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LAND ADJACENT TO 21 CRIPPLEGATE, SOUTHMINSTER, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Craig Jones (Fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Background research)					
NGR: TL 96306 00172	Report No: 5549				
District: Maldon	Site Code: SOUC18				
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 7541				
	Date: 13 March 2018				

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details	
Project name	Land adjacent of 21 Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex

In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to No. 21 Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex (NGR TL 96306 00172; Figs.1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a single storey dwelling (Maldon Council Planning Ref. MAL/17/00044). It was carried out in response to advice from the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).

A comparatively large number of features (nine) were present within the trench. The features were diverse comprising pits, postholes and ditches. Pits F1003 and F1009 may have been tree hollows based on the large quantity of roots they contained.

Pit F1011 contained a sherd of prehistoric pottery but it was heavily abraded suggesting that the sherd is residual.

Posthole F1007 and Ditch F1019 contained late post-medieval or modern finds. Pit or Tree Hollow F1009 cut Subsoil L1001 and may have been relatively recent. Postholes F1005 and F1007 had similar fills and were likely contemporary, and their fills were similar to Topsoil L1000 suggesting these features may have been modern. Indeed F1007 contained $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century CBM.

The remaining features, Pit or Tree Hollow F1003, intercutting Ditches F1015 and F1017, and Ditch F1013, were undated

Project dates (fieldwork)	March 20)18					
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC				
P. number	7541	Site code	SOUC18				
Type of project	Archaeol	ogical trial trench eva	aluation				
Site status	-	-					
Current land use	Garden						
Planned development	Dwelling						
Main features (+dates)	Posthole	s, pits, ditches					
Significant finds (+dates)	Residual	prehistoric pottery sl	neds				
Project location							
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Maldon	Southminster				
HER/ SMR for area	Essex County Council Historic Environment Record						
Post code (if known)	-	-					
Area of site	c. 360m²						
NGR	TL 96306 00172						
Height AOD (min/max)	c.22m AOD						
Project creators							
Brief issued by	ued by Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA)						
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd						
Funded by	Mr. & Mrs. Kay						
Full title	Land adjacent of 21 Cripplegate, Southminster,						
	Essex. An Archaeological trial trench evaluation						
Authors	Jones, C. & Higgs, K.						
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SUMMARY

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to No. 21 Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex (NGR TL 96306 00172; Figs.1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a single storey dwelling (Maldon Council Planning Ref. MAL/17/00044). It was carried out in response to advice from the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA).
- 1.2 The archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA, Maria Medlycott, *Brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation on Land adjacent 21 Cripplegate, Southminster,* dated 6th September 2017), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 7th February 2018), and approved by ECC HEA. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered

Institute for Archaeologists' *Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

- 1.3 The principal objectives of the evaluation were:
 - To establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ;
 - To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation;
 - To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, along with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence; and
 - To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

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 The site lies at the north-eastern extent of the town and parish of Southminster, which is situated within the district of Malden and the county of Essex. Southminster is located beside the Dengie Marshes which is an area of low-lying ground bounded by the rivers Blackwater and Crouch, and the North Sea.
- 2.2 The site comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land covering an area of c. 360m². It is currently a garden adjacent, and to the north of, the existing dwelling of No. 21 Cripplegate.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 3.1 Southminster is situated on the low-lying Dengie Peninsular, to the north and inland of Burnham-on Crouch. The rivers Blackwater and Crouch pass *c*. 5km to the north and south respectively, while the North Sea coast is situated *c*. 7km to the east. The site is situated at *c*.20m AOD on the western slope of a slightly raised area within the peninsular. The surrounding relief slopes down at a moderate gradient to the east towards sea level, and to the west towards the course of the Asheldham Brook.
- 3.2 The solid geology of the Dengie Peninsular is the London Clay formation (clay, silt and sand), overlain by superficial Quaternary River Terrace deposits of sand and Asheldham Gravels (BGS 2015). Soils of the immediate area comprises those of the Ratsborough Association, which are described as fine silty and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 4.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, to the south of a large area of cropmarks which are Scheduled as an Ancient Monument known as Oldmoor (EHER 12104 & SAM 1002145). Although largely undated, the nearest of these cropmarks to the site is a rectilinear enclosure, which may date to the Iron Age or Roman period. The complex also includes a large rectangular enclosure with internal features, two areas of ring ditch clusters, dispersed ring ditches, further possible rectilinear enclosures, pits, possible house platforms and possible trackways.
- 4.2 The area surrounding the site also contains a larger number of undated features and cropmarks, which may also date to the later prehistoric period. They include linear features east of both Newmoor and the site (EHER 16002); undated cropmarks south of Oldmoor Wood, which lies to the north-east of the site (EHER 16000); and undated linear features west of North Wycke (EHER 14995). Further undated cropmarks are also recorded south of Greenlanes

