



Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd

Modern living in an historic environment

**An archaeological desk-based assessment of
The Old Rectory Garden,
Farthinghoe, Northamptonshire
March 2014**

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Iain Soden BA MIFA

Summary

A proposed house site is that of a former walled Victorian Kitchen Garden of the period pre-1885-c1980. Although historic maps suggest an old road or hollow-way was aligned close to the north of the site where the Old Rectory now stands, there is no evidence of a foregoing frontage close to this point, nor are significant finds reported from the area. Kitchen gardening is a repeatedly destructive process, much reducing potential for the site to retain archaeology which, if present, would probably have been related to rear gardens pre-1805.

Introduction

Planning Consent is sought to build a new home within the enclosure of a walled kitchen garden belonging to the Old Rectory, Farthinghoe, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 5342 3966; Fig 1).

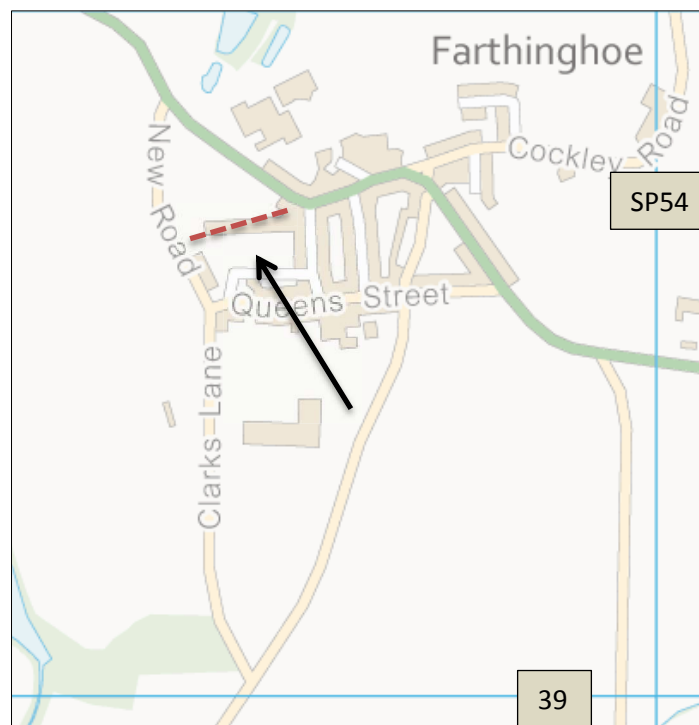


Fig 1: The site location (arrowed). Former road (dashed)
Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown Copyright and database right, 2014.

The site lies just to the south east of the Old Rectory and its stables, with gardens on east and south, with a small lane lying also on the south (Old Lane). The plot is known to lie within an area of

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archaeological interest, in particular related to the origins and development of Farthinghoe as a medieval village. It also lies within the Farthinghoe Conservation Area.

The former Royal Commission noted in 1982 that historic maps show the western end of the village to have included an east to west-aligned roadway which was lost in the period around 1841 when the property of the Old Rectory was constructed (RCHME 1982, fig 55 and page 66 (16)). Although there has never been any evidence set out for early houses along this road, their former presence is a possibility, on one side or the other, or both. Just to the south lies Old Lane, probably a former back lane or green lane, which today survives as a separate, dog-legged, minor route. The current site lies mid-way between the two, in what would have been, at the most, back yards and plot-gardens.

The site has more recently been confirmed as lying within the medieval bounds of the village of Farthinghoe (Partida et al 2012, map 82M).

Historical background



Fig 2: The 1805/1810 map of Farthinghoe (extract); NRO map 3502 [listed as 1810]; the current site is starred; Former road dashed blue, 'old lane' dotted red

The earliest map which shows the site in detail is a 'plan of an estate in the parishes of Farthinghoe, Greatworth and Marston St Lawrence belonging to George Rush, 1805' (also noted as 1810). Of the plots named, 59 is 'Wood Close', 61 is a Public House of 'The Fox (Inn) and Garden' alongside Old Lane, and 62 is 'The Warren'. The application site appears to already be in the hands of the church, but is apparently undivided and no buildings stand upon it. The former road referred to by the RCHME (1982) is clearly shown.

