
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT TEIGH ROAD,
THE OLD HALL, ASHWELL,
RUTLAND
(ASTR 09)**

Work Undertaken For
Midland HR

August 2009

Report Compiled by
Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

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Report No: **77/09**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control

Archaeological Watching Brief,
Land at Teigh Road (The Old Hall),
Ashwell, Rutland
(ASTR 09)

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CAD Illustration	Mark Peachey
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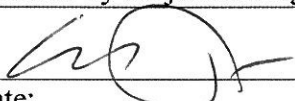
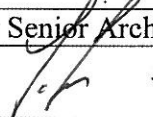
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Date: 18 August 2009	Date: 18 August 2009

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for a new field access off Teigh Road at The Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.

The work was required as the site was on the edge of an area of earthwork remains of medieval settlement and agriculture, and post-medieval formal gardening.

The watching brief revealed only topsoil and subsoil.

No finds were retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*” (IfA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning permission (Application No. FUL/2009/0084) for a new agricultural access to Teigh Road, at the Old Hall, Ashwell, is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological works, in this instance comprising a watching brief during development groundwork.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Midland HR to undertake this work. The investigation was carried out on 1st June 2009 in accordance with a specification prepared by APS and approved by the Leicestershire Senior Planning Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

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

The Old Hall is on the north side of the village, to the north of Cottesmore Road. The development area is on the west side of the hall, on Teigh Road, at national grid reference SK 8642 1295 (Fig 2).

The investigation site is on a north-facing slope of a minor stream valley at c. 102m 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).

2.4 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).

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 on the western border of these remains. Previous investigations within the Old Hall grounds have found evidence of medieval occupation and agriculture, as well as post-medieval garden terracing (Failes 2008).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during groundworks.

The objectives were to determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered, their spatial arrangement and as far as practicable, to recover dating evidence from them and to establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

Topsoil was stripped by mechanical excavator from an area measuring 9m by 4m for the new field access (Fig 4). A selected section was cleaned and rendered vertical. 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 were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered was slightly reddish medium brown clay silt (002) at least 0.4m thick.

Overlying this was 0.15m thick very dark brown silt topsoil (001) (Fig 5, Section 1, Plate 2).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits were not reached during the groundworks. Clay silt subsoil was overlain by a relatively shallow topsoil.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on groundworks for a new field access off Teigh Road at The Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.

This was because the site was on the edge of an area of earthwork remains of medieval settlement and agriculture.

However, the watching brief revealed only topsoil and subsoil.

No finds were retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Midland HR for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Jim Robertson
 Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
 CAD Illustration: Mark Peachey
 Post-excavation analysis: Mark Peachey

