
Land at The Bungalow Lathom Park, Lathom Ormskirk, Lancashire



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**Archaeological Watching Brief
Report EH354/02**

Land at The Bungalow, Lathom Park Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report for Mr Danny Johnson

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Heritage Impact Assessment
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
Historic Landscape Survey
Written Scheme of Investigation

Geophysical Survey
Trial Trench Evaluation
Archaeological Excavation
Archaeological Watching Briefs

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SUMMARY

In 2025 Eden Heritage Ltd was commissioned by Mr Danny Johnson to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at The Bungalow, Lathom Park, Lathom, near Ormskirk in Lancashire (centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SD 4598 0905). The archaeological work was associated with the construction of a new garage for which planning permission was granted by West Lancashire Borough Council (Reference 2024/0509/FUL).

The site was located within the former grounds of Lathom House. The original Lathom House was a substantial fortified house or castle, built possibly as early as the late 13th or early 14th century. It was described at the time of the Civil War as being very strong with a curtain wall with six towers, each capable of bearing two cannons, and a central tower called the Eagle Tower, all surrounded by a wide and deep moat. This house was besieged in 1644-45 and largely destroyed. The later Lathom House was built on, or near, the site of the original between 1724 and 1734 to the design of Giacomo Leoni. The main portion of Lathom House was demolished in 1925 leaving only the West Wing, which has since been converted into flats.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 15th and 17th January 2025. The watching brief comprised the close monitoring of topsoil removal from the site by machine (including removal of a modern mound of topsoil) followed by the excavation of foundations and service trenches to the required depths.

This work revealed a stone structure, in the form of an L-shaped revetment wall, cutting the natural bedrock at the north-east corner of the excavated area. The full extent and purpose of the structure was unknown as it continued outside the trench. This structure was subsequently demolished, and the area covered with demolition material. It is suggested this activity may relate to landscaping associated with the 18th century house (specifically the Ha Ha). Although the moat was not identified during the watching brief, the depth of made ground suggested the presence of the infilled moat to the west of the proposed new garage.

Since the archaeological watching brief was undertaken to observe groundworks associated with the construction of the new garage, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, it is recommended that any future development in the vicinity should be subject to a similar scheme of archaeological work, due to the archaeological potential of the area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Eden Heritage Ltd thanks Mr Danny Johnson, Jack Bennett and his team for all assistance throughout the work.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Martin Railton, who also produced the project report.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Circumstances

- 1.1.1 The following report outlines the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on land at The Bungalow, Lathom Park, Lathom, near Ormskirk in Lancashire (centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SD 4598 0905; Figures 1 & 2). The archaeological work was undertaken for Mr Danny Johnson (the Client) and was associated with the construction of a new garage for which full planning permission was granted by West Lancashire Borough Council (Planning Reference 2024/0509/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The Bungalow is situated to the south of Lathom House, which currently comprises apartments within the West Wing of a former country house. The development area was approximately 30m to the east of The Bungalow and was situated within an undeveloped portion of the garden (Figure 3).
- 1.1.3 The original Lathom House was a substantial fortified house or castle, built possibly as early as the late 13th or early 14th century. Documentary evidence suggests it was associated with Thomas Stanley and dated to c.1490. It was described at the time of the Civil War as being very strong with a curtain wall with six towers, each capable of bearing two cannons, and a central tower called the Eagle Tower, all surrounded by a wide and deep moat (HER Reference PRN759). This house was besieged in 1644-45 and largely destroyed. The present Lathom House was built on, or near, the site of the original between 1724 and 1734 to the design of Giacomo Leoni (HER Reference PRN758).
- 1.1.4 Only the West Wing of the 18th century mansion survives, and this was refurbished in 1995-2005. During the refurbishment and enabling works, archaeological investigations proved the mansion was on the site of the earlier house, revealing evidence for the demolition of the fortified walls and towers, with the rubble being used to fill the moat. Further investigations when The Bungalow was rebuilt indicated the original bungalow was adjacent or over the line of the moat, and land east of the Bungalow contained archaeological features which may relate either to the houses or to the formal gardens that surrounded the mansion (McCrone, P. (2024) Letter to Paul Charlson, 2nd July).
- 1.1.5 As a result, Lancashire County Council advised that a programme of archaeological work, comprising an archaeological watching brief, was required a condition of planning consent (Condition 3). This was to allow the examination and recording of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, prior to their loss through development works. The condition stated:

“No excavation or ground disturbance works on the application site, including any required for clearance/demolition, site preparation, compounds, services, landscaping, etc. shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording works (a Watching Brief), to the standards and

guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists as an integral part of the groundworks required for the development. This Watching Brief must be carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced contractor and in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority and shall include a contingency plan for the unexpected discovery of significant remains. These works shall result in the compilation and deposition of a formal report on the works undertaken and the results obtained. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details”.

- 1.1.6 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological Watching Brief was subsequently produced by Eden Heritage Ltd and submitted to the Planning Officer, Lancashire County Council, for approval, prior to the project start (Eden Heritage Ltd 2024).

2 Methodology

2.1 Scope of the Work

- 2.1.1 The project comprised an archaeological watching brief, which was maintained during soil-stripping and the excavation work associated with the proposed new garage (Figure 3). This required the removal of a mound of topsoil in the south-east corner of the garden. This was followed by the excavation of an area measuring approximately 10m by 7.5m to the correct level for the new garage floor and excavation of 0.75m-wide foundation trenches to a depth determined by building control.
- 2.1.2 The general aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence revealed within the excavated areas, in order to attempt to re-construct the history and past-use of the site. This was to include the sampling and recording of any structures or deposits associated with the former moat.

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 2.2.1 An archaeological watching brief consists of a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, in this case during the excavation of foundations. All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with codes and practices outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists for archaeological monitoring (CIfA 2023).
- 2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the watching brief were:
- to establish the presence/absence, nature, and extent of archaeological remains revealed by the works and to record these where they are observed;
 - to investigate and record any evidence for archaeological features or finds present;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material (where it survives) in order to understand site and landscape formation processes;
- 2.2.3 The excavation work was undertaken by a tracked excavator fitted with a ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. Excavation was undertaken to strip topsoil and turf from the area of the proposed garage, followed by excavation of foundations and service trenches required depths.
- 2.2.4 All potential archaeological features encountered were investigated and recorded according to standard recording procedure as set out in the Museum of London Archaeological Service Archaeological Site Manual (Museum of London 1994). All written records utilised the Eden Heritage

pro-forma record sheets. A full photographic record in digital format was maintained.

- 2.2.5 A very small assemblage of post-medieval finds was recovered which was assessed as having no research value. These will be returned to the Client upon completion of the reporting requirements.
- 2.2.6 No environmental evidence was encountered during the work; therefore, no samples were taken.

2.3 Archive

- 2.3.1 The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the recommendations in *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Brown 2011). The project archive can be accessed under the unique Eden Heritage Ltd reference **EH354 TBL/A**.
- 2.3.2 All recovered artefacts were stored in the appropriate conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this included controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring of conditions). All work was carried out in compliance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and guidance for finds work (CIfA 2014a) and those set by UKIC (1990).
- 2.3.3 Copies of the final report (in PDF/A format) will be provided to the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER), where viewing will be available on request. Copies of the digital photographs produced in this report will be archived with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) and the paper archive will be submitted to the Lancashire Museums Service for long-term storage.
- 2.3.4 Eden Heritage Ltd supports the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS** (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this study will be made available by Eden Heritage Ltd as a part of this national project, and a copy of the report will be uploaded to OASIS. The OASIS reference is: **edenheri1-531265**.

