



Trent & Peak  
ARCHAEOLOGY

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF AT  
THE OLD RECTORY, HATHERN,  
LEICESTERSHIRE, 2009**



The University of  
**Nottingham**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF AT  
THE OLD RECTORY, HATHERN,  
LEICESTERSHIRE, 2009**

**A report for Mr Martin Collins**

*by  
Richard Sheppard*

OS Grid Ref. SK 5020 2236 (centred)  
TPA Project Code: ORH.1  
March 2010

Trent & Peak Archaeology  
University Park  
Nottingham  
NG7 2RD

Tel: 0115 951 4823

Fax: 0115 951 4824

E-mail: [TPA@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:TPA@nottingham.ac.uk)

© Trent & Peak Archaeology 2010

## SUMMARY

- An archaeological watching by Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned in 2009 by Martin Collins to monitor the building of a new combined swimming pool and summer room close to the south-west corner of the Old Rectory at Hathern, near Loughborough. The building is Grade II listed and is situated within the historic core of the village, close to the Church of St Peter and St Paul.
- Hathern lies about 3 miles north-west of Loughborough, on a terrace above the flood plain of the River Soar, with the village centre just east of Loughborough Road, the historic routeway between Leicester and Derby. The village, then known as Avederne, is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. The generally nucleated plan of the village with parallel sunken lanes might suggest a Saxon origin. The church has a font of Saxon-Norman date and a section of 12<sup>th</sup> century capital. A rector is recorded in 1220.
- Surviving glebe terriers list the parsonage house (rectory) between 1601-1724. An entry for 1708 states that the 'Parsonage House is a good new Brick Building with five rooms and a floor....' Bricks at the north end of the present building are consistent with such a date. The later terriers also mention barns, stables and outhouses totaling another 13-15 bays of building, and 3 roods of land (about three-quarters of an acre). The rectory complex fits with the appearance of the site on the enclosure award map of 1778, where the house is adjoined by a long range east-west at its south end. The rectory was probably on the same site from at least 1674, was rebuilt shortly after 1700 and was most likely on the present rectory site. An indenture of 1819 states that £920 was 'to be paid out and expended in repairing and enlarging the Parsonage House and rebuilding the out offices upon the Glebe.' Brickwork in the main central part of the building is consistent with a date between 1810-1825. Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the adjoining south range was removed and the remaining grounds landscaped. The south end of the building was rebuilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the rectory became three separate houses; it is a single one again.
- Excavations for the new build were by machine and due to a miscalculation of the speed of the operation, the main area was excavated without a proper record being made. A small brick-built store and a boundary wall were recorded, both being of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. However, when a section at the south side of the excavated area was trowel-cleaned handmade pottery was recovered. Following liaison with the client, the area of subsoil beyond the section was cleared and trowelled in a controlled archaeological fashion. This several modern features and 65 unstratified early pottery sherds, including one stamped and several decorated pieces.
- A specialist pottery report by Paul Blinkhorn has identified the pottery collection as dating from the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods. The majority of finds were from the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> centuries. No mid-late medieval or early post-medieval sherds were found. The small assemblage of Saxon pottery is a useful addition to the corpus of pottery of the period from Leicestershire as it is by no means common in the region. They are especially rare to the north of Loughborough. The importance of the finds highlights the remaining archaeological potential of the still largely open garden area south-west of the church.

## LIST OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Summary	2
List of contents	3
List of illustrations	4
1. Project background	6
2. Early history of Hathern	7
3. Watching brief	8
4. <b>Pottery report</b> (by Paul Blinkhorn)	11
5. Conclusions	15
6. References and acknowledgements	15

### Illustrations:

Figures 1-8

Plates 1-10

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

### FIGURES

**Figure 1:** Inset: location of Hathern, Leicestershire in relation to surrounding cities and towns; Map: highlighted location of the Old Rectory site in the centre of Hathern. Scale 1:10,000.

**Figure 2:** Architect's plan showing the new extension to the Old Rectory, Hathern, Leicestershire. Scale 1:1,000.

**Figure 3:** Location of the Old Rectory site at Hathern, Leicestershire, highlighted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map of 1884. Scale here 1:1,000.

**Figure 4:** Location of the Old Rectory site at Hathern, Leicestershire, highlighted on an Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map of 1921. Scale here 1:1,000.

**Figure 5:** Location of the Old Rectory site at Hathern, Leicestershire, highlighted on an Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map of 1992. Scale here 1:1,000.

**Figure 6:** Modern plan of the Old Rectory site at Hathern, Leicestershire, overlain with approximate positions and shapes of buildings and a boundary shown within the site on the enclosure map of 1778 (in blue and yellow). Scale here 1:1,000.

**Figure 7:** Plan showing area excavated to the rear of the Old Rectory, Hathern in 2009 for a new extension, and features recorded and the area trowelled where pottery was recovered. Scale 1:125.

**Figure 8:** Some Saxon and medieval pottery recovered from the Old Rectory site, Hathern. Scale 1:1.

### PLATES

**Plate 1:** Machine excavations on the first day of the watching brief at the Old Rectory, Hathern. To right is the south-west corner of the house, with steps showing to rear.

**Plate 2:** Brick structure 0004 uncovered in front of steps that previously gave access up to the former garden level. To left of this is a section showing the dark topsoil, lighter subsoil and yellow clay natural.

**Plate 3:** Brick wall 0005 extending across from 0004 and, at the far right, turning to run parallel to the south end of the Old Rectory, Hathern.

**Plate 4:** Section of wall 0005 showing in a service trench.

**Plate 5:** A cleaned section south of the fully excavated area for the south-west extension to the Old Rectory, Hathern, showing a ceramic drain cut through dark subsoil.

**Plate 6:** Area behind the cleaned section after trowelling of the first spit, showing the line of drain 0006 (pink line) and dark modern feature 0008 (centre). The extent of the cleared area shows in the background.

**Plate 7:** Removed section of horse-shoe shaped ceramic drain 0006 from the back garden of the Old Rectory, Hathern.

**Plate 8:** Area of spit 3 with slightly darker modern features 0011 and 0012 highlighted.

**Plate 9:** Front elevation of the Old Rectory, Hathern, Leicestershire.

**Plate 10:** Dated brick (1839) built into a garden wall at the back of the Old Rectory, Hathern (position shown of Fig. 2).

## **1. Project background**

This archaeological watching brief report by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) was commissioned in 2009 by Martin Collins, through the auspices of Latham Architects. At the time of the commission it was being proposed to build a new structure close to and connected to the south-west corner of the Old Rectory at Hathern near Loughborough, on the site of some the existing garages. This structure was to be a combined swimming pool and summer room. The works would entail ground stripping, some possible trenching for services and a deep excavation by machine for the new building / swimming pool.

The site lies close to the Church of St Peter and St Paul, and is within the Hathern Conservation Area and the historic core of the village (Fig. 1). The Old Rectory, previously known as The Rectory, West House and South Corner, when it was subdivided into three houses, is Grade II listed. It is a brick-built structure which was thought to largely date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with later and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century additions. In response to the planning application (no. P/08/1302/2) the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA), representing Charnwood Borough Council, had recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken to monitor excavations on the site.

The overall study employs the methodology developed by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) for use on similar projects in the region. This methodology conforms to the standard requirements of planning authorities where consent applications are made for development, re-development or building conversion. These follow guidelines to be found in the conservation planning documents *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16, Department of the Environment 1990) and *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas* (PPG 15, Department of the Environment 1993). The methodology also accords with the *Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Codes of Conduct and Standards*.

