
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE
INVESTIGATION
ON LAND AT THE OLD HALL,
ASHWELL,
RUTLAND
(ATOH08)**

**Work Undertaken For
Ancaster Properties Limited**

August 2008

Report Compiled by
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APS Report No. **102/08**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation
at a new garage,
Old Hall, Ashwell,
Rutland
ATOH 08

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisors	Andrew Failes, Jim Robertson
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Sue Unsworth
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Post-excavation Analyst	Gary Taylor



Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Dale Trimble	 Tom Lane
Date: 29/08/08	Date: 29-08-08

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological strip, map and sample investigation was undertaken during groundwork for a new garage at The Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.

The site is in an area of medieval and later settlement remains, part of which is protected as a Scheduled Monument. The investigation site falls outside the limits of the Scheduled Monument. Previous investigations on the site of the garage had revealed medieval ditches and possible pits.

The investigation revealed further parts of the remains encountered in the earlier evaluation, and suggested that one of these was probably a well. This had been backfilled in the 12th-14th centuries. In addition, other ditches and pits, also medieval in date, were recorded.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Ancaster Properties Limited to undertake a scheme of archaeological investigation at The Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.

A Planning Application (FUL/2007/1127/MT) was submitted to Rutland County Council for the construction of a garage at the site. Previous investigations of the development area had revealed medieval remains. In consequence, the planning authority issued consent for the development, subject to conditions that including carrying out further investigations. These investigations comprised a strip, map and sample excavation during groundwork for the construction of a new garage.

The investigation was carried out between the 22nd and 28th July 2008, in accordance

with a specification (Appendix 1) prepared by APS and approved by Rutland County Council's archaeological advisor.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Ashwell is located 5km north of Oakham and 12km southeast of Melton Mowbray in the county of Rutland (Fig. 1).

The site lies 230m to the northeast of the village centre and parish church, northeast of the angle of Cottesmore and Teigh Roads, at National Grid Reference SK 8654 1292 (Fig. 2). Located on the north-facing slope of a minor valley, the site is at a height of approximately 105m OD.

Soils in the west of the area are of the Wickham 2 Association, fine silty over clayey soils and clayey soils, with ferritic brown earths of the Banbury Association to the east (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These soils are developed over the junction of the Jurassic Middle Lias Marlstone Rock bed and silts and clays (BGS 1978).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Ashwell is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c.1086. Referred to as *Exewelle* the name derives from the Old English and means 'ash stream' (Ekwall 1989, 16). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by Earl Hugh and contained 16 acres of meadow (Thorn 1980).

Extant remains of the medieval period comprise the church of St Mary, the earliest elements of which date to c. 1200 (Pevsner 1992, 452). Additionally, the investigation site lies within an area of earthwork remains of a medieval settlement. These remains include house platforms, hollow ways and trackways, agricultural enclosures, a water mill and mill ponds, and later gardens at the Old Hall. Much of this area is designated as a Scheduled Monument (No 30263), though the current investigation site is outside the

boundary of the Scheduled area. Further to the north is an extensive area of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

The neo-Elizabethan mansion of Ashwell Hall was built in 1879. The hall is of stone with a large gabled stable court and bell spire at the back (Pevsner 1992, 453).

Previous investigations at the site revealed medieval remains including ditches and possible pits or tree hollows. Medieval pottery was moderately abundant in the ditches, suggesting the proximity of settlement of the period (Parker 2008).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits. The objectives were to determine the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, significance and nature of social, economic and industrial activities on the site.

4. METHODS

Site stripping and excavations of foundation trenches was carried out with a midi-digger fitted with a 0.9m wide toothless ditching bucket, working under archaeological supervision. Where archaeological remains were revealed they were cleaned, planned, investigated and recorded. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections and plans were drawn at scales of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation the records were

checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating (Appendix 3).

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, 4 phases were identified:

- Phase 1: Natural deposits
- Phase 2: Undated deposits
- Phase 3: Medieval deposits
- Phase 4: Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Exposed in the foundation trenches were natural deposits of greyish clay (553, 563) and red-brown clay with ironstone (552), the latter only evident in the southwestern part of the site (Fig. 5).

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Overlying the natural deposits were layers of brown clayey silt (552, 569), interpreted as subsoil (Fig. 5, Sections 1 and 5). In the northern part of the site the subsoil was truncated by a steep-sided, flat-based feature [566]. This was over 2m wide and about 1m deep (Fig. 5, Section 5; Plates 2 and 6) and was filled with stony brown sandy silty clay (561). No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

Phase 3 Medieval deposits

In the central part of the site the natural was cut by a sub-circular pit [562]. This was filled with stony brown silty clay (561) that contained frequent charcoal flecks and pieces of pottery of 12th-13th

century date (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, Section 4; Plates 3 and 4).

