# FORMER TILLS V.SMITH GARAGE BAYLEY STREET CASTLE HEDINGHAM ESSEX

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**





November 2010

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

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FORMER TILLS V.SMITH GARAGE

**BAYLEY STREET** 

**CASTLE HEDINGHAM** 

**ESSEX** 

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Client: John Finch Partnership on behalf of Granville Developments

**NGR:** TL 7870 3564

Site code: CH 8

FAU Project No.: 2248

**OASIS No.:** 85806

Dates of Fieldwork: Site visits between 27th September & 11th October 2010

**SUMMARY** 

Archaeological monitoring of a new residential development on the former Tills V.Smith Garage found well-stratified medieval pits and layers along the street frontage and within the north-western corner of the site. The area was part of the outer bailey of the castle, and the

bailey ditch is believed to exist in the south-eastern part of the site.

A concentration of probable 13th century quarry pits and a rubbish pit of similar date were

recorded immediately beneath the garage forecourt. One medieval pit in particular contained

large amounts of burnt daub from a nearby building.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Essex County Council Field

Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) during the redevelopment of the former garage site to

residential usage. The work was commissioned by the John Finch Partnership on behalf of

the developer, Granville Developments and carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme

of Investigation produced by ECC FAU (2010) and approved by the Historic Environment

Management team of Essex County Council (ECC HEM), who monitored the work on behalf

of the LPA.

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The site lies close to Hedingham Castle within the area of the early medieval outer bailey and the later medieval town, in an area of high archaeological potential.

Copies of the report will be supplied to ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) at County Hall, Chelmsford. The archive will be stored with Braintree Museum. An OASIS online record has been created at <a href="http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/index.cfm">http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/index.cfm</a>.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Site location and description

Bayley Street is located on the north-eastern side of Castle Hedingham and the former garage stands to the west of the junction with St James Street at TL 7870 3564. The garage lies within the area of the outer bailey ditch, between the castle on the opposite side of the road, and the early-medieval town (fig. 1).

The garage consisted of a modern car showroom, workshops and a tarmac forecourt. The garage was demolished before the monitoring works and the underground petrol tanks removed. Ground level slopes slightly from north to south from 58.05m to 57.60m OD.

#### 2.2 Planning background

An application to demolish the garage and erect six houses on the site was submitted to Braintree District Council (BDC) in June 2009 (09/00795/FUL). The site lies within the defended area of the medieval castle and the late medieval town. In view of the archaeological potential of the site, ECC HEM advised BDC that a programme of archaeological monitoring should be made on groundworks to the development based on Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5 (ECC HEM 2010).

# 2.2 Archaeological background

The castle stands on the top of a natural spur of land overlooking the village. Its ringwork holds a stone keep, which is a scheduled monument (HER 6787, SM 3) and a Grade I listed building (HER 25226). The ring-work and baileys are likely to have been constructed shortly after the Norman Conquest and the keep during the first half of the 12th century. The inner bailey, which is largely complete, is located on the north-eastern side of the castle, while the outer bailey, which is more conjectural, is believed to have extended as far as the back gardens of Church Ponds (Medleycott 1998), and return through the centre of the garage site and across Bayley Street to link with the smaller of two lakes within the castle grounds (fig.

1). Originally, the medieval town lay on the south-western side of the outer bailey, but in the later medieval period the town extended into the bailey, with Bayley Street representing the northern limit close to the castle gates.

During the medieval period, much of the town was enclosed and defended by large banks and ditches that formed the inner and outer town defences, remnants of which still survive as earthworks (EHER 10676 & 16077).

#### 3.0 OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the monitoring works, as stipulated in the brief (ECC HEM 2010), was to record any archaeological deposits or features associated with the early-medieval inner bailey and the late-medieval growth of the town. The regional Research Framework (Brown & Glazebrook eds. 2000) identifies the impact of the Normans on urban growth and development as a subject requiring further investigation.

