
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**EXTENSIONS TO 116 - 117 MOULSHAM STREET,
CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, CM2 0JN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

OASIS ID: wardella2-502641

Authors:	Rebecca Randall (Fieldwork and Report) Kate Higgs (Background Research) Liam Podbury (Report)	
NGR: TL 7036 0585		Report No: BE10030/0001 (0.3)
District: Chelmsford		Site Code: CF97
Approved: Damion Churchill		Project No: BE10030
		Date: February 2021

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210**

**P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF
Tel: 01462 850483**

**e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



CONTENTS

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DISCUSSION**

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

- 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**
- 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS**
- 3 PHOTO INDEX**
- 4 FIGURES**
- 5 OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Extensions to 116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0JN</i>		
<p><i>In January 2021, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0JN (NGR TL 7036 0585)</i></p> <p><i>The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, in the vicinity of a purported Romano-British cemetery associated with Chelmsford. The site lies alongside the main road south from the Roman town and in 1844, a cremation burial was identified nearby to the site, which has been speculated to be part of a larger roadside cemetery extending southwards from the edge of the town. A previous investigation on the site revealed two Roman features consistent with an early to mid-4th century date; a period when the town was thought to be in decline.</i></p> <p><i>Two archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension. The earliest of the two features (F1005) uncovered appears to have been Roman in date and was significantly truncated by a later feature (F1007), which contained a single sherd of post-medieval red earthen ware and re-deposited Roman material; presumably originally deposited in F1005. Feature F1005 contained a small assemblage of Roman tile, which may have been associated with roadside structures, or been deposited as potential waste following demolition from major structures in the area. Contrary to antiquarian postulation, no cremations were encountered during archaeological monitoring, much like the previous evaluation on the site – this may reflect the relatively limited insight or definition of features afforded by the investigation.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>25th- 28th January 2021</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>B10030</i>	Site code	<i>CF97</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring & recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of archaeological potential</i>		
Current land use	<i>Residential</i>		
Planned development	<i>New extension</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Roman feature and post-medieval feature</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Roman pottery</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Chelmsford</i>	<i>Chelmsford</i>
HER for area	<i>Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CM2 0JN</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1,125m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 7036 0585</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 32m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Rebecca Randall</i>		
Funded by	<i>Nicola Gardner</i>		
Full title	<i>Extensions to 116 - 117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0JN: Archaeological monitoring & recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Higgs, K., Randall, R. & Podbury, L.</i>		
Report no.	<i>BE10030/0001 (0.3)</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>April 2021</i>		

EXTENSIONS TO 116-117 MOULSHAM STREET, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX CM2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In January 2021, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0JN (NGR TL 7036 0585)

The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, in the vicinity of a purported Romano-British cemetery associated with Chelmsford. The site lies alongside the main road south from the Roman town and in 1844, a cremation burial was identified nearby to the site, which has been speculated to be part of a larger roadside cemetery extending southwards from the edge of the town. A previous investigation on the site revealed two Roman features consistent with an early to mid-4th century date; a period when the town was thought to be in decline.

Two archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension. The earliest of the two features (F1005) uncovered appears to have been Roman in date and was significantly truncated by a later feature (F1007), which contained a single sherd of post-medieval red earthen ware and re-deposited Roman material; presumably originally deposited in F1005. Feature F1005 contained a small assemblage of Roman tile, which may have been associated with roadside structures, or been deposited as potential waste following demolition from major structures in the area. Contrary to antiquarian postulation, no cremations were encountered during archaeological monitoring, much like the previous evaluation on the site – this may reflect the relatively limited insight or definition of features afforded by the investigation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2021, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 116 - 117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0JN (NGR TL 7036 0585; Figs.1 - 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Nicola Gardner and undertaken during groundworks associated with construction of a new extension. The monitoring was undertaken in response to correspondence from Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisors stipulating that a watching brief should be undertaken.

1.2 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions Ltd (dated 15th January 2021). It also conformed to procedures outlined in the document *ClfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2020). The objectives of were the archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks associated with the gas main works, provision of an adequately detailed project report, and the dissemination and publication of the project results, as appropriate.

Planning policy

1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.4 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies within the parish of Moulsham, which forms part of the county town and district of Chelmsford and is situated in the county of Essex (Fig. 1). Great Baddow is located 2km to the south-east of the site and the village of Writtle lies 3km to the west. The site lies to the south-west of the historic medieval and post-medieval cores of Chelmsford, and to the south-west of Chelmsford's Central and Moulsham Street Conservation Areas (CA). The site is situated along the north-western frontage of Moulsham Street, which is aligned north-east to south-westwards from the A1060 Parkway. It also lies along the south-western frontage of Southborough Road and thus forms the western section of the junction between Moulsham Street and Southborough Road.

2.2 The site comprises a quadrilateral shaped plot of land covering an area of 1,125m² (Fig. 2; Digital Photographs (DPs) 1 & 2). It is occupied by Nos. 116 - 117 Moulsham Street, which comprises Moulsham Care Home and stands in the southern section of the property. To the immediate south-west of the site stands No. 115 Moulsham Street, whilst Southborough Care Home stands to the immediate north. The site currently comprises the existing rear garden area of Moulsham Care Home. It is proposed to construct part two storey and part

single storey rear extensions to accommodate 14 new bedrooms in the current garden area of the site and extend the boundary walls and railings.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The town of Chelmsford is situated at the confluence of the Rivers Wid, Can and Chelmer, with the River Can flowing eastwards only 600m to the north of the site (Fig. 1). The town is located at the optimum crossing point of the River Chelmer and its tributaries, which flow into the Blackwater estuary c.15km to the east. The site is located at c.32m AOD, with the surrounding relief sloping slightly down to the south and east.