At the northeastern corner of the site the natural was cut by a large circular feature over 3m across [560]. This had a staggered profile, the upper part gently sloping, while the lower sides were steep. The feature contained three fills (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, Section 3; Plate 5), the lowest of these a red-brown silty clay (559) and above this was blue-grey silty clay (558). This latter deposit contained frequent charcoal flecks and several fragments of 12th-13th century pottery from a single vessel (Fig. 6; Appendix 3). Above (558) was a stony brown clayey silt (557) which formed the major fill of the feature, and from which sherds of 12th-14th century pottery were recovered. This feature is interpreted as a well or large pit, with the upper two fills (557-8) being deliberate backfilling.

At the northern edge of the site the subsoil was truncated by a cut of indeterminate form [568]. Approximately 1.2m wide and 0.6m deep, this had sloping convex sides (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, Section 5; Plate 6) and was filled with brown silty clay (567). No artefacts were recovered from this feature. However, it has a comparable profile to, and is in line with, ditch [523] encountered just to the south in the earlier evaluation of the site (Fig. 5; Parker 2008). Moreover, [523] was filled with a grey-brown clayey silt (522) similar to (567). A moderate quantity of 11th-12th century pottery was recovered from (522). It is considered that [523] and [568], and their respective fills, are part of the same feature. On this basis, [568] is interpreted as a medieval ditch.

Above ditch [568], and also the undated feature [566], was a layer of brown silty clay up to 0.6m thick (564). This is thought to be made-ground (Fig. 5, Sections 4 and 5).

Phase 4 Recent deposits

Overlying the Phase 3 made ground (564)

and well fill (557) was a layer of crushed pink stone (556). This recent surface dressing was truncated by a service trench [555] containing yellow hardcore and sand (554). Topsoil (550) measured 0.2m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of grey clay and brown ironstone were encountered, the latter localized and only in the southwestern part of the site. These materials are representative of the local geological deposits, and also indicate the site crosses a geological boundary.

Above the natural were subsoil deposits. These were cut by a ditch or possible pit [566]. Its near-vertical sides and flat base may suggest that this is some form of bedding trench, perhaps for agricultural or horticultural purposes, though it was undated.

Cutting the natural, sub-circular pit [562] contained 12th-13th century pottery and was possibly used for refuse disposal. This was close to another possible pit [516] of similar size encountered in the earlier evaluation (Parker 2008). Pit [516] also contained medieval (11th-12th century) pottery, together with animal bone. Cumulatively, the evidence of these two pits found in the separate investigations perhaps indicates that this area of the site served for refuse disposal in the medieval period.

On the eastern side of the investigation area was a large circular feature [560], identified as a probable well. Containing 12th-14th century Stanion-Lyveden ware pottery, this had been deliberately backfilled in the medieval period. Comparison with the results of the earlier evaluation indicated that a feature [526] examined in that investigation was probably the western side of this well. In addition to the compatible shape in plan, [526] had a shallow profile, like the upper

part of [560], and contained similar Stanion-Lyveden ware pottery of 12th-13th century date (Parker 2008).

Between this well and the rubbish dumping area was a ditch. Aligned north-south, the northern terminal was encountered in this strip, map and sample investigation, whereas a section of its length had been identified in the earlier evaluation. Pottery from the ditch found in the evaluation was 12th-13th century and the feature probably functioned as a boundary and for drainage down the natural slope of the area.

Above this ditch was a possible made-ground deposit (564), up to 0.6m thick but diminishing to the east. This may be colluvium, or perhaps dumped soil.

Modern deposits comprised a recent surface dressing of crushed stone, a service trench and the topsoil.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological investigation was undertaken during groundwork on land at the Old Hall, Ashwell, as previous investigations at the site had revealed medieval remains.

Medieval pits, ditches and a well were revealed. Consolidating the results of this investigation with those from the earlier evaluation suggests the site incorporated a refuse disposal area of rubbish pits which was separated by a drainage/boundary ditch from a well. The well had gone out of use and been backfilled in the 12th-14th century.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S Boccock of Ancaster Properties Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-

excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisors: Andrew Failes, Jim Robertson
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: David Hopkins, Sue Unsworth
 Post-excavation analysis: Gary Taylor

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services
- BGS British Geological Survey
- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
- OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)