The brief required the archaeological monitoring of groundworks for the construction of a block of three houses (plots 4-6); primarily the cutting of foundation trenches. The underground petrol tanks at the back of plots 5 and 6 were removed before groundworks started.

Plots 1-3 formed a second block broadly following the L-shaped area of the main former garage building. No monitoring works were required within this area due to disturbance by modern foundations and below-ground inspection pits. Due to these factors, the foundations to houses 1-3 were piled and therefore not subject to monitoring works.

#### 4.0 DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Building plans were supplied by the client and used during the monitoring works to locate archaeological remains. Monitoring works were carried out after modern overburden had been removed for houses 4-6. Archaeological features dated to the early and later medieval periods were recorded in section along the Bayley Street frontage and the north-east side of house plots 4-6.

A series of photographs were taken in digital and 35mm black & white print format to provide a record of the monitoring works. A representative selection of these is reproduced at the back of the report as plates 1-4. The remainder can be found in the archive.

#### 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Monitoring was confined to houses 4-6 whose foundations were trench-built. Plots 1-3, had been disturbed by the main garage building and were therefore not monitored.

Building regulations stated that the foundation trenches should be dug deep into the natural orange sandy clay subsoil, to a depth of 2.5m from ground level (2.3m below the cleared overburden). To ensure safety, the trenches were stepped out at 1m to present 'islands' of archaeology, with the lower parts shored-up before concreting (fig. 2, plates 1-4). As all archaeological remains lay in the upper parts of the trench (i.e. above the level of the step), only the area above the step is shown in sections 1 and 2 (fig. 3). Visits were made as required during the excavation to monitor works and record archaeological activity.

The following text is in two sections based on those areas where archaeological evidence was recorded. In both cases the forecourt was built immediately above medieval remains.

## **5.1** Bayley Street frontage (fig. 3, section 1)

Several large medieval features of indeterminable size, possibly quarry pits, were recorded on the Bayley Street frontage (plate 1). Those to the east were immediately beneath the tarmac forecourt, but others to the west lay beneath a possible disturbed topsoil. Most of the fills were a friable fairly homogenous brown sandy clay with few inclusions. Finds were typically of medieval pottery sherds, animal bone and oyster shell.

At the south-western end, cutting the sandy clay natural, was pit 2 (plate 2). This was a wide but quite shallow  $(2.9 \times 0.9 \text{m})$  feature with a brownish grey silty sand clay fill. A single sherd of sandy orange ware dated the feature to the late medieval period, though this is probably intrusive. Certainly, the feature that cuts pit 2, small pit 4, contained more reliable dating in the form of two early medieval ware sherds (12th to early 13th century), plus fired clay and bone, indicative of a small rubbish pit. The nature of the fill, context 3, was similar to context 17, a dark grey silty clay layer in the north corner of the site (fig. 3). To the west, this feature cut pit 6, whose full extent was not recorded beyond plot 6, which extends further towards

the street (fig. 2). Its nature in terms of fill and proportions was similar to pit 2, but was stratigraphically earlier.

In the centre of the trench (plot 5) was an undated friable brown silty clay layer (context 12), whose relationship with pit 8, further to the north-west, was ambiguous due to the similarity of the layer and the fill of pit 8 (context 7). At 2.4m-wide and 0.9m deep, cut 8 was another large pit similar to pits 2 and 6, though with a slightly 'stepped' profile (fig. 3, plate 4). Unlike many of the pits, this feature extending across the trench and into the adjacent 'island', but no further. Good dating evidence was recovered from both sides (fills 7 and 13, appendix 2) suggesting a late 12th to 14th-century date.

