

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**3 ANVIL AVENUE, LITLINGTON,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

CHER ECB3696

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
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| NGR: TQ 3128 4249   | Report No: 4002    |
| Borough: Cambridgeshire   | Site Code: AS1449  |
| Approved: C Halpin MIfA   | Project No: 4641   |
| Signed:   | Date: January 2012 |

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| <b>OASIS SUMMARY SHEET</b>   |  |                     |            |
|--|--|---------------------|------------|
| Project name   | 3 Anvil Avenue, Litlington, Cambridgeshire.  |                     |            |
| <p><i>In December 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at 3 Anvil Avenue, Litlington, Cambridgeshire. The monitoring was commissioned by Mr James Bathmaker in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for an extension to a domestic property.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located in an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of the village of Litlington, on chalk deposits at a height of c.36m AOD. The site lies within the area of a Roman villa complex, first investigated by the Rev W Clack in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (HER MCB3947). Ancillary structures of the villa are thought to lie within the vicinity of the site. The villa is believed to be a courtyard design, with such associated structures radiating away from the central courtyard. The client reports that a Time Team investigation in 2009 included the garden of their property, but no archaeological remains were identified.</i></p> <p><i>In the event two modern drains and modern demolition layers were noted during the monitoring and recording.</i></p> |  |                     |            |
| Project dates (fieldwork)  | 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2011.  |                     |            |
| Previous work (Y/N/?)  | N  | Future work (Y/N/?) | N          |
| P. number  | 4641   | Site code           | AS1449     |
| Type of project  | Archaeological Monitoring & Recording.   |                     |            |
| Site status  | n/a  |                     |            |
| Current land use   | Garden for domestic dwelling.  |                     |            |
| Planned development  | Rear extension to domestic dwelling.   |                     |            |
| Main features (+dates)   | n/a  |                     |            |
| Significant finds (+dates)   | n/a  |                     |            |
| <b>Project location</b>  |  |                     |            |
| County/ District/ Parish   | Cambridgeshire   | Royston             | Litlington |
| HER for area   | Cambridge County Council Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)                       |                     |            |
| Post code (if known)   | SG8 0RA  |                     |            |
| Area of site   | c.24m <sup>2</sup>   |                     |            |
| NGR  | TQ 3128 4249   |                     |            |
| Height AOD (min/max)   | c. 36m AOD   |                     |            |
| <b>Project creators</b>  |  |                     |            |
| Brief issued by  | Cambridge County Council   |                     |            |
| Project supervisor/s (PO)  | Archaeological Solutions Ltd   |                     |            |
| Funded by  | Mr James Bathmaker   |                     |            |
| Full title   | 3 Anvil Avenue, Litlington, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording. |                     |            |
| Authors  | Stoakley, M. Schofield, T.   |                     |            |
| Report no.   | 4002   |                     |            |
| Date (of report)   | January 2012   |                     |            |

### **3 ANVIL AVENUE, LITLINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In December 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at 3 Anvil Avenue, Litlington, Cambridgeshire. The monitoring was commissioned by Mr James Bathmaker in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for an extension to a domestic property.*

*The site is located in an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of the village of Litlington, on chalk deposits at a height of c.36m AOD. The site lies within the area of a Roman villa complex, first investigated by the Rev W Clack in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (HER MCB3947). Ancillary structures of the villa are thought to lie within the vicinity of the site. The villa is believed to be a courtyard design, with such associated structures radiating away from the central courtyard. The client reports that a Time Team investigation in 2009 included the garden of their property, but no archaeological remains were identified.*

*In the event two modern drains and modern demolition layers were noted during the monitoring and recording.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In December 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at 3 Anvil Avenue, Litlington, Cambridgeshire, (NGR TQ 3128 4249). The monitoring was commissioned by James Bathmaker in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a rear extension to the domestic dwelling (South Cambs. Planning Ref S/1710/11).

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; dated 01/11/2011), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 03/11/11), approved by CCC HET. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement 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. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1-2)**

2.1 No.3 Anvil Avenue is located in Litlington, Cambridgeshire (Fig.1). The village of Litlington lies 3 miles to the north-west of Royston, and ten miles to the east of Biggleswade. The site is located at c.36m AOD on chalky drift deposits overlain by soils of the Swaffham Prior association, described as well drained, calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble.

