



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Attendance,  
Inspection and Recording Exercise  
(watching brief) at  
39 Parsonage Lane, Hoton,  
Leicestershire**

**NGR: SK 575 224**

Andrew Hyam




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Recording Exercise at  
39 Parsonage Lane, Hoton,  
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NGR: SK 575 224**

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**For: Redfern Kirton Design**

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## **An Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording Exercise (watching brief) at 39 Parsonage Lane, Hoton, Leicestershire. NGR SK 575 224**

**Andrew Hyam**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological attendance, inspection and recording exercise (watching brief) was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at 39 Parsonage Lane, Hoton, Leicestershire. The work took place on the 2nd of May 2013 during the excavation of foundation trenches for a proposed new garage attached to an existing barn. The excavations revealed a series of later 19th century boundary walls built to separate the barn and farmyard area from a small orchard. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed during the work.*

*The fieldwork was carried out by A.R.Hyam. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under Accession Number X.A53.2013*

### **Introduction**

In accordance with NPPF (section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment) this document forms the report for an archaeological attendance, inspection and recording at 39 Parsonage Lane, Hoton, Leicestershire. Under planning application number P/12/1477/2 a new garage is to be constructed in association with a barn conversion.

When considering the planning application the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to the planning authority, recommended the requirement for an archaeological watching brief to take place due to the potential for exposing archaeological features and deposits and the site's location within an area of archaeological interest. The work has been commissioned by Redfern Kirton Design and followed that specified in the ULAS *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording (watching brief) at 39 Parsonage Lane, Hoton, Leicestershire* (ULAS 11.10.2012 – hereinafter WSI).

The existing barn is a brick-built structure and, after a cursory inspection, appears to date to the earlier half of the 19th century. It forms a partial courtyard with the large late 18th century house. It is intended that the barn will be converted to create a new domestic dwelling. At the northern end of the barn, a new single storey double garage will be built and it is this which forms the subject of the watching brief.

### **Background**

The village of Hoton lies approximately 5km to the north-east of Loughborough and to the south-west of Wymeswold village (Figs. 1 and 2). The former RAF airfield, which now belongs to Prestwold Hall, forms the north-east boundary to Hoton. Number 39 Parsonage Lane is centred on NGR SK 575 224 and consists of a large three storey late 18th century farmhouse with additions which faces towards the

south-east (Fig. 3). A row of single storey outbuildings extends from the south-western corner of the house along the side of a narrow lane known as Vine Tree Terrace. To the rear (north-west) of the house is a red brick barn which is being converted to a dwelling. The brick sizes and style of internal roof timbers indicates that this building is likely to date to the earlier half of the 19th century. A track leads to the north-east from the corner of Parsonage Lane and runs across the front face of the house. A small driveway leads from this track towards the northern end of the barn where the proposed garage will be built (Fig. 4).

The First Edition Ordnance survey of 1884 shows the area of the proposed garage to be occupied by a series of boundary walls running to the north-east and south-west towards the existing gateway. The walls appear to separate the farmyard from a small orchard. Both the 1900 and 1920 editions show the same layout (Fig. 5). This layout continues until the 1970 edition when the north-east to south-west wall has been removed but the north-west to south east wall remains. This wall is still shown on some 1990 editions.



