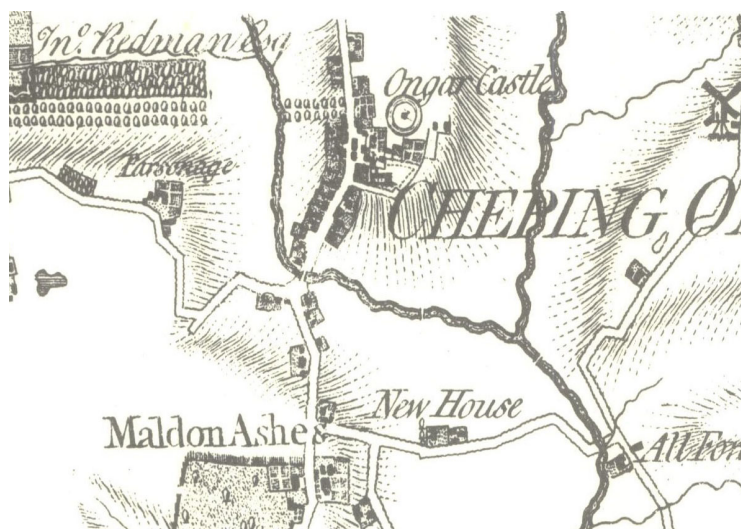


Archaeological evaluation at Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex, CM5 9JS

May 2019



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Ziya Eksen and Bronagh Quinn

**commissioned by Anthony O'Toole, E&M Design
on behalf Andrew Turk (ART)**

NGR: TL 55441 02920 (centre)

Planning ref.: EPF/0515/19

CAT project code: 19/05k

ECC code: CO18

Epping Forest Museum accession code: EPPMS 2019.183

OASIS ref.: colchest3-352257



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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CAT Report 1435

June 2019

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex in advance of the construction of an all-weather tennis court with associated fencing and groundworks. Although located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only feature uncovered was a single undatable ditch.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex, which was carried out on 30th May 2019. The work was commissioned by Antony O'Toole of E&M Design on behalf of Andrew Turk of ART in advance of the construction of an all-weather tennis court with associated fencing and groundworks. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014a)*, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b)*.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Brief and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The ECC historic town project assessment report provides an overview of the area (ECC 1999; see too ECC4099-4100). Ongar is recorded in the Domesday Book, which indicates that it was an important centre as it held the hundredal moot and hundredal markets. The town appears to have become a significant staging-point for travellers in the early post-medieval period. Its main period of growth, however, was located in the second half of the 20th century, when Chipping Ongar became established as a commuter town.

The current site is located within a large area of cropmarks showing undated linear features, trackways, field boundaries and WWII slit trenches (ECC4271). On the eastern edge of this area of cropmarks is a feature identified as a rectangular enclosure of unknown date (ECC48724).

The site is located c 100m east of an enclosure speculated to be of Saxon origins (ECC9561). It is also approximately 210m to the north of the site of a motte, c 70m in diameter at the base (ECC140). The motte is surrounded by a wet ditch c 1m wide and 15m deep. There is a kidney-shaped inner bailey to the west and a second bailey to the

east (ECC4104). The castle which originally stood within these earthworks was purportedly built by Richard de Lacy in the 12th century. The original castle was pulled down in the 16th century and replaced by a brick building, which was itself destroyed in the 18th century. The motte and bailey are both moated. The motte and west bailey are scheduled ancient monuments (no. 1002189). The surviving earthworks of the town defences, to the west of the castle, clearly formed part of this defence system. Metal-detected finds within the inner bailey include a Roman coin (ECC14927), a medieval buckle fragment and pottery (ECC14928) and post-medieval coins, buttons, a bell, a ring, a thimble, a buckle and pewter dishes (ECC14929). Medieval pottery has also been found in the garden of Castle House, adjacent to the motte and bailey (ECC4105).

The site is c 190m southeast of the church of St Martin. The chancel and nave of the church were built at end of the 11th century, and additions and alterations were made between the 13th and 18th centuries (ECC4110-1). Structural remains thought to be Roman foundations have been found within the church and churchyard (ECC4108). Extensive re-use of Roman tile can be observed in the angle quoins of the nave and over the 11th-century lancet windows although no evidence has been discovered in recent times to confirm Roman occupation (ECC4108).