Farm, north of Southminster Hall and near Pandole Wood (EHERs 16001, 16027 & 45904). The later prehistoric period is represented by an Iron Age earthwork recorded in Pandole Wood and 500m to the south of the site (EHER 11374 & SAM 1002123).

Romano-British

4.3 In the Romano-British period, the Dengie Peninsular was characterised by rectilinear field patterns, evidence for salt production and sparse rural settlement, with the late Roman fort of Othona situated on the north-eastern end of the peninsula overlooking the Colne estuary. The earthwork complex in Pandole Wood is interpreted as largely Roman in date (EHER 11243), and a bank leading from its north-east corner appears to represent the line of a Roman road (EHER 11244). The presence of further Roman settlement on the raised ground at Southminster is strongly supported by Roman brick and septaria that is incorporated in the walls of the Church of St Leonard, which stands 450m to the south-west of the site (EHER 11249).

Anglo-Saxon

4.4 Place-name evidence suggests a Saxon origin for Southminster, which derives from the need to distinguish it from the older Minster foundation to the north at Bradwell (Reaney 1935). The Domesday survey records that by the late Saxon period there was a sizeable population of 79 households residing in or around Southminster (EHER 19416; Morris 1983), with the manor held by the Bishop of London at Southminster Hall, which stands 700m to the south (EHER 11359). A minster church is likely underlies the current site of the Church of St Leonard (EHER 19417),

Medieval

4.5 The medieval settlement of Southminster (EHER 19416) was focussed south-westwards on the High Street with the Grade II* listed Church of St Leonard, which was built by the early 12th century, at its eastern end (EHERs 11250 & 38670). A vicarage, endowed by Bishop William de Sancta Maria in 1219, once stood immediately to the east of the church, but was relocated in the 19th century (EHER 19418). Sparse farmsteads were established on the outskirts of the settlement by the late medieval period, including the Grade II listed Home Farmhouse, which is a 15th – 16th century timber framed house located 300m to the west-south-west (EHER 38678), whilst ridge and furrow is recorded at Stanmoor to the north (EHER 46667). Test pits along North Street and Station Road have also recovered early medieval pottery that demonstrated activity, if not settlement, from the early 12th century onwards (EHERs 48857 - 9).

Post-medieval and later

4.6 Early cartographic sources depict Southminster as a small settlement clustered around the High Street and concentrated around the junction with Burnham Road and North Street, close to the church and to the south-west of the site. The Grade II* listed Church of St Leonard also incorporates a 19th century

gault brick upper nave, while the chancel, sanctuary, north and south transepts were constructed *c*.1820 (EHER 11251). Post-medieval pits containing oyster shell and pottery have been recorded in this area at No. 8 Station Road (EHER 18992). A maltings situated 500m to the south on Station Road may have had origins in the 17th century (EHER 11325), whilst the timber-framed and Grade II listed No. 2 North End may also have origins in the 17th century (EHER 38680).

4.7 Southminster retained its rural character throughout the post-medieval and early modern periods, as attested by the its agricultural importance and East Windmill, which formerly stood at North End to the west of the site (EHER 19420). The site of a second windmill, shown on map of 1610, was once located near Old Moor Farm to the north-east (EHER 12165). The early modern period is also represented by brickfields at New Moor Farm and 400m to the south of the site (EHER 11324), whilst the Grade II listed Hermitstone is an 18th century house (EHER 38689). Late 19th century industry in Southminster is represented by gas works on Station Road (EHER 40419) and subsequent development includes a WWII road barrier at North End, now destroyed (EHER 21288) and a WWII loop-holed wall at The Limes on Station Road (EHER 21289).