3 Background

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 Lathom is a village and civil parish located c.4km northeast of Ormskirk and c.3km northwest of Skelmersdale in the district of West Lancashire (Figure 1). Lathom House lies within open countryside approximately 600m to the east side of Lathom within an area known as Lathom Park (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The Bungalow is approximately 50m to the south of Lathom House (West Wing) within an undeveloped area, which was formerly parkland (Figure 3). It is accessed from the northeast via a modern driveway. The proposed development area is 30m to the east, centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SD 4598 0905. The elevation of the site is c.50m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).
- 3.1.3 The recorded geology of the area is mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, known as Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 319 to 318 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period (BGS 2025).

3.2 Archaeological and Historic Background

- 3.2.1 This historical and archaeological background is intended only as a summary of historical developments within and around the project site and is not a full desk-based assessment. References to the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER) are included where known.
 - 3.2.2 A medieval fortified house or castle, possibly constructed as early as the late 13th or early 14th century, is believed to be the precursor to the present Lathom House (HER Reference PRN759). In the late 15th century, the house was associated with Thomas Stanley and dated on documentary grounds to c.1490 AD. Timbers from the surviving West Wing have also been dated to this period, (felled after AD 1475), possibly indicating reuse of timbers from this house (English Heritage 2000).
 - 3.2.3 The earlier building was apparently fortified to an extent and was surrounded by a moat but was besieged during the Civil War (1644-45) and was largely destroyed. The property was described in the 17th century as being very strong with a curtain wall with six towers, each capable of bearing two cannons, a central tower called the Eagle Tower, all surrounded by a wide and deep moat (Ibid.)
 - 3.2.4 The earlier house appears to have been surrounded by a medieval deer park, the original creation of which has been dated to c.1250 or earlier (HER Reference PRN37693). The HER entry refers this deer park being much larger than the present 18th century landscape (this is now a Conservation Area).
 - 3.2.5 In the middle of the 17th century, Lathom House was put under siege during the English Civil War. The first siege began in February 1644, with the second starting in August 1644 and continuing until December 1645. As a result of these sieges, Lathom House was apparently destroyed although it has
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been suggested that there was enough of the property standing for the new Lord Derby to live in it for a period after 1660 (WLDC 2001, 17).

- 3.2.6 After the restoration of the monarchy, the Stanley family did not rebuild Lathom House, instead the site was sold in 1717 to Henry Furnesse, but was subsequently purchased in 1724 by Thomas Bootle of Melling. By 1725, Bootle had commissioned Giacomo Leoni to design the new Lathom House (HER Reference PRN758) which was noted in the Conservation Area Appraisal, to comprise a centre linked by curving Ionic colonnades to a pair of service wings with pedimented centres, ogee cupolas, central Tuscan entrances and windows with rusticated architraves (WLDC 2001, 17). Plate 1 shows a watercolour of Lathom House dating to 1793, with the apparent principal elevation facing south.



Plate 1: Lathom House from Humphrey Repton's Red Book of 1793 (Source: Red Rose Collections)

- 3.2.7 The property is annotated as 'Latham Hall' property of R W Bootle Esq. on Yates' County Map of 1785, when it is shown as a square building flanked by tree-lined avenues with apparent enclosed parkland to its south side. A Ha-Ha, which probably dates to the first half of the 18th century, appears to be shown as a circular feature around the south side of the house. Access tracks to the property are to the north, west and south. The area of the proposed garage is within this parkland (Figure 4a).
- 3.2.8 By the early 19th century, the parkland surrounding Lathom House had expanded to the north to create a circular area of land surrounding the property. Within the parkland there are more trackways and areas of woodland as well as several water bodies. The area of the garage is still shown to have been within parkland near a band of trees (Figure 4b).
- 3.2.9 The earliest map consulted to clearly show the buildings and landscape features around Lathom House dates to 1846. At this date, the park surrounding the property and its outbuildings is still

shown as being circular. The accompanying schedule for this map indicates that the owner and occupied of Lathom House was Lord Skelmersdale, and that the parkland comprised approximately 428 acres. The area of the garage, located to the south of the house, is shown as being with gardens and pleasure grounds (Plot 1342), adjacent to a driveway and entranceway (Figure 5).

3.2.10 Historic Ordnance Survey maps suggest that the grounds to the south of Lathom House remained largely unchanged, until the main portion of Lathom House was demolished in 1925, leaving only the dilapidated remains of the West (stable) wing, and its courtyard buildings (Figure 6).

3.2.11 Later 20th century Ordnance Survey maps suggest the area to the south of the house was cleared although the Ha-Ha survived as an earthwork to the south of the site of the new garage (Figure 7). A 1990s aerial photograph provided by Mr Danny Johnson shows the area prior the redevelopment of the West Wing and prior to the construction of The Bungalow, this being built in 1997 (Plate 2).



Plate 2: Lathom House showing the proposed development area on the right, looking east
(Source: Mr Danny Johnson)

3.3 Previous Archaeological Work

3.3.1 In 1996 a programme of topographical survey, building recording, geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation was carried out at the site of Lathom House in advance of reconstruction work (Event ID ELA982). Geophysical survey (resistivity and magnetometry) was undertaken on the plot of land to the south of the West Wing; this revealed both linear and discrete anomalies, which were interpreted as features relating to the eighteenth-century garden (LUAU 1997).

- 3.3.2 Archaeological evaluation in this area, and stripping of an area for the proposed new bungalow, revealed the remains of a large ditch to the south of the West Wing, cut into the bedrock and curving round the rear of the former Leoni house running southeast to join the ha-ha. The fill consisted of clean broken stone, demolition debris and organic material. No finds of 19th or 20th century date were found within the fill, suggesting that it was filled during or prior to the construction of the Leoni house. This was interpreted as the moat of the medieval Lathom House (LUAU 1997).
- 3.3.3 In 1998 a watching brief was conducted during excavation of a water pipe trench to service the new bungalow (Event ID ELA981). The trench crossed the line of the backfilled moat, which had been previously identified here. Post-medieval finds were recovered, including a block of moulded stonework, probably of early 18th century date (Archaeological Service WYAS 1999).
- 3.3.4 Archaeological investigations were undertaken inside, and adjacent to, the West Wing of Lathom House by The Lathom & District Archaeological Society from October 1997 to March 2000 (Event ID ELA 2218). Excavation inside the West Wing revealed a substantial north-south buttressed sandstone wall below the stable floor. This was cut by the footings of the 18th century building and clearly pre-dated that construction. Subsequent excavations (inside and outside the building) traced the line of the wall which was overlain by a thick deposit of sandstone rubble. Excavations in the stable yard to the west of the building cut through Leoni's 18th century platform to reveal a very deep and wide ditch. This was filled with post-Civil War destruction material and interpreted to be the defensive moat of the 15th century house (Baldwin 2010).
- 3.3.5 In September 2002, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the southeast of the West Wing in association with the construction of a proposed garage block (Event ID ELA983). Three small trenches were excavated but no archaeology was recorded (Matrix Archaeology 2002).
- 3.3.6 In July and August 2009, a programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken within Lathom Park gardens to attempt identify and record the remains of the medieval Lathom House (Event ID PRN758). Electromagnetic induction (EMI) and GPR surveys were undertaken by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd, and the results were superimposed with high-resolution digital elevation model (DEM) LiDAR data. The EMI survey identified the moat located on the southern side of the castles defences, to the south of the current Ha-Ha, which meets with the curving elements of the existing Ha-Ha to the east and west. The GPR survey identified a wall at least 2m wide to the north of the West Wing, interpreted as the medieval and early post-medieval defensive curtain wall (Oxford Archaeology North 2011).
- 3.3.7 The subsequent excavations to the east of the West Wing identified three phases of archaeological activity dating to the medieval period (identified in Trench 14 and Trench 9), significant archaeology of the early post-medieval period (16th to 17th century) comprising the substantial remains of buildings, including partially upstanding walls, floors, drains, external cobbled surfaces and other
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features (in Trenches 7b, 8, 9 and 14) and levelling deposits and structures associated with the construction of the eighteenth century Leoni building (Oxford Archaeology North 2011).