### **The report**

This report provides the results of a non-continuous archaeological watching brief carried out between 12<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009. It makes use of some prior historical research into the history of the site at the county record office by its owner (kindly provided by Mr M. Collins) and some additional research by the author at the Hallward Library and the separate Manuscripts Department, both at the University of Nottingham. The report includes a specialist report by Paul Blinkhorn on pottery found during the works, and drawings of several of the sherds by illustrator Jane Goddard.

The TPA site code is ORH.1. The archive accession number provided by Leicestershire County Council is X.A126.2009.

## 2. Early history of Hathern

Hathern lies about 3 miles north-west of Loughborough and is situated on a terrace of sand and gravel above the flood plain of the River Soar, with underlying sandstone and mudstones. The village centre lies just east of Loughborough Road, the historic routeway between Leicester and Derby (Fig. 1). A settlement at Hathern is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, at which time it was known as Avederne, within the manor of Kegworth (Nichols 1804, 842). When the settlement originated is unclear but its generally nucleated plan of parallel streets centred around the church and The Green (known to have been used as a livestock enclosure) might suggest a Saxon origin. The relatively low level of some of the older streets (such as Wide Lane, Narrow Lane and Church Street), in relation to land to either side, suggests they are sunken lanes of some age. Fieldwalking by the Shepshed Archaeological Fieldwalking Group in recent years has identified Roman and possible late Iron Age sites close to the village.

In 1230 the village was known as Haetherne, and shortly later as Hawtherne, its name clearly derived from an association with the hawthorn tree. Although the parish church of St Peter and St. Paul is largely of 14<sup>th</sup> century date (although much restored in 1861-62) there is a 13<sup>th</sup> century priest's doorway and chancel arch (Pevsner 1984, 174). The church also has a font of Saxon-Norman date and a section of 12<sup>th</sup> century capital (Cox *et al* 1985, 12). A Norman church at Hathern is also indicated by the presence of rector Richard Martin of Patteshalle in Hathern in 1220 (*ibid.*).

### The Rectory

The rectory associated with the church was apparently largely rebuilt in the 1680s by rector Matthew Trigge. According to the local history society this was the building later known as Stint's Farm, situated immediately to the north-west of the Old Rectory (Cox *et al* 1985, 13). Glebe terriers in Archdeaconry Records list the so-called parsonage house at least eight times between 1601-1724, although without giving details of its precise location (ROLLR refs: Glebe Terriers for Hathern ref. MF 259; Original Glebe Terriers ref. 1D41/2/290D). Whilst no mention of a rebuild is mentioned in those for 1690, 1697 or 1701, the entry for 1708 states that the 'Parsonage House is a good **new** Brick Building with five rooms and a floor. The parlours are floored with Boards, The Hall, Kitchen and Offices with Brick ....' Brickwork at the north end of the present building is probably consistent with a date of c.1700 or not long afterwards. Bricks here are 2¼-2¾ inches (57-60mm) thick and up to 10 inches (254mm) in length.

Terriers from 1674 onwards list the house along with barns, stables and outhouses, that amounted to another 13-15 bays of building. In 1708 these were described as having walls built partly of brick, partly of mud and thatched over. There was also a relatively new dovecote, and an Orchard Garden and foldyard. The rectory / parsonage house was thus part of a larger complex and this fits with the appearance of the site on the enclosure award map of 1778, where the house is adjoined by a long range at its south end (Fig. 6). This documentary evidence suggests that the rectory / parsonage house was on the same site from at least 1674, was rebuilt shortly after 1700 and was most likely on the present rectory site. The size of land at 3 roods (about three-quarters of an acre; estimated at c.54m<sup>2</sup>) also generally fits with the holding shown in 1778.

Despite a rebuild in c.1700, James Bickham, Archdeacon of Leicester, apparently permitted the rector of Hathern to reconstruct the greater part of his house in the 1770s (Pemberton 1984, 63). The rector at this time was probably William Middleton. Whether works were actually carried out is unclear. An indenture dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 1819 allowed the 'patron of the living at Hathern' (then Edward T. M. Phillips) to borrow money from an ecclesiastical fund (ROLLR ref. DE782). A not inconsiderable sum of £920 was 'to be paid out and expended in repairing and enlarging the Parsonage House and rebuilding the out offices upon the Glebe.' Brickwork on the main, slightly projecting, central part of south-east frontage (Plate 9) and along most of the back wall is 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches (67-70mm) thick, 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> (222-235mm) long and laid in Flemish bond. This is consistent with a date between 1810-1825.

At some point in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the adjoining south range was removed and land lost at the east end of the site to gardens for an adjoining property at the junction between Church Street and Narrow Lane (Fig. 3). A new building to the south-west of the rectory may have been the 'out offices' mentioned in 1819. The remaining grounds were landscaped with driveways, walkways and trees. A dated brick of 1839 in a garden wall might correspond with these changes (Plate 10). Although the site was relatively unchanged between 1884-1921 (Figs 3, 4), the building was altered again in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the south end rebuilt and a projecting north-west corner annex taken down. This may have coincided with the re-use of the building and its subdivision into three separate compartments.

### ***3. Watching brief***

A watching brief was required for the new build at the Old Rectory as the footprint of the new building required the removal of existing garden to some depth to allow for a new swimming pool. This was to be carried out by machine, with the spoil removed off-site. On the first day of work (12/05/09) the topsoil

was removed from the main area and steel shuttering installed to help support an adjoining boundary wall. Unfortunately, the speed of the operation was miscalculated so that by the time of the second site visit (14/05/09) the main area had already been speedily excavated out without a record being made. An examination was then made of a brick structure uncovered close to the south-west corner of the building and what appeared to be the base of a brick boundary wall. Sections at the west and south sides of the excavated area were also cleaned by hand for evidence of features cutting through the exposed soils and for finds showing through. Three areas examined in detail are distinguished as A, B and C in Figure 7.

## **Area A**

Examination of this area on the first day showed that from a flagged surround to the south end of the rectory building the ground rose c.1.35 – 1.5m to the garden beyond (Plate 1). A series of steps against a boundary wall and another immediately opposite the south end of the building gave access to this higher level garden. A section left against the first steps and west of a brick-built structure showed a soil profile composed of fine dark topsoil (0001), a pebble layer (0002) and subsoil (0003), in total only 0.6m thick, overlying natural clay. At the far west end of the site the build-up was closer to 0.75m above the natural. From this it was concluded that the south part of the rectory had probably been terraced into naturally rising ground.

The remains of a small brick structure (0004) at least 1.5m high was found close to the building (Plate 2). It was divided into three small compartments, had a brick floor and had a low rear top where it continued under the steps. If continuing on to the rear boundary wall its estimated overall size would have been c.2.8m square. Its brickwork suggested a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century date and it can be seen on maps from 1884 onwards. It was probably used for storage of coal or something similar.