3.2 Chelmsford lies at the margin of the boulder clay plateau of north and western Essex and the solid geology of the site comprises the London Clay Formation (BGS 2021). It is overlain by a drift geology of clay, silt, sand and gravel Head. The soils of the site within the urban area and its environs remain un-surveyed (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 The town of Chelmsford is situated at the confluences of the Rivers Wid, Can and Chelmer, and has thus been the focus for settlement and activity since the prehistoric period (Medlycott 1999). The earliest findspots from Chelmsford comprise Palaeolithic flint flakes, whilst late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the eastern section of Moulsham Street. However, within the vicinity of the site, the prehistoric period is represented only by the remains of late Iron Age or Romano-British funerary urns found in 1914 in making a new road across the Oaklands Estate, which lies 400m to the south-west of the site (HER 5539).

Romano-British

4.2 The Roman town of *Caesaromagus* was located in Moulsham, to the south of the modern town centre and 640m to the north-east of the site (Medlycott 1999). It was probably established around a fort, built to guard the river crossing over the River Can following the Boudiccan revolt of AD 60 - 61. The fort was abandoned c. AD 70, yet the civilian town continued to expand along the London to Colchester road, which roughly follows the route of Moulsham Street, and a side road to Heybridge. The town was extensively replanned in the early 2nd century AD, with the construction of a *mansio*, temples and other structures, and reached its greatest extent in the mid 2nd century. The town's fortunes declined during the 3rd - 4th centuries AD, until its eventual abandonment in the 5th century AD. The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the area of the cemetery associated with *Caesaromagus*. The site lies alongside the main road south from the Roman town at Chelmsford and Roman

cremation burials have been previously identified in the immediate vicinity, forming part of a larger roadside cemetery extending southwards from the edge of the Roman town.

4.3 The development of the Roman town at Chelmsford is detailed by Medlycott (1999), with evidence locating it further north-east of the site. Within the area surrounding the site, antiquarian evidence for Roman activity comprised 'urns found in 1844' in the immediate vicinity of the site (HER 5928), as well as coins, a lamp and further purported funerary urns from the Oaklands Estate (HERs 5869, 5825, 5540 & 17537). Excavations at the junction of Moulsham Street and Queen Street, and at the southern edge of the Roman town of *Caesaromagus*, have revealed traces of short-lived occupation dating from the late 1st and 2nd centuries (HER 17221); whilst a ditch and two pits containing domestic waste were recorded at Nos. 145 – 145A Moulsham Street (HER 46303).

4.4 Unsurprisingly, there has been extensive previous archaeological investigation within the vicinity of the site. In particular, the EHER database reveals that the site has been subject to previous archaeological investigation, comprising an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Nos. 116 - 117 Moulsham Street (Ennis 2013; HERs EEX59343 & 48389). The work was undertaken in 2012 by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit of and consisted of two evaluation trenches (Fig. 3). In the centre of Trench 1 was a small oval post-hole from which a rim sherd from a necked jar of 2nd or 3rd century date was recovered. At the north-eastern end of the trench was a large pit, over 2m long and in excess of 0.74m deep, that produced a variety of finds including 32 sherds of Roman pottery, the latest of which is likely to have been current in the early to mid 4th century. This pit was not identified during the watching brief, if it remained extant. No archaeological remains were noted in Trench 2. Although only two archaeological features were uncovered, their comparatively late Roman date is interesting in that they cannot be associated with the fort to the north-east, which had long since gone out of use and the site been redeveloped by the time the pottery was deposited in the two features.

4.5 In 2003, AS carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the Shell garage, which stands at Nos. 84 – 88 Moulsham Street and 200m to the north-east of the site (Grant, Roberts & Weston 2003; EEX54853). The evaluation revealed Roman, medieval and post-medieval features, including three ditches that contained 1st - 4th century AD pottery. Two of the ditches were cut by medieval pits, the latter likely dug to extract the natural brickearth deposits, which occur locally. The post-medieval features consisted of several postholes and a ditch. Although much of the Nos. 84 – 88 Moulsham Street site was severely disturbed, the natural orange/brown silty clay brickearth layer was recorded from 1.10m below ground level.

4.6 AS has also undertaken extensive archaeological investigation at No. 181 Moulsham Street, which stands 600m to the north-east to the site (McDonald 2003; Thornelius 2018). The archaeological evaluation revealed predominantly post-medieval features with residual Roman pottery. Two pits contained potentially in situ Roman pottery but the number of Roman sherds

within each feature was small (1 and 2 sherds). The subsequent excavation revealed a number of post-medieval/early modern features. It also revealed four pits of Romano-British date. These contained significant finds assemblages. The overwhelming character of the activity is suggestive of refuse deposition. The character of this material is, however, of some interest, suggesting that this site was perhaps receiving refuse material from both domestic and craft/industrial contexts.

Anglo-Saxon

4.7 The Roman town of *Caesaromagus* appears to have been abandoned by the 5th century, with the local Anglo-Saxon population largely dispersed around the rural estates and Anglo-Saxon farmsteads in the surrounding area. Following the collapse of the Roman wooden bridge across the River Can, the main route between Colchester and London would likely have been diverted further westwards to a crossing point at Widford (CBC 2007). An early Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been excavated at Springfields to the north-east, where there is also a record of a later Anglo-Saxon manor (Medlycott 1999; Morris 1983). No Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains are recorded within the vicinity of the site. Following the Norman Conquest, Moulsham was owned by the Abbot of Westminster, which rivalled the Chelmsford land owned by the Bishop of London.

Medieval

4.8 Chelmsford or *Chelmersford* is mentioned in Domesday as a pair of settlements located next to the River Can (Morris 1983). The medieval town (HER 6014) was founded at the end of the 12th century by the Bishop of London on a new site within his manor to the north of the Can ('*Ceolmaer's Ford*'), in the area of the modern High Street (Page & Horace Round 1907). The town continued to expand throughout the medieval period, its success enhanced by the grant of a Royal Charter for a market in 1199 and a fair in 1203. However, the site lies to the south-west of the historic medieval core of Chelmsford, and firmly within the Moulsham area.

