

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

Archaeological Excavation

**Land adjacent to Central House,
High Street, Chipping Ongar,
Essex**

**ASE Project No: 170455
Site Code: CO16**

ASE Report No: 2017477



August 2018

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
LAND ADJACENT TO CENTRAL HOUSE,
HIGH STREET, CHIPPING ONGAR,
ESSEX**

NGR: TL 55207 03275

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UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN**

Planning Reference: EPF/2064/15

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land adjacent to Central House, Chipping Ongar, Essex, between 12-28 September 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by the DG Property Group Ltd in advance of residential and commercial redevelopment.

Evaluation in January 2017 established the presence of stratified archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval date within the site, primarily pits, postholes and layers.

Subsequent investigation of a 170sq m excavation area recorded the remains of further pits, postholes and layers, but also ditches and brick-built structures. The earliest feature was a single Late Bronze Age pit.

Two medieval ditches probably defined parts of boundaries relating to land enclosure along the High Street frontage, outside the town enclosure. Within this presumed occupation plot, pits and postholes constituted the remains of activity of 13th to 14th century date. Recovered pottery and animal bone assemblages suggest the likely domestic nature of this activity. No medieval buildings could be discerned amongst the postholes. However, a truncated probable hearth or oven base, with associated burnt cereal remains, indicates that some processing or production activities were carried out here – perhaps the processing of crops.

After a period of apparent abandonment, the site was reoccupied from the 17th/18th century onwards. Pits indicate initial land use was probably for domestic rubbish disposal. In the late 18th/early 19th century, the site was cleared and levelled in preparation for the construction of a school. Parts of a range of brick-built outbuildings, possible yard surfacing, drains and a brick-lined structure tentatively identified as the location of a water pump, shown on historic OS mapping, were recorded.

The medieval remains are noted to be of a similar date and character as those encountered within an archaeological excavation to the west, at Banson's Yard. One of the medieval boundary ditches is posited to be the same as one recorded there, and both sites contained burnt deposits constituting hearth/oven bases. Both sites are likely to be parts of the same land use immediately outside the enclosed medieval town.

This report is written and structured so as to conform to the standards required of post-excavation analysis work as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (HM Gov 2012) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008). Study of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental material has established a chronology and assessed the potential of the site archive to address the original research agenda. Consideration of their significance and further potential has highlighted what additional analysis work, if any, is required in order to enable suitable dissemination of the findings in a final publication. It is proposed that the most pertinent results, relating to medieval land use, are integrated into a publication article that is currently being prepared for the nearby Banson's Yard site, for inclusion in the Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The town of Chipping Ongar is located in Epping Forest District, in south-west Essex.
- 1.1.2 The site is situated on the west side of Chipping Ongar High Street, within the confines of the wider historic core of the town (NGR TL 55207 03275; Figure 1). It is bounded by buildings to the south, the High Street to the east, a petrol garage to the north and a car parking area to the west.
- 1.1.3 The 489sq m site was previously occupied by a single story outbuilding and small tarmac parking area which were removed in advance of the excavation.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site itself is situated on a gentle slope, running downhill from the High Street towards Cripsey Brook to the west.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological surveys identifies the natural bedrock as clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation. It lies on a boundary of superficial geology of Head deposits of clay, silt sand and gravel, and Lowestoft Formation (Diamicton).

1.3 Scope of the Project

- 1.3.1 Planning permission for the demolition of the existing outbuilding and construction of a 3 storey, mixed use, building was granted by Epping Forest District Council (EPF/2064/15). The new building will comprise 5 flats and 2 shops.
- 1.3.2 Planning Condition 12 relates to archaeology and states:
'No conversion/demolition or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a proper program of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority.'
- 1.3.3 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by ASE in January 2017 (ASE 2017a) revealing the presence of significant below-ground archaeological deposits that would be impacted by the proposed development. As a result, a phase of further mitigation work was requested by ECC Place Services.
- 1.3.4 A brief for an excavation was issued by the ECC Place Services Archaeological Advisor to the district (ECC 2017).
- 1.3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation was consequently prepared in order to set out the scope of work, methodology and research aims for the programme of archaeological excavation (ASE 2017c). This was approved by ECC Place Services prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Circumstances and Dates of Work

- 1.4.1 The excavation was undertaken by ASE between 12th and 28th September 2017. The fieldwork supervised by Craig Carvey and project managed by Gemma Stevenson, with post-excavation management by Mark Atkinson.

1.5 Archaeological methodology

- 1.5.1 Due to the discovery of broken asbestos sheeting uncovered during site clearance works, an area contained within the northernmost foundations of the outbuilding was not investigated.
- 1.5.2 The available excavation area was machine stripped using a tracked mechanical 360° excavator. Mechanical excavation of modern concrete was undertaken using a toothed bucket before further stripping using a 1.8m toothless bucket took place, both conducted under supervision of an experienced ASE archaeologist. Due to the limited size of the site, excavated deposits were collected by 'muck-away' trucks on a daily basis for disposal.
- 1.5.3 Overburden deposits were first removed before excavation was carried out to the uppermost archaeological deposits identified during the evaluation phase. Care was taken not to machine-off seemingly homogenous layers that might have been the upper parts of archaeological features. After archaeological features stratigraphically above from the upper layer were excavated and recorded, mechanical excavation resumed down to the top of the natural geological deposit where earlier remains were encountered.
- 1.5.4 The resultant surfaces were cleaned as necessary and a pre-excavation plan prepared using Global Positioning System (GPS). This was made available to the Project Manager, the Supervisor and the ECC Archaeologist at the earliest opportunity. The plan was updated by regular visits to site by ASE surveyors who plotted excavated features and recorded levels in close consultation with the supervisor.
- 1.5.5 All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards using the standard context record sheets used by ASE.
- 1.5.6 Section drawings were created by hand in 1:10 and 1:20 scales, and their position plotted using a GPS.
- 1.5.7 A full digital photographic record of all features was also maintained. The photographic record also includes working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork.
- 1.5.8 All non-modern finds were recovered from excavated deposits and were and retained for specialist identification and study, in accordance with ASE artefacts collection policy.
- 1.5.9 Bulk soil sampling was undertaken that aimed to recover spatial and temporal information concerning the occupation of the site from a range of features across the site. A standard sample size of 40 litres was collected from datable

contexts to recover environmental remains such as fish, small mammals, molluscs and botanicals.

1.6 Organisation of the Report

- 1.6.1 This post-excavation assessment (PXA) and updated project design (UPD) has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008).
- 1.6.2 The report seeks to place the results from the site within the local archaeological and historical setting; to quantify and summarise the results; specify their significance and potential, including any capacity to address the original research aims, listing any new research criteria; and to lay out what further analysis work is required to enable their final dissemination, and what form the latter should take.
- 1.6.3 Following on from previous archaeological evaluation conducted by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2017c), work at the site ran as a single phase of excavation, with the finds and environmental archives all recorded under a single site code: CO16.
- 1.6.4 Where pertinent the results from the evaluation have been integrated and assessed with the results from the main excavation.

2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This site background utilises information from the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (EHER), historic mapping and other available sources such as excavation reports.
- 2.1.2 The locations of previous archaeological investigations relevant to the current site are shown on Figure 2.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Whilst evidence of Prehistoric activity in the immediate area is sparse, finds mostly consisting of residual flints in later features, serve to indicate a presence in the area from Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.
- 2.2.2 A few unstratified or residual prehistoric flints have been found within 500m of the site, notably a Mesolithic tranchet axe (EHER 4241, TL550035) and a Neolithic polished axe (EHER 4090, TL5503).
- 2.2.3 An excavation at Banson's Yard in 1981 (Eddy 1982), on the line of the medieval defences, uncovered a residual assemblage of struck flints (EHER 4101, TL551032).
- 2.2.4 To the east of the site, in the area of the playing fields north of Ongar Castle, are a number of cropmarks of Bronze Age burial mounds (EHER 19322, TL55430333).

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 Romano-British finds recovered in Chipping Ongar, like those of the Prehistoric, seem to be mostly residual in nature, and are confined to the area south of site closer to the historic core of the town.
- 2.3.1 A Roman coin was recorded from Ongar Castle (EHER 14927, TL554031) and residual Roman pottery was found at Banson's Lane c.200m south west of the site (EHER 14930, TL55150308) and at the site of Chipping Ongar Library (EHER 14946, TL55260315).
- 2.3.2 The church of St Martin at Chipping Ongar contains reused Roman building material and it has been suggested that the church was built over a Roman building (EHER 4108-09, TL55330295).
- 2.3.3 Excavations conducted at Pleasance car park produced some residual Roman and Saxon pottery (Clarke 1999).

2.4 Saxon

- 2.4.1 The place name suggests that Ongar was an area of open grassland in the Saxon period. It was first mentioned in 1045 and by Domesday there was a small settled community on the site (Medlycott 1998).

- 2.4.2 An Anglo-Saxon posthole dated by pottery finds was recorded at the site of Chipping Ongar Library c.140m southeast of the site (EHER 14946, TL55260315). Anglo-Saxon pottery was also recorded from Chipping Ongar Manor House, c.270m southeast of the site (EHER 46202, TL55310303).
- 2.4.3 'Ongar' was recorded as the site of an Anglo-Saxon 'Moot' (EHER 4100, TL554031) and hundredal market, and this was probably held on the site of the post-medieval market to the southwest of the site (EHER 18435, TL55260306).
- 2.4.4 Ongar Great Park was recorded in AD1015 and there is evidence for early medieval enclosure ditches predating the late medieval defences (EHER 4100, TL554031). Most probably, Anglo-Saxon Ongar was a large estate centre.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 At the beginning of the medieval period Chipping Ongar supported a small community. At the time of the Conquest it became the principal property of Count Eustace of Bolougne. Chipping Ongar's urban origins are late 11th or early 12th century in date and it is likely that the castle, market and defences were all laid out at the same time (EHER4099, TL554031) – the town probably being a deliberate plantation attached to the castle and church (Medlycott 1998). Its market is first mentioned in 1287.
- 2.5.2 Two trenches opened in 1981, one in the south of Banson's Yard lane and one to the east of St Martin's Church, and an excavation in Banson's Lane in 1998, found remains of the medieval enclosure ditch with assemblages dated to the 12th to mid-14th century (Eddy 1982, Ennis 1998).
- 2.5.2 Medieval tax returns show that Chipping Ongar was much more densely populated than other areas in the Ongar Hundred, and in 1377 there were 216 people per 1000 acres against an average of 38 (Medlycott 1998).
- 2.5.3 An excavation c.70m west of the site at Banson's yard revealed the survival of significant archaeological remains of the 12th to 14th centuries. At least three successive enclosure systems were recorded in which timber building remains, occupational layers, fencelines, pits, cultivated soils and an oven/hearth define a range of occupation, processing/production and agricultural activities (Chew 2014; Dawkes in prep). Significantly, these remains lay a short distance outside the known/projected extent of the medieval town enclosure and are the first indication of contemporary occupation activity beyond its confines.
- 2.5.4 Excavations across Chipping Ongar show the same pattern of settlement in the medieval period; a height of activity between the 12th and mid-14th centuries, with an abrupt abandonment from the late 14th to the 16th century.

2.6 Post-Medieval

- 2.6.1 The previous excavations at Banson's Yard and Banson's Lane suggest the western limits of Chipping Ongar being undeveloped or given to agricultural use in the post-medieval period (Chew 2014; Ennis 2011; Robertson 1999).

Closer to the high street a post-medieval phase of construction consisting of timber framed buildings is apparent (Clarke 1999).

2.6.2 The grade II listed Central House, adjacent to the site, was founded in 1811 as a school house by William Stokes, M.A. Ongar Academy, as it was known, was in use until 1940 over which time it received several additional buildings and extensions. After 1940 Central House continued in use as a retail premises, a function which it still serves today.

2.6.3 The Ordnance Survey of 1874 shows that two small buildings occupied the site, along the High Street frontage, while the rest of the site appears to have been open land. The 1896 map shows little change, although an additional outbuilding has been built – this building is still extant and in use as a cheese shop.

2.6.4 The 1920 OS map shows no change to the site. By 1970 the roadside buildings have been demolished.

2.7 Previous archaeological work on site

2.7.1 A single 9m-long evaluation trench, located between the outbuilding and eastern boundary, was excavated between 23rd and 25th January 2017 (ASE 2017a).

2.7.2 The evaluation revealed thirteen pits and postholes dated to 13th/14th century cutting into the natural deposit toward the High Street frontage. A tentative posthole alignment was noted and the remains provisionally interpreted as foundations of a timber-framed building.

2.7.3 The medieval features were sealed by a levelling deposit dating from the 16th century onwards, which was truncated by two large post-medieval pits and a posthole containing a large wood fragment, potentially of structural origin.

2.7.4 An absence of 15th and 16th century features was postulated to indicate a hiatus of activity between medieval occupation and later post-medieval re-development and expansion of the town. This pattern had already been noted by other excavations around Chipping Ongar.

3.0 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 A series of site specific research aims (RA) and regional research objectives (RO) were identified in the WSI (ASE 2015a) following the results of a phase of evaluation work at the site. Further questions were drawn from regional research agendas - *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) - to address wider research aims.

3.2 Site specific questions were as follows:

RA1: Can further excavation reveal the remains of medieval timber structures? If so, what are the layout, nature and chronology of these structures?

RA2: Can the nature of medieval land use along this part of the High Street frontage be discerned?

RA3: Can substantive artefact and/or environmental assemblages be recovered from the site to indicate the nature of activities being carried out in this part of the town?

RA4: Is the character of this part of the medieval town different to that within the town enclosure?

RA5: Can the continuing development of this part of the town into and through the post-medieval period be discerned and understood?

RA6: Do levelling layers mark a re-establishment of road frontage occupation, perhaps after a period of disuse? What is its date? Does this constitute a change of character / use?

3.3 With reference to Medlycott (2011) and Brown and Glazebrook (2000), the excavation aimed to address the following regional research objectives:

Medieval

RO1: The development of towns, changes in their internal layouts and housing densities, and their role as centres of supply and demand (Medlycott 2011, 70).

RO2: The High Street should be a priority for buildings research, including the identification of industrial and commercial buildings and structures (Medlycott 2011, 70).

Post-medieval

RO3: The development and diversity of rural industry (agricultural engineering, textiles, brick making) would benefit from further study (Medlycott 2011, 78).

RO4: The growth and impact of towns on landscape, including the development of 19th/20th-century housing, the economic and social influences of town (including effects on agricultural production in its hinterland) (Medlycott 2011, 79-80).

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Individual contexts, referred to thus [***], have been sub-grouped and grouped together during post-excavation analysis and features are generally referred to by their sub-group (SG**) or group label (G **). In this way, linear features, such as ditches which may have numerous individual slots and context numbers, are discussed as single entities, and other cut features, such as pits and postholes, are grouped together by structure, common date and/or type. Environmental samples are listed within triangular brackets <*>, and registered finds thus: RF<*>. References to sections within this report are referred to thus (3.7).

All recorded archaeological features, and selected layers, are shown on Figure 3. Additional context information is provided in Appendix 1 and group information in Appendix 2.

4.1 Summary of results

4.1.1 The earliest recorded remains comprised a single pit of Late Bronze Age date (Period 1). No remains of Iron Age, Roman or Saxon date were encountered, apart from a small quantity of residual Roman tile.

4.1.2 Two east/west medieval ditches are interpreted as defining parts of boundaries relating to a probable land plot along the High Street frontage, outside the town enclosure. Pits and postholes constituted the remains of activity of 13th to 14th century date (Period 2) within the plot. Recovered pottery and animal bone assemblages suggest the likely domestic nature of this activity. Residual 11th/12th century pottery hints at earlier medieval activity in this vicinity too. No medieval buildings could be discerned amongst the postholes. However, a truncated probable hearth or oven base, with associated burnt cereal remains, indicates that processing or production activities were carried out here – presumably the processing of crops.

4.1.3 After a period of apparent abandonment and disuse, the site was reoccupied from the 17th/18th century onwards (Period 3). Pits indicate initial land use was probably for domestic rubbish disposal.

4.1.4 In the 18th to early 19th century, the site was cleared and levelled in preparation for the construction of a school (Period 4). Parts of a range of brick-built outbuildings, possible yard surfacing, drains and a brick-lined structure tentatively identified as the location of a water pump, shown on historic OS mapping, were recorded. Part of the outbuilding survived until the current redevelopment of the site, being occupied by the cheese shop.

4.2 Natural Deposits

4.2.1 The excavation revealed a natural geology of head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel and the Lowestoft Formation (Diamicton), mottled greyish-green and orangey-brown in colour. Any subsoil and topsoil deposits previously present had been completely truncated by site development and replaced by an artificial levelling deposit consisting of gravelly silty clay up to 0.50m thick, sealed by a layer of modern rubble crush and concrete up to 0.30m thick.

- 4.2.2 The site had a naturally declining slope from the high street on the east (52.61mAOD) towards Cripsey Brook beyond the west (51.52mAOD) of the excavation.

4.3 Residual Earlier Prehistoric Material

- 4.3.1 Six residual worked flint pieces, comprising three flakes and three chips, were recovered from 18th/19th century pits [1030], [1037], [1072], medieval ditch [1135], and Bronze Age pit [1121]. The pieces were undiagnostic and cannot be dated. A scattering of slightly burned flint fragments were also retrieved from a number of excavated deposits.

4.4 Period 1: Middle Bronze Age (Fig. 4)

- 4.4.1 A single Middle Bronze Age pit [1121] (G7) was identified within the west of the excavation area. The pit survived as an oval cut, 0.80m by 0.70m and 0.50m deep. It contained a sequence of five fills, all composed of silty clay of varying mid to dark greyish brown tone. Rounded stones and charcoal were noted in all contexts, with the latter having a particular prevalence in third fill [1110]. Second fill [1119] appeared to represent slumping down the northern side of the pit, while top fill [1109] was probably a deliberate final infill / capping deposit. Thirty-five sherds of Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury pottery and a cylindrical fired clay weight were retrieved, predominantly from fill [1110]. Only two undiagnostic worked flints were found.

- 4.4.2 The three lowest fills, [1120], [1119] and [1110] were bulk soil sampled (samples <38>, <37>, <34>). Four wheat and barley caryopsis were recovered from uppermost fill [1110], while charcoal extracted from all three comprised oak, hazel/alder, field maple and buckthorn.

4.5 Period 2: Medieval (Figs. 5 and 6)

- 4.5.1 Two east/west aligned ditches presumably relate to the division of the landscape outside the medieval town into plots or fields. The northernmost ditch is posited to define a plot boundary. To its south, presumably within the plot, a number of postholes, pits and layers containing a small number of pottery sherds of 11th-14th century date were recorded. The 11th-12th century pottery is considered to be residual, but hints at earlier activity in this vicinity. The discrete features were all confined to the southeast quarter of site, cut into the natural deposit and underlying a 19th-century levelling layer. The stratigraphic sequence and dating evidence suggest two possible phases of contiguous activity; the first largely comprising rubbish pits within an enclosed plot extending away from the roadside (Phase 2.1), and the second comprising probable remains of a hearth or oven base and its associated working surface (Phase 2.2). A lack of 15th and 16th century dating material signifies a phase of abandonment from the end of the 14th century, possibly as a result of the Black Death of 1348.

Phase 2.1: 13th-14th Century

- 4.5.2 Group 9 was a potential plot boundary consisting of a V-shaped ditch (segments [1138], [1153] and [1158]) up to 1.18m wide and 0.70m deep, running ENE/WSW across the north of site. The rounded terminus [1158],

1.50m from the northeast corner of site, was truncated by 18th-20th century pit [1198]. Further west along its exposed length, the ditch was truncated by 19th century outbuilding [1002] and not traced beyond it. A V-shaped ditch, up to 0.84m deep, recorded in the Banson's Yard excavation is postulated to be the likely continuation of the same boundary (Fig. 7; Chew 2014, ditch [43] G30), where it was dated as 13th/14th century. The ditch generally had a single greyish-brown silty clay fill [1137/1152/1195] with frequent round stones; a lower fill [1141] was recorded in segment [1138] but may have been variation within the same overall fill. Finds across the feature were sparse; small quantities of both 12th-14th and 18th century material (pottery and CBM) was recovered, leaving dating ambiguous. Given its parallel alignment with ditch G19, and the date of its possible continuation at Banson's Yard, G9 is judged to be of medieval origin, perhaps at least partially surviving into earlier post-medieval Period 3.

- 4.5.3 Along the southern boundary of site and terminating 3.70m from eastern limit was a ditch serving an unknown function. G19 was a 0.7m+ wide, but shallow (max 0.15m) ENE/WSW aligned ditch [1135 / 1190 / 1223] with a possible gully [1192] (G29) along the base. The ditch had a slightly tapering rounded terminal [1223] at its eastern end and was recorded for a distance of c.5.7m. Its westward continuation beyond segment [1135] was removed/obscured by various post-medieval walls and modern intrusions. At the base of ditch segment [1190] was small gully [1192], 0.03m deep and 0.10m wide; it is assumed to be functional and integral with G19, though its course was not identified in other excavated segments of the ditch. The ditch and gully contained single identical fills of mid-greenish grey silty clay with frequent rounded stones. Forty-two sherds of 13th-14th century coarse and fine ware sherds were recovered from the ditch. Being parallel with ditch G9, this ditch is tentatively interpreted as defining a sub-division within this wider roadside plot. It presumably passed out of use when it became infilled and was truncated/overlain by possible oven G20 of the following Phase 2.2.
- 4.5.4 A small number of unorganised pits (G15), postholes and a stakehole (G16) surround ditch and gully G19 within the southeast quarter of site and make up the first phase of medieval occupation observed on the site.
- 4.5.5 Group 15 encompasses a scattering of seven pits taking two different forms. Pits [1076], [1209], [1225], and [1/016] were moderate in size, up to 0.66m wide and 0.24m deep, with the former two containing sherds of Mill Green fine ware and coarse-ware pottery dated to the mid-13th to 14th centuries. Pit [1209] was seemingly cut by ditch [1225], though dating evidence suggests a broadly contemporary date.
- 4.5.6 Pits [1167], [1170] and [1200] were larger, between 0.83m-1.02m wide and up to 0.29m deep. All were sub-square to rounded. Only the latter included datable material; shell- and sand-tempered ware pottery sherds which date as early as 11th century. Pits [1167] and [1170] were truncated by medieval postholes [1169] and [1175] respectively; this together with the pottery evidence could suggest these pits are some of the earliest components of phase 2.1.
- 4.5.7 Group 16 postholes [1131], [1172], [1175], [1187], [1205], [1/004] and stakehole [1194] were equally as scattered as the G15 pits, with no discernible

patterning to indicate that they formed structures. The postholes were up to 0.42m wide and typically up to 0.23m deep, with [1205] reaching a depth of 0.35m. The stakehole had a diameter of 0.07m and its depth fell comfortably within the postholes' range. Each contained a single fill of mid to dark greenish or brownish grey silty clay with rounded stone inclusions. With the exceptions of [1187] and [1194], pottery was present in each feature and consistently of 11th-13th century date. Posthole [1172] additionally contained post-medieval material, but this is regarded as intrusive due to the absence/thinness of the overlying levelling deposit in this part of the site.

- 4.5.8 Posthole [1187] and stakehole [1194] cut along the north edge of ditch [1190] appeared to share a contemporary fill between the three, or were so similar no truncation was observable. As such, they have been assumed to be 13th-14th century.