The east wall of the structure continued to the south and turned a right-angle, 3m from the building, and then ran for a minimum length of 8m (Plate 3). This wall (0005) was found to be built of slightly thinner bricks, and with a stepped foundation where revealed in a later trench (Plate 4). The brickwork suggested an early 19<sup>th</sup> century date and that it was not part of the former adjoining south range shown on the enclosure map, despite being in a similar position. Any earlier structure may have been built at a higher level and thus lost when terracing occurred

## Soil and feature contexts

- 0001: Topsoil, varying in thickness between 300-450mm. Dark brown, fine material with some inclusions of building materials and stones.
- 0002: Pebble layer found by structure 0004. Part of a surface or to assist drainage.
- 0003: Subsoil, up to 300mm thick. Mid-dark brown, loamy in nature.
- 0004: Brick structure with three small compartments and brick floor. Small store, possibly for coal / wood.
- 0004a: Rubble infill to 0004.
- 0005: Brick wall set back from but running parallel to former rectory. Probable boundary and soil retaining wall.

## Areas B, C

The area immediately south of the excavated area had been partly stripped of topsoil and the opportunity was taken to examine the subsoil where this was exposed, firstly in section. The position chosen (Fig. 7; Plate 5) revealed a ceramic drain of horse-shoe shape (0006; Plate 7), set in a trench (0007), and subsoil with a thickness of 250-300mm. Careful trowel-cleaning of this soil uncovered several sherds of handmade pottery and a fragment of late Saxon - early Norman Stamford ware. Following discussion with the client, it was decided to clear the topsoil in the area behind it by machine and for the archaeologist to trowel an area of subsoil in several layers or spits – this was assigned the label Area C. Finds already recovered from the section and recovered from the sloping north edge were classed as from Area B.

Area C was a level area of about 12m<sup>2</sup>, set back from the section and the north sloping edge, and this was trowel-cleaned in two spits, with a smaller area taken down in a third spit to the base of the subsoil. The area was crossed by two drains (0006, 0010), and cut by a modern pit (0008; Plate 6). A number of late post Medieval pottery sherds and occasional pieces of building debris were found during the trowelling. Although the reason for this was unclear in the first two spits, in the third spit two small features were shown to have penetrated through to the lower level, without having been clear at a higher level (Plate 8). These were post-holes / small pits of late post-medieval date, and probable garden features.

The clear majority of the finds recovered from both Areas B and C were pottery sherds of Saxon or early Medieval date, together with some likely Roman pieces. They were generally small pieces, found scattered across the area looked at, with no evident concentrations that might signify features. There was a distinct lack of pottery of mid or late Medieval date, or from the early post-Medieval period.

In total, 65 sherds ranging in date from the Roman era to the early Medieval period were recovered. In particular, the presence of early Saxon pottery (including a stamped piece) on the site was realised to be of some importance.

The pottery was shown to Peter Liddle of Leicestershire County Council, who commented that the majority of the pottery was likely to be from a 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century date-range. A full pottery report by a specialist was recommended. Following an initial pottery assessment, a full report was produced by Paul Blinkhorn and this is included below.

#### **Soil and feature contexts**

- 0006: Horse-shoe shaped ceramic land-drain.
- 0007: Trench for drain. Containing brick and slate rubble.
- 0008: Modern pit with dark fill and building rubble.
- 0009: Topsoil with building rubble content over Areas B and C, and to south.
- 0010: Modern ceramic drain, running north-south and aligned towards the south side of the Old Rectory.
- 0011: Small pit / post-hole noticed in Area C, spit 3.
- 0012: Small pit with brick fragments, noticed in Area C, spit 3.

### ***4. Pottery report***

*Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 65 sherds with a total weight of 572g. It was all unstratified, but consisted of a range of ware types which indicate that there was activity at the site in the Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The Anglo-Saxon assemblage included wares which suggest that there was activity at the site in the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> centuries, and again in the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Fabric**

The assemblage was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows:

- CC2: Chilvers Coton 'C' ware, 1200-1475. 3 sherds, 11g.
- PM: Potter's Marston ware, 1100-1300. 1 sherd, 56g.
- MS1: Medieval Sandy ware 1, 1200-1400. 1 sherd, 30g.
- ST: Stamford ware, 900-1150. 9 sherds, 36g.

The following, not included in the Leicestershire type-series, was also present:

E/MS F1: Early/middle Saxon, c AD450 -850. Sparse to moderate granite up to 1mm, rare free mica flakes up to 3mm. 38 sherds, 363g.

SN: St Neots Ware type ware, c. AD900-1100 (Denham 1985). Fabric moderate to dense finely crushed fossil shell, with varying quantities of quartz and/or ironstone. Usually purplish-black, black or grey, with fairly fine, dense inclusions. Main forms small jars with sagging bases, although a few lamps are known. 6 sherds, 38g,

In addition, seven sherds (38g) of Romano-British material were noted.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of contemporary sites in the region.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

		RB		EMSF1		SN		ST		MS1		PM		CC2	
Area	Spit	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
B		1	3	3	19	2	9	6	27	1	30			2	9
C	1	4	24	7	94	3	27								
C	2	1	3	20	186	1	2	3	9			1	56	1	2
C	3	1	8	8	64										
	Total	7	38	38	363	6	38	9	36	1	30	1	56	3	11

## The Pottery

### Area B

The assemblage from this area included two sherds of rouletted Stamford ware, and another from the rim of a small jar. All the Stamford ware was unglazed, with this, the decoration and the vessel forms all suggesting a date of the 10<sup>th</sup> century (Kilmurry 1980). The three sherds of early/middle Saxon hand-built material included a sherd with two incised parallel lines, and a possible single stabbed impression. This is certainly early Saxon, but can only be given a broad date of the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century, the main period during which this common method of decoration was used on hand-built pottery (Myres 1977).

The sherd of medieval sandy ware (MS1) is fairly large, and from the rim of a jar, but is very abraded.

### Area C

#### Spit 1

The early/middle Saxon assemblage included a fairly large rimsherd from a small bowl, and a base sherd from possibly the same vessel, although they do not join. A rimsherd from another small Stamford ware jar was noted in this assemblage, and all the pottery

of that type was again unglazed, suggesting a date of the 10<sup>th</sup> century for the Stamford ware assemblage.

#### Spit 2

The E/MS assemblage comprised almost entirely plain bodysherds, apart from a single decoration sherd, which had at least two rows of square grid stamps separated by incised lines. It is almost certainly sixth century, the time when stamping was at its height (ibid.).

#### Spit 3

All the pottery comprised plain bodysherds. It is impossible to ascribe a date to the hand-built Anglo-Saxon pottery, other than to within the broad early/middle Saxon (c. AD 450 – 850) period (Myres 1977).

### **OVERVIEW**

The early/middle Anglo-Saxon assemblage is worthy of note. The sherds are generally large and in fairly good condition, and suggest very strongly that there is a settlement of the period in the immediate vicinity of these excavations. The decorated sherds show that at least some of the assemblage dates to the early Anglo-Saxon period, probably the sixth century.

The late Saxon pottery is similarly generally unworn and in good condition, and similar comments apply. The assemblage appears to be of tenth century date. The medieval wares are all well-known types.

#### *Early Saxon*

This small assemblage of Saxon pottery, although from essentially unstratified contexts, is a useful addition to the corpus of pottery of the period from Leicestershire. Early-middle Saxon hand-built pottery is by no means common in the region, although some has been noted at nearby places in the past, although usually in the form of funerary urns. A highly decorated example, almost certainly of 5<sup>th</sup> – century date is known from Loughborough (Myres 1977, Fig. 177 no. 465), and a number of others are known from Melton Mowbray (ibid. 93). Another small group came from Rothley, just to the north of Leicester, but by far the biggest collection came from the cemetery at Thurmaston, between Leicester and Rothley.