The site

4.8 The 1790 survey of Southminster (Fig. 3) does not depict any structures along the eastern frontage of Cripplegate, which is at odds with the suggestion that Cripplegate formed part of the medieval settlement of Southminster (EHER 19416). The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1897 (Fig. 4) is the earliest cartographic source to depict roadside development along the eastern frontage of Cripplegate. In 1897 Cripplegate consisted of three small rows of terraced housing and a detached dwelling to the immediate south of the site. By 1922 the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5) also depicts small dwellings at Cripplegate, while the site itself remained part of an associated garden and also part of a much larger agricultural field (#131) associated with Newmoor to the east.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The brief required a c.5% sample of the site to be investigated by trenching, with a contingency for further trenching. One L-shaped 20m x 1.8m trench was excavated (Fig. 6).
- 5.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.
- 5.3 Open trenches and excavated spoil were manually / visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The trench description is presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 2 and 6 - 7

Sample section		
0.00 = 23.22n	n AOD	
0.00-0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey, brown clayey silt with
		frequent roots and occasional small to medium sub-
		angular flints.
0.35-0.62m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid yellow, brown silty clay with
		occasional small sub-angular flints.
0.62m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, mid brown, orange sandy clay
		with moderate small-medium sub-angular flints.

Sample section 0.00 = 23.03n		
0.00-0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.30-0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.44m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained two postholes (F1005 and F1007), two pits or tree hollows (F1003 and F1009), a large pit (F1011) and four ditches (F1013, F1015, F1017 and F1019). Pit F1007 contained CBM of 18th-19th century date. Pit F1011 contained prehistoric pottery. Ditch F1019 contained large amounts of modern material including porcelain and glass. The remaining features contained no finds.

Pit or Tree Hollow F1003 was sub-circular in plan $(0.65 \times 0.60 \times 0.15m)$. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1004) was a firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small rounded flints and a significant amount of rooting which suggests this may have been a tree hollow. It contained no finds.

Posthole F1005 was sub-circular in plan (0.32 x 0.625 x 0.13m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1006) was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds

Posthole F1007 was sub-circular in plan (0.28 x 0.25 x 0.10m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1008) was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small rounded flints. It contained a fragment of CBM dating to the 18^{th} - 19^{th} century.

Pit or Tree Hollow F1009 was irregular in plan $(0.94 \times 0.50 + \times 0.30m)$. It had steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L1010) was a firm mid yellow brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. The fill was heavily rooted and leached suggesting this feature may have been a tree hollow. F1009 cut Subsoil L1001 and it contained no finds. It was cut by a modern pit with a concrete post.

Pit F1011 was sub-circular in plan $(1.00 \times 0.85 + \times 0.42m)$. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1012) was a firm, pale brown grey sandy clay. It was cut by Ditch F1013. It contained a sherd of heavily abraded prehistoric pottery.

Ditch F1013 was linear in plan $(1.80+ \times 0.34 \times 0.11m)$, orientated southwest/north-east. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1014) was a firmish mid grey brown sandy clay. It cut Pit F1011 and it contained no finds.

Ditch F1015 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.42 x 0.25m), orientated south-east/north-west. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1016) was a firm, mid yellow brown sandy clay. It is cut by Ditch F1017 and it contained no finds.

Ditch F1017 was linear in plan ($1.80+ \times 0.37 \times 0.28m$), orientated south-east/north-west. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1018) was a firm, mid grey brown sandy clay. It cut Ditch F1015 and it contained no finds.