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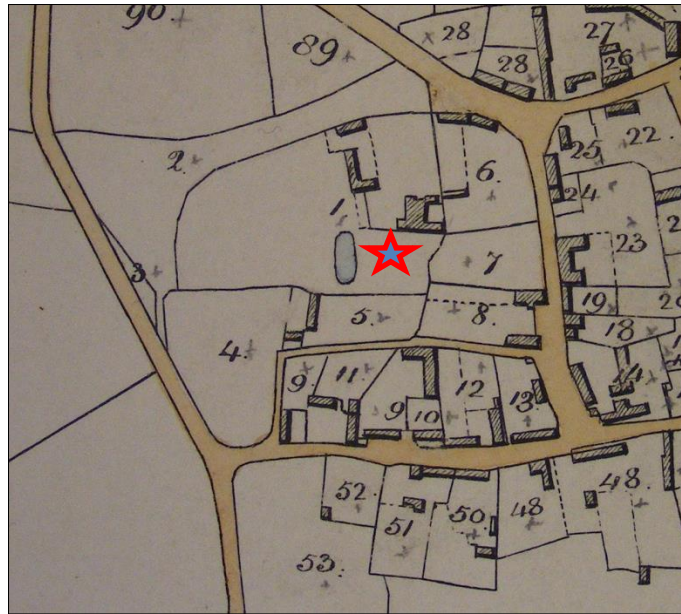


Fig 3: 1841 Tithe Map of Farthinghoe (extract); NRO map X4355. Site starred. The former road and 'Old Lane' are clearly formalised.

The relevant plot ownership/ tenancies in 1841 are related as follows:

1 *The Rectory Homestead* - 1a 3r 31p, Occupier and Owner, Francis Litchfield. The buildings shown here appear new since 1805, as is the large pond distinctively shown.

6 *House, Orchard and Garden* - 1r 38p, Occupier Daniel Curtis, Owner George Austin. This has been created and built upon since 1805.

7 *The Warren, Garden* - 1r 6p, Occupier John Baldwin, Owner. This is seemingly unchanged since the 1805 mapping.

8 *The Fox Public House and Garden*, -, Occupier John Bladwin, both owned by George Rush. This seems unchanged since being mapped in 1805. On this map 'Old Lane' is fully shown for the first time.

The 1841 map shows that 19th century buildings were constructed to the north of the site, but these have since disappeared.

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The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record

The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER- Katherine Daws) was consulted for records in a radius of 500m from the site in order to set the site into a wider but relevant archaeological and historic-landscape context. HER entry '234' is that of Farthinghoe Village.

While it was seen that there are numerous monuments and other features of note on the Historic Environment Record in the 500m radius, few of them lie within a relevant distance from the kitchen garden.

Those relevant to the site are as follows (Figs 4 and 5):

234/0/1 Old road or hollow-way (that related by the RCHME, noted above)

234/0/9 The Old Rectory (a building identified by South Northamptonshire Council as being of local historical or architectural interest). It benefits from good documentation.

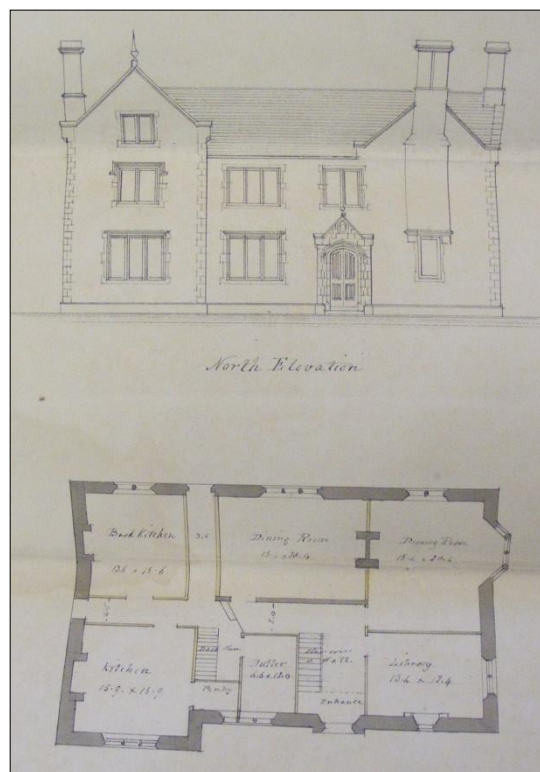


Fig 4: The Old Rectory 234/0/9 – original architect's drawings of 1841/2

234/0/10 Byland House, Old Lane (a building identified by South Northamptonshire Council as being of local historical or architectural interest). This stands just to the south of the site and can be seen at the west end of plot 5 (unnamed) on the map in Fig (above) and on Fig (below). Historic maps suggest it dates between 1805 and 1841.