4.9 By the early 12th century, a new bridge was constructed across the River Can restoring the route of the old Roman road along Moulsham Street. Moulsham remained a distinct hamlet separate from Chelmsford throughout the medieval period, with the former being the poor relation (CBC 2007). A Dominican Friary was founded at Moulsham by 1277, survived until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538 when the friary and later the Manor of Moulsham was purchased by the Mildmay family. The Black Death impacted the population and the economic growth of the town and the site of a plague burial ground is also located in Moulsham and to the north-east of the site (HER 47199). Within the vicinity of the site lies the former location of medieval *Moulsham Hall* (HER 16800), whilst excavations at the junction of Moulsham Street and Queen Street recovered 67 medieval and later sherds from the soil layer (HER 17223). The earliest map of the town, made by John Walker in 1591

shows the area to be vacant, lying at the southern edge of ribbon development down Moulsham Street.

Post-medieval and later

4.10 In 1563, the Mildmay family also acquired the manor of Chelmsford from Queen Elizabeth I, resulting in Moulsham and Chelmsford being in the same ownership (Page & Horace Round 1907). The Mildmay family inhabited *Moulsham Hall* (HER 5557), which included Tudor elements, but was demolished in 1809. The town of Chelmsford continued to prosper throughout the 17th -18th centuries, its growth further encouraged by the construction of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation in 1797 and the arrival of the railway in 1843. However, the area surrounding the site incorporates only a moderate number of post-medieval or later remains, all of which comprise Grade II listed buildings. Nos. 119 - 124 Moulsham Street date to 16th century (HER 31536), No. 82 Moulsham Street dates to 18th century (HER 31535), whilst Nos. 200 and 200A New London Road were built in 1843 (HER 31565).

The site

4.11 As noted previously, the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the area of the cemetery associated with *Caesaromagus* (Roman Chelmsford). It lies alongside the main road south from the Roman enclosed town at Chelmsford and Roman cremation burials have been previously identified in the immediate vicinity, both on the basis of the EHER database and historic cartographic evidence (HER 5928). These burials would have formed part of a larger roadside cemetery running southwards from the edge of the town. The site thus has a specific potential for remains associated with the known Roman occupation of this area and in particular for further burials associated with the known cremation cemetery in this part of Chelmsford.

4.12 The previous archaeological evaluation (Ennis 2013; HERs EEX59343 & 48389) within the site revealed Roman archaeological features. The work was undertaken in 2012 by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit and consisted of two evaluation trenches within the footprints of the proposed development (Fig. 3). In the centre of Trench 1 was a small oval post-hole from which a rim sherd from a necked jar of 2nd or 3rd century date was recovered. At the north-eastern end of the trench was a large pit, over 2m long and in excess of 0.74m deep, that produced a variety of finds including 32 sherds of Roman pottery, the latest of which is likely to have been current in the early to mid 4th century. These features were not identified during the watching brief, if they remained extant. No archaeological remains were noted in Trench 2. Although only two archaeological features were present, their comparatively late Roman date is interesting in that they cannot be associated with the fort to the north-east, which had long since gone out of use and the site had been redeveloped by the time the pottery was deposited in the two features.

4.13 Historic cartographic evidence confirms that the site lay to the south-west of the historic cores of both Chelmsford and Moulsham. The Ordnance Survey surveyor's drawing, which dates to 1799 (Fig. 4), clearly depicts the site to the south-west of both Chelmsford and Moulsham, yet to the north-west of Moulsham Hall, and thus within undeveloped agricultural land fronting Moulsham Street. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1881 (Fig. 5), also depicts the site beyond the late 19th century extent of the town. In 1881, the site still occupied its road-side location fronting Moulsham Street, yet appeared to consist of woodland, with the findspot of '*urns found here AD 1844*' only 15m to the south-west.

4.14 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1897 (Fig. 6), is consistent with the previous cartographic evidence. As previously, by 1897, the site remained along the north-western frontage of Moulsham Street, yet the late 19th century encroachment of Chelmsford had extended beyond the site. In 1897, a short terrace of houses stood to the south-west of the site, although the site itself remained undeveloped. The course of Southborough Road had also been laid out, albeit as a footpath, to the immediate east of the site, whilst the aforementioned '*urns found here AD 1844*' were again depicted only 15m to the south-west of the site.

4.15 The final historic cartographic source to depict the site comprises the 1947 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 7). By the mid 20th century, the site firmly lay within the modern town of Chelmsford and had been partially developed. The existing Moulsham Care Home at Nos. 116 – 117 Moulsham Street therefore dates to the early 20th century, specifically between 1912 and 1924 (Ennis 2013). However, the northern section of the site, which will be subject to the proposed development, was depicted as an undeveloped rear garden in 1947.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The monitoring observed the groundworks associated with the construction of the new extension (Fig. 3). The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the topsoil and any subsequent deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Any encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The encountered layers across the site were recorded in sample sections presented below (and located in Fig. 8):

Sample Section 1A (DP 3) 0.00 = 37.75m AOD		
0.00 – 0.54m	L1000	Topsoil: Firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints and CBM.
0.54 – 0.84m	L1001	Subsoil: Firm, pale grey brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints.
0.84 – 1.50m	L1002	Natural Sand Deposit: Friable, mid red brown sand.
1.50 – 1.90m+	L1003	Natural Gravel Deposit: Friable, mid orange sandy gravels.

Sample Section 1B (DP 4) 0.00 = 38.10m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1004	Made Ground: Friable, dark grey brown rubble.
0.20 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil: As described above.
0.50 – 1.10m	L1002	Natural Sand Deposit: As described above.
1.10 – 1.56m	L1003	Natural Gravel Deposit: As described above.

Sample Section 1C (DP 5) 0.00 = 36.42m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1004	Made Ground: As described above.
0.30 – 0.58m	L1000	Topsoil: As described above.
0.58 – 0.94m	L1001	Subsoil: As described above.
0.94 – 1.30m+	L1002	Natural Sand Deposit: As described above.