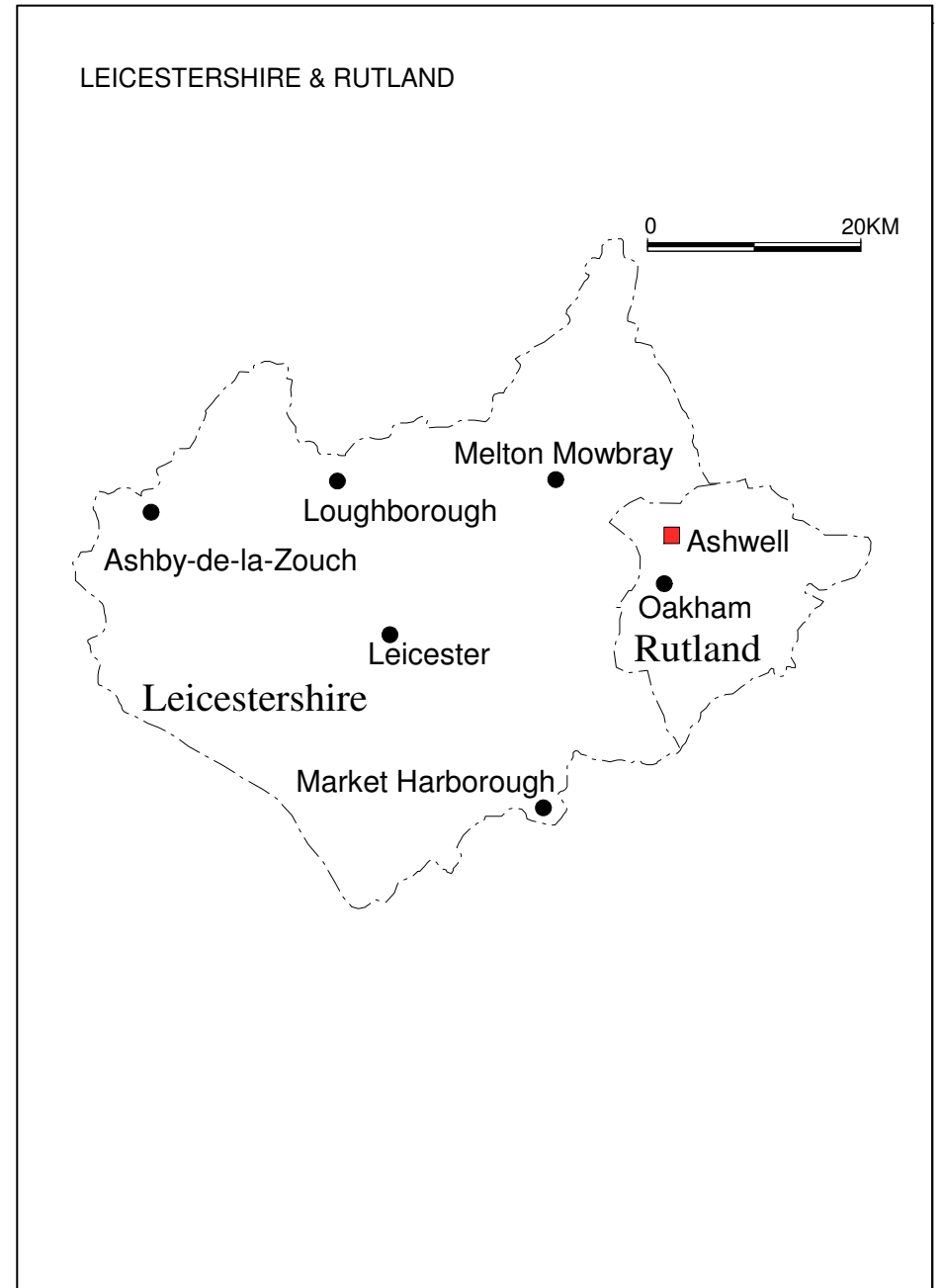
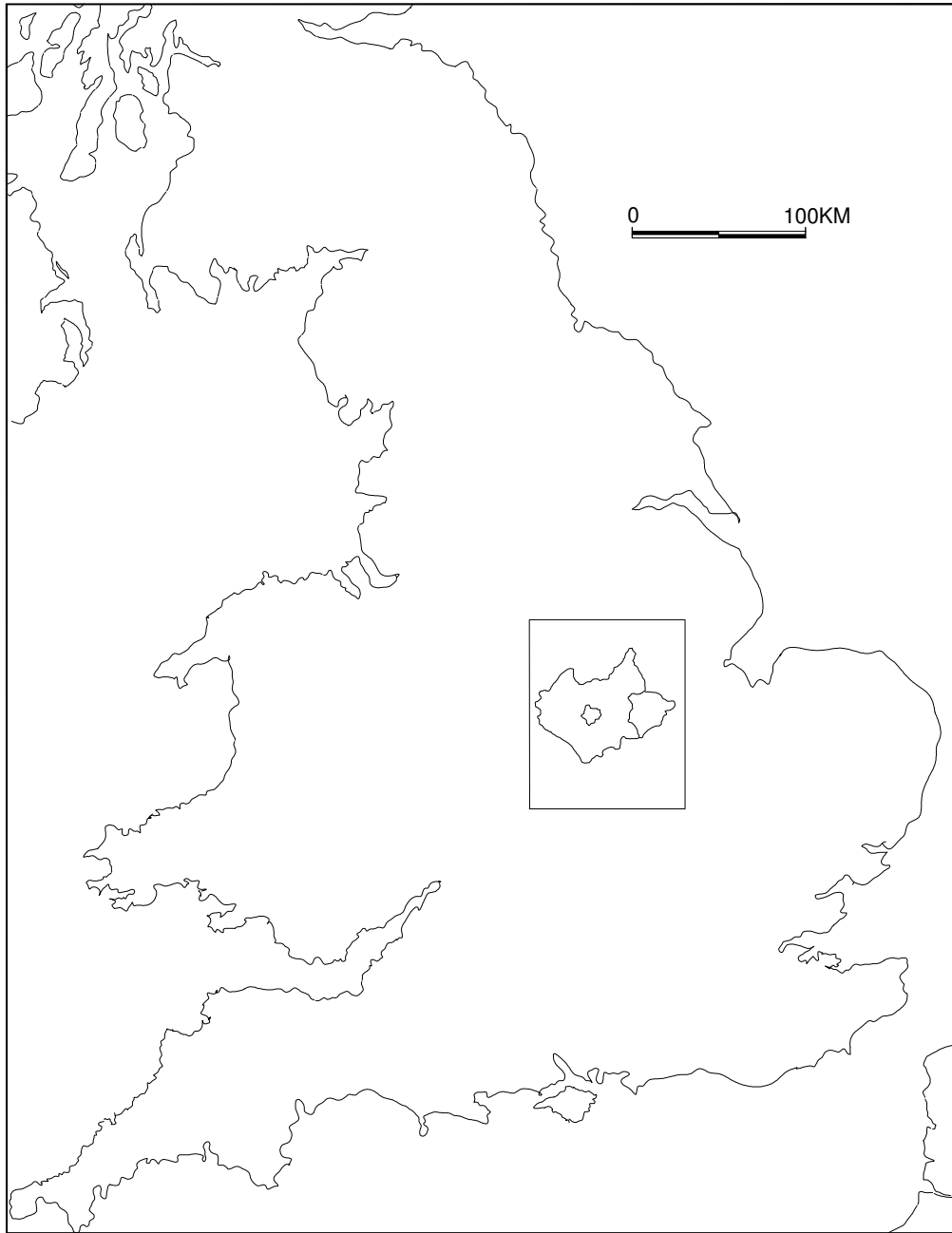