- 3.3.8 The results of the previous archaeological investigations suggest that the site of the proposed new garage is located within the area enclosed by the moat of the late medieval Lathom House and may contain features associated with either house and/or the formal gardens that surrounded the Leoni mansion. The moat appears to have run southeast from the West Wing, going underneath (or close to) the bungalow, before crossing the Ha-Ha and running further to the south.
- 3.3.9 Figure 8 shows the projected location of the moat (approximated) based on these previous works.

4 Archaeological Watching Brief

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 15th and 17th January 2025. The watching brief comprised the close monitoring of topsoil removal from the site by machine followed by the excavation of foundations and service trenches to the required depths (Figure 8).
- 4.1.2 The area of the proposed new garage comprised an area of lawn to the east of The Bungalow to the south of the existing drive (Plate 3). Woodland bounded the east side of the site, with a garden area and pond to the west side. The area of the garage contained a mound (not present in the 1990s) which was believed to be spoil associated with the construction of The Bungalow or the adjacent drive. The mound measured approximately 11m by 5m, being 0.7m high, and was first removed by machine to the level of the lawn (Plate 4). The material comprised mostly dark grey/brown loam **(100)** containing modern plastic sheeting, metal, brick, concrete, gravel, cable and stone fragments.



Plate 3: Area of the proposed new garage showing the modern topsoil mound, looking south-west

- 4.1.3 A deposit of stone pieces and red brick **(101)** was revealed beneath the mound, between 0.1m and 0.2m deep; the materials were similar to those used in the construction of The Bungalow. Modern plastic and metal objects were also recovered from this deposit, confirming the mound was modern.
- 4.1.4 Turf and topsoil **(100)** were subsequently removed from the remainder of the area to a depth of 0.3m below ground level (bgl) to expose brick and timber foundations of a modern greenhouse and shed, which had previously occupied this part of the garden. These were also removed from the site.



Plate 4: Section through the modern topsoil mound, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 5: Southern foundation trench showing made ground (**102**), looking west (1m scale)

4.1.5 Following topsoil stripping, three 0.75m-wide trenches were excavated on the east, south and west sides of the area to a depth of between 1.2m and 1.4m for the garage foundations. These excavations revealed 0.9m of made ground, which was present throughout the trenches to the full depth of the

excavations. The made ground comprised a loose deposit of grey silty sand (**102**) containing frequent stone pieces and mortar fragments, which was interpreted as probable demolition rubble (Plate 5).

- 4.1.6 Two ceramic drains had been laid within the demolition deposit (**102**), aligned east-west and north-south. The deposit also produced several sherds of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe fragments.
- 4.1.7 Another 1.5m by 1.5m trench for a soak-away was excavated to the west of this area to a depth of c.1.5m with a 0.35m-wide 0.9-m deep drainage trench running westwards to the garage (Figure 8; Plate 6). This revealed the continuation of the made ground (**102**) throughout the excavations.
- 4.1.8 A further 0.35m-wide 0.4m-deep trench was excavated to the south for an electricity supply between The Bungalow and the new garage (Figure 8). This also revealed topsoil (**100**) and made ground (**102**).



Plate 6: Soak-away trench showing c.1.5m of made ground (**102**), looking south (2m scale)

- 4.1.9 Part of a stone structure (**105**) was revealed in the north end of the western garage foundation trench (Figure 9). This was investigated by hand to further reveal the structure and the foundation cut [**104**]. This cut into the natural bedrock (**103**) which comprised fractured red/brown mudstone.
- 4.1.10 The following section describes the structure (**105**) and the deposits encountered in more detail.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 The natural fragmented bedrock (**103**) was revealed in the north end of the foundation trench at a depth of 0.5m blg. The bedrock had been removed in this area for the construction of the stone structure (**104**) creating a step (Figure 9 and Figure 10). A vertical cut [**104**] had been made for a red sandstone wall (**104**) which crossed the trench with a north-east to south-west alignment, forming a revetment. This wall was 0.75m deep, with further bedrock (**103**) revealed to the south side.
- 4.2.2 The structure (**104**) as revealed in the trench, consisted of an L-shaped stone wall measuring 0.5m wide and 0.8m long from east to west and 1.5m long from north to south (Plate 7 and Plate 8). The wall consisted of two courses of roughly shaped red sandstone blocks up to 0.5m long and 0.25m deep bonded with lime mortar and infilled with smaller sandstone slabs. The top of the wall had evidently been demolished and may have formed part of the demolition deposit (**102**) to the south.
- 4.2.3 An area measuring 0.6m square was excavated by hand to the south of the wall (**104**) to confirm the natural bedrock; clay pipe fragments and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the fill (**102**).



Plate7: Revetment wall (**105**) cutting the bedrock (**103**), looking north (1m scale)



Plate 8: Revetment wall (105) cutting the bedrock (103), looking east (1m scale)

4.3 Discussion

- 4.3.1 The date of construction of the stone wall (104) or the purpose of the structure is unknown, but this evidently continued outside the trench limits to the south, east and possibly west sides. It was apparent that the structure had been deliberately demolished, and the area covered over with a significant deposit of demolition rubble (102); this deposit was also present in the trenches to the south (being at least 0.9m deep). The excavation for the soak-away also revealed a greater depth of made-ground to the west (over 1.5m) suggesting this may represent infilling of the moat (Figure 9).
- 4.3.2 Post-medieval pottery and clay pipe (broadly dating from the late 17th to 19th centuries) were recovered from the demolition deposit with an absence of any modern material. The main portion of Lathom House was demolished in 1925, which is somewhat later than the material recovered from deposit (102). It is therefore suggested that this deposit was probably associated with landscaping of the grounds for the 18th century Lathom House. This would have included deliberate infilling of the former moat and the raising of the ground level, probably to assist with the creation of the Ha Ha which is immediately to the south of the excavation area (Plate 9). Previous archaeological investigations at the West Wing of Lathom House revealed somewhat similar deposits, interpreted as post-Civil War destruction material used to fill the earlier defensive moat (Baldwin 2010).
- 4.3.3 The ceramic drains crossing the excavation area were probably added later, as these comprised extruded D-shaped tiles which were first introduced in the mid-19th century.



Plate 9: The surviving Ha Ha to the south of the excavation area showing the change in ground level, looking north-west (The Bungalow is on the left of the photograph)

5 Finds Assessment

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 All finds were returned to the Eden Heritage Ltd offices where they were assessed under the direction of Martin Railton, Managing Director. All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance for finds work* (CIfA 2020a). Artefacts were assessed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011).

5.1.2 A small assemblage of post-medieval ceramics and clay pipe was recovered from made ground (**102**) and this has been used to provide a *terminus post quem* for the deposit.

5.1.3 The total numbers of artefacts recovered during excavation are summarised in Table 1 below.

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Period	Notes
102	Ceramic	4	43	Post-medieval	Brown glazed earthenware fragments x 4
102	Clay Pipe	3	16	Post-medieval	Undecorated pipe stem fragments x 3

Table 1: Artefacts recovered during the excavation.

5.2 Post-medieval Ceramics

5.2.1 A total of four small sherds of post-medieval ceramics, were recovered during the excavation. The sherds were in good condition, suggesting they have not moved far from the point of deposition.

5.2.2 A narrow range of post-medieval fabrics were present, comprising four sherds of lead glazed red earthenware of possible 18th to 19th century date. All four sherds were body sherds, two of which were cojoining. The sherds were from utilitarian vessels, probably storage jars, bowls or jugs.

5.2.3 The sherds were of very limited research value but confirm the presence of nearby domestic activity.

5.3 Clay Pipe

5.3.1 Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered during the investigation. The pipe fragments were also in good condition, suggesting they have not moved far from the point of deposition.