Phase 2.2: 13th-14th Century

- 4.5.9 A second, subsequent, phase of medieval activity is identified primarily through a small number of stratigraphic relationships, with further suggestive evidence provided by a small pottery assemblage. Two layers, two postholes and a possible hearth/oven base are interpreted as evidence of wheat and barley drying activity close to the High Street, presumably within the same Phase 2.1 plot.
- 4.5.10 Group 20 is was single, shallow (0.09m deep) rectangular pit/oven base [1211/1212] truncating ditch [1190/1223] and extending beyond the southern boundary of site. The single mottled pinkish-red and greenish-grey silty clay fill suggests low intensity heating of an oven base or similar feature. Comparable structures and deposits were recorded at Banson's yard (Chew 2014) approximately 60m to the west. Charred plant remains of free-threshing wheat and barley occurred in low numbers within oven base fill [1188]<48>, as well as the ditch G19 <40><49> and pit [1076]<20>, again, similar to those found at Banson's Yard. Their presence further supports the suggestion that the G20 remains constitute an oven, potentially a cereal dryer or bread oven.
- 4.5.11 Group 30 comprises two thin and patchy silty clay layers: mid-brownish yellow deposit [1218] and dark grey/black deposit [1219/1206] containing frequent small charcoal fragments. The layers were contemporary and represent either the remnants of floor preparation area ([1218]) around the oven with 'rake out' ([1219/1206] deposits, or else the spread of oven lining/waste on its demolition. Layer [1218] was observed to partially surround the northern and eastern edge of the G20 oven to a thickness of 0.08m. The layers appear to be contemporary and intermittently cover an area approximately 6.00m east/west and 1.00m north/south (and beyond the excavation limit), overlying medieval G19 ditch [1190/1223], G15 pits [1200], [1209], [1225], G16 posthole [1205], and potentially G17 posthole [1217].
- 4.5.12 Group 17 is comprised of two substantial and distinctive postholes [1165] and [1217], up to 0.47m deep and in excess of 0.32m wide. The primary fills of each consisted of a mid-greenish grey silty clay with charcoal inclusions, similar to the majority of medieval dated discrete features but with noticeably few stone inclusions, and may form 13th-14th century post-packing. The upper fills were more distinct, consisting of a mix of red, yellow and blackish

clays, similar to the G30 layers, and devoid of dating material. Posthole [1165] lay beyond the recorded extents of the G30 layers and the relationship between the layers and posthole [1217] was unclear. A post-pipe in the primary fill/post-packing of [1165] appeared to be filled with the same mixed clay as the upper fill, suggesting the posts were removed at the time the oven was destroyed.

- 4.5.13 The destruction of the postulated G20 oven likely takes place around the late 14th century and may mark the end of Medieval activity onsite. A lack of dated features and deposits in the following centuries probably indicates a hiatus of activity onsite that lasts until the 17th century.

4.6 Period 3: Earlier Post-medieval (Fig. 8)

- 4.6.1 Pits containing assemblages of 17th-19th century ceramics, glass and CBM constitute the earliest evidence of post-medieval land use. Medieval boundary ditch G9 may have survived into this earlier post-medieval period, but was clearly rendered defunct when crossed by a ditch defining a north/south land division. Additionally, a large number of pits and postholes are un-phased, but at least some were very likely of Period 3 date (rather than being Period 2). All of these features were sealed by 19th century levelling deposit G10 / G27 / G28.

Late pre-levelling features

- 4.6.2 The G9 ditch contained 18th century pottery and CBM in its fill as well as medieval material. While it passed out of use in the medieval period where found at Banson's Lane, it appears to have perhaps survived for longer nearer the High Street.
- 4.6.3 NNW/SSE oriented ditch G8, running parallel to the High Street, clearly truncated the fill of G9. It continued beyond the north limit of excavation and was traced for 5.52m before the southward extent became unclear. It is possible that later pits [1025] and [1028] and obscured a terminal. A shallow filled depression [1/034] in the surface of the natural deposit noted in the evaluation trench matches the G8 alignment. Re-excavation of the evaluation trench revealed a profile matching G8 in the north-facing section, but this truncated levelling layer G10 which overlies G8.
- 4.6.4 The ditch contained a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay with rounded stone and charcoal inclusions. Dating evidence was again a mixture of 13th-15th and 17th-18th century, but its truncation of probable medieval ditch G9 and 17th/18th century pit [1129] provides clearer indication of its post-medieval date.
- 4.6.5 Sealed beneath the G10 levelling deposit, three pits and two postholes G14 are positively dated to 17th/18th century. Pits [1074], [1112], and [1129] were sub-circular and shallow (0.11-0.17m deep) containing varying hues of greyish silty clay with charcoal and stone inclusions. All three contained pottery dated between 16th to 19th centuries, with the former two pits containing CBM fragments apparently from the latter part of the date range. The pits appeared to be for general domestic refuse disposal and continue in a sporadic cluster to the west as G23.

- 4.6.6 Posthole [1169], 0.25m wide and 0.12m deep, was located toward the southeast corner of site. It was the only G14 feature to lack finds, but clearly truncated G30 layer [1218 / 1219] that constitutes the final phase of medieval activity. Posthole [1100] was recorded 6.6m west of [1169] and was more substantial, at 0.48m wide by 0.10m deep. A soft mid-brown post-pipe fill [1098], likely to be the remnants of degraded wood, was observed within the mid brownish grey silty clay post-packing [1099]. The feature contained a single piece of probably 18th-century CBM.
- 4.6.7 West of a modern service run, and mostly located beneath the remains of later building G1, G23 pits [1060, 1068, 1072, 1078, 1082, 1085, 1091, 1093, 1103, 1108 and 1115] represent the westward continuation of the post-medieval pit scatter underlying levelling deposits G27 and G28. They are judged to be contemporary with the G14 pits previously described. These G23 pits varied substantially in size, between 0.35-1.35m wide and 0.15m-0.37m deep, though were all sub-circular or sub-oval in form with moderate to steep sides and rounded bases.
- 4.6.8 The single fills of the G23 pits were all variations of a similar mid-grey silty clay with stone and charcoal inclusions. A mix of 18th-century pottery and CBM were recovered from pits [1060], [1068], [1072], [1082], [1085], [1091] and [1093], with [1078], [1103] and [1115] containing only CBM. Additionally, pig and goat bone fragments were recovered from [1060], [1072], [1082] and [1085], as well as a cufflink and glass fragments from the latter. Twenty sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered from soil sample <16> from pit [1072] and are judged to be residual.
- 4.6.9 Distinct amongst the these pits, [1108] contained a rectangular deposit of fragmented, un-bonded and frogged bricks [1107] which looks to have been deliberately placed. It was unclear if the bricks were broken post-deposition or were inserted in a fragmented state. The neat nature of the deposit signifies more than general discard and a post-pad or protruding wall foundation seem the most likely explanations. No construction cut for the brick arrangement was identified in surrounding pit fill [1106], indicating that it was either construction backfill, or backfill after disuse. An unidentified fruit stone was the only find recovered from the fill.
- 4.6.10 Environmental samples <14> and <16> collected from pits [1068] and [1072] provided only a small amount of unidentified charcoal fragments. The complete absence of plant remains seems suspicious in regard to the domestic nature of the refuse pits and likely demonstrates poor preservation conditions rather than a true absence of botanical material within the pits.
- 4.6.11 The remains of a possible cess pit or manhole, G6, of 18th-century date were present in the northwest corner of site, and were the only substantial structural remains surviving under the G27 and G28 levelling deposits. Due to the close proximity of the asbestos dump in/under the foundations of building G1, only part of the structure was investigated. A single row of hard, pinkish-red brick [1048] with yellowish mortar bonding was contained within construction cut [1049], forming parts of the south and west retaining walls of the structure, in excess of 1.0 by 1.2m. The base, only partially exposed, was formed of the same bricks and appeared to curve down at a moderate angle. The brick-lined

structure was infilled with a lower soft deposit of dark grey/green/brown silty clay with frequent small stones and CBM fragments [1051] from which a large assemblage of pottery, CBM, and glass, three copper coins and a button, a bone domino, and a bone cased knife were retrieved; all of 18th-19th century date. Upper fill [1047] had a similar soil composition with the addition of frequent mortar fragments, but was devoid of finds. The feature was sealed by levelling deposit G28.

4.7 Undated pre-levelling features (Figs 5 and 6)

- 4.7.1 A large number of pits and postholes encountered under the G10, G27 and G28 levelling deposits lacked any datable material or diagnostic stratigraphic/spatial relationships. It is suspected the majority probably relate to 18th-century activity (Period 3), though some are as likely to belong to the preceding medieval phases. In the absence of apparent structural alignments and other distinctive morphological or spatial patterning, these features can only be reliably regarded as being of Period 3 or earlier date. Groups G24, G25, G18 and G22 cover the various features that this applies to.
- 4.7.2 G24 undated postholes [1095], [1097], [1133], [1140], [1145], [1149], [1155], [1177], [1229], [1/008], [1/010], [1/014], [1/027], [1/029], [1/031], and stakehole [1/024] all underlie layer G10. The postholes were moderately sized, typically between 0.21m and 0.35m in diameter, except [1/014] measuring 0.52m wide, and 0.06m to 0.34m in depth. Stakehole [1/024] was slightly smaller; 0.15m in width and 0.19m deep. Each feature contained a single mid-greenish or mid-greyish silty clay fill with moderate to frequent stone inclusions, with pits [1145], [1149], [1/008], [1/014], and [1/024] containing occasional small charcoal fragments. [NB. 1133 and 1149 were originally recorded to contain pottery, but have either since been lost in post-ex or recorded under erroneous context numbers].
- 4.7.3 Group 25 comprises undated pits [1227], [1/006], [1/012], [1/018] and [1/022], also under layer G10. Excluding [1227], the pits were slightly ovoid (up to 0.58m in diameter) and between 0.09m-0.28m deep, and each filled with a mid to dark grey/brown silty clay fill containing pebble/stone and charcoal inclusions. Largest G25 pit [1227] appeared sub-rounded in plan (1.35m by 1.10m) and 0.18m deep, truncating underlying undated posthole [1229]. The interface between lower [1226] and upper [1231] fills was diffuse, displaying only slight variations in of mid to dark greyish brown silty clay suggestive of contemporary backfilling.
- 4.7.4 G18 feature [1125], also below the G10 deposit, was either a wide short gully or an elongated pit, on a NNW/SSE alignment, measuring 2.22m long by 0.85m wide and 0.16m deep. Its single fill was indistinct against the natural deposit; a mid-brownish grey silty clay with occasional stones [1024]. It is unclear whether it was associated with ditch G8 to its west.
- 4.7.6 In the west of the excavated area, below levelling layer G27 and the later G1 structure, were undated pits [1058], [1087], [1117], [1123] and apparent postholes [1062], [1064], [1066], [1080], [1089], [1105] (G22).
- 4.7.7 The G22 pits were sub-oval, up to 0.71m long and 0.49m wide, and no deeper than 0.22m. Pit [1123] extended beyond the southern limit of excavation

making its full shape and size uncertain. The fill of pit [1087] was a very gravelly orangey-brown silty clay, whilst the rest contained a common grey/brown silty clay with stones. Small quantities of charcoal were noted in all fills. Despite the lack of dating material, the proximity of these pits to 18th-century pit cluster G23 hint that they may have been of contemporary date.

- 4.7.8 The G22 postholes, again demonstrating no obvious alignments, were mostly sub-circular; typically between 0.08m-0.23m in diameter and 0.09-0.19m deep with grey/brown silty clay single fills. Posthole [1080] in contrast was 0.45m across and 0.32m deep, containing a fill of greenish-grey silty clay more prominent in medieval features. It was truncated by post-medieval pit [1078] adding further weight to its speculated earlier date. Postholes [1064] and [1066] were both truncated by alternate sides of G23 post-medieval pit [1060] but this not help further refine its dating. Posthole [1105] shared a ?single fill with G23 pit [1108] and may in fact have been part of the same feature.

4.8 Period 4: Late Post-medieval to modern (Fig. 9)

- 4.8.1 A levelling deposit covering much of the excavation area marks a significant renewal of activity along this stretch of the High Street from the late 18th or early 19th century onwards. The founding of Central House in 1811 begins a stage of urbanised land use that continued through the 19th century and established the character of the site as it exists today.

Phase 4.1: Levelling episode

- 4.8.2 A relatively substantial and distinctive levelling deposit extended across the excavated area and beyond. Its eastern edge was recorded around 3.00m from the eastern limit excavation, parallel to the High Street, increasing to a maximum thickness 0.70m towards the west as the top of the natural deposits declined, countering their slope. It was removed by the foundations of G1 structure [1002], effectively splitting the layer into two: G10 to the east ([1010 / 1136 / 1/032 / 1/033]) and G27 to the west ([1055]). The layer consisted of a firm mid-greenish grey/brown silty clay with frequent stone and gravel inclusions; the stone and gravel was more prevalent towards the lower portion of the deposit forming a thin (0.12m) intermittent layer [1036] (G28). G27 was further truncated along the western edge of site by a modern north/south aligned service trench and water pipe.
- 4.8.3 A group of features (G21) initially identified as postholes [1143], [1147], [1149], [1181], and [1183] were shallow, up to 0.14m deep, with diffuse edges. Each contained a fill of mid-greenish grey silty clay very similar to layer [1010]. Further scrutiny has led to the features being reinterpreted as natural hollows which were subsequently filled by layer [1010].
- 4.8.4 A range of post-medieval slipwares, stonewares and earthenwares from 18th century drinking vessels dominated the large pottery assemblage recovered from the G10/G27/G28 layer. Thirty-one residual medieval pottery sherds were also recovered. CBM was equally abundant and consisted of poorly preserved brick fragments and a particularly large quantity of post-medieval roof tile. Charcoal, a goat mandible and large mammal ribs, oyster shell, and 18th-19th century window glass and wine bottle fragments were also

collected. This appears to be a typical post-medieval domestic assemblage to be expected of a town site. It is likely that the majority of the artefacts from this layer were in fact residual, deriving from the upper portions of underlying ditches, pits and postholes truncated when the site was prepared in readiness to receive the levelling deposit itself.

- 4.8.5 The 19th century levelling deposit likely coincides with the construction and/or use of Central House as a school from 1811 onwards. The 1874 OS map is the first documented evidence for G1 building [1002] which truncates the deposit, providing a reliable *terminus ante quem* for its deposition.

Phase 4.2: 19th-century development

- 4.8.6 Following its Phase 4.1 clearance and levelling, the site is re-occupied. A brick-built building is constructed, together with a possible brick-lined cess pit and various drains located between it and the High Street. A low level of pitting also occurs in this same vicinity.

Brick outbuilding

- 4.8.7 G1 brick foundations [1002], in construction cut [1005], were those of the former outbuilding, latterly used as retail premises (a cheese shop), demolished in advance of the current redevelopment of the Central House site. The lowest three courses of brick and an underlying grey mortar and rubble foundation survived, truncating the G10 / G27 levelling layer and penetrating into the natural deposits at a depth of 52.25mAOD. The recorded foundations define a building range longer than that manifest by the cheese shop, rooms to its either end evidently having been demolished previously. Within the 10+m long by 4.6m wide extents of the building as exposed within the excavation area, three rooms are defined.
- 4.8.8 Multiple brick samples were taken from the structure for which specialist analysis has provided date ranges consistent with the later 19th century. The central [1001] and southern [1003] internal rooms of the G1 building were backfilled with a grey silty clay containing a mix of pottery and glass from the late 19th to early 20th century. These deposits were presumably under the wooden floor of the building and presumably related to their construction and/or earlier use. A linear deposit of 18th-19th century brick placed on their sides was also recorded in the central area, on top of backfill [1011]. It is likely that these constitute a late *ad hoc* insertion of reused bricks – perhaps serving to support the wooden floor above.
- 4.8.9 The foundations of the north room of the G1 building were found to contain backfilled demolition material and a large amount of broken asbestos sheets (not contexted). This deposit was left undisturbed and carefully re-covered, awaiting specialist removal.
- 4.8.10 As previously mentioned, the G1 outbuilding is shown on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map. However, the 1896 and 1920 OS maps are much clearer and indeed shows a more elongated structure extending across the back (west end) of the property, the earlier map with a 'P' denoting the presence of a water pump somewhere in the yard in front.

Other late remains

- 4.8.11 The remnants of brick-lined structure G11 was cut into the G10 levelling deposit. The probably square feature measured 1.6m east/west by over 1.00m north/south. It's east side survived as a single row of *in situ* bricks [1009], with the north and west sides defined by crushed mortar deposits [1045] and [1046] that formed a thin (maximum 0.05m) foundation layer. Its interior lacked any lining. Within the structure, only a very shallow 0.08m-thick remnant of the fill remained; [1043 / 1044] consisted of a dark greyish-greenish brown silty clay with frequent small stones, from which 18th-19th century pottery and CBM, animal bone and an unidentified iron object were recovered. It is notable that the G11 structure had the same alignment as building G1 and was possibly centrally positioned along it, c.3m offset to its east. It is speculated that these remains constitute the water pump marked on the earlier OS mapping.
- 4.8.12 Thin G3 deposit [1004] of occupational debris comprising glass, brick, tile, stone slabs, domestic refuse, and silty clay and gravel built-up on the surface of G10 is interpreted as a yard surface or at least an occupation layer in the open space in front of the G1 building and perhaps around G11. The partial coverage of some 19th century features and truncation by others indicates G3 was a successively accumulated layer, also attested to by the 19th- to 20th-century date range of the artefact material accumulated in it.
- 4.8.13 Two small drains (G2) were identified in the yard area in front of outbuilding [1002], protruding from layer G3. Drain [1008] was the better preserved of the two and was constructed of a single layer of abutting roof tiles with a course of 19th century brick either side, and cutting layer [1010] to an approximate depth of 0.10m. A black silty fill remained within the drain. Running on a NNE/SSW alignment Drain [1007] had probably been of the same construction but only its roof tile base survived. Where recorded, it ran roughly parallel with building G1, c.1.6m from its east wall. As such, the two were probably contemporary. It is possible that one or other of the drains was associated with structure G11, the conjectured site of a water pump.
- 4.8.14 Truncating the G11 remains were small G12 pits [1034 / 1/020], [1040] and [1054]. Pit [1034], was steep sided and deep (0.49m wide, 0.39m deep), containing a 0.13m thick basal fill [1033] of mid-greyish green clay and upper 0.27m thick upper fill [1035] of mottled dark green and grey/brown silty clay. Two oak fragments (0.47m long) and 18th-19th century CBM were recovered from the upper fill. Pit [1054] was shallower (0.24m) but contained an identical fill sequence, from which two 17th or early 18th century pottery sherds were collected. Pit [1040] was 0.65m wide and 0.18m deep, filled with a single mid-greenish brown silty clay containing animal bone, shell, slag, nine sherds of mostly 17th -18th century pottery, and CBM of the same date.
- 4.8.15 The remaining G12 pits [1028 /1/035, 1032, 1037, were clustered nearby and cut layer G10. Pit [1028], 0.60m wide, was the only other pit in the cluster exhibiting two fills; the lower [1027] being a mid-greenish brown clay (0.08m deep), and the upper fill [1026] a distinctive brownish-tan colour containing pottery, CBM, glass and a clay tobacco pipe stem all of broad 17th-19th century date. Pit [1037] was similar in proportion, with a single fill containing a range of finds comparable to [1028]. Solitary posthole [1032] was 0.41m

deep. Possibly 18th-century brick fragments were recovered alongside early 19th century pottery and 19th-20th century glass fragments; some of this later material may have been intrusions from occupation surface/layer G3. The posthole was truncated by G31 pit [1023].

- 4.8.16 Three concentrated patches of CBM and stone between 0.40m-0.75m wide were initially identified as potential pits [1023], [1030], [1042] (G31), but upon excavation were revealed to be very shallow (maximum 0.07m). It is more likely that these were merely depressions or subsidence hollows filled by occupational build-up G3. CBM and pottery recovered from all three fills, along with glass from [1042], were all 18th to 19th century, except for the small quantity of residual later medieval pottery from [1030]. Slightly earlier clay pipe stems were recovered from [1023] and [1030], and a nail from [1042] was broadly post-medieval. Cattle and ovicaprid bone common to all three fills was likely the result of consumption and discard. The relatively large and diverse assemblage of finds from three very shallow features is again indicative of occupation build-up.
- 4.8.17 Group 4 features [1014, 1016, 1019, 1025 = 1/037, 1198, 1/039] were visible through the G3 layer and may have been slightly later additions to Period 4. Postholes [1014] and [1019], up to 0.55m wide and 0.23m deep, both contained post-pipes 0.12-0.15m wide and distinctive firm yellow clay post-packing that contained 18th-19th century CBM and a slightly earlier glass fragment. Pit [1016] was identified by a dense cluster of brick fragments on the surface but had highly diffuse edges underneath, and may have been an intrusive deposit or just a remnant of the modern rubble crush layer.
- 4.8.18 Pit [1025] was the basal portion of pit [1/037] identified in the evaluation phase. The upper portions of the pit were truncated by machine stripping leaving only a 0.53m wide remnant, truncating pit [1028] to a depth of 0.10m. Pit [1/039], not relocated during the excavation, is believed to be contemporary based on size and fill type. Both pits contained a single dark grey silty clay fill, with stone, undated CBM fragments and residual glass shards.
- 4.8.19 G13 pit [1197] was located toward the High Street frontage. Its sub-circular cut was only 0.08m deep, with gently sloping sides down to a rounded base. Its single fill [1196] was a dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions. Six sherds of 17th-19th century pottery were recovered from it.

4.9 Modern

- 4.9.1 Disused drain [1070] was 0.20m wide and at least 0.45m deep, truncating pit [1072]. It contained a single fill of mid-greenish grey silty clay. No plastic or ceramic pipe was present but the regular shape and sides indicated it was mechanically bored, and presumably served outbuilding [1002] as a soak-away.
- 4.9.2 A shallow (0.13m) service trench [1202] containing a duct for small electricity cables (disused) was recorded crossing the southwest corner of the site along an ENE/WSW trajectory, truncating pit [1200] and posthole [1205]. The trench

was backfilled with a brownish orange and greyish brown sandy silt-clay with concrete and bitumen fragments.

- 4.9.3 Thin deposit [1203] was a remnant of machined stripped made ground underlying modern concrete [1000/1/001], and was recorded overlying posthole [1205] and layer [1219/1206]. It consisted of a mid-brownish orange sandy silt-clay 0.03m thick and appeared to be the same material used to backfill service trench [1203].
- 4.9.4 Shallow pit [1021] primarily consisted of a deposit of bitumen, with noted CBM, 19th–20th porcelain, glass and metal fragments. The deposit was no more than 0.05m at its thickest, cutting occupational layer [1004].
- 4.9.5 The entire site was covered by a layer of rubble crush and modern concrete [1000/1/001], forming a car park in front of the cheese shop and an access road leading to the rear. The access road running along the north of site was thicker, around 0.30-0.35m, accounting for truncation of occupational layer [1004] and some intrusive CBM. The remainder of the layer was typically 0.20-0.25m thick.

5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation and excavation on land adjacent to Central House, High Street, Chipping Ongar. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. Hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Appendix 3, registered finds are detailed in Table 8 and a small amount of material recovered from the residues of environmental samples is quantified separately in Appendix 4. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

5.2 The Flintwork Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 No flints were recovered during the evaluation, and the excavation produced just six pieces of worked flint weighing 28g and a small quantity of unworked burnt flint weighing (1129g).

5.2.2 The pieces of worked flint came from contexts [1029] <05>, [1036] <10>, [1071] <16>, [1110], [1120] and [1134] <40>. They consists of three flakes and three chips made from a mid-grey and light brown flint. All are broken and likely to be redeposited in later contexts. They are technologically poor and can't be precisely dated.

5.2.3 The burnt flint fragments came from 12 numbered contexts (Appendix 3); they were both hand-collected and extracted from 12 environmental samples. The majority of fragments were only slightly burnt to a reddish tinge.

5.3 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery, totalling 35 sherds, weighing 311g, was recovered from pit [1121]. Almost all of the pottery came from the upper fill of the pit, [1110], with one sherd hand-collected from mid fill [1119] and a few tiny fragments recovered from the residue of the environmental sample, taken from primary fill [1120]. The following fabric types were defined in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010):

FLIN1 Moderate, very ill-sorted flint of 0.5-7mm in a dense, low-fired quartz-free matrix

FLIN2 Very common, moderately-sorted flint of 0.5-2.5mm in a quartz-free matrix

FLGR1 Moderate ill-sorted flint of 0.5-3mm and sparse grog of 1-2mm

5.3.2 As shown in Table 1, the majority of the sherds are in a very coarse flint-tempered ware, FLIN1, with extremely ill-sorted inclusions of up to 7mm in size. A few sherds were also associated with a finer but more abundantly tempered fabric, FLIN2. Many of the sherds are relatively thin-walled considering the coarseness of the tempering. Based on this, together with the ill-sorting of the flint inclusions and very low-fired nature of the fabric, it was initially suggested that these could be Early Neolithic sherds. Since this material was directly associated with a near-complete diagnostic Middle/Late

Bronze Age loomweight, however, it seems likely that the pottery actually belongs to the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury (DR) or early part of the Late Bronze Age post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) tradition, both of which are also known for their coarse flint-tempering. One of the sherds in fabric FLIN1 is a tiny rim from fairly thick-walled vessel of plain profile with scored fingernail decoration along the rim top. Again, this trait was ambiguous. Early Neolithic Decorated Bowl pottery could involve plain profile forms with scored decoration but again, considering the association with a well dated 2nd millennium loomweight, it appears more likely that this rim is from a Deverel-Rimbury urn.