The market-place is located c 320m northwest of the site and consists of a cigar-shaped widening of the High Street. The medieval market is first mentioned in 1287, but, as Ongar was the site of the Saxon hundredal market, it is probable that there has been a market on the site since late Saxon times. The Market House (also known as the Butter Market), stood next to The Kings Head fronting on to the market-place. Pictures suggest it was a 17th-century building, but may have replaced an earlier structure. It was converted to shops in 1877, and its social functions were relocated in the Town Hall (ECC18435). Flanking the main High Street are a numerous historic buildings, many of which are listed.

4 Aim

Archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two archaeological trial-trenches laid out in a cross-shape were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench T1 was 30m long by 1.8m wide. T2 was 14m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenches were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.2-0.32m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 50% gravel) onto natural gravels (L2, loose/friable, dry medium orange/brown sandy-silt with 75% gravel).

There were no archaeological features in T2.

Trench 1 (T3): 30m long and 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F1 lay on a NE-SW alignment and was 1.35m wide and 0.21m deep.



Photograph 1 Site shot

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological significance, only one undatable ditch was uncovered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Antony O'Toole of E&M design and Andrew Turk of ART for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with Z Eksen and B Quinn. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex, CM5 9JS</i>
CAT Report 1040	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bamber's Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF: November 2016</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 1379	2019	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land south of School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex – February 2019</i> , by E Holloway
CAT Report 1405	forthcoming	<i>Archaeological evaluation and excavation on land at Croft End, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex: April 2019</i> , by E Hicks
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,</i>

ECC	1999	<i>conservation and research of archaeological materials Chipping Ongar – Historic Town Project Assessment Report</i> , by M Medlycott
ECCPS	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching at 42 Castle Street Chipping Ongar</i> , by M Medlycott
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> , by S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1435)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1435)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos and log

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Epping Forest Museum under accession code EPPMS: 2019.183.

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Distribution list:

Antony O'Toole, E&M Design

Andrew Turk, ART

Maria Medlycott, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

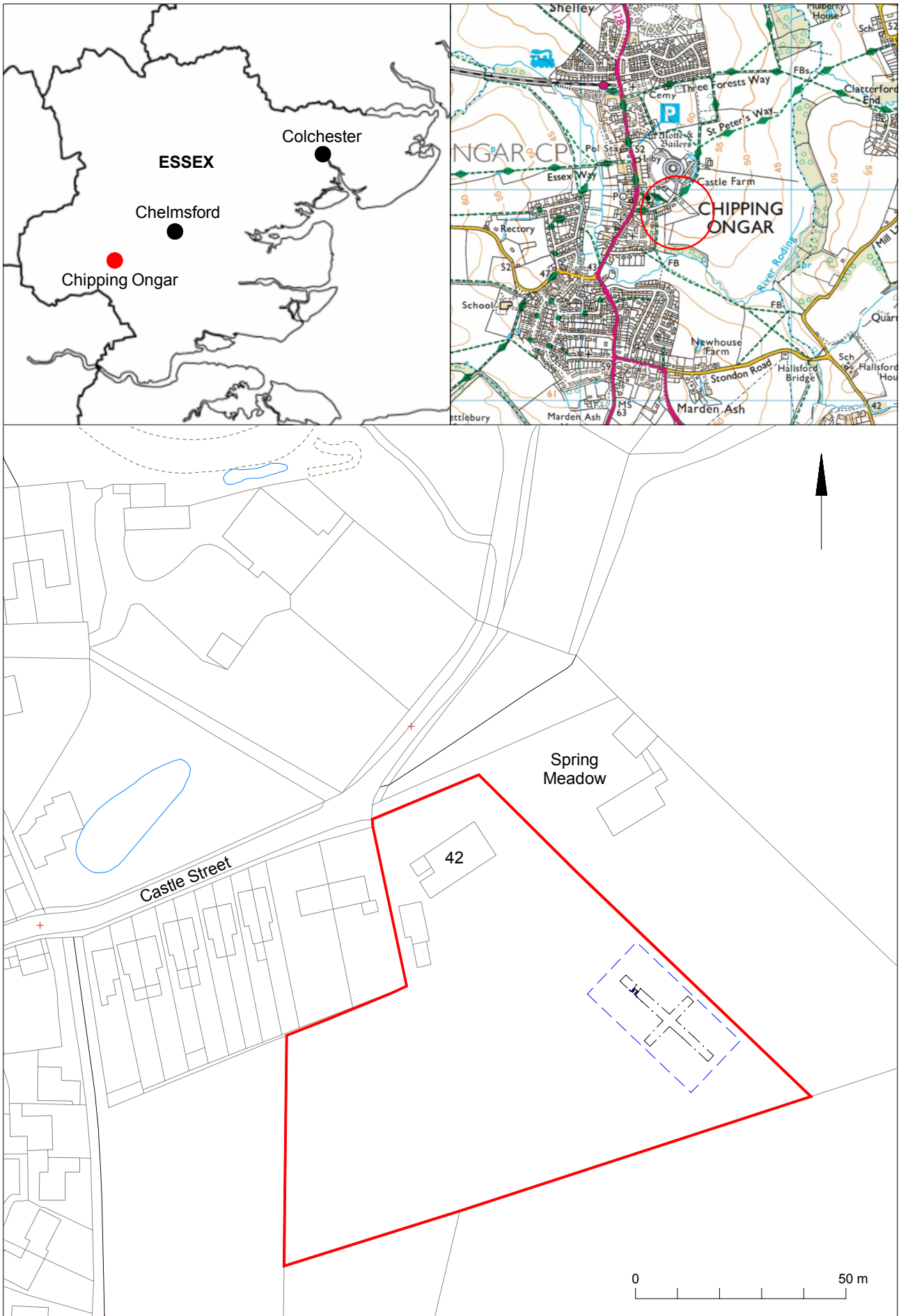
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 18.06.2019