5.3.2 The fragments were all undecorated stem fragments up to 48mm in length with a diameter of between 9mm and 10mm. No decoration was noted, and no maker's marks were present.

5.3.3 The stem-hole size was measured to give an idea of the date for the fragments although this should only be considered a rough guide. All three stems from layer (**102**) had a similar stem-hole size of 2.8mm indicating a possible late 17th to early 18th century date (The National Pipe Archive 2025).

6 Conclusions

6.1 Interpretation

- 6.1.1 A medieval fortified house or castle is believed to have predated Lathom House, being described at the time of the Civil War as being very strong with a curtain wall with six towers, surrounded by a defensive moat. This house was besieged in 1644-45 and largely destroyed. Lathom House was built on, or near, the site of the original house between 1724 and 1734 to the design of Giacomo Leoni.
- 6.1.2 A stone structure was revealed in one of the foundation trenches during the watching brief. This took the form of a revetment cutting the natural bedrock at the north-east corner of the excavated area. The full extent of the structure is unknown as it continued outside the trench, and no evidence was revealed with which to date the structure. It is evident the structure was demolished, and the area covered over with a significant deposit of demolition rubble, broadly dated to the late 17th to 19th centuries. It is suggested this may relate to landscaping associated with the 18th century house.
- 6.1.3 Although the moat was not identified during the watching brief, the depth of this material suggests the presence of the infilled moat to the west of the proposed new garage (Figure 8). The made ground probably relates to the creation of the Ha Ha which is located immediately to the south.

6.2 Research Potential

- 1.1.1 The Lathom Hall site holds the potential for archaeological remains associated with the Civil War period and the 18th century mansion. Not only was Lathom House put under siege during the English Civil War, but earthworks are present in the surrounding landscape which may relate to this period.
- 1.1.2 Additional work is needed to confirm the exact location of the defensive moat, as the depth of excavation was insufficient to confirm this feature. The stone structure does appear to have been located inside the moat, but further evidence is required to confirm this and its purpose.
- 1.1.3 As this watching brief was required to monitor the excavations associated with the construction of the new garage, no further work is required. However, it is recommended that any future development in the vicinity should be subject to a similar scheme of archaeological work.

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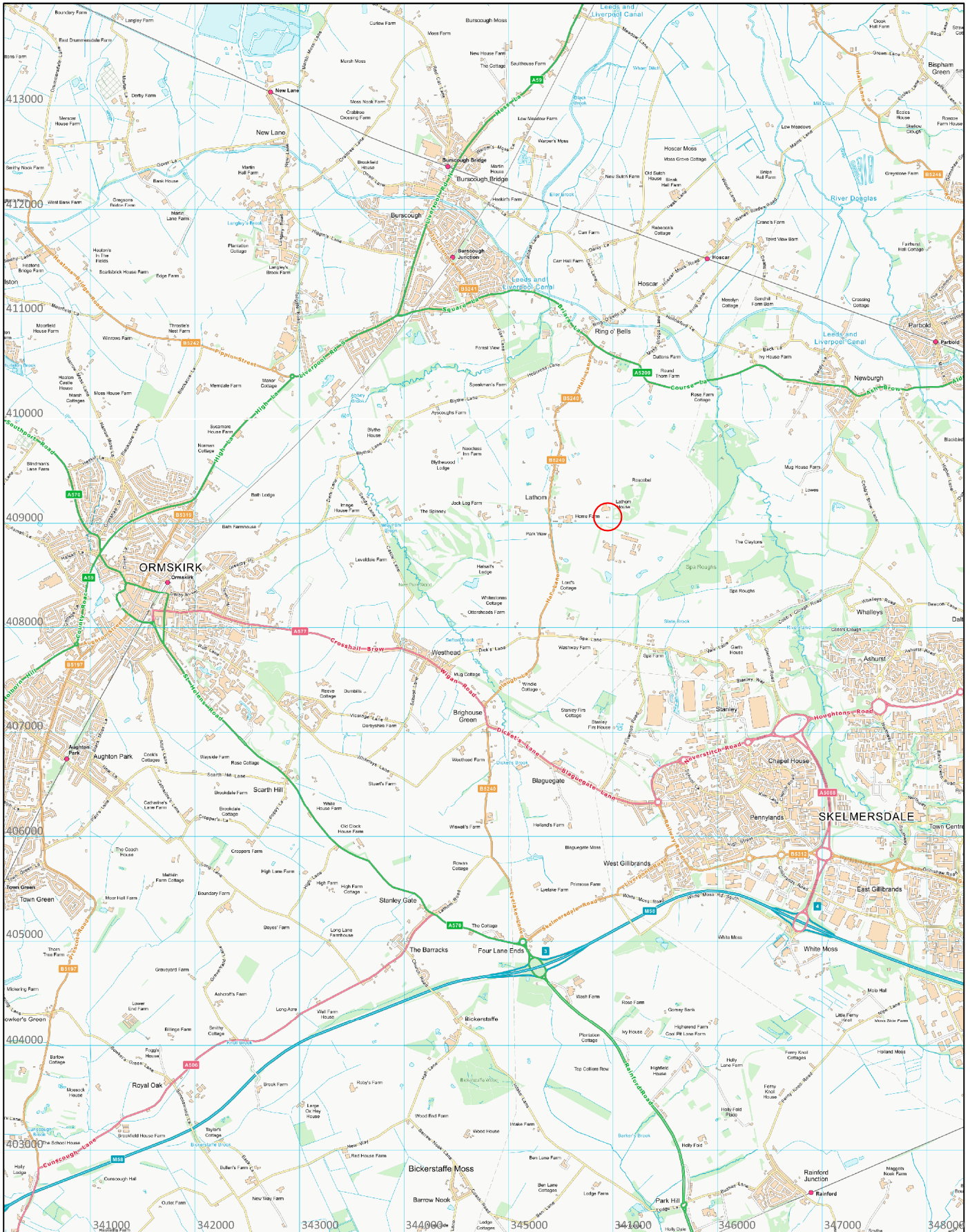
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APPENDIX 1: FIGURES