Sample Section 1D (DP 6) 0.00 = 36.97m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1001	Subsoil: As described above.
0.10 – 1.05m+	L1002	Natural Sand Deposit: As described above.

Description: Two features were identified in Sample Section 1C in the eastern corner of the monitored area of the groundworks (F1005 and F1007; Fig. 8; DP 5). The features could not be identified in plan, but were observed and recorded in section, with limited excavation of the fills in baulk recovering small assemblages of Roman pottery and CBM (see Appendices 2.1 & 2.2), in addition to a sherd of post-medieval pottery in F1007.

Feature F1005 was only seen in section (0.74+ x ? x 0.37m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base; traits that suggest it is potentially a pit. Its fill, L1006, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained Roman CBM (456g) and shale (2; 18g). Feature F1005 was cut by Feature F1007.

Feature F1007 was only seen in section (0.55+ x ? x 1.30m). It had steep sides and a narrow concave base, which suggest it could potentially comprise a ditch parallel to Moulsham Street and perpendicular to Southborough Road, but it cannot be discounted as a pit. Its basal fill, L1008, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained 17th to 19th century pottery (1; 24g), Roman pottery (6; 77g), and probable Roman nails (2;

40g). Its uppermost fill, L1009, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Feature F1007 was cut through Subsoil L1001, and cut Pit F1005, from where the Roman artefacts were likely re-deposited.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 The observation and recognition of archaeological features was significantly hindered by the recent demolition or preparation work across the site, which had resulted in substantive distribution of rubble across the site and disturbance of upper layers. Because of this disturbance and despite continual monitoring of ground reduction, the footprints of the trial trenches excavated in 2012 could not be identified, nor were the two features in the south-east corner defined in plan, although they could be identified and recorded in section.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, in the vicinity of a purported Romano-British cemetery associated with Chelmsford. The site lies alongside the main road south from the Roman town and a cremation burial has been identified nearby, which has been speculated to be part of a larger roadside cemetery extending southwards from the edge of the town. A previous investigation on the site revealed two Roman features consistent with an early to mid-4th century date, a period when the town was thought to be in decline (Ennis 2013).

8.2 Two archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension. The earlier feature, F1005, potentially a pit, appears to have been Roman in date and contained a small assemblage of Roman tile, which may have been associated with roadside structures, or been re-deposited as demolition from major structures in the area. Feature F1007, potentially a ditch or pit that truncates F1005 and is cut through the subsoil is dated by a single sherd of post-medieval red earthen ware, but also yielded a comparatively small assemblage of Roman pottery and two Roman nails, likely re-deposited from F1005. No cremations, as postulated in 1844 were encountered during archaeological monitoring, much like the previous 2012 evaluation on the site; however it must be acknowledged that recognition of archaeological features was significantly hampered by unintentional disturbance of the subsoil and its interface with layers below by demolition and site clearance activity in the interim period.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with Chelmsford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Nicola Gardner for funding the archaeological monitoring and recording and for assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Essex Historic Environment Record, in particular Ms. Maria Medlycott. AS would also like to thank the staff of the Essex Record Office (ERO), based in Chelmsford. AS would like to acknowledge Ms. Alison Bennett, ECC Historic Environment Advisor, for input and advice.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS), British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Accessed on the 23rd April 2021.

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J (eds.) 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CifA) 2020, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. CifA, Reading

Chelmsford Borough Council (CBC) 2007, *Chelmsford – Moulsham Street Conservation Area. Conservation area character appraisal*. CBC, Chelmsford

Ennis, T. 2013, *116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex. Archaeological Trial Trenching*. Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit unpublished report No. 2076

Glazebrook, J (ed.), 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 1. Resource Assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3

Grant, J. Roberts, B. & Weston, P. 2003, *Shell Garage, 84 – 88 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation*. Archaeological Solutions Ltd unpublished report No. 1323

Gurney, D. 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14

McDonald, T. 2018, *181 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0LG. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation.* Archaeological Solutions Ltd unpublished report No. 5564

Medlycott, M. 1999, *Historic Towns Assessment; Chelmsford.* Essex County Council, Chelmsford

Medlycott, M. & Brown, N. 2008, *Revised East Anglian Archaeological Research Frameworks.* www.eaareports/algaoee

Morris, J. 1983, *Domesday Book: Essex.* Phillimore & Co., Chichester

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011, *Research and Archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the East of England, ALGAO East of England Region.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24

Page, W. & Horace Round, J. (eds.) 1907, *A History of the County of Essex.* Volume II. Victoria County History, Institute of Historical Research, London

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales.* SSEW, Harpenden

Thornelius, S. 2018, *181 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0LG. An Archaeological Excavation Research Archive Report.* Archaeological Solutions Ltd unpublished report No. 5591

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1005	1006	Fill of Feature				456		Shale	2	18
1007	1008	Fill of Feature	17th-19th C (6 Roman sherds)	7	101			Fe Nails	2	40

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

2.1 The Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of six sherds (77g) of Roman pottery and a single sherd (24g) of post-medieval pottery (Table 1), entirely contained in Feature F1007 (L1008) in a moderately fragmented and slightly abraded condition.

Fabric Code	Chelmsford type series*	Fabric Description/Reference	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
BSW1	45	Romanising/Black-Surfaced grey ware.	2	19
GRS1	47	Sandy grey ware.	3	49
STOR1	44	Storage Jar fabric.	1	9
PMED	/	Post-medieval glazed red earthen ware	1	24
<i>Total</i>			<i>7</i>	<i>101</i>

Table 1: Fabric Codes, Description & Quantification - *after Going (1987)

The Roman pottery included a very small fragment of an everted bead rim in GRS1, which is likely to be from a generic Roman jar or cooking pot, while the remaining GRS1, BSW1 and STOR1 was limited to plain body sherds. These fabric types are typical of the suite of local coarse wares that were locally-produced and abundant throughout the Roman occupation of Chelmsford.