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed tennis court (dashed blue outline).

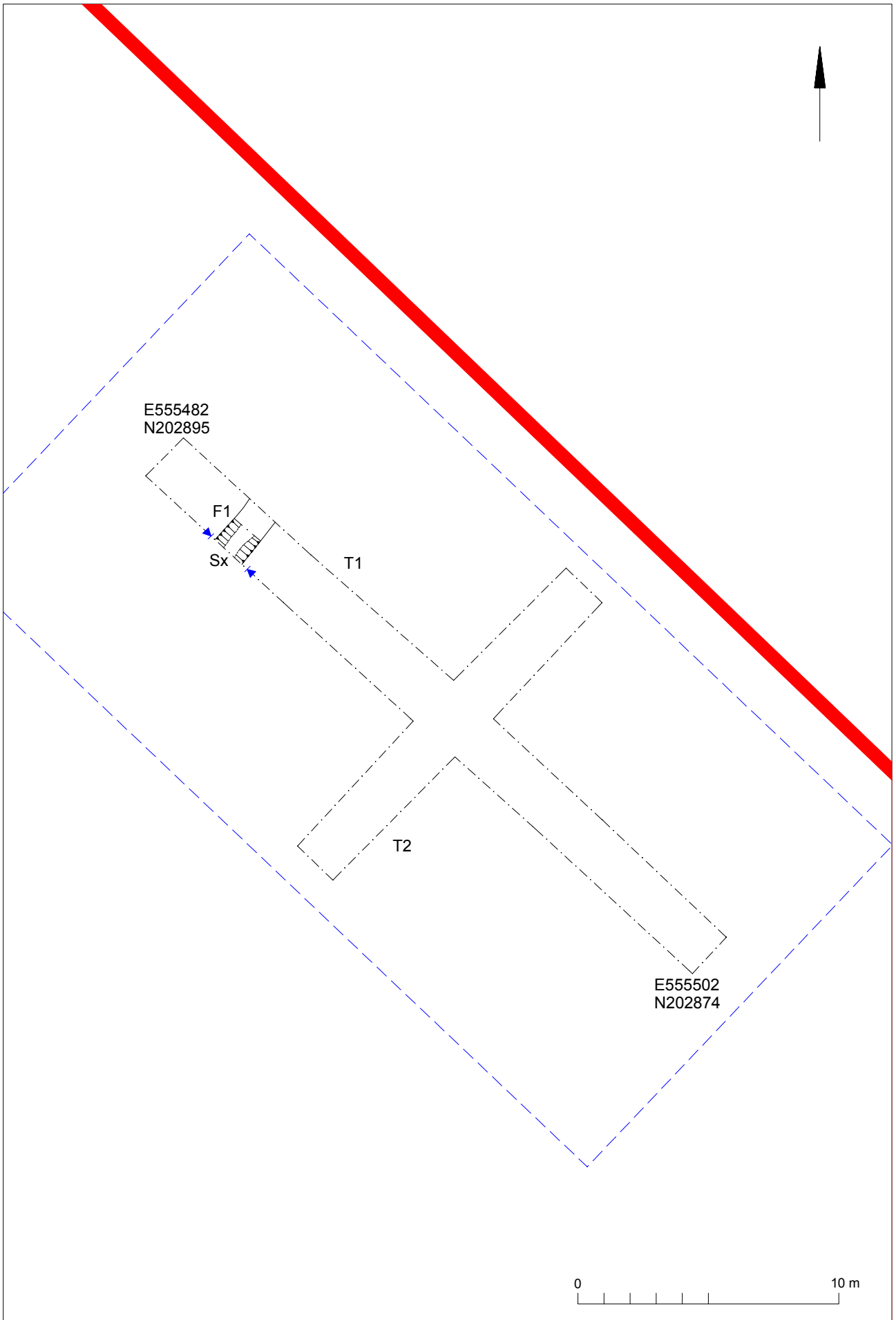


Fig 2 Evaluatrimon results.

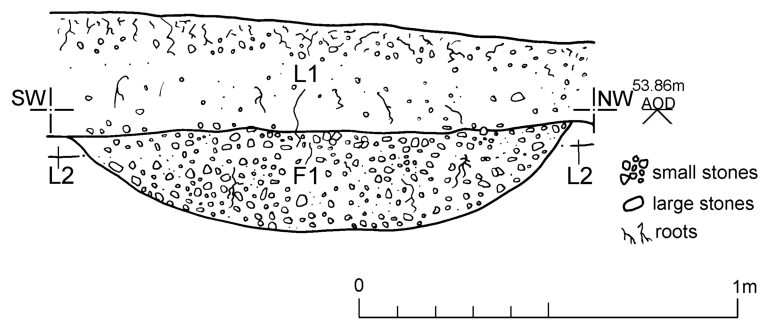


Fig 3 Feature and representative section.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-352257

Project details

Project name	archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex, CM5 9JS
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex in advance of the construction of an all-weather tennis court with associated fencing and groundworks. Although located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only feature uncovered was a single undatable ditch.
Project dates	Start: 30-05-2019 End: 30-05-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/18/2551/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/05k - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	EPPMS: 2019.183 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	CO18 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location	ESSEX EPPING FOREST ONGAR Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex
Postcode	CM5 9JS
Study area	0.75 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 55441 02920 51.702971030578 0.249730679842 51 42 10 N 000 14 59 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 53.55m Max: 53.83m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Epping Forest Museum
Digital Archive ID	EPPMS: 2019.183
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Epping Forest Museum
Paper Archive ID	EPPMS: 2019.183
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex, CM5 9JS: May 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1435
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk

Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on 18 June 2019

OASIS:

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Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation At 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar



Date:
13/05/19





Title: Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching at 42 Castle Street Chipping Ongar

Planning Reference: EPF/0515/19

Date issued: 13/05/19

Historic Environment Advisor: Maria Medlycott maria.medlycott@essex.gov.uk

Museum: Epping Forest District Museum

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Advisor of Place Services, Essex County Council should be contacted to assess whether changes are required. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.

*The archaeological contractor is advised to visit the site before completing their **written scheme of investigation (WSI)** as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.*

1. Introduction

The Historic Environment Advisor of Place Services, Essex County Council has prepared this brief for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation at 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar. The development lies to the east of Chipping Ongar, south of Chipping Ongar castle.

