

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

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**LAND ADJACENT TO ROSE COTTAGE, PUMP LANE,  
SPRINGFIELD, CHELSMFORD, ESSEX CM1 1TB**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Authors: Julie Walker (Fieldwork and report) |                       |
| NGR: TL 7215 0920                            | Report No: 5295       |
| District: Chelmsford                         | Site Code: SPRC17     |
| Approved: Claire Halpin MCfA                 | Project No: 7041      |
|  | Date: 24 January 2017 |

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*Trial trench evaluations*  
*Geophysical surveys*  
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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

| Project details  |  |                     |                   |
|--|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Project name   | Land at Rose Cottage, Pump Lane, Springfield, Essex                                  |                     |                   |
| <p>In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Pump Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1TB (NGR TL7215 0920). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 2no semi-detached houses with crossovers and parking (Chelmsford City Council Planning Ref. 16/01929/FUL), based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).</p> <p>The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site lies within area of archaeological potential associated with the cropmark of a ring ditch identified by aerial photography close by to the immediate west. This likely represents the remains of a prehistoric burial mound. Prehistoric activity is well-known in the Springfield area.</p> <p>The site therefore had the potential to reveal deposits of prehistoric date associated with the known activity of this period locally. In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features of finds.</p> |  |                     |                   |
| Project dates (fieldwork)  | January 2017   |                     |                   |
| Previous work (Y/N/?)  | N  | Future work (Y/N/?) | TBC               |
| P. number  | 6983   | Site code           | SPRC17            |
| Type of project  | Archaeological Evaluation  |                     |                   |
| Site status  | -  |                     |                   |
| Current land use   | Garden   |                     |                   |
| Planned development  | Dwelling   |                     |                   |
| Main features (+dates)   | None   |                     |                   |
| Significant finds (+dates)   | None   |                     |                   |
| Project location   |  |                     |                   |
| County/ District/ Parish   | Essex  | Chelmsford          | North Springfield |
| HER/ SMR for area  | Essex Historic Environment Record  |                     |                   |
| Post code (if known)   | CM1 1TB  |                     |                   |
| Area of site   | c.350m <sup>2</sup>  |                     |                   |
| NGR  | TL 7215 0920   |                     |                   |
| Height AOD (min/max)   | c. 45m AOD   |                     |                   |
| Project creators   |  |                     |                   |
| Brief issued by  | Essex County Council   |                     |                   |
| Project supervisor/s (PO)  | Archaeological Solutions Ltd   |                     |                   |
| Funded by  | Mr David Molineaux   |                     |                   |
| Full title   | Land at Rose Cottage, Pump Lane, Springfield, Essex.<br>An Archaeological Evaluation |                     |                   |
| Authors  | Walker, J.   |                     |                   |
| Report no.   | 5295   |                     |                   |
| Date (of report)   | January 2017   |                     |                   |

# LAND ADJACENT TO ROSE COTTAGE, PUMP LANE, SPRINGFIELD, CHELSMFORD, ESSEX CM1 1TB

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### **SUMMARY**

*In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Pump Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1TB (NGR TL7215 0920). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 2no semi-detached houses with crossovers and parking (Chelmsford City Council Planning Ref. 16/01929/FUL), based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).*

*The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site lies within area of archaeological potential associated with the cropmark of a ring ditch identified by aerial photography close by to the immediate west. This likely represents the remains of a prehistoric burial mound. Prehistoric activity is well-known in the Springfield area.*

*The site therefore had the potential to reveal deposits of prehistoric date associated with the known activity of this period locally. In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Pump Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1TB (NGR TL7215 0920; Figs. 1 – 2). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 2no semi-detached houses with crossovers and parking (Chelmsford City Council Planning Ref. 16/01929/FUL), based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance to a brief prepared by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA), *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Rose Cottage, Pump Lane, Springfield*, dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017), and approved by ECC HEA. The project

conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.4 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 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.

1.5 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 Springfield is at the northern end of Chelmsford. The site comprises a small plot of garden land to the north of existing Rose Cottage, and on the eastern side of Pump Lane, which is to be

developed through the construction of two semi-detached houses with parking.

### **3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

3.1 The site is located at approximately 45m AOD on the upper gently sloping valley side of the River Chelmer, which is some 500m to the west. The local soils are well drained fine loamy soils over river terrace gravels. The solid geology comprises London Clay Formation.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 A possible ring ditch identified from RAF aerial photographs was identified approximately 100m west of the site (EHER 8894). It has since been destroyed during the development of Springfield, but indicates the possibility of prehistoric remains in the vicinity. Immediately to the north of the ring ditch, two scatters of mainly Mesolithic prehistoric flint tools have been found which included blades, scrapers, 2 microliths, a graver, a burin and flakes (EHER 5679, EHER 5680, EHER 47273). Another prehistoric flint flake was found near Bowyers Farm some 330m south-east of the site (EHER 8561).