Domestic assemblages are perhaps less common, and mainly from the east of the county. The largest excavated in recent years, but as yet unpublished, is from Eye Kettleby near Melton Mowbray. It appears in part at least to be the same date as this assemblage. Small groups are known from various sites in Leicester itself, such as Bonners Lane (Blinkhorn 2004), but are rare to the north of Loughborough. Excavations in Castle Donington have produced at least two sites of the period, both buildings and early Saxon pottery, at Willows Farm and Hemington Quarry (Coward and Ripper 1999). None of the pottery from these sites has yet been published in detail.

The assemblage from this site appears fairly typical of sites of the period in the region. All the sherds are granite-tempered, almost certainly with Charnwood Forest Granodiorite, a type which has a wide distribution throughout the midlands and beyond. The few feature sherds are from simple vessel forms, with the only rim from a small bowl (Fig. OR3). The decorated sherds, with incised lines (Fig. OR2) and, in one case, stamp impressions (Fig. OR1), are entirely typical, with the latter suggesting a 6<sup>th</sup> century date. Illustrations (Figure 8)

Fig. OR1: Area C, Spit 2. Stamped sherd. Uniform black fabric.

Fig. OR2: Area B. Incised sherd. Uniform black fabric.

Fig. OR3: Area C, Spit 1. Rimsherd from small bowl. Black fabric with brown surfaces. Thick sooting on the inner surface.

Fig. OR4: Area C, Spit 1. Base sherd, possibly from the same vessel as OR3. Black fabric with brownish surfaces, some sooting on both surfaces.

### ***Late Saxon***

The small assemblage of Stamford ware comprises entirely unglazed small jars (eg. Fig. OR5), with simple, lid-seated rim profiles, some with simple square-notched rouletting. This is entirely typical of the products of the period in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, and perhaps even the late 9<sup>th</sup>. A number of assemblages from Stamford and elsewhere have these characteristics (Kilmurry 1980, 94-100). The small amounts of St. Neots ware could easily be of the same date. The complete lack of dateable 11<sup>th</sup> century pottery suggests that the site was abandoned at that time.

### **Illustrations (Figure 8)**

Fig. OR5: Area C, Spit 1. Stamford Ware. White fabric with grey and black patches on the rim and body.

Fig. OR6: Area B. Stamford Ware. Pale grey fabric with dark grey, sooted outer surface, fragment of a rouletted band.

### **Bibliography**

Blinkhorn, P, 2004. Early/Middle Saxon Pottery in N Finn *Origins of a Leicester Suburb. Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation on Bonners Lane* British Archaeological Reports British Series **372**, 84-5

Coward, J, and Ripper, S, 1999. Castle Donnington, Willow Farm *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **73**, 87-91

Denham, V, 1985. The Pottery in JH Williams, M Shaw and V Denham *Middle Saxon Palaces at Northampton* Northampton Development Corporation Monog Ser **4**, 46-64

Kilmurry, K, 1980. *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincs. C. AD850-1250* British Archaeol Rep British Ser 84

Myres, JNL, 1977. *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period* 2 vols, Cambridge

Sawday, D, 1994. The post-Roman pottery in P Clay and R Pollard *Iron age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester. Excavations 1962-71* Leics. Museums

## **5. Conclusions**

Due to circumstances, part of the site was machine-dug without adequate recording having been possible. Nevertheless, both the opportunity and the time were kindly provided by the client to examine an adjoining area in some detail, and in a more archaeologically controlled and meaningful manner; this is rare in a standard watching brief environment. This resulted in a small collection of pottery being recovered that is of some regional significance, as the specialist report above makes clear. Although no actual site(s) from which the pottery originated can be identified, the relative density, date-range and general rarity of such finds does point towards the further archaeological potential of the site and the surrounding area - still largely made up of predominantly undisturbed gardens.

## **6. References**

Charnwood Borough Council, 2007. 'Hathern Conservation Area Character Appraisal.'

Cox, M. *et al.* 1985. *A Look Back at Hathern*. Hathern Local History Society.

Nichols, J. 1804. *History and Antiquities of Leicestershire*. Volume 3, part 2 (West Goscote), 842-848.

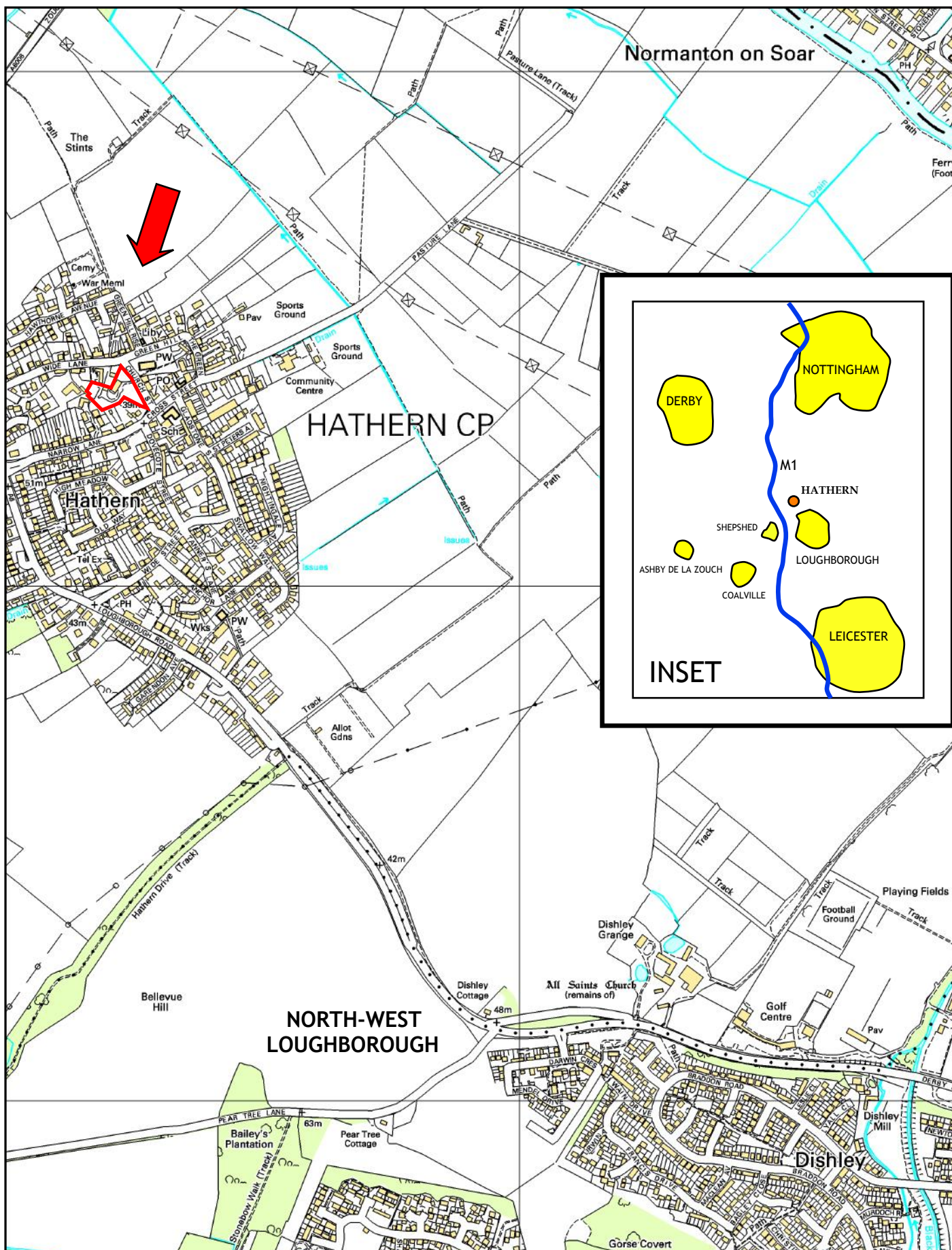
Pemberton, W. A. 1984. 'The Parochial Visitation of James Bickham D. D. Archdeacon of Leicester in the Years 1773 to 1779.' *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 59, (1984-85), 52-72.