The post-medieval red earthen ware appears to be from a large sub-globular bowl. This may be a chamber-pot or similar vessel with a lid-seated rim, potentially of 17th-19th century date, although there may be a high probability that it is intrusive in a pit that otherwise contained Roman pottery (which could possibly be re-deposited from a truncated Roman deposit associated with roadside activity).

References

Going, C. 1987, *The Mansio and other sites in the south-eastern sector of Caesaromagus: the Roman Pottery*. Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report 3.2/CBA Research Report 62.

2.2 The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of seven fragments (456g) of Roman CBM, entirely contained in Feature F1005 (L1006) in a highly fragmented but only slightly abraded condition.

The Roman tile was manufactured in a single homogenous fabric that reflects the substantial local resources and production of CBM around the urban centre, perhaps with kilns operating to serve particular phases of construction, such as the fort, civilian settlement and *mansio*. The fabric is oxidised mid-dark orange with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse fine mica and black iron rich/ore grains (<0.5m), and occasional flint (<10mm). It is hard-fired, typically with a powdery to slightly abrasive finish and often slightly lumpy surfaces.

The Roman tile is entirely comprised of 18-20mm thick flat tile with a slightly rough base, almost certainly derived from tegulae roof tile although no flanged edges are present. The largest fragment exhibits part of an arcing finger-inscribed line which is likely to be part of a tally mark that would have terminated at one plain edge of the tile. These roof tiles may have been associated with roadside structures or been re-deposited as waster/demolition from major structures in the area, but their deposition incorporated in the backfill of a pit appears to represent deliberate disposal/packing in a contemporary Roman feature.

2.3 The Small Finds

Andrew Peachey

Feature F1007 (L1008) contained two iron nails (20g each) in a highly corroded and encrusted condition. The two nails were of comparable type, each with a flat sub-square head (15mm wide) and a narrow tapering, square-section shank (80mm long). Based on their relatively modest to large length, it is likely that they had a structural function as part of Roman roadside structures or similar timber-framed buildings in the local area, although a later origin cannot be entirely discounted.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8639)