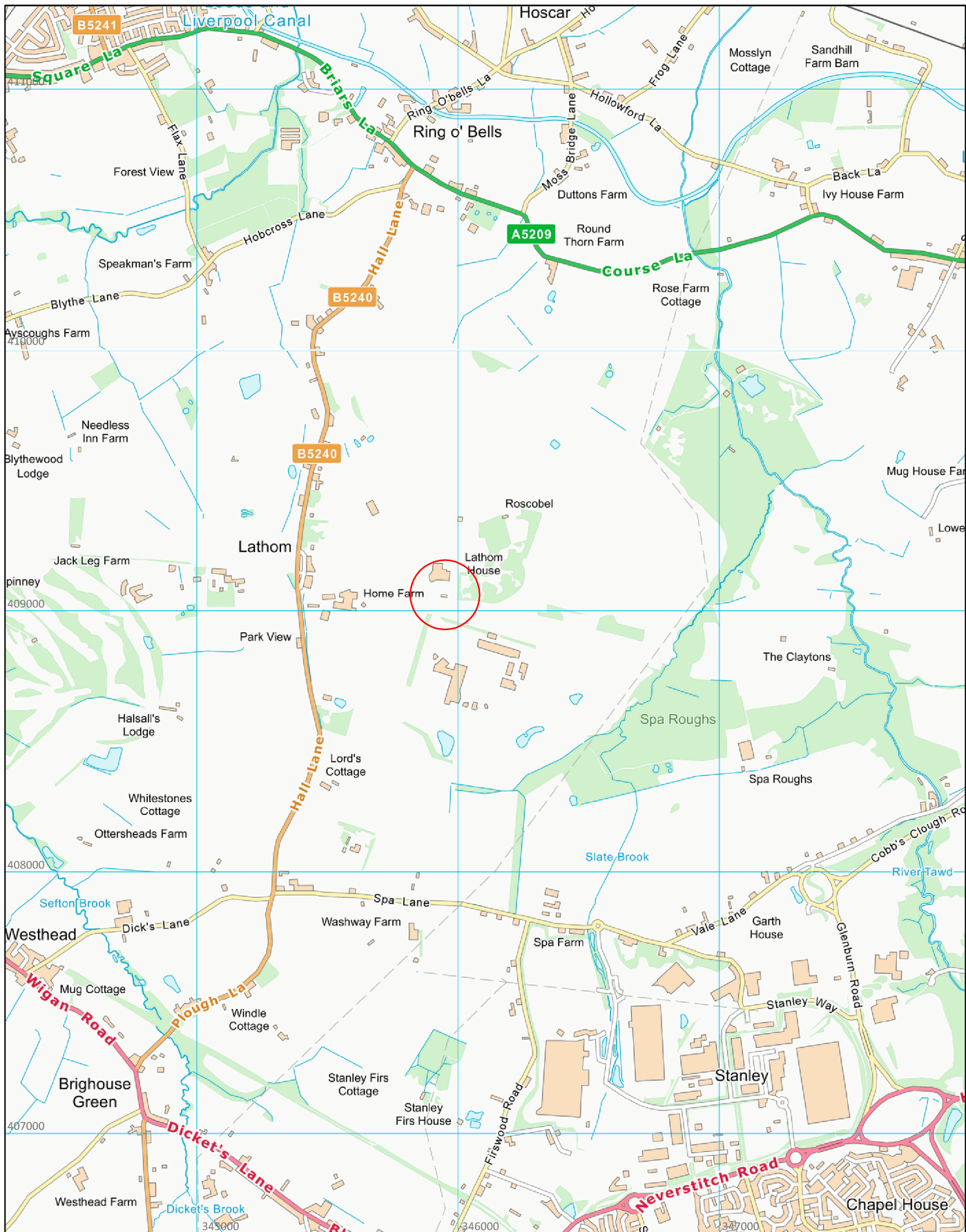
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Figure 1: Site Location.



Eden Heritage
 Archaeology & Heritage Services

Eden Heritage Ltd 2025

PROJECT: Land at The Bungalow, Lathom Park
 Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire

CLIENT: Mr Danny Johnson


REPORT: EH354/02


SCALE: 1:20,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: MDR

DATE: January 2025

KEY:

 site location



Contains OS data © Crown
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Figure 2: Detailed Site Location.



PROJECT:

Land at The Bungalow
Lathom Park, Lathom
Ormskirk, Lancashire

CLIENT:

Mr Danny Johnson

REPORT: EH354/02

SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: MDR

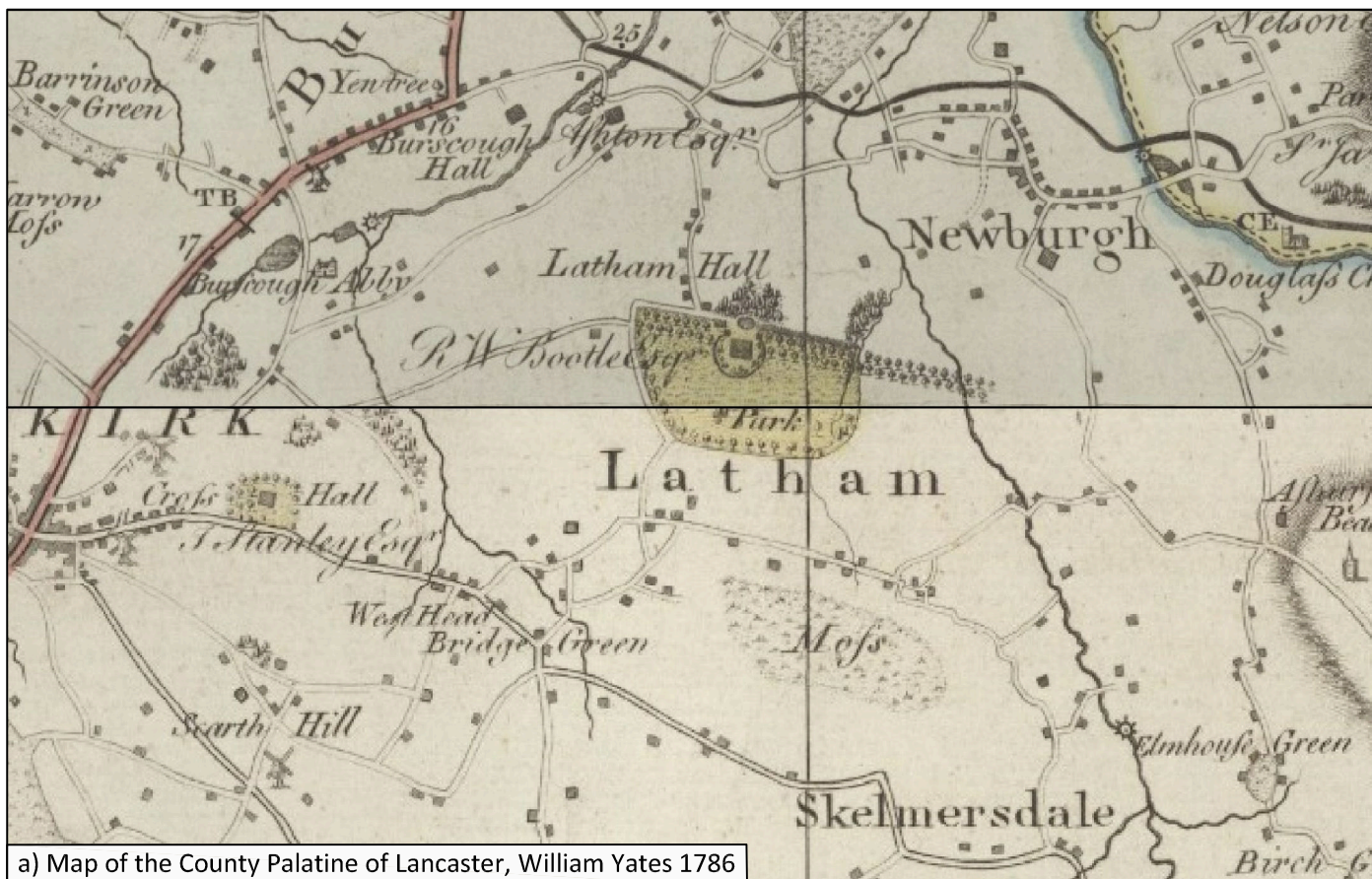
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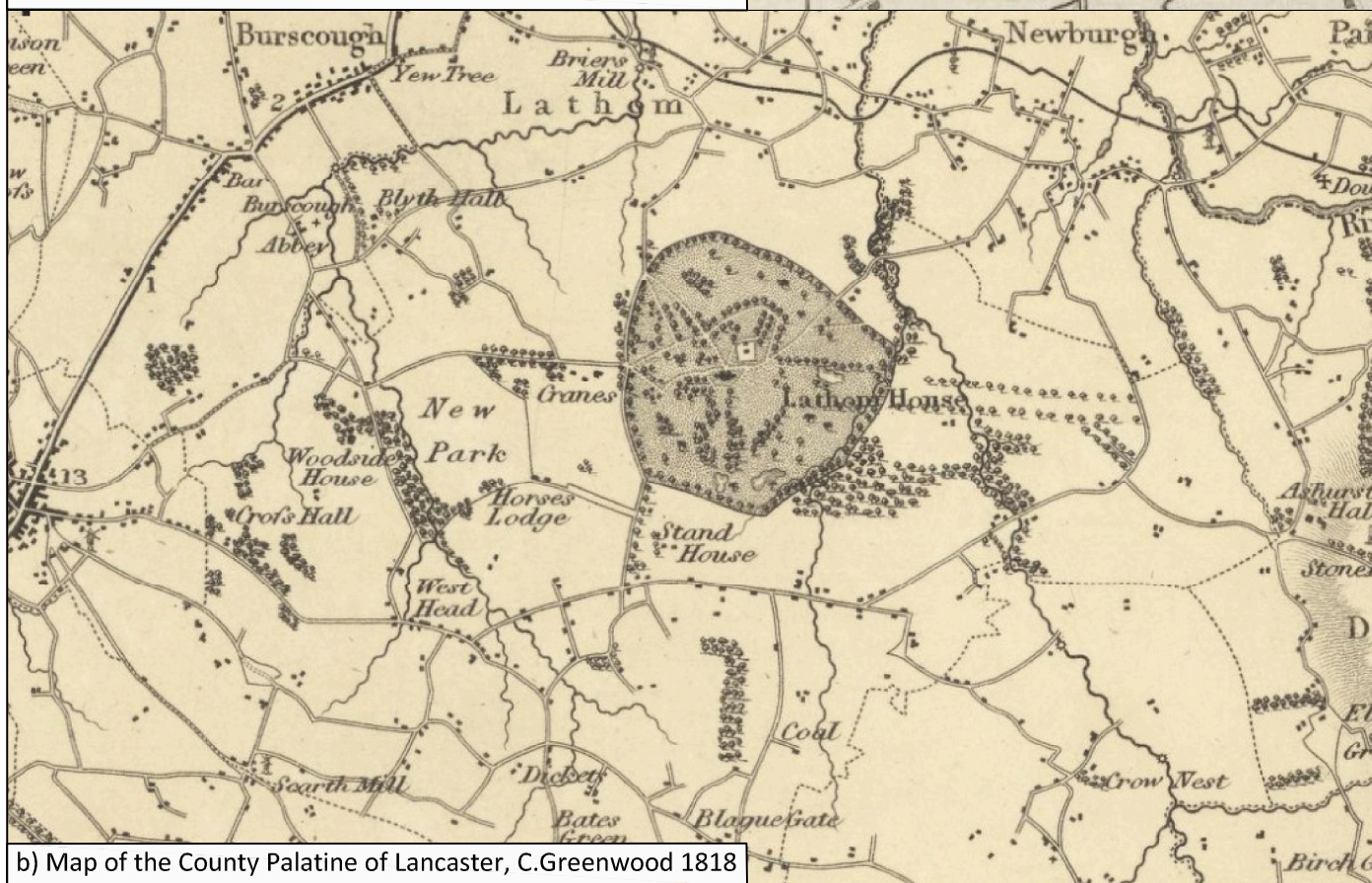
 outline of garage