2.2 The site contains the detached residential dwelling of 3 Anvil Avenue, which lies at the south western end of the close. Anvil Avenue leads off to the west of Church Street, and the site is bounded by farmland to the rear.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### *Prehistoric*

3.1 Mesolithic flint implements (HER 03071) were found c.120m east of the site and three Neolithic stone axes (HER 03070) were discovered at an unknown location. An archaeological evaluation c.31m to the south of the site revealed a late Iron Age – early Roman gully and a pit (HER 11752). Substantial quantities of Iron Age and early Roman pottery and building material were recovered and may indicate a large settlement site with established continental trade links.

#### *Romano-British*

3.2 A large courtyard villa site (HER 03186) was located c.15m to the south of the site. The villa was extensive in size with 30 rooms and a bath-house, and additional independent houses in close proximity to the main villa. A Roman mosaic pavement and hypocaust were discovered directly east of the villa site.

3.3 Geophysical survey of areas to the north and south of the site at c.25m distant revealed Roman ditches and demolition material (MCBs 19306 & 19307). A large quantity of Roman tesserae, tile fragments and pottery was recovered. Pottery, tesserae and ceramic building material (MCB17646) were recorded at 13 Cockrell Close c.62m to the south.

3.4 A Roman walled cemetery (HER 03262) was discovered at Heaven's Walls c.266m to the south. It was rectangular plan enclosed with walls of flint and brick, and a wide variety of different burial types was evident. The latter included c.200 sepulchral urns, a stone coffin, tile cists, wooden coffins and some flint-lined burials. There were a large number of cremation urns in the cemetery with a variety of Samian ware types. Numerous grave goods were recovered including coins, an incense burner, a glass ewer and toiletry implements.

#### *Saxon and Medieval*

3.5 An archaeological evaluation c.170m north-west of the site revealed boundary ditches and inhumation burials (CB15696) dated to the late Saxon period. The Dovesdale Manor Moat (HER 01236) is located c.372m to the north. The moated site was associated with one of the two Litlington manors (HER 03176A) situated c.60m to the south of the moat.

3.6 The church of St Catherine (CB14887, Listed Building 52559), located c.217m north-west of the site, was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The site of a deserted medieval settlement (HER 08075) is located c.310m to the south-west and the site of a windmill (HER 03074) is situated c.279m to the south-east of the site.

## Post-Medieval

3.7 Listed buildings in the area include the late 16<sup>th</sup> – early 17<sup>th</sup> century dovecote at Hill Farm (HER 10437) situated c.93m to the north-east of the site and the 17<sup>th</sup> century dovecote at Bury Farm (HER 10438) situated c.300m to the north-west. Burr Cottage (DCB 4863), Manor Farmhouse (DCB 4865) and Grove House (DCB 5803) are located to the west of the site. The early 18<sup>th</sup> century Bury Farm (HER 01236a) is located c.328m to the north-west. Other listed buildings include Rose Cottage (DCB 6773) situated c.186m to the south-east and Thatch Croft (DCB 4867) located c.250m to the north-east. Post-medieval archaeological remains were discovered on South Street and comprised a brick wall and a pit with ceramic building material and glazed pottery (MCB17867).

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The removal of a modern patio and subsequent ground reduction were monitored as well as the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new rear extension.

4.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles by means of *pro forma* sheets, scaled drawings and photographs.

## 5 RESULTS

Three sample sections were recorded along the foundation trench of the new rear extension (Fig.3):

|   |       |   |
|---|-------|---|
| <i>Sample Section 1; north-east facing. DP1</i> |       |   |
| <i>Centre of foundation trench</i>              |       |   |
| <i>0.00 = 37.63m</i>                            |       |   |
| 0.00 – 0.20m                                    | L1000 | Topsoil. Mid grey brown, loose silty clay with occasional small angular flint and chalk.            |
| 0.20 – 1.00m                                    | L1001 | Made Ground Levelling Layer. Mixed yellow and grey, friable silty sand and chalk demolition rubble. |
| 1.00m+  | L1002 | Made Ground Levelling Layer. Mixed whitish grey, friable sandy mortar and demolition rubble.        |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Sample Section 2; south-east side, north-west facing. DP2</i> |  |  |
| <i>SE side of foundation trench</i>                              |  |  |
| <i>0.00 = 37.60m</i>   |  |  |

