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GAINSTHORPE HOUSE, GAINSTHORPE ROAD, ONGAR, ESSEX CM5 0NF

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Stuart Rathbone BSc (fieldwork & report)				
NGR: TL 5352 0590	Report No: R4108			
District: Essex	Site Code: ONGH12			
Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA	Project No: 4884			
Signed:	Date: July 2012			

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE
- 3 THE SITE TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL
- 8 DISCUSSION
- 9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BIBLIOGRAPHY
- APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA
- APPENDIX 2 FINDS CONCORDANCE
- APPENDIX 3 SPECIALIST REPORT

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details							
Project name	Gainsthor _l 0NF	be House,	Gainsthorpe	e Road,	Ongar,	Essex,	CM5
In July 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological							
monitoring and recording of fe							
	TL 5352 0590). The proposed development involves the construction of a two storey extension						
onto the eastern corner of the							
date from the 16 th century. T north west of Chipping Ong							
4233) suggesting settlement							
		nay externa		unan unc	, 10 0011	ury.	
Footing trenches for the new	extension	and a tren	hch for diverte	ed servi	ces were	mechan	nically
excavated on the 16 th July	2012. Thes	e excavat	ions took pla	ce unde	er strict a	rchaeolo	ogical
supervision.							
In the event ne exchanges	footuroo	IOKO PROSS	at although to	o oboro	lo of mod:	aval (m:	a 1 oth
In the event no archaeologica – 14 th century) pottery were re				o snera	s or medi	evai (mi	u 13
			5011.				
Project dates (fieldwork)	16 th July 2	012					
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future w	ork	Ν			
P. number	4884	Site code	Э	ONGH	12		
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording						
Site status	Grade II listed house (LB UID 117736)						
Current land use	Rear garden of Gainsthorpe House						
Planned development	Constructi	on of two s	storey extensio	on to ex	isting buil	ding	
Main features (+dates)			re and service				
Significant finds (+dates) Two sherds of medieval (mid $13^{th} - 14^{th}$ C) pottery							
Project location							
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	-	ping Forest		Bobbing	vorth	
HER/ SMR for area		toric Enviro	onment Recor	ď			
Post code (if known)	CM5 0NF						
Area of site	c.50m²						
NGR	TL 5352 (
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.74m AOL)					
Project creators	1						
Brief issued by	Essex County Council Historic Environment Team						
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Stuart Rathbone						
Funded by	Ms Jacque	eline Scott					
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>				
Full title	,	,	Gainsthorpe I	,	ngar, Ess	sex	
Authors	Archaeolo Rathbone,		oring and Re	coraing			
	4108	0.					
Report no.	4108 July 2011						
Date (of report)	July 2011						

GAINSTHORPE HOUSE, GAINSTHORPE ROAD, ONGAR, ESSEX CM5 0NF

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In July 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of foundation trenches at Gainsthorpe House, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0NF (NGR TL 5352 0590).

Gainsthorpe House lies on the eastern side of Gainsthorpe Road some 300m to the north of the hamlet of Bobbingworth. The building is Grade II listed. It is proposed to build a new rear extension in the existing garden area. The house lies within a medieval moated enclosure, recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER 4233). The Grade II listed house is timber-framed and dates from the 16th century or earlier (LB UID 117736). The 13th century Church of St Germain lies some 300m to the south (EHER 33175). The moated site is shown on early mapping, with the moat enclosing Gainsthorpe House and Gainsthorpe Cottages to the north, south and east. References to Gainsthorpe date back as far as 1483.

The site therefore has a potential for earlier medieval house remains and ancillary features (buildings, yard surfaces etc) within the moated platform, and for buried features associated with any early phases of the current building

In the event no archaeological features were present but two sherds of medieval (mid $13^{th} - 14^{th}$ century) pottery were recovered from topsoil to the rear of the existing building.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at the rear of Gainsthorpe House, Gainsthorpe Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0NF (NGR TL 5352 0590; Figs.1-2). The monitoring was carried out to comply with a planning/listed building consent condition imposed by Epping Forest District Council on approval to construct a new rear extension to the house (Epping Planning Approval Ref. EPF/0561/11 & EPF/0565/11/LB).

