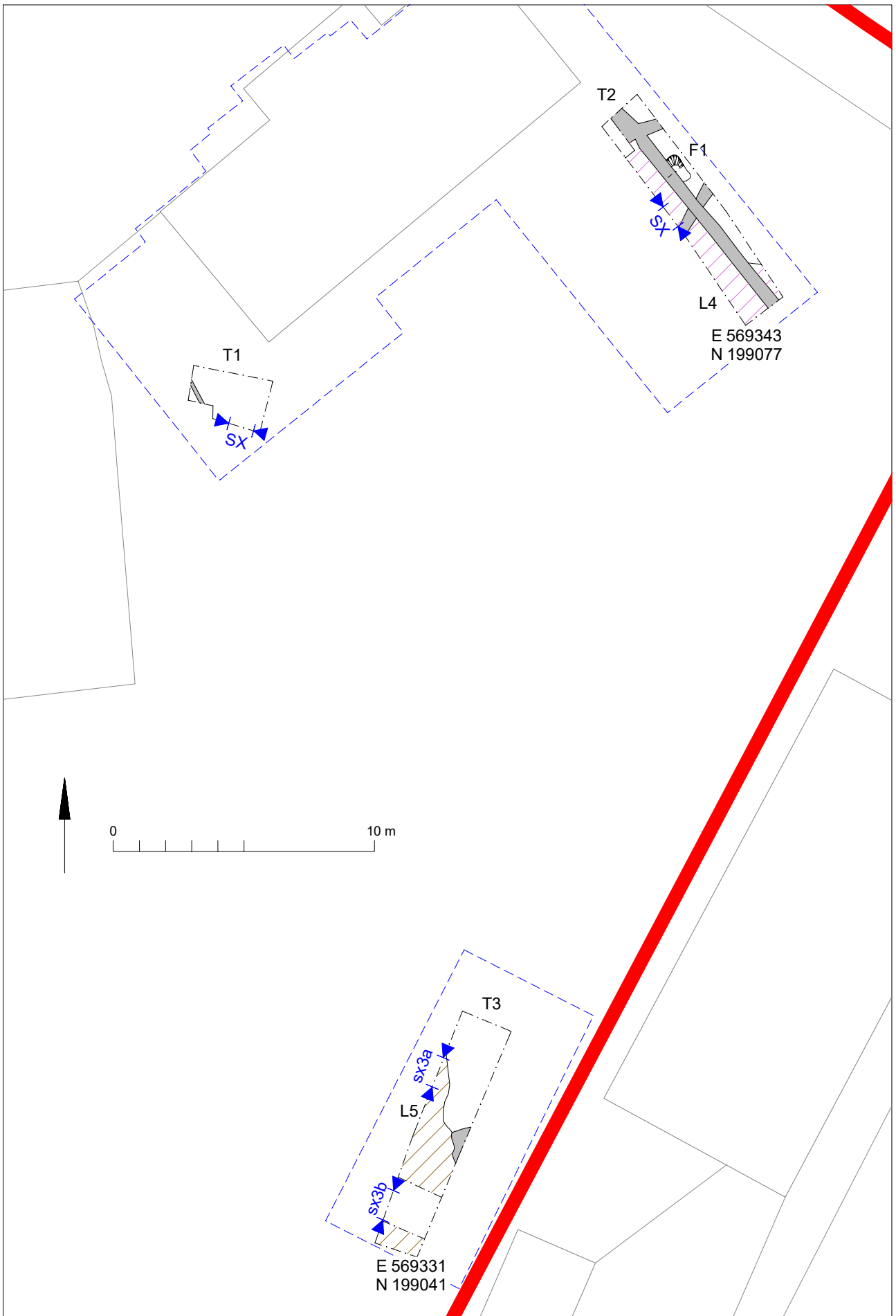


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Results (proposed development dashed blue, modern services and features highlighted in grey).



