

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
120/122 Moreton Road,  
Ongar,  
Essex**

**NGR: TL 54670 05150**

**ASE Project No: 8337  
Site Code: ONMR15**

**ASE Report No: 2015065  
OASIS id: archaeol6-2051123**



**March 2015**



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at 120/122 Moreton Road,  
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Essex**

**NGR: TL 54670 05150**

**Planning Ref: EPF/2199/14**

**ASE Project No: 8337  
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**February 2015**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Grahame Riordan to conduct an archaeological evaluation at 120/122 Moreton Road, Ongar, Essex. The site is currently occupied by three extant buildings and two demolished buildings in an area of grassland and hardstanding. The site is proposed for development comprising the demolition of the extant buildings, the construction of a single dwelling and associated access and turning area.*

*Two trial trenches were excavated within the area of the proposed development; one within the footprint of the new dwelling and the other in the new turning area. Modern features were noted in both trenches comprising a pit and land drains. No archaeological remains were identified. The natural geology, a light brown silty clay, was identified at 0.48-0.58m below the present surface level.*

*As no significant archaeological remains appear to be present on site it is judged that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon the heritage resource of the area.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Mr Grahame Riordan to conduct an archaeological evaluation at 120/122 Moreton Road, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0EZ.

1.1.2 The development site lies to the north of Chipping Ongar, situated on a plot on the east side of Moreton Road within 100m of Cripsey Brook to the east (NGR: TL 54670 05150). The development area is currently occupied by three existing buildings of varying sizes (two former buildings have been demolished), an area of hard standing and grassland. It is bounded to the north by a residential property and to the east and south by Shelley Common. The existing buildings are to be demolished and a new dwelling is to be constructed south and west of the current buildings with a turning area and access to the north.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The superficial geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as Head deposits, comprising gravel, sand and clay, poorly sorted and poorly stratified deposits formed mostly by solifluction and/or hillwash and soil creep, together with alluvium from the adjacent Cripsey Brook (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer; accessed 09/02/2015).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 A planning application (EPF/2199/14) was submitted to Epping Forest District Council (registered 01/10/2014) for the removal of existing buildings and erection of single dwelling house, including replacement of two existing vehicular accesses with one. As the site lies in an area highlighted by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) as having a high potential for archaeological deposits to be present ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a full archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent. The archaeological condition that was recommended was based upon guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states that:

*"No development, or preliminary groundworks, of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority".*

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological trial trenching which comprised the excavation of two trenches on 25/02/2015 (figure 2). It followed the methodology laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015), based on the requirements of Maria Medlycott at ECC Place Services in her capacity as archaeological advisor to Epping Forest District Council.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.
- 2.2 The EHER shows that the development site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Shelley Common to the east of the site is the location of known tumuli and a survey carried out in 1981 recorded three mounds all with traces of an outer ditch (Milton 1982) within 150m of the site. These were interpreted as denuded Bronze-Age bowl barrow burial mounds (EHER Ref. 141). One is stated in 1921 as containing a skeleton which was 'dug up within recent years' (RCHME 1921). All three mounds are Scheduled Monuments (List No. 1009242- 4).
- 2.3 To the west of the site, on the far side of Moreton Road, the EHER records the site of a Roman building where a quantity of residual Iron Age pottery was found (EHER Ref. 9918). No features of Iron Age date were located by excavation however. To the south a series of cropmarks c. 300m from the site indicate field boundaries a curvilinear enclosure and a possible rectilinear enclosure (EHER Ref. 19259), all undated. Further north cropmarks of more undated field boundaries have been recorded (EHER Ref. 19288).

## **2.4 Project Aims and Objectives**

- 2.4.1 As stated in the WSI (ASE 2015) The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date and quality. Should archaeological remains have been found, an assessment of their significance would have been made against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.
- 2.4.2 Specific research aims for the initial trenching were to:
- determine the presence or absence of any occupation/activity associated with known Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity in the vicinity.
  - determine the character, depth and location of any archaeological remains on the site.
- 2.4.3 In the event that significant discoveries had been made the report would seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. (Medlycott 2011). As no archaeological features were uncovered the site has no potential to contribute to any regional research objectives.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

3.1.1 Trench 1 measured 7.5m west-east and 1.60m wide. It was excavated within the area of the proposed turning area, to the north of the extant buildings (see Figure 2). Trench 2 measured 10m west-east and was positioned within the footprint of the proposed new building.

3.1.2 The trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.78m below the present surface level using an 8-tonne tracked excavator equipped with a standard toothless ditching bucket.