4.2 In close proximity to the location of the flint flake was found a fragment of post-medieval black glazed red earthenware pottery (EHER 5817). Cropmarks of a possible trackway, field boundaries and pits have been identified in fields south of Gardener's Farm some 550m north-west of the site (EHER 8981). The locations of two WWII sites are within 600m of the site. One is a road barrier/anti-tank block which has since been destroyed (EHER 10139). The second is an upstanding pillbox 550m south-west of the site (EHER 10140).

### **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The brief required a sample of the proposed development site to be investigated by trial trenching. A trench 3m x 8.6m was excavated across the footprint of the proposed two new house plots.

5.2 The topsoil/subsoil was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 5)

| <i>Sample section 1A</i><br><i>0.00 = 45.19 AOD</i> |       |  |
|---|-------|--|
| 0.00 – 0.33m  | L1000 | Topsoil. Dark grey brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small stones |
| 0.33 – 0.47m  | L1001 | Subsoil. Mid orange brown, firm, clayey silt                             |
| 0.47m+  | L1002 | Natural clay. Mid orange, firm, clay with occasional flints.             |

| <i>Sample section 1B</i><br><i>0.00 = 45.32m AOD</i> |       |                         |
|--|-------|-------------------------|
| 0.00 – 0.39m   | L1000 | Topsoil. As above.      |
| 0.39 – 0.51m   | L1001 | Subsoil. As above       |
| 0.51m +  | L1002 | Natural clay. As above. |

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark grey brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small stones (0.33 – 0.39m thick).

8.2 Topsoil L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid orange brown, firm, clayey silt (0.12 – 0.14m thick).

8.3 Below L1000, was the natural clay, L1001, a mid greyish yellow, compact, clay (0.47 – 0.51m below the existing ground level).

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site lies within an area of archaeological potential associated with the cropmark of a ring ditch identified by aerial photography close by to the immediate west. This likely represents the remains of a prehistoric burial mound. Prehistoric activity is well-known in the Springfield area.



9.2 The site therefore had the potential to reveal deposits of prehistoric date associated with the known activity of this period locally. In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds. Little modern disturbance was evident and therefore had archaeological features been present, they would have been preserved and recognised.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Chelmsford Museum in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr David Molineaux for funding the evaluation and for his assistance.

AS would like to acknowledge the input, assistance and advice of Ms Alison Bennett, Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

## **WEB SITES**

Heritage Gateway  
Unlocking Essex's Past

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Sample Section 1 looking east