Figure 3: Satellite imagery (2001).



a) Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, William Yates 1786



b) Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, C. Greenwood 1818


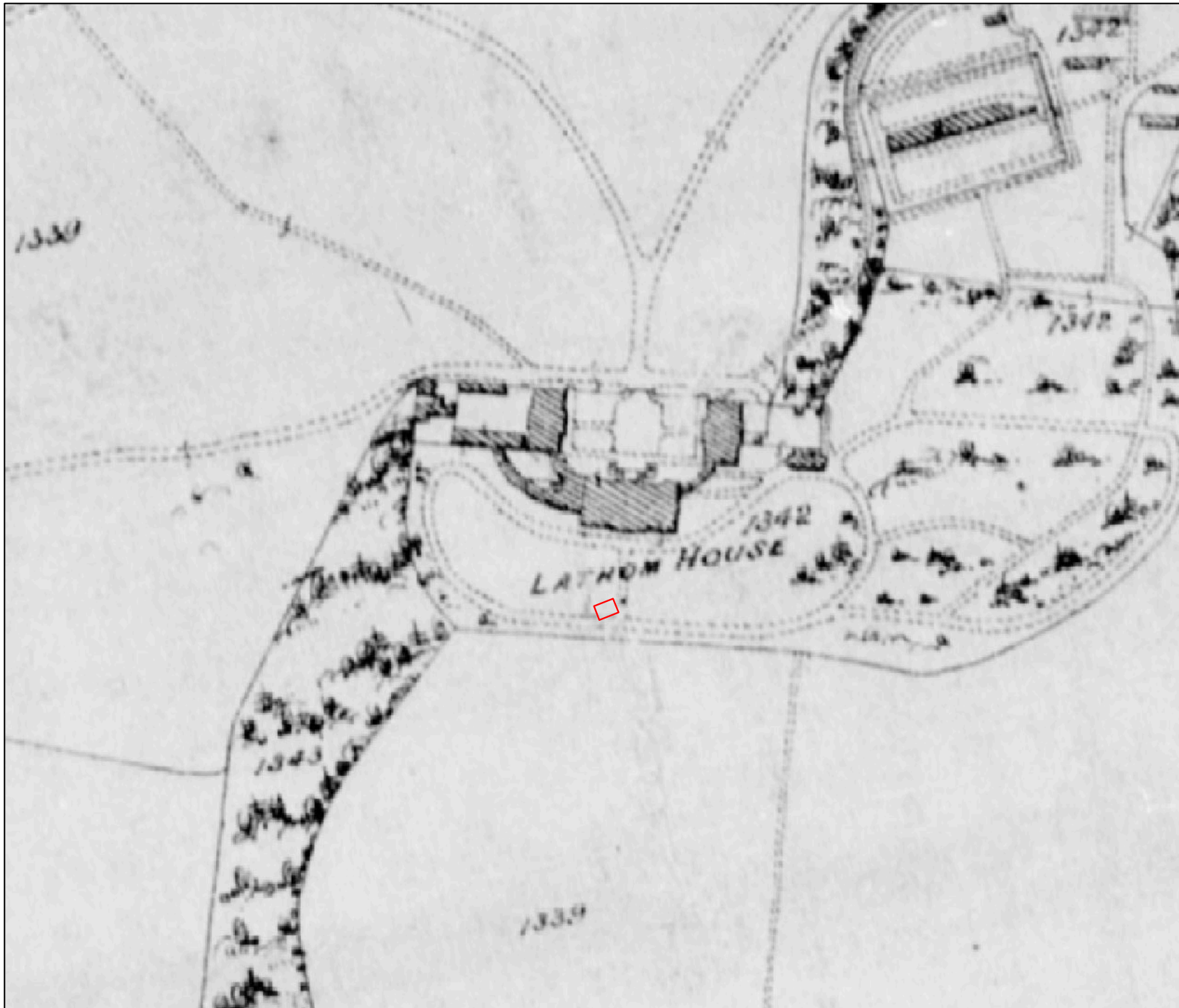
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	CLIENT:	Mr Danny Johnson	
	REPORT:	EH354/02	
	SCALE:	1:50,000 at A4 (approximate)	
	DRAWN BY:	MDR	
DATE:	January 2025		



Figure 4: Extracts from county maps of Lancaster (1786 & 1818).