#### **3.2 Archive**

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Epping Forest District Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	6
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs (digital)	15
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	turf/topsoil	Turf over dark brown sandy silt	>7.5	>1.6	0.22-0.3	50.28-50.36
1/002	subsoil	light mid yellowish brown clayey silt	>7.5	>1.6	0.25-0.28	
1/003	natural	light brown silty clay with orange patches. Becoming increasingly gravelly with depth.	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 The trench was excavated in the proposed turning area to the north of No 120 in what is currently a grassed area sloping gently down to the east (Fig. 2 and 3A and B). Topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy silt [1/001] which overlay a light yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil [1/002]. A ceramic mole drain laid in an 'L' shape was present within the sub soil at the west end of the trench and left in situ (Fig. 3A). The remainder of the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.5-0.7m deep, exposing the natural subsoil [0/003]. No archaeological deposits or features were present within the trench.

### 4.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	turf/topsoil	Turf over dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal	>7.5	>1.6	0.33-0.4	50.70-50.92
2/002	subsoil	light mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional peg tile	>7.5	>1.6	0.08-0.13	
2/003	natural	light yellowish brown clayey silt	n/a	n/a	n/a	
2/004	pit	modern pit	>2	>1.2	>0.4	
1/003	fill	Dark brown black sandy silt with modern inclusions (clinker, rubble concrete and plastic).	>2	>1.2	>0.4	

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 The trench was excavated in the proposed house footprint in what is currently a grassed area which slopes slightly down to the east (Fig. 2 and 3C). Topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy silt [2/001] which overlay a light yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil [2/002]. A pit [2/004] was cut through the topsoil and subsoil at the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 3D). The fill [2/005] contained material that was clearly modern in date, such as plastic and

concrete (not retained) accordingly this feature was not investigated further. Some brick rubble was noted in the north facing section of the trench at its west end. This may have been the base of a modern foundation relating to the recently demolished buildings.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

5.1.1 The evaluation did not identify any finds or features that pre-dated the 20th century. The stratigraphic sequence was typical of a rural site, comprising topsoil and subsoil immediately overlying the natural geology. The modern features are likely to relate to the use of the site as a pig farm in recent years (landowner, pers. comm).

### **5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

5.2.1 The evaluation established that natural deposits are present at a height of 49.70-50.08m AOD in Trench 1 and 50.22-50.44m AOD in Trench 2. With the exception of the shallowly buried modern features and occasional tree roots little disturbance was noted in either trench. There was also no evidence of truncation of deposits.

### **5.3 Consideration of research aims**

5.3.1 The main purpose of the research aims and objectives was primarily to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features on the site. No such material was discovered within the trench, and the lack of survival was demonstrably not due to excessive modern truncation.

### **5.4 Conclusions**

5.4.1 As no significant archaeological remains appear to be present on site it is judged that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon the heritage resource of the area.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Mr Grahame Riordan for commissioning the works and for his assistance throughout the project and the owners of 120/122 who were very helpful on site, and Maria Medlycott, Historic Environment Advisor for Essex Place Services, Essex County Council for her help and guidance. The excavation was directed by Kate Clover (ASE). We would like to thank Richard Pope (Danbury Plant) the machine driver, Lukasz Miciak (ASE) for geomatics coverage and Adrian Scruby (ASE) who project managed the work.

**HER Summary Form**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> 120/122 Moreton Road, Ongar, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Ongar	<b>District:</b> Epping Forest
<b>NGR:</b> TL 54670 05150	<b>Site Code:</b> ONMR15
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Kate Clover, Archaeology South-East
<b>Date of Work:</b> 25th February 2015	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 1140.00 Square metres
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Epping Forest District Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Landowner/developer
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> unknown	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> N/A
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH roundup	<b>OASIS No:</b> archaeol6-205123
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Modern	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Grahame Riordan to conduct an archaeological evaluation at 120/122 Moreton Road, Ongar, Essex. The site is currently occupied by three extant buildings and two demolished buildings in an area of grassland and hardstanding. The site is proposed for development comprising the demolition of the extant buildings, the construction of a single dwelling and associated access and turning area.</p> <p>Two trial trenches were excavated within the area of the proposed development; one within the footprint of the new dwelling and the other in the new turning area. Modern features were noted in both trenches comprising a pit and land drains. No archaeological remains were identified. The natural geology, a light brown silty clay, was identified at 0.48-0.58m below the present surface level.</p> <p>As no significant archaeological remains appear to be present on site it is judged that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon the heritage resource of the area.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> E. Heppell	<b>Date of Summary:</b> February 2015