Figure 1 Hoton location

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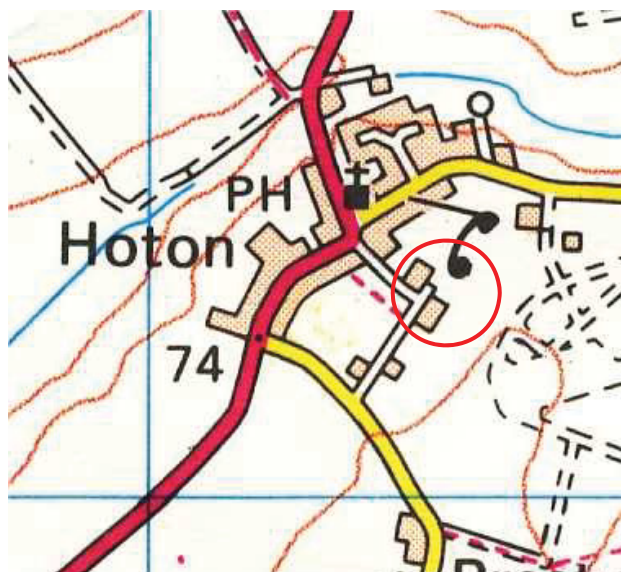


Figure 2 Site location

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Figure 3 Number 39 Parsonage Lane  
Looking north-west