Pit 8 was partly overlain by a dark grey silty clay layer, context 17, which may represent medieval topsoil surviving in the northern corner. Context 17 contained good dating material from the early 13th century, though its location immediately underneath the forecourt meant it was disturbed by modern intrusions; consequently it smelt of oil and petrol. Its survival however is important in appreciating that the ground level along the street frontage has not been reduced significantly in the past. The same layer also overlay a second large feature, pit 15, whose relationship with pit 8 is unclear, though it is probably later. This was the largest of the four main pits on this side, measuring 4.2m in width and 0.6m in depth (fig. 3). In contrast to the others, the pit contained three separate fills, contexts 9, 10 and 11. From the fills, context 9 produced a fragment of medieval brick (later 12th to late 14th century) and some oyster shell, which was also found in the bottom fill, context 11. The pit appeared to extend into the 'island' to the south-west, but no further.

Further along the trench, the north corner of Plot 6 was heavily disturbed by tree roots, most likely from the existing trees on the boundary with the adjacent property to the north-west.

## **5.2** North-west side of Plot 6 (fig. 3, section 2, plates 1 & 2)

This side of the excavation is to be retained as access for car parking spaces to the rear of plots 4-6.

Layer 17 continued as a dark deposit along the north-west side of the excavation, though diminishing to the south-west (fig. 3). Undated brick fragments were recovered from the context on this side which may be intrusive, given the modern disturbance above it (plates 1 & 2). The only other feature on this is side was pit 20, which is contemporary with those on the street frontage, but whose character was very different. Its rounded profile was exposed in section showing two fills, contexts 19 and 21, and dimensions recorded as 1.6m wide and

0.6m deep. Pottery collected from the upper fill (context 19) provides a late 12th to 14th century date. Large amounts of burnt daub and charcoal, observed in both fills, suggest the presence of a nearby building (see 6.0). Either side of the feature are layers 14 and 18, which contained flecks of probable daub or brick. The natural subsoil lies 1m below ground level here (fig. 3).

# 6.0 FINDS by Helen Walker

Finds were recovered from thirteen contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. The finds are described by category below.

# Medieval and later pottery

Pottery was the most numerous find with a total of fifteen sherds weighing 193g recovered from nine contexts. Diagnostic pottery has been recorded onto Essex County Council's EFASYS database. The earliest find comprises two sherds of 12th to earlier 13th century Early Medieval Ware from pit 4 (fill 3), one decorated with a thumbed applied strip. Pits 8 and 20 produced sherds of Medieval Coarse Ware including examples of Hedingham Coarse Ware. Layers 14 and 17 and unstratified context 16 produced further residual examples of this material including a fragment of Hedingham Coarse Ware cooking-pot (from layer 17) showing wavy line combing on the rim and body, which is datable to the first half of the 13th century. All the medieval coarse wares could be of this date. Layers 14 and 17 also produced Sandy Orange Ware sherds. That in layer 17 is not closely datable, but that from layer 14, the base of a large thick-walled bowl with a thin internal glaze, is late medieval, datable to the 15th to 16th centuries. A sherd of Sandy Orange Ware was recovered from pit 2 (fill 1) and also appears to be late medieval. Layer 22 produced a sherd of Post-Medieval Red Earthenware, which is thick-walled with an all over glaze and dates from the 17th to 19th centuries. Given that this layer produced modern finds, this sherd is most likely to be 19th century.

## **Ceramic building materials**

Brick and tile fragments, amounting to eight pieces, weighing 557g, were recovered from five contexts. The most interesting find is a brick fragment from pit 15 (fill 9), which has a thickness of 52mm, red-brown surfaces, a core which is reduced in places and shows folds where the clay was pushed into the mould. The brick has been identified by Pat Ryan as a Tudor brick dating between the mid 15th to early 17th century. Otherwise bricks are only

represented by very small un-datable fragments. There are two fragments of un-featured roof tile datable from the 14th century onwards. One is from layer 14 and the second is from a modern layer 22. Found mainly in pit 20 (fills 19, 21), with examples in pit/post-hole 4 and layer 14, are fragments of fired clay or daub. These are all contexts that produced medieval pottery. Several pieces of fired clay have flat surfaces and may be from a building.