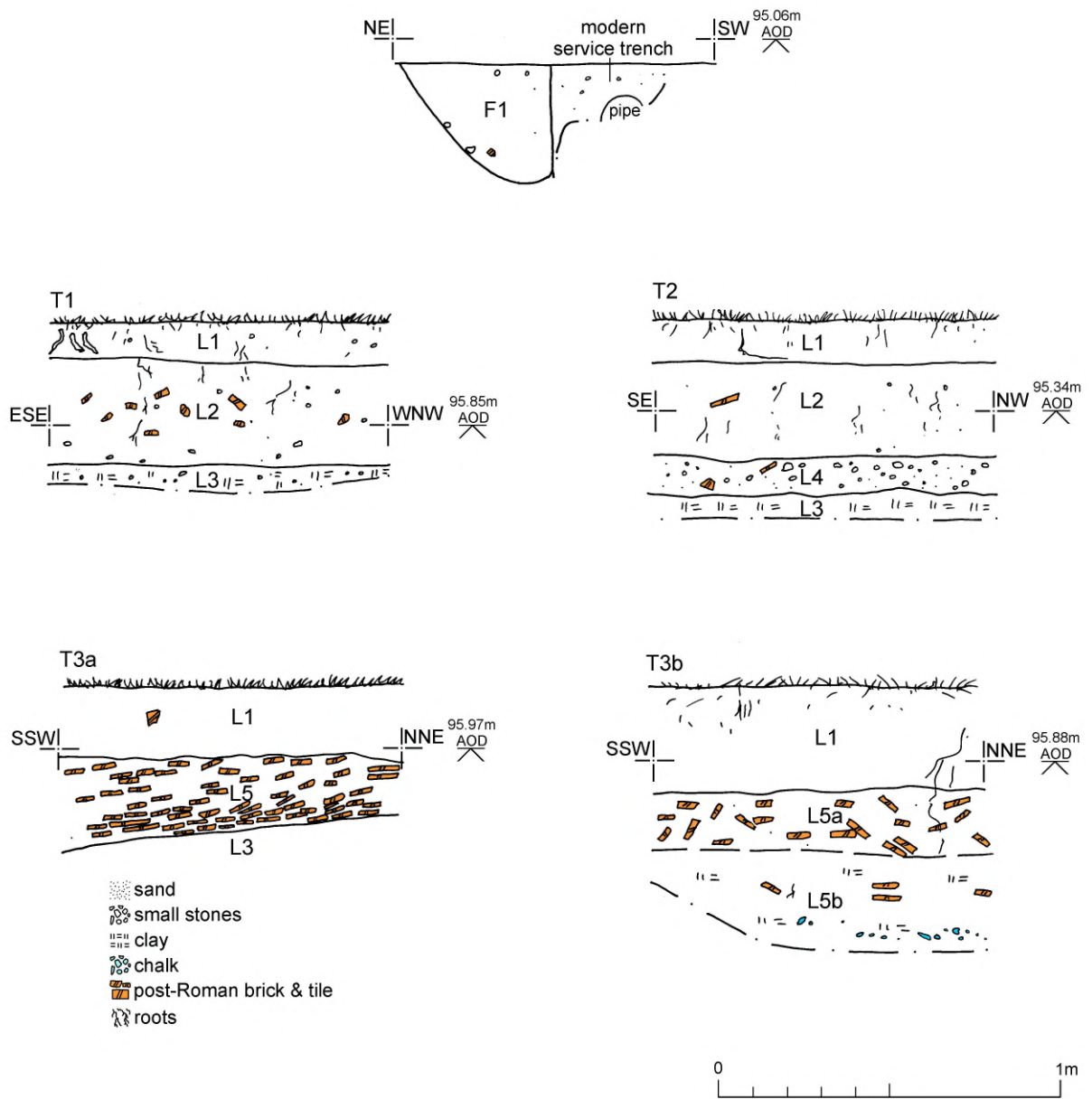


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.



Fig 4 Brick from L5.

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-529178

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-529178
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at Marvells, 5 High Street, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 9BD: November 2024
Sitename	Marvells, 5 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BD
Sitecode	EEX60549
Project Identifier(s)	2024/10e
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	24/00753/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	18-Nov-2024 - 18-Nov-2024
Location	Marvells, 5 High Street, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BD NGR : TQ 69219 99015 LL : 51.66443501229591, 0.445381985835398 12 Fig : 569219,199015
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Chelmsford Parish : Stock
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at Marvells, 5 High Street, Stock, Ingatestone, Essex, ahead of the construction of an extension and outbuilding. Previous investigations have uncovered significant archaeological remains close to the development site. Notably, these include the remains of a post-medieval tile kiln immediately east of the site. The current excavations revealed two post-medieval debris layers dominated by peg-tile fragments but also containing pieces of brick. This material and the presence of a vitrified brick fragment, found in a pit, are likely to be associated with the nearby tile kiln.
Keywords	Kiln - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private individual
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - EEX60549
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;