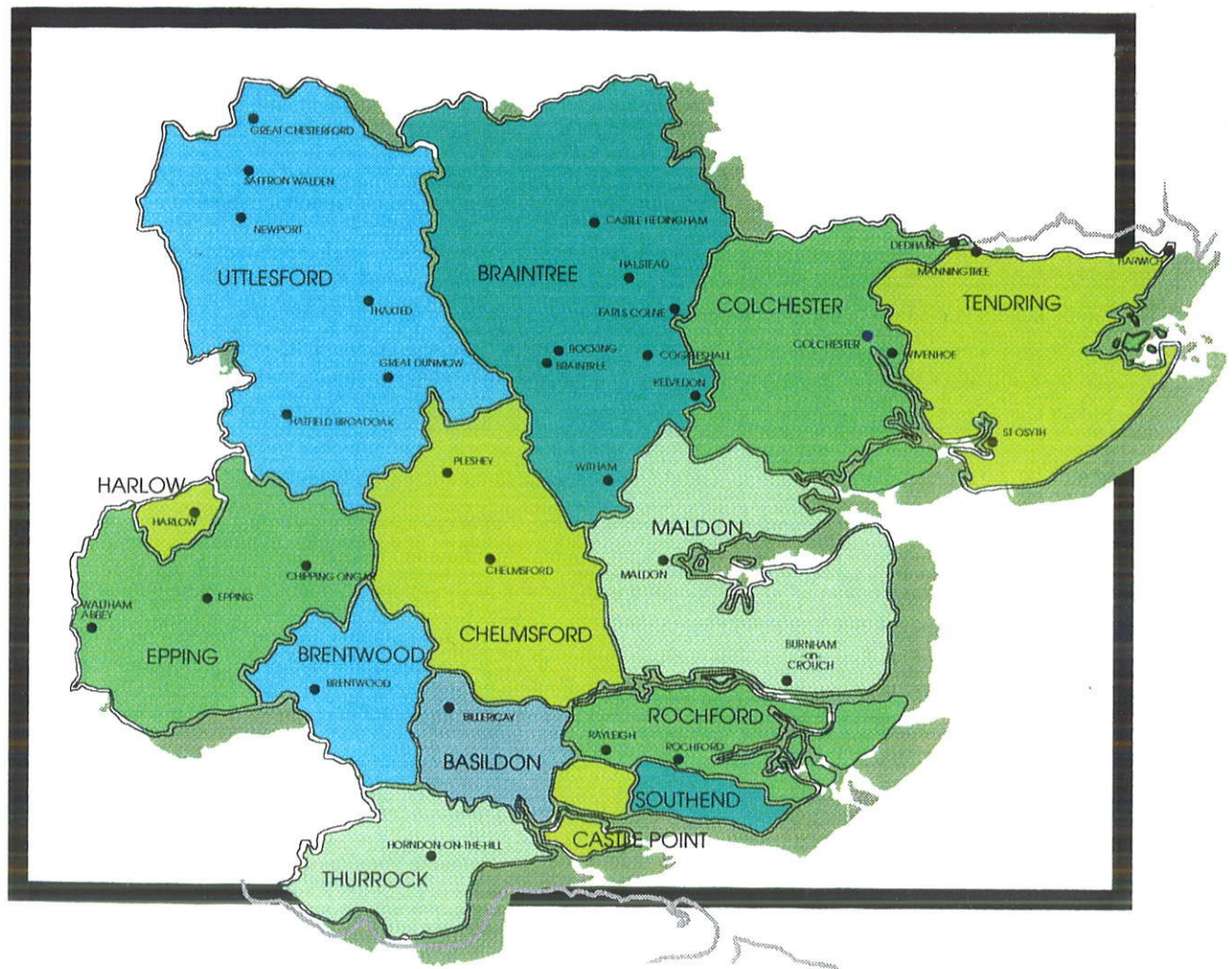


# CHIPPING ONGAR

## HISTORIC TOWN PROJECT ASSESSMENT REPORT

March 1999



Essex County Council

Planning

HERITAGE CONSERVATION GROUP

# CHIPPING ONGAR

## HISTORIC TOWN ASSESSMENT REPORT

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# CHIPPING ONGAR HISTORIC TOWN ASSESSMENT REPORT

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report is an archaeological and historical assessment of Chipping Ongar and forms part of the Essex Historic Towns Survey. This is an extensive urban survey as defined by English Heritage (1992a) of 32 historic settlements in Essex. This project, funded by English Heritage, forms part of a nationwide reassessment of the management of the urban archaeological resource. The project is being carried out by Essex County Council's Planning Department and takes as its basis a survey carried out by the County Council in the early 1980's. This was published as Historic Towns in Essex (Eddy and Petchey 1983) and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the County and District Councils.

This report has been compiled using a number of sources, including the Essex Sites and Monuments Record (ESMR), the List of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Interest, records held by the County Planning Department's Historic Buildings Section, and various cartographic and documentary records (following an assessment of such records by Dr Chris Thornton of the Victoria County History, Essex). The preparation of this report has involved the addition of information to the ESMR database and the digitising of spatial data onto a Geographic Information System (GIS).

For the purposes of this study the Roman period is the time-span between 43-410, the Saxon period is 410-1066, the medieval period is 1066-1536, the post-medieval period is 1536-1900 and the modern period is 1900 to the present day. This corresponds to the period divisions used by the ESMR.

## 2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Chipping Ongar lies in the angle between the River Roding and one of its major tributaries, the Cripsey Brook. The Roding Valley formed a north-south routeway that continued via Great Dunmow and Finchingfield into Suffolk. This route was, even in the eighteenth century, one of the chief drove-ways of East Anglia. It is sited on one of the few patches of glacial sand in a predominately clay area.

## 3. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TOWN

Ongar is recorded in the Domesday Book and was evidently an important centre as both the hundredal moot and the hundredal market were held there. 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. 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. The 1377 poll-tax records 108 tax-payers in Chipping Ongar.

Chipping Ongar appears to have become a significant staging-point for travellers in the early post-medieval period, and by 1686 there was within the town accommodation for 71 people and 104 horses. The taxation data for 1801 records a population of 595, rising in 1841 to a population of 870. However the main period of growth has been as a commuter town in the second half of the 20th century.

## 4. EVIDENCE

### 4.1 DOCUMENTARY

#### *4.1.1 Summary assessment of the documentary and cartographic evidence*

by Chris Thornton (Victoria County History)

Chipping Ongar is a planted town carved out of High Ongar parish, and the site of a hundredal market. Despite clear evidence of its urban status with regard to size and wealth in the 14th century taxation records, there is very limited source material for the town (unless this is to be found within the records for High Ongar). There are also relatively few deeds in the Essex Record Office (ERO). A 16th century extent and rental may contain the best early topographic evidence for the town. Apart from the small scale Chapman and André map of Essex, no map of the town before the 19th century tithe map has been located. There are 19th and 20th century local government records. The main secondary source is *VCH Essex*, IX, 155-171.

#### *4.1.2 Assessment of the place-name and documentary evidence*

The place-name 'Ongar' means 'grass-land' (Reaney, 1935, 72), suggesting that it was noticeably less wooded than its surrounding area. It is first mentioned in 1045 in an Anglo-Saxon will. Chipping Ongar was originally known as Little or Castle Ongar and High Ongar was Great or Old Ongar. The name Chipping Ongar was first recorded in 1308. The Domesday Book records Ongar at the time of the Conquest:

*The Lands of Count Eustace in Essex*

*Hundred of Ongar*

*Aethelgyth held [Chipping] Ongar for 1 hide, as one manor. Now the Count holds it in lordship.*

*Always 8 villagers, 8 smallholders, 3 slaves; 2 ploughs in lordship; 3 mens ploughs.*

*Woodland, 1000 pigs; meadow, 28 acres. 2 cobs, 10 cattle, 36 pigs, 112 sheep.*

*Value then 100s; now £8.*

*In the same Ongar 1 free man held ½ hide which was this manor's. Now Ralph Baynard holds it.*

### 4.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL

#### *4.2.1 Above ground remains*

The castle motte, western bailey and the northern arm of the town enclosure are well-preserved earthworks. The line of the eastern bailey is marked by a series of ponds, probably originally part

of the bailey ditch. The church is an unusually complete Norman structure, dating to the late-eleventh century. The street pattern is that of the medieval town, although the built environment is largely seventeenth and eighteenth century in date.

#### 4.2.2 Excavations

There have been a number of archaeological excavations and watching-briefs in Chipping Ongar, mostly on a small-scale. The most significant sites are the Pleasaunce Car-park excavation (forthcoming, 1997) and the trenches dug across the town enclosure ditch at Banson's Yard and Castle Street (these have not yet been published).