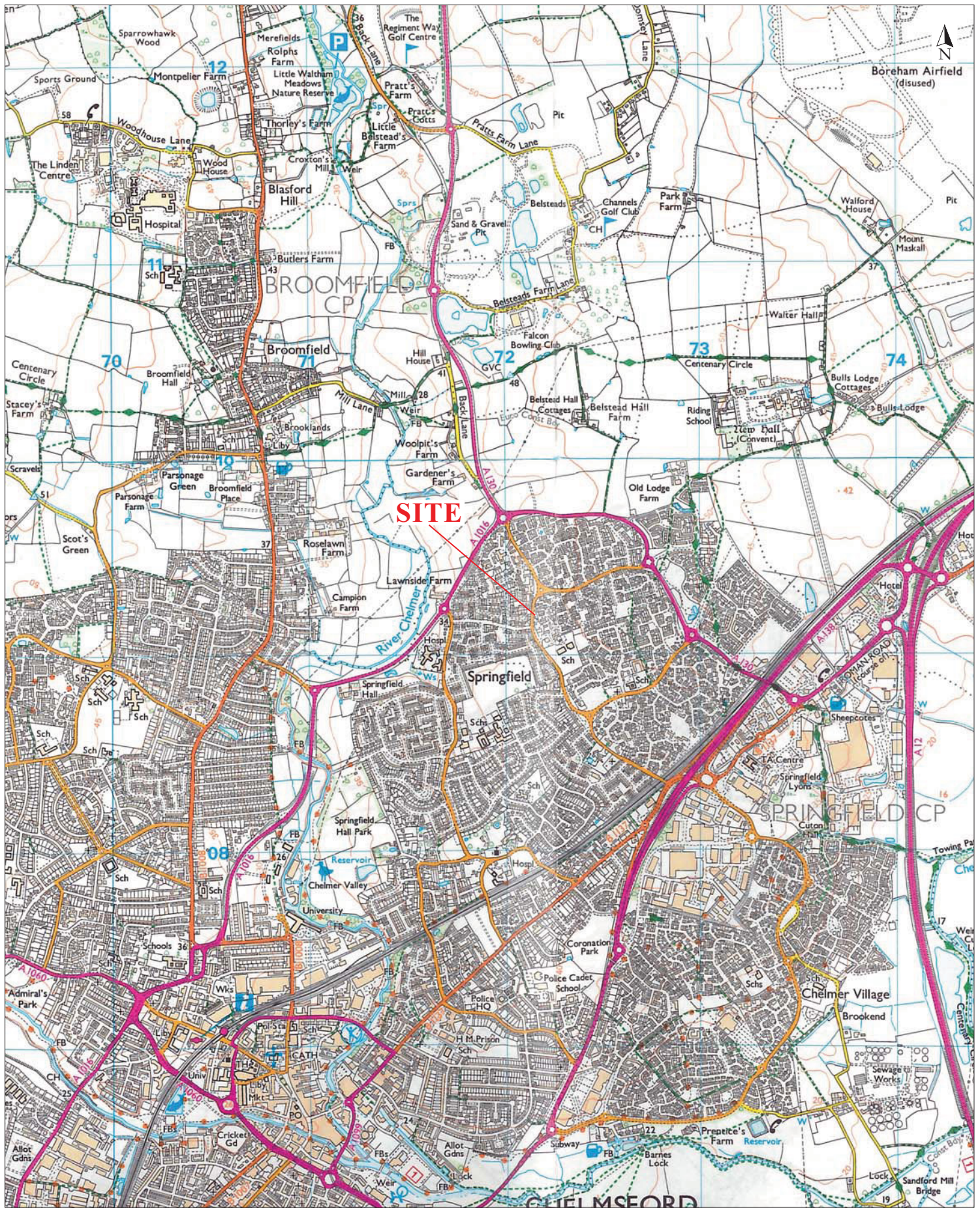


2  
Sample Section 2 looking west



3  
View of Trench looking north

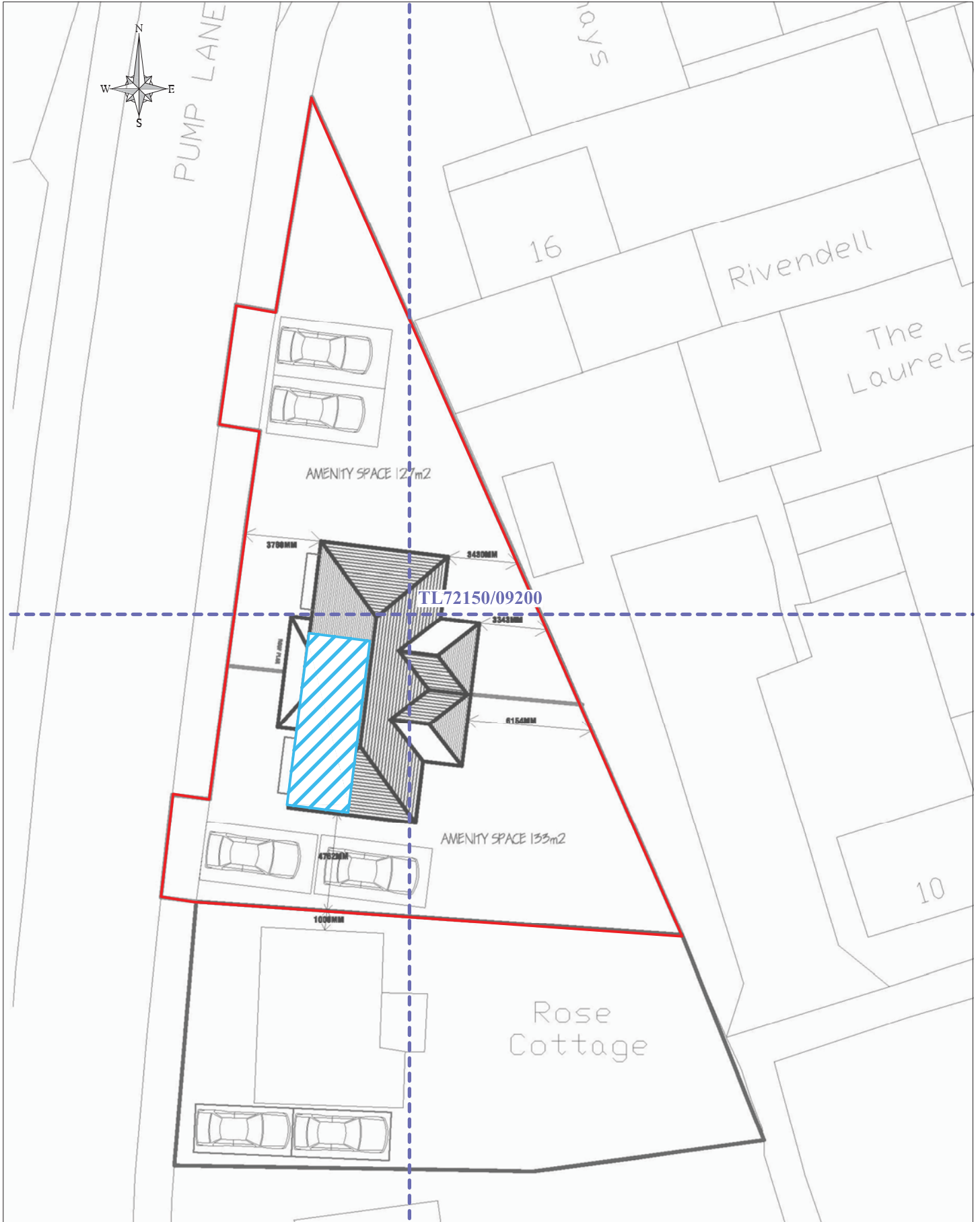




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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Pump Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex (P7041)





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## Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:250 at A4

Pump Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex (P7041)