Fabric	Sherds	Weight (g)	Estimated Number of Vessels
FLGR1	8	38	4
FLIN1	24	261	11
FLIN2	3	12	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>311</i>	<i>17</i>

Table 1: Quantification of pottery fabrics from pit [1121]

5.3.3 Also present in the feature were a few sherds in a flint-and-grog-tempered ware (FLGR1). As with the coarse flint-tempered fabrics there was some ambiguity as to their date. They were associated with quite thin-walled vessel profiles, making a DR attribution seem unlikely. In general, vessels tend to become thinner walled from the Late Bronze Age onward and flint-and-grog-tempered fabrics are known in some late 2nd millennium assemblages from south Essex although they are less of feature in central Essex. Such fabrics were absent from both Lofts Farm and Windmill Field, Broomfield for example (Brown 1988, 1995). It may be therefore be the case that these are residual Beaker sherds though they are all undecorated so they cannot be positively identified as such.

5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery by Helen Walker

5.4.1 A total of 455 sherds of pottery weighing 7056g was excavated from forty-nine contexts and has been catalogued according to Cunningham’s typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16; expanded by Drury *et al.* 1993 and Cotter 2000). Some of Cunningham’s rim codes is quoted in this report. The pottery data have been entered onto an Excel spreadsheet and the pottery is tabulated by ware in Table 2.

Pottery by ware	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)
Shell-tempered ware	27	88
Shell-and-sand-tempered ware	14	81
Shell-and-grog-tempered ware	1	26
Early medieval ware	3	23
Medieval coarseware	14	131
Medieval Harlow ware	66	437
Sandy orange ware	18	336
Mill Green fineware	20	65
Mill Green coarseware	19	245
Mill Green-type ware	18	264
Tudor red earthenware	7	73
Post-medieval red earthenware	49	1246
Black-glazed ware	12	117

Pottery by ware	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)
Metropolitan slipware	3	41
English tin-glazed earthenware	12	79
Staffordshire-type slipware	1	366
Staffordshire-type dipped white stoneware	2	11
Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware	5	18
Westerwald stoneware	10	154
English stoneware	8	82
Nottingham/Derbyshire stoneware	4	26
Chinese porcelain	2	6
Creamware	55	1552
Pearlware	8	38
Lustre ware	1	13
Modern white earthenware	65	585
Normandy stoneware	1	11
Modern stoneware	9	857
Modern field drain	1	85
<i>Totals</i>	<i>455</i>	<i>7056</i>

Table 2: Post-Roman pottery quantification, by ware, in approximate chronological order

Medieval pottery

- 5.4.2 Medieval pottery was excavated from a number of features at the southern side of the site, from west to east these are: ditches [1135] and [1190], pits [1209] and [1217], post-hole [1205] and pit [1200], with the addition of post-hole [1175] just to the north of [1200]. Otherwise medieval features form no particular pattern or cluster and the remaining medieval features comprise pit [1016], surface dump [1047], pit [1076], post-holes [1131], [1179], [1183], pit [1198] and deposit [1206]. In addition, medieval pottery associated with small amounts of much later pottery was recovered from pit [1072], located in the west of the site underneath the cheese shop foundations. However, all the pottery from pit [1072] was recovered from soil sampling and is probably residual.
- 5.4.3 Small amounts of pottery dating to the early medieval period, the 11th to early 13th centuries, were recovered from the features that were closest to the High Street. Here, post-hole [1175] produced sherds shell-tempered ware, and adjacent pit [1200] produced an externally bevelled rim sherd in shell-and-sand-tempered ware, which could be as early as 11th century. Just to the west, post-hole [1205] produced further sherds of shell-tempered ware and a B2 rim in shell-and-sand-tempered ware. This is a more developed type datable to c.1200. However, a sherd of sandy orange ware from this feature provides a date of not before the mid-13th century. To the north of this cluster, post-hole [1179] contained a sherd of shell-tempered ware and sherds of medieval coarseware. Medieval coarseware was produced from the later 12th to 14th centuries, but the fact that this sherd contains flint as well as quartz-sand indicates that it belongs to the early end of this date range and is probably late 12th to earlier 13th century in date. Another sherd of medieval coarseware with flint was the sole find in adjacent post-hole [1183]. Away from the High Street, pit [1072] at the far western end of the site produced a B2 flared bowl rim in shell-and-sand-tempered ware, datable to c.1200, although this is probably residual. Other 11th to early 13th century pottery comprises a single sherd of shell-and-grog-tempered ware and a few examples of early

medieval ware but these occurred residually in later features. Early medieval ware finds include a fragment decorated with horizontal wavy-line combing, datable to the 12th to early 13th century, residual in 18th century ditch [1138].

- 5.4.4 All other medieval features produced a combination of Mill Green fine and coarseware, medieval Harlow ware, sandy orange ware and medieval coarseware dating from the mid-13th to 14th centuries, along with examples of residual shelly wares and early medieval ware. Most medieval features contained very little pottery, usually less than ten sherds, the only features that contained significantly more were adjacent ditches [1135] and [1190] which produced forty-two sherds weighing 311g, and forty-four sherds weighing 348g, respectively. No diagnostic medieval coarseware or sandy orange ware sherds were found and at least some of the sandy orange ware is likely to be atypical medieval Harlow ware. Featured material comprises mainly slip-coated or slip-painted and glazed jug fragments in Mill Green fineware and medieval Harlow ware, from ditches [1135] and [1190], with the addition of a sherd of Mill Green fineware from pit [1209] showing white and red slip-painting which might be an example of Rouen-style decoration. Coarseware vessel forms comprise an everted jar rim in medieval Harlow ware showing fire-blackening around the rim and neck, and sagging base sherds in Mill Green coarseware showing an internal splash glaze, which are probably from cooking-pots or, less likely, bowls. Found residually in 18th century ditch [1138] is a flat base sherd in medieval Harlow ware showing a slip-painted lattice design on the inside of the base. It is fire-blackened throughout and is probably from a dripping dish.
- 5.4.5 Very little definite late medieval pottery, dating from the later 14th to 16th centuries is present. The latest find in otherwise medieval pit [1198] is the remains of a possible jar rim in Tudor red earthenware dating principally to the later 15th to 16th centuries. Tudor red earthenware is also the only find in pit [1074] and two further sherds of this ware occur unstratified. Pit [1068] may also be of a similar date as it produced two unglazed sherds of post-medieval red earthenware, which could be as early as 16th century, although a later date cannot be precluded. In addition to this, Mill Green-type ware, sandy orange ware and medieval Harlow ware continue into the 15th to 16th centuries, and there are one or two examples of these wares residual in 18th century contexts that may be of a late medieval date.

18th century features and other post-medieval pottery

- 5.4.6 There is a cluster of features at the middle of the site that produced 18th century pottery, comprising pits [1030], [1037], [1040], [1042] and segments [1127] and [1151] of ditch G8. Pottery dating to the 18th century was also found in levelling/occupation layer [1010], pit [1091], and ditch [1138] (though the latter only produced a single fragment of 18th century pottery). In addition to these features, there are a number of other features that contained only one or two sherds of glazed post-medieval red earthenware, which cannot be assigned a close date as they span the 17th to 19th centuries. These features comprise floor preparation layers (1043) and (1044), pit [1129], which lay within the cluster of 18th century features, post-hole [1147] and pit [1197]. Similarly pits [1054] and [1093] produced only single sherds of black-glazed ware, and although this ware was at its peak in the 17th century, the absence

of 17th century pottery groups indicates they are likely to belong to the earlier 18th century.

5.4.7 Wares found in these 18th century features comprise post-medieval red earthenware, black-glazed ware, metropolitan slipware, Staffordshire-type slipware, Westerwald stoneware, English tin-glazed earthenware, English stoneware including Nottingham/Derbyshire stoneware, Staffordshire-type dipped white stoneware, Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware, and a single sherd of Chinese porcelain. Several of these wares such as Westerwald stoneware, metropolitan slipware and the black-glazed ware (as noted above), were current by the 17th century, but are either of 18th century vessel type, or occur in association with definite 18th century pottery. Pit [1040] actually contains a small amount of modern pottery, but this is assumed to be intrusive. Several features/layers comprising levelling/occupation layer [1010], pits [1030], [1037], [1040] and east/west ditch [1138] also produced residual medieval pottery. As with the medieval pottery, no large groups are present, the largest assemblage was from levelling/occupation layer [1010], which produced a total of 31 sherds, weighing 494g, although a proportion of this is residual medieval material.

5.4.8 18th-century vessel forms comprise the following:

Drinking vessels

- Fragments from drinking vessels/small jugs in black-glazed ware, from levelling/occupation layer [1010] and pit [1030]
- Sherd from a ?mug in Staffordshire-type dipped white stoneware, datable to the 1720s (Jennings 1981, fig.100.1566-9), from pit [1037]
- Remains of cylindrical tavern mugs in English stoneware showing an iron wash, one with the remains of excise mark, from N-S ditch [1127] and levelling/occupation layer [1010]
- Neck and beaded rim from a bottle in English stoneware, from levelling/occupation layer [1010]
- A Westerwald stoneware jug rim and handle decorated with cobalt- blue from N-S ditch [1127] and a body sherd, probably also from a jug, showing cobalt-blue and manganese-purple decoration and the letters '...ANC.ET.HI...' around the edge of a hexagonal cartouche, the use of manganese-purple indicating a date of second half of the 17th to the beginning of the 18th century (Nöel Hume 1969, 27-8), from refuse pit [1040]

Bowls and dishes

- Part of a large press-moulded dish in Staffordshire-type slipware, showing combed slip decoration, c.1700 to 1720s continuing into the mid-18th century (Barker 1993, 18), from pit [1091]
- Cavetto rim from small finely potted dish or bowl in Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware; band of incised lines below rim, from refuse pit [1042]
- Fluted bowl in English tin-glazed earthenware showing simple foliage pattern in blue, green and rust-red on the external surface, a blue-painted band around the rim and a pale grey tin glaze. Fluted bowls occur in Dutch

tin-glazed earthenware datable to c.1725 (Jennings 1981, fig.90.1436), so this vessel may be of this date or slightly later, from pit [1037] (1036)

- Porringer rim and handle in English tin-glazed earthenware: thickened slightly in-turned rim, and characteristic lobed horizontal handle showing three sub-circular perforations, pale grey tin glaze with pinkish hue in places, undecorated, comparable to examples found in Norwich dating to the mid- to late 17th century (Jennings 1981, fig.97.1514-16), so this may be earlier than the rest of the material, from N-S ditch [1127]
- Part of small flared bowl with a cavetto rim in English tin-glazed earthenware, off-white tin glaze and blue-painted decoration around the inside of the rim, from N-S ditch [1127]
- Everted rim from Chinese porcelain shallow bowl or saucer, from refuse pit [1040]

Plates

- Plate fragment in English tin-glazed earthenware showing a simple scrolled chain pattern around the inside of the rim, datable to the mid- to late 18th century, from refuse pit [1040]

Sanitary wares

- Part of a chamber pot in black-glazed ware showing a horizontal flanged rim and handle attaching at the rim, an 18th century type, from E-W ditch [1138]

5.4.9 Much of the pottery would have been current around the 1720s, but the latest material appears to be the tin-glazed earthenware plate dating to the mid- to late 18th century. The absence of creamware, usually ubiquitous in late 18th century groups, indicates a probable mid-18th century date for this assemblage. All the identifiable vessels comprise tablewares with the addition of one item of sanitary ware (the chamber pot), no kitchenware vessels are present. Porringers were small bowls with opposed horizontal handles and were used for foods such as broth and porridge (Coleman-Smith and Pearson 1988, 162). The fluted bowl however, may have been largely decorative. The Chinese porcelain rim, although fragmented may have been a tea-ware, the drinking of which was very popular during the 18th century.

Late 18th to early 19th century features

5.4.10 Features containing pottery of this date are mainly located at the back of the site in the area of the cheese shop. They comprise context (1001), one of the fills of cheese shop foundations [1002], pits [1060], [1082] and the upper fill of pit [1085] (1083). Further east, the upper fill of pit [1028] (1026) also produced pottery of this date as did cesspit [1048]. Wares found in these features comprise: English stoneware, Chinese porcelain and Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware, all present in the previous ceramic phase, with the addition of post-medieval red earthenware which may be residual. Appearing for the first time in the sequence are examples of creamware, pearlware, lustre ware and modern white earthenware. Creamware is by far the most common ware current in this ceramic phase.

5.4.11 Late 18th/early 19th century vessel forms comprise the following:

Teawares

- Footring base from a ?saucer in Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware, showing scratch-blue decoration, datable to the third quarter of the 18th century, from fill (1001) of cheese shop foundations [1002]
- Rim and footring base from small hemispherical bowl or tea-bowl(s) in pearlware showing Chinese-style blue-painted decoration, c.1800, from pit [1028] (1026)
- Footring base from teabowl in pearlware showing blue-painted decoration on both surfaces, c.1800, from pit [1028] (1026)

Other drinking vessels

- Rim of small cylindrical mug or cup in lustre ware showing foliage design in silver resist lustre datable to c.1820 to c.1850 (Gibson 1993, 9-11), from cesspit [1048]
- Remains of three cylindrical mugs in creamware, two showing recessed banding, one of which has a moulded handle, c.1780 to 1800 (V&A 1984, pl.25), from cesspit [1048]
- Rim of cylindrical tavern mug in English salt-glazed stoneware, iron wash, from pit [1085] (1083)

Plates

- Plate rim in Chinese porcelain, blue-painted band around rim flange and café au lait rim edge, from pit [1085] (1083)
- Plate rim in creamware showing blue-shell edging, datable to c.1800, from fill (1001) of cheese shop foundations [1002]
- Plate rims in creamware, plain, later 18th century to c.1830, from pit [1028] (1026); cesspit [1048]; pit [1082]
- Plate rim in modern white earthenware showing a blue-floral transfer print, dating from the 1820s onwards, from fill (1001) of cheese shop foundations [1002]

Sanitary wares

- Remains of chamber pots in creamware showing horizontal flanged rims and footring bases, one shows the remains of a strap handle attaching below rim, plain, at least two vessels are represented, from cesspit [1048]

Kitchen wares

- Flat base from large flared bowl in post-medieval red earthenware, internally glazed, not closely datable spanning the 17th to 19th century, but the large size of the fragment suggests it is not residual, from pit [1028] (1026)

5.4.12 As with the earlier ceramic phase, most of the pottery comprises tableware, although here, there are plenty of examples of tea-wares. Lustre ware vessels are normally found in low status households, but most lustring was carried out in copper (Gibson 1993, 9), silver lustre is produced using the more expensive platinum. The mug with the recessed banding and moulded handle is also of good quality.

Mid-19th to 20th century features

5.4.13 Pottery of this date was found in fill (1003) of cheese shop foundations [1002], levelling/occupation layer [1004], pits [1021], [1023], post-hole [1032] and pit [1112] (the latter containing only one sherd of modern pottery), all located at the western end of the site, well away from the High Street. Many of these features produced residual material derived from earlier levels, but can be dated to the mid-19th to 20th century by the presence of modern white earthenware, and small amounts of modern stoneware and ?Normandy stoneware.

5.4.14 Vessel forms and decorated sherds comprise the following:

Tablewares

- Footring base from a flatware in pearlware showing a blue-painted geometric design based on a six-pointed star, datable to c.1800, probably residual or possibly curated, from levelling/occupation layer [1004]
- Rim of ?hemispherical bowl in modern white earthenware showing sponged decoration in blue, datable to the 1830s to 20th century, from fill (1003) of cheese shop foundations [1002]
- Plate fragments in modern white earthenware showing transfer-printed willow pattern, early 19th century onwards, from fill (1003) of cheese shop foundations [1002] and pit [1021]
- Sherds of modern white earthenware decorated with a pale blue transfer print dating from the 1830s/40s onwards, from levelling/occupation layer [1004], and a sherd with a blue foliage transfer print dating from the 1820s onwards, from fill (1003) of cheese shop foundation [1004]

Kitchen wares

- Large flared bowl in post-medieval red earthenware showing beaded rim with inner groove, internally glazed, could be as late as 19th century and therefore current in this phase, from levelling/occupation layer [1004]
- Profile of small cylindrical jar in modern white earthenware showing a recessed base and a groove beneath the rim, there are no markings, it is perhaps from an ointment pot or marmalade jar and is datable to 1880s to earlier 20th century, from fill (1003) of cheese shop foundations [1002]
- Shoulder of cylindrical jar in modern stoneware showing a brown wash and lead glaze, datable to the 1870s to earlier 20th century, from levelling/occupation layer [1004]
- Flat-topped rim from a butter pot or similar in purple stoneware, either from Normandy or Staffordshire, from pit [1021]

5.4.15 The latest datable pottery comprises the cylindrical jars belonging to the 1870s/80s to earlier 20th century. Unlike earlier phases there are as many kitchenwares as tablewares. The sponged decoration found on the bowl described above may denote low status as this type of decoration was very cheap to produce.

Discussion

- 5.4.16 The pottery shows evidence of activity at this site from perhaps the 12th to 20th centuries. However, there appears to be a hiatus of activity from the later 14th to the end of the 17th century, with only a little late medieval pottery and no definite evidence of later 16th or 17th century pottery. Looking at the assemblage overall, by weight, early medieval pottery accounts for 3% of the assemblage, mid-13th to 14th century pottery 17% of the total, late medieval pottery 5% of the total, 18th century pottery 30% of the total, late 18th to early 19th century pottery 23% of the total and mid-19th to 20th century pottery, 22% of the total. Occupation therefore would appear to have been at its most intense during the 18th to early 19th century.
- 5.4.17 The medieval pottery supply is very similar to that from other excavated sites in the town, at The Pleasance carpark, Banson's Lane and Banson's Yard (Walker 2009; 2011; in prep.), where there is a preponderance of shelly ware over the contemporary early medieval ware, although at Central House it is interesting to note that there is a relatively large proportion of shell-and-sand-tempered ware in comparison to shell-tempered ware. At the other Chipping Ongar sites shell-tempered ware predominates by far. Grog-tempered early medieval fabrics also occur at these other sites, here, represented by a single sherd.
- 5.4.18 Similarly, at these other sites, the mid-13th to 14th century assemblages are characterised by medieval Harlow ware, sandy orange ware and Mill Green fineware and coarseware. The medieval Harlow ware coming from production sites about 9km to the west and Mill Green ware manufactured a similar distance to the east. At Central House though, there is a significant amount of medieval coarseware, a ware virtually absent at the other Chipping Ongar sites. The amount of early medieval and medieval pottery is much less in evidence here than at these other sites, though it is possible earlier levels have been truncated.
- 5.4.19 All sites investigated in the town show a dearth of late medieval pottery and it could be that Chipping Ongar was particularly badly affected by the Black Death and failed to recover. However, all sites investigated, with the exception of Banson's Yard on the backyard periphery of the medieval town, showed a marked resurgence in the post-medieval period.
- 5.4.20 The pottery assemblage appears entirely domestic, with no evidence of pottery that could be associated with cheese production or its storage or display in the modern period. The 18th to early 19th century groups comprise mainly tableware with very little pottery associated with service areas and the presence of tea-wares and pottery of reasonably good quality pottery, suggests the household was of middling status. The cheap sponged ware bowl in the mid-19th to 20th century assemblage might suggest that status had lowered.

5.5 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

- 5.5.1 The excavations produced a small assemblage of fired clay weighing a total of 1513g from the fills of Phase 1.1 pit [1121]. The assemblage was assessed

by eye and fabrics were determined using a x20 magnification binocular microscope. Fabric descriptions are presented in Table 3.

Fabric	Description
F1	Fine sand temper, sparse grassy voids, frequent burnt organics and black, charcoal-like inclusions, sparse very coarse ironstone sandstone and quartz
F1a	As F1 without the organic temper and charcoal like inclusions
F1b	As F1 without the organic temper and charcoal like inclusions with more frequent coarse and very coarse flint, quartz pebbles

Table 3: Fired clay fabric descriptions

- 5.5.2 Most of the assemblage consists of small utilised pieces which exhibit single diagnostic characteristics such as single flat surfaces and smoothed surfaces in all three fabrics. Fill [1110] contained the fragmentary remains of a low-fired Bronze Age cylindrical weight (RF<13>) manufactured in fabric F1. Approximately 80% of the weight is present, with a complete height of 105.5mm and a diameter of 105.8mm. The vertical piercing measures 25mm in diameter.
- 5.5.3 Weights of this form can be dated to the Middle to Late Bronze Age and are often associated with Deverel-Rimbury pottery (Barford and Major 1992). They have a wide distribution across Essex and the south east. The accepted function is as a loom weight; however, other uses such as pedestals or hearth furniture have been posited (e.g. Poole 2011).

5.6 The Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.6.1 A fairly large assemblage of 304 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing a total of 73,405g were hand-collected from forty-six individually numbered contexts and standing structures. Although there were some stray, residual fragments of Roman CBM and some tile than could be medieval, the vast bulk of the assemblage was late post-medieval in date, and most probably originated from brick and tile kilns local to the site in Chipping Ongar. A breakdown of CBM by form is shown below in Table 4.
- 5.6.2 All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel spreadsheet. Fabric descriptions were developed with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions as sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size of inclusions as fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (up to 0.25 and 0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric descriptions are provided in Table 5. A selection of fabric and forms samples have been retained for the site archive.

Form	Quantity	% of total	Wt (g)	% of total
<i>Roman material</i>				
Tegula	5	1.6	273	0.4
Roman brick	1	0.3	219	0.3
Imbrex	1	0.3	31	0.0
<i>Post-Roman material</i>				
Brick	136	44.7	56423	76.9
Roof tile	123	40.5	10627	14.5
Hard core	12	3.9	3027	4.1
Mortar	7	2.3	795	1.1
Wall tile	4	1.3	97	0.1
Pantile	3	1.0	1105	1.5
Floor	3	1.0	624	0.9
?floor	2	0.7	177	0.2
Unknown	7	2.3	7	0.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>304</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>73, 405g</i>	<i>100%</i>

Table 4: Comparative quantities and weights of CBM forms

Residual Roman brick and tile

5.6.3 Only seven pieces of Roman CBM were present in the assemblage. This included a single fragment of curved roof tile (imbrex) fragment, several tegula roof tile pieces in R1 and a piece of Roman brick in R2. With the exception of the imbrex all the Roman material had been burnt or over-heated, as evidenced by reduced surfaces and fabric vitrification. All appear to be residual.

Post-medieval brick

5.6.4 A large quantity of bricks were sampled from site, including a number of complete bricks. Although there was some variety in terms of form, generally the fabrics noted were all fairly homogenous, although certain qualities like level of firing and the presence of a frog did appear to correlate with particular variations of fabric type.

5.6.5 A large group comprised of bricks in fabrics comparable to fabrics 3033, 3046 and 3065 in the London typology (MOLA 2014). These represent a fairly generic red-orange clay type with variable amounts of quartz – lesser amounts in 3033 and common-abundant quartz in 3065 – that are most common to the post-medieval period from c.1480, although as evidenced here, versions of these fabrics continue to be used until the 19th-20th century. Within this assemblage, a further fabric – B3 – can be added to this group. It was similar to 3033, but often very hard or over-fired and with later-dating frogs present. One B3 brick had an unusually thin, linear frog present, which was not found on any of the other bricks. Many of the brick pieces in quartz-rich fabric 3046/65 were also frogged.