Pevsner, N. (revised Williamson, E. and Brandwood, G. K.), 1984 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). *The Buildings of England. Leicestershire and Rutland*. Penguin Books, London.

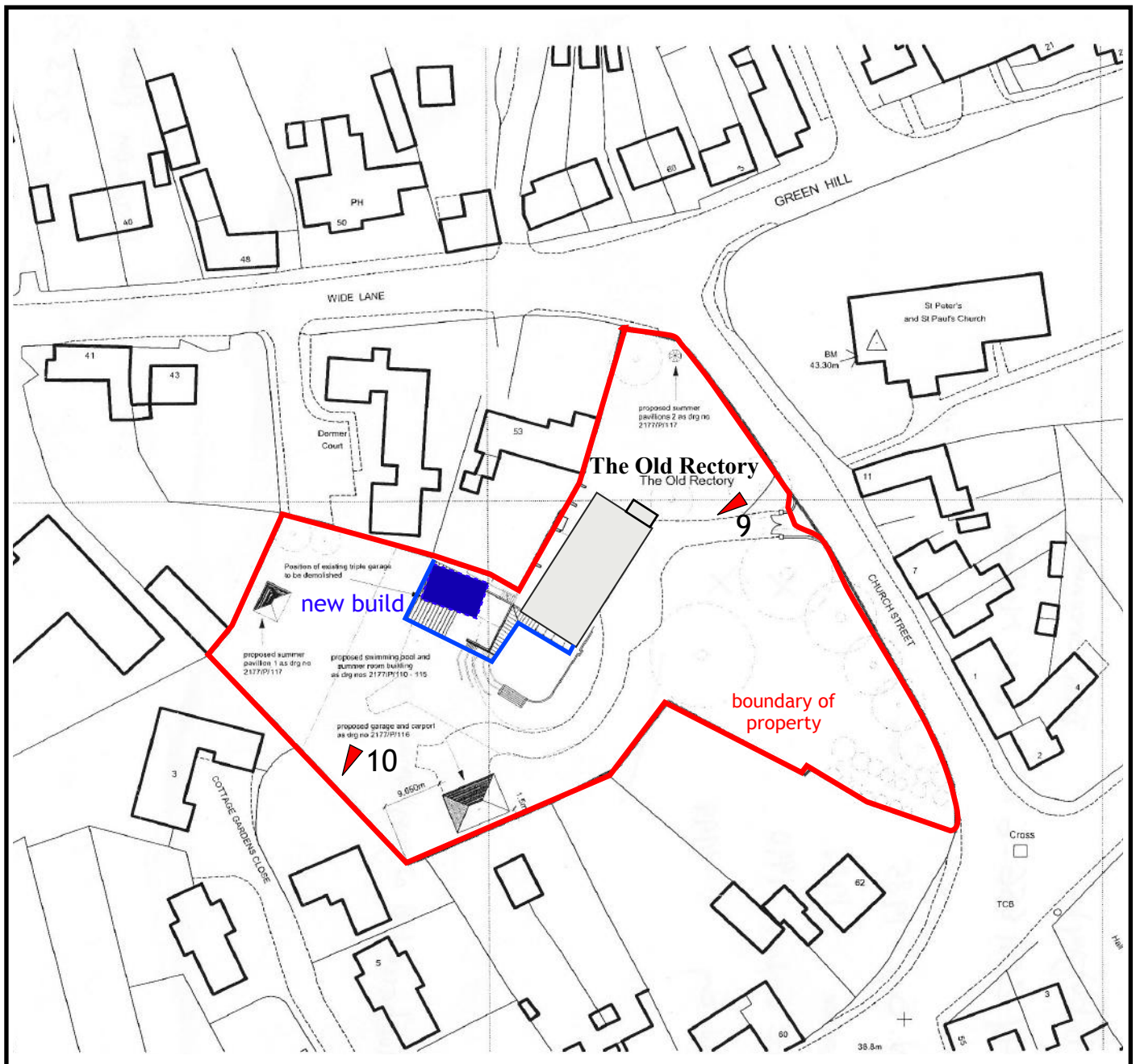
## **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Steve Buckman of Latham Architects, the site contractors for their co-operation and in particular the site owner Martin Collins for his help, interest and encouragement during the watching brief. Thanks also to Pete Liddle for agreeing to comment on the pottery, to Paul Blinkhorn for his detailed pottery report and to Jane Goddard for her drawings.