1.2 The archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Team (ECC HET dated June 2011/Revised May 2012), and a specification compiled by AS (6th June 2012), and approved by ECC HEM. The monitoring adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 2008), and the procedures described in the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (revised 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

Aims and Objectives

- 1.3 The project aimed to:
 - Ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains
 - Secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme
 - Secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required
 - Secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

Research Aims

1.4 The principal research aims are to identify any evidence of archaeological remains within the site which are exposed during the groundworks required for the proposed extension. It will be particularly important to identify any evidence associated with the moated platform in the medieval period (including its origins and development), and development in the post-medieval period.

Planning Policy Context

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) 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 nonrenewable 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.

1.6 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 is located within the civil parish of Bobbingworth, Essex. It is located *c*.2km to the north-west of Chipping Ongar, *c*.1km to the south of Moreton, *c*.2.75km to the north-east of Tyler's Green and 3.5km to the south-west of Fyfield. The Cripsey Brook runs a roughly north-south course *c*.750m to the east of the site.

2.2 The site is located on the eastern side of Gainsthorpe Road, which runs north to Moreton and south of Bobbingworth. The site comprises the Grade II Listed Building Gainsthorpe House, a 16^{th} century timber-framed residential property (UID No. 117736). The proposed development comprises an area of *c*.27.5m2.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 The solid geology of the site comprises the London Clay Formation, including Claygate Beds and Harwich Member (gpge) (BGS 1978). The soils of the site belong to the Hanslope association (411d) and are defined as slowly permeable chalky clayey soils from chalky glacial till (SSEW 1983).

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric & Romano-British

3.2.1 Archaeological remains of prehistoric and Romano-British date are not recorded within 1km of the site. A 21km British Gas pipeline from Matching Green to Ryehouse (EHER 45216) located to the west of the site revealed nine previously unknown sites, including sites of late Bronze Age date.

Medieval

3.2.2 At the time of the Domesday survey the manor of Bobbingworth (or *Bubingeorda*), was located within the Hundred of Dengie (Williams & Martin 2002, 1031). The manor and associated lands was owned by Ranulf, brother of Ilger and tenanted by Richard. The manor was assessed at one hide and 30 acres, with woodland for 80 pigs and four acres of meadow for 107 sheep (*Ibid*).

3.2.3 The medieval settlement of Moreton (EHER 45673) is located c.1km to the north and at Bobbingworth Hall (EHER 4142) c.700m to the south-west. The 13th century church of St Germain (EHERs 33175 & 4142) is situated c.300m to the south-west of the site. The site of a medieval farm at Padler's Hall (EHER 45675) is located c.1km to the north-west and was first mentioned in 1327. The earliest documentary reference to Gainsthorpe is 1438.

3.2.4 A moated enclosure (EHER 4233) associated with Gainsthorpe House (EHER 33163) encompasses the site. A second moated enclosure (EHER 4248) is situated *c*.500m to the south-east of the site. Two late medieval timber-framed buildings (EHERs 33171 & 33165) are situated *c*.500m to the west and *c*.300m to the north-west respectively.

Post-medieval

3.2.5 Gainsthorpe House (EHER 4234 & 33163) comprises a 16^{th} century timber-framed house and crosswing. Other 16^{th} century buildings New Farmhouse (EHER 33164) and Muggins (EHER 33166) are situated *c*.500m to the north-west of the site.

3.2.6 17th century buildings include Bovinger Hall (EHER 4141) c.320m to the south and the timber-framed houses of Nos. 38 & 39 Gainsthorpe Road (EHER 33162) situated c.30m to the south. 17th century outbuildings are located at Wood Farmhouse (EHER 33090) to the east, at Hobbans Farmhouse to the south-west (EHER 33172) and at Blake Hall (EHERs 33183 & 33184) c.800m to the south.