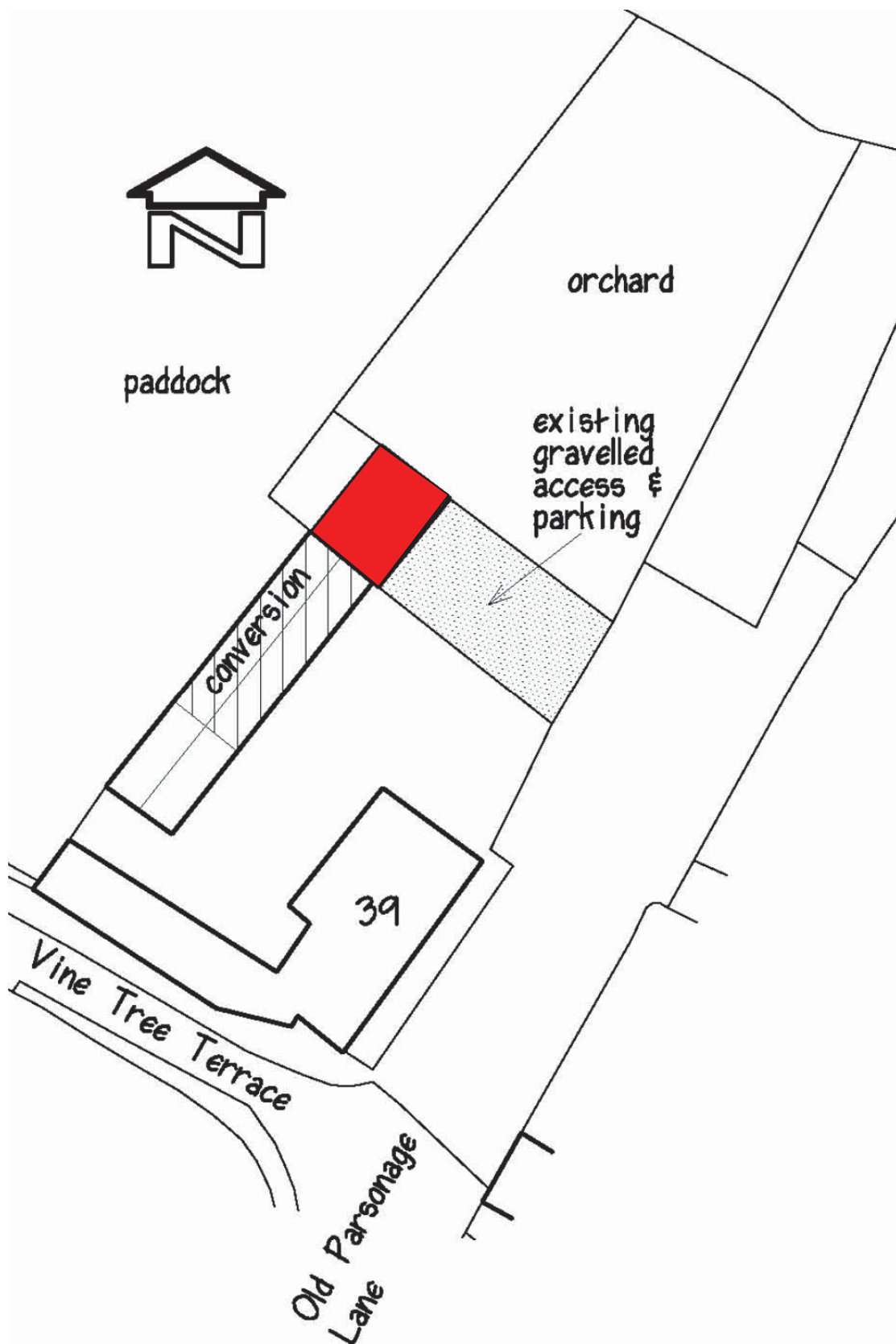


Figure 4 Proposed site layout  
Garage highlighted in red. Plan supplied by client

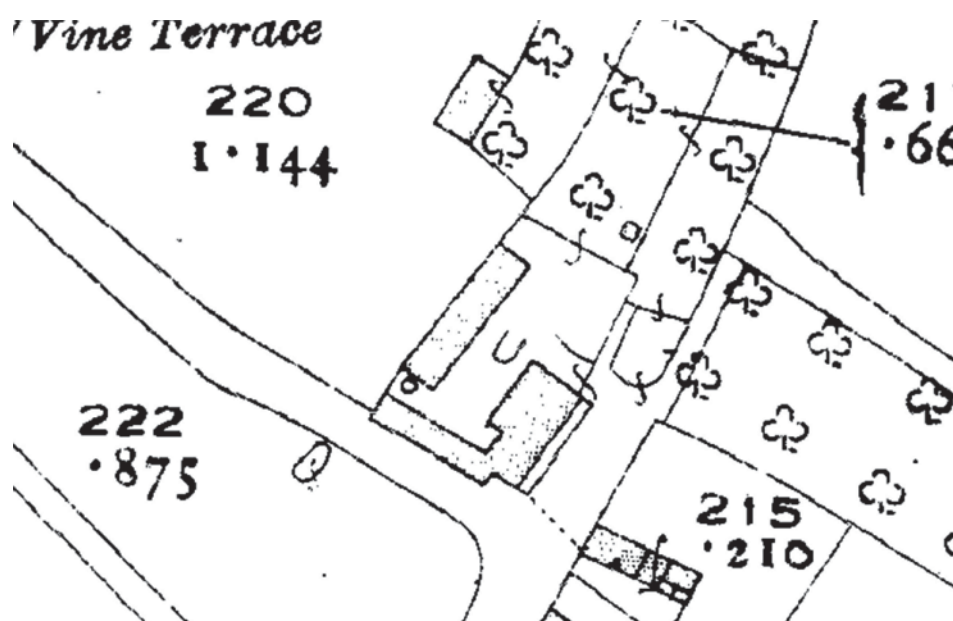


Figure 5 1920 Ordnance Survey map of site

### Objectives

In addition to the research aims specified in the ULAS WSI the general objectives were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits or earlier building remains.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the proposed works.
- To record any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

### Methodology

A tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to reduce the ground within the footprint of the proposed garage. Topsoil/modern overburden was then removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the top of any archaeological deposits or to the top of natural whichever was first. The foundation trench was then excavated down to the required building depth using the same toothless ditching bucket. All spoil was scanned for finds and other artefacts.

The foundation trench was examined by hand cleaning and any deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.



Sections of any excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale. The groundworks and foundation trenches were recorded on standard ULAS pro-forma watching brief recording sheets noting soil depths and descriptions. Any drawn sections of archaeological features were levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum.

All features were recorded by notes, sketches and both digital colour and 35mm black and white photographs. The recording methodology followed that specified in the ULAS WSI. All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* (2008).