#### Animal bone and shell

A total of three contexts produced animal bone, amounting to seven pieces, weighing 169g. Most of the bones appear to be from sheep or other ruminants, with the addition of part of the pelvis from a small mammal such as a rabbit or cat. A small fragment of bone, possibly from a scapula shows butchery marks. All the bones are from contexts that also contained medieval pottery, so the bone may also be medieval in date. Oyster shell amounting to four valves and one valve fragment were recovered from four contexts.

#### Other finds

Other finds comprise a small piece of iron, possibly a nail from ?late medieval pit 2 and a second nail from disturbed layer 17. This nail has a powdery cobalt-blue coating and is almost certainly modern. Fragments of field drain and mortar/plaster were excavated from modern layer 22.

#### Comments on the assemblage

The pottery provides evidence of activity in the medieval period, most likely during the 13th century, with some activity in the late medieval period. The presence of Hedingham ware products is to be expected as there are known production sites at Sible Hedingham, a couple of kilometres to the south. The rather tenuous evidence of fired clay pieces suggest a medieval building of some kind stood nearby. The bone and shell may also be evidence of medieval activity. The brick is evidence of construction during the Tudor period. No further work is required on the assemblage.

#### 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Archaeological monitoring indicates the existence of archaeological remains immediately below the forecourt of the former Tills V. Smith garage, which are concentrated along the Bayley Street frontage and towards the north-western corner of the site.

On the street frontage, the features are characterised by a series of large medieval pits formerly lying within the outer bailey of Hedingham Castle, which encompassed a large area of land up to the late medieval period. The most reliably-dated of these is pit 4, at the top of the sequence, which is dated to the 12th-13th century and interpreted as a small rubbish pit. Pottery found in pit 2, which is cut by pit 4, is later (14th-16th century) and is likely to be intrusive. Layer 17 which overlies pits 8 and 15 is dated quite well to the 13th-century, though it location beneath the garage forecourt provided other, more mixed, finds. A 13th century date relates to the dating from pit 8, though the upper fill of pit 15 contained a fragment of Tudor brick. The provenance of the brick was queried at the time as intrusive (from layer 17), but is the only dating evidence from this pit. Most of the larger pits on this side are likely to be quarry pits for the natural clay and it is likely that this area, on the town side of the castle and close to the outer bailey ditch, had a relatively informal function as the hinterland of the castle grounds.

Less intense activity was recorded in the north-west part of the site, consisting of layers containing mixed material. The only feature here was pit 20 that contained sherds of 13th-century pottery and a good deal of burnt daub from a structure that was perhaps a medieval service building standing within the castle grounds.

Deposits lie only 0.2m below modern ground level in the forecourt area, which from the evidence is similar to ground level in the medieval period. Therefore archaeological remains are likely to survive under Bayley Street and continue to the north-west of plot 6 which will remain as the main access onto the new development. No remains were found towards the south-west of the frontage where shallower features may have been disturbed when the garage was constructed. Similarly, the area to the south-east of the site (plots 1-3) was heavily-disturbed by the modern garage, though it is possible that the outer bailey ditch to the castle survives at a deeper level.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are due to Richard Horley of the John Finch Partnership for commissioning the monitoring work on behalf of the Granville Group. The assistance and cooperation of John Northwood of the Granville Group, who provided the drawings, and his staff (Rod and Chris) is also gratefully acknowledged. Fieldwork, recording and photography were undertaken by the author. Illustrations were prepared by the author and produced by Andrew Lewsey of ECC FAU. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby and monitored by Teresa O'Connor of ECC HEM on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

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Medlycott, M.	1998	Castle Hedingham: Historic Towns Project Assessment Report (ECC unpub.)
Ryan, P.	1996	Brick in Essex: from the Roman conquest to the Reformation (Chelmsford)