Ditch F1019 was linear in plan (1.80 x 1.0 x 0.50m), orientated south-west/north-east. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1020) was a firm, dark yellow brown silty clay. F1019 was only partially excavated to ensure that it was indeed modern and to check that it obscured no archaeological features. It was modern and contained a large quantity of porcelain, glass and metal.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000 a firm, dark slightly grey, brown clayey silt with frequent roots and occasional small to medium subangular flints (0.30-0.35 m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001 a firm, mid yellow, brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints (0.14-0.27 m thick).
- 8.2 The natural geology, L1002, was a firm, mid brown, orange sandy clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular flints (0.44 0.62m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1003	Pit or Tree Hollow	-
	F1005	Posthole	-
	F1007	Posthole	18 th -19 th Century
	F1009	Pit or Tree Hollow	-
	F1011	Pit	Prehistoric
	F1013	Ditch	-
	F1015	Ditch	-
	F1017	Ditch	-
	F1019	Ditch	19 th Century

- 9.2 A comparatively large number of features (nine) were present within the trench. The features were diverse comprising pits, postholes and ditches. Pits F1003 and F1009 may have been tree hollows based on the large quantity of roots they contained.
- 9.3 Pit F1011 contained a sherd of prehistoric pottery but it was heavily abraded suggesting that the sherd is residual.
- 9.4 Posthole F1007 and Ditch F1019 contained late post-medieval or modern finds. Pit or Tree Hollow F1009 cut Subsoil L1001 and may have been relatively recent. Postholes F1005 and F1007 had similar fills and were likely contemporary, and their fills were similar to Topsoil L1000 suggesting these features may have been modern. Indeed F1007 contained 18th 19th century CBM.
- 9.5 The remaining features, Pit or Tree Hollow F1003, intercutting Ditches F1015 and F1017, and Ditch F1013, were undated
- 9.6 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, to the south of a large area of cropmarks which are Scheduled as an Ancient Monument known as Oldmoor (EHER 12104 & SAM 1002145). Although largely undated, the nearest of these cropmarks to the site is a rectilinear enclosure, which may date to the Iron Age or Roman period. The complex also includes a large rectangular enclosure with internal features, two areas of ring ditch clusters, dispersed ring ditches, further possible rectilinear enclosures, pits, possible house platforms and possible trackways. The area thus exhibits evidence of multi-period activity or occupation which may have extended into current site. In the event a residual prehistoric sherd was present.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Kay for funding the programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation, and Mr David Morris of Belmor Construction for his assistance. AS is also grateful to Mr. Kevin Green at Anglia Design Services.

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.

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Concordance of Finds

SOUC18 - P7541, Land Adjacent to 21 Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pot	Pottery	CBM	A.Bone	Other Material	Other	Other
					(Pot Only)	Qty	(g)	(g)	(g)		Qty	(g)
1007	1008		1	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	1	1	14				
1011	1012		1	Fill of Pit	Prehistoric	2	11					
1019	1020		1	Fill of Ditch	19th C	5	24					

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APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 8 sherds weighing 36g from three features (Table 1). Pit F1011 (L1012) contained two very heavily abraded prehistoric sherds with no other finds present. One sherd is 1cm thick in a black silty fabric with orange outer surface and margin. It contains rare to sparse amounts of coarse quartz, flint and burnt organics. The second sherd is contrastingly very thin and orange throughout, in a fine sandy fabric with rare inclusions of medium to coarse quartz and flint. These sherds are probably Bronze Age but an Iron Age date cannot be ruled out. The remaining pottery was early modern and probably all 19th century.

Methodology

The sherds were examined and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes are those used for the Suffolk County Council pottery type series which are appropriate for pottery from Essex.

KEY:

PRE (0.01): Unidentified prehistoric

LPME (8.01): Late post-medieval red earthenware 18th+

TPW (8.00): Transfer Printed ware late 18th+

MOCH (8.13): Mocha ware late 18th+

ESW (8.20): English stoneware late 17th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1007	1008	1x1g LPMRE	18 th -19 th	
Pit 1011	1012	2x11g PRE	Prehistoric	abraded body sherds
Ditch 1019	1020	2x11g TPW 2x10g MOCH 1x3g ENGS	19 th	TPW: cup with flowers and domestic birds MOCH: jar rim and base

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J. 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of three fragments (14g) of 18th to 19th century CBM, likely of Victorian origin, in a very poorly-preserved condition that can best be described as small rubble. The CBM comprised highly abraded, rounded small fragments of soft red brick contained in Pit F1007, which did not preserve any dimensions or diagnostic technological traits.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



