

**LAND TO REAR OF 103 HIGH STREET,
CHIPPING ONGAR, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

APRIL 2013

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Site name/Address: Land to r/o 103 High Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex	
Parish: Ongar	District: Epping Forest
NGR: TL 55180 02870	Site Code: ONHS 13
Type of Work: Archaeological evaluation	Site Director/Group: Adam Dyson ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 11/04/13	Size of Area Investigated: c.18 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Epping Forest District Museum	Client: Rosegrove Developments Ltd
Further Seasons Anticipated?: no	Related HER Nos: EHER 4099-4100
Final Report: HER summary	Oasis No: 148202
Periods represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeological evaluation was carried out to the rear of no.103 High Street, Chipping Ongar ahead of a proposed development comprising the conversion of business units/outbuildings to residential use and, in the walled yard beyond, the selective demolition of extant outbuildings and the construction of two new semi-detached cottages (units 2/3) in the southwest corner of the site. The trial-trench evaluation targeted the site of the proposed new build cottages (Fig. 1), an area of hardstanding currently used for parking</p> <p>The site is located within the core of the historic town of Chipping Ongar, in an area of archaeological potential. More specifically, the site lies approximately 50m to the south of the conjectured southern extents of the medieval town enclosure, in an area of post-medieval expansion, spreading south along what is now the High Street.</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single machine-cut trench within the footprint of the proposed cottages (Fig. 1). It measured 6.4m x 1.8m x 0.96m deep (Plate 1 and 2) and avoided an electricity cable that crossed the site. The overburden comprised a 0.24m deep layer of concrete which required breaking out. This overlay 0.24m of modern made ground, which was a dark blackish grey compact clay silt containing frequent finds of modern refuse and rubble. Beneath this was 0.42m of an earlier but still modern layer, which was a mid brownish grey compact clay silt with occasional gravel. It contained occasional finds of modern rubble. Beneath this was the natural deposit of very compact light yellowish orange clayey silt and gravel (measurements taken from south facing section in NE corner, Plate 3).</p> <p>Despite the high potential for buried archaeological remains, none were identified within this evaluation trench. The deposits encountered appear to represent successive periods of modern landscaping to the rear of the properties along the high street. These events appear to have truncated any deposits of archaeological significance that may have once been present within the investigation area.</p> <p><i>continues overleaf</i></p>	

No archaeologically-significant artefacts were retrieved, even from residual contexts.

The evaluation results suggest that the proposed development is unlikely to have any significant impact on the archaeological record.

Previous Summaries/Reports: None

Author of Summary: Adam Dyson

Date of Summary: April 2013



Plate 1: Post-excitation view of trench, looking east (2m and 1m scale)



Plate 2: General view of trench, post-excitation, looking southwest.



Plate 3: South facing section in the northeast corner, looking north (1m scale).



Fig.1. Location of archaeological evaluation trench