# ILLUSTRATIONS

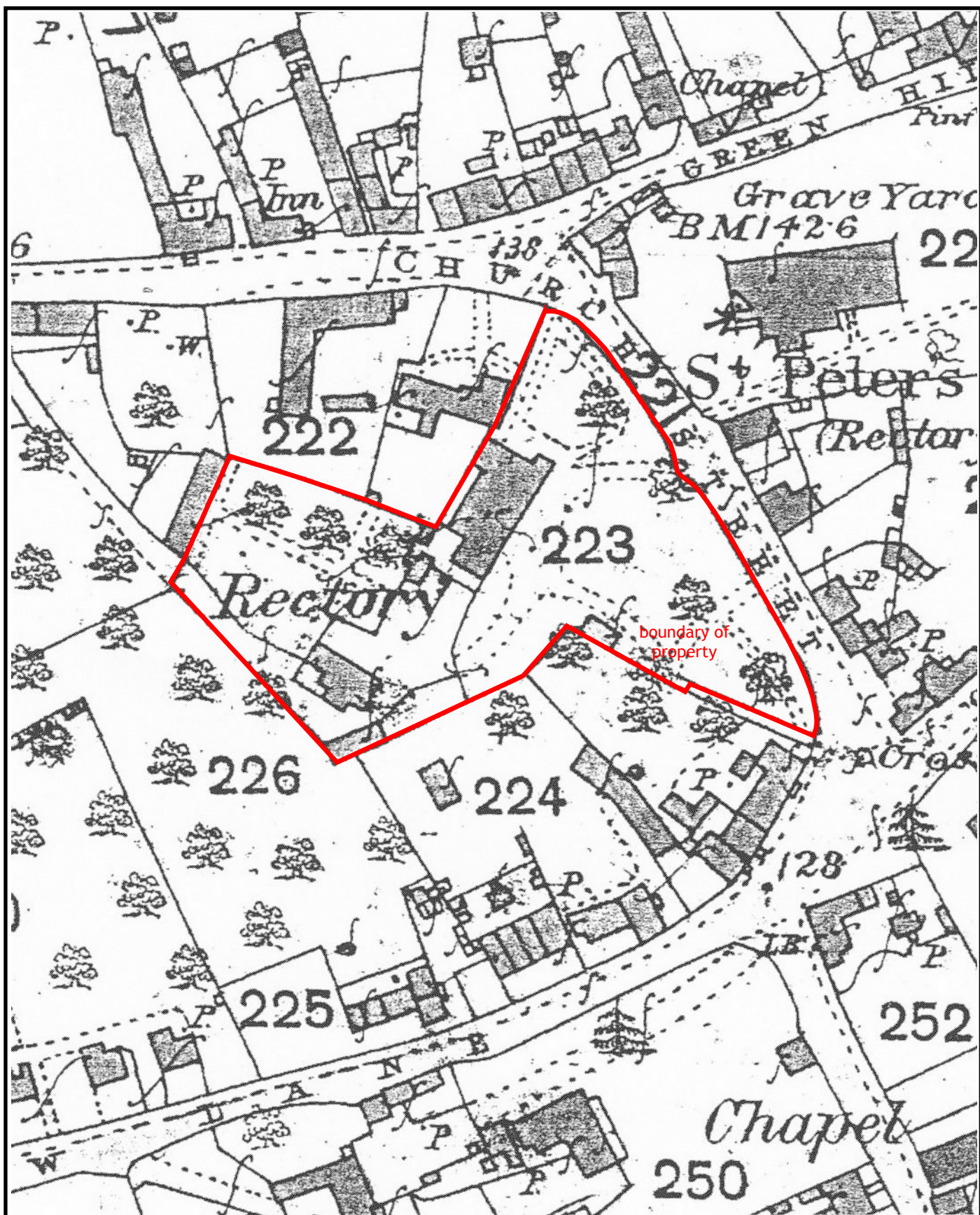


**Figure 1:** Inset: location of Hathern, Leicestershire in relation to surrounding cities and towns; Map: highlighted location of the Old Rectory site in the centre of Hathern. Scale 1:10,000.



9

**Figure 2:** Architect's plan showing the new extension to the Old Rectory, Hathern, Leicestershire. Scale 1:1,000.



**Figure 3:** Location of the Old Rectory site at Hathern, Leicestershire, highlighted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map of 1884. Scale here 1:1,000.

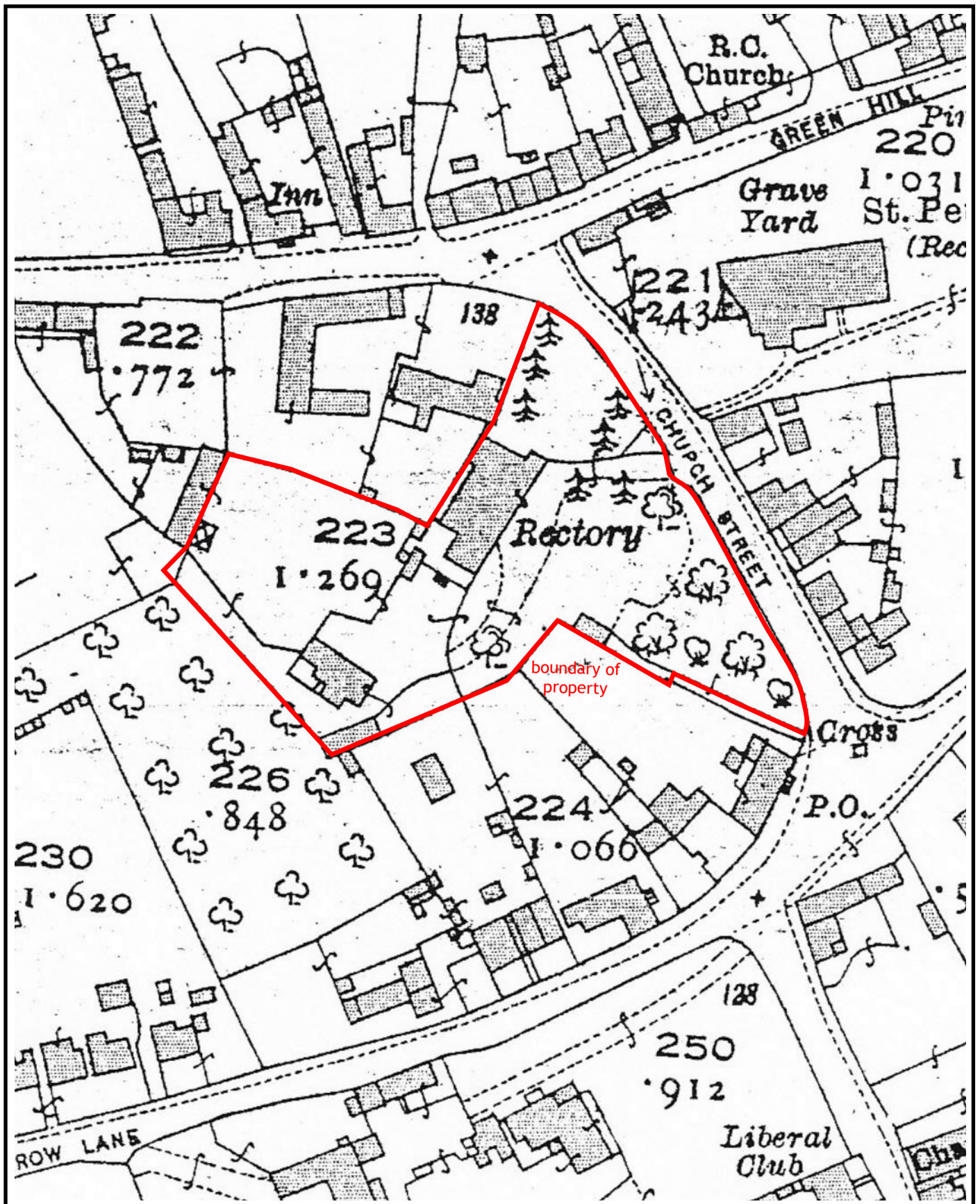
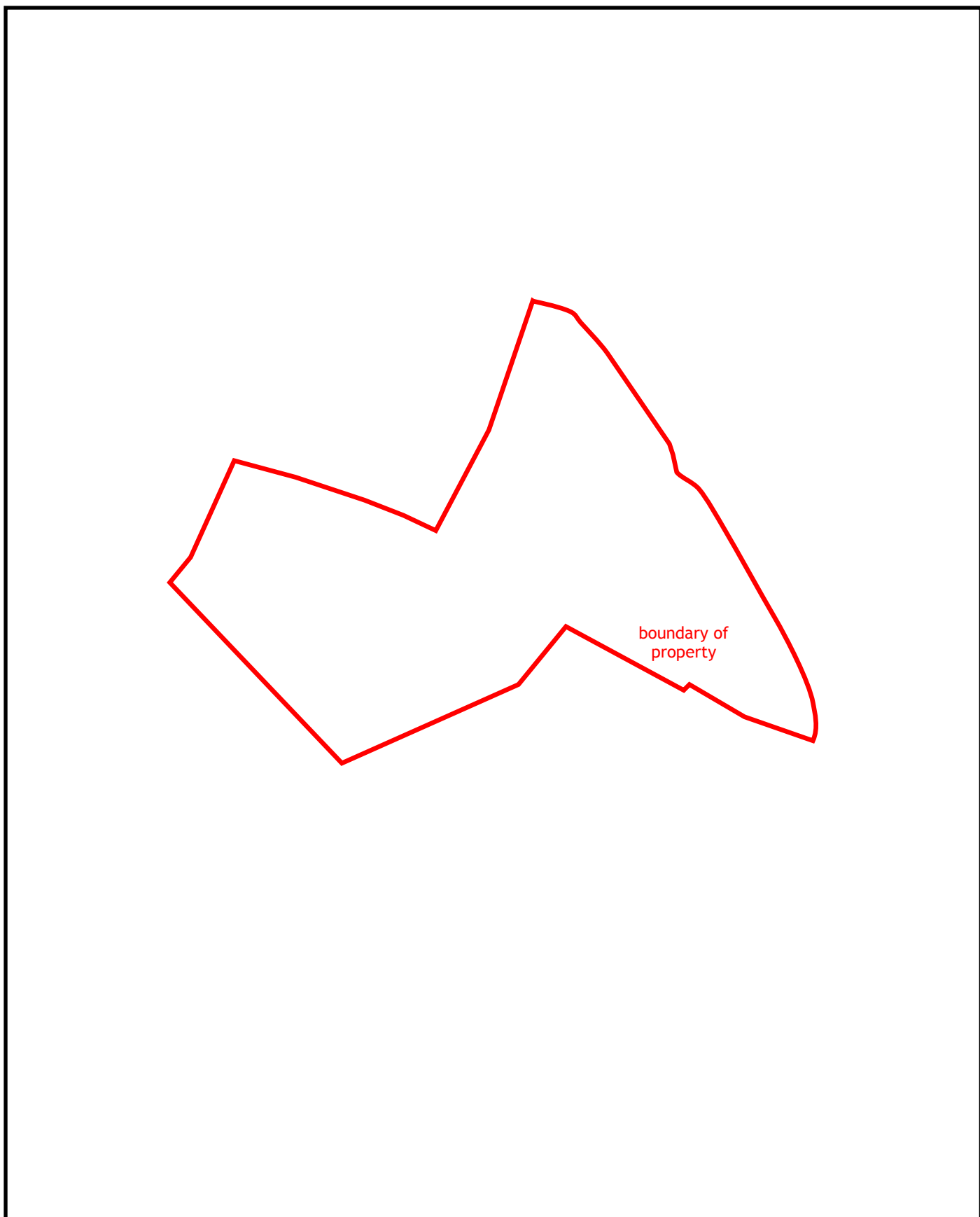
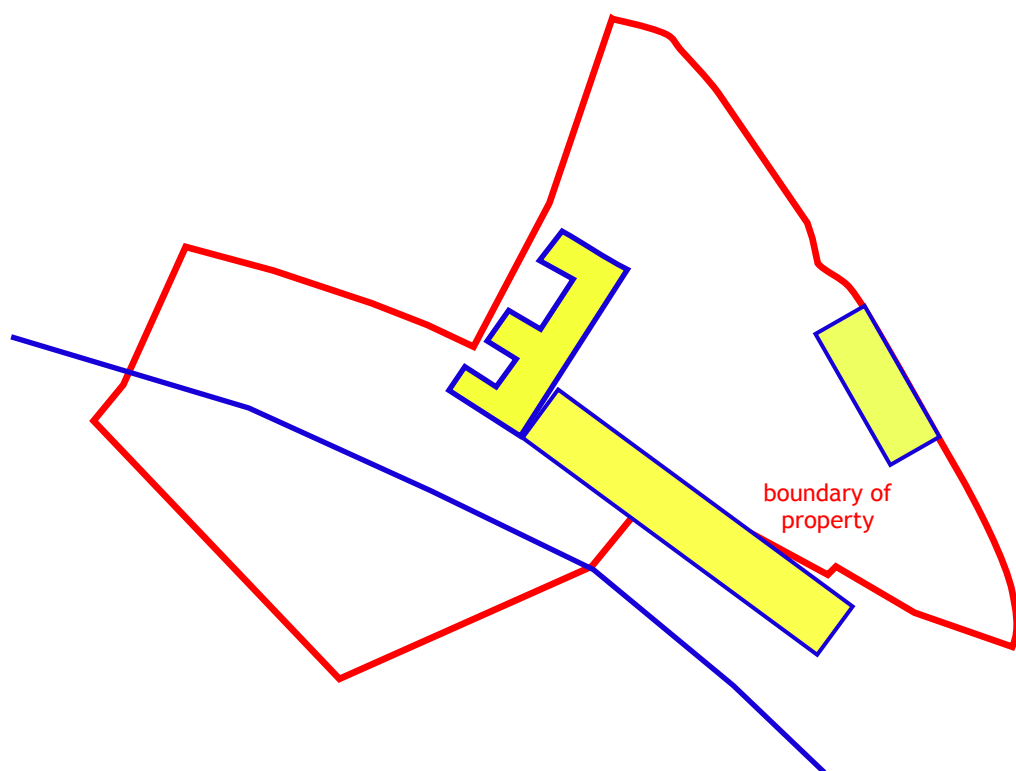