1
General site overview



2
General site overview



3
Sample section 1A looking south-west



4
Sample section 1B looking north-west



5
Features F1005 and F1007 in Sample section 1C
looking north-east

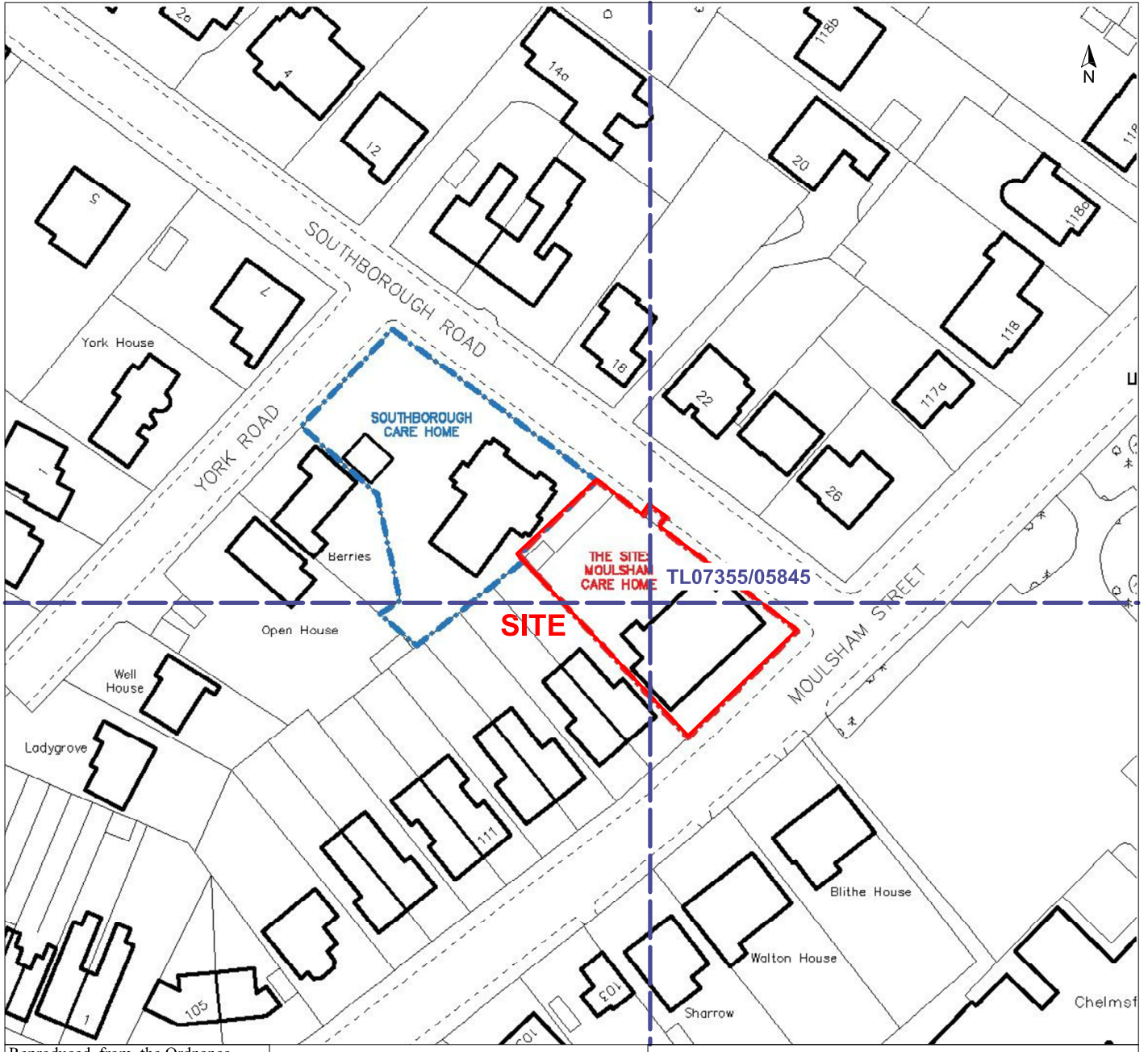


6
Sample section 1D looking north-east



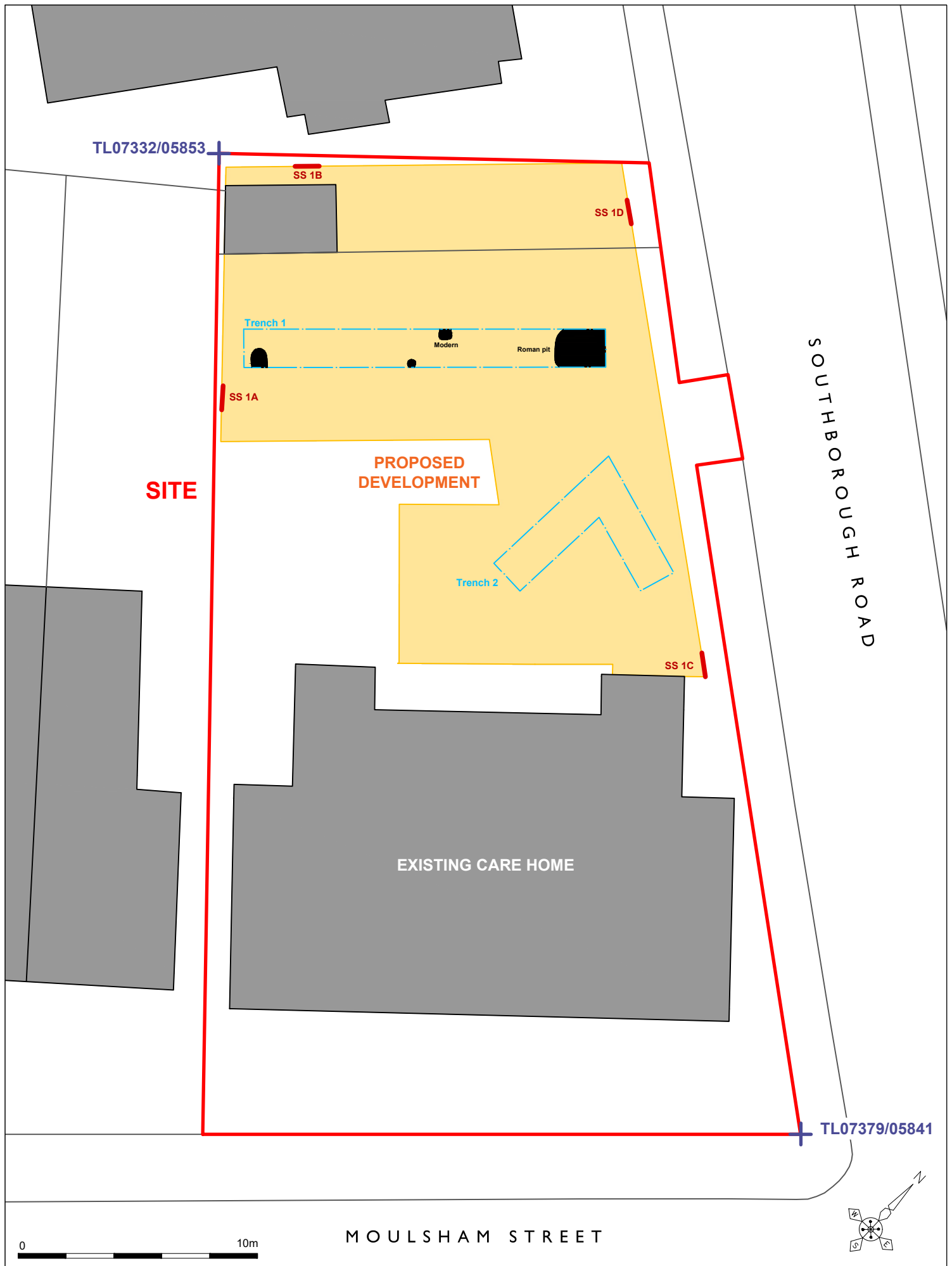
Reproduced from the 2009 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex (P8639)



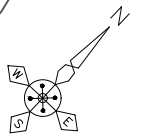
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd. Licence No. 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4
 116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex (P8639)