234/4/1 The Fox Inn (a building identified by South Northamptonshire Council as being of local historical or architectural interest)

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234/1/2 Outbuilding to The Fox Inn (a building identified by South Northamptonshire Council as being of local historical or architectural interest)

Reported and metal-detected finds

The Historic Environment Record notes that there were numerous medieval finds reported during field-walking in advance of the Farthinghoe Bypass in 1992 (HER 234/0/0). However, all were unstratified and none have a bearing on the current site.

The Finds Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire (Julie Cassidy, Portable Antiquities Scheme) was consulted for finds reported from this site and from adjoining plots, including at the western fringes of the village. None are reported from here specifically although a large number derive from further afield in the parish (map extract supplied and held in archive). There are very few finds from the village, and such as there are (a jetton, a dagger chape, a coin) appear to be casual losses in the medieval and post-medieval periods as one might expect from an historic village. Julie Cassidy's response is as follows:

'This jetton is described as being from the allotments at Church Piece in the centre of the village: <http://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/92931> (Grid ref accurate to 100m²) Of the other finds recorded just west of Farthinghoe village, there is a 16th century chape (<http://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/88172>), a 16th century buckle and an Elizabeth I groat. So finds which I would consider to be typical post-medieval casual losses.'

Therefore, despite the historic nature of the village, reported finds do not suggest that there is any buried archaeology close to the site.

Conclusions

Publications, historic maps and data-repositories cross-refer to the same few historic features and buildings in this part of the village.

Although a former roadway, noted by the former Royal Commission, was still in existence to the north and north-west of the development site until the period 1805-1841, and was lost to the laying out of the Old Rectory, beneath which it was aligned, there is no evidence that buildings ever stood along its southern frontage. If they did, then they would lie under the rectory building and its neighbours.

Even if such a frontage was once built there, the proposed site of the new house lies considerably further south, in an area which could have been related rear gardens. Name-evidence suggests that there may have been a rabbit warren on an adjacent plot to the east. These are traditionally medieval in origin. However, in this case this seems to have been laid out as a discrete plot.

The walled kitchen garden in which the proposed new house is to be built was laid out here for the Old Rectory, built c1842. The garden was provided with greenhouses or planting houses against its

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north wall by 1885, which stood well into the 20th century (from OS map depictions 1885-1982 at www.old-maps.co.uk).

A pond was formerly dug at the west end of where the walled garden would be built. This seems to have appeared after 1805 and was mapped just once in 1841. By 1885 it had disappeared, presumably filled in.