5.6.5 Generally, bricks in the red sandy group were of similar dimensions: 215-225 x 100-110 x 60-65mm). Such apparent standardisation, in combination with

the generally hard-fired nature of these bricks, suggest a later post-medieval date of the mid-18th century or later

- 5.6.6 Bricks in fabric B2 also made up a large proportion of the assemblage. This was a lower-fired fabric, with a gritty quality that was quite distinctive and cream streaking in many examples. Although bricks or pieces of brick in B2 were not quite so numerous as those in the red sandy group, they did make up just over a third of the total brick assemblage. None of the B2 bricks were frogged, and where mortar was present it was sandy lime mortar. Both lime mortar and cement were present on bricks made of the red, sandy fabrics, further suggesting that the bricks in this group may have been produced later than those of B2, although that these bricks were used coevally is shown by a B2 brick with a lateral splinter of 3046 brick also attached.
- 5.6.7 There was greater variety amongst the dimensions of the B2 bricks, and it seems that both building and paving bricks were produced in this fabric as many of the bricks were unusually thin at 48-52mm. No complete B2 brick was found, but there were some shattered fragments with lime mortar on multiple broken surfaces, indicating it was used as rubble wall fill or foundation as well as the bricks being used structurally.
- 5.6.8 Given the quantities of brick made from B2 and 3033/3046/3065/B3 it is likely that these came from a local brickyard. The closest known brickyard to the current site was located to the south of the town of Chipping Ongar, and was in production from 1839, closing down c.1906 (Ryan 1999, 123). It can be seen on the 25" OS map for the area, 1982-1919. It is possible that this was where at least some of the red sandy bricks originated from, e.g. the 3046/65 examples, as these were most frequently of mid-late 19th century form.
- 5.6.9 There were three further 'possible' brickworks in the Ongar area, although all closer to the neighbouring town of High Ongar than Chipping Ongar. Two of these are known from maps dating to 1775, and the third, later dating site from a tithe award of 1848 (Ryan 1999, 123). Any one of these could potential sites of production for the B2 (or B3/red sandy) bricks. As no physical remains of the possible brickyards remain, and the Chipping Ongar brickworks was taken over c.1915 by a different brick and tile works, it would not be possible to do a physical comparison with bricks known to have been produced by any one of these historic brickyards.
- 5.6.10 The remaining two fabric types, B1 and B4, only made up a very small proportion of the assemblage, B1 brick pieces were recovered from only three contexts, in one instance two co-joining fragments that allowed the dimensions of the complete brick to be measured: 225 x 110 x 65mm. As a fabric, B1 was very similar to London typology fabric 3035 in terms of inclusions present and the characteristics of the brick form were also comparable to the form of 3035 stock bricks, although the base clay, which was creamy-beige was different to the yellow-colour that is typical of 3035 bricks. The B1 bricks were all frogged and a later 19th century date is likely for these.
- 5.6.11 Only one B4 brick was found, measuring ?? x 110 x 60mm. B4 was a very hard, creamy-coloured fabric that had no apparent inclusions. White coloured bricks such as this were popular during the 19th century; in Suffolk and

Cambridgeshire they were respectively known as Suffolk Whites and Cambridgeshire Buffs. It is unlikely that this was a locally produced brick.

Post-medieval roof tile

- 5.6.12 Roof tile also made up a large proportion of the assemblage, but generally lacked much variation being nearly entirely comprised of flat, peg tile fragments in the same fabric T1. Lesser amounts of peg tile and pantile fragments in T2 were also present. Round peg holes appear to have been more common, although there were also square peg holes. Generally across the assemblage very few pieces of peg tile had holes so it was a very limited sample from which to draw any conclusions regarding the respective popularity of peg hole shapes.
- 5.6.13 It is often difficult to date roof tile specifically, but in this instance the similarities between fabric B2 and T1/1A suggest a common source and manufacturing date, which – as discussed below – is most likely to be from the late 18th-late 19th century. Pantiles often provide a good *terminus post quem*, as they were only imported into and then made in Britain during the 17th century, becoming more widely used in the 18th and 19th centuries, especially in along the east coast (see e.g. Lucas 1998). However, as nearly everything within this assemblage is likely to date later than the 17th century, the pantile here probably represents much later and locally made pantile.
- 5.6.14 Amongst the assemblage too was a very small and otherwise undiagnostic fragment of ?pantile with some shiny black glaze still present on the surface. This could be a fragment of what was the ‘more expensive’ black-glazed pantile noted by Robin Lucas (1998, 76), which according to primary sources where they are mentioned and structures where they are still *in situ* (e.g. William Vassar’s house in East Tuddenham), appear to have been most fashionable during the mid-late 18th century.

Wall and floor tile

- 5.6.15 All the floor tile fragments were formed of the same fabric, FT1, which was similar to B2 and T1/1A. Only a few pieces of floor tile were identified amongst the whole assemblage, none of which had any remnants of glaze or indication that the tile was once decorated. The fragments varied in thickness from ~30mm to ~20mm, although given the nature of the CBM, it is possible that this variation is a consequence of use wear.
- 5.6.16 Some fragments of tile in a compressed, machine-shaped fabric were also present. These are most likely to be fragments of early-mid 20th century wall tile.

Distribution of CBM by phase

- 5.6.17 Although there were medieval features on site, no medieval CBM was apparent in the assemblage. The residual Roman CBM was recovered from medieval features, but apart from this CBM was not deposited on site in any significant quantity until the late post-medieval period.

Period 3: pre-levelling layer features:

- 5.6.18 Approximately half of the CBM assemblage (153 pieces weighing 25,390g) came from period 3.1 features and coeval pre-levelling deposits, mainly pits belonging to G23. Included amongst this group of CBM were a number of clearly late post-medieval bricks, mainly in B2, distinguished by their sharp arrises and high level of firing. Frogged examples of 3046/65, B3 and B1 were also present.
- 5.6.19 In addition to the few complete and many broken brick pieces recovered, G23 pits also produced pieces of roof tile - including the possible fragment of black-glazed pantile - lime mortar, and highly fragmented pieces of brick and tile, covered in lime mortar, indicating them to be pieces of hard core or foundation rubble.

Period 4: 18th/19th century features

- 5.6.20 Similar quantities of CBM in terms of fragment count (138), although significantly more in terms of weight (47,516g), came from period 4.1 and 4.2 features. Some of the best preserved bricks samples came from 19th century outbuilding [1002]. Amongst these was the brick in B4 or 'Suffolk White'. These were most used over the later 19th century, attesting to late date of these deposits. One of each a frogged and unfrogged example of B3 brick and unfrogged but sharply-formed 3046/54 brick were also sampled from this outbuilding.
- 5.6.21 The largest group of CBM belonging to this phase came from G10 levelling deposits, including a particularly large group of post-medieval roof tile fragments. A large quantity of material also came from G12 pits. The CBM from these pits and the levelling deposits were very poorly preserved, although as a group most of the CBM from this site was highly fragmented as a consequence of the types of context they were collected from.
- 5.6.22 An exception to this, apart from the many well-preserved and complete bricks collected from contexts associated with outbuilding [1002], were the complete bricks sampled from G3 occupation layers/yard surfaces. These comprised a number of thinner-formed bricks measuring ?? x 115-120 x 52-55mm; dimensions that are characteristic of paving bricks. Non- purpose-made bricks measuring 225 x 107-110 x 65mm were also recovered from this surface.

Fabric	Description
<i>Post-medieval brick fabrics</i>	
B1	Common medium/coarse quartz; sparse very coarse chalky inclusions and ferrous inclusions. Local version of 3035?
B2	Gritty medium-orange fabric with moderate-abundant medium quartz (and shell?), moderate mica flecks and common cream silty and dark orange marbling (some e.g.s without marbling).
B3	Variant of 3033, near un-marbled B2. Often over-fired and with later features e.g. frogged.
B4	Nearly sterile cream-coloured fabric with sparse quartz and mica.
3033	
3046	

Fabric	Description
3065	Reddish-range fabrics with variable quantities of quartz, from sparse amounts in 3033 to common/abundant in 3065. Also often present are black iron oxide and calcareous inclusions. Occasional flint fragments and small pebbles (up to 7mm).
<i>Roof, wall and floor tile fabrics</i>	
T1	Finely gritty orange fabric with common fine/medium quartz and moderate mica.
T1A	Variant of T1, more common mica and cream silty/dark orange marbling.
T2	Coarser version of T1, with moderate amounts of medium black sand (glauconite?) and clusters of coarse quartz.
T3	Hard, pinkish-orange machine compressed fabric with very coarse clay pellets and cream coloured inclusions.
FT1	Gritty orange fabric similar to B2 but no cream-silty inclusions.
<i>Roman fabrics</i>	
R1	Reddish clay with moderate quartz and sparse calcareous deposits.
R2	Brownish fabric with common-abundant coarse and very coarse sugary quartz.

Table 5: Fabric descriptions for ceramic building material

5.7 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 A small assemblage of 22 clay pipe fragments (wt 125g) was recovered from 12 individually numbered contexts (Appendix 3). The pipes were recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive and bowls were classified according to the London 'Chronology of Bowl Types' (prefix AO) by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 177-180). A single decorated and marked clay tobacco pipe was assigned a unique accession number (RF <13>).
- 5.7.2 A total of 18 stem fragments, three bowls and one mouthpiece were recovered during the excavations. None of the stem fragments are marked, decorated or burnished and they can only be dated broadly. A total of ten stem fragments date between the mid/late 17th century to mid/late 18th century. Four are dated broadly to between c.1610-1910, with another four dated between c.1750-1910.
- 5.7.3 Just three bowl fragments were found. RF <13> (unstratified) dates to c.1780-1820 (type AO27) and has the Fox and Grapes moulded in relief on the bowl sides. Maker's initials "PB" have been moulded in relief on the heel sides. The only known maker with these initials and working in Essex is Mrs. Prunella Bellis who worked in Romford around 1851 (Oswald 1975). Her husband Hugh Bellis worked in Barking as a pipe maker (NA, HO 107/323/2) until his death in about 1845, from when she carried on the pipe making business. Given the discrepancy in date, she either re-used older pipe moulds, which is not uncommon when a pipe business is taken over, or there is another as yet unidentified maker with these initials.
- 5.7.4 A variation on the elongated type bowls of the late 17th and early 18th centuries (c.1680-1710) was recovered from [1020]. The bowl is complete. Finally, a small fragment possibly from a type AO28 (?1820-60) was recovered from [1039].
- 5.7.5 The single mouthpiece, found in [1039], dates to c.1750-1910 and consists of a simple cut tip.

5.8 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.8.1 A medium-sized assemblage comprising 131 fragments weighing 5791g was recovered from 20 individually numbered contexts (Appendix 3). Material ranges in date between the mid 17th to 20th century.
- 5.8.2 The majority of the assemblage consists of wine bottles, of which a total of 101 fragments were found. Of these, 28 fragments, representing a minimum of eight different bottles, date between c.1650-1750. Most fragments were too small to establish their profile. The shoulder fragment from a 'mallet' bottle (fill [1126] of G8 ditch seg. [1127]) probably dates between c.1685-1715.
- 5.8.3 The remainder comprises small body shards. Included are pieces broadly dateable to the mid 18th to 19th century ([1026], [1044], [1083]) as well as fragments of 19th- to early 20th- century date ([1003], [1064]). Fill [1051] in brick-lined cess pit [1048] contained 63 wine bottle fragments including 13 base fragments, four neck fragments and 45 body shards. Just nine bottles are represented, dating between c.1850 and 1925. Base diameters range between 81mm and 89mm.
- 5.8.4 Other bottles represented include cylindrical mineral water bottles and bottles which would have contained pharmaceutical or household products, including olive green, pale blue or colourless prismatic, oval and panelled bottles. Fragments are nearly all small and none are embossed. Most are of 19th-century date, although a few may date to the first half of the 20th century. A clear glass tumbler with octagonal base (diam. 56mm) was recovered from fill [1020] of G5 pit [1021] and dates between the mid 19th and early 20th century.
- 5.8.5 The earliest window glass fragment was recovered from fill [1126] in G8 ditch segment [1127] and comprises a green tinged fragment (0.92mm thick) dating to the 17th or 18th centuries. Fragments of 18th- or 19th-century date were found unstratified and in G10 levelling layer [1010]. Context [1010] contained two colourless window pane fragments from two different panes, dating between the mid 19th and mid 20th century, as well as a third window glass fragment of 20th-century date.
- 5.8.6 Finally, a marble (diameter 14mm) of 20th-century date was recovered from fill [1111] of G14 pit [1112]. This is presumed to be intrusive in this context.

5.9 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.9.1 The excavations produced 250 pieces of stone, weighing 11,902g, from 12 individually numbered contexts. Of this total, 233 small pieces (644g) were recovered from six environmental residues. The whole assemblage has been recorded on pro forma for archive and the information subsequently used to create an excel database during this assessment. An overview by period is given here.

Period 1.1 Bronze Age

- 5.9.2 The earliest contexts to produce stone are of the Bronze Age. Two fills in pit [1121] produced 36 pieces (706g) of stone, mainly deriving from the environmental residues. Two stone types are represented: quartzite and a

fine-grained non-calcareous buff sandstone, probably originating in the Midlands/Yorkshire. Both types are likely to have been naturally available at the site following fluvial or glacial redistribution. All pieces are from pebbles/cobbles that have shattered through heat. None show signs of deliberate human modification or use-wear.

Period 2.1: medieval

- 5.9.3 The only stone from this period consists of a 42g fragment from a rotary quern in German lava (G16 post-hole [1205], fill [1204]). Although part of the grinding face survives no dimensions survive.

Period 3.1: late post-medieval

- 5.9.4 A worn piece of stained chalk (54g) and 40 granules of coal (4g) were recovered from pits [1060] and [1072] respectively.

Periods 4.1 and 4.2: late post-medieval

- 6.9.5 The only stone from period 4.1 consists of a 6kg, slightly water-worn, block of dense non-calcareous fine-grained purple-grey sandstone. The type is probably a variant of Yorkshire sandstone (G10 levelling deposit [1010]). Most stone from the site was recovered from period 4.2 (166/4900g). By far the largest pieces were two fragments (4802g) from a 50mm thick York stone-paving slab (G3 occupation layer [1004]). Granules of coal account for 159 pieces (18g) of stone, all coming from three environmental residues from pits [1030], [1037] and [1040], and there are two pieces of coal shale from pit [1040] (10g). Typical 19th-century roofing material is represented by three pieces of Welsh slate (78g) from G12 pits [1037] and [1040].

5.10 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

- 5.10.1 The excavations produced very little slag from the site. Just six pieces (84g) of hand-collected material is present – the remaining 260g deriving from the residues from 14 environmental samples. Most of the residue material consisted of the magnetic fraction. The whole assemblage has been recorded on pro forma for archive and the information subsequently used to create an excel database during this assessment.

Period 1.1: Bronze Age

- 5.10.2 The earliest contexts to produce material initially classified as potential slag are of the Bronze Age. Three fills in pit [1121] produced magnetic fractions from the residues. With one exception all of this material consists of magnetic fines – granules of ferruginous stone and clay whose magnetic properties have been enhanced through burning. This material is not diagnostic of any particular process and could be produced by a range of high temperature events, including domestic hearths or bonfires. Fill [110] contained a tiny quantity of hammerscale (under five flakes and under five spheroid pieces) that, considering its presence in later periods, is certainly intrusive.

Period 2.1: medieval

- 5.10.3 Some 66g of material was collected from three residues from features of this period. Most (34g) consists of further magnetic fines, but G19 ditch segments [1135] and [1190] contained small quantities of fuel ash slag (28g and 1g, respectively). This material is not diagnostic of process and could easily have been formed in a domestic hearth or oven. However, the same ditch, together with G15 pit [1076], produced under 1g of hammerscale apiece. Both flake and spherical hammerscale is present in all, but never in large quantities (ie all in the 25-50 flake range). It is uncertain whether this is evidence of contemporary iron smithing in the general vicinity during the medieval period or is intrusive material from later activity.

Period 2.2: medieval

- 5.10.4 Pits [1212] and [1217] (G20 and G17, respectively) produced a further 11g of magnetic material from their environmental residues. Most of this (8g) was again magnetic fines, but fill [1188] of pit [1212] also contained very small quantities (<25) of flake and (<10) spherical hammerscale. These quantities are again of an order than could easily be suggestive of intrusive material, particularly considering fill [1216] in pit [1217] also contained a tiny piece of late post-medieval clinker from coal burning.

Period 3.1: late post-medieval

- 5.10.5 Deposits of this period produced 111g of 'slag' from four different contexts. Of this total, 15g consists of magnetic fines and 54g of natural iron concretions. Fills [1067] of pit [1068] and [1071] of pit [1072] (both G23) produced 3g of hammerscale. Quantities are up on those of the earlier period, with each sample producing approximately 25-50 and 10-25 flakes and spheres respectively. In addition both produced clinker waste (1 and 38g) suggesting the smithing was fuelled by coal.

Period 4.2: late post-medieval

- 5.10.5 This latest site period produced the single largest group of waste (128g). Although 26g of this consist of natural iron concretions and 38g of magnetic fines, the remainder is proper slag. G4 pit [1198] produced 6g of fuel ash slag and G12 pit [1040] 1g of undiagnostic iron slag. Hammerscale, both in flake and spherical form, accounts for 9g of material and was recovered from pits [1040] (x50-100 pieces), [1198] (x50-100), [1028] (x200-300) and [1037] (x100-200). The quantities involved now certainly suggest a smithy in the vicinity. The presence of clinker waste from coal burning (48g) from pits [1028], [1037] and [1040] suggest coal to have been the fuel.

5.11 The Bulk Metalwork by Trista Clifford

- 5.11.1 The excavations produced a small assemblage of 16 iron objects weighing 491g in total. The assemblage is in reasonable condition and were recovered from contexts predominantly of 18-19th century date (Periods 3.1 and 4.2).

Nails

5.11.2 A single square-sectioned general purpose nail stem fragment was recovered from Period 2.2 pit fill [1188] and three stem fragments came from Period 3.1 pit fill [1081]. Complete general purpose nails with square-sectioned stems and sub-circular to square heads came from Period 4.2 contexts [1004], [1022], [1039], and [1041]; occupation layer [1004] also produced a modern screw.

Other objects

5.11.3 Two large curving plate fragments weighing 230g were recovered from Period 3.1 pit fill [1111]. Period 4.2 occupation layer [1004] produced a barbed wire fragment and cess pit [1043] contained a tapering square sectioned bar fragment which may be part of a large nail or tool.

5.12 The Animal Bone by Emily Johnson

5.12.1 An assemblage of 663 animal bones weighing 4645g was analysed. Material derived from hand collected contexts (n=173) and bulk-earth environmental samples (n=490). The preservation of the assemblage was moderate, with some non-archaeological fragmentation and erosion of bone surfaces (Table 6). No long bones were whole, although some could be refitted from fragments.

Period		N	NISP	Preservation %		
				Poor	Moderate	Good
0	Undated	8	7	0	75	25
1.1	Middle(?) Bronze Age	2	2	0	0	100
2.1	11th-14th century	378	130	0	91.5	8.5
2.2	13th-14th century	21	9	0	100	0
3.1	other pre-levelling features	46	27	0	71.7	28.3
4.1	18th/19th levelling deposit	6	6	0	83.3	16.7
4.2	18th/19th century	202	75	0.5	87.1	12.4
<i>Total</i>		<i>663</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>88.5</i>	<i>11.3</i>

Table 6: Zooarchaeological assemblage by period/context showing total fragment count (N), the number of identifiable specimens (NISP) and the proportion of bones displaying varying preservation levels.

5.12.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, bones were identified to species and element (Schmid 1972; Hillson 1999) and the bone zones present noted (Serjeantson 1996). Determination of sheep and goat teeth used criteria outlined in Halstead and Collins (2002). Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long bone, rib and vertebral fragments, have been recorded according to size and categorised as large, medium or small mammal.

5.12.3 Mammalian age-at-death data was collected where possible. The state of epiphyseal bone was recorded as fused, unfused and fusing, and any determinations of age made using Silver (1969). Dental eruption and attrition was recorded using Payne (1973) for ovicaprids, Hambleton (1998) for pigs and Grant (1982) for cattle, using age stages in Halstead (1985) revised by Jones and Sadler (2009). Specimens have been studied for signs of butchery,

burning, gnawing, non-metric traits and pathology. The assemblage contained no measurable long bones of domestic mammals.

- 5.12.4 Of the 663 bones in this assemblage, 110 were identifiable to species and element and 146 to species and element type. The assemblage was dominated by domestic mammal bones, but wild animals were also represented, including birds, fish and microfauna (Table 7).

Taxa	NISP	Period						
		0	1.1	2.1	2.2	3.1	4.1	4.2
Cattle	60	2	0	49	0	2	0	7
Ovicaprid	25	1	0	8	0	2	1	13
Goat	6	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
Pig	12	1	0	8	0	1	0	2
Horse	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Rabbit	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Large mammal	41	1	0	19	0	13	1	7
Medium mammal	67	2	0	19	6	6	1	33
Small mammal	12	0	1	4	0	0	0	7
Bird	8	0	0	6	0	0	0	2
Fish	18	0	1	10	3	0	0	4

Table 7: Taxa abundance overall and per period by number of identifiable specimens (NISP)

Period 1.1: Middle(?) Bronze Age

- 5.12.5 Two specimens were attributed to the Bronze Age, both deriving from environmental samples - a fish vertebrae [1119] <37> and a mouse (*sp.*) atlas [1120] <38>. While the mouse could be an accidental inclusion this is unlikely for the fish, and further identification to species could inform aquatic exploitation strategies in the Bronze Age.

Period 2: Medieval

- 5.12.6 Material from the 11th-14th century (period 2.1) was the most abundant in the whole assemblage (NISP=130), with other medieval material (period 2.2, 13th-14th century) only contributing minimally with partially identifiable material (NISP=9, including large and medium mammals and fish). This series of medieval pits, postholes and a ditch possibly indicate activity on the outskirts of Chipping Ongar, which likely included the disposal of refuse from domestic consumption based on the bone assemblage.
- 5.12.7 Cattle were the most abundant domestic taxa in period 2.1 (n=49). In terms of age-at-death, four specimens were valid for epiphyseal fusion analysis, including a fused first phalanx (older than 12-18m) and distal metapodium (older than 24-36m) and an unfused proximal ulna and calcaneum (younger than 37-48m; Silver 1969). The presence of juvenile, possibly neonate cattle was noted in environmental samples <40> (G19 ditch seg. [1135]) and <49> (G19 ditch seg. [1190]), in the form of small unfused third phalanges, fragments of deciduous teeth and juvenile cranial fragments. One ageable

mandible was recorded as Old Adult, 6-11 years (Grant 1982; Halstead 1985; Jones and Sadler 2012). Ovicaprids (n=8) and pigs (n=8) were also present in this period. One unfused ovicaprid metapodial fragment was suitable for fusion analysis (younger than 18-28; Silver 1969), and one pig mandible was suitable for dental eruption/attrition analysis giving a wear stage of D, 14-21m (Hambleton 1998). Two pig specimens were identified as male based on the presence of tusks. Horse was identified solely in this period (n=5, minimum number of elements = 3), represented by extremities only (metatarsal, accessory metapodia and 3rd phalanx). All bones were fused, and minor eburnation was recorded on the proximal articulation of the metatarsal. This could be a sign of osteoarthritis related to old age, and/or that the animal had been used for traction. No butchery marks were recorded on horse bones.

- 5.12.8 In addition to these domestic animals other taxa were also represented that could indicate use of wild resources. Birds were present (n=6) including species of duck (n=1), that could represent wild bird species. Alternatively, the duck could have been domestic. Rabbits (n=2) were also present, likely wild in this period. Other small mammals (n=4) included possible rat (n=1). A total of 10 specimens identified as fish were also recovered, largely from environmental samples.

Period 3: Post-medieval, pre-levelling layer

- 5.12.9 The provenance of this small period assemblage is obscured by a mix of medieval and postmedieval finds in contexts dated to this period. Cattle (n=2), ovicaprid including goat (n=6) and pig (n=1) bones were present. The goat mandible was aged at 3-4 years old at death (Payne 1973). The pig mandible was identified as female based on the presence of a canine opposed to a tusk. All bones were fused. No wild species were represented in this period.

Period 4: 18th/19th century

- 5.12.10 Period 4 was the second-best-represented assemblage in terms of the number of fragments and the number of identifiable specimens. Period 4.1, represented by 18th/19th century levelling layer [1010], featured a goat mandible aged at 3-4 years (Payne 1973), a fused distal ovicaprid metapodia fragment and a large and medium mammal rib fragment. Period 4.2, constituting subsequent development and use of the site including a 19th century outbuilding (1002), surface and pits, cesspit and drains, had a more abundant zooarchaeological record, which again likely represents unstructured deposition of consumption waste.
- 5.12.11 Ovicaprids were the most abundantly identified taxa in period 4.2 (n=13), unlike in the medieval period. Of 8 specimens subjected to fusion analysis one distal tibia (younger than 18-28 months) and one distal femur (younger than 30-42 months; Silver 1969) were unfused. Cattle (n=7) were also present, of which all bones were fused and an ageable mandible gave a determination of Old Adult, 6-11 years (Grant 1984; Halstead 1986; Jones and Sadler 2012). Pigs were minimally represented (n=2). Indeterminate birds (n=2), fish (n=4) and small mammal (including possible vole, n=6) could indicate use of wild resources, or intrusive species. However, a hare (sp.) radius fragment featured a cut mark near the mid-shaft break, suggesting human processing rather than accidental inclusion.