Figure 1 General Location Plan



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 Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Ashwell, The Old Hall ATOH08	
Scale 1:20,000	Report No: 102/08

Figure 2 Site Location Map

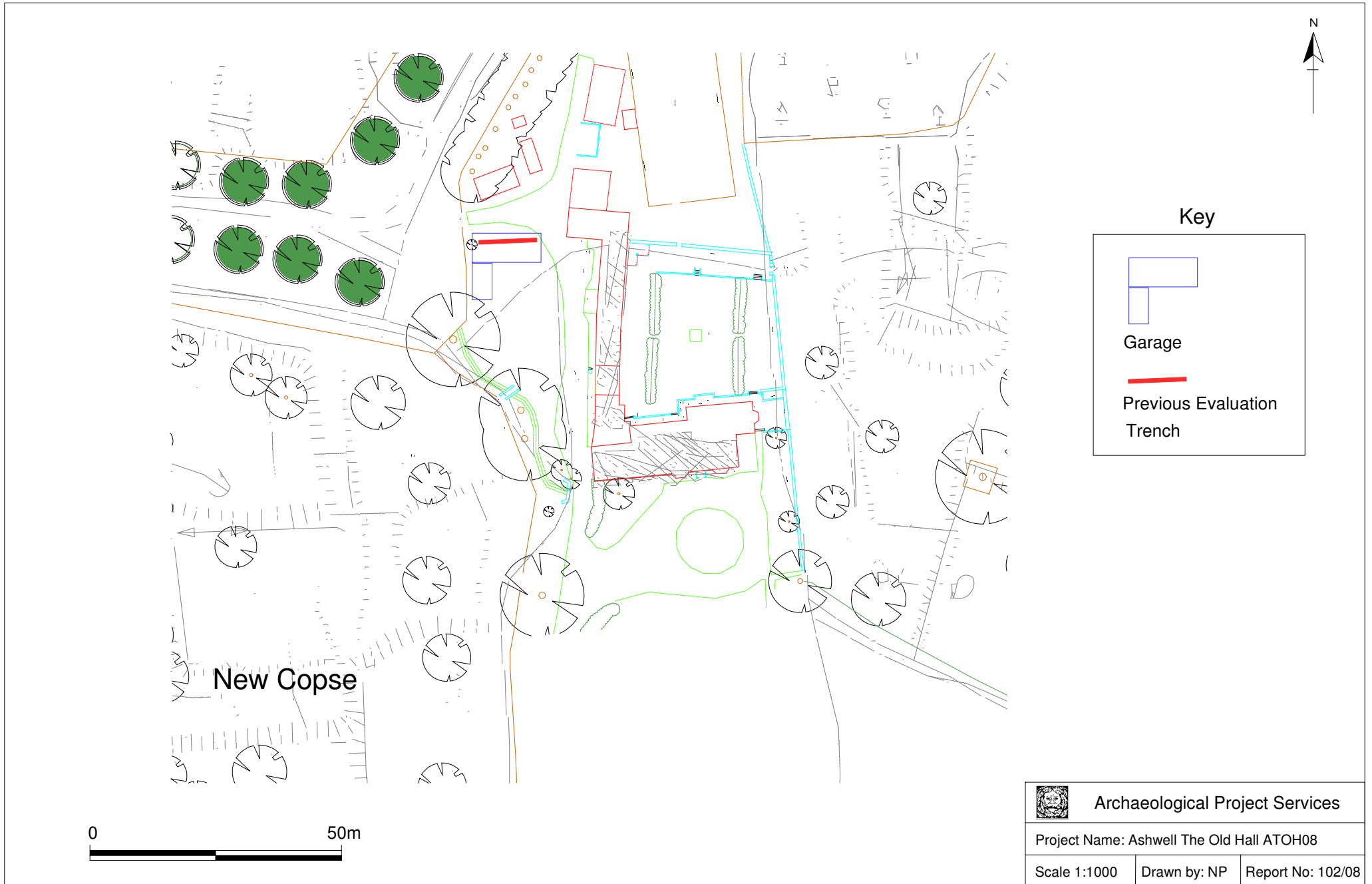


Figure 3. Site plan

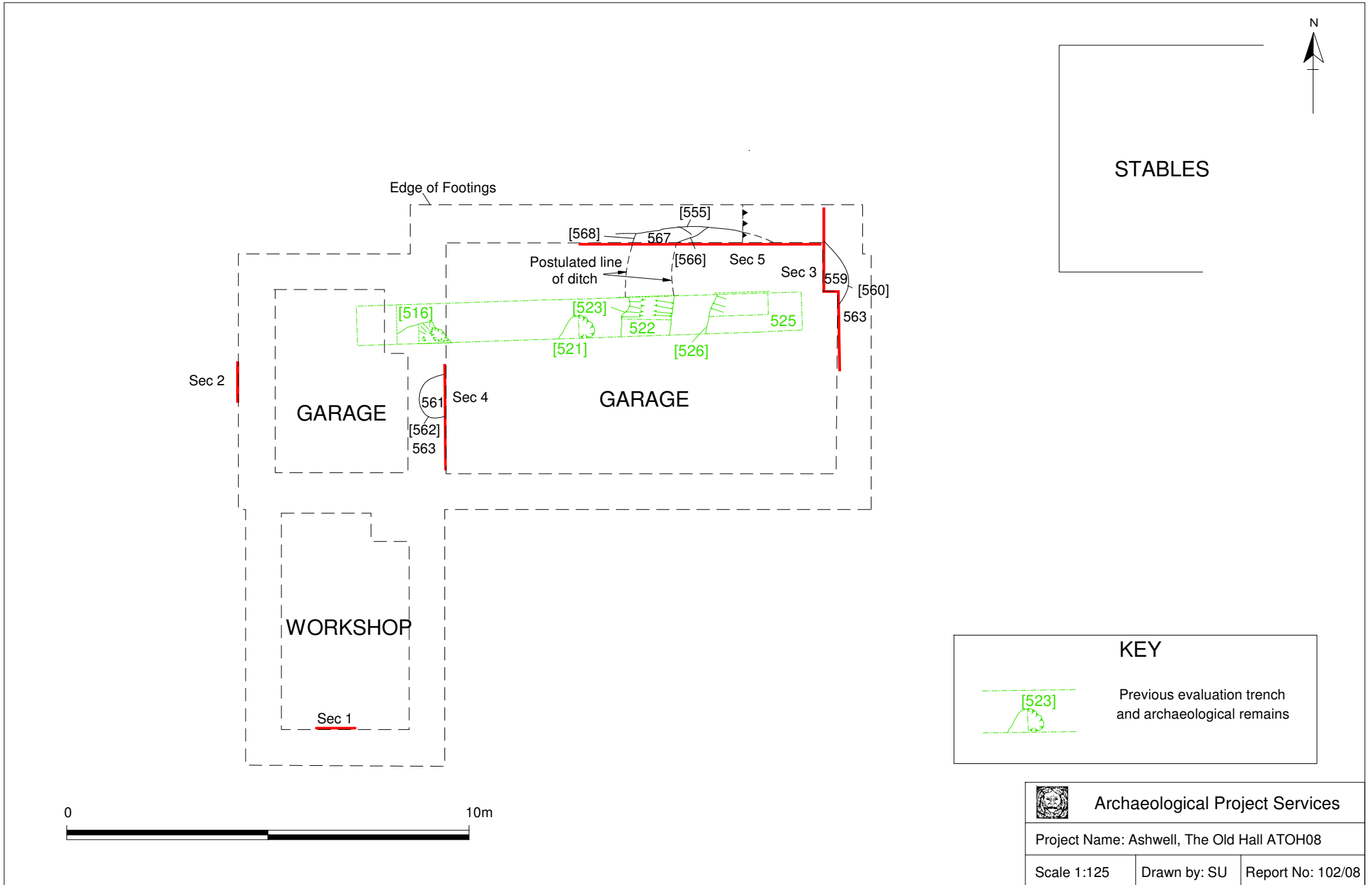
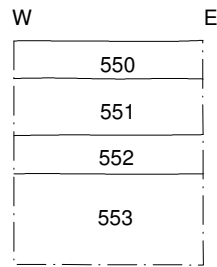
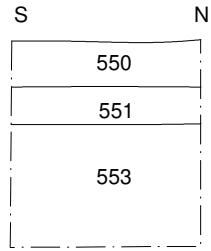