ESMR	SITE	ARCHIVE LOCATION	DATE	PUBLICATION
140	Chipping Ongar Castle survey, 1981	ESMR	1981	
4101, 4103	Bansons Yard	Finds: Montrose Rd; Archive: M. Eddy (draft text and plans at County Hall)	1981	Eddy, M.R. "Excavations in Essex" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> , 1982, 14, 136
4102	Castle Street	Finds: Montrose Rd; Archive: M. Eddy (draft text and plans at County Hall)	1981	Eddy, M.R. "Excavations in Essex" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> , 1982, 14, 135
4106	White House	Archive: ESMR; Finds: Not known	1988	Eddy, MR "White House", ECC Internal Report, ESMR
7274	5, Bushy Lea (CO1)	Finds: None; Archive: ESMR	1987	Andrews, D.D. "5, Bushy Lea", ECC Internal Report, ESMR
9499	Pleasaunce Car Park extension (CO2 / CO88)	Archive: ESMR; Finds: Montrose Rd	1987	Flook, R. "Work of the ECC Archaeology Section" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 1988, 19, 253-4
9558	Rear of Cock Pub, High St (CO3)	Finds: Montrose Rd; Archive: ESMR	1990	Brooks, H. "Work of the ECC Archaeology Section" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 1991, 22, 143
9559	Phase 2A, Chipping Ongar Sewerage Scheme	Finds: None; Archive: ESMR	1992	Medlycott, M. "Work of the ECC Archaeology Section" <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 1993, 24, 189
9560	204, High St.	Archive: ESMR; Finds: Discarded	1990	Medlycott, M. "204, High St" ECC Internal Report 1991, ESMR
9561	Allotments Site	Finds: Montrose Rd ?; Archive: M. Eddy	1988	Some info. in Eddy draft text in County Hall, also Sections, but no location plan
13460	117, High St.	Finds: None; Archive: ESMR	1994	Austin, L. "117, High St" ECC Internal Report ESMR 1994
14930	Site of former primary school, Bansons Lane (CO4)	Archive: Bocking Place; Finds: Montrose Rd.	1995	Clarke, R. "Former School Site, Bansons Lane, Chipping Ongar: Archaeological Evaluation" ECC Internal Report 1995, ESMR
14946	Library site, Pleasaunce Car-park (CO5)	Archive: Bocking Place; Finds: Montrose Rd.	1995	Clarke, R. "Library Site, Pleasaunce Car Park: Archaeological Evaluation", ECC Internal Report 1995, ESMR
15396	Great Stoney School, High Street	Archive: ESMR	1998	Garratt, T. <i>Essex Poor-Law Buildings</i> , ECC Internal Report 1998, ESMR

### 4.2.3 Finds

#### Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Helen Walker (Essex County Council Field Archaeology Group)

The small amounts of medieval pottery excavated to date in Chipping Ongar are of interest, in that there is a large amount of 12th to 13th century shell-tempered pottery with hardly any early medieval ware or medieval coarse ware, an assemblage that has more in common with sites at or near the coast where a supply of the tempering agent was readily available (for example Horndon). Also of interest is the occurrence of early London-type ware which is rare in Essex, but has been found nearby at North Weald and Harlow, presenting the possibility that early London-type may have been transported up the Lea or Roding Valleys, both important north-south route ways from London.

#### Medieval pottery summaries

- *White House Garden (Eddy ECC Internal Report)* Eleven sherds from a pit comprised shell-tempered ware, shell-and-sand-tempered ware and one sherd of green-glazed ware.
- *The Pleasaunce car park (Clarke 1995, 242, C05, C07)* A larger scale excavation produced pottery comprising mainly shell-tempered ware cooking pot fragments possessing 12th to earlier 13th century rim-types. One or two shelly ware bowl rims are also present, along with a very thick-walled sherd, perhaps from a chimney pot. There are very few examples of other coarse wares such as early medieval ware and medieval coarse ware. Present in the same groups were small amounts of fine wares comprising Hedingham ware, and London-type ware, datable to the earlier 13th century, and various examples of sandy orange ware including ?medieval Harlow ware. In some cases sherds of Mill Green fine ware are present, which would seem to post-date the rest of the pottery, unless it is occurring right at the beginning of its life span. Mill Green coarse ware is also present. Several features belong to the late medieval period, with finds comprising late medieval sandy orange ware, a late medieval Harlow ware flanged jar rim and Mill Green-type ware. An earlier excavation at the *Pleasaunce car park (Flook 1988, 253, C02)* produced very similar pottery comprising residual sherds of Mill Green fine ware including an example with combed decoration, sandy orange ware sherds including ?Harlow ware and shell-tempered ware including two 12th to early-13th century cooking pot rims.
- *The former school site at Banson's Lane (Walker ECC Internal Report C04)* This evaluation produced similar pottery to that found at The Pleasaunce car park site, where shell-tempered wares with 12th to early-13th century rims predominate and there are smaller amounts of London-type ware, Hedingham ware, sandy orange ware, including medieval Harlow ware, and Mill Green ware. Some sherds of London-type ware have a very pale fabric indicating an early date of second half of the 12th century, and is a rare find. An earlier excavation at Banson's Yard (Eddy 1982, 136) produced shell-tempered sherds and two green-glazed sherds.

#### Post-medieval pottery summaries

- *The Pleasaunce car park (Clarke 1995, 242, C05, C07)* The usual range of post-medieval pottery is present including post-medieval red earthenware, black-glazed ware and Metropolitan slipware, along with the later German stonewares of Frechen and Westerwald. Surrey-Hampshire white ware is represented by a tripod base from a pipkin or skillet, and there are also some sherds of tin-glazed earthenware with an all over dark blue tin glaze which may have a continental origin. The latest pottery comprises English tin-glazed earthenware, English stoneware and 18th century Chinese porcelain.

*The former school site at Banson's Lane (Walker ECC Internal Report CO4) A few post-medieval sherds were found comprising mainly post-medieval red earthenware.*

#### 4.3 LISTED BUILDINGS

in consultation with Hilary Brightman and Dave Stenning (Listed Buildings)

The schedule of listed buildings provided in this report is derived from the List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historical Interest. This List has been compiled over many years through the work of many inspectors and, as a result, the reliability of the List varies from District to District. Time was extremely limited and very few interiors were looked at, or even the rear wings of buildings. Where further research has been carried out on individual buildings, this has often shown the limitations of the List descriptions. The List for Chipping Ongar was originally compiled in 1971, and it can be considered to be of moderate reliability. It has been possible to supplement the information provided in the List through the knowledge and records of the County Historic Buildings and Design Section.

There are 73 Listed Buildings in Chipping Ongar, of which one (the Church of St Martin of Tours) is Grade I, the remainder are Grade II. In date they range from the 11th to the 19th century, with the majority dating to the 17th and 18th centuries, when Chipping Ongar appears to have played a significant role as a traveller's staging-post. Of particular interest is No. 150 High Street, which is a very rare example of a surviving mid-17th century shop.

**Table 2: Listed Buildings by century of origin**

CENTURY	NO.
11	1
14	1
16	5
17	21
18	29
19	15

## 5. SYNTHESIS

### 5.1 PRE-URBAN SYNTHESIS

#### 5.1.1 Prehistoric

Worked flints have been recovered during excavations within the town.

#### 5.1.2 Roman

There are vague records that Roman foundations have been found in Chipping Ongar parish, 'particularly in the church and churchyard' (RCHME, 1921). The church does incorporate Roman brick and tile in its fabric, as does the castle, suggesting that there was a Roman building in the immediate vicinity. Roman burials were also found within the parish in 1767.

### 5.1.3 Saxon

The place-name evidence suggests that Ongar was an area of open grassland in the Saxon period. It was first mentioned in 1045 and by the end of the Saxon period there was a small settled community on the site. It had a wider significance also in that it was the site of the Hundredal moot and market. Excavation has uncovered a few Saxon sherds and at least one Saxon post-hole, on the Pleasaunce car-park site. Eddy and Petchey (1983, 39) suggest that the possible enclosure they identified to the south of the town was Saxon in date, but this is unproven.

## 5.2 URBAN SYNTHESIS

### 5.2.1 Medieval synthesis and components

At the beginning of the medieval period the Chipping Ongar site supported a small community, as well as being the location of the Hundredal moot and market. At the time of the Conquest it became the principal property of Count Eustace of Bolougne. In the late 11th century the church was built, the motte and bailey castle may also date to this period; it had certainly been erected by 1157. The medieval tax returns show that Chipping Ongar was much more densely populated than other areas within the Ongar Hundred, and in 1377 there were 216 people per 1,000 acres as against an average of 38.