Surface modification

- 5.12.12 Forty one specimens showed signs of butchery. Chop and saw marks were most common, suggesting heavy butchery used to disarticulate the carcass through bone rather than jointing it at articulations. This is common where butchery was undertaken with 'heavy' cutting implements such as cleavers and saws. Rib fragments showed butchery on 52% (n = 21) of specimens. Chop or saw marks were identified on all butchered ribs, but there was also evidence for lighter knife butchery in the form of cut marks, perhaps filleting meat from the ribs. This repeated rib butchery was present in periods 2.1, 3.1, 4.1 and 4.2, and suggests a similar method of processing animal carcasses over time. Transverse splitting of vertebrae was also present in periods 3.1 and 4.2. On the pelvis, sawing or cleaver chopping commonly separated the acetabulum from the ilium, on cattle, pigs and ovicaprids from periods 2.1 and 4.2 (n=3). Some evidence of fresh fracture was also present on large mammal long bone fragments from period 4 (n = 2), suggesting exploitation of marrow.
- 5.12.13 A total of 31 bone fragments showed evidence of heat exposure. Two bones were carbonised and 29 were calcined, the latter deriving mainly from environmental samples subject to floatation. Burnt material only derived from periods 2.1 and 4.2, but from a range of contexts. No burnt bone material was identified from the burnt clay deposit contexts in period 2.2, although unburnt bone was recovered. The burning event affecting the clay must have been separate from the animal bone deposition.
- 5.12.14 In terms of taphonomy, canid gnawing affected 17 specimens across many periods, including 2.1, 3.1, 4.1 and 4.2. Rodent gnawing affected one specimen in period 4.2. The presence of gnawing suggests that deposition practices allowed access to canids, likely domestic dogs, before eventual disposal. Acid erosion of bone surfaces (n = 1) and weathering and erosion of poorly preserved material (n = 2) also affected this assemblage.

5.13 The Shell by Trista Clifford

- 5.13.1 A small assemblage of eleven oyster (*Ostrea edule*) valves and fragments, weighing a total of 128g, were hand collected from seven separate contexts.
- 5.13.2 The assemblage is predominantly of 18-19th century date; just three small fragments were recovered from fill [1211] of medieval pit/oven [1212] (G20). Parasitic worm infestation (*Polydora hoplura*) was noted on a right valve from [1010]. A left valve from [1004] exhibits a characteristic notch in the edge made when opening the oyster with a knife.
- 5.13.3 A fossilised oyster (sp. *Gryphaea*) left valve was also recovered from 13th-14th century pit [1216]. *Gryphaea* shells are also known as 'devils toenails' in Essex folklore and were commonly believed to have medicinal properties (Duffin and Davidson 2011).

5.14 The Registered Finds by Trista Clifford

- 5.14.1 A total of seventeen finds were allocated registered finds numbers (Table 8). The assemblage includes Bronze Age, medieval and post medieval objects.

The objects have been x-rayed and most do not require further conservation work. The loom weight, RF<13>, is included in section 5.5, on the fired clay.

RF	Context	Period	Object	Material	Period	Wt (g)
1	1157	4.2	BUCKLE	COPP	MED	16
2	1010	4.1	COIN	SILV	MED	<1
3	1051	3.1	PLAQUE	BONE	PMED	4
4	1029	4.2	STRAP END	COPP	MED	5
5	1216	2.2	?RIVET	COPP	PMED	4
6	1051	3.1	COIN	COPP	PMED	21
7	1051	3.1	COIN	COPP	PMED	7
8	1051	3.1	COIN	COPP	PMED	8
9	1051	3.1	BUTTON	COPP	PMED	4
10	1051	3.1	UNK	COPP	PMED	9
11	1026	4.2	LOOP	COPP	PMED	7
12	1083	3.1	CUFFLINK	COPP	PMED	3
13	1110	1.1	LOOM WEIGHT	CERA	LBA	1182
14	1044/1020	0/4.2	GRILLE	IRON	PMED	132
15	1051	3.1	KNIFE	IRON	PMED	34
16	1010	4.1	KNIFE	IRON	PMED	31
17	1004	4.2	TOOL	IRON	PMED	31

Table 8: Summary of the registered finds

Textile production

- 5.14.2 A Middle to Late Bronze Age loom weight was recovered from pit fill [1110] (see 5.5 for description).

Dress accessories

- 5.14.3 Two medieval dress accessories were recovered, residual within period 4.2 contexts. RF<1> is a large copper alloy D-shaped buckle and attached plate from pit fill [1157]. The buckle has an offset strap bar and thickened outer edge. The plate is recessed and trapezoidal with five large dome-headed rivets arranged 2/1/2 along the centre to hold the leather strap in place, fragments of which are preserved between the plates. There are traces of gilding remaining on the surface of the metal. Pit fill [1029] produced a copper alloy strap end, RF<4>, with lobed, cruciform terminal (L47mm). The strap end has parallels with examples from Norwich (Margeson 1993, 35) and with an example from Lincolnshire (PAS record ID NLM-45710D). These objects are of late 13th-15th century date.
- 5.14.4 A single octagonal white metal coated cufflink, RF<12>, came from period 3.1 pit fill [1083]. This form of cufflink were also produced in silver and have a limited date range of 1725-1800. They are rarely recorded as excavated finds, more often found by metal detectorists. Lastly, fill [1051] of G6 cess pit [1048] contained a copper alloy button with moulded decoration (RF<9>; Di17.7mm) of broad post-medieval date.

Tools

- 5.14.5 A folding knife consisting of bone plates held together with three copper alloy rivets and the corroded remains of the iron blade was recovered from foundation [1051]. The remains of a whittle-tanged iron knife with integral bolster, RF<16>, came from levelling deposit [1010]. An iron tool, possibly a weeding hook, RF<17>, was recovered from G3 occupation layer [1004].

Fixtures and fittings

- 5.14.6 One of the most interesting finds is a small rectangular bone plaque (RF<3>) in the form of a domino, from the fill of Period 3.1 cess pit [1048]. The plaque exhibits a single copper alloy rivet at each end suggesting it was once attached to something, either to a larger object such as a box or piece of furniture, or to a backing of a different material. If the latter, it is likely that the plaque was used as a domino gaming piece. There are two drilled spots on one half and six on the other with an incised line dividing the two panels. Within the spots is the remains of a dark substance used to colour the spots black. A post-medieval date, c.18th-19th century, is probable. An iron grille fragment, possibly a ventilation or drain covering, was also recovered (RF<14>).

Coins

- 5.14.7 Four coins were recovered. The earliest is a long cross silver penny dating between 1279 and 1489 (RF<2>), residual within G10 levelling deposit [1010]. The legend has been clipped however it is probable that the coin was minted during the reign of Edward I-Edward III. Three post-medieval coins were recovered from foundation [1051]; these are poorly preserved but can be loosely dated to the 18th-19th century. Further conservation work may allow closer identification of the coins.

Other finds

- 5.14.8 Other finds include a probable strap loop, RF<11>, a possible rivet and an unidentified rod fragment.

5.15 Environmental Remains by Mariangela Vitolo

- 5.15.1 During excavation work at the site, forty-three environmental samples were collected from a range of features to recover environmental material, such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and molluscs, as well as to assist finds recovery. Sampled contexts included fills of pits, post-holes and ditches and ranged in date from the Bronze Age to the medieval and post-medieval periods. The following report assesses the contents of the samples and the potential of the environmental remains to provide information regarding the local vegetation environment, fuel use and selection, and the agricultural economy or other plant use.
- 5.15.2 Fourteen samples were selected for assessment, prioritising contexts with higher potential for the recovery of environmental material, as well as those with minimal intercutting or no visible evidence of contamination. The unprocessed samples have been retained.

- 5.15.3 The selected samples were processed by flotation in their entirety. The flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8mm, 4mm and 2mm, and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 4a). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots (or a 100ml sub-sample) were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 4b). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006; NIAB 2004) and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).
- 5.15.4 Charcoal fragments were fractured by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000, Hather 2000, Leney and Casteel 1975). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004, Schweingruber 1990). Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 4a, and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

Period 1 - Samples <34> [1110], <37> [1119] and <38> [1120]

- 5.15.5 Samples from three fills of Bronze Age pit [1121] produced rather small flots, with a large quantity of highly comminuted charcoal fragments. Charred plant macrofossils were only recorded from the uppermost sampled fill [1110] and consisted of four caryopses, two of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and two of wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum* sp.), as well as a single seed of fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*).
- 5.15.6 Charcoal was retrieved from all of the sampled fills of pit [1121]. Oak (*Quercus* sp.) and Maloideae were the best represented taxa. The Maloideae subfamily includes taxa that are not generally distinguishable on grounds of wood anatomy, including pear (*Pyrus* sp.), apple (*Malus* sp.), hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) and rowan/service/whitebeam (*Sorbus* sp.). Other identified taxa included hazel/alder (*Corylus/Alnus* sp.), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). Charcoal was generally well preserved, although sediment encrustations and vitrification were occasionally noted. Sediment encrustations are due to fluctuating water levels, whilst vitrification, which happens when the wood anatomy fuses and becomes glassy, is generally linked to the use of high temperatures.
- 5.15.7 All three fills yielded a mixed charcoal assemblage, with no taxon clearly dominating, although oak and Maloideae were the most represented. Oak trees would have grown in a local deciduous woodland, whilst maple, Maloideae and buckthorn would have grown on the margins or in hedgerows

and scrub. Generally speaking, the represented taxa produce wood that is considered an excellent fuel. The only exception is buckthorn, which can be used for hedging, whilst its berries have medicinal purposes. This taxon does not appear often in charred assemblages and might have constituted a chance inclusion in this assemblage. The presence of buckthorn and several round wood fragments suggests the possibility that the Bronze Age inhabitants simply collected whatever was readily available, which might have included small branches and twigs from the local vegetation. This compares with Bronze Age assemblages from domestic contexts at Greenfields, Essex (Challinor 2007), where a range of taxa collected in this way were also evident.

Period 2 - Samples <20> [1075], <40> [1134], <48> [1188], <49> [1189] and <56> [1216]

- 5.15.8 Sampled medieval features (Period 2) included two pits, two ditches and possible oven base. The flots contained a large amount of comminuted charcoal. Charred plant remains occurred in low numbers and included caryopses of hulled barley, wheat (*Triticum* sp.), possibly free-threshing, and wheat/barley. No weeds and no chaff were recorded.
- 5.15.9 The basal fill [1216] of posthole [1217] produced a large amount of charcoal fragments. One hundred fragments were extracted for identification. The assemblage was dominated by round wood fragments of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), with a smaller component of oak (*Quercus* sp.) heartwood. The preservation was generally good and all fragments were identifiable, although the oak fragments were vitrified. This occurs when the wood anatomy fuses, becoming glassy, and it is generally linked to the use of high temperatures. Experiments, however, have shown that high temperatures alone are not sufficient to cause charcoal to become vitrified (McParland *et al.* 2010), suggesting that perhaps other factors might contribute to it. Ash and oak produce sturdy wood that is an excellent fuel; they frequently dominate cremation assemblages for example, where not only would their wood have burnt long and efficiently, but they would have also provided a strong material for the pyre structure. The ash round wood fragments could have been sourced from a coppiced woodland, although this assemblage did not provide enough information on woodland management.
- 5.15.10 The remaining features from Period 2 produced less charcoal, but since they were associated with the G20 oven, their assemblage was deemed to be of interest. In general, they presented a mixed array of taxa, probably due to the deposits containing an amalgam of waste coming from different sources and charring events. As such, these assemblages do not inform us on fuel selection for specific purposes but rather provide an indication of general trends at the site in the medieval period. Oak dominated almost all of the deposits. Oak wood makes an excellent fuel, although it can also be used for timber and joinery (Taylor 1981). Its dominance in these deposits indicates a lack of pressure on woodland resources. The other represented taxa, such as ash, Maloideae, cherry/blackthorn (*Prunus* sp.), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) could have grown on woodland margins but also in hedgerows and scrub. Most of these taxa make excellent fuels and could have been selected specifically for this purpose. Preservation was generally poor; vitrification and sediment encrustations

were noted frequently. The latter are due to fluctuations in the ground water levels, which cause sediment laden water to infiltrate the deposits.

Period 3 – Samples <14> [1067] and <16> [1071]

- 5.15.11 Samples from two Period 3 pits produced small flots, containing a large amount of comminuted charcoal and sediment. These features yielded no charred plant macrofossils and only a small amount of large charcoal.

Period 4 – Samples <5> [1029], <10> [1036], <26> [1039] and <58> [1157]

- 5.15.12 Period 4 pit fills yielded small flots dominated by <2mm charcoal fragments. Uncharred material was noted frequently and included rootlets, as well as seeds of bramble (*Rubus* sp.), chickweed (*Stellaria* sp.), elder (*Sambucus* sp.) and dead-nettle family (Lamiaceae). Charred plant remains were sporadic and consisted of caryopses of possible wheat and wheat/barley. A small number of charred indeterminate weed seeds were recovered from pit [1198]. Preservation of the plant remains from these features was poor.
- 5.15.13 Charcoal fragments large enough for identification were not numerous enough to warrant identification work.

6.0 POTENTIAL & SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS

6.1 Realisation of the original research aims & objectives

RA1: Can further excavation reveal the remains of medieval timber structures? If so, what are the layout, nature and chronology of these structures?

6.1.1 The potential existence of timber framed structures fronting the Chipping Ongar's medieval High street beyond the town enclosure has been previously speculated. The initial evaluation, in its limited capacity, tentatively highlight a possible structural alignment amongst a relatively dense cluster of postholes presumed to belong to a timber framed building. The excavation, however, was unable to identify any convincing alignments between dated and undated postholes underlying the post-medieval levelling deposit that might constitute one or more timber-framed structures within the wider site. However, the presence of probable posthole features at least hints at some sort of activity involving structural posts took place here in the 13th to 14th centuries.

RA2: Can the nature of medieval land use along this part of the High Street frontage be discerned?

6.1.2 Medieval ditches G9 and G19 are parallel with one another and orientated perpendicular to the High Street, and appear to demonstrate the presence of defined strip plots fronting onto it. Only 7.7m apart, it is possible that these do not mark the full width of a single plot. Northern ditch G9 is the more substantial and may be a plot boundary, while G19 is smaller and terminates short of the road frontage and so may mark a subdivision within a wider plot. As well as postholes, considered above, pits are also present within the south of the excavation area, seemingly extending around and southwards beyond ditch G19. Although these pits contain generally small quantities of artefacts, the plot, or at least this part of it, appears to have been used for rubbish disposal in the 13th and 14th centuries. Earlier, 11th to 12th century, activity is hinted at by the presence of residual pottery, but no features relating to this have been identified. In the latter stages of its occupation, use of this medieval plot included crop processing – as evidenced by the remains of oven/hearth G20 and the spreads of burnt debris in its vicinity. Given the location of this plot outside of the town enclosure a range of agricultural, and perhaps industrial, production activities were carried out along the roadside.

RA3: Can substantive artefact and/or environmental assemblages be recovered from the site to indicate the nature of activities being carried out in this part of the [medieval] town?

6.1.3 Environmental sampling of medieval (Period 2) features supports the postulation of agricultural processing being carried out in this vicinity. The small recovered assemblage of charred plant remains included caryopses of hulled barley, wheat (possibly free-threshing), and wheat/barley, presumably harvested from surrounding arable land. The complete absence of chaff suggests initial processing of the grains was taking place elsewhere before being brought to the site, possibly in the field or other designated area. The presence of oven/cereal dryer G20 in association with the assemblage of charred wheat and barley grains is strong evidence for this processing activity being carried out within the plot. The charcoal assemblage collected from the

sampled medieval features was dominated by oak wood, a particularly effective fuel resource, and this may indicate that there was a lack of pressure on woodland resources. Other wood taxa were also identified in the charcoal assemblage, including ash, hazel and field maple that could have grown on woodland margins or in hedgerows and scrub, and these too were excellent sources of fuel and so may have been selected specifically for this purpose.

- 6.1.4 Diagnostic medieval finds from the site are restricted to pottery, a few metalwork objects and a fragment of quernstone, much of these residual in later features and deposits. Finds assemblages retrieved from medieval features are small and mostly comprise a few sherds of diagnostic pottery and occasional animal bone fragments. The collected pottery is broadly reflective of assemblages found during archaeological investigations elsewhere in Chipping Ongar, in terms of type and date. However, the recovered finds assemblage appears to relate to domestic disposal, either from dwellings elsewhere in the plot or else from beyond it, and may not directly relate to activity taking place in this vicinity of it investigated.

RA4: Is the character of this part of the medieval town different to that within the town enclosure?

- 6.1.5 The excavations conducted around Chipping Ongar demonstrate a contrasting character between the enclosed town and the immediate hinterland. The north/south High Street is fronted by timber framed buildings, as revealed at Pleasance Car Park (Clarke 1999), and are likely a mix of domestic and retail occupancies. 'Backyard' areas towards the rear of the properties were separated into plots by shallow boundary ditches. Two wells were identified in this area along with a number of refuse pits (Ennis 1998). Both fine and course-wares were present in the pottery assemblages. The layout is fairly typical of a well organised domestic town. Beyond the limits of the town enclosure, evidence of domestic occupation is conspicuously absent. While land plots are evident, these are not necessarily occupied by domestic structures. Instead, activity appears to comprise rubbish disposal and processing/production activities as evidenced by hearth/oven structures on this site and at Banson's Yard (Chew 2014). Other agricultural activities such as arable and pastoral farming/gardening are also likely to have occupied these plots outside the confines of the town enclosure.

RA5: Can the continuing development of this part of the town into and through the post-medieval period be discerned and understood?

and

RA6: Do levelling layers mark a re-establishment of road frontage occupation, perhaps after a period of disuse? What is its date? Does this constitute a change of character / use?

- 6.1.6 Consistent with the rest of Chipping Ongar, the site experiences an almost complete hiatus of activity in the 15th and 16th centuries. Material from this period is restricted to seven sherds of Tudor red earthenware, with potential for some post-medieval red earthenware to be contemporary, though this is not certain due to the broad date ranges associated with this typology. The drastic reduction in activity within this area and the wider town coincides with the arrival of a plague epidemic rampant in the mid-14th century. Chipping

Ongar appears to have been particularly hard hit and no discernible activity is identified again until 17th century.

- 6.1.7 A low level resumption of activity occurs around the 17th or possibly 18th century with a cluster of dated refuse pits located towards the rear of the excavated site. No structural remains accompany the pits, though it is possible that the earlier G9 plot boundary ditch survived in some form as late as this. Finds recovered from the pits included various table ware, drinking vessel and wine bottle fragments, and animal bone and may signal the expansion of domestic activity along the high street from the original town core, the town enclosure having now become defunct and infilled.
- 6.1.8 A phase of redevelopment occurs along this section of the high street around the early 19th century and is already well understood/documentated. Central House, adjacent to the site, was erected in 1811 as a school: Ongar Academy. The land surrounding Central House, including the site, belonged to the academy estate. The levelling deposit recorded onsite presumably relates to either the initial construction phase of Central House, or was a subsequent development prior to the erection of three outbuildings. Two outbuildings fronting the high street were erected sometime between 1840 and 1874, with the addition of a third outbuilding (the current cheese shop) appearing between 1874 and 1896. No remains of the first two outbuildings were directly recorded though the brick drains and occupational yard surface belong to this period and may relate to any of the three buildings. Central House ceased to function as a school after 1940 and instead was utilised as a business premises up to the current day.

6.2 Significance and potential of the individual datasets

6.2.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

A stratified sequence of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval remains has been recorded at this site.

Prehistoric

The single Middle Bronze Age pit and its contents hint at some level of domestic and agricultural activity in the vicinity, typically including textile manufacture. This is of local significance only. The very low incidence of prehistoric material occurring residually elsewhere within the site suggests that this early land use activity was of low intensity. These remains offer little potential to inform research into the nature of land use during this period.

Medieval to post-medieval

The remains of postholes, pits, ditches, a gully, and probable oven/cereal dryer with associated layers all dated to the mid 13th-14th centuries. The shallow and simple stratigraphic sequence defines two phases of activity within a probable land plot fronting onto the road.

The development of medieval towns is highlighted as a key research aim for the east of England (Medlycott 2011, 70). The results of this small excavation taken in isolation has a limited potential for understanding the changing

development of Chipping Ongar through the medieval period. However, when compared to and combined with the excavations conducted at Banson's Lane, Pleasance car park, and especially at Banson's Yard, the nature of occupation at Central House becomes much clearer and provides a meaningful contribution to our understanding of the layout and development of the medieval town. Together with Banson's Yard, this site has some potential to provide some insights into the nature of land division and use outside the town enclosure.

The possible continuation of the G9 ditch has been identified from the Banson's Yard excavation (Chew 2014, ditch G30), dated mid 13th to 14th century (Fig. 7). If correct, this defines the north side of a plot that potentially extends from the High Street to the edge of the scarp down to the Cripsey Brook, a distance of c.80m, and vaguely curves – perhaps being influenced by the town enclosure ditch c.50m to its south. Whether or not this intervening space was a single entity, albeit likely sub-divided, perhaps into differing areas of activity, is not clear. However, it is evident that the Central House site was the location of some kind of processing activity, presumably agricultural processing. There is therefore potential to compare this evidence with that of the burnt hearth/oven areas recorded at Banson's Yard in order to better understand its likely nature. However, the poor preservation of the Central House oven example may limit the results of any such further analysis.

No continuation of the high street frontage as that recorded at Pleasance car park existed along this stretch of the High Street – as might be expected outside the town enclosure. Although probable postholes of both medieval and post-medieval date were recorded, no patterning was evident to indicate the presence of tangible structures. The site holds no potential for further study of street frontage buildings of any historic period (cf. Medlycott 2011, 70).

There is some modest potential to study the growth and impact of the post-medieval town on its landscape (cf. Medlycott 2011, 79-80). After an initial hiatus from the late medieval to earlier post-medieval, initially perhaps as a consequence of the Black Death, domestic occupation appears to extend outside the former confines of the town enclosure as far as the Central House site. However, land use activity appears to have been limited to disposal activities, as evidenced by rubbish pits, until perhaps as late as the beginning of the 19th century, with the establishment of the school. As such, it is only possible to meaningfully understand land use and its impacts only for the relatively recent past, which is well documented by OS mapping, etc. There is therefore no potential to study the development and diversity of rural industry (cf. Medlycott, 2011, 78), in the intervening period, with reference to the excavated evidence from this site.

6.2.2 The Flintwork

The assemblage provides very limited evidence for prehistoric presence at the site. No chronologically distinctive pieces were found, and the small amount of flint suggests only low-key activities during the prehistoric period. The assemblage is too small to have any potential for further analysis.

6.2.3 **The Prehistoric Pottery**

The prehistoric pottery represents a small undiagnostic group from a single feature and it is therefore of low significance with no potential for further analysis

6.2.4 **The Post-Roman Pottery**

Although small, this assemblage adds to our knowledge of the extent and development of the medieval and post-medieval town of Chipping Ongar. It is of similar range, character and date to pottery assemblages excavated from other sites at Chipping Ongar, most of which have been published, and can be used in any future synthetic work on the archaeology of the town.

6.2.5 **The Fired Clay**

The assemblage is of local significance. The presence of a cylindrical weight within pit [1121] aids in the dating of this feature. The deposition of cylindrical weights in pits is a widespread phenomenon which has been interpreted as having an intentional or structured component, although with a single object in a single feature such as this a more prosaic interpretation of waste disposal is more probable. There is little potential for further work on the remaining assemblage.

6.2.6 **The Building Material**

The CBM assemblage recovered generally supports the evidence present in the Ordnance Survey maps of 1874 and 1896 that there were 19th century buildings on this site. The presence of potentially earlier dating buildings in the vicinity of these is suggested by the presence of earlier dating bricks, c.18th century, although it is possible that this material was brought in from elsewhere to be re-used or as rubble hard core.