Figure 4 Plan of Garage, showing archaeological remains and previous evaluation trench

Sec 1



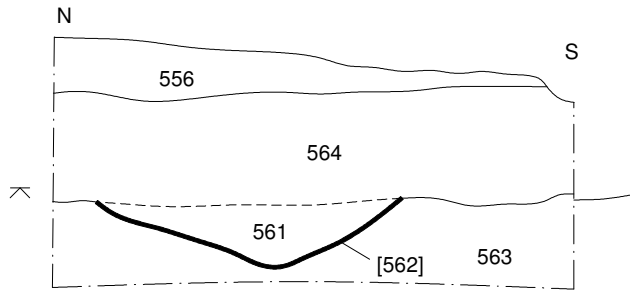
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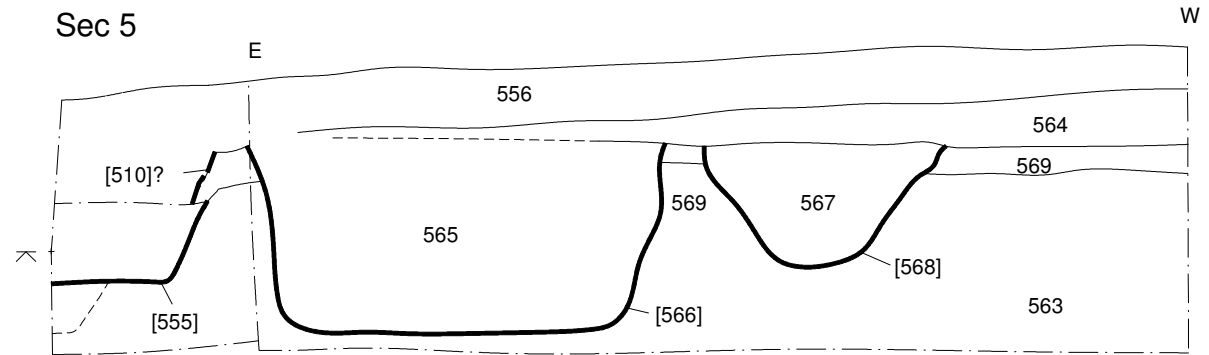
Sec 3



Sec 4



Sec 5




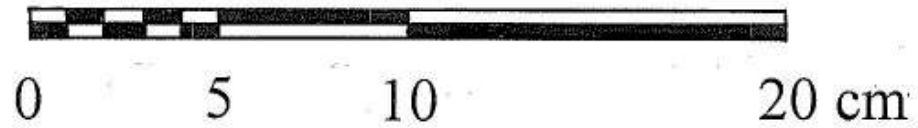
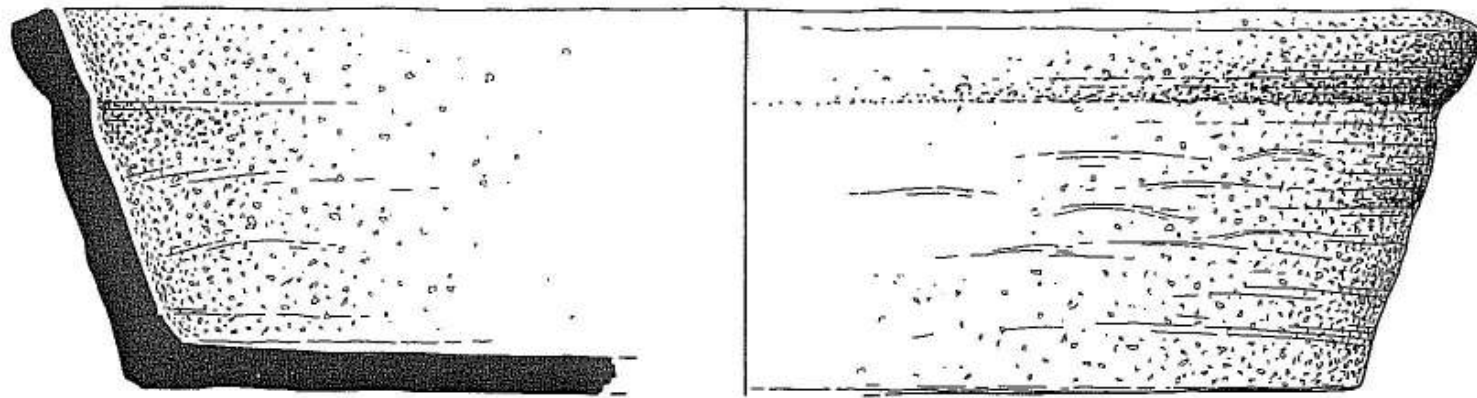
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Ashwell, the Old Hall ATOH08		
Scale 1:40	Drawn by: SU	Report No: 102/08