The medieval urban components are:-

#### *The castle* (TL 5543 0309 centred)

The castle is of the motte-and-bailey type. There was a kidney-shaped inner bailey to the west of the motte and a second bailey to the east, with the town enclosure located to the west of the western bailey. The castle motte is approximately 15m high, 70m diameter at the base and 21m diameter at the top, and the motte ditch is 15m wide and at least 3m deep. It is thought to have been built in the decades following the Conquest, possibly in the 11th century, but it was definitely present by 1157 when it was occupied by the King's Justiciar, Richard de Lucy, who may have built it. There was a keep on top of the motte, but this was demolished in the 16th century (VCH, 1903-73). The entrance to the castle was via the western bailey through a gap in the rampart which was faced on either side by flint rubble containing Roman bricks. This flint rubble facing does not appear to have extended along the rampart.

#### *The town enclosure*

The town enclosure was attached to the western bailey and the northern arm still survives as an earthwork between the castle and the High Street. In 1981 a section cut across the north-western corner of the ditch, found that at this point it was c. 14m wide by 1-1.5m deep. The lowest fills were sterile, but a waterlogged layer produced mid-13th century pottery as well as wooden objects and a leather shoe. To the west of the High Street it is marked by the back boundary of the properties which front the High Street. Trial-trenching in the former School Site, to the south of Basons Lane (Clarke, 1995) located the line of the ditch. Pottery dating to the 11th-12th centuries was recovered, although the ditch itself was not excavated. The southern arm has been partly fossilised in the line of Castle Street and swings north to include a surviving pond. In 1981 a trial-trench across the projected line of the southern side of the enclosure revealed a ditch, approximately 6m wide by 3m deep. Residual 13th century material was recovered but the dating of the lower levels was hampered by waterlogging. The town enclosure ditch appears to have gone out of use and partially silted up by the middle of the 14th century, although final levelling did not take place until the 19th century. The place-name 'Aldgate' which appears in early post-medieval rentals is



presumed to refer to a gateway through the town enclosure ditch, indicates that the Aldgate may have been still extant in 1686.

***The built-up area*** (TL 5524 0307 centred)

The built-up area consisted of tenement blocks along the High Street, which was also the main road. In the medieval period settlement was probably largely confined within the town enclosure. The High Street itself widens within the enclosure to form a cigar-shaped market-place, and narrows at the gates through the town enclosure ditch. The excavations of the north-west corner of the town enclosure ditch revealed that the town defences had cut an early medieval gully, demonstrating some form of earlier activity in that area at least. A pit containing Saxo-Norman pottery was observed in the White House garden (ESMR 4106). Trial-trenching at the former School Site, Basons Lane (Clarke, 1995) revealed a possible structure, consisting of beam-slots and post-holes just behind the present properties fronting the High Street, a probable property boundary running parallel to the High Street, and ditch a zone of medieval rubbish-pitting between that boundary ditch and the town enclosure. Excavation of the Library Site at the southern end of Pleasaunce Car-park (Clarke, 1996) demonstrated that rubbish-disposal dating to the 10th to 14th centuries had taken place to the rear of the site and that there had been a 15th-16th century post-built building in the south-west corner of the site, fronting on to the High Street.

***Possible enclosure***

Eddy and Petchey (1983) claim to have identified a second, earlier, enclosure to the south of the town enclosure, its existence or date is unproven. A watching-brief at 5 Bushey Lea, within the proposed enclosure, failed to find any archaeological features or deposits.

***The market-place*** (TL 5526 0306 centred)

The market-place consists of a cigar-shaped widening of the High Street. The medieval market is first referenced in 1287, but as Ongar was the site of the Saxon hundredal market it is probable that there had been a continuous market on the site from Saxon times.

***The church of St Martin of Tours*** (TL 5531 0295)

The church is an unusually complete Norman church of flint rubble construction with limestone dressings and is located in the south-eastern corner of the town enclosure. The nave and chancel were built at the end of the 11th century, although the east and west gables have been lowered subsequently. There is architectural evidence of re-building and modifications to the structure in the 13th and 14th centuries, and the belfry was added in the 15th century. Restoration in 1893 revealed an 'anchorite's cell' set into the thickness of the north wall of the chancel. A small window from the cell looks into the chancel, while on the outside of the cell is a little door.

***The manor-house***

The Manor House (TL 5531 0302), a late fourteenth/fifteenth century timber-framed building sited just outside the eastern bailey, may have been the original manor-house once the castle was abandoned. However, the role of the manor house seems to have fluctuated between this building, the White House (TL 5539 0300) and Castle House (TL 5541 0303), both are sixteenth century in date, in the late medieval and early post-medieval period.

***Ongar Bridge*** (TL 5510 0264)

Money was left in a will of 1503 for the upkeep of Ongar Bridge, demonstrating that it was in existence by the end of the medieval period at least, although the current structure is post-medieval in date.

### *5.2.2 Post-medieval and modern synthesis and components*

Chipping Ongar appears to have become a significant staging-point for travellers in the early post-medieval period, and by 1686 there was within the town accommodation for 71 people and 104 horses. The taxation data for 1801 records a population of 595, rising in 1841 to a population of 870. However the main period of growth has been as a commuter town in the second half of the 20th century.

The post-medieval urban components are:-

#### *The built-up area* (TL 5524 0307 centred)

In 1671 there were 94 houses within the parish, sited along the High Street and on either side of the church of St Martin. Although most were still confined within the town enclosure, there was some ribbon-development to the south of the town towards Ongar Bridge. By 1881 this ribbon development had also begun to extend northwards, towards the railway station.

#### *The Castle* (TL 5543 0309)

The castle buildings were demolished by the beginning of the 16th century. Castle House, a 16th century timber-framed building became for a time the manor-house. In the decades after 1554 James Morris built himself a pleasure-house on the top of the castle motte; this building was still extant in 1671 (VCH, 1903-73).

#### *The church of St Martin of Tours* (TL 5531 0295)

Post-medieval additions and alterations to the church include two 18th century windows as well as various 17th and 18th century fittings, including bells, monuments and weather-vane. The church was restored c.1884, when the south aisle, north vestry and west porch were added.

#### *Independent Meeting House/United Reformed Church* (TL 5524 0277)

An Independent Meeting House was opened in 1720 (VCH, 1903-73). It was located on the site of the present United Reformed Church, which dates to approximately 1833.

#### *The market-place* (TL 5526 0306 centred)

The market continued to be held on its original site, in the middle of the High Street.

#### *The Old Market House* (TL 5524 0301)

The Old Market House (also known as the Butter Market) was located next to The King's Head, on the High Street. It was a timber-framed building, with what had originally been an open ground-floor. The pictorial record (ERO) suggests a 17th century date, but it maybe a rebuild of an earlier structure. It was converted to shops by 1877, and the market-house function moved to the Town Hall.

#### *Market Crosses*

There were two market crosses within the market-place, but these had been removed by 1877.

#### *The pound, cage and pillory* (TL 5526 0293)

The parish pound, cage and pillory were located at the southern end of the market-place, opposite the Post Office. They were moved to make room for the Assembly and Card Rooms in c.1786. They were relocated outside the town briefly before being demolished.

***The Town Hall*** (TL 5527 0299)

The Town Hall projected out into the High Street, and was demolished in 1896-7 to ease traffic congestion.

***Budworth Hall*** (TL 5522 0311)

Budworth Hall was erected in 1886 as a combined assembly, reading and coffee-rooms. It is built of red brick and is of a complex but vaguely 'Tudor' plan.

***Poorhouse*** (TL 5538 0296)

The original poorhouse was opened in 1748 adjoining the rectory buildings. In 1797 a new poorhouse was built, apparently on the glebe land to the north of the rectory. It has been demolished.

***Assembly and Card Rooms*** (TL 5526 0293)

The Assembly and Card Rooms were built c.1786 and demolished c.1830. They stood opposite the post office, on the site of the parish pound, cage and pillory

***Brickfield*** (TL 5493 0253)

The brickfield was opened c.1800 and closed in 1917. It was run in conjunction with the neighbouring Ongar Gas Works. It is no longer extant

***Ongar Gas-works*** (TL 5500 0260)

The Ongar Gas-works was in use from 1836-1934. It was managed in conjunction with the neighbouring brick-works. It is no longer extant.

***The Railway*** (TL 5510 0347)

Work began on the Epping Railway in 1858 and it opened in 1865, it was subsequently linked into the Underground line. The station and station-master's house are listed, and are built of red brick with gault brick detailing. The station has been closed recently.

***Great Stoney School*** (TL 5540 0380)

Great Stoney School (Hackney Cottage Homes) is sited on the northern edge of the town (ESMR 1396). It was erected between 1902 and 1905 by the Hackney Board of Guardians for orphaned and illegitimate children in its care. The buildings were designed by W.A. Finch, and include a porter's lodge, probationary cottage, administration block, eight residential cottages and an infirmary sited around a large central green. A school was added in 1907. The site closed in 1939, but soon reopened as the Ongar Residential Home for mentally handicapped boys. This closed in 1994, and the site is currently undergoing redevelopment.