|              |       |  |
|--------------|-------|--|
| 0.00 – 0.30m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above.                             |
| 0.30 – 1.00m | L1001 | Made Ground Levelling Layer. As above.         |
| 1.00 – 1.10m | L1002 | Made Ground Levelling Layer. As above.         |
| 1.10m+       | L1003 | Natural drift geology. Light grey white chalk. |

|   |       |  |
|---|-------|--|
| <i>Sample Section 3; north-west end, north-east facing. DP3<br/>NW end of foundation trench<br/>0.00 = 37.52m</i> |       |  |
| 0.00 – 0.20m  | L1000 | Garden Topsoil. As above.              |
| 0.20 – 1.05m  | L1001 | Made Ground Levelling Layer. As above. |
| 1.05m+  | L1003 | Natural drift geology. As above.       |

*Description:* Two modern drains were present between Sample Sections 1 and 3, both were aligned broadly north-east/south-west. No other features or finds were present.

## 6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a mid grey brown, loose silty clay with occasional small angular flint and chalk (depth 0.30m maximum. Below L1000 was Made Ground Levelling Layer L1001, a mixed yellow and grey, friable silty sand and chalk demolition rubble. Below L1001 in Sample Sections 1 and 2 was another Made Ground Layer L1002, a mixed white grey, friable sandy mortar and demolition rubble. In Sample Section 3, below L1001, the Natural Drift Geology deposit, L1003, comprised a light grey white chalk.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the monitoring and recording.

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site lies within the area of a Roman villa complex, first investigated by the Rev W Clack in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (HER MCB3947). Ancillary structures of the villa are thought to lie within the vicinity of the site. In the event two modern drains and modern demolition layers were noted during the monitoring and recording.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank James Bathmaker for funding the project and for his kind assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, and the staff at the CCC HER.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

DP1



Post-excitation photograph of footings, Sample Section 1, looking south-west.

DP2



Post-excitation photograph of footings, Sample Section 2, looking south-east.

DP3



Post-excitation photograph of footings, Sample Section 3, looking south-west.

DP4



Excavated conservatory footings, looking north-west.