Trench 1 looking south-east



Pit or Tree Hollow 1003 in Trench 1



Posthole 1007 in Trench 1



Trench 1 looking south-west



Posthole 1005 in Trench 1



Pit or Tree Hollow 1009 in Trench 1



Pit 1011 in Trench 1



8 Ditch 1013 in Trench 1



9 Ditches 1015 and 1017 in Trench 1





9 Sample section 1B

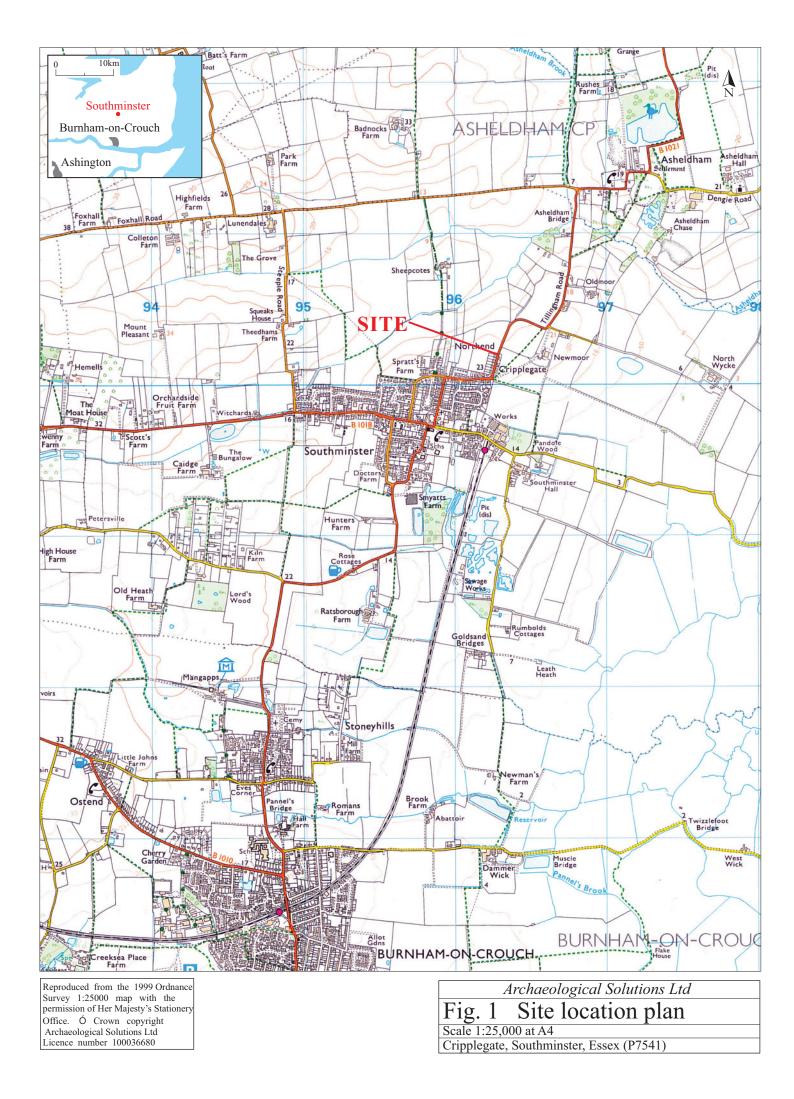
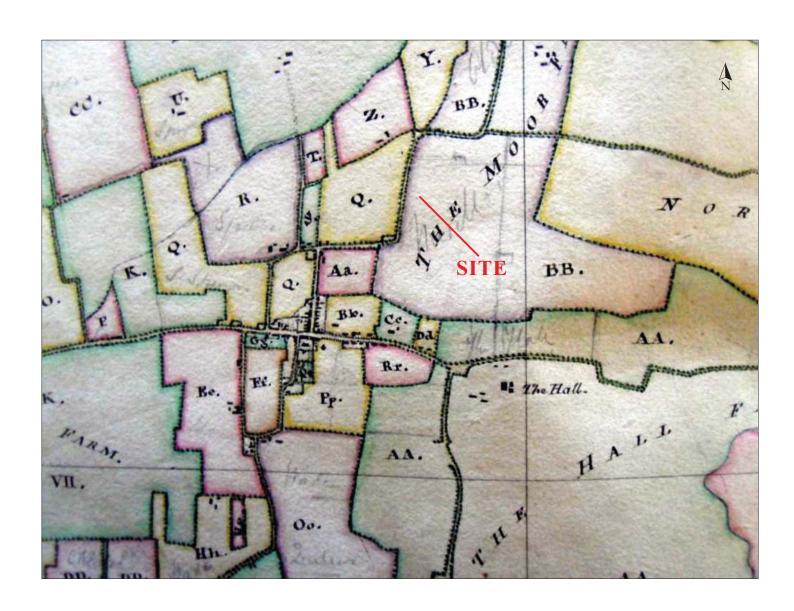