However, other than providing samples of late post-medieval CBM used in the area the assemblage is of little inherent value. Although hypothetically there is potential for associating brick samples with brickworks based in the Chipping Ongar area, thus progressing research aims for this area relating to the development of rural industry, the fact is that none of the brickworks local to Chipping Ongar survive. Furthermore, no samples of their products are known to exist, which greatly limits the potential of this assemblage to contribute to the research aims outlined (Medlycott 2011, 78).

The ceramic building potential has no future research potential in isolation, although as a comparative assemblage it could contribute to future projects.

6.2.7 **The Clay Tobacco Pipe**

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage is too small to be of significance beyond its contribution to the dating evidence. The Fox and Grape pipe is of significance to the study of the local pipe industry. The assemblage is not considered to be of potential for further analysis.

6.2.8 **The Glass**

The glass assemblage is relatively small and lacks good profiles or intrinsically interesting pieces. No good groups were recovered and as such the assemblage is not considered to be of significance beyond its contribution to the dating evidence. The group is of no potential for further analysis.

6.2.9 **The Geological Material**

The stone assemblage is small and heavily bias towards the late post-medieval period. The prehistoric material is all of unworked material that would have been locally available, while the medieval period produced a well-known imported type with no particular features of note. The late post-medieval period consists of types imported into Essex on a large scale during the period. Therefore, overall the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. The assemblage has been discarded.

6.2.10 **The Metallurgical Remains**

The small slag assemblage represents iron smithing that was occurring in the general area during the later post-medieval period. It is suspected that waste from this activity has intruded itself in small quantities in earlier deposits. As such the assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis or publication.

6.2.11 **The Bulk Metalwork**

The bulk metalwork assemblage is small and consists predominantly of nails which are not closely dateable. It has minimal significance and no potential for further study.

6.2.12 **The Animal Bone**

This assemblage has some significance on a local level, although it is of small size and derives from relatively poorly understood features, predominantly either of medieval or late post-medieval date. These two periods could be compared in several aspects in order to show change and continuity through time at Chipping Ongar, though how meaningful this would be in terms of site interpretation is doubtful. Cattle are abundant in the medieval period but were evidently replaced by domestic ovicaprids by the 18/19th century. The size of this assemblage precludes in-depth butchery analysis. The presence of fish bones through the medieval to post-medieval periods suggest the exploitation of aquatic resources, while small mammals, also represented, possibly indicate intrusive animal bioturbation or exploitation/extermination of pests.

6.2.13 **The Shell**

Oysters were a common part of the diet during the 18-19th century and their presence here is unsurprising. The fossil is of some interest since it is unlikely to have been found locally. Excavations in York produced several fossils, among them Gryphaea, which were considered to have been kept

deliberately for their curio or medicinal value (Ottoway and Rogers 2002, 2970) and this may be the case here. However there is little or no potential for further work on this small assemblage.

6.2.14 **The Registered Finds**

This small domestic assemblage is well stratified and provides good dating evidence for the features from which it derives, adding to the existing research framework around the development of Chipping Ongar during the medieval and post medieval period. It is of local significance. There is some potential for limited further work.

6.2.15 **The Environmental Remains**

The bulk soil samples from Chipping Ongar yielded few and poorly preserved charred botanical remains that are of low significance. These represent just a background noise from activities of cereal processing or preparation that were probably being carried out elsewhere on site. As such, they do not hold potential for further work.

Charcoal, on the other hand, was preserved much better, particularly in pits [1121] and [1217]. As relatively few charcoal assemblages from all periods have been published from this particular area, very little is known about fuel selection strategies and changes in the local vegetation environment in the immediate vicinity of the site throughout time. Existing comparable assemblages from nearby sites include post-medieval contexts in Chipping Ongar (ASE 2017b). For earlier deposits, contemporary contexts from further afield in Essex (e.g. Challinor 2007; Gale 2008) have yielded substantial charcoal assemblages for comparisons. Therefore, the charcoal assemblage from Chipping Ongar contributes to our current knowledge of woodland use in modern day Essex through time and allow comparisons with the little published evidence that is currently available. All analysis of the significant charcoal context assemblages has been undertaken as part of the current post-excavation assessment.

The evidence from the analysed charcoal deposits indicates that possibly a strict fuel selection was in operation at the site, as there is a restricted range of taxa and vegetation environments. Most of these taxa are excellent sources of fuel and wood compared to other trees present in the local woodland that they might have been selected against. The charcoal also provides some insight into aspects of the local woodland vegetation. On the other hand, the assemblage lacks small round wood fragments and therefore it holds low potential to examine woodland management strategies.

7.0 PUBLICATION PROJECT

7.1 Revised research agenda: Aims and Objectives

7.1.1 This section combines those original research aims that the site archive has the potential to address with any new research aims identified in the assessment process by stratigraphic, finds and environmental specialists to produce a set of revised research aims that will form the basis of any future research agenda. Original research aims (OR's) are referred to where there is any synthesis of subject matter to form a new set of revised research aims (RRA's).

7.1.2 In view of the preceding assessment of the significance and potential of this data set, a single revised research aim is identified, underpinned by several revised research objectives (the latter posed as questions):

RRA1: To understand the layout and nature of land use within the medieval plot as exposed within the Central House site

- RRO1: Do the ditches define boundaries to, and/or within, a tangible medieval land plot? How do these relate to boundaries recorded at Banson's Yard and to the medieval town enclosure ditch?
- RRO2: What is the nature of land use within this medieval plot? Can the nature of the posited oven/processing area and its associated surfaces and features be understood, with reference to both environmental remains from the site and through comparison with similar oven/hearth remains at Banson's Lane?

7.2 Publication Proposal

7.2.1 The majority of the stratigraphic, artefact and environmental data sets are considered to have low or negligible potential for further analysis beyond that done for this assessment. However, the presence of medieval period remains outside of the town enclosure is of significance and merits a modest degree of further consideration and dissemination.

7.2.2 It is proposed that selected results of the excavation, as driven by the revised research aim and objectives (7.1), are published.

7.2.3 It is noted that a publication article on similar, and closely related archaeological remains recorded during the Banson's Yard excavation, similarly located outside the medieval town enclosure, is currently being prepared (Dawkes in prep.). The draft article is intended for submission to the Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History, *Essex Archaeology & History*.

7.2.4 It is therefore recommended that the pertinent medieval results from the Central House excavation are inserted into the extant Banson's Yard draft article. This will include description and interpretation of the medieval phases and consideration of how this relates to / fits with the evidence from the previous site, in order to better understand the nature of land use outside the enclosed town.

7.3 Publication project

7.3.1 The tasks required in order to undertake further analysis and report writing for the production of the publication output are identified in Table 9.

Tasks	Days
<i>Stratigraphic analysis & reporting</i>	
Compare ditch G9 and oven/hearth G20 with Bansons Yard remains, inc. strat, finds & enviro evidence	0.75 days
Prepare & integrate strat narrative text into Bansons Yard publication draft, inc. pertinent finds & enviro from assessment reports	0.75 days
subtotal	1.5 days
<i>Illustration</i>	
Produce one figure locating site & G9 ditch in relation to Bansons Yard	0.5 days
Subtotal	0.5 days
<i>Production & Management</i>	
Editing & amendment of the site narrative text	0.25 days
Project Management	0.5 days
Subtotal	0.75 days

Table 9: Resource for completion analysis and reporting for publication

7.4 Artefacts and Archive Deposition

7.4.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. Following completion of all post-excavation work, including any publication work, the site archive will be deposited with the Epping Forest District Museum, subject to the permission of the legal landowner.

4.1.2 The finds and environmental samples ultimately deposited as part of the archive are dependent on specialist recommendations and regional archive requirements. Some components of these assemblages may be discarded prior to archive deposition.

4.1.3 The contents of the site archive are quantified in Tables 10 and 11.

Context sheets	160
Section sheets	6
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	195
Context register	7
Drawing register	2
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	1

Table 10: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	7 boxes
Registered finds (number of)	17 objects
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	14
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 11: Quantification of artefact and environmental remains

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Appendix 1: Context Register

Context	Type	CUD	Interpretation	Parent	Group	Land Use	Period
1000	Layer	c	Made ground	1000	5	0	0
1001	Fill	u	Backfill	1002	1	OA3	4.2
1002	Masonry	c	Foundation	1005	1	OA3	4.2
1003	Fill	u	Backfill	1002	1	OA3	4.2
1004	Layer	ud	Occupation layer	1004	3	OA3	4.2
1005	Cut	u	Construction cut	1005	1	OA3	4.2
1006	Fill	u	Backfill	1005	1	OA3	4.2
1007	Masonry	c	Unknown	1007	2	OA3	4.2
1008	Masonry	c	Drain	1008	2	OA3	4.2
1009	Masonry	c	Wall	1009	11	OA3	4.2
1010	Layer	cu	Levelling deposit	1010	10	OA3	4.1
1011	Masonry	c	Wall		1	OA3	4.2
1012	Fill	d	Post-pipe	1014	4	OA3	4.2
1013	Fill	u	Packing	1014	4	OA3	4.2
1014	Cut	c	Posthole	1014	4	OA3	4.2
1015	Fill	d	Fill, single	1016	4	OA3	4.2
1016	Cut	c	Pit	1016	4	OA3	4.2
1017	Fill	d	Post-pipe	1019	4	OA3	4.2
1018	Fill	u	Packing	1019	4	OA3	4.2
1019	Cut	c	Posthole	1019	4	OA3	4.2
1020	Fill	u	Fill	1021	5	0	0
1021	Cut	c	Pit	1021	5	0	0
1022	Fill	d	Fill, single	1023	31	OA3	4.2
1023	Cut	c	Pit	1023	31	OA3	4.2
1024	Fill	d	Fill, single	1025	4	OA3	4.2
1025	Cut	c	Pit	1025	4	OA3	4.2
1026	Fill	d?	Fill, upper	1028	12	OA3	4.2
1027	Fill	u	Fill, basal	1028	12	OA3	4.2
1028	Cut	c	Pit	1028	12	OA3	4.2
1029	Fill	d	Fill, single	1030	31	OA3	4.2
1030	Cut	c	Pit	1030	31	OA3	4.2
1031	Fill	d	Fill, single	1032	12	OA3	4.2
1032	Cut	c	Posthole	1032	12	OA3	4.2
1033	Fill	u	Fill, basal	1034	12	OA3	4.2
1034	Cut	c	Posthole	1034	12	OA3	4.2
1035	Fill	d	Fill, upper	1034	12	OA3	4.2
1036	Fill	d	Fill, single	1037	12	OA3	4.2
1037	Cut	c	Pit	1037	12	OA3	4.2
1038	Void						
1039	Fill	d	Fill, single	1040	12	OA3	4.2

Context	Type	CUD	Interpretation	Parent	Group	Land Use	Period
1040	Cut	c	Pit, refuse	1040	12	OA3	4.2
1041	Fill	d	Fill, single	1042	31	OA3	4.2
1042	Cut	c	Pit, refuse	1042	31	OA3	4.2
1043	Layer	c	Floor prep	1043	11	OA3	4.2
1044	Layer	c	Floor prep	1044	11	OA3	4.2
1045	Layer	c	Mortar wall bed	1045	11	OA3	4.2
1046	Layer	c	Mortar wall bed	1046	11	OA3	4.2
1047	Fill	d	Backfill	1048	6	OA2	3.1
1048	Masonry	c	Foundation	1049	6	OA2	3.1
1049	Cut	c	Construction cut	1049	6	OA2	3.1
1050	Fill	u	Fill, single	1049	6	OA2	3.1
1051	Fill	d	Backfill	1048	6	OA2	3.1
1052	Fill	d	Fill, upper	1054	12	OA3	4.2
1053	Fill	d	Fill, basal	1054	12	OA3	4.2
1054	Cut	c	Pit	1054	12	OA3	4.2
1055	Layer	c	Levelling deposit	1055	27	OA3	4.1
1056	Layer	c	Levelling deposit	1056	28	OA3	4.1
1057	Fill	d	Fill, single	1058	22	0	0
1058	Cut	c	Pit	1058	22	0	0
1059	Fill	d	Fill, single	1060	23	OA2	3.1
1060	Cut	c	Pit	1060	23	OA2	3.1
1061	Fill	d	Fill, single	1062	22	0	0
1062	Cut	c	Posthole	1062	22	0	0
1063	Fill	d	Fill, single	1064	22	0	0
1064	Cut	c	Posthole	1064	22	0	0
1065	Fill	d	Fill, single	1066	22	0	0
1066	Cut	c	Posthole	1066	22	0	0
1067	Fill	d	Fill, single	1068	23	OA2	3.1
1068	Cut	c	Pit	1068	23	OA2	3.1
1069	Fill	d	Fill, single	1070	5	0	0
1070	Cut	c	Drain	1070	5	0	0
1071	Fill	d	Fill, single	1072	23	OA2	3.1
1072	Cut	c	Pit	1072	23	OA2	3.1
1073	Fill	d	Fill, single	1074	14	OA2	3.1
1074	Cut	c	Pit	1074	14	OA2	3.1
1075	Fill	d	Fill, single	1076	15	OA2	2.1
1076	Cut	c	Pit	1076	15	OA2	2.1
1077	Fill	d	Fill, single	1078	23	OA2	3.1
1078	Cut	c	Pit	1078	23	OA2	3.1
1079	Fill	d	Fill, single	1080	22	0	0
1080	Cut	c	Posthole	1080	22	0	0
1081	Fill	d	Fill, single	1082	23	OA2	3.1

Context	Type	CUD	Interpretation	Parent	Group	Land Use	Period
1082	Cut	c	Pit	1082	23	OA2	3.1
1083	Fill	d	Fill, upper	1085	23	OA2	3.1
1084	Fill	d	Fill, basal	1085	23	OA2	3.1
1085	Cut	c	Pit	1085	23	OA2	3.1
1086	Fill	d	Fill, single	1087	22	0	0
1087	Cut	c	Pit	1087	22	0	0
1088	Fill	d	Fill, single	1089	22	0	0
1089	Cut	c	Posthole	1089	22	0	0
1090	Fill	d	Fill, single	1091	23	OA2	3.1
1091	Cut	c	Pit	1091	23	OA2	3.1
1092	Fill	d	Fill, single	1093	23	OA2	3.1
1093	Cut	c	Pit	1093	23	OA2	3.1
1094	Fill	d	Fill, single	1095	24	0	0
1095	Cut	c	Posthole	1095	24	0	0
1096	Fill	d	Fill, single	1097	24	0	0
1097	Cut	c	Posthole	1097	24	0	0
1098	Fill	d	Post-pipe	1100	14	OA2	3.1
1099	Fill	u	Packing	1100	14	OA2	3.1
1100	Cut	c	Posthole	1100	14	OA2	3.1
1101	Deposit		Natural	1101			
1102	Fill	d	Fill, single	1103	23	OA2	3.1
1103	Cut	c	Pit	1103	23	OA2	3.1
1104	Fill	d	Fill, single	1105	22	0	0
1105	Cut	c	Posthole	1105	22	0	0
1106	Fill	d	Fill	1108	23	OA2	3.1
1107	Masonry	c	Footing	1108	23	OA2	3.1
1108	Cut	c	Pit	1108	23	OA2	3.1
1109	Fill	d	Backfill	1121	7	OA1	1.1
1110	Fill	d	Fill, tertiary	1121	7	OA1	1.1
1111	Fill	d	Fill, single	1112	14	OA2	3.1
1112	Cut	c	Pit	1112	14	OA2	3.1
1113	Fill	d	Fill, single	1115	23	OA2	3.1
1114	Void						
1115	Cut	c	Pit	1115	23	OA2	3.1
1116	Fill	d	Fill, single	1117	22	0	0
1117	Cut	c	Pit	1117	22	0	0
1118	Fill	d	Fill	1121	7	OA1	1.1
1119	Fill	d	Fill, secondary	1121	7	OA1	1.1
1120	Fill	d	Fill, basal	1121	7	OA1	1.1
1121	Cut	c	Pit, refuse	1121	7	OA1	1.1
1122	Fill	d	Fill, single	1123	22	0	0
1123	Cut	c	Pit	1123	22	0	0

Context	Type	CUD	Interpretation	Parent	Group	Land Use	Period
1124	Fill	ud	Fill, single	1125	18	0	0
1125	Cut	c	Gully terminus	1125	18	0	0
1126	Fill	ud	Fill, single	1127	8	OA2	3.1
1127	Cut	c	Ditch	1127	8	OA2	3.1
1128	Fill	d	Fill, single	1129	14	OA2	3.1
1129	Cut	c	Pit	1129	14	OA2	3.1
1130	Fill	d	Fill, single	1131	16	OA2	2.1
1131	Cut	c	Posthole	1131	16	OA2	2.1
1132	Fill	d	Fill, single	1133	24	0	0
1133	Cut	c	Posthole	1133	24	0	0
1134	Fill	d	Fill, single	1135	19	OA2	2.1
1135	Cut	c	Ditch	1135	19	OA2	2.1
1136	Layer	c	Levelling deposit	1136	10	OA3	4.1
1137	Fill	ud	Fill, upper	1138	9	OA2	3.1
1138	Cut	c	Ditch	1138	9	OA2	3.1
1139	Fill	d	Fill, single	1140	24	0	0
1140	Cut	c	Posthole	1140	24	0	0
1141	Fill	u	Fill, basal	1138	9	OA2	3.1
1142	Fill	d	Fill, single	1143	21	OA3	4.1
1143	Cut	c	Posthole	1143	21	OA3	4.1
1144	Fill	d	Fill, single	1145	24	0	0
1145	Cut	c	Posthole	1145	24	0	0
1146	Fill	d	Fill, single	1147	21	OA3	4.1
1147	Cut	c	Posthole	1147	21	OA3	4.1
1148	Fill	d	Fill, single	1149	24	0	0
1149	Cut	c	Posthole	1149	24	0	0
1150	Fill	ud	Fill, single	1151	8	OA2	3.1
1151	Cut	c	Ditch	1151	8	OA2	3.1
1152	Fill	ud	Fill, single	1153	9	OA2	3.1
1153	Cut	c	Ditch	1153	9	OA2	3.1
1154	Fill	d	Fill, single	1155	24	0	0
1155	Cut	c	Posthole	1155	24	0	0
1156	Fill	ud	Fill, upper	1198	4	OA3	4.2
1157	Fill	ud	Fill, basal	1198	4	OA3	4.2
1158	Cut	c	Ditch terminus	1158	9	OA2	3.1
1159	Fill	d	Backfill	1165	17	OA2	2.2
1160	Void						
1161	Void						
1162	Fill	u	Packing	1165	17	OA2	2.2
1163	Fill	d	Post-pipe	1165	17	OA2	2.2
1164	Void						
1165	Cut	c	Posthole	1165	17	OA2	2.2

Context	Type	CUD	Interpretation	Parent	Group	Land Use	Period
1166	Fill	d	Fill, single	1167	15	OA2	2.1
1167	Cut	c	Pit	1167	15	OA2	2.1
1168	Fill	d	Fill, single	1169	14	OA2	3.1
1169	Cut	c	Pit	1169	14	OA2	3.1
1170	Cut	c	Pit	1170	15	OA2	2.1
1171	Fill	d	Fill, single	1172	16	OA2	2.1
1172	Cut	c	Posthole	1172	16	OA2	2.1
1173	Fill	d	Fill, single	1170	15	OA2	2.1
1174	Fill	d	Fill, single	1175	16	OA2	2.1
1175	Cut	c	Posthole	1175	16	OA2	2.1
1176	Fill	d	Fill, single	1177	24	0	0
1177	Cut	c	Posthole	1177	24	0	0
1178	Fill	d	Fill, single	1179	21	OA3	4.1
1179	Cut	c	Posthole	1179	21	OA3	4.1
1180	Fill	d	Fill, single	1181	21	OA3	4.1
1181	Cut	c	Posthole	1181	21	OA3	4.1
1182	Fill	d	Fill, single	1183	21	OA3	4.1
1183	Cut	c	Posthole	1183	21	OA3	4.1
1184	Void						
1185	Void						
1186	Fill	d	Fill, single	1187	16	OA2	2.1
1187	Cut	c	Posthole	1187	16	OA2	2.1
1188	Fill	cu	Fill	1212	20	OA2	2.2
1189	Fill	ud	Fill, basal	1190	19	OA2	2.1
1190	Cut	c	Ditch	1190	19	OA2	2.1
1191	Fill	ud	Fill, single	1192	29	OA2	2.1
1192	Cut	c	Gully	1192	29	OA2	2.1
1193	Fill	d	Stakehole	1194	16	OA2	2.1
1194	Cut	c	Stakehole	1194	16	OA2	2.1
1195	Fill	ud	Fill, single	1158	9	OA2	3.1
1196	Fill	d	Fill, single	1197	13	OA3	4.2
1197	Cut	c	Shallow pit	1197	13	OA3	4.2
1198	Cut	c	Pit	1198	4	OA3	4.2
1199	Fill	d	Fill, single	1200	15	OA2	2.1
1200	Cut	c	Pit	1200	15	OA2	2.1
1201	Fill	u	Fill, single	1202	5	0	0
1202	Cut	c	Service trench	1202	5	0	0
1203	Deposit	d	Redeposited natural		5	0	0
1204	Fill	d	Fill, single	1205	16	OA2	2.1
1205	Cut	c	Posthole	1205	16	OA2	2.1
1206	Deposit	ud		1206	30	OA2	2.2
1207	Fill	cu		1211	20	OA2	2.2

Context	Type	CUD	Interpretation	Parent	Group	Land Use	Period
1208	Fill	d	Fill, single	1209	15	OA2	2.1
1209	Cut	c	Pit	1209	15	OA2	2.1
1210	Fill	d	Backfill	1217	17	OA2	2.2
1211	Fill	c	Pit/oven	1212	20	OA2	2.2
1212	Cut	c	Pit/oven	1212	20	OA2	2.2
1213	Void						
1214	Void						
1215	Void						
1216	Fill	d	Fill, basal	1217	17	OA2	2.2
1217	Cut	c	Pit	1217	17	OA2	2.2
1218	Deposit	ud		1218	30	OA2	2.2
1219	Deposit	ud		1219	30	OA2	2.2
1220	Fill	d	Fill, upper	1223	19	OA2	2.1
1221	Fill	d	Fill, intermediate	1223	19	OA2	2.1
1222	Void		Void				
1223	Cut	c	Ditch	1223	19	OA2	2.1
1224	Fill	d	Fill, single	1225	15	OA2	2.1
1225	Cut	c	Pit	1225	15	OA2	2.1
1226	Fill	d	Fill, upper	1227	25	0	0
1227	Cut	c	Pit	1227	25	0	0
1228	Fill	d	Fill, single	1229	24	0	0
1229	Cut	c	Posthole	1229	24	0	0
1230	Void						
1231	Fill	d	Fill, basal	1227	25	0	0
1/001	Layer	d	Made ground	1/001	5	0	0
1/002	Deposit		Natural	1/002			
1/003	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/004	16	OA2	2.1
1/004	Cut	c	Posthole	1/004	16	OA2	2.1
1/005	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/006	25	0	0
1/006	Cut	c	Pit	1/006	25	0	0
1/007	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/008	24	0	0
1/008	Cut	c	Posthole	1/008	24	0	0
1/009	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/010	24	0	0
1/010	Cut	c	Posthole	1/010	24	0	0
1/011	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/012	25	0	0
1/012	Cut	c	Pit	1/012	25	0	0
1/013	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/014	24	0	0
1/014	Cut	c	Posthole	1/014	24	0	0
1/015	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/016	15	OA2	2.1
1/016	Cut	c	Pit	1/016	15	OA2	2.1
1/017	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/018	25	0	0
1/018	Cut	c	Pit	1/018	25	0	0

Context	Type	CUD	Interpretation	Parent	Group	Land Use	Period
1/019	Fill	c	Packing	1/020	12	OA3	4.2
1/020	Cut	c	Pit	1/020	12	OA3	4.2
1/021	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/022	25	0	0
1/022	Cut	c	Pit	1/022	25	0	0
1/023	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/024	24	0	0
1/024	Cut	c	Stakehole	1/024	24	0	0
1/025	Fill	c	Post	1/020	12	OA3	4.2
1/026	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/027	24	0	0
1/027	Cut	c	Posthole	1/027	24	0	0
1/028	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/029	24	0	0
1/029	Cut	c	Posthole	1/029	24	0	0
1/030	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/031	24	0	0
1/031	Cut	c	Posthole	1/031	24	0	0
1/032	Layer	c	Levelling deposit	1/032	10	OA3	4.1
1/033	Layer	c	Levelling deposit	1/033	10	OA3	4.1
1/034	Layer	c	Made ground	1/034			
1/035	Cut	c	Pit	1/035	12		
1/036	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/035	12		
1/037	Cut	c	Pit	1/037	4	OA3	4.2
1/038	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/037	4	OA3	4.2
1/039	Cut	c	Pit	1/039	4	OA3	4.2
1/040	Fill	d	Fill, single	1/039	4	OA3	4.2