## OASIS Summary Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-205123**

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### Project details

Project name	120/122 Moreton Road, Ongar. Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. Only modern features identified.
Project dates	Start: 25-02-2015 End: 25-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	8337 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX EPPING FOREST ONGAR 120/122 Moreton Road
Postcode	CM5 0EZ
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 54670 05150 51.7232218667 0.239570953526 51 43 23 N 000

14 22 E Point

Height OD /  
Depth           Min: 50.00m Max: 51.00m

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**Project  
creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Kate Clover
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

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**Project  
archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Epping Forest
Digital Archive recipient	Epping Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey"
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence", "Diary", "Drawing", "Manuscript", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

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**Project**

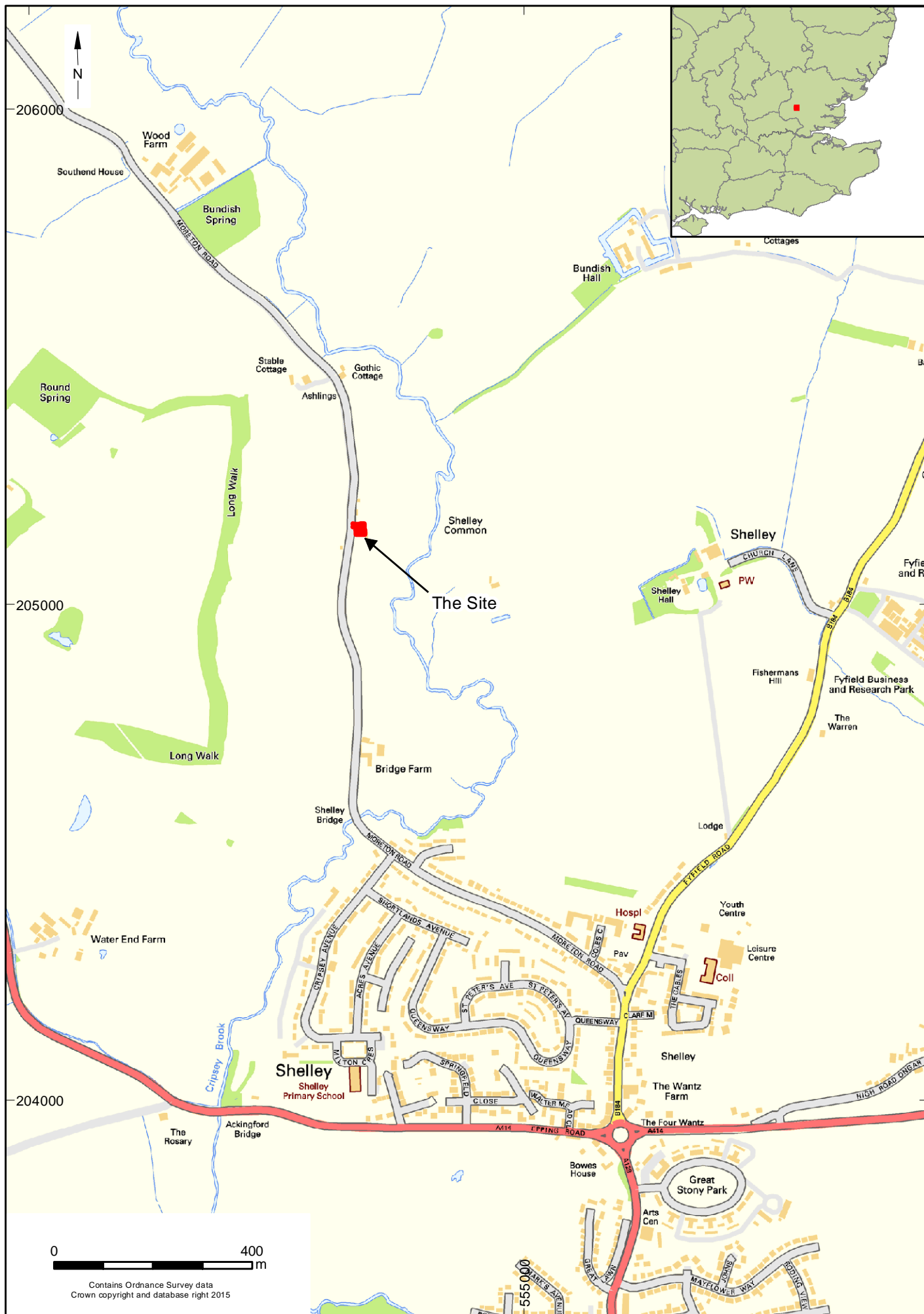


**bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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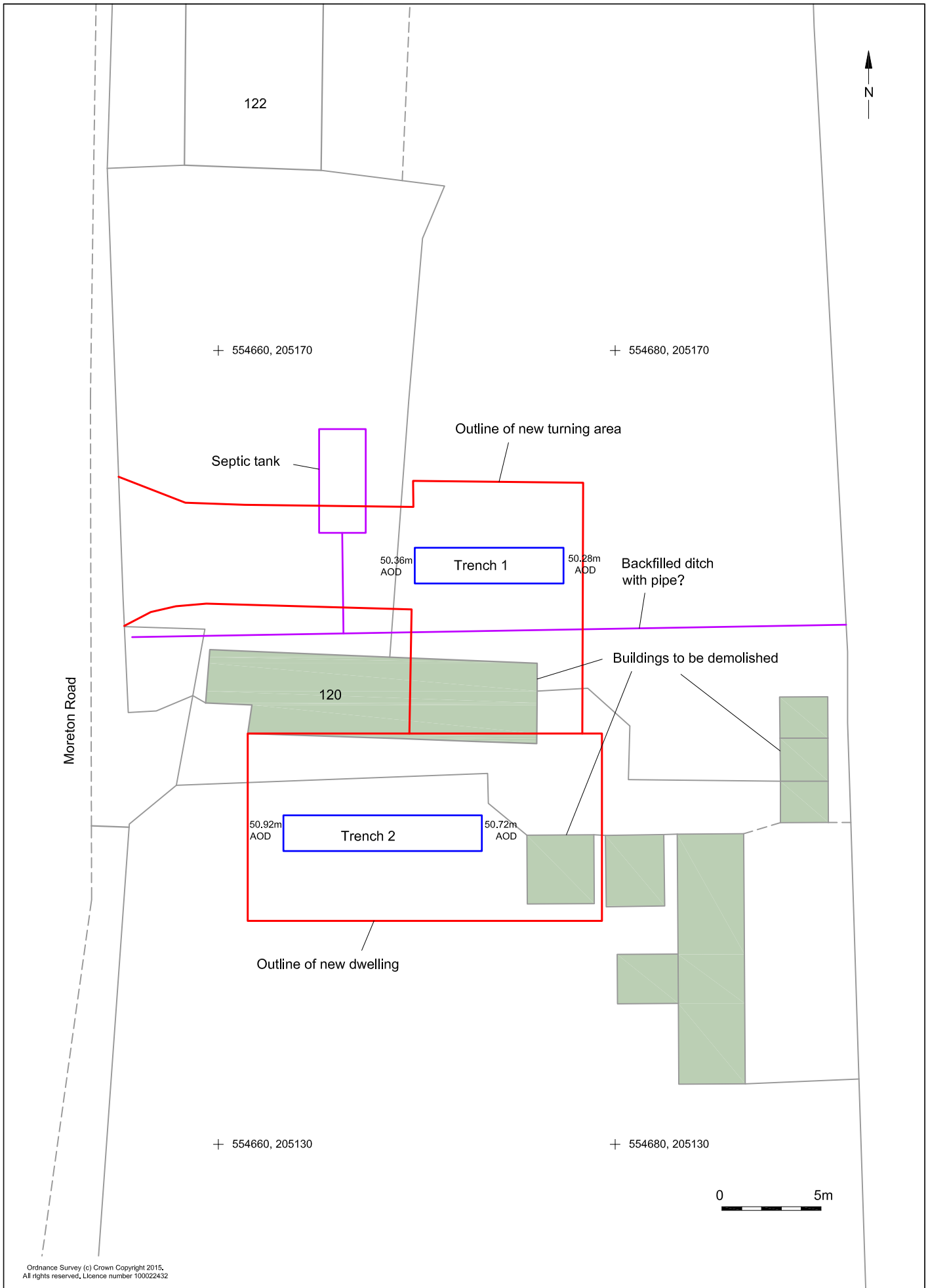
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Entered on	3 March 2015



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© Archaeology South-East		120/122 Moreton Road, Chipping Ongar	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8337	March 2015	Site location	
Report No: 2015065	Drawn by: APL		



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© Archaeology South-East		120/ 122 Moreton Road, Ongar	Fig.2
Project Ref: 8337	March 2015	Trench Locations	
Report No: 2015065	Drawn by: APL/EH		



A: Trench 1, looking east (2 x 1m scales)



B: Trench 1, looking west (2 x 1m scales)



C: Trench 2, looking west (2 x 1m scales)



D: Trench 2, modern pit [2/004] (0.5m scale)

© Archaeology South-East		120/122 Moreton Road, Chipping Ongar	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 8337	March 2015	Site Photographs	
Report No: 2015065	Drawn by: EH		

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