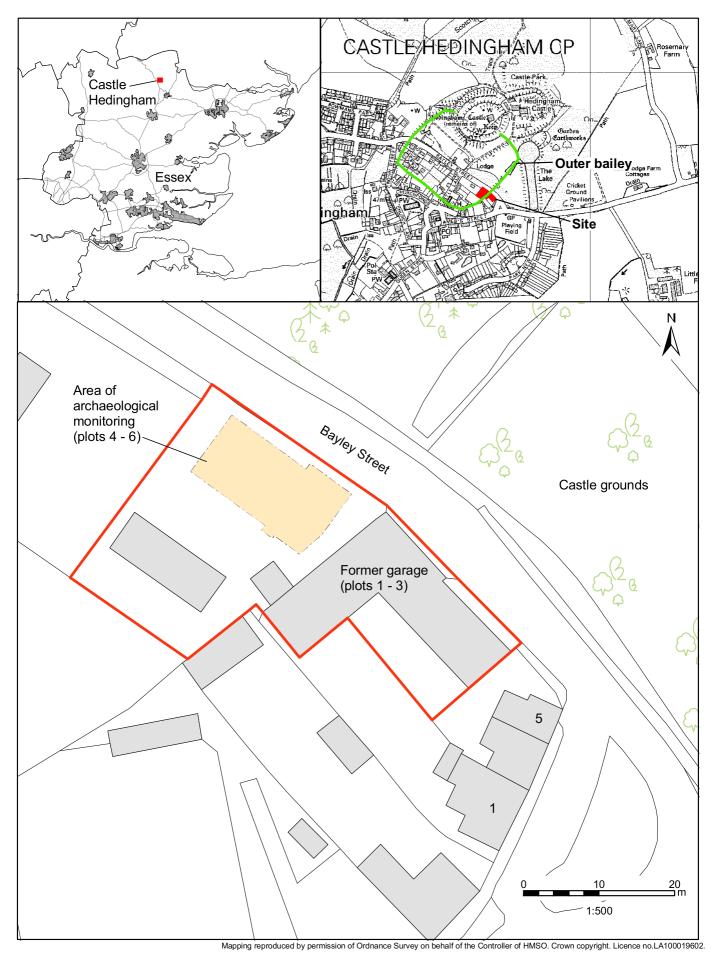
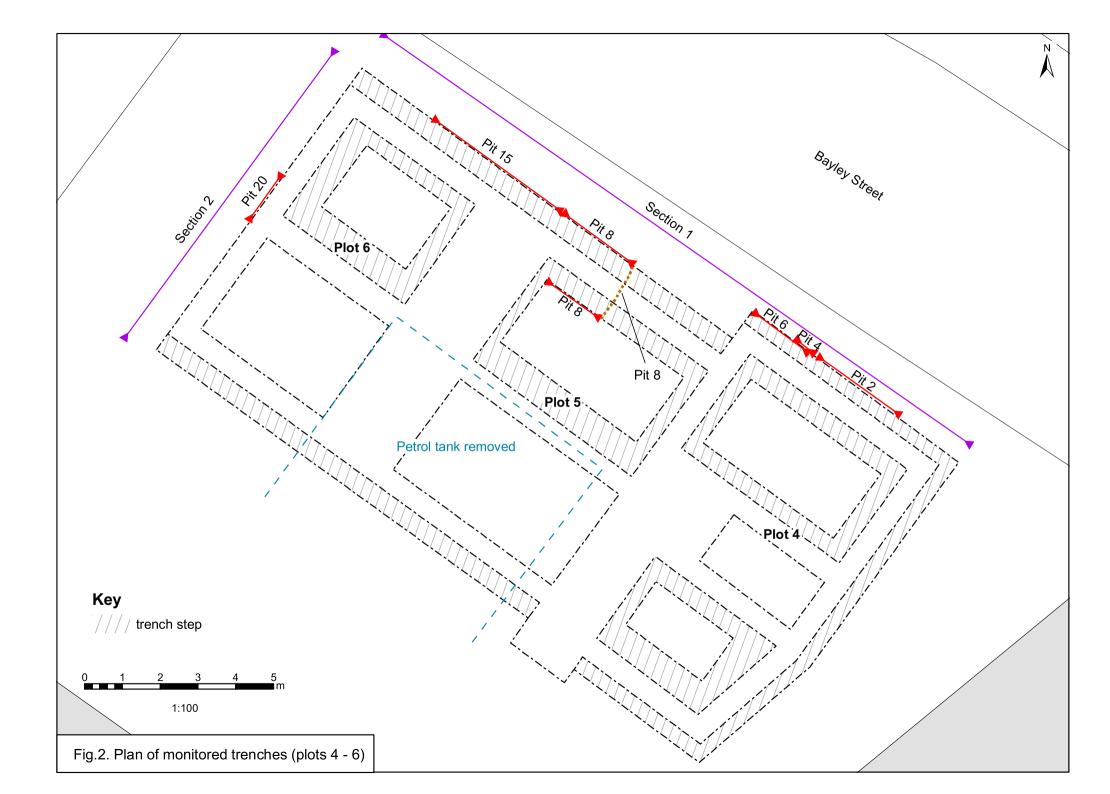