DP5



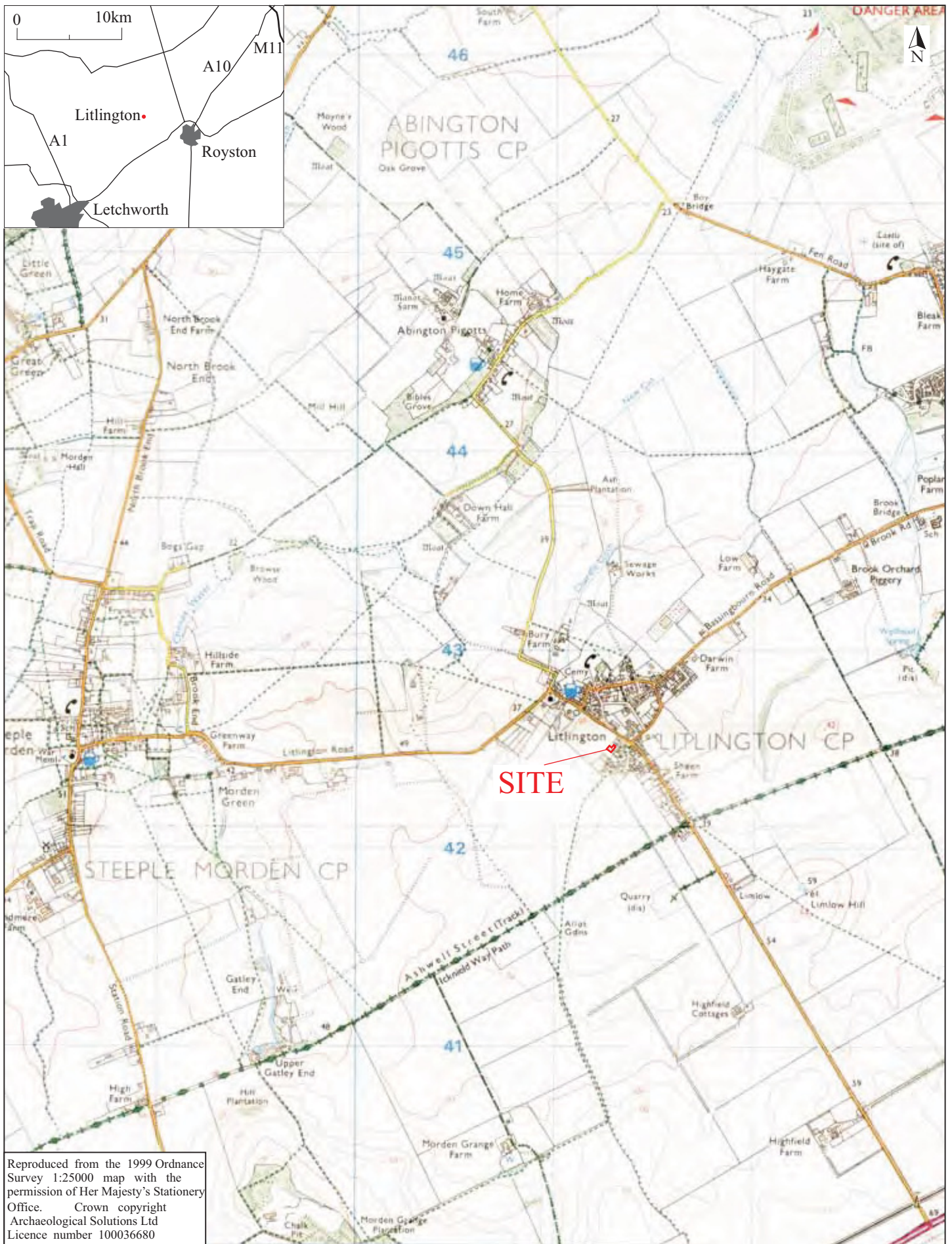
General site photograph, conservatory footings, looking north-east.

DP6