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

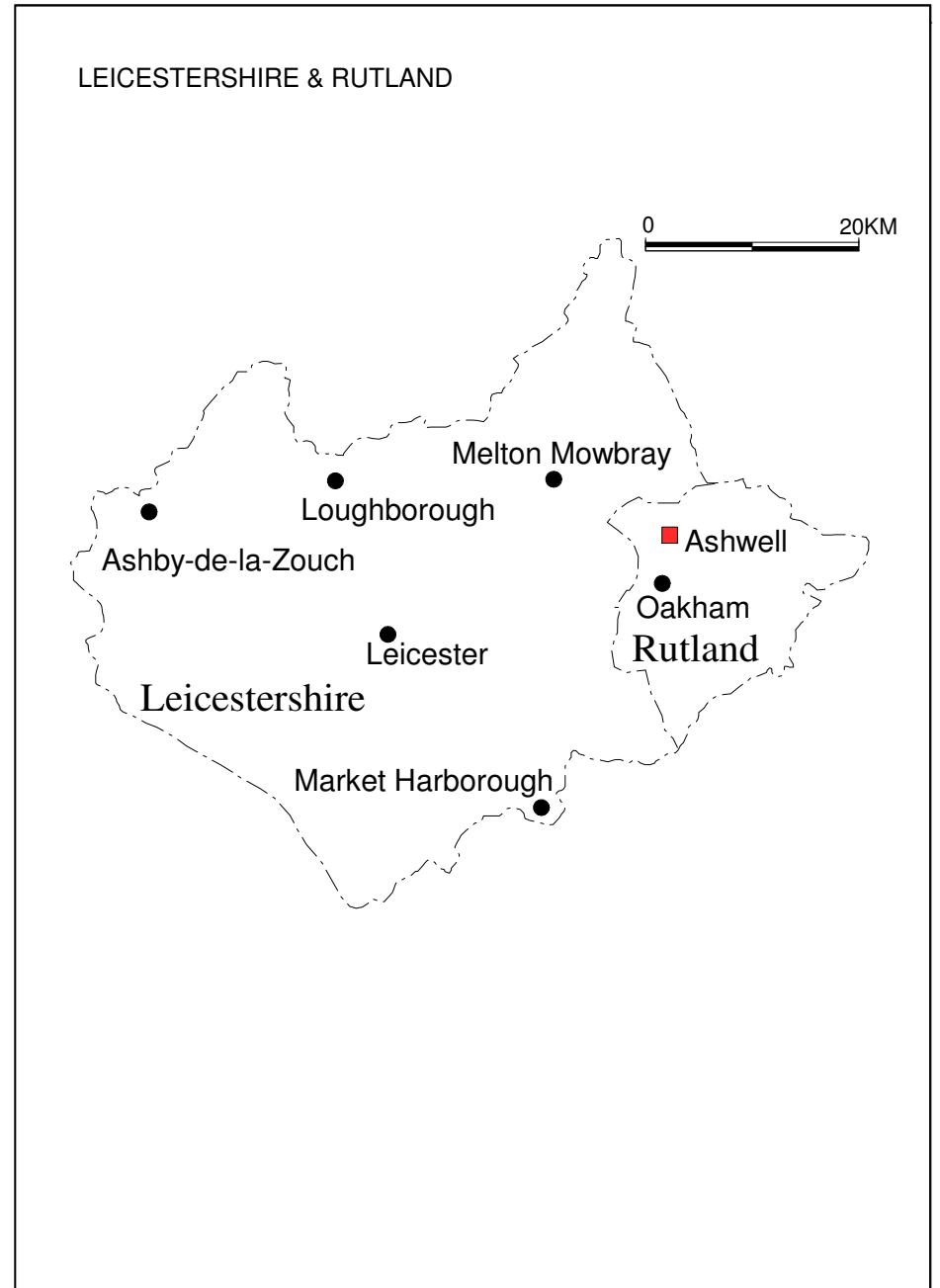