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development is located at 42 Castle Street, Ongar (TL5544102920). It is located just south of the castle within the historic settlement of Chipping Ongar. Currently the area exists as a garden. Details of the planning application can be found on the Epping Planning web site.

3. Planning Background

A planning application for the development of the site was submitted to Epping Forest District Council (EPF/0515/19). The proposed development comprises the *formation of an all weather surface tennis court (for personal use) with associated fencing.*

The following condition was placed on the application due to the potential impact on archaeological deposits known to survive in the area. It follows the policies within the National Planning Policy Framework:-

Recommendations: *Full condition*

'No preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme 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'.

4. Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective contractors are advised to obtain the EHER information prior to the completion of any written scheme of investigation.

The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) shows that the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological interest, just outside the Scheduled Monument of Chipping Ongar Castle (SM 14597, EHER 4104). The area around the application area is known to be associated with the construction of the castle as well as being adjacent to cropmarks of practice trenches from the First World War (EHER4271, 4099). There is the likelihood of archaeological features relating to the origins and development of Chipping Ongar historic town (EHER 4100) being impacted on by the proposed development.

To the west of the site lies the Church of St Martins dating to the 11th century (EHER 3228). The church would have formed the focal point for the local population.

Details on the history of Chipping Ongar can be found in the Historic Town report on Chipping Ongar (Medlycott 1999)

5. Requirement for Work

The archaeological work will comprise a cross-shaped trench of the proposed tennis court across its length and breadth. The IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations and Excavations* should be used for additional guidance in the production of the content of the WSI and report, and the general execution of the project.

The initial work will comprise the trial trenching which will be followed by a summary report. This will either lead to further archaeological work, potentially comprising of open area excavations within the areas identified as having archaeological remains and any other required groundwork areas. If no archaeological deposits are identified a report on the trial trenching alone will be required.

NB: The work described here forms the first part of the archaeological fieldwork to be undertaken on this site. Further fieldwork comprising open-area excavation maybe required dependent on the results of this phase of investigation.

6. General Methodology

6.1 A professional team of field archaeologists shall undertake the trial-trenching. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. Notification of the project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of commencement of work.

6.2 A provisional timetable for the work shall be given in the written scheme of investigation.

- 6.3 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- 6.5 All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.
- 6.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms

7. Trenching Methodology

- 7.1 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features excavated and recorded.
- 7.2 Details of the site planning and recording policies shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- 7.3 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.
- 7.4 If walls or other masonry remains are uncovered these should be cleaned up, recorded and sampled, but left *in situ* where possible.
- 7.5 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).
- 7.6 Details of the site photographic policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The photographic record shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- 7.7 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. These should be left *in situ* wherever possible.
- 7.8 The IFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations and excavations and the EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region document should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.
- 7.9 A meeting will be held on site once the trial trenching has been completed to define the level of further investigation. A summary of the results and a plan of the findings with a completed spot-dating report of all finds will be available at the meeting.

8. Post Excavation Assessment

- 8.1 An updated post excavation assessment shall be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time to the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 8.2 Where archaeological results do not warrant a post excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the Historic Environment Advisor to proceed straight to grey literature /publication.

9. Finds

- 9.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 9.2 All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- 9.3 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.
- 9.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Epping Forest) prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing to the Historic Environment Advisor.

10. Results

- 10.1 The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 2 months) from the end of the evaluation phase, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a digital copy as a single PDF supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 10.2 This report must contain:
 - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the assessment
 - Location plan of excavated areas and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site shall be given 10 figure grid references.
 - A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
 - Methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Where appropriate the discussion should be completed in consultation with the Eastern Counties Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
 - All specialist reports
 - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
 - An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor. This will be completed in digital form. A copy should

also be e-mailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects in the Journal paul.gilman@me.com

- 10.3 Publication of the results at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in Essex Archaeology and History) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal.

11. Archive Deposition

- 11.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Epping), and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 11.2 The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 month of the completion of the report and confirmed with the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 11.3 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor at the time of deposition to the museum.

12. Monitoring

- 12.1 The Historic Environment Advisor will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 12.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of its commencement.
- 12.3 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to them being carried out.

13. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

- 13.1 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the IFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide *the basis for a measurable standard* and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.
- 13.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a written scheme of investigation to the Historic Environment Advisor for validation **before** any work is undertaken on site. This validation is undertaken on behalf of the Planning Authority.
- 13.3 The involvement of the Historic Environment Advisor shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

14. References

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J.	2000	Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8
Gurney, D.	2003	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14
Medlycott, M	1999	Chipping Ongar Historic Town Assessment
Medlycott, M.	2011	Research and Archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 24

For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

Katie Lee-Smith
Historic Environment Advisor
Place Services
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an
archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at
Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar,
Essex, CM5 9JS.**

NGR: TL 55441 02920 (centre)

Planning reference: EPF/0515/19

Commissioned by: Antony O'Toole (E & M Design)

On behalf of: Andrew Turk (ART)

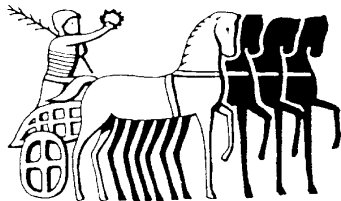
Curating museum: Epping Forest
Museum accession code: tbc

ECC project code: tbc
CAT project code: 2019/05k
Oasis project ID: colchest3-352257

Site manager: Chris Lister

ECC monitor: Maria Medlycott

This WSI written: 21/05/2019



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is currently in an area used as a garden, located on the southeastern edge of the small market town of Chipping Ongar, at 'Spring Ponds', 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex CM5 9JS. The site is centred at National grid reference (NGR) TL 55441 02920(c).

Proposed work

The planning application proposes the creation of an all-weather surface tennis court with associated fencing and groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Brief and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The ECC historic town project assessment report gives a good overview of the area (ECC 1999, see also ECC4099-4100): Ongar is recorded in the Domesday Book and that it was an important centre as it held the hundredal moot and hundredal markets. Ongar Great Park, to the west of the town is the oldest recorded park in England, being first mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon will of 1015 AD. Chipping Ongar castle was constructed in the decades following the Conquest, becoming the main manor of the Boulogne estates. The town appears to have been a deliberate plantation attached to the castle. The church which is an integral part of the town plan is thought to date to the mid-12th century. The market is first mentioned in 1287, but was probably a direct successor to the hundredal market. Chipping Ongar appears to have become a significant staging-point for travellers in the early post-medieval period. However, the main period of growth has been as a commuter town in the second half of the 20th century.

The current site is located within a large area of cropmarks, these are features identified through aerial photography. The cropmarks show undated linear features, trackways, field boundaries and WWII slit trenches (ECC4271). On the eastern edge of this area of cropmarks is a feature identified as a rectangular enclosure of unknown date (ECC48724).

The site is located c 97m east of a suggested Saxon enclosure (ECC9561). It is also approximately 212m to the north of the site of a motte, c 70m in diameter at the base (ECC140). The motte is surrounded by a wet ditch c 1m wide and 15m deep. There is a kidney-shaped inner bailey to the west and a second bailey to the east (ECC4104). According to Historic England the castle is said to have been built by Richard de Lacy in the 12th century but, the keep was pulled down in the 16th century and replaced by a brick building, itself destroyed in the 18th century. The motte and bailey are both moated. The motte and west bailey are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (no. 1002189) with surviving earthworks of the town defences, which were to the west of the castle but were clearly part of the whole scheme. Metal detected finds within the inner bailey have included a Roman coin (ECC14927), medieval buckle fragment and pottery (ECC14928) and post-medieval coins, buttons, bell, ring, thimble, buckle and pewter dishes (ECC14929). Medieval pottery has also been found in the garden of Castle House adjacent to the motte and bailey (ECC4105).

The site is 190m southeast of the Church of St Martin. The chancel and nave were built at end of the 11th century, with additions and alterations added between the 13th-18th centuries (ECC4110-1). The HER records that Roman foundations have been vaguely recorded at having been found within the church and churchyard (ECC4108). Extensive use of Roman tile can be seen in the angle quoins of the nave and over the 11th century lancet windows although no evidence has been discovered in recent times to confirm Roman occupation (ECC4108).