Undated

3.2.7 Cropmarks are located c.500m to the north (EHERs 19272 & 19282) and to the south-west (EHERs 19271, 19273, 19283, 19288 & 19294) respectively.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the close supervision of all the groundworks associated with the construction of the new extension to the existing building.

4.2 Three foundation trenches and a service trench were excavated using a mini excavator.

4.3 The foundations for the extension consisted of two trenches measuring 5.8m by 0.6m connected by a trench measuring 4.5m by 0.6m. These trenches were first excavated down to the top of the natural clay and after they had been examined they were extended down to a total depth of between 1m and 1.1m. In addition a service trench was excavated which measured 17m by 0.6m. This trench was excavated down to the top of the natural clay which was located at a depth of between 0.1m and 0.4m.

4.4 The top of the exposed natural clay was cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features and the sections of each trench were examined in detail for signs of archaeological deposits or features. All though no significant archaeological features or deposits were identified, the deposits that were encountered were recorded using pro forma recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Fig. 3

5.1 The new foundations formed a rectangular shape measuring 5.8m by 4.5m that connected to the eastern corner of the existing building (Fig.3, DP1 & 2). The trenches were 0.6m wide and between 1m and 1.1m deep. An additional trench was excavated that would subsequently be used to accommodate diverted services around the new extension. This measured 17m in length, 0.6m in width and was between 0.1m and 0.4m in depth (DP3).

5.2 Three sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered were recorded. Sample Section 1 was located close to the mid point of the eastern end wall of the extension (DP4). Sample Section 2 was located close to the mid point of the service trench, on its north eastern side. Sample Section 3 was located towards the north western end of the service trench, on it's north eastern side.

5.3 The sample sections are tabulated

Sample Section 1 (DP 4) Eastern foundation trench, west facing 0.00 = 73.78m AOD				
0.00m - 0.01m	L1000	Grass.		
0.01m – 0.30m	L1001	Topsoil. Greyish black, soft, clayey silt with frequent fragment of bricks and tiles throughout. It contained modern finds and two residual sherds of medieval $(13^{th} - 14^{th} \text{ century})$ pottery (37g).		
0.30m+	L1002	Natural Clay. Brownish yellow, firm, silty clay.		

Sample Section 2 Service trench, west facing 0.00 = 73.56m AOD				
0.00m - 0.01m	L1000	Grass. As above.		
0.01m – 0.20m	L1001	Topsoil. As above.		
0.20m+	L1002	Natural Clay. As above.		

Sample Section 3					
Service trench, west facing					
0.00 = 73.78m AOL	0.00 = 73.78m AOD				
0.00m - 0.01m	L1000	Grass. As above.			
0.01m – 0.42m	L1003	Topsoil. Greyish black, soft, silty clay with occasional			
		small stones. Noticeably 'cleaner' than L1002.			
0.42m+	L1002	Natural Clay. As above.			

5.4 No archaeological features were present within the investigated area and it was clear that the area had been disturbed during the 20^{th} century. The disturbance was associated with gardening activities and the laying of numerous service pipes (Fig. 3). Just to the north west of the centre of the service trench a brick-built garden feature was encountered (DP 5). It probably represents the base of a small wall and an adjacent pathway. Given the location of the site it is not surprising that the a few sherds of medieval ($13^{\text{th}} - 14^{\text{th}}$ century) pottery were recovered from Topsoil L1001. Within the service trench a broken toy cannon, cast in copper alloy was recovered (DP6). Examination suggests an 18^{th} or 19^{th} century date for this artefact, and given its quality it was likely an expensive toy, likely once owned by an occupant of Gainsthorpe House.