Fig.1. Location of area of archaeological monitoring





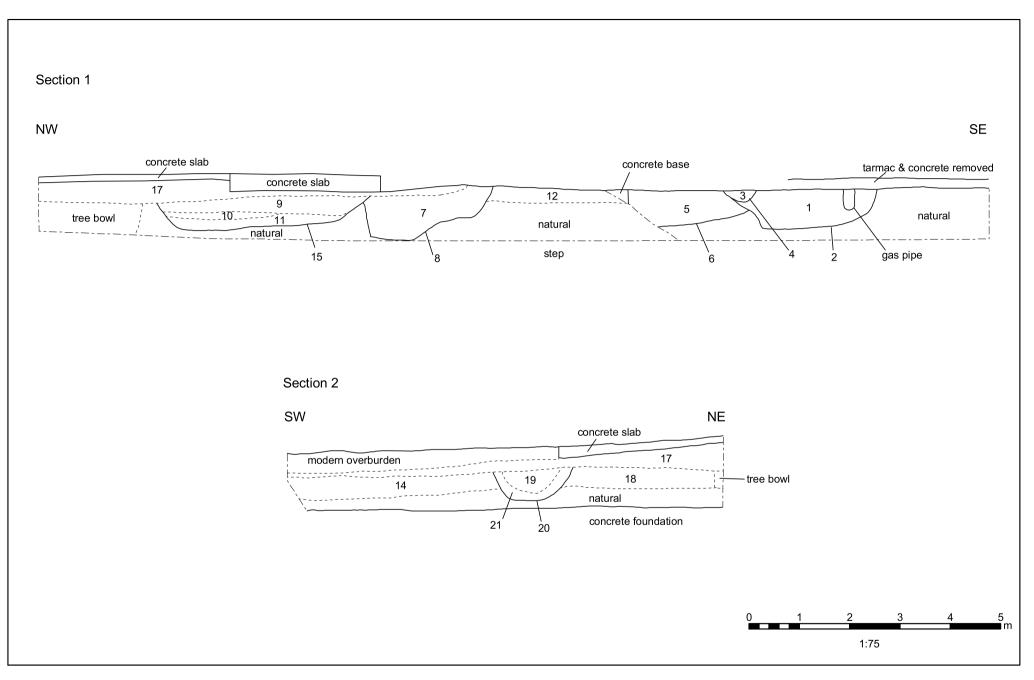


Fig.3. Sections 1 & 2



Plate 1 Monitored area viewed to north, showing sections 1 & 2



Plate 2 Monitored area viewed to south-west, showing section 2 & disturbed fuel tank area



Plate 3 Section 1, Plot 4 (pits 2, 4 & 6)



Plate 4 Section 1, Plots 5 & 6 (pits 8 & 15)