The market-place is located c 320m northwest of the site and consists of a cigar-shaped widening of the High Street. The medieval market is first mentioned in 1287, but as Ongar

was the site of the Saxon hundredal market it is probable that there has been a continuous market on the site since late Saxon times. The Market House (also known as the Butter Market, stood next to The Kings Head fronting on to the market-place, pictures suggest it was 17th century build, but may have been a rebuild of an earlier structure, it was converted to shops in 1877, and its function replaced by the Town Hall (ECC18435). Flanking the main High Street are a numerous historic buildings, many of which are Listed.

Planning background

An outline planning application (EPF/0515/19) was submitted to Epping Forest District Council in March 2019 for the *formation of an all weather surface tennis court (for personal use) with associated fencing*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains a phased full archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019) and states:

No development or preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching and excavation has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for evaluation by trial-trenching. If archaeological deposits are identified, the trial-trenching may be followed by open area excavation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECC Place Services (*Archaeological brief for Trial Trenching at 42 Castle Street Chipping Ongar*– ECC 2019).

Specifically,

A cross-shaped trench measuring 44.2m long (30m by 14.2m) and 1.8m wide, this equates to 79.56m² of trenching.

The archaeological work aims to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development, and assess the potential for further archaeological remains.

This initial trial-trenching evaluation will be followed by a summary report. If significant archaeological deposits are identified, the ECCHEA may decide that the further excavation work is required, comprising open area excavation of those deposits.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECC 2019)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to ECCHEA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus one archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Mark Baister/Ben Holloway.

Trial-trenching methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the ECCHEA, will it be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the ECCHEA.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or ECCHEA. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the fieldwork, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ

license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the ECCHEA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed..

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Matthew Loughton (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

project osteologist (human remains): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Norfolk Museums Service / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

Small finds: Nina Crummy

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to ECCHEA.

Post-excavation assessment

An updated post-excavation assessment will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the ECCHEA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the ECCHEA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

Results

Notification will be given to ECCHEA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the ECCHEA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects (paul.gilman@me.com).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

Archive deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 month of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to ECCHEA.

Monitoring

ECCHEA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given ECCHEA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with ECCHEA prior to them being carried out.

ECCHEA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of ECCHEA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1040	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF: November 2016.</i> By L Pooley

CAT Report 1379	2019	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land south of School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex – February 2019.</i> By E Holloway
CAT Report 1405	forthcoming	<i>Archaeological evaluation and excavation on land at Croft End, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex: April 2019.</i> By E Hicks
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECC	1999	<i>Chipping Ongar – Historic Town Project Assessment Report.</i> By M Medlycott
ECCPS	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching at 42 Castle Street Chipping Ongar.</i> By M Medlycott
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