5.5 No features relating to either the early occupation of Gainsthorpe House or the preceding occupation of the medieval moated site were identified within the trenches.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The existing ground surface across the site was a well tended lawn, L1000. This was underlain by Topsoils L1001 and L1003. L1001 contained large quantities of broken and fragmentary CBM, too such a level that it is likely that a building had been demolished in this area. The fragmentary remains of the brick and tile built garden feature, F1004 may be the source of this material. The soils directly overlay L1002, a natural clay deposit.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 No archaeological features were identified during the monitoring. Residual sherds of medieval $(13^{th} - 14^{th} \text{ century})$ pottery within the topsoil relate to earlier occupation in the area, likely associated with the moated site the current building is set within.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 The archive will be deposited with Epping Museum. The requirements for archive storage will be agreed and the archive deposited there within three months of the conclusion of fieldwork.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client Mrs Jacqueline Scott for her kind assistance and funding the project.

Archaeological Solutions Ltd would like to thank Ms Alison Bennett of the Essex Historic Environment Record for her assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Team, in particular Ms Laura Belton.

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www.heritage-gateway.org.uk

www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

HER	NGR SP	Description
Medieval		
4140	TL 5333 0533	Bobbingworth Hall. Deserted medieval settlement.
4142	TL 5340 0558	Church of St Germain. The nave of this post medieval church has a reset 13 th century piscina. LB II* 1124089.
33171	TL 5289 0579	Hobbans Farmhouse. 15 th – 16 th century timber-framed house.
4233	TL 535 059	The moat at Gainsthorpe House may represent garden drainage ditches. The name is mentioned in 1483.
4248	TL 535 054	Moat south-east of the church.
33165	TL 5331 0618	Barn to the south of New Farmhouse. 15 th century barn.
33175	TL 5340 0558	Church of St Germain, Bobbingworth. 13 th century church. LB II* 1124089.
45673	TL 533 069	Historic medieval and post-medieval settlement of Moreton.
45675	TL 5295 0663	Padler's Hall. Medieval farm, first mentioned 1327.
Post-medieval	•	
4139	TL 5397 0688	Upper Hall. 16th century house with 19 th century alterations.
4141	TL 5333 0553	Bovinger Hall. Now a farmhouse. Early 18 th century work with a late 17th century wing. LB 1147908.
4143	TL 5340 0558	Church of St Germain. 19 th century church.
4234	TL 535 059	Gainsthorpe House. 17 th century house, timber-framed, rough-cast and weatherboarded. 16 th century or earlier cross-wing house. Central chimneystack.
4282	TL 5387 0511	Blake Hall. 18 th century house. Used by RAF in WWII. LB II* 1147912.
7373	TL 538 052	Blake Hall. 18 th – 19 th century park and woodland; walled garden 1790; late 18 th century ha-ha; 18 th century ice-house. Registered Park or Garden (II) – 1000311.
33058	TL 5333 0685	Moreton Bridge. 18 th century. Grade II LB 1111271.
33063	TL 5336 0690	Manor Cottage. Early 16 th century timber framed house. LB II 1168339.
33086	TL 5397 0688	Upper Hall. Late 16 th century timber-framed house. LB II 1111282.
33087	TL 5427 0584	Wood Farmhouse. 17 th – 18 th century timber-framed house. LB II 1306994.
33088	TL 5425 0585	Late 17 th century timber-framed granary at Wood Farmhouse. LB II 1111283.
33089	TL 5427 0588	Barn north of Wood Farmhouse. Late 16 th century.
33090	TL 5426 0587	Barn north-west of Wood Farmhouse. Late 17 th century.
33091	TL 5295 0665	House south-west of White House. Early 17 th century.
33092	TL 5299 0669	White House. Mid-18 th century timber-framed houses.
33154	TL 5252 0530	Sayers Farmhouse. 19 th century garden wall & house.
33162	TL 5347 0585	38 & 39 Gainsthorpe Road. 17th century timber-framed