## Results

Foundation trenches measuring 0.45m in width and 1m in depth were excavated around the perimeter of the garage as well as a central north-east to south-west trench. Prior to the start of the work the footprint of the garage was covered in a layer of gravel and mill waste and had been used as a parking area. This was removed to reveal a compact, but disturbed layer dark brown clay silt with a high proportion of stones and modern building material. This layer was approximately 0.35m deep across the whole area of the garage. Below this layer was a dark, grey-brown silty-clay subsoil which extended for a further 0.3 to 0.4m down to the dark, grey-brown silty-clay natural substratum. The dark natural substrata gradually became lighter with a slightly higher clay content as the excavation work progressed to the east of the site.

In the westernmost trench, approximately 0.15m below current ground level was the corner of a wall foundation (Figs. 6 and 7). This wall was built of late 19th century red bricks each with a length of 230mm by 75mm high by 115mm wide. Nine surviving alternating courses of headers and stretchers were used and were bonded with a hard lime mortar. The exposed wall ran along the centre of the excavated foundation trench and ran at the same alignment as the barn. The corner, instead of being 90 degrees was slightly sharper at around 60 degrees and headed towards the north-east corner of the proposed garage foundations. Excavation of the central and eastern foundation trenches exposed further sections of this wall (Figs. 8, 9, 10 and 11).

No other archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.



Figure 6 Exposed wall foundation in western trench  
Looking south-west



Figure 7 South-west elevation of exposed wall in western trench  
Looking north-east. 1m and 0.4m scales



Figure 8 Exposed wall in central trench



Figure 9 Exposed wall in all trenches  
Wall highlighted with arrows. Looking south-west