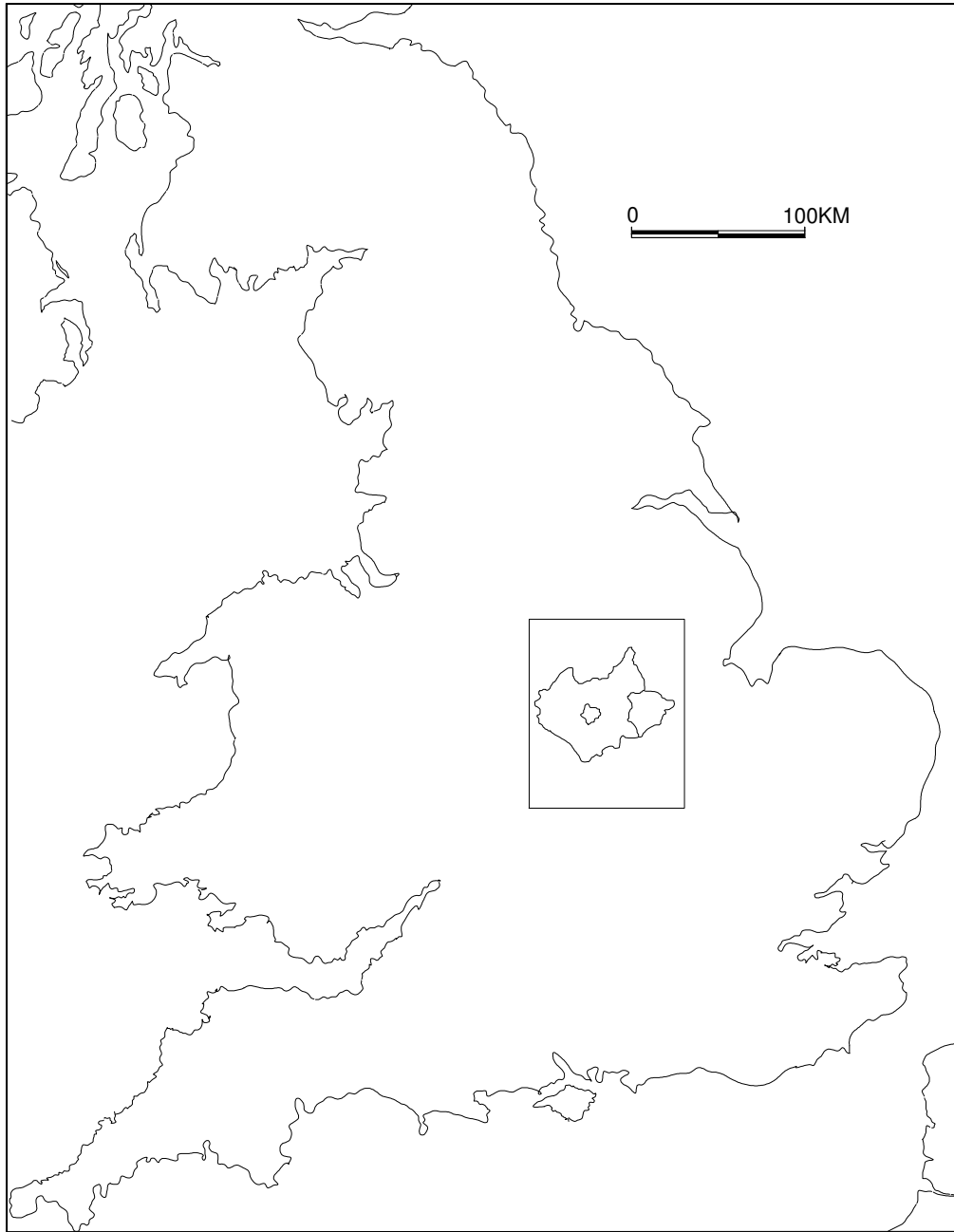
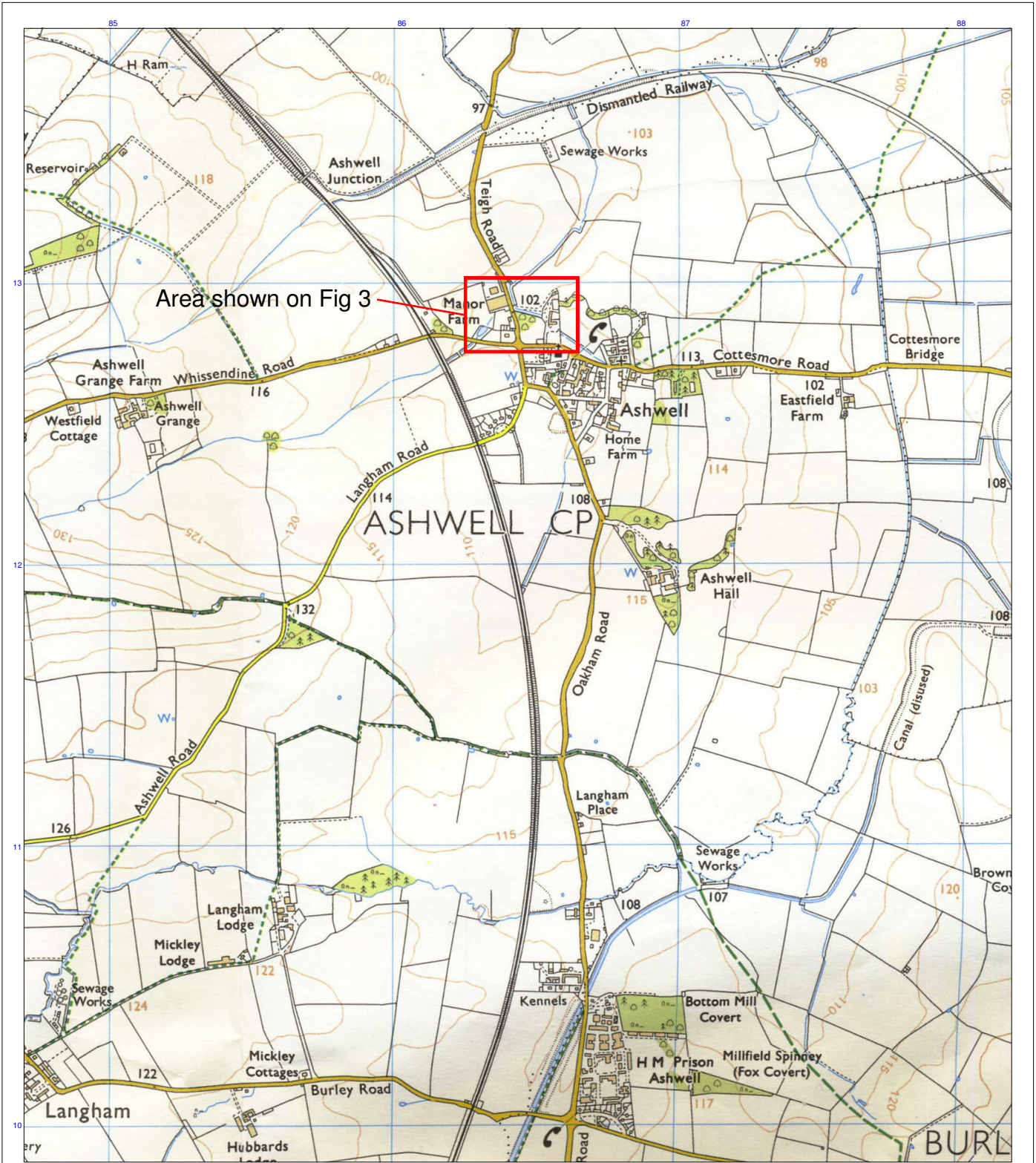