## 6. SUMMARY OF GENERAL IMPORTANCE OF THE TOWN

### 6.1 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Chipping Ongar is of importance archaeologically and historically, as an example of a small medieval and post-medieval market town, as well as because of its role as a hundredal centre, its castle and defences and its origins as a planted community.

Ongar is recorded in the Domesday Book and was evidently an important centre as both the hundredal moot and the hundredal market were held there. 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. 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 and 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, and by 1686 there was within the town accommodation for 71 people and 104 horses. The taxation data for 1801 records a population of 595, rising in 1841 to a population of 870. However the main period of growth has been as a commuter town in the second half of the 20th century.

Chipping Ongar presents the visual appearance of a 'Historic Town', and the street plan, castle and church are all prominent reminders of its medieval origins, although there is no public access to the castle motte or eastern bailey. The remainder of the built environment is largely post-medieval in date and typical of an Essex historic town.

## 6.2 SURVIVAL

The excavations and watching-briefs undertaken in Chipping Ongar have demonstrated that both shallow stratified deposits and cut features survive. The majority of the castle earthworks are still extant, although some post-medieval landscaping may have taken place on the site. The survival of the post-medieval built environment, largely 17th and 18th century in date, is good. Waterlogged deposits have been found in the deeper features, primarily the town enclosure ditch, and can be anticipated to be present in other features such as wells and cess-pits. Bone, leather and wood have been recovered from these deposits, as well as ceramics and building material. Elsewhere the soil-type is conducive to the preservation of bone, ceramics and metal.

However, despite the age and status of the town there is very limited source material and relatively few deeds in the ERO. A sixteenth-century extent and rental may contain the best early topographic evidence for the town. The earliest map is the small-scale Chapman and André map of 1777. There are 19th and 20th century local government records.

## 6.3 CURRENT PLANNING CONSTRAINTS

The Castle motte, inner bailey and the above-ground portions of the town enclosure earthwork are Scheduled (SAM 11). The majority of the medieval and post-medieval town is covered by the current Conservation Area, the exception being the group of buildings to the south of Ongar Bridge. There are 73 Listed Buildings, one Grade I, the remainder Grade II. Ongar is within a designated Special Landscape Area. Part of the valley of the River Roding to the east of the town has been designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

## 6.4 RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND POTENTIAL

### 6.4.1 *Medieval and post-medieval*

The understanding of the development and function of the medieval and post-medieval small market town and the testing of theories on social action, economy, politics etc. have been highlighted as an important area of study at the national level (English Heritage, 1997) and at regional and local level (Ayres in Brown and Glazebrook, forthcoming; Ward in Bedwin, 1996).

The research priorities for the medieval period are:-

- Questions concerning the origins of the town, the nature of the pre-conquest settlement and dating evidence for the establishment of the castle and the town need to be addressed.
- Although in general the topography of medieval Chipping Ongar appears to be relatively well understood, there are still some specific questions outstanding. These include the extent of the medieval built-up area, and why the church is located away from the High Street and whether the postulated second enclosure actually exists. Moreover, the internal morphology of the castle is not known.
- The relationship between Chipping Ongar and its immediate hinterland is also of particular interest. Ongar Great Park to the west of the town is the oldest recorded deer-park in England. The potential for investigating the relationship between the town and its hinterland is good at Chipping Ongar as the limited modern development means that much of the surrounding area right up to the town boundary is available for fieldwalking and or geophysical survey.
- The small amounts of medieval pottery excavated so far are quite interesting; firstly there is the large amount of 12th to 13th century shell-tempered pottery with hardly any early medieval ware or medieval coarse ware, an assemblage that has more in common with sites at or near the coast where a supply of the tempering agent was readily available (for example Horndon). Further excavation is needed to confirm that this is the overall pattern at Chipping Ongar. Also of interest is the occurrence of early London-type ware which is rare in Essex, but has been found nearby at North Weald and Harlow, presenting the possibility that early London-type may have been transported up the Lea or Roding Valleys, both important north-south routeways from London. Further excavation is needed to confirm this. Chipping Ongar is about equidistant from the productions centres at Harlow and Mill Green. It would therefore be worth while to compare the proportions of these two wares, if any large groups were to be excavated.
- There is considerable potential for improving public awareness and developing the educational and tourism value of the town, including the improving of access to the castle, provided this is done with due regard to preserving its character and tranquillity.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- |                  |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: Documentary sources

Archive	Classmark	Number	Date	Description
B.L.	Add. Ch.	19964		Exchange of lands in Castle Ongar.
E.R.O.	D/REo			Epping and Ongar Rural District records.
E.R.O.	D/ROn			Ongar Rural District records.
B.L.	Harl. Ch.	55 D. 31	1359	Release of manor of Castle Ongar.
P.R.O.	SC6	1117/11	3-4 Edw. IV	Accounts of lands of Anne, Duchess of Buckingham including Chipping Ongar.
E.R.O.	D/DFa	M1/5	c. 1525	Extent and rental of lands in Chipping Ongar.
E.R.O.	D/DRg	1/197	1544	Notebook of the Bailiff of the Hundred.
B.L.	Harl. Ch.	Roll x. 23	1589	Subsidy assessment for Ongar Hundred.
P.R.O.	E317	Essex 6	Commonwealth	Survey of Ongar (Hundred?).
P.R.O.	SC2	74/915	21 Jas I	Mandeville and Tutbury Honors, including full list of tenants and holdings in the Hundred of Ongar. Memoranda of courts to be held.
E.R.O.	D/DQ	55/15	1706	Court roll of manor of Ongar ad Castrum.
B.L.	(Crown symbol)	xiii. 15.5.a&b	1801	Coloured north-east and north-west views of Chipping Ongar.
B.L.	Add. MS.	36362, ff. 97-99	1824	Drawings.
E.R.O.	D/CT	262	c. 1841	Tithe map. Scale: 13.3 in. to 1m.
B.L.	Add. MS.	37723, f. 11	1897, 1901	Plan of earthworks at Chipping Ongar.

APPENDIX 2: Listed buildings

Serial No.	Date	Street	No.	Name	Building Type	GV	Grade	Material
9/83	11	High Street		Church Of St. Martin	Church	Y	I	Flint rubble, brick, tile, limestone dressing
8/117	14/15	High Street		Manor House	House	Y	II	Timber framed, brick, roughcast
8/49	16	Castle Street		Castle House	House	N	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/77	16	High Street	152	Wren House	Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/126	16	High Street,	107, 109		House	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
9/160	16	High Street, Church Approach		White House	House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered, brick
9/119	16/17	High Street,	151, 153	J.W.M. Bough Chemist	House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/139	16/17	Stanford Rivers Road		Dyers	House	N	II	Timber framed, plastered, brick
8/66	17	High Ongar Road, Wantz Corner.		Wantz Farmhouse	House	N	II	Timber framed, plastered, brick
8/69	17	High Street		The Rectory	House	N	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
8/111	17	High Street,		The Kings Head Public House	Public House	Y	II	Brick
8/115	17	High Street,	165	P.J. Carter	Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered, ashlar panel pargetting
8/114	17	High Street,		George Yard to rear of No 171 Sheilas	Outbuilding	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
8/113	17	High Street,		George Yard to rear of No 171 Sheilas	Outbuilding	Y	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
8/112	17	High Street,	171	Kismet Indian Restaurant	Restaurant	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered, ashlar panels
9/116	17	High Street,	161, 163	Pearces Bakers, Swords Ongar Insurance	Building	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered, panelled pargetting
8/109	17	High Street,	191-95 [odd]	W.E. Cole and Hairdressing by Eric	Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded, rough rendered
8/108	17	High Street,	199-205 [odd]	Audrey Ruth, Worleys and Godfrey	Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded, rough rendered
9/100	17	High Street,	60	Barncroft	House	N	II	Timber framed, plastered, weatherboarded
9/96	17	High Street,	90		House	N	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/93	17	High Street,	102		House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/87	17	High Street,	134-140		Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered



9/85	17	High Street,	[even]	150	Old Corner Shop and attached buildings to rear	Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/101	17	High Street,		40		House	N	II	Timber framed, plastered, weatherboarded
9/86	17	High Street,		146, 148		Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/127	17	High Street,		101, 103	The Royal Oak Public House, Keen-Parts and Derek Greenwood	Public House	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
9/129	17	High Street,		85	A. V. Surridge	House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/130	17	High Street,		53, 55		House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/138	17	Stanford Rivers Road			Marden Ash House	House	N	II*	Brick
9/136	17	Stondon Road			Newhouse Farmhouse	House	N	II*	Timber framed, rough rendered
9/123	17/18	High Street,		121-127 [odd]	Hockings Bakery, J Dwyer & Bowden & Son	Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
9/122	17/18	High Street,		129		House	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
9/50	18	Castle Street			Castle Farm, Granary	Granary	N	II	Timber framed, plastered, weatherboarded
8/51	18	Castle Street			Castle Farm, Barn	Barn	N	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded, staddle stones
9/134	18	Coopers Hill			Grey End	House	N	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
8/74	18	High Street		190-194 [even]		Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, brick, weatherboarded, stucco
8/70	18	High Street			Hermitage Cottage	House	N	II	Timber framed, plastered
8/73	18	High Street		198-204 [even]		Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered, weatherboarded
8/76	18	High Street		174, 176, 178		Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered, weatherboarded
8/72	18	High Street		212	Ongar House	House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered, ashlar patterning
9/95	18	High Street,		96		Dwelling	N	II	Gault brick
9/118	18	High Street,			Brick Garden Wall	Garden Wall	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered, brick
9/133	18	High Street,		31, 33		House	Y	II	Brick
9/88	18	High Street,		114	Homelea	House	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered, weatherboarded
9/128	18	High Street,		87	The Presbytery	House	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
9/120	18	High Street,		147, 149	The Chocolate Box & Nicholas Faulkner	Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/131	18	High Street,		51		House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
									Brick, timber framed, plastered

9/132	18	High Street,		39			House	N	II	Gault brick
9/121	18	High Street,			The Ongar Bell Public House		Public House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered, weather boarded
9/98	18	High Street,		1-6 [consec.]	Livingstone Cottages		House	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
9/80	18	High Street, Church Approach			St Martins Cottage		House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/84	18	High Street, Church Approach			Tomb		Table Tomb	Y	II	
9/79	18	High Street, Church Approach			Outbuilding		Outbuilding	Y	II	Brick
9/135	18	Stondon Road			Cottage		House	N	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
9/158	18	The Borough			Two Brewers Public House		Public House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/159	18	The Borough			Outbuilding		Outbuilding	Y	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
8/68	18	Wantz Corner, Epping Road			Outbuildings		Outbuilding	N	II	English bond brick
8/75	18/19	High Street		180, 182			Shop	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
8/71	18/19	High Street			The Cock Tavern		Public House	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered, weatherboarded
9/124	18/19	High Street,		117			House	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered, weatherboarded
9/89	18/19	High Street,			Railings and gate		Railings	Y	II	Cast iron
9/97	18/19	High Street,		82-88 [even]			House	Y	II	Timber framed, rendered
8/110	18/19	High Street,		181	Shoppers Paradise		Shop	Y	II	Gault brick
9/125	18/19	High Street,		113			House	Y	II	Timber framed, rough rendered
9/137	18/19	Stanford Rivers Road			The Cottage			N	II	Timber framed, plastered
9/48	19	Castle Street			Alliance Building Society & Messrs Rogett, Wakefield		House	N	II	Brick
9/94	19	High Street,			Iron railings and gate		Railings	Y	II	Cast iron
9/117	19	High Street,		159	Greylands		House	Y	II	Gault brick, stuccoed
8/107	19	High Street,			Budworth Hall		Public Hall	Y	II	Brick
8/106	19	High Street,			Bensons Yard, building occupied by A.R. Caldwell & Co Ltd		Office	Y	II	Timber framed, vertical weatherboarded, brick
8/105	19	High Street,			Bensons Yard, outbuilding		Outbuilding	Y	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
8/104	19	High Street,			Little Bensons		House	Y	II	Gault brick

9/99	19	High Street,		United Reformed Church	Church	N	II	Gault brick
9/92	19	High Street,		Iron gate and railing	Gate	Y	II	Cast iron
9/91	19	High Street,	104		House	Y	II	Gault brick
9/90	19	High Street,	108		House	N	II	Timber framed, plastered
8/102	19	High Street,		Ongar Station	Railway Station	N	II	Brick
8/103	19	High Street,		Central House	Shop	Y	II	Brick, ashlar, stucco
9/82	19	High Street, Church Approach		Iron railings to churchyard at Church Of St Martin	Railings	Y	II	Cast iron
9/81	19	High Street, Church Approach		Iron railings to St Martins Cottage	Railings	Y	II	Cast iron
9/78	19	High Street, Church Approach		Premises of Jackmans Office Equipment	Outbuilding	Y	II	Timber framed, weatherboarded
8/67	19	Wantz Corner, Epping Road		Bowes Farm Lodge		N	II	
8/116	20	High Street		K6 telephone kiosk	Telephone Box	Y	II	Timber framed, plastered Cast iron

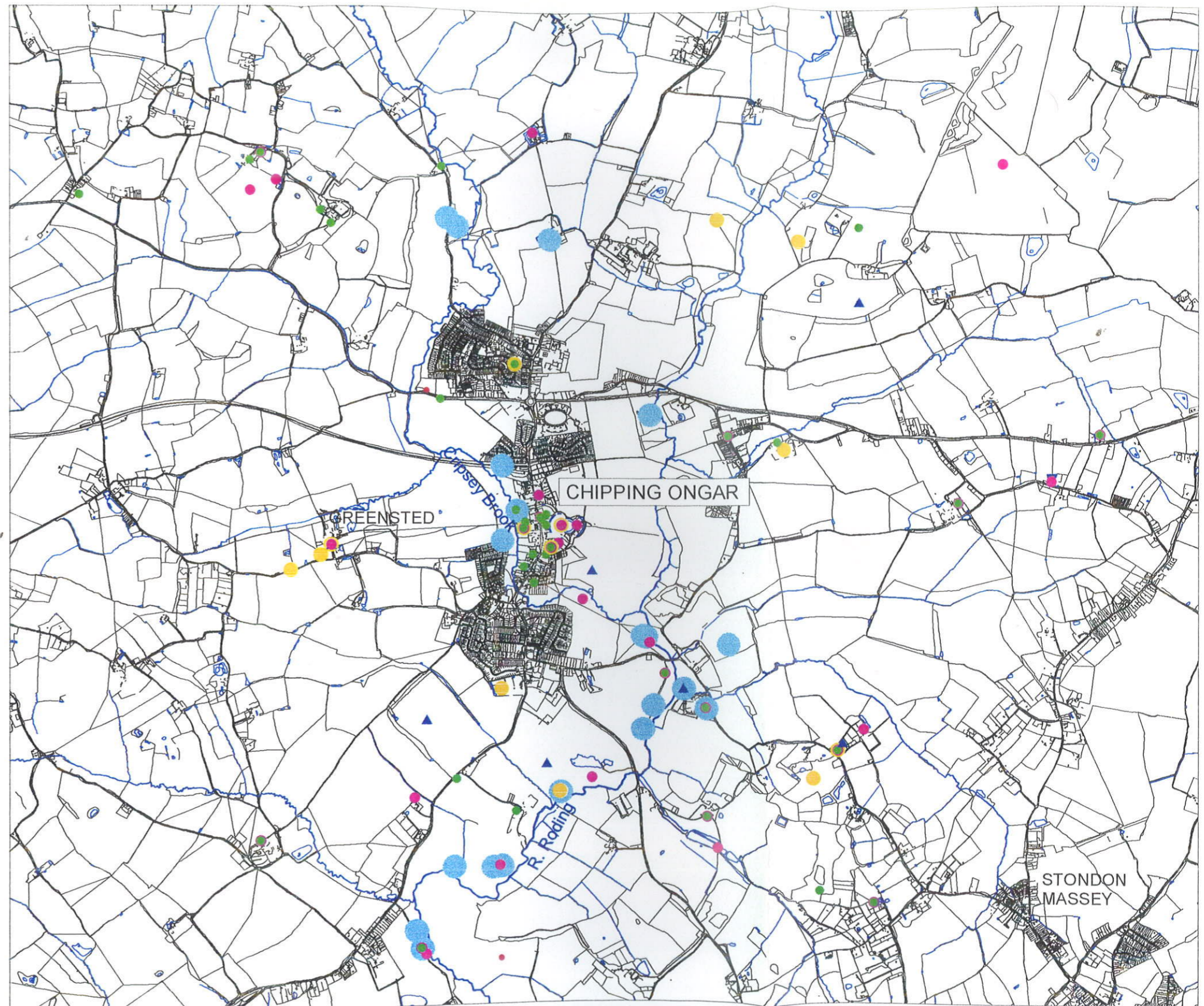
APPENDIX 3: Urban components list

ID	DESCRIPTION
MEDIEVAL	
580	CASTLE
581	MOTTE
582	EASTERN BAILEY
583	WESTERN BAILEY
584	TOWN ENCLOSURE
585	BUILT-UP AREA
586	POSSIBLE ENCLOSURE
587	MARKET-PLACE
588	CHURCH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS
589	MANOR-HOUSE
607	CASTLE HOUSE
608	WHITE HOUSE
590	ONGAR BRIDGE
POST-MEDIEVAL	
591	BUILT-UP AREA
592	CASTLE
593	CHURCH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS
594	INDEPENDENT MEETING HOUSE
595	MARKET-PLACE
596	OLD MARKET HOUSE
597	MARKET CROSSES
598	POUND, CAGE AND PILLORY
599	TOWN HALL
600	BUDWORTH HALL
601	POORHOUSE
602	ASSEMBLY AND CARD-ROOMS
603	BRICK WORKS
604	ONGAR GAS-WORKS
605	RAILWAY