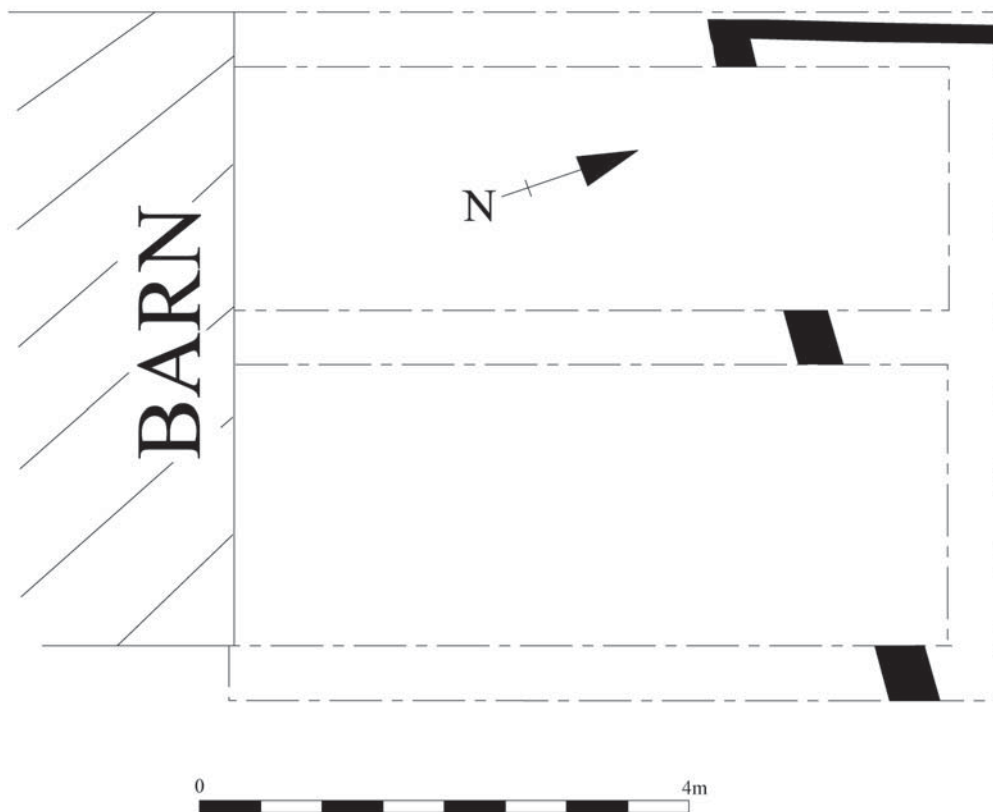


Figure 10 Plan of exposed wall

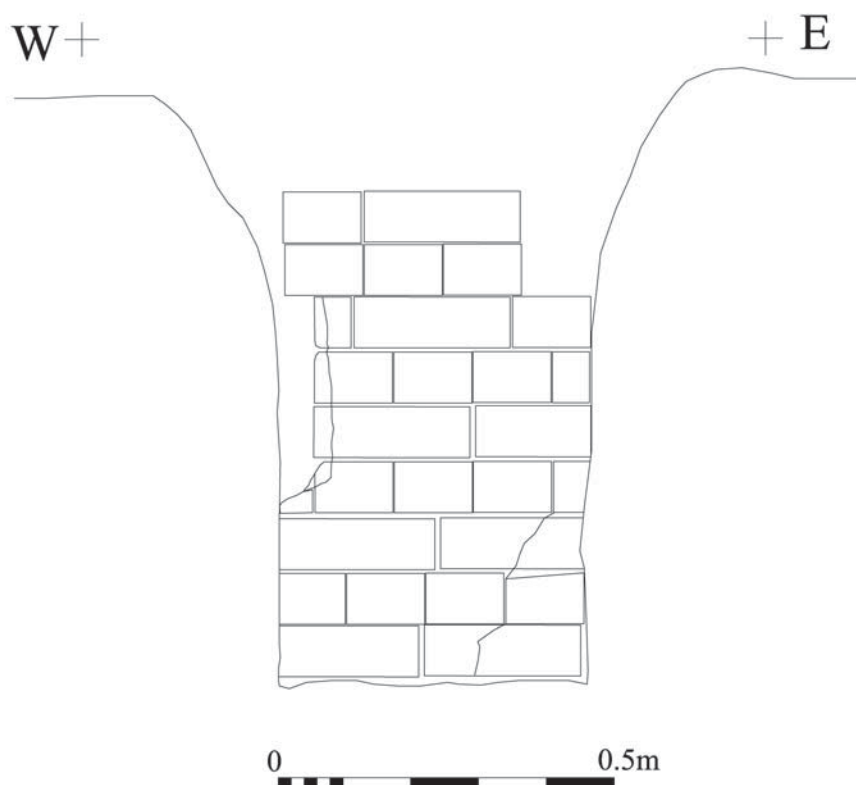


Figure 11 Wall elevation in western trench

### Discussion

The exposed wall foundations appear to follow the layout of boundaries shown in the 1st, and subsequent edition Ordnance Survey maps. They have quite substantial and deep foundations, which is not too surprising as they would need to be stock proof and withstand animals and other farm traffic. The larger size bricks and their machine made appearance probably dates the wall to the second half of the 19th century. The Ordnance Survey map would seem to suggest that they were built to separate the farmyard from a small orchard and paddocks.

Although the rest of the site appeared to be relatively undisturbed, there were no other archaeological features or deposits exposed during the watching brief.

### Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

1 pro forma watching brief form,

1 masonry recording sheet,

1 record sheet combined for both digital and 35mm black and white photographs,

1 contact sheet of 31 digital photographs,

1 contact sheet for 15 35mm black and white photographs plus negatives,

1 cd of digital photographs.

**Publication**

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

**Bibliography**

Brown, D. 2008 *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording. *39 Parsonage Lane, Hoton, Leicestershire*. ULAS

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

**Appendix 1 OASIS Information**

Project Name	39 Parsonage Lane, Hoton, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	V Score
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Residential
Development Type	Garage
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	Ongoing
Site Co ordinates	SK 575 224
Start/end dates of field work	2.5.2013
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	35m <sup>2</sup>

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