# Appendix 1 Context data

Context	Туре	Description	Date
1	Fill of 2	Mid brown grey silt sand clay, occ chalk flecks, rare small pebbles	Late medieval
2	Pit	2.9 x 0.9m, cut by pit 3 in plot 4	Late medieval
3	Fill of 4	Mid grey silty clay, freq charcoal flecks & sm frags, occ chalk flecks	Medieval
4	Pit	0.66 x 0.24, concave base, cuts 2	Medieval
5	Fill of 6	Light brown firm sandy clay, freq charcoal flecks, occ roots	?medieval
6	Pit	Wide pit (2.4 x 0.7m) extending westwards beyond plot 6	?medieval
7	Fill of 8	Mid brown friable silty clay, occ oyster shell flecks, rare sm chalk flecks & sm pebbles	Medieval
8	Pit/ditch	Wide pit/ditch (2.3 x 0.86m), continues to island to sw to be cut by tank excavation?	Medieval
9	Fill of 15	Mid brown silty clay upper fill, occ oyster shell flecks, rare charcoal flecks, occ pebbles.	Tudor ?intrusive
10	Fill of 15	Narrow band (0.1m) of mottled mid brown/mid orange mixed silty clay. Rare chalk flecks & occ medium flints. Middle fill	-
11	Fill of 15	Mid brown grey friable silty clsay, rare oyster flecks. Primary fill	-
12	Layer	Cut by 7. Mid brown friable silty clay, occ oyster shell flecks, rare sm chalk flecks & sm pebbles	Medieval
13	Fill of 8 (=7)	Fill in island to SE. Mid brown friable silty clay, occ oyster shell flecks, rare sm chalk flecks & sm pebbles	Medieval
14	Layer	Mid greyish brown friable sandy silt, occ sm chalk frags & flecks, rare sm brick/daub frags, rare sm pebbles. Mixed	Medieval or post-med
15	Pit	Large pit (4.2 x 0.6m) in plot 6 under 17.	Tudor
16	u/s	Pot sherd from cleaning section 2	Medieval
17	Layer	Former topsoil? Disturbed dark grey silt clay layer under forecourt, comm. chalk flecks & occ sm brick flecks. Tapers to SW	Medieval +
18	Layer	Dirty redeposited natural: mottled mid grey & mid brown clay sand, rare brick/daub & charcoal flecks	Undated
19	Fill of 20	Upper fill. mid greyish brown sand silt clay. Occ daub flecks & sm frags, freq charcoal flecks	Medieval
20	Pit	Contains 19 & 21. Pit (1.6 x 0.6m) sealed by 17 & cutting 14 & 18. Good rounded profile	Medieval
21	Fill of 20	Lower fill. Mid brown silty clay, freq burnt daub flecks & sm frags, occ charcoal flecks	Medieval
22	Layer	Badly-disturbed version of layer 17 with mixture of finds from different periods.	Post-med & modern

# Appendix 2 Finds data

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
1	2	1	16	Pottery	Late medieval
		3	30	Animal bone	medievai
		1	3	Iron, possibly a nail	-
3	4	2	45	Pottery	Medieval
Ū	,	3	63	Fired clay	-
		1	94	Animal bone	-
5	6	2	12	Shell	-
7	8	2	18	Pottery	Medieval
9	15	1	349	Brick	Tudor
		1	6	Shell	-
11	15	1	12	Shell	-
13	8	1	17	Pottery	Medieval
14	Layer	2	11	Pottery	Medieval
		1	11	Pottery	Late
		1	18	Roof tile	medieval Later/post-
		'	10	Troot the	med
		1	2	Fired clay	-
		3	45	Animal bone	-
		1	13	Shell	-
16	U/S	1	12	Pottery	Medieval
17	Layer	2	32	Pottery	Medieval
		1	13	Pottery	Med or later
		3	43	Brick fragments	Undated
		1	8	Iron nail	?Modern
19	20	1	2	Pottery	Medieval
		1	18	?brick fragment	Undated
		1	2	Fired clay	-
21	20	5	79	Fired clay	-
22	Layer	1	16	Pottery	Post-med - mod
		2	129	?brick fragment and roof tile	Post-med -
		2	145	Misc modern finds	IIIOu