Appendix 2: Group List

Group	Group description	Contents	Period	Land Use
1	Cheese shop foundations	1002, 1005, 1011	4.2	OA3
2	Drains	1007, 1008	4.2	OA3
3	Occupation layer	1004	4.2	OA3
4	Postholes & pits over G3	1014, 1016, 1019, 1025 = 1/037, 1198, 1/039	4.2	OA3
5	Modern layers & intrusions	1000, 1021, 1070, 1202, 1206, 1/001	3.1	OA2
6	Cess pit	1048, 1049		
7	LBA pit	1121	1	
8	North/south ditch	1127, 1151	3.1	OA2
9	East/west ditch	1138, 1153, 1158	3.1	OA2
10	Levelling deposit	1010, 1136, 1/032, 1/033	4.1	OA3
11	Brick structure	1009, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046	4.2	OA3
12	18/19 th C pits & posthole	1028 = 1/035, 1032, 1034 = 1/020, 1037, 1040, 1054	4.2	OA3
13	Pit	1197	4.2	OA3
14	18 th C pits & postholes	1074, 1100, 1112, 1129, 1169	3.1	OA2
15	Medieval pits	1076, 1167, 1170, 1200, 1209, 1225, 1/016	2.1	OA2
16	Medieval postholes	1131, 1172, 1175, 1187, 1194, 1205, 1/004	2.1	OA2
17	Medieval postholes with charcoal	1165, 1217	2.2	OA2

Group	Group description	Contents	Period	Land Use
18	Gully	1125	0	-
19	Medieval ditch	1135, 1190, 1223	2.1	OA2
20	Burnt pit / oven?	1211, 1212	2.2	OA2
21	Non-postholes above 18/19 th C layers	1143, 1147, 1179, 1181, 1183	4.1	OA3
22	Undated pits below G1 1002	1058, 1062, 1064, 1066, 1080, 1087, 1089, 1105, 1117, 1123	0	-
23	18/19 th C pits under 1002	1060, 1068, 1072, 1078, 1082, 1085, 1091, 1093, 1103, 1108, 1115	3.1	OA2
24	Undated postholes under G10	1095, 1097, 1133, 1140, 1145, 1149, 1155, 1177, 1229, 1/008, 1/010, 1/014, 1/024, 1/027, 1/029, 1/031	2 or 3	OA2 or OA3
25	Undated pits under G10	1227, 1/006, 1/012, 1/018, 1/022	2 or 3	-
26	Unused		-	-
27	Levelling deposit	1055	4.1	OA3
28	Levelling deposit	1056	4.1	OA3
29	Medieval gully	1192	2.1	OA2
30	Medieval clay deposits	1218, 1219	2.2	OA2
31	Shallow pits or hollows	1023, 1030, 1042	4.2	OA3

Appendix 3: Summary finds quantification (hand-collected finds only)

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Other Building Material	Weight (g)	Other	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)	
us			15	1282	7	218	4	33			1	4	8	104	3	10					3	12	4	32					
1001			7	62									5	232							3	778							
1002					6	15642																							
1003			4	102									3	72							1	48							
1004			17	406	6	3774	2	4800			5	52	1	52							1	6					1	34	
1007					7	1780																							
1008					10	4710																							
1009					2	3944																							
1010			41	608	33	1850	1	5990			1	32	6	32			1	38			11	172					2	44	
1011					2	4644																							
1013					1	66																							
1015			2	10	11	8172															1	10							
1017					1	16															1	26							
1020			42	348							1	132			1	20					4	144							
1022			2	6	4	224					2	12	1	4	1	6													
1024													1	116							1	18							
1026			8	274	1	124			2	28	1	8	1	178	2	16					2	10							
1029			9	64	12	374					1	4	8	60	1	6											1	2	

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Other Building Material	Weight (g)	Other	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
1031			3	10	1	4															1	4						
1035					7	1768																						
1036			11	87	4	2704	2	76				3	8	1	5												1	12
1039			9	94	5	420	2	10			1	2	4	42	4	10					2	16					2	28
1041			2	4	1	14					2	14									1	<2					1	6
1043			2	6	4	58					1	72	2	4	1	6												
1044			2	8	6	166					1	132									3	26					1	6
1047			2	7																								
1051			50	1536	23	8782					6	86									72	3822						
1052			2	14																								
1055											3	56																
1059			2	14	9	170	1	54	1	12			3	42														
1067			2	12	2	121																						
1069							1	154													1	2						
1071			1	40	9	166							1	68	1	4												
1073			1	18	4	178									1	6												
1075			3	22																								
1077					4	78																						
1081			1	9	4	670					4	32	4	29	2	8												
1083			6	62	17	1662					1	3	3	35							1	2						
1089			22	338																								

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Other Building Material	Weight (g)	Other	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
1090			4	414	3	90																	1	24				
1092			1	3	1	135																						
1099					4	18																						
1102					1	16																						
1106																									1	<2		
1107					43	13038																						
1110	1	18	22	286			1	90											12	1458								
1111			3	20	5	318			1	42	2	336										2	6					
1113					6	284																						
1119			1	14														1	34	3	138							
1120	1	8																										
1126			16	208	17	430							19	224	4	28						15	626					
1128			1	6																								
1130			1	2																								
1132			1	14	1	14																						
1134			24	266									6	1136														
1137			6	119																								
1146			1	54	4	86																						
1148			1	10																								
1150			3	82	5	88																1	22					
1152					1	46																						

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Other Building Material	Weight (g)	Other	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)	
1156			3	30	11	211							6	32															
1157			6	88	4	126			1	20			4	296															
1171			1	8																									
1174			3	10																									
1178			4	14																									
1180					1	418																							
1182			1	15																									
1188			3	14							1	8	2	<2															
1189			8	226									70	1594															
1196			6	134																									
1199			1	10	1	111																							
1204			3	10			1	42																					
1206			2	82																									
1208			6	20	4	164							1	<2															
1210					1	3																							
1211			11	152	1	226							1	<2														3	5
1216			2	8							2	2															1	14	
1/003			1	6																									
1/015			1	8																									
1/032			2	132	3	1136																							
Total	2	26	417	7908	327	79465	15	11249	5	102	36	987	163	4360	22	125	2	72	15	1596	127	5750	5	56	1	0	13	151	

APPENDIX 4a: Environmental sample residue quantification

Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
5	1029	Pit	40	**	3	**	2				**	32	*	<1		*	<1	*	<1				FCF ** 85g/ Pot** 58g/CBM**64g/ Fired Clay*14g/ Slag*** 11g/ CTP* 5g/ Stone (coal)**4g/ Glass *4g/Worked Flint*<1g/ Fe*5g/ Mag Mat>2mm**9g/Mag Mat<2mm****11g
10	1036	Pit	20	*	2	***	2				**	24	*	<1				*	<1	*	2	FCF*35g/ Pot**30g/ CBM**95g/ Cu alloy (Pins)*<1g/ Fe*19g/ Glass*2g/ Slag**6g/ Stone(coal)**5g/ Worked Flint*<1g/ CTP*3g/ Mag	

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
																							Mat >2mm***6g/ Mag Mag<2mm****8g
14	1067	Pit	10	*	<1	***	<1				*	<1									*	<1	FCF* 18g /CBM *12g /Fired Clay* 3g /Slag* <1g/ Mag Mat >2*** 4g/ Mag Mat <2mm****3g
16	1071	Pit	30	*	<1	***	<1				**	13									*	<1	FCF*46g/ Fired Clay*39g/ CBM** 125g/ Pot**44g/ Worked Flint*1g/ Slag***37g/ CTP*<1g/ Stone(coal)*6g/ Mag Mat>2mm***6g/ Mag Mat<2mm****9g

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
20	1075	Pit	20	**	3	***	3								*	<1	*	<1	*	<1			FCF**38g/ Pot**26g/ Mag Mat>2mm***3g/ Mag Mat<2mm****5g
26	1039	Pit	2	**	6	**	<1				**	23	*	5	*	<1	*	<1	*	<1	*	<1	FCF* 40g/ CBM**92g/ Pot* 28g/ Fe*24g/ Cu alloy (Pins)*<1g/ Fired Clay*44g/ Glass*7g/ Stone Coal**14g/ Slag**30g/ Stone(slate)*<1g/ Mag Mat>2mm***8g/ Mag Mat<2mm****10g

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
34	1110	Pit	30	***	250	***	130	Maloideae 5 (rw), <i>Quercus</i> sp. 3 (2 rw), <i>Acer campestre</i> 1 (vitrified), <i>Rhmanus cathartica</i> 1 (V/PDSE)															FCF**397g/ Stone**607g/ Pot*14g/ Fired Clay*17g/ Mag Mat>2mm***19g/ Mag Mat<2mm****11g
37	1119	Pit	10	***	9	***	7	<i>Quercus</i> sp. 7, Maloideae 3											*	<1			FCF*4g/ Cu alloy(pins)*<1g/ Mag Mat>2mm***3g/ Mag Mat<2mm***3g

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
38	1120	Pit	30	***	30	***	18	<i>Quercus</i> sp. 4, Maloideae 4, cf <i>Acer campestre</i> 1 (distorted), <i>Corylus/Alnus</i> sp. 1											*	<1			FCF*114g/ Pot*9g/ Fired Clay*19g/ Stone*17g/ Mag Mat>2mm***3g/ Mag Mat****3g
40	1134	Pit	20	**	4	**	2			**	25								*	<1			FCF**138g/ Pot**45g/ Fe*7g/ Cu alloy* <1g/ Slag*27g/ CBM*5g/ Worked Flint* <1g/ Mag Mat>2mm***4g/ Mag Mat <2mm****5g
48	1188	Pit	15	**	3	**	<1			**	11												FCF**32g/ Pot*10g/ Fired Clay**64g/ CBM*<1g/ Mag Mat>2mm***4g/ Mag Mat<2mm****5g

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone >8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
49	1189	Ditch	40	**	6	***	7		*	<1	***	120	*	3		*	<1	**	<1	**	4g	FCF**98g/ Fired Clay*6g/ Pot**97g/ Slag*<1g/ Metal shot*<1g/ Mag Mat>2mm***12g/ Mag Mat<2mm***16g	
56	1216	Pit	8	***	23	***	3	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 8, <i>Quercus</i> sp. 2			*	<1											FCF*11g/ Fired Clay***165/ Fe*<1g/ Slag*<1g/ Mag Mat>2mm***3g/Mag Mat<2mm****6g
58	1157	Pit	10	*	<1	**	<1				*	11								*	<1	FCF*<1g/ Pot*3g/ Slag*7g/ Mag Mat>2mm**<1g/ Mag Mat<2mm****2g	

Appendix 4b: Environmental sample flot quantification

Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Parent	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Industrial debris hammerscale
5	1029	1030	7	10	10	50	10	*** <i>Rubus</i> sp., <i>Stellaria</i> sp., Lamiaceae		*	***	*	<i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> sp. (2)	+	*	<i>Poa/Phleum</i> sp. (2)	+++	***
10	1036	1037	2	5	5	40	10	*** <i>Sambucus</i> sp.			***							***
14	1067	1068	<0.5	<5	<5	20	40				***							**
16	1071	1072	2	5	5	20	30	* <i>Sambucus</i> sp.		*	****							**
20	1075	1076	3.5	5	5	20	30	* <i>Sambucus</i> sp.			****	*	<i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> sp. (1)	+				**
26	1039	1040	10	25	25	30	20	* <i>Sambucus</i> sp.			****	*	cf <i>Triticum</i> sp. (2), <i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> sp. (1),	+				**

Sample Number	Context	Parent	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Industrial debris hammerscale
34	1110	1121	9	25	25	20	20	* <i>Sambucus</i> sp.			****	*	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , hulled (2), <i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> sp. (2)	++/+++	*	<i>Chenopodium album</i> (1)	+++	**
37	1119	1121	3	7	7	10	10			**	****							
38	1120	1121	4	10	10	20	20				****							
40	1134	1135	1	<5	<5	30	10	* <i>Sambucus</i> sp.			****							
48	1188	1212	1.5	10	10	30	10	* <i>Sambucus</i> sp.			****	*	cf <i>Triticum</i> sp. (1), <i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> sp. (4),	+				
49	1189	1190	10	20	20	20	10	** <i>Sambucus</i> sp.			****	**	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , hulled, <i>Triticum</i> sp. (cf free-threshing), <i>Triticum/Hordeum</i> sp.	+ / ++				
56	1216	1217	11	50	50	10	10	* <i>Sambucus</i> sp.	***	****	****				*	<i>Avena</i> sp.(1), <i>Galium</i> sp. (1), <i>Euphrasia/Odontites</i> sp. (1)	++	
58	1157	1198	<0.5	<5	<5	20	10				****				*	Unidentified seeds (3)	++	

APPENDIX 5: EHER Summary

Site name/Address: Land adj. Central House, High Street, Chipping Ongar	
Parish: Ongar	District: Epping Forest
NGR: TL 55207 03275	Site Code: CO16
Type of Work: Excavation	Site Director/Group: Craig Carvey, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 12-18 Sept 2018	Size of Area Investigated: 170sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Epping Forest District	Funding source: Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER No's:
Final Report: ADS grey lit & EAH article	OASIS No: 306976
Periods Represented: Late Bronze Age, medieval, post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>Evaluation in January 2017 established the presence of stratified archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval date within the site. Subsequent investigation of a 170sq m excavation area recorded the remains of further pits, postholes and layers, but also ditches and brick-built structures. The earliest feature was a single Late Bronze Age pit.</i></p> <p><i>Two medieval boundary ditches defined parts of a land plot fronting onto the High Street frontage, outside the town enclosure. Within this plot, pits and postholes constituted the remains of activity of 13th to 14th century date. Recovered pottery and animal bone assemblages suggest the likely domestic nature of this activity, though no medieval buildings could be discerned amongst the postholes. However, a probable hearth or oven base, with associated burnt cereal remains, indicated that agricultural processing or production activities were carried out here.</i></p> <p><i>After a period of apparent abandonment, the site was reoccupied from the 17th/18th century onwards. Pits indicate initial land use was probably for domestic rubbish disposal. In the late 18th/early 19th century, the site was cleared and levelled in preparation for the construction of a school. Parts of a range of brick-built outbuildings, possible yard surfacing, drains and a brick-lined structure tentatively identified as the location of a water pump, shown on historic OS mapping, were recorded.</i></p> <p><i>The medieval remains are noted to be of a similar date and character as those encountered within an archaeological excavation to the west, at Banson's Yard. One of the medieval boundary ditches is posited to be the same as one recorded there, and both sites contained burnt deposits constituting hearth/oven bases. Both sites are likely to be parts of the same land use immediately outside the enclosed medieval town.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
ASE. 2017, <i>Archaeological Evaluation. Land adjacent to Central House, High Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex.</i> Unpubl. ASE report 2017041	
Author of Summary: Mark Atkinson	Date of Summary: April 2018

Appendix 6: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-306976

Project details

Project name	Central House, High Street, Chipping Ongar
Short description of the project	Investigation of a 170sq m excavation area recorded the remains of pits, postholes ditches, brick-built structures and layers. The earliest feature was a single Late Bronze Age pit. Two medieval boundary ditches defined part of a plot fronting onto the High Street, outside the town enclosure. Within this, pits and postholes constituted the remains of activity of 13th to 14th century date. Recovered pottery and animal bone assemblages suggest the likely domestic nature of this activity, though no medieval buildings could be discerned amongst the postholes. A probable hearth or oven base, with associated burnt cereal remains, indicated processing or production activity. After a period of apparent abandonment, the site was reoccupied from the 17/18th century onwards. Pits indicate initial land use was probably for domestic rubbish disposal. In the early 19th century, the site was cleared and levelled in preparation for the construction of a school. Parts of a range of brick-built outbuildings, possible yard surfacing, drains and a brick-lined structure tentatively identified as the location of a water pump, shown on historic OS mapping, were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 12-09-2017 End: 28-09-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	EPF/2064/15 - Planning Application No. CO16 – Sitecode 170455 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	PIT Bronze Age POSTHOLE Medieval DITCH Medieval PITS Medieval POSTHOLES Post Medieval PIT Post Medieval HEARTH/OVEN Medieval LAYER Medieval LAYER Post Medieval BUILDING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age POTTERY Medieval POTTERY Post Medieval CBM Post Medieval LOOM WEIGHT Late Bronze Age ANIMAL BONE Medieval ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Full excavation""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX EPPING FOREST ONGAR Land Adjacent to Central House, High Street, Chipping Ongar
Postcode	CM5 9AL
Study area	170 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 55207 03275 51.706225753455 0.246504810647 51 42 22 N 000 14 47 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Gemma Stevenson
Project supervisor	Craig Carvey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

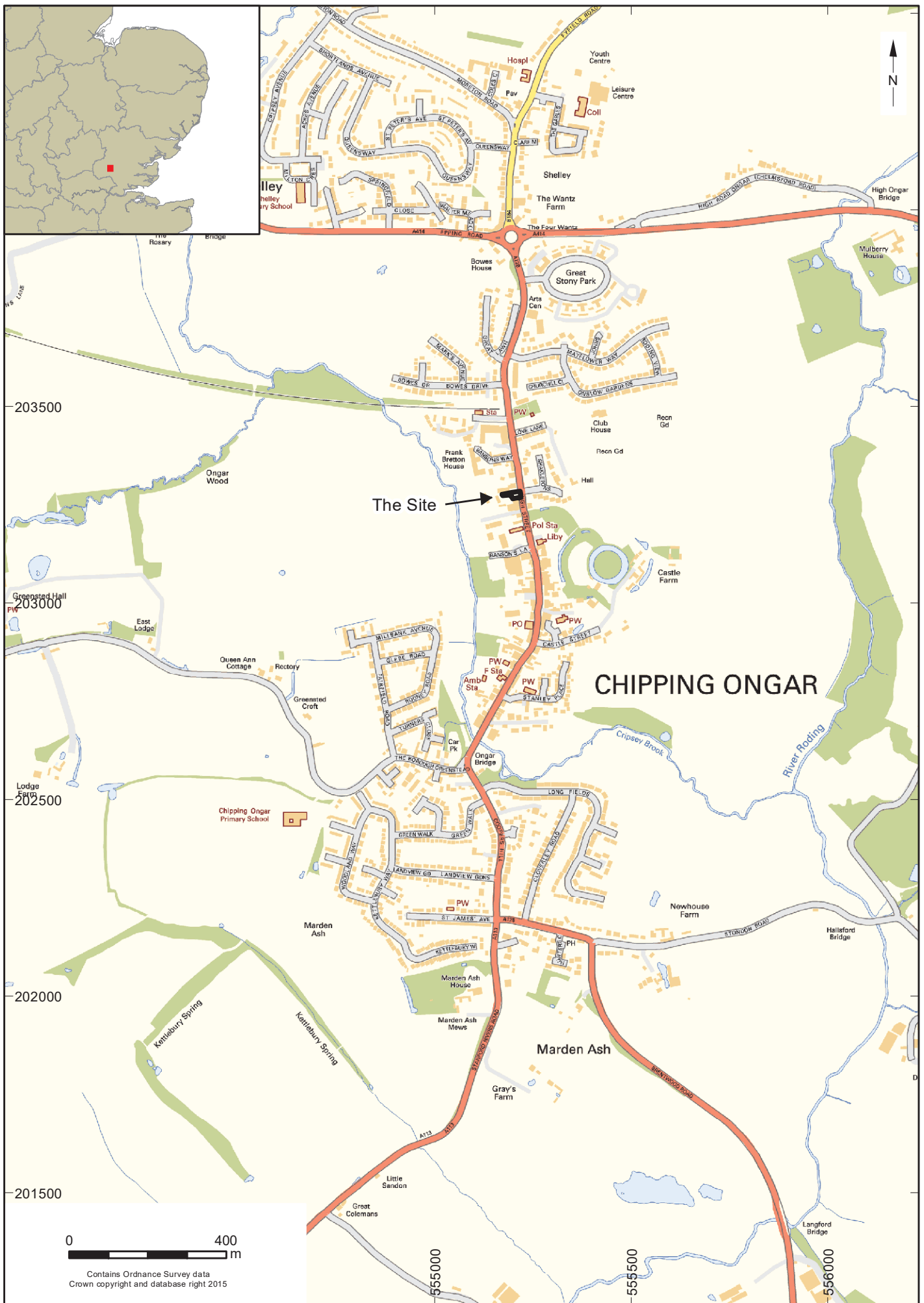
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Epping Forest District Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Epping Forest District Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Industrial", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Epping Forest District Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Glass", "Industrial", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

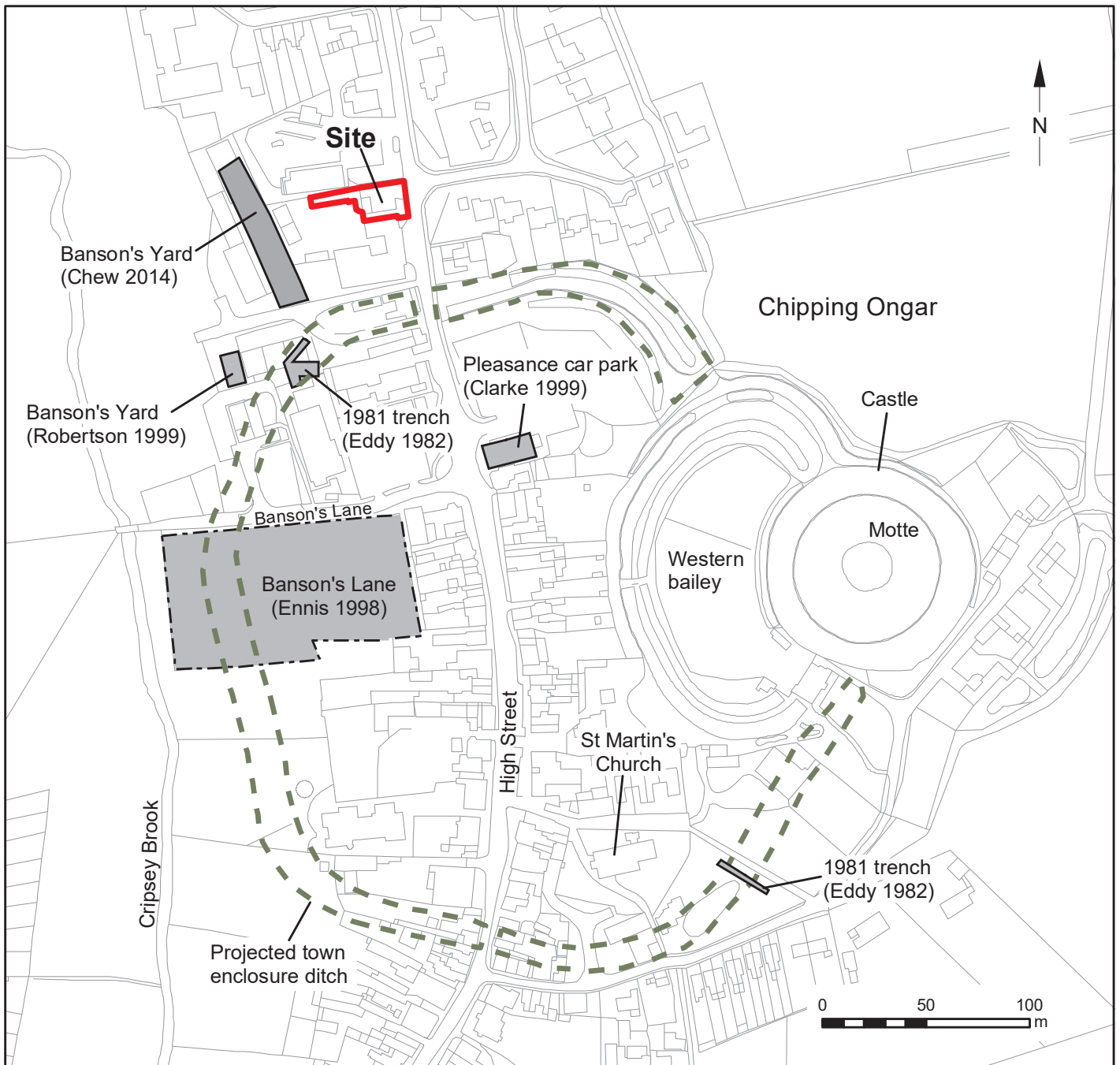
Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological excavation. Land adjacent to Central House, High Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex. Post-excavation assessment and updated project design
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carvey, C.
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Project Ref: 170455	Apr 2018	Site location	
Report No: 2017477	Drawn by: APL		