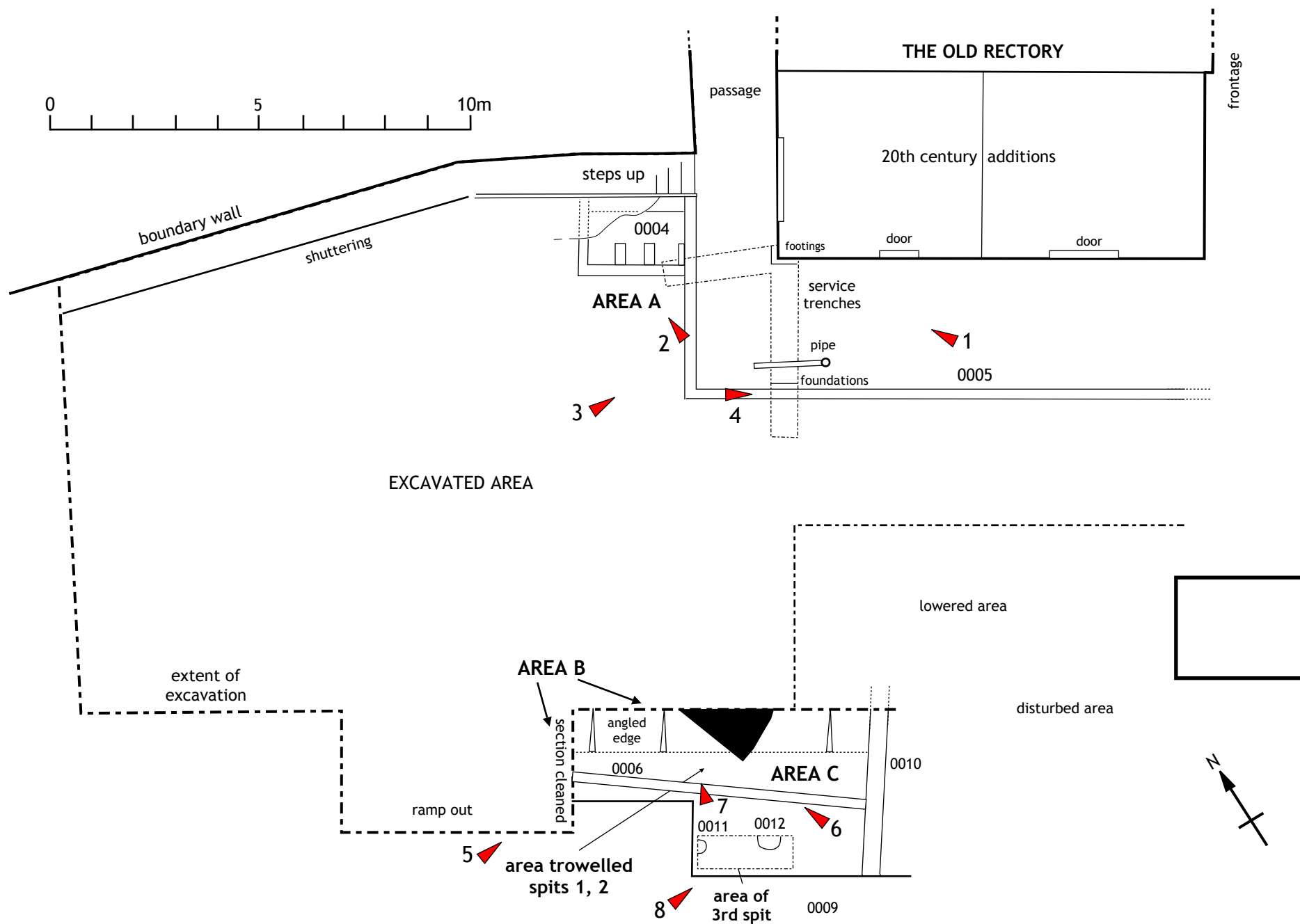
Figure 4: Location of the Old Rectory site at Hathern, Leicestershire, highlighted on an Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map of 1921. Scale here 1:1,000.