PROJECT:

Land at The Bungalow
Lathom Park, Lathom
Ormskirk, Lancashire

CLIENT:

Mr Danny Johnson

REPORT: EH354/02

SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: MDR

DATE: January 2025

KEY:

 outline of garage



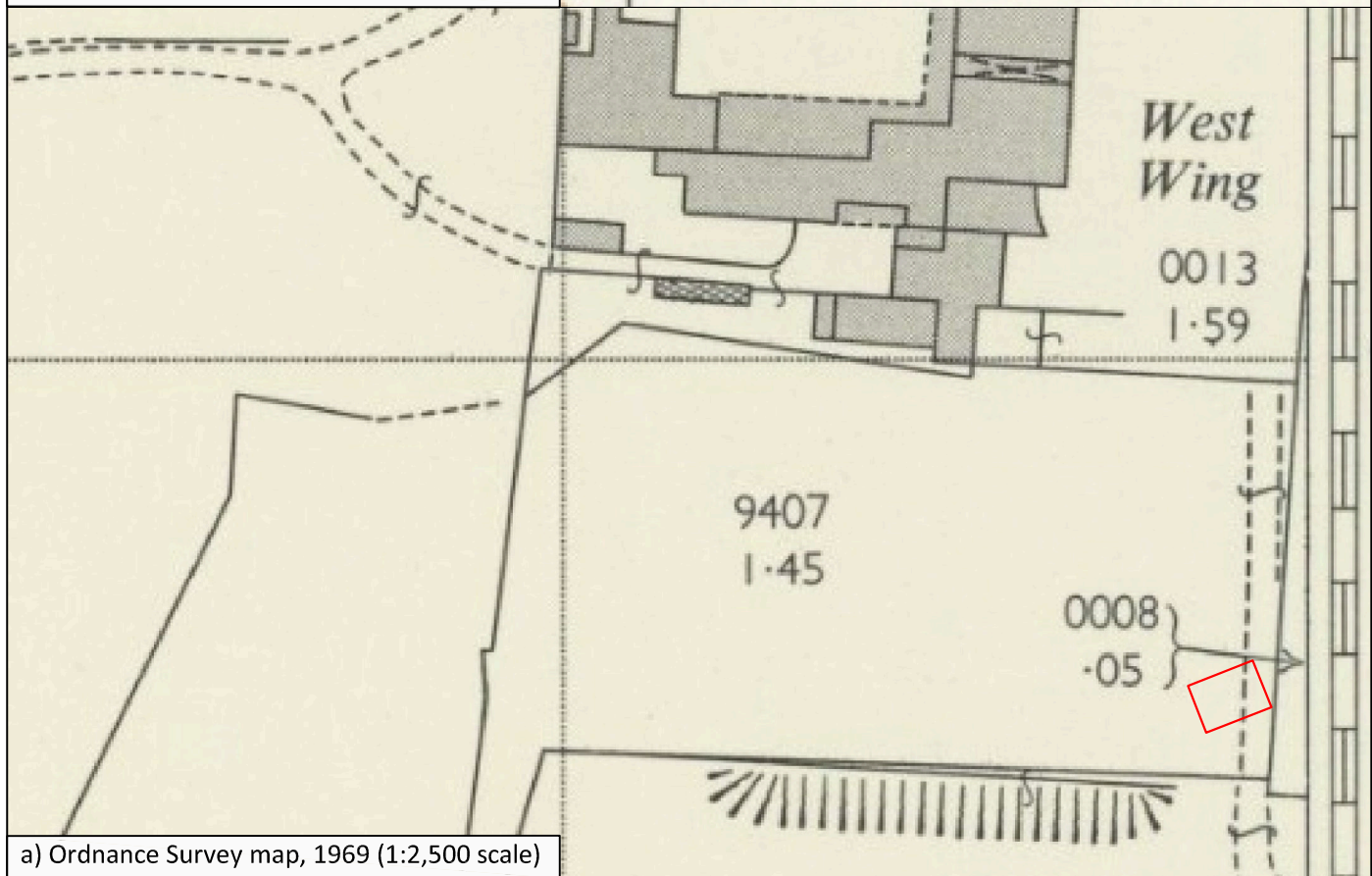
Figure 5: Extract from the Map of the Township of Lathom in the Parish of Ormskirk (1846)



Figure 6: Extracts from historic Ordnance Survey maps (1848-1928).



a) Ordnance Survey map, 1955 (1:10,000 scale)



a) Ordnance Survey map, 1969 (1:2,500 scale)




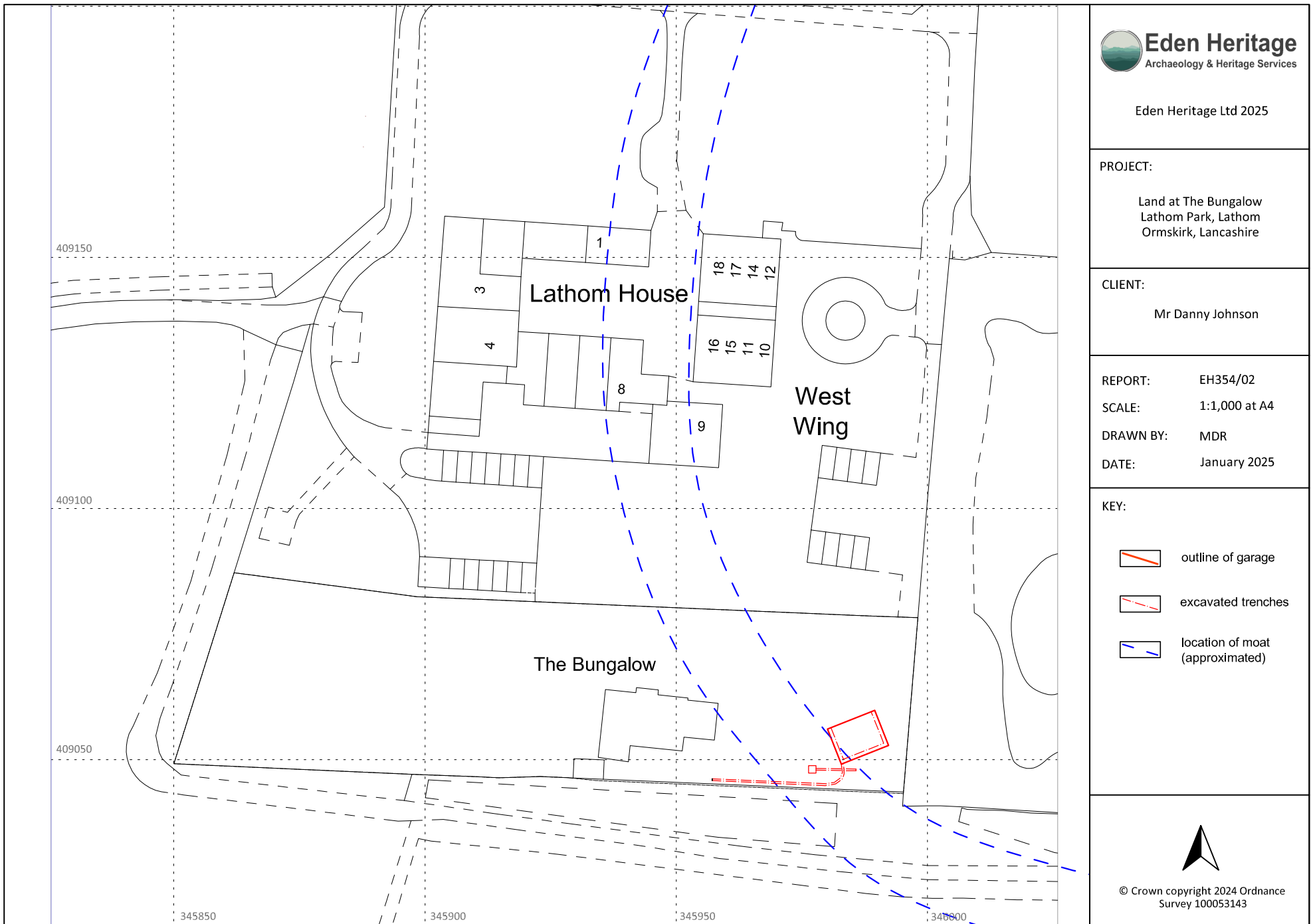
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	CLIENT:	Mr Danny Johnson		
	REPORT:	EH354/02		
	SCALE:	1:2,500 (top) and 1:1,000 at A4		
	DRAWN BY:	MDR		
DATE:	January 2025			

Figure 7: Extracts from 20th century Ordnance Survey maps (1955 & 1969).