0 10m

MOULSHAM STREET



- Groundworks monitored
- SS 1A Sample sections
- Previous evaluation trenches

Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 3 Groundworks monitored

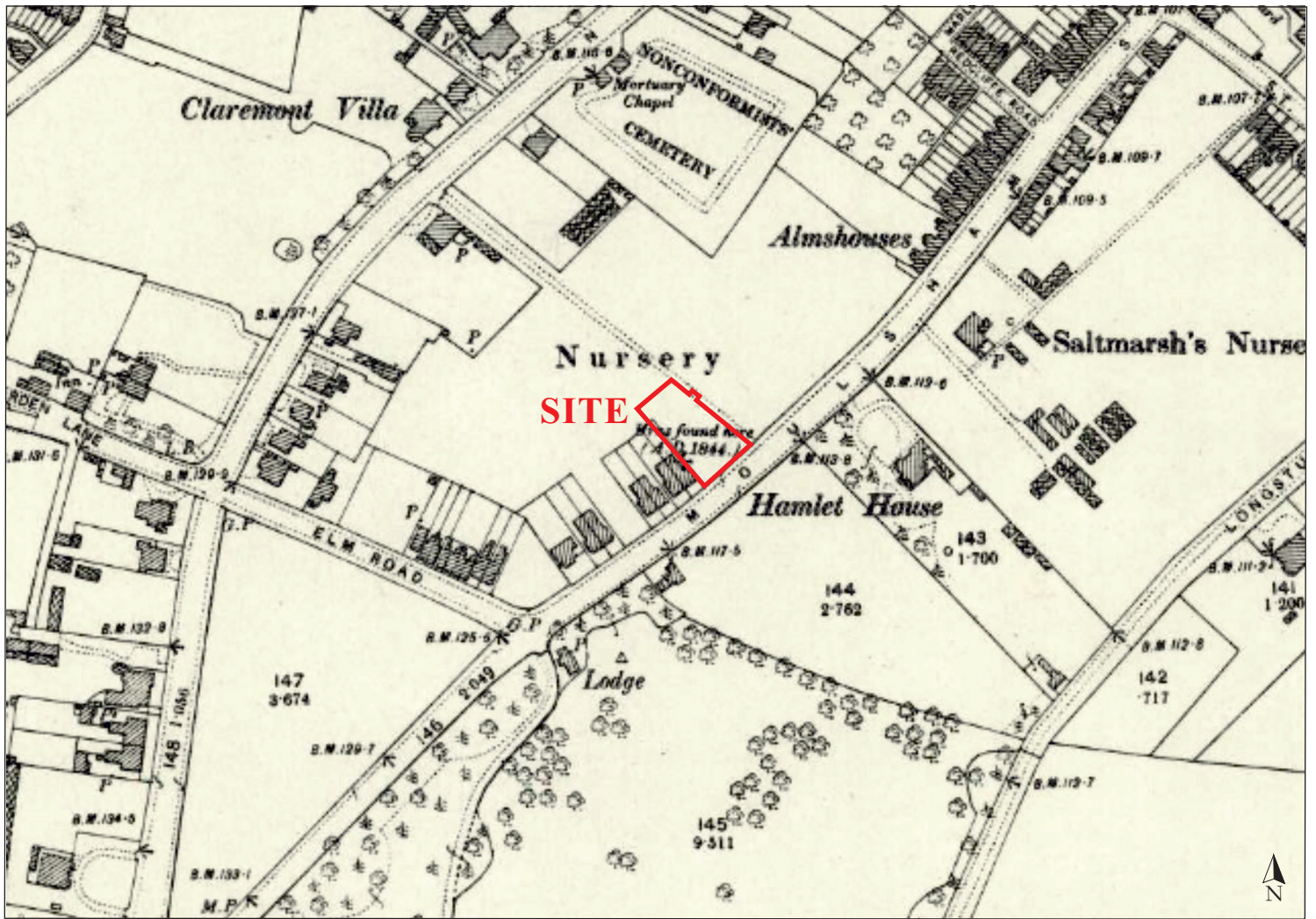
Scale 1:200 at A4
116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex (P8639)



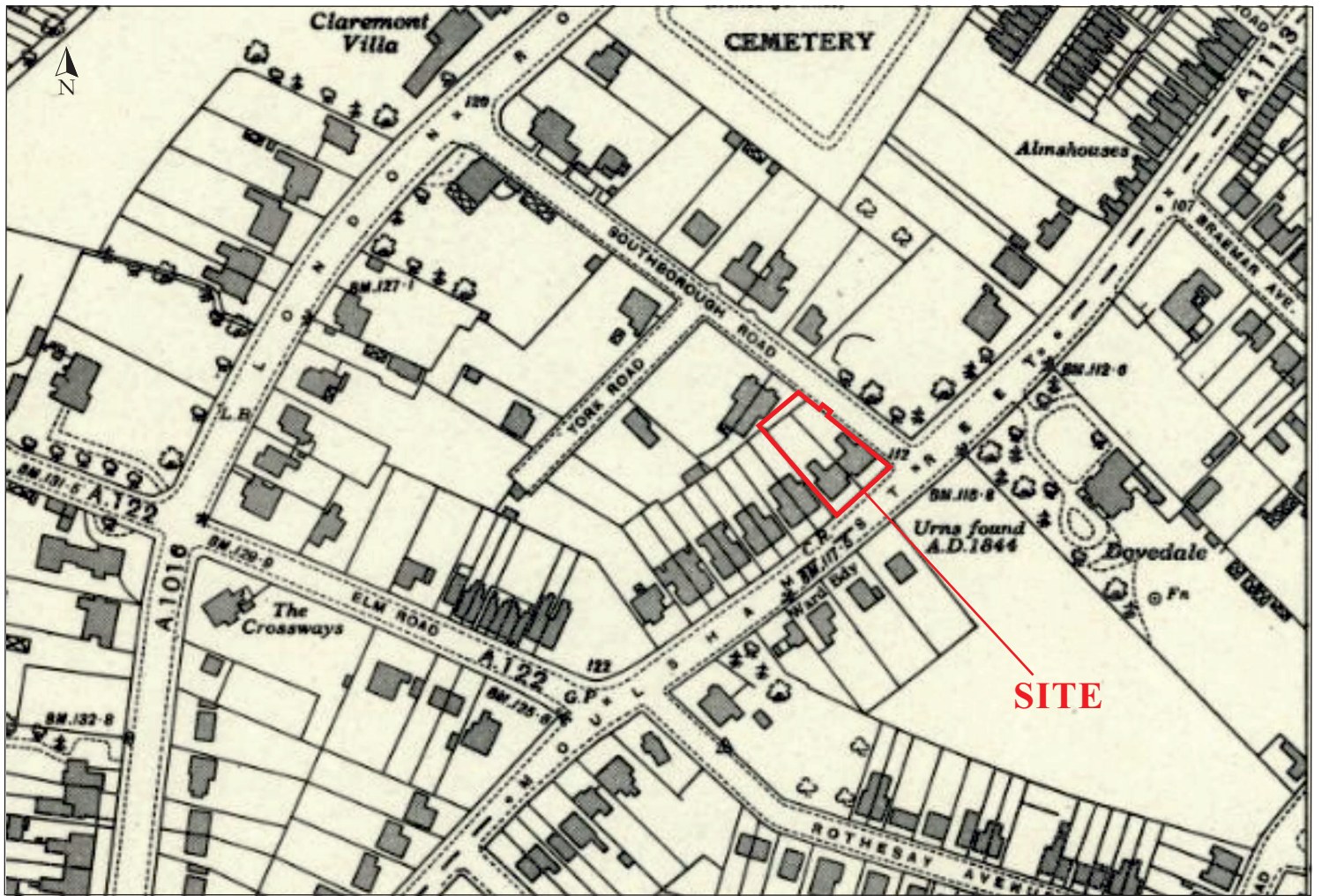
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 4 1799 OS Surveyor Map
Not to scale
116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex (P8639)