# Appendix 3 Pottery data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	2	1	16	Sandy Orange Ware, unglazed base sherd, late med type	14th to 16th C
3	4	2	45	71	
7	8	2	18	Hedingham coarse ware, base and body sherd	Late 12th to 14th C
13	8	1	17	Medieval coarse ware, sagging base sherd, externally fire-blackened	Late 12th to 14th C
14	Layer	2	11	Medieval coarse ware, body and base sherd, both showing external fire-blackening	Late 12th to 14th C
		1	11	Sandy orange ware, thick-walled out-flaring base probably from a bowl showing a thin internal glaze, very abraded	15th to 16th C
16	U/S	1	12	Medieval coarse ware, borderline early medieval ware	Late 12th to 13th C
17	Layer	2	32	Hedingham coarse ware, B4/H1 cooking-pot rim showing wavy line combing around rim and shoulder  Hedingham coarse ware, B4/H1 cooking-pot arlier 13th C	
		1	13	Sandy orange ware sherd perhaps from a base, showing splashes of glaze on the underside	13th to 14th C or later
19	20	1	2	2 Medieval coarse ware, body sherd Late 12 to 14th C	
22	Layer	1	16	Post-medieval red earthenware, thick-walled, all over glaze	17th to 19th C
		15	193		

# **Appendix 4: Contents of Archive**

Site name: Former Tills V.Smith Garage, Bayley Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex

Project no.: 2248

#### Index to the Archive:

Document wallet containing:

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 HEM design brief
- 1.2 FAU written scheme of investigation
- 1.3 Client/archive report
- 1.4 Unbound version of report
- 1.5 CD containing digital photographs & copy of report, pdf-formatted

## 2. Site Archive

- 2.1 Photographic record (digital prints & monochrome 35mm prints & negatives)
- 2.2 Photographic registers
- 2.3 Site notes and annotated survey drawings
- 2.4 Small bag of finds

## **Appendix 5: EHER Summary Sheet**

Site NamelAddress: Former Tills V. Smith Garage, Bayley Street, Castle Hedingham				
Parish: Castle Hedingham	District: Braintree			
NGR: TL 7870 3564	Site code: CH 8			
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring	Site Director/Team: Andrew Letch ECC FAU			
Dates of Fieldwork: September & October 2010	Size of Area Investigated: c.180m <sup>2</sup>			
Curating Museum: Braintree	Funding Source: John Finch Partnership			
Further Work Anticipated? No	<b>Related EHER Nos.</b> SAM 3, HER 6787 & 25226			
Final Report: Summary in FAH				

Final Report: Summary in EAH

**Periods Represented:** Medieval

#### **SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:**

Archaeological monitoring of a new residential development on the former Tills V. Smith garage on Bayley Street found medieval pits and layers along the street frontage and within the north-western part of the site. The area was until the late medieval period part of the outer bailey of the castle and the bailey ditch is believed to exist in the south-eastern part of the site.

Monitoring works were focused on a block of three houses (nos. 4-6) in the north-western half of the site. Numbers 1-3 form a second block on the south-eastern side, broadly within the area of the main L-shaped garage building. However, because of disturbance from the later garage, and the fact that the foundations were piled rather than dug, this area did not form part of the monitoring works.

The area under nos. 4-6 revealed a concentration of probable large and irregular quarry pits dated to the 13th century and one rubbish pit of similar date. One medieval pit in particular contained large amounts of burnt daub from a nearby building. Archaeological remains were recorded in section immediately beneath the garage forecourt. Further more-shallow remains towards the south may have been lost when the petrol tanks were inserted and/or the forecourt constructed.

The features probably relate to medieval quarry and rubbish pits on the outskirts of the outer bailey, close to the bailey ditch. It appears that ground level here has not changed considerably and that high survival rates can be expected in adjacent areas. The presence of large quantities of burnt daub strongly suggests an early-medieval building was stood in the vicinity.

Previous Summaries/Reports: none	
Author of Summary: Andrew Letch	Date of Summary: 5th November 2010