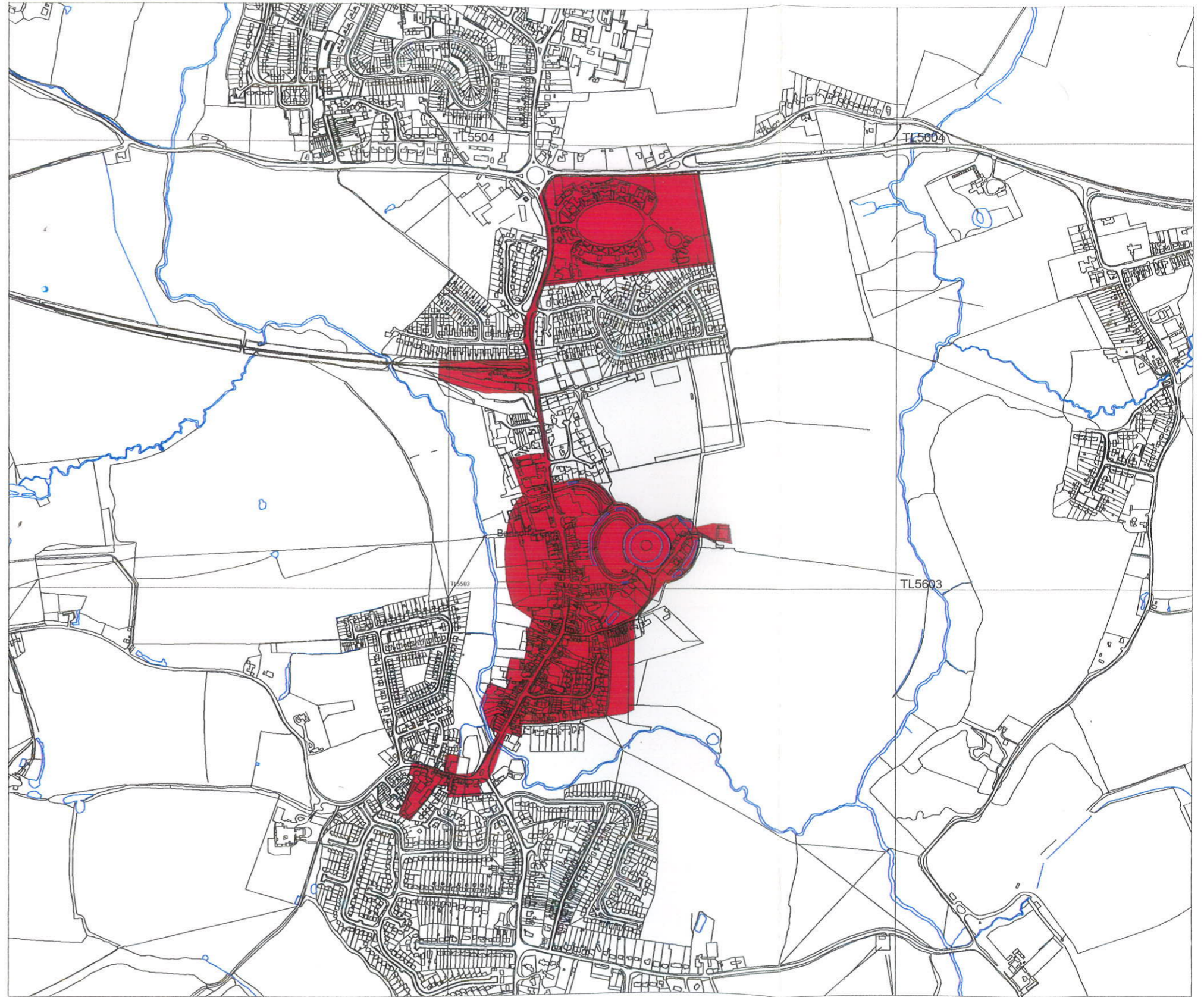
# CHIPPING ONGAR Environs



- SMR SITES
- PREHISTORIC
  - ROMAN
  - MEDIEVAL
  - POST MEDIEVAL
  - MODERN
  - ▲ UNCERTAIN



# CHIPPING ONGAR Historic town extent

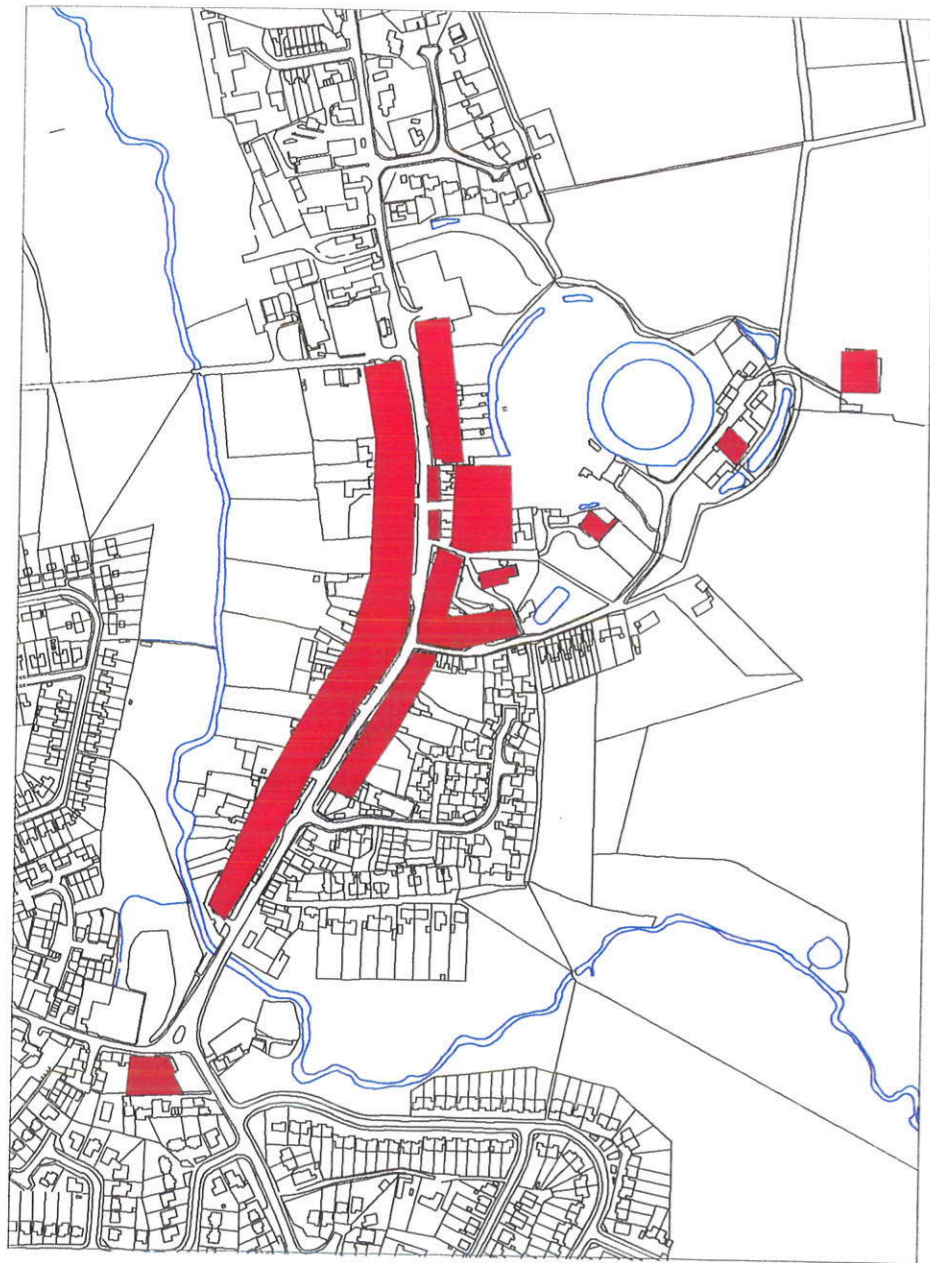


