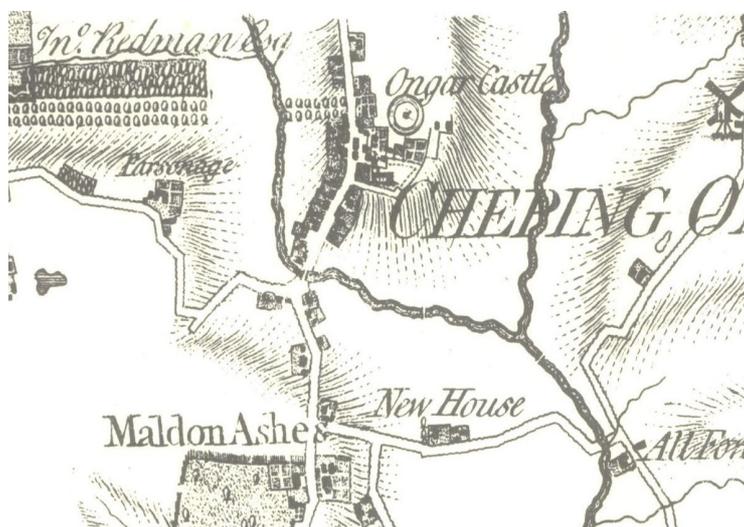


# Archaeological evaluation at Spring Ponds, 42 Castle Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex, CM5 9JS

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

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**CAT Report 1435**

June 2019

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OASIS summary sheet

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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 &amp; 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 <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> ).
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 <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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

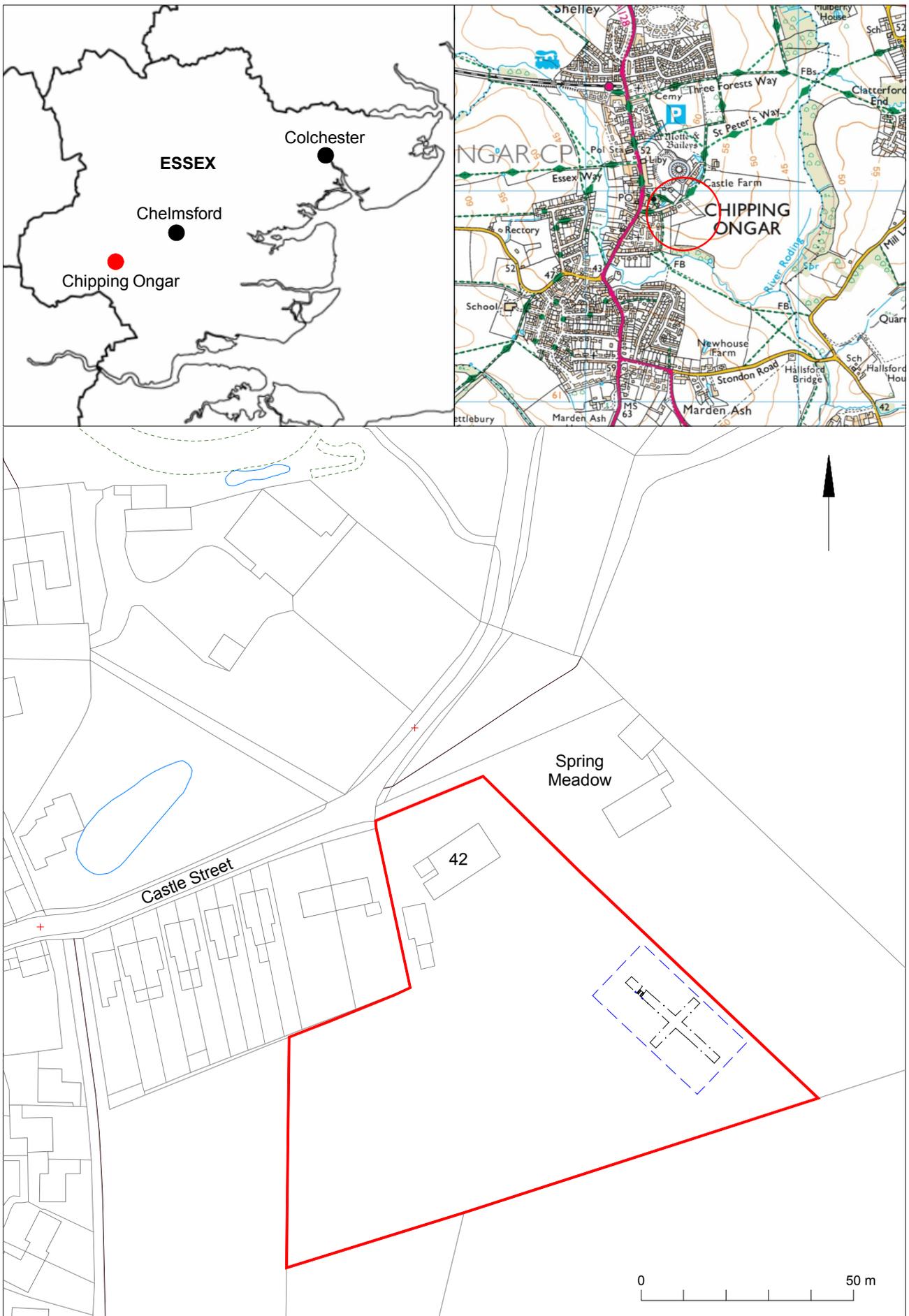
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 18.06.2019