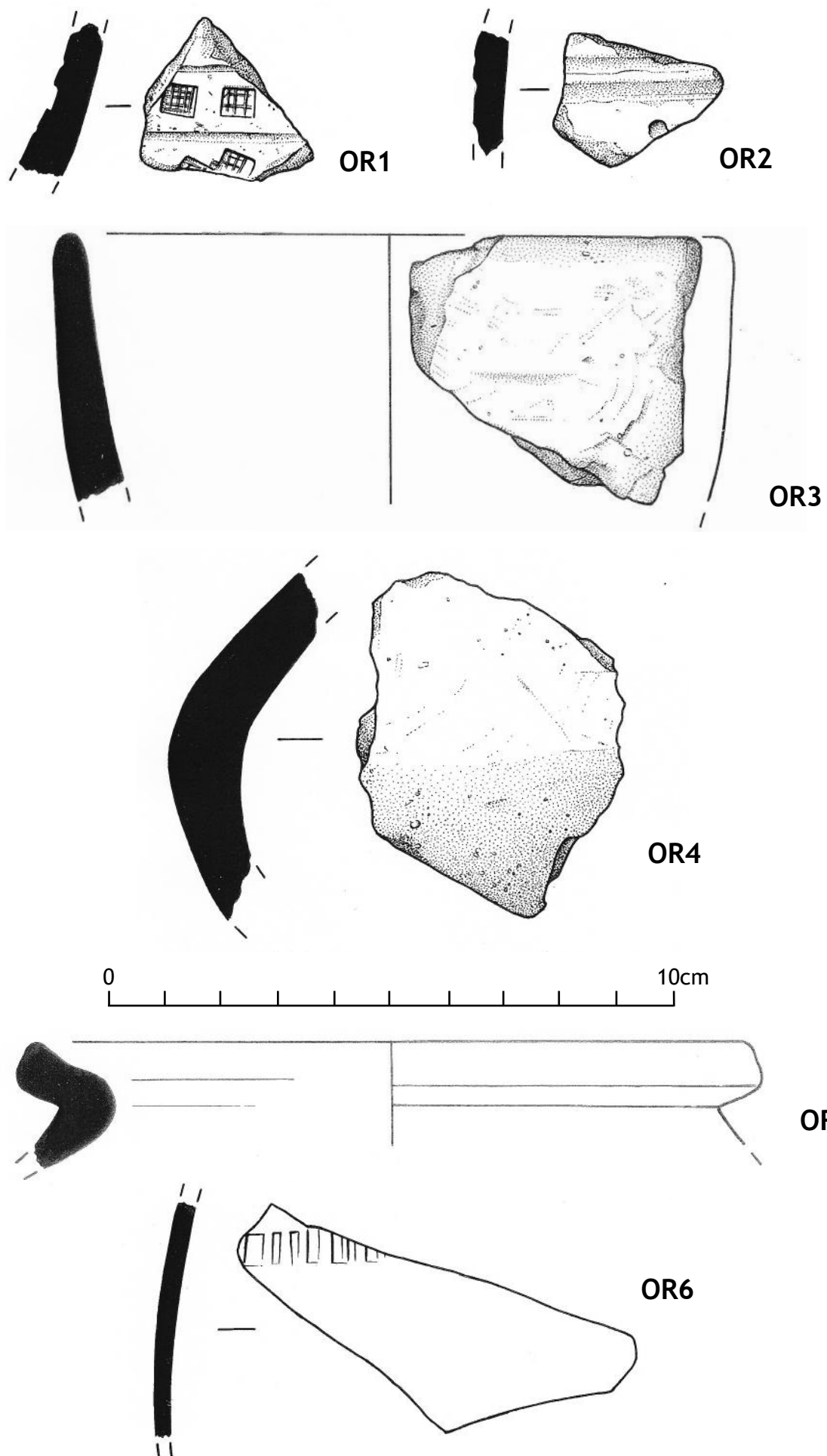
**Figure 5:** Location of the Old Rectory site at Hathern, Leicestershire, highlighted on an Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map of 1992. Scale here 1:1,000.



**Figure 6:** Modern plan of the Old Rectory site at Hathern, Leicestershire, overlain with approximate positions and shapes of buildings and a boundary shown within the site on the enclosure map of 1778 (in blue and yellow). Scale here 1:1,000.



**Figure 7:** Plan showing area excavated to the rear of the Old Rectory, Hathern in 2009 for a new extension, and features recorded and the area trowelled where pottery was recovered. Scale 1:125.



**Figure 8:** Some Saxon and medieval pottery recovered from the Old Rectory site, Hathern. Scale 1:1.



**Plate 1:** Machine excavations on the first day of the watching brief at the Old Rectory, Hathern. To right is the south-west corner of the house, with steps showing to rear.



**Plate 2:** Brick structure 0004 uncovered in front of steps that previously gave access up to the former garden level. To left of this is a section showing the dark topsoil, lighter subsoil and yellow clay natural.



**Plate 3:** Brick wall 0005 extending across from 0004 and, at the far right, turning to run parallel to the south end of the Old Rectory, Hathern.



**Plate 4:** Section of wall 0005 showing in a service trench.



**Plate 5:** A cleaned section south of the fully excavated area for the south-west extension to the Old Rectory, Hathern, showing a ceramic drain 0006 cut through the subsoil.



**Plate 6:** Area behind the cleaned section after trowelling of the first spit, showing the line of drain 0006 (pink line) and dark modern feature 0008 (centre). The extent of the cleared area shows in the background.



**Plate 7:** Removed section of horse-shoe shaped ceramic drain 0006 from the back garden of the Old Rectory, Hathern.



**Plate 8:** Area of spit 3 with slightly darker modern features 0011 and 0012 highlighted.



**Plate 9:** Front elevation of the Old Rectory, Hathern, Leicestershire.



**Plate 10:** Dated brick (1839) built into a garden wall at the back of the Old Rectory, Hathern (position shown of Fig. 2).