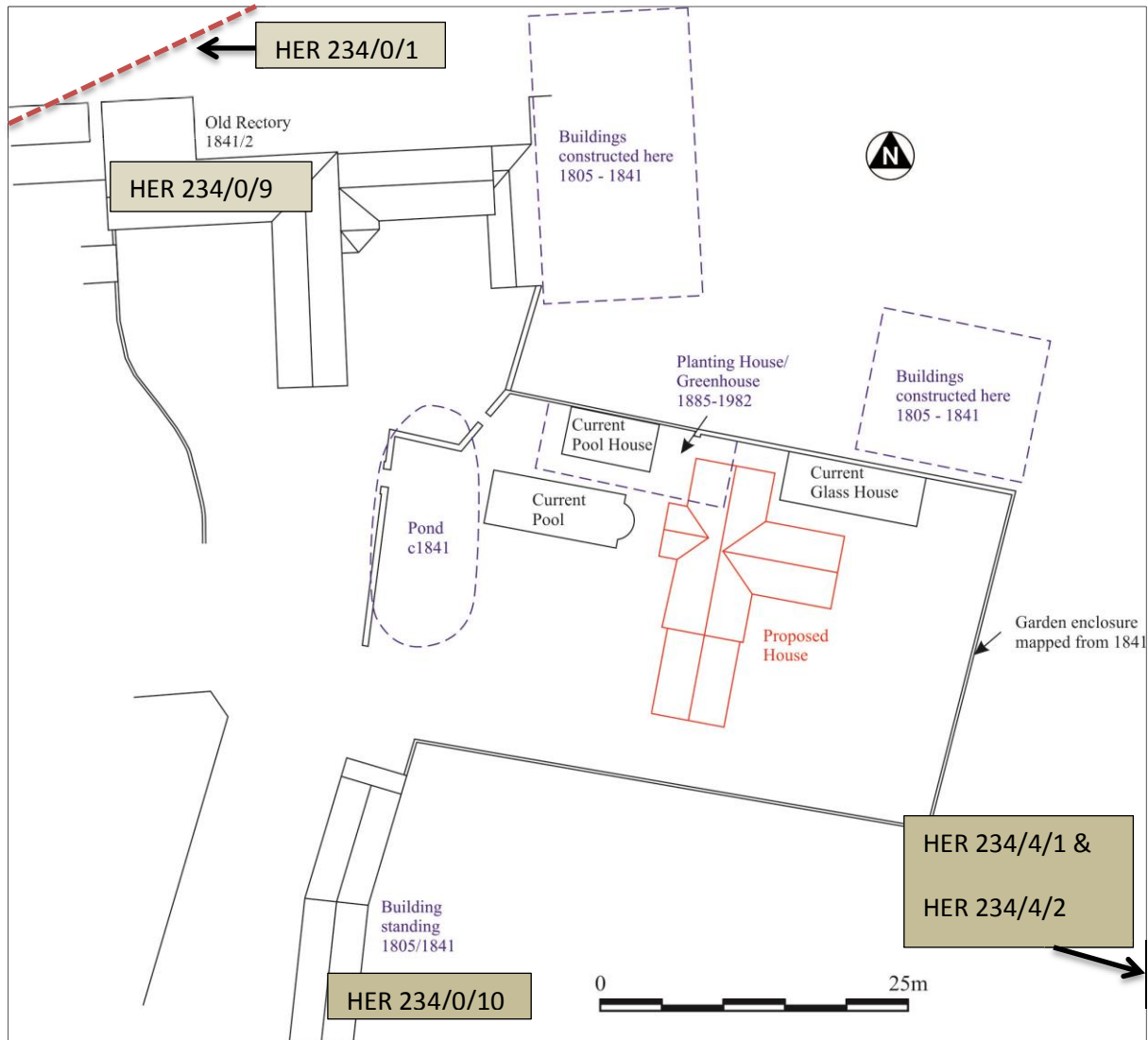


Fig 5: The proposed house in relation to mapped 19th-century landscape features and the closest HER entries (old roadway (234/0/1), Old Rectory (234/0/9), Byland House (234/0/10)).

The use of the kitchen garden, with its various layouts, including the present one with high hedges, an ornamental pool with pool-house, together with a greenhouse, will have meant considerable and constant ground- and soil-preparation, including double-digging which was popular particularly in the period 1880-1950 and helps make a rich, deep horticultural tilth, removing stones and other debris. It is highly likely that, if any pre-1805 garden remains or earlier archaeology ever lay on the proposed development site (and no evidence suggests it did), they will have been severely truncated by a sequence of kitchen gardening episodes including the present layout.

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It is unlikely that the site has any quantifiable potential to contribute to specific issues and items on a county research agenda for the medieval and later periods (Cooper 2006, Knight et al, 2012), given its 'peripheral' location, midway between potential former frontages, and the potential for the gardening-truncation of any such remains as might lie there.

Bibliography

Cooper, N J, 2006 *The archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**

Knight, D, Vyner, B, and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: an updated research agenda and strategy for the historic environment of the East Midlands*, English Heritage and others

Partida, T, Hall, D, and Foard, G, 2012 *An atlas of Northamptonshire: the medieval and early-modern landscape*, Oxbow

RCHME 1982 *An inventory of the historical monuments in the county of Northampton; Volume IV: Archaeological sites in south-west Northamptonshire*, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England



IS Heritage, 24 March 2014

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Appendix 1: OASIS data

Project Name	The Old Rectory Garden, Farthinghoe
OASIS ID	Iainsode1-232074
Project Type	Desk-based assessment
Originator	Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd
Project Manager	Iain Soden
Previous/future work	Not known
Current land use	Garden
Development type	Development- single house
Reason for investigation	NPPF
National grid reference	SP 5342 3966
Start/end dates of fieldwork	March 2014
Archive recipient	-
Study area	-