		house.
33163	TL 5353 0591	Gainsthorpe House. 16 th century timber-framed house & crosswing. LB 1147830.
33164	TL 5331 0622	New Farmhouse. 16 th century timber-framed farmhouse.
33166	TL 5283 0601	Muggins. Late 16 th – early 17 th timber-framed house.
33172	TL 5288 0579	Brewhouse at rear of Hobbans Farm house. 17 th – 18 th century.
33173	TL 5290 0578	Barn to west of Hobbans Farm house. 18 th century.
33174	TL 5291 0576	Stables to south-west of Hobbans Farm house.
33176	TL 5342 0558	Seven tombs in churchyard of St Germain to the Poole family. Early 18 th – early 19 th group.
33177	TL 5342 0557	Four table tombs in the churchyard of St Germain.
33179	TL 5360 0551	The Rectory. Mid 19 th century.
33181	TL 5388 0515	Granary north of Blake Hall. 18 th century timber-framed.
33182	TL 5384 0519	Nos. 1 and 2 Garden Cottages. 17 th century timber-framed house.
33183	TL 5383 0522	Small barn to north-west of Blake Hall. 17 th century barn.
33184	TL 5382 0525	Large barn to north-west of Blake Hall. Early – mid 17 th century.
33185	TL 5391 0517	Garden wall north of Blake Hall. Late 18 th century brick wall.
33186	TL 5396 0511	Ha Ha to rear of Blake Hall. 18 th century red-brick.
33187	TL 5357 0544	Entrance gates to drive from Stony Lane at Blakes Hall.
33189	TL 5376 0499	Ice house to south of Blake Hall. 18 th century.
Modern		
8893	TL 6394 1249	GHQ Line Anti-Tank Ditch. Second World War tank trap.
45216 - MEX1035765	TL 4667 0887	A 21km British Gas pipeline traversed a potentially rich archaeological landscape.
Undated		
4272	TL 547 068	Large pennanular ring ditch with entrance to the north, with thickened ditch terminals.
4286	TL 53 05	Undated churchyard.
19271	TL 526 056	Cropmarks. Field boundary of unknown date.
19272	TL 525 062	Cropmarks of unknown date.
19273	TL 526 051	Cropmarks.
19282	TL 532 063	Cropmarks.
19283	TL 537 058	Cropmarks.
19288	TL 545 053	Cropmarks.
19294	TL 540 050	Cropmarks.
19259	TL 5451 0472	Shelley Bridge. Cropmarks of rectilinear features, linear features, field boundaries and a possible curvilinear feature.

APPENDIX 2 FINDS CONCORDANCE

ONGH12, Gainsthorpe House, Ongar

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Other
			Mid-13th-14th		Bronze Model Cannon (1) -
1001		Garden Soil	С	(2) 39g	473g

APPENDIX 3 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The monitoring recovered two sherds in good condition of Mill Green fine coarseware weighing 37g from Topsoil L1001. They comprise a characteristically thin 'sandwich fired' body sherd and a carinated jug neck and date between the mid 13th and 14th centuries.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



Rear view of Gainsthorpe House showing area of proposed extension, looking west.



Service trench, looking south east.