 Historic town extent

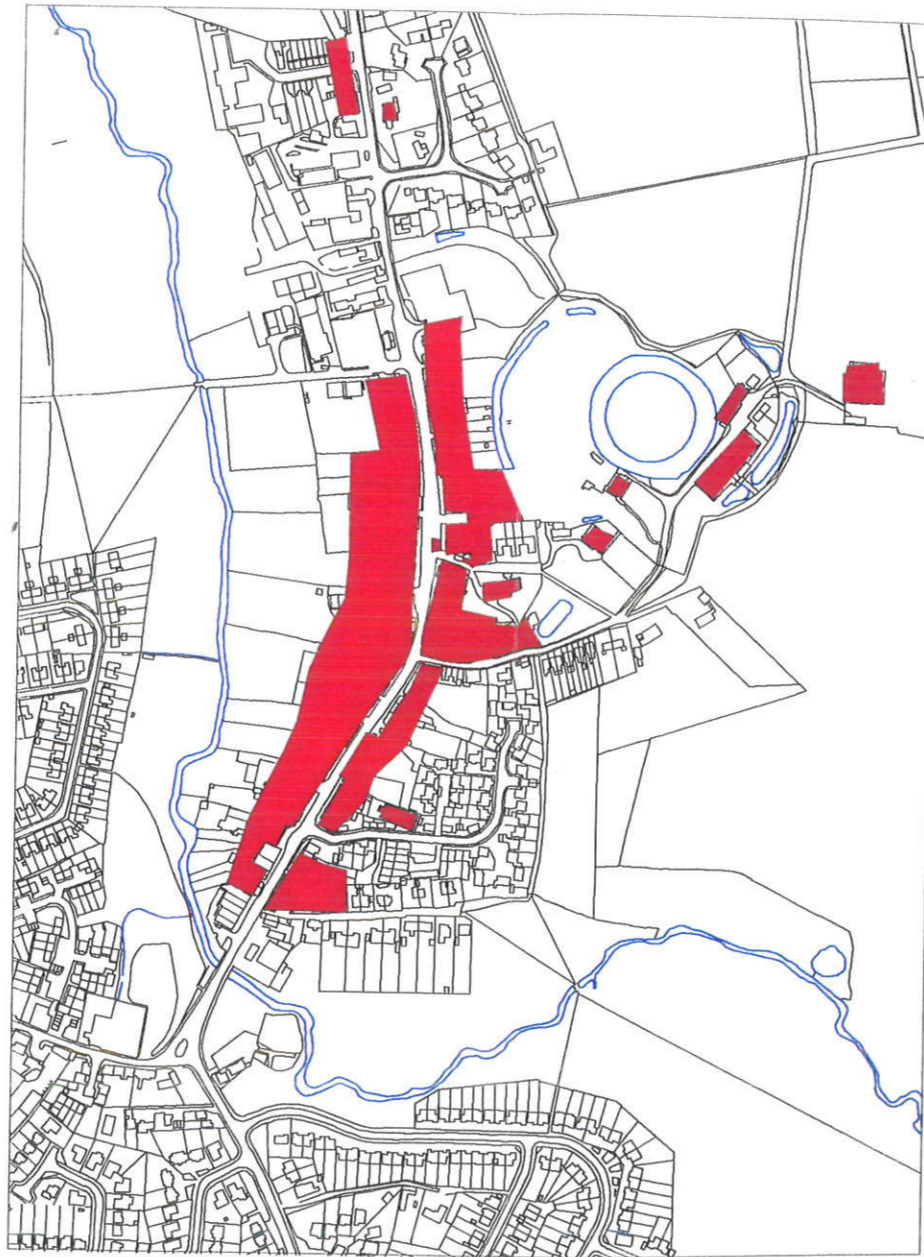
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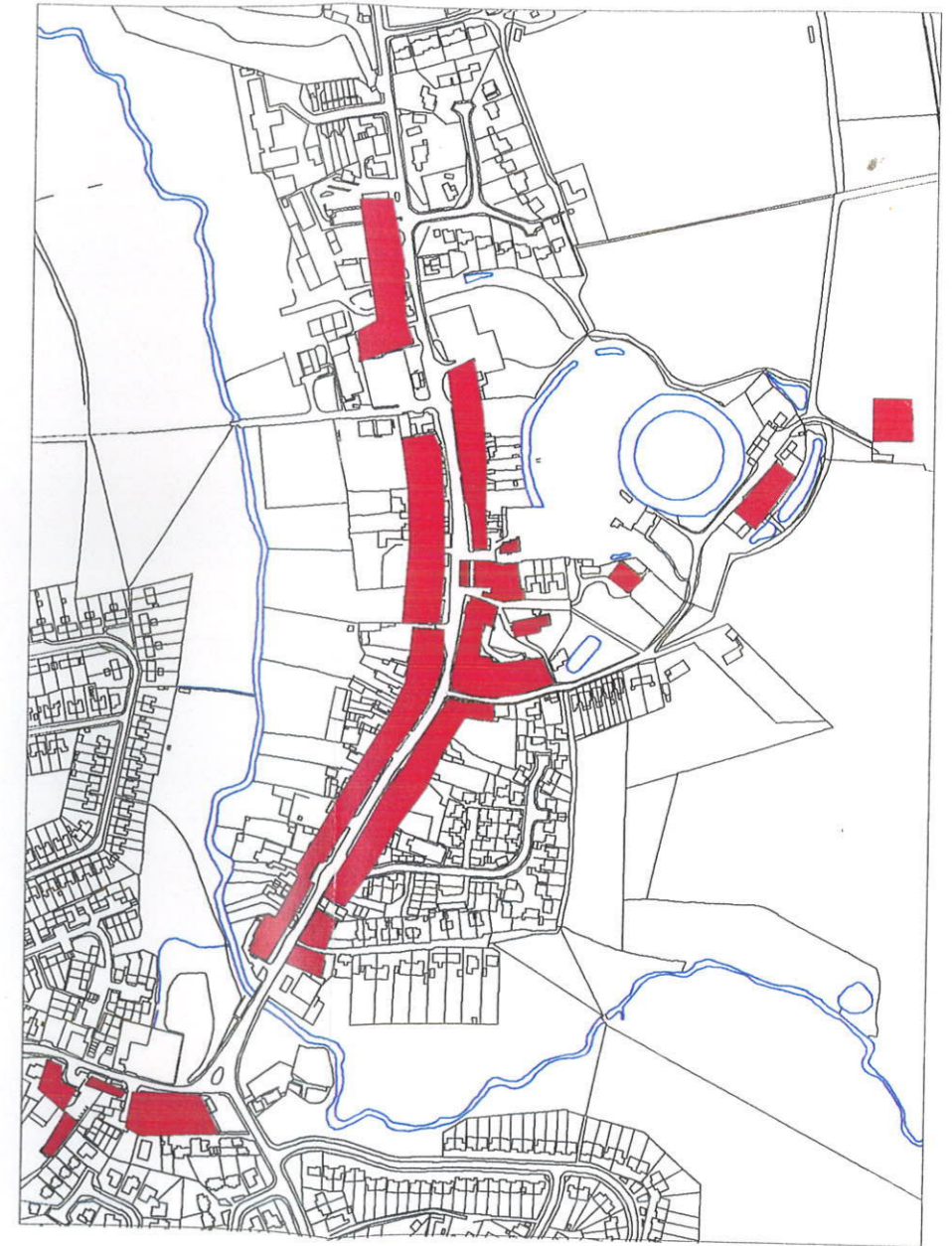
# The Development of Chipping Ongar from the Cartographic Evidence