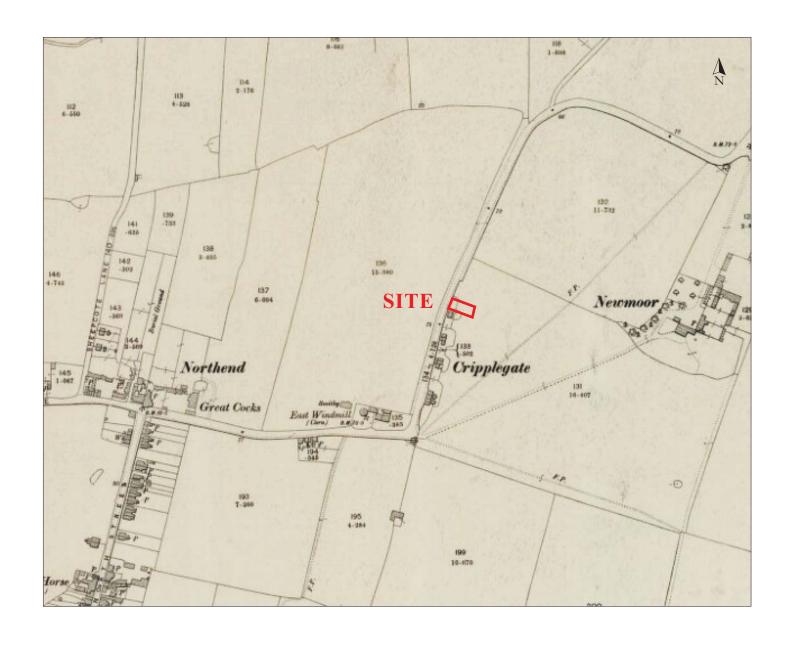
Fig. 2 Detailed site loc Scale 1:750 at A4 Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex (P7541) Detailed site location plan



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Fig. 3 Survey from 179

Not to scale
Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex (P7541) Survey from 1790