5 F1004, looking north east.



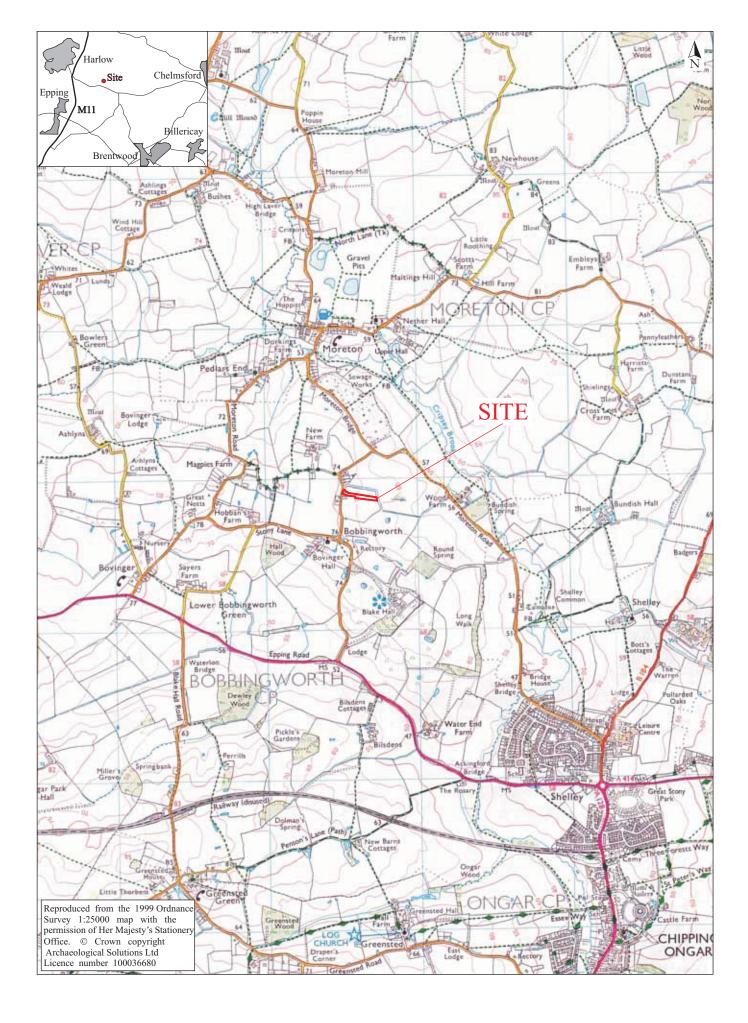
Foundation trenches for the extension, looking west.



4 Sample section 1, looking east.



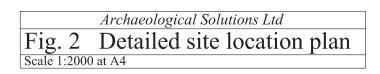
6. Toy cannon

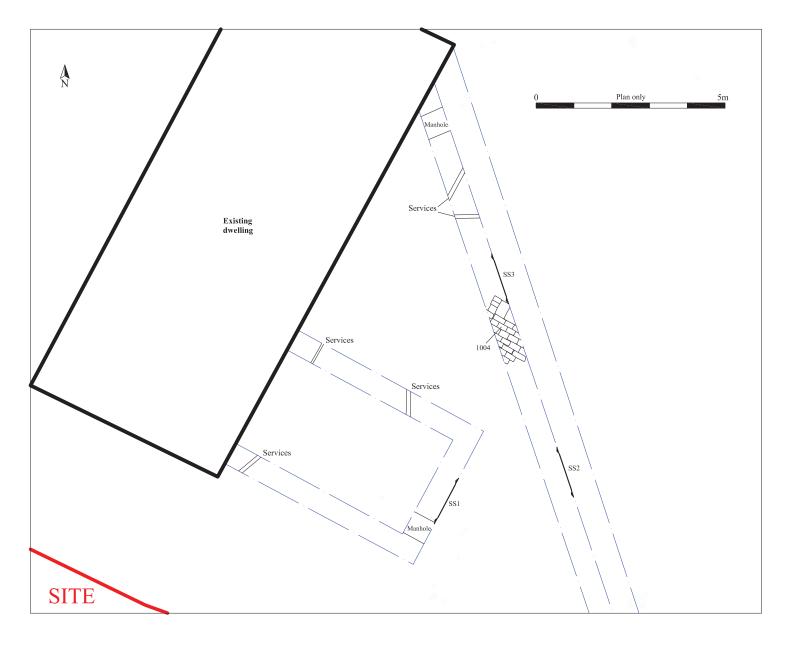


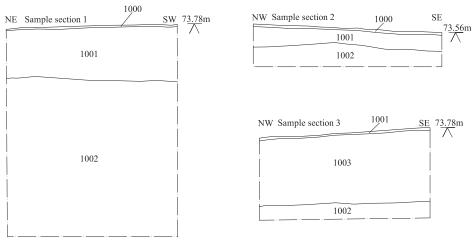
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Fig. 1 Site location plan			
Scale 1:25,000 at A4			



0_____150m







0	Section	ons only	2m

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Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections	
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4	