Figure 5 Sections




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Ashwell, the Old Hall ATOH08		
Scale 1:2	Drawn by: DH	Report No: 102/08

Figure 6 Stanion-Lyveden ware dish from (558)



Plate 1 General Site View, looking west



Plate 2 Pit [566], looking west



Plate 3 Pit [562], looking north (N arrow pointing in wrong direction)



Plate 4 Pit [562] in section, looking east (N arrow pointing in wrong direction)



Plate 5 Well/pit [560], looking northwest



Plate 6 Cuts [568] and [566], looking southeast



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Project Designs

Desk-top Assessments

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Appendix 1

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
(STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE)
AT
THE OLD HALL
ASHWELL
RUTLAND**

**PREPARED FOR
ANCASTER PROPERTIES LTD**

**BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21**

JULY 2008



1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A programme of archaeological investigation involving a strip, map and sample excavation is required for the construction of a garage at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.*
- 1.2 *The site is archaeologically sensitive, located in an area of medieval and later settlement and garden remains, part of which is a scheduled ancient monument. The current site falls outside the limits of the scheduled monument. However, an archaeological evaluation of the site revealed medieval ditches and possible pits.*
- 1.3 *The investigation will involve supervision of the stripping of the site, planning, sample excavation and recording of archaeological remains. Features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological strip, map and sample investigation for a proposed garage at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Ashwell is located 5km north of Oakham in the county of Rutland. The Old Hall is on the north side of the village, to the north of Cottesmore Road, at national grid reference SK 865 138. The proposed garage will be a little to the northwest of the hall.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (FUL/2007/1127/MT) for the construction of a garage has been granted by Rutland County Council with conditions for an archaeological scheme of work. An initial evaluation trench identified medieval remains. Now a programme of strip, map and sample investigation is required.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The investigation site is on a north-facing slope of a minor valley at c. 105m OD. Soils of the area are Wickham 2 Association silty over clayey soils developed over the junction of the Jurassic Middle Lias Marlstone and silts and clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Ashwell Old Hall is in an area of earthworks comprising medieval settlement, water mill, mill ponds and garden. The remains include house platforms, hollow ways, trackways, agricultural

enclosures and possible garden terraces. Much of the area of these remains is protected as a nationally-important scheduled ancient monument (No 30263). The present investigation site is outside the limits of scheduled monument. Previous investigations at the site have recorded evidence of medieval ditches and possible pits (APS 2008).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aim of the work will be to recover as much information as possible on the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, significance and nature of social, economic and industrial activities on the site.

7.1.1 To record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the test pits.

7.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:

7.2.1 Determine the date of the archaeological remains present on the site.

7.2.2 Determine the extent and spatial arrangement of the archaeological remains encountered;

7.2.3 Identify the character of archaeological remains present within the site.

7.2.4 Establish the extent to which surrounding archaeological remains extend into the site.

7.2.5 Identify the way in which the archaeological remains identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 Recent deposits will be removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision.

8.2.2 Following the site stripping the area will be cleaned if necessary and a plan made.

8.2.3 A representative sample of exposed features will be hand-excavated. This will include: the excavation of structures, post trenches or other structural slots; half-sectioning of postholes and pits; cross-sectioning of linear features of earlier than

medieval date, where not forming parts of structures. Buried soils will also be fully excavated.

- 8.2.4 Features will be recorded on APS pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.2.5 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at more appropriate scales
- 8.2.6 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.7 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
 - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important.
- 8.2.8 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to: the client; the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council; Rutland County Council Planning Department; and to Leicestershire County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to Rutland County Museum, sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the Museum. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the documents titled *Acquisition and Disposal Policy*, prepared by Rutland County Museum. This sorting will be undertaken according to the guidelines and conditions stipulated by the museum, and appropriate national guidelines, for long-term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

12.2 Notes on the investigation will be submitted to the journals: *Rutland Record* and *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire and Rutland. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 **VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES**

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.

14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

15.1 The investigation will precede the programme of construction. The duration of the site works is difficult to determine as it is to a large extent reliant on the speed of stripping and spoil removal, and also depending on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered

15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of investigations of this type will undertake the work.

15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

16 **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric – D Trimble, APS/ Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman – A Boyle, APS/B Precious, Independent Specialist Post-Roman -A Boyle, APS

Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist/G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	Dr R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 **INSURANCES**

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 **COPYRIGHT**

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

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Specification: Version 1, 18-07-08