1777



1846



1881



# CHIPPING ONGAR SMR and Listed Buildings



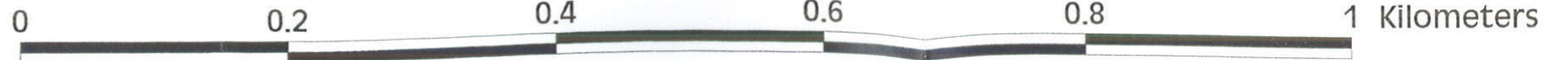
## Listed Buildings by century

- 11
- 14
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19

- SMR sites
- ☆ SMR find-spots



1:5000





# CHIPPING ONGAR Fieldwork



## KEY

-  Excavation, evaluation and watching-brief
-  Buildings survey

1:5000

0 100 200 300 400 500 Meters

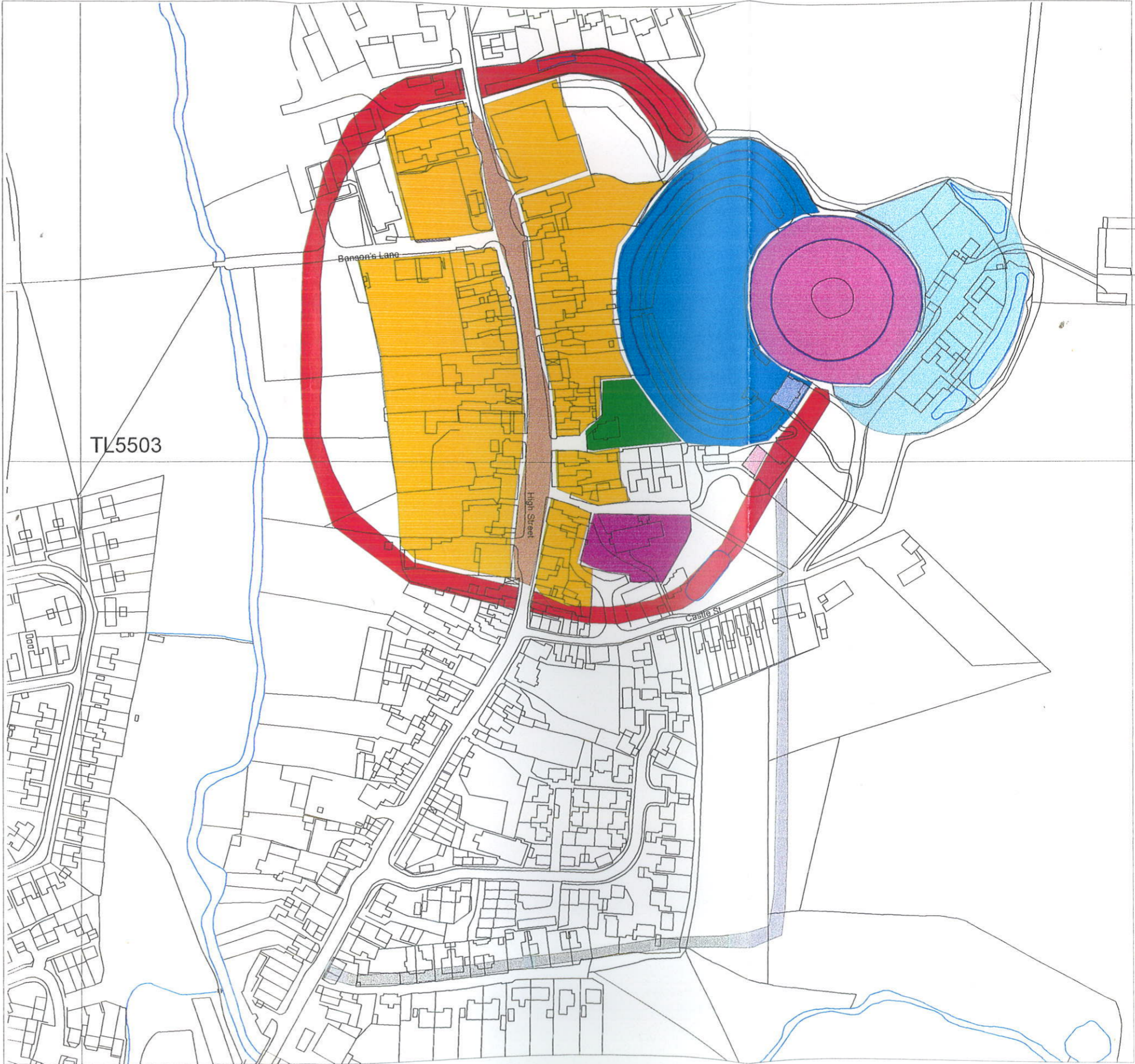


# CHIPPING ONGAR MEDIEVAL INTERPRETATION



- KEY**
- BUILT-UP AREA
  - CASTLE HOUSE
  - CHURCH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS
  - EASTERN BAILEY
  - MANOR-HOUSE
  - MARKET-PLACE
  - MOTTE
  - ONGAR BRIDGE
  - POSSIBLE ENCLOSURE
  - TOWN ENCLOSURE
  - WESTERN BAILEY
  - WHITE HOUSE

1:2500



# CHIPPING ONGAR

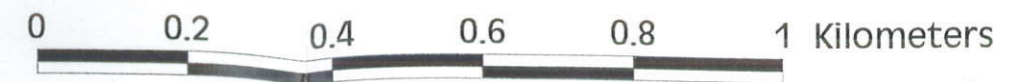
## Post-medieval interpretation



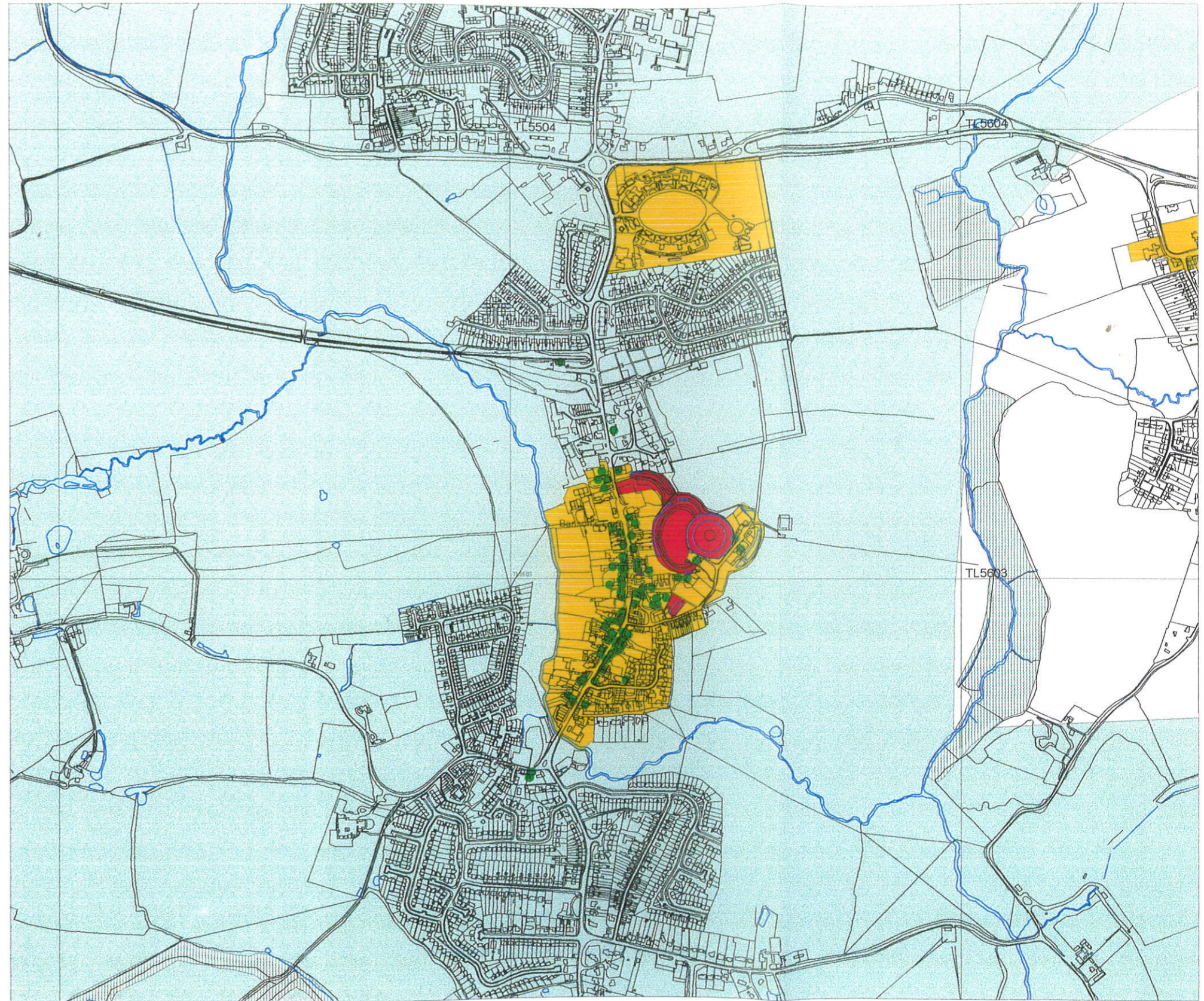
- KEY**
- ASSEMBLY AND CARD-ROOMS
  - BRICK WORKS
  - BUDWORTH HALL
  - BUILT-UP AREA
  - CASTLE
  - CASTLE HOUSE
  - CHURCH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS
  - GREAT STONY SCHOOL
  - INDEPENDENT MEETING HOUSE
  - MARKET-PLACE
  - OLD MARKET HOUSE
  - ONGAR GAS-WORKS
  - POORHOUSE
  - RAILWAY
  - TOWN HALL
  - WHITE HOUSE



1:10000



# CHIPPING ONGAR Planning constraints



## Constraints

- Listed Building
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Common Land
- Conservation Area
- ▨ Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Special Landscape Area

1:10000