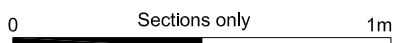
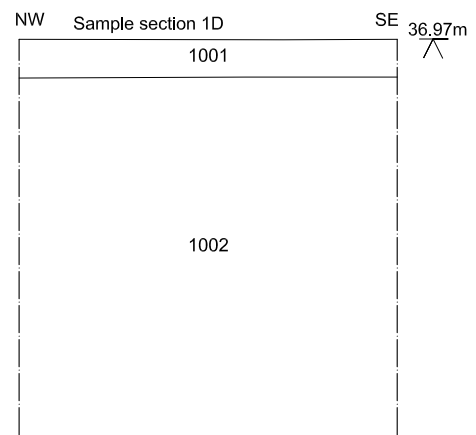
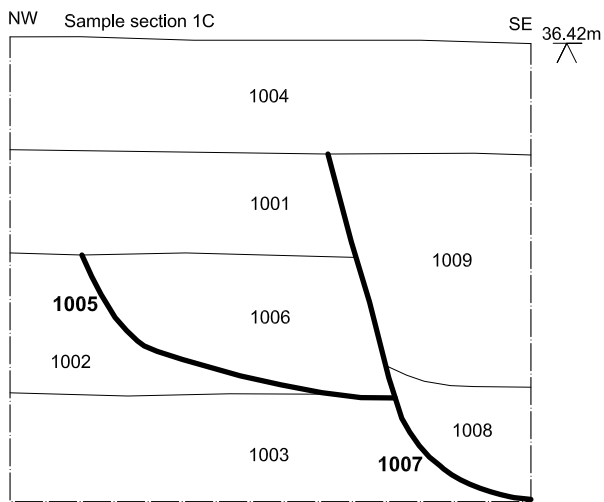
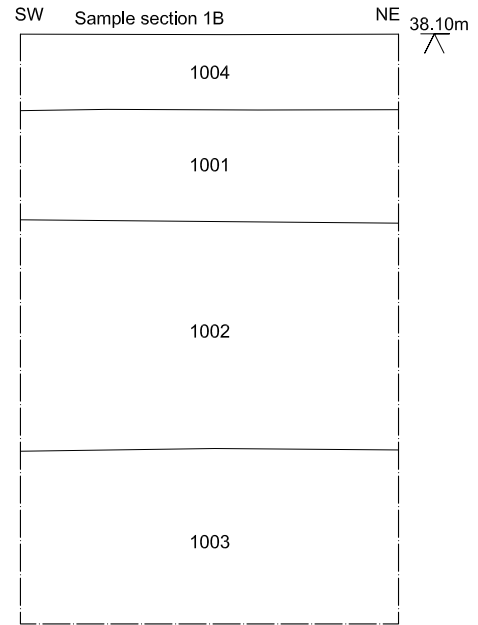
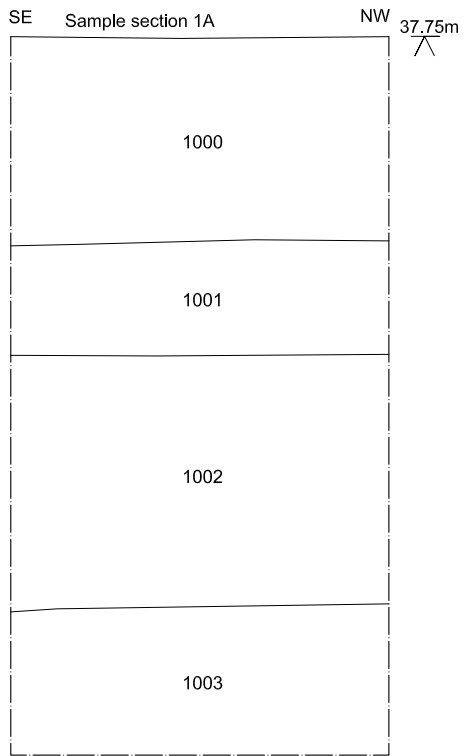
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 1881 OS Map
Not to scale
116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex (P8639)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 6 1897 OS Map
Not to scale
116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex (P8639)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 7 1947 OS Map
Not to scale
116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex (P8639)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 8 Sample sections

Scale 1:150 at A4

116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex (P8639)

Summary for wardella2-502641

OASIS ID (UID)	wardella2-502641
Project Name	Watching Brief at 116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0JN
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	CF97, BE10030
Planning Id	18/00047/DOC/2
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
Project Dates	25-Jan-2021 - 28-Jan-2021
Location	116-117 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0JN NGR : TL 70360 05850 LL : 51.7254882776635, 0.465198719095457 12 Fig : 570360,205850
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Chelmsford Parish : Chelmsford, unparished area
Project Methodology	The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the topsoil and any subsequent deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Any encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using pro forma recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

Project Results	<p>Two archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension. The earliest of the two features (F1005) uncovered appears to have been Roman in date and was significantly truncated by a later feature (F1007), which contained a single sherd of post-medieval red earthen ware and re-deposited Roman material; presumably originally deposited in F1005. Feature F1005 contained a small assemblage of Roman tile, which may have been associated with roadside structures, or been deposited as potential waste following demolition from major structures in the area. Contrary to antiquarian postulation, no cremations were encountered during archaeological monitoring, much like the previous evaluation on the site – this may reflect the relatively limited insight or definition of features afforded by the investigation.</p>
Keywords	Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	<p>Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Chelmsford Museum</p>