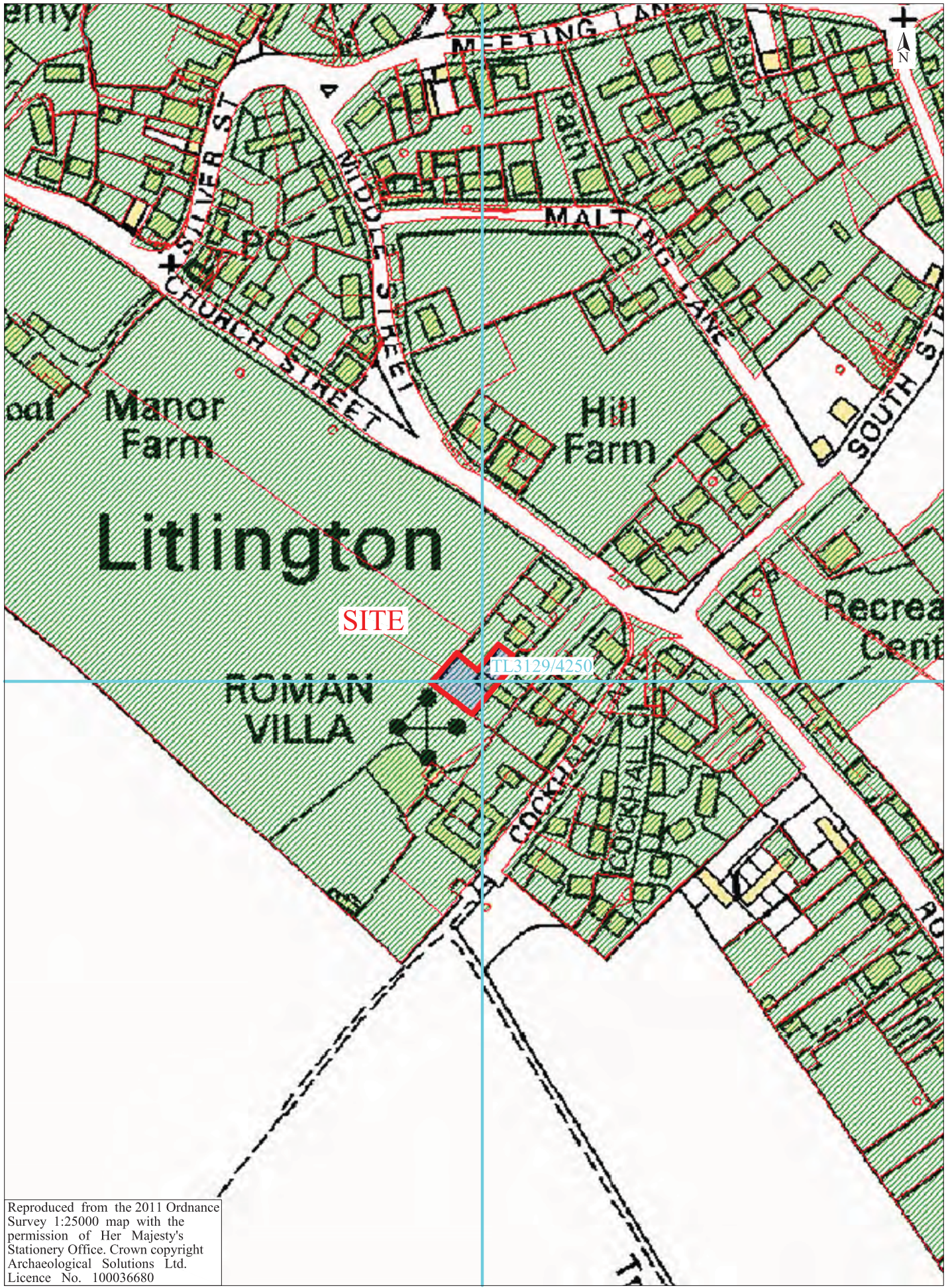
General site photograph, conservatory footings with modern drains and house in background, looking north.