PROJECT:
Land at The Bungalow
Lathom Park, Lathom
Ormskirk, Lancashire

CLIENT:
Mr Danny Johnson

REPORT: EH354/02
SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4
DRAWN BY: MDR
DATE: January 2025

KEY:




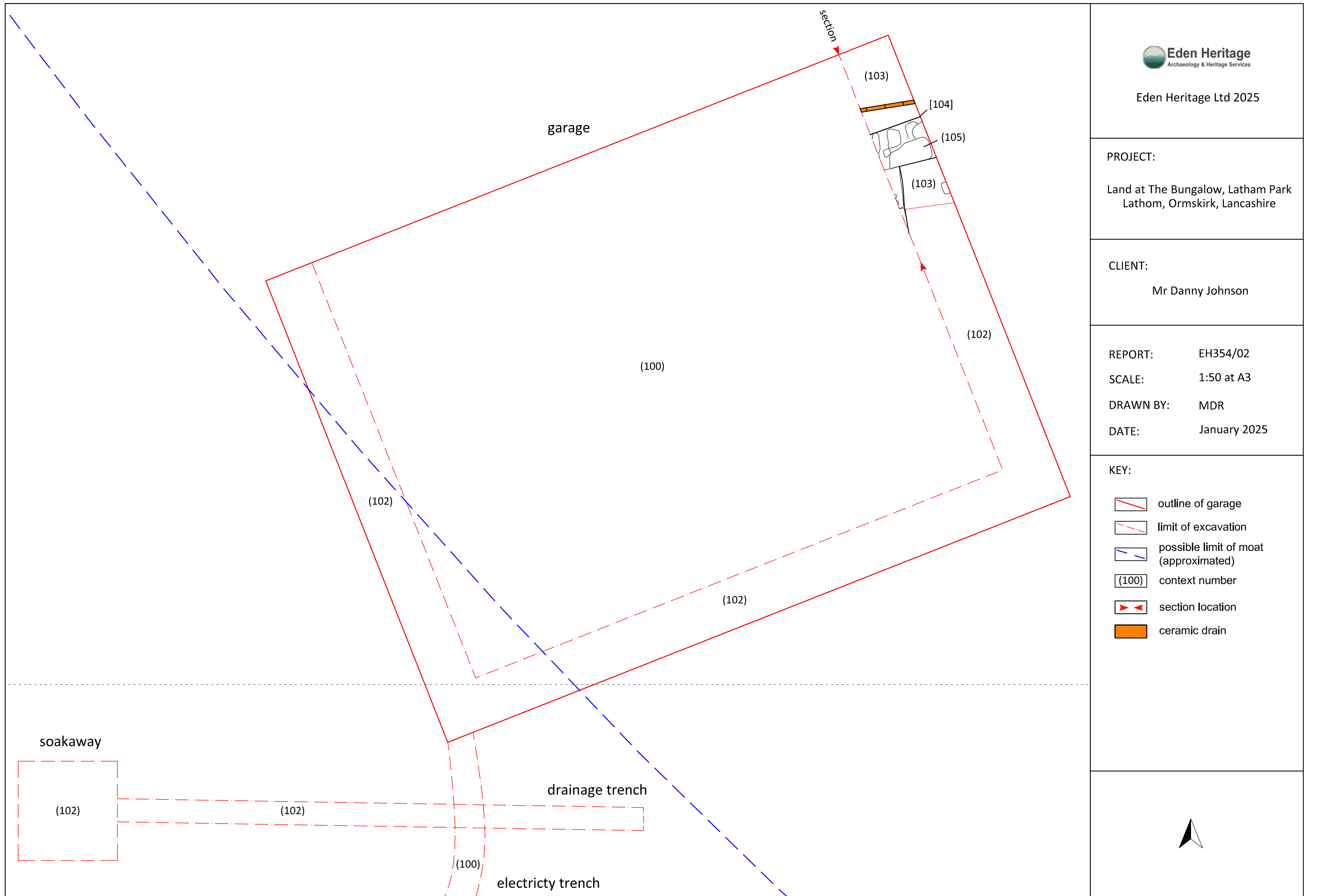
-  outline of garage
-  excavated trenches
-  location of moat (approximated)

Figure 8: Location of the proposed new garage in relation to the former moat.



PROJECT:

Land at The Bungalow, Latham Park
Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire

CLIENT:

Mr Danny Johnson

REPORT: EH354/02

SCALE: 1:50 at A3

DRAWN BY: MDR

DATE: January 2025

KEY:







-  outline of garage
-  limit of excavation
-  possible limit of moat (approximated)
-  context number
-  section location
-  ceramic drain



Figure 9: Locations of excavated features and deposits.

PROJECT:

Land at The Bungalow
Lathom Park, Lathom
Ormskirk, Lancashire

CLIENT:

Mr Danny Johnson





REPORT: EH354/02

SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: MDR

DATE: January 2025

KEY:

-  limit of excavation
-  context number
-  section location
-  ceramic drain

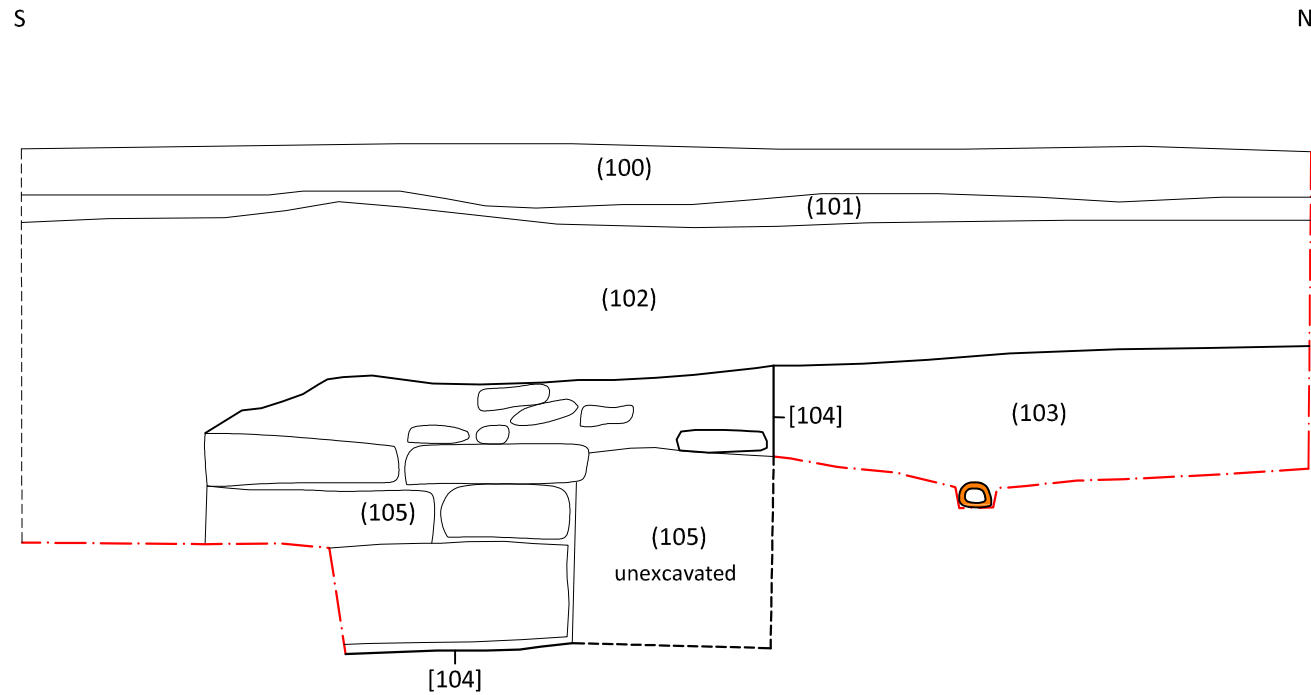


Figure 10: Section through structure [104].

**Heritage Impact Assessment
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
Historic Landscape Survey
Written Scheme of Investigation**

**Geophysical Survey
Trial Trench Evaluation
Archaeological Excavation
Archaeological Watching Briefs**