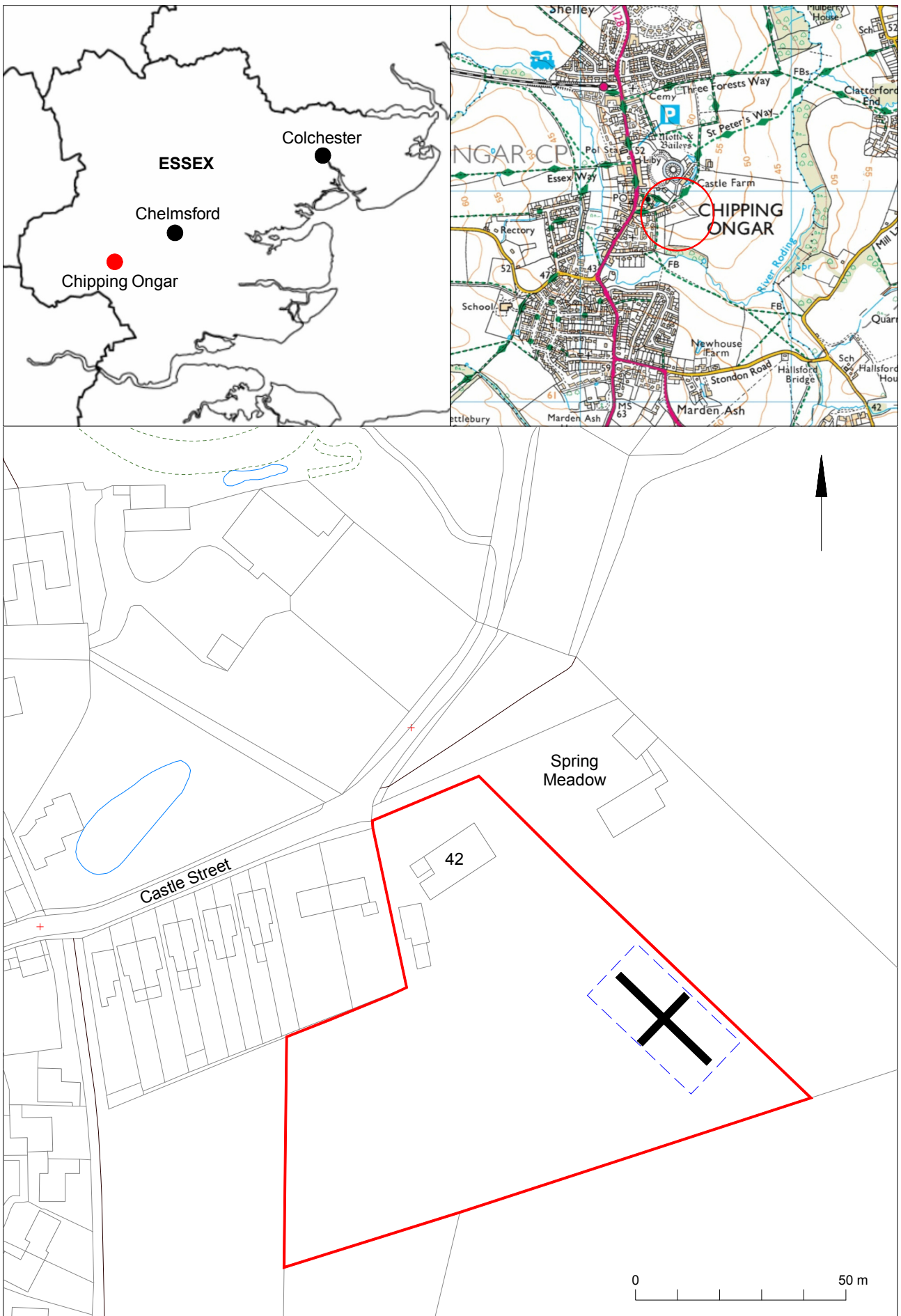
E Holloway



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed tennis court (dashed blue outline).

Site Code: CO18

Site Name: Chipping Ongar Spring Ponds EVAL

Layer No.

Interpretation Topsoil

Period

1

Location Whole trench

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces 50

RECORDING

Plan nos

Section nos

pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS

Find Nos:

NOTES Topsoil, garden soil. Frequent root action. c.30cm thick.

cut by

Photo

L 1

cutting

By BQ Date 30/05/19

Layer

Site Name: Chipping Ongar Spring Ponds EVAL
Interpretation Natural
Period
Location Whole trench

Layer No.

2

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose ✓ soft friable ✓ firm hard dry ✓ moist wet
Colour very light medium dark ✓ yellow orange ✓ green grey brown black ✓
Soil Type sand ✓ silt ✓ clay loam clay silt sand charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces 75

RECORDING

Plan nos

Section nos

pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS

Find Nos:

NOTES Coarse gravel natural.

cut by

Photo

L 2

cutting

By BQ

Date 30/05/19



01



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



Photographic log for Chipping Ongar Spring Ponds Evaluation

Filename	Description
CO18_PhotoGraph_001.jpg	T1 rep sx showing F1 - looking south-west
CO18_PhotoGraph_002.jpg	T1 trench shot - looking south-east
CO18_PhotoGraph_003.jpg	T1 trench shot - looking north-west
CO18_PhotoGraph_004.jpg	T2 trench shot - looking south-west (north arrow facing wrong direction)
CO18_PhotoGraph_005.jpg	T2 trench shot - looking north-east
CO18_PhotoGraph_006.jpg	Site shot
CO18_PhotoGraph_007.jpg	Site shot
CO18_PhotoGraph_008.jpg	Site shot
CO18_PhotoGraph_009.jpg	Site shot