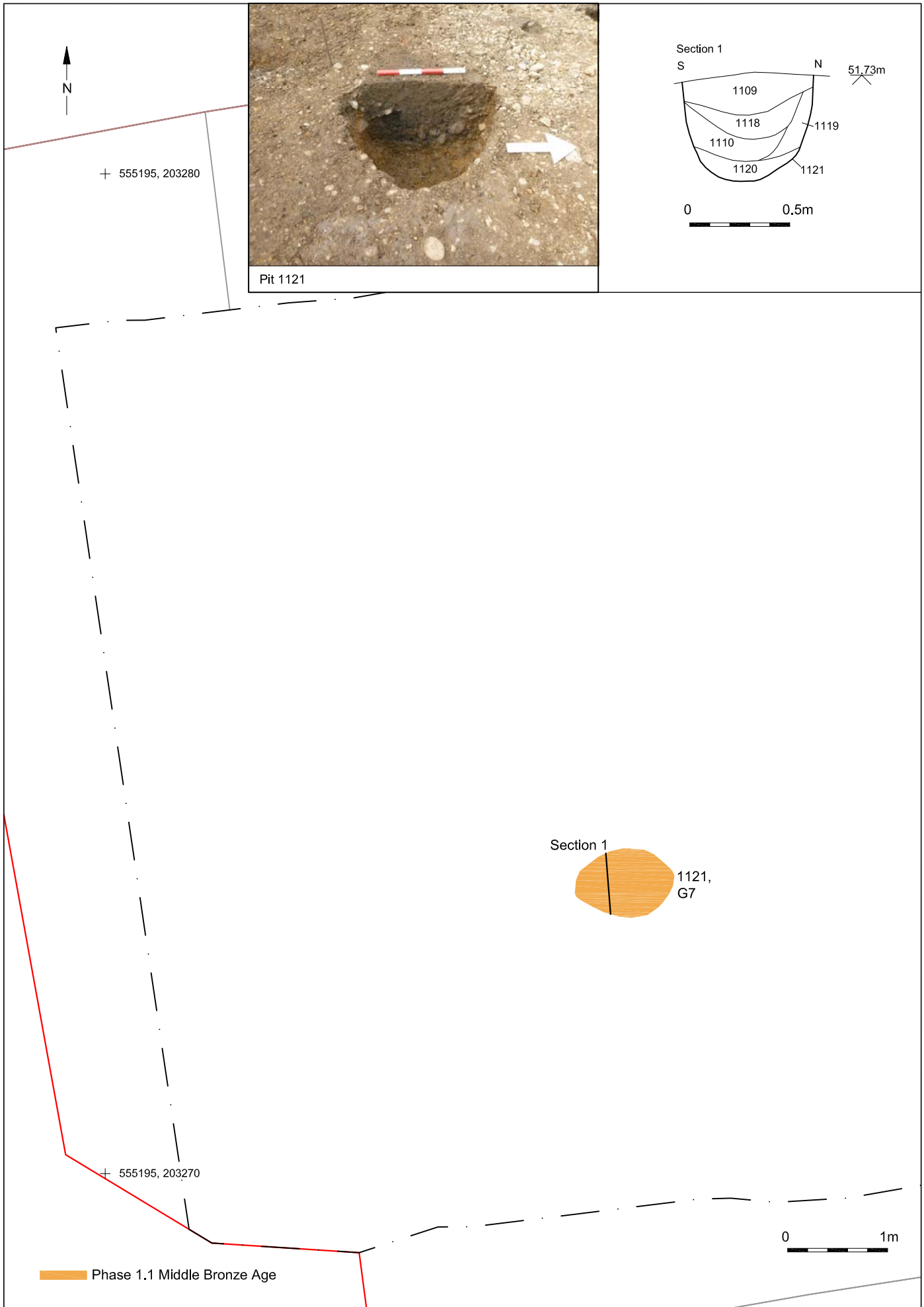


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Project Ref: 170455	Apr 2018	Location of site and previous archaeological work	
Report Ref: 2017477	Drawn by: APL		

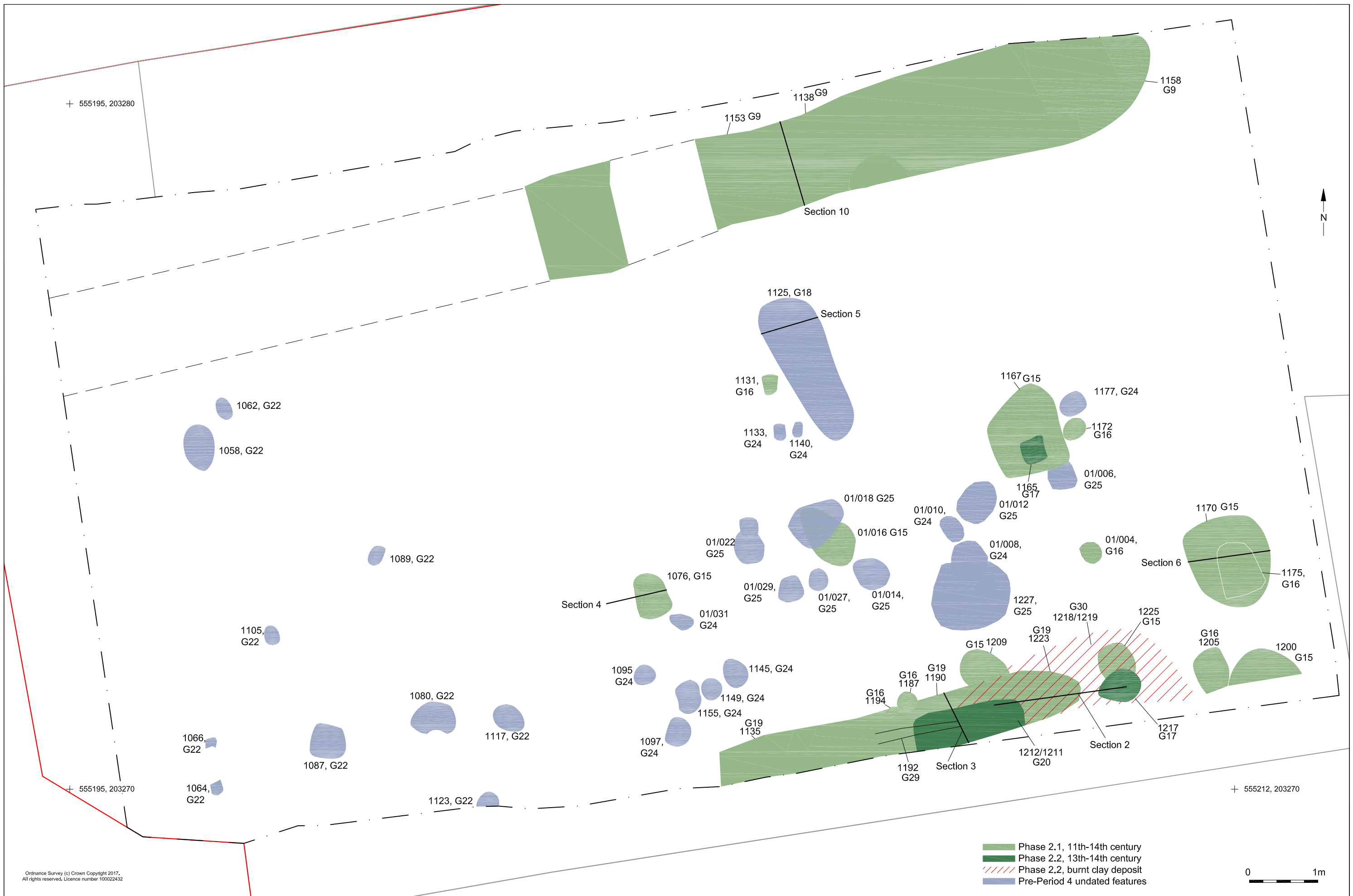


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© Archaeology South-East		Land Adjacent to Central House, High Street, Chipping Ongar	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170455	Apr 2018	Plan of the excavation area	
Report Ref: 2017477	Drawn by: APL		

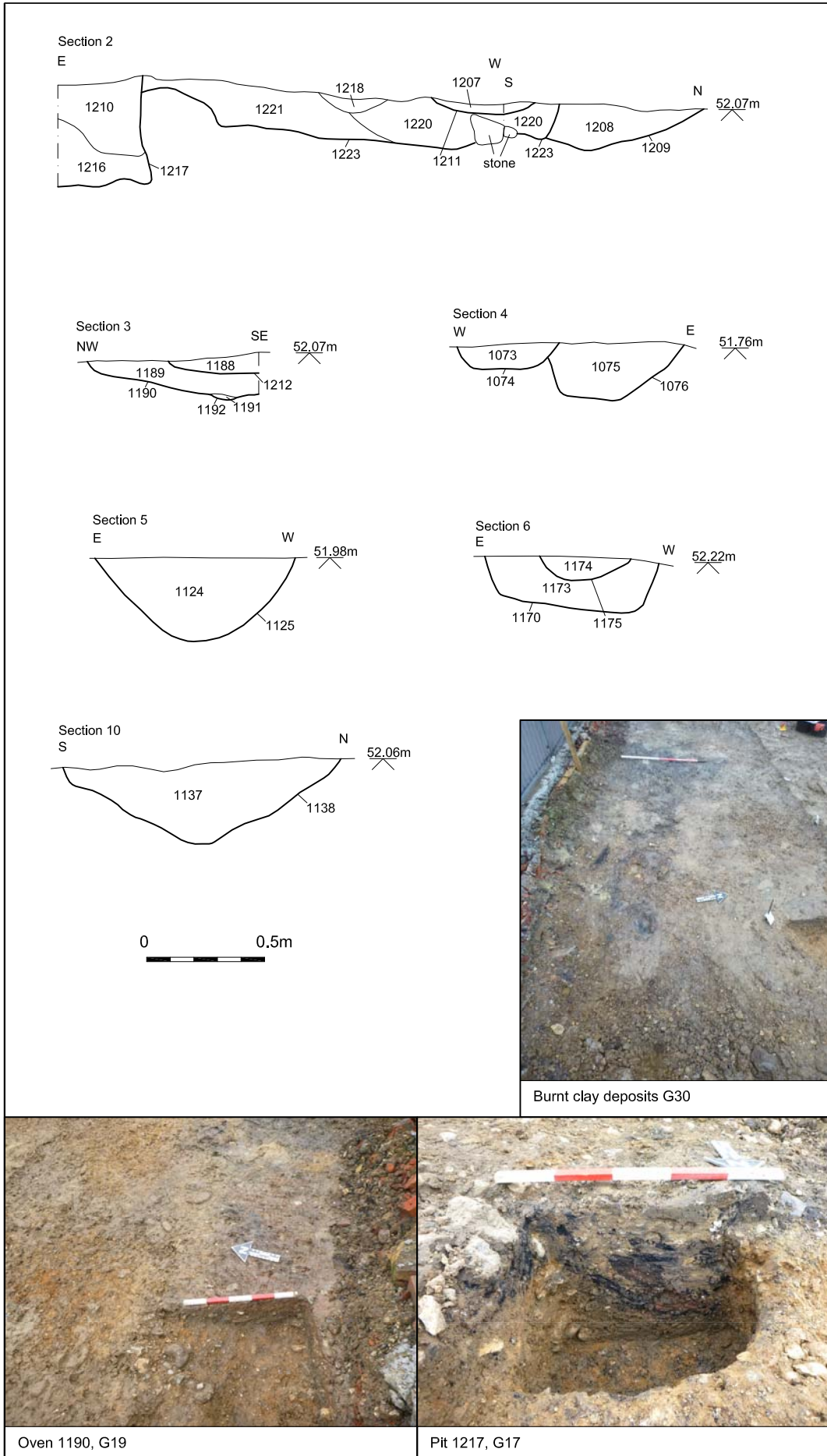


© Archaeology South-East		Land Adjacent to Central House, High Street, Chipping Ongar	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170455	Apr 2018	Period 1 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017477	Drawn by: APL		

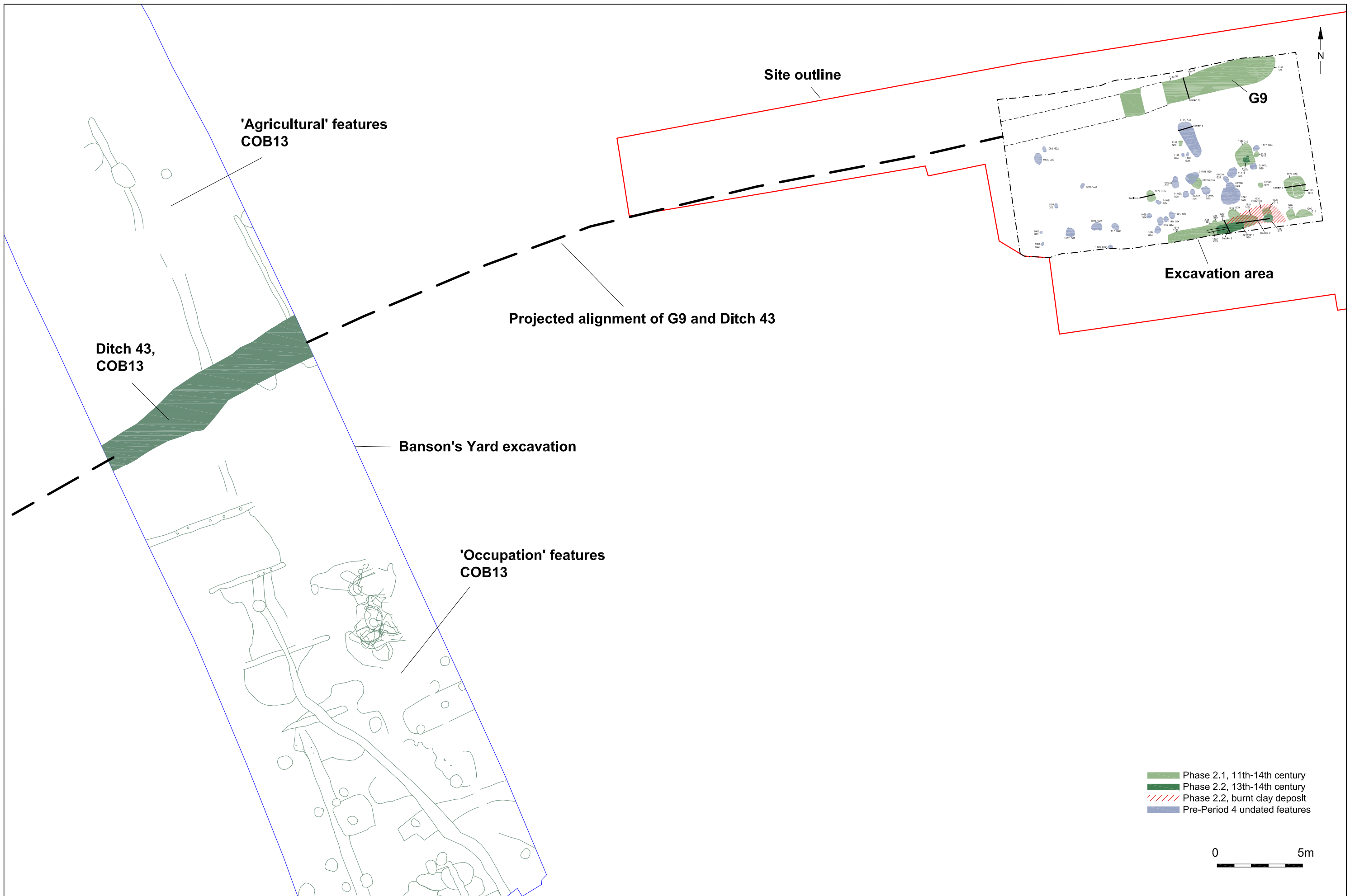


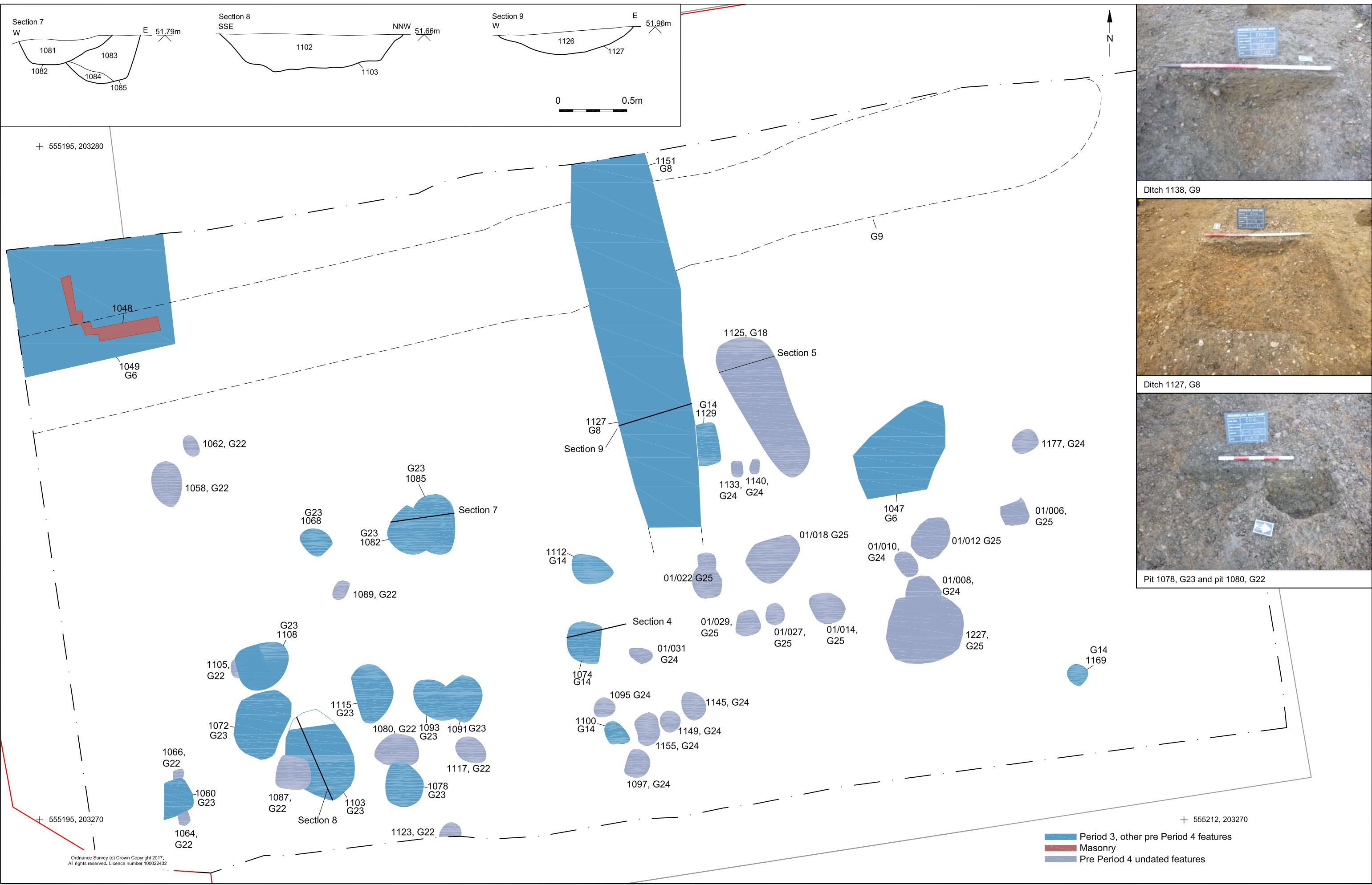
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Project Ref: 170455	Apr 2018	Period 2 plan	
Report Ref: 2017477	Drawn by: APL		



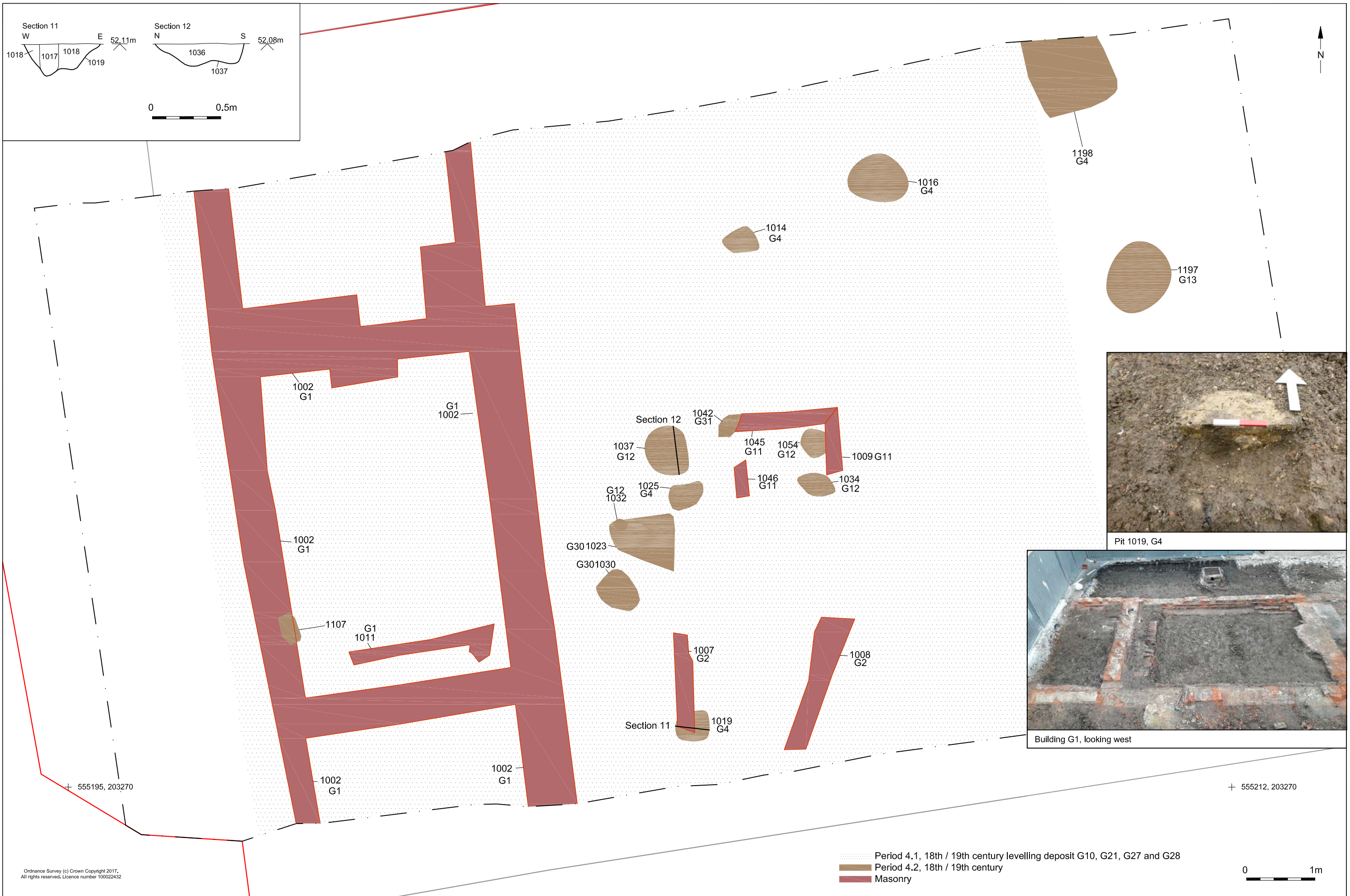
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Project Ref: 170455	Apr 2018	Period 2 sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017477	Drawn by: APL		





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Project Ref: 170455	Apr 2018	Period 3 plan, sections and photographs		
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Period 4.1, 18th / 19th century levelling deposit G10, G21, G27 and G28
 Period 4.2, 18th / 19th century
 Masonry

0 1m

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Project Ref: 170455	Apr 2018	Period 4 plan, sections and photographs		
Report Ref: 2017477	Drawn by: APL			

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