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

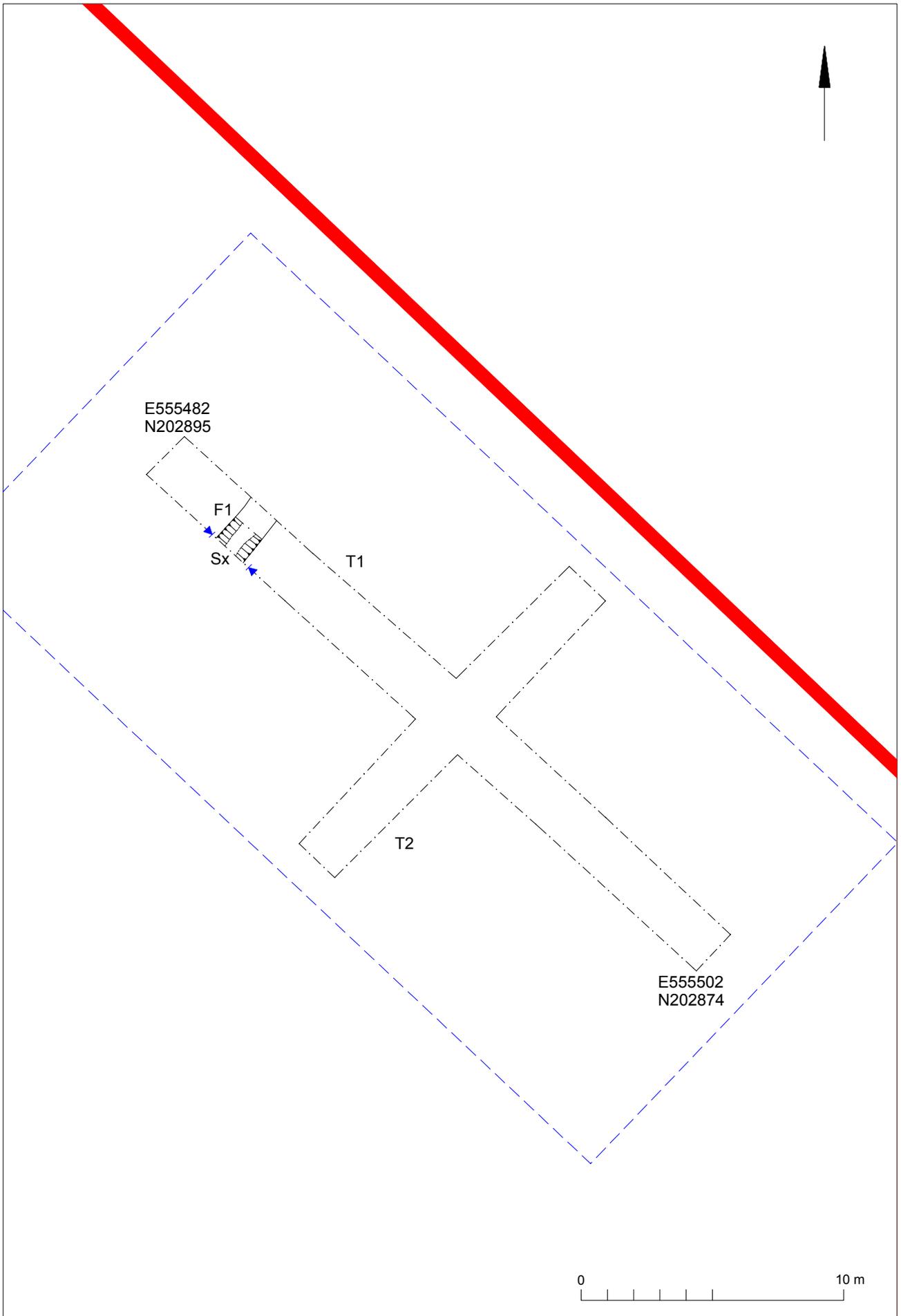


Fig 2 Evaluatrimon results.

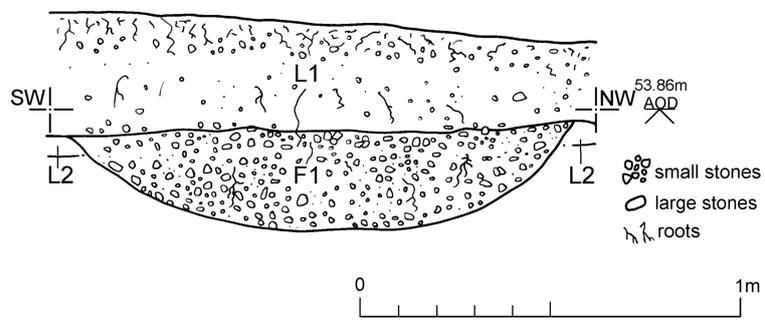


Fig 3 Feature and representative section.

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**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.
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Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
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Entered on 18 June 2019

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