Appendix 2

Context Descriptions

Context	Description	Interpretation
550	Very dark brown silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
551	Brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
552	Loose red-brown clayey ironstone, 0.2m thick	Natural
553	Firm olive brown grey clay, >0.5m thick	Natural
554	Loose, yellow hardcore and sand, 1.14m thick	Fill of [555]
555	E-W linear cut, 1.4m wide, 1.14m deep	Service trench
556	Loose, pink stone chippings, 0.5m thick	Modern top dressing
557	Friable, brown clayey silt with frequent sandstone and moderate charcoal, 0.79m thick	Fill of [560]
558	Blue-grey, with yellow mottles, silty clay with frequent charcoal, 0.36m deep	Fill of [560]
559	Red-brown silty clay, 0.3m thick	Fill of [560]
560	Circular cut, >1m deep, 3.06m wide	Pit or well
561	Brown silty clay with frequent stone and charcoal, 0.33m thick	Fill of [562]
562	Sub-circular cut, 1.57m wide, 0.33m deep	Pit
563	Firm blue-grey with yellow mottles silty clay	Natural
564	Brown silty clay, 0.6m thick	Made ground?
565	Dark brown sandy silty clay with frequent limestone, 1m thick	Fill of [566]
566	Cut of indeterminate shape, elongated N-S, >2.2m wide, 1m deep	Probable ditch
567	Dark brown silty clay, 0.64m thick	Fill of [568]
568	Cut of indeterminate shape, 1.27m wide, 0.64m deep	Ditch/pit
569	Friable mid-dark brown silty clay and stone, 0.16m thick	Former subsoil?

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

INTRODUCTION

An assemblage of pottery was recovered during the investigations. All of this was medieval, and there were no artefacts of other materials, nor faunal remains retrieved.

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Leics cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Leicestershire and Rutland (Davies and Sawday 1999) and are included in Table 1, together with the equivalent codes for Lincolnshire (Cname), as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of 16 sherds from five vessels, weighing 714 grams were recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1; a summary of the pottery is included in Table 1. The pottery ranges in dates to the medieval period.

Condition

All of the vessels are in fresh condition although the large dish from (558) has a heat affected base which has led to flaking. The presence of soot indicates three of the vessels were used over a hearth or fire, probably for food preparation.

Results

Table 1, Summary of the pottery

Cname	Full name	Leics cname	Earliest date	Latest date
DST	Developed Stamford ware	ST1	1150	1230
ST	Stamford Ware	ST1	970	1200
STANLYAT	Stanion/Lyveden shell-tempered type ware	LY4	1150	1300

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from contexts (557), (558) and (561), fills of a large pit or well [560] and pit [562].

Range

Although Stamford and Stanion/Lyveden wares are common in assemblages from Rutland, the example of the latter have a variant fabric which includes moderate echinoid spines, sparse fired clay, grog, carbonised vegetable matter and shell in a

limestone matrix; this type has been coded STANLYAT (Stanion/Lyveden shell-tempered type ware). Whilst this fabric has many features in common with Stanion/Lyveden fabric A, the presence of these other inclusions suggests it may be from another production site in the Rockingham Forest area. A shell-tempered Stanion/Lyveden vessel came from the previous phase of work but this is more typical of the known products of this site.

Two of the vessels can be paralleled with published examples; bowls with finger pressed rims were excavated from Lyveden, Northamptonshire (Adams 1969, *fig. 8.a*, 25) and these are common forms in assemblages from across the midlands. The dish (DR01) from (558) is unusual as these are rare medieval vessels; this example appears unique although excavations in Northampton uncovered a similar vessel (McCarthy 197 *fig. 83.112*, 173) that was produced nearby.

Potential

All of the pottery should be retained. Two sherds from (558) have been removed and added to the Ceramic Type Series held at the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire. This vessel should be illustrated as it is a rare form and an exact parallel cannot be found in published literature. These sherds would be suitable for inclusion in a programme of ICPS analysis aiming to examine the shelly wares of Northamptonshire.

Summary

This collection of pottery collectively spans the mid/late 12th to early 14th century and is in keeping with previous work on the site that produced an assemblage spanning the late 11th to 13th century. The range of the wares from both investigations suggests that domestic activity was occurring on or close to the site during the medieval period. Both phases of work produced an assemblage of fresh material, which indicates the pottery has undergone limited re-deposition. It therefore seems likely that further deposits of medieval pottery will occur close by.

SPOT DATING

The dating in table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
557	Late 12th to early 14th	
558	Mid/late 12th to 13th	Date on a single vessel
561	Mid 12th to early 13th	

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

ARCHIVE CATALOGUE

Archive Catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
557	STANLYAT		Bowl	2	1	100	Finger pressed rim	BS + base	External soot	Late 12th to early 14th
557	STANLYAT		Bowl	1	1	27	Finger pressed rim	Rim	External soot	Late 12th to early 14th
558	STANLYAT		Dish	11	1	555		Profile	DR01; External soot; heat affected base; cuff rim; knife trimmed; two sherds removed to HTL Type Series	Mid/late 12th to 13th
561	DST	B	Pitcher	1	1	24		BS	Cu specks in glaze	Mid 12th to early 13th
561	ST	B/C	Jar/pitcher	1	1	8		BS	Abraded	Mid 12th to early 13th

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Context register sheet
20	Context record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
8	Sheets of scale drawings
3	Daily record sheets
1	Section record sheet
1	Bag of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Rutland County Museum
Catmose Street
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6HW

Accession Number: OAKRM: 2007.55

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ATOH08

OASIS identification code: archaeo11-47438

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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