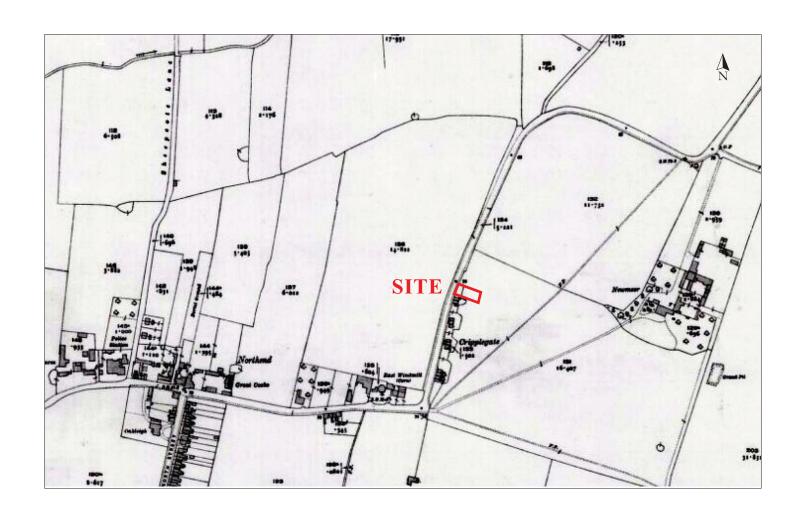


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Fig. 4 OS map, 1887

Not to scale

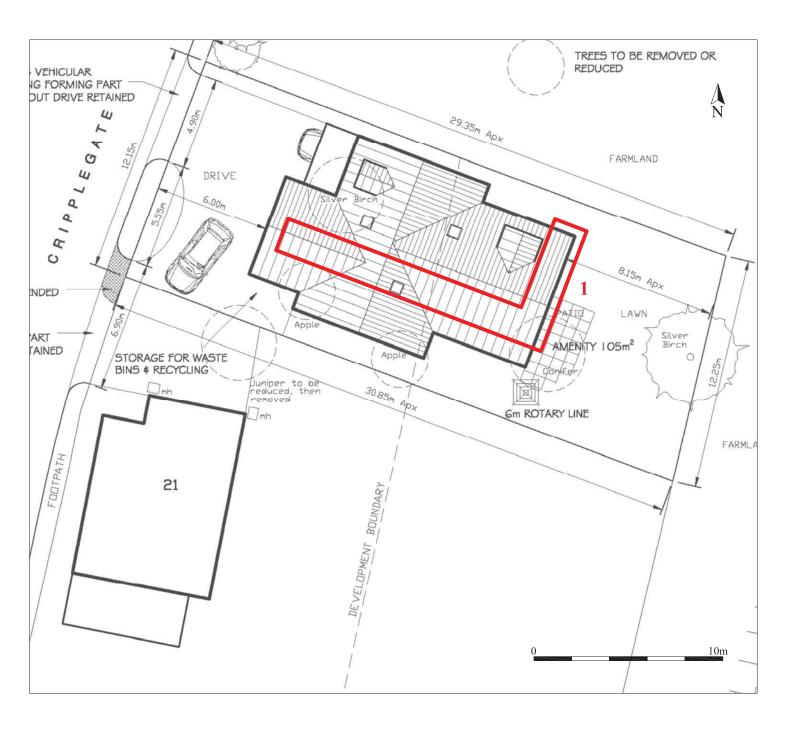
Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex (P7541)



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Fig. 5 OS map, 1922

Not to scale
Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex (P7541)

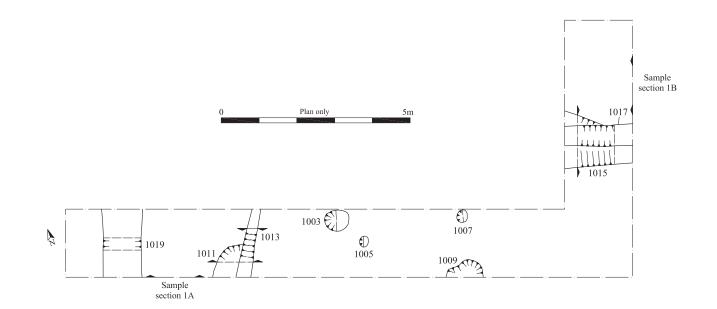


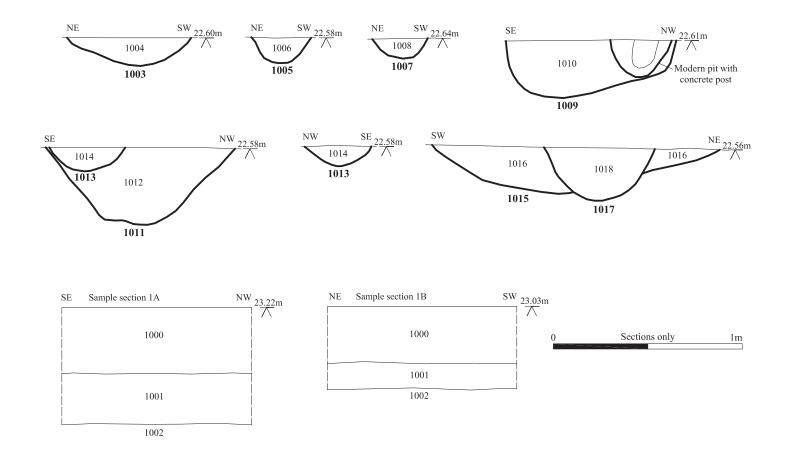
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Fig. 6 Proposed development

Scale 1:200 at A4

Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex (P7541)





Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 7 Trench plan and sections Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4 Cripplegate, Southminster, Essex (P7541)