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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000



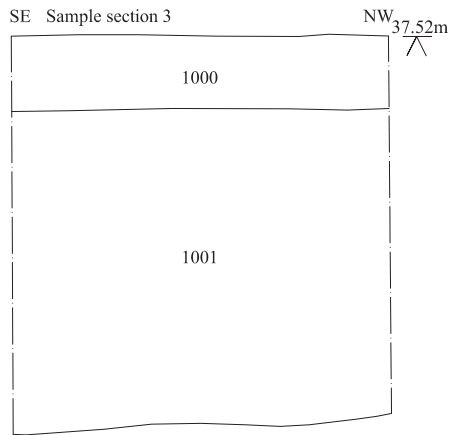
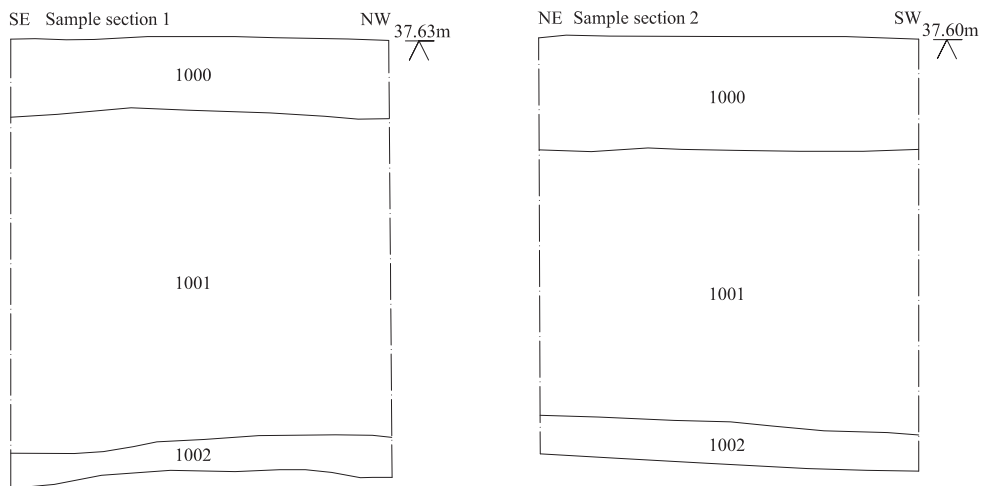
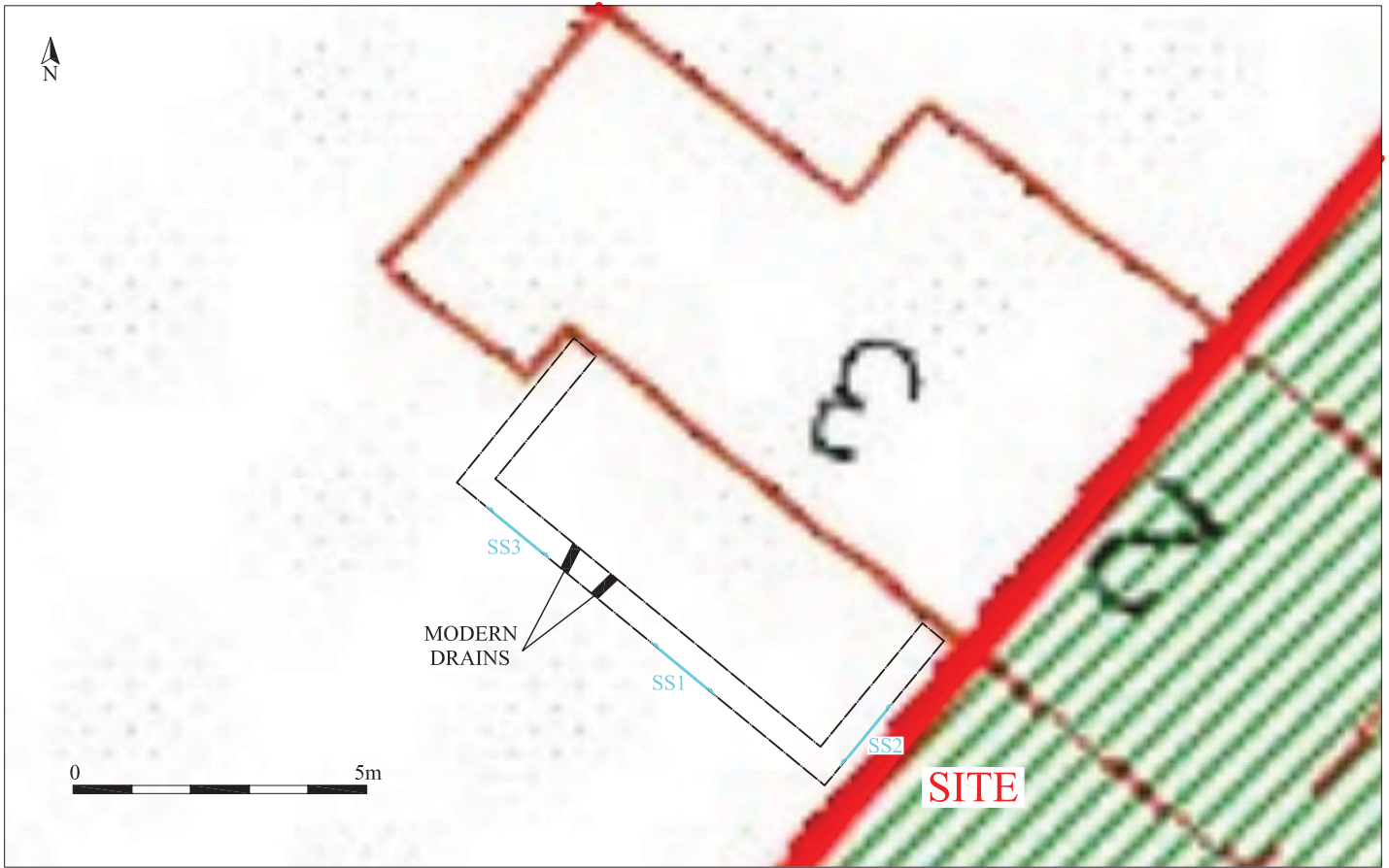


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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:2500 at A4





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**Fig. 3 Sections and section location plan**  
Scale 1:125 and 1:20 at A4