Figure 1 General location map



Area shown on Fig 3

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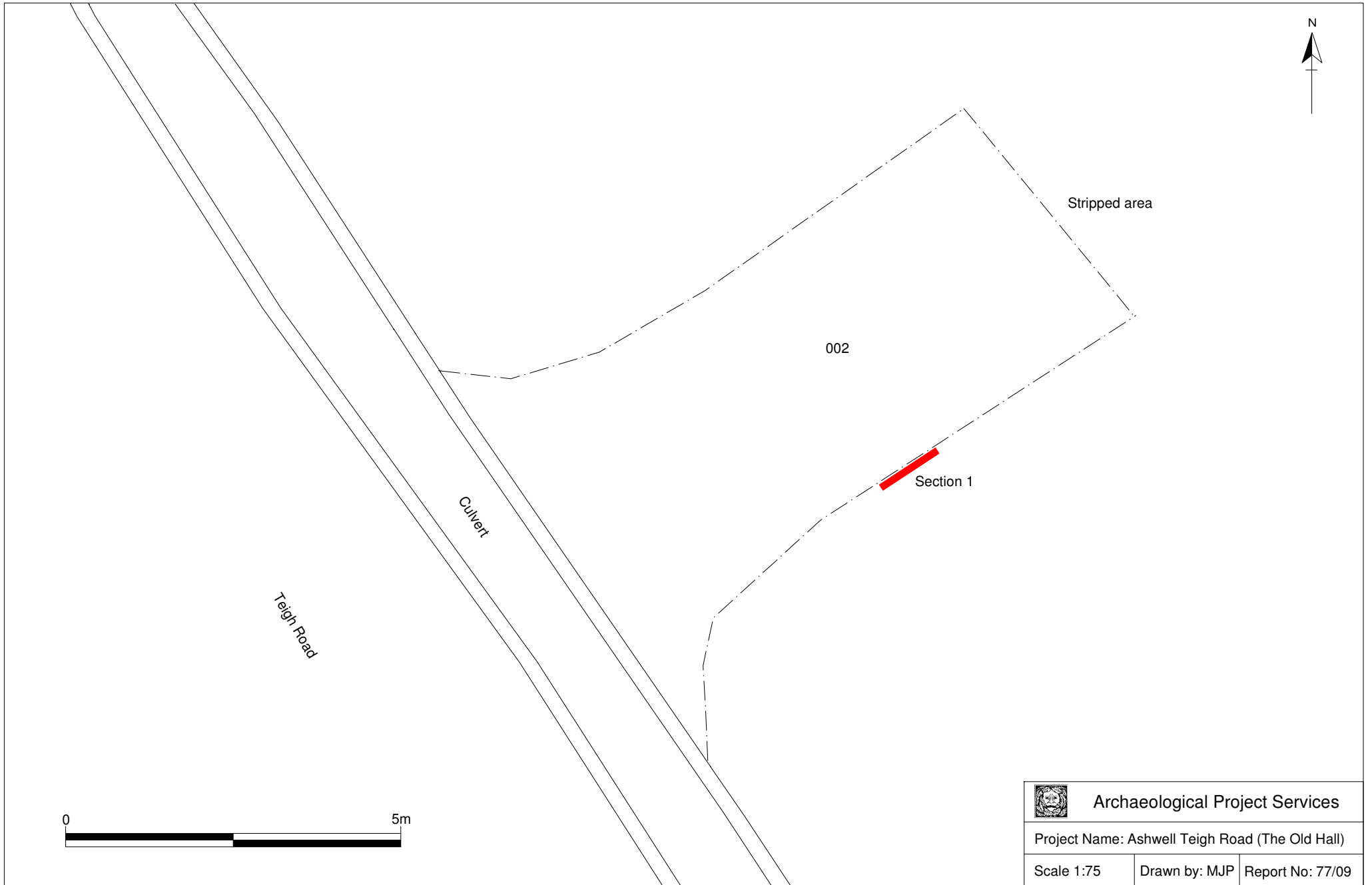
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Ashwell Teigh Rd (The Old Hall)		
Scale 1:20000	Drawn by: MJP	Report No: 77/09

Figure 2 Site location map



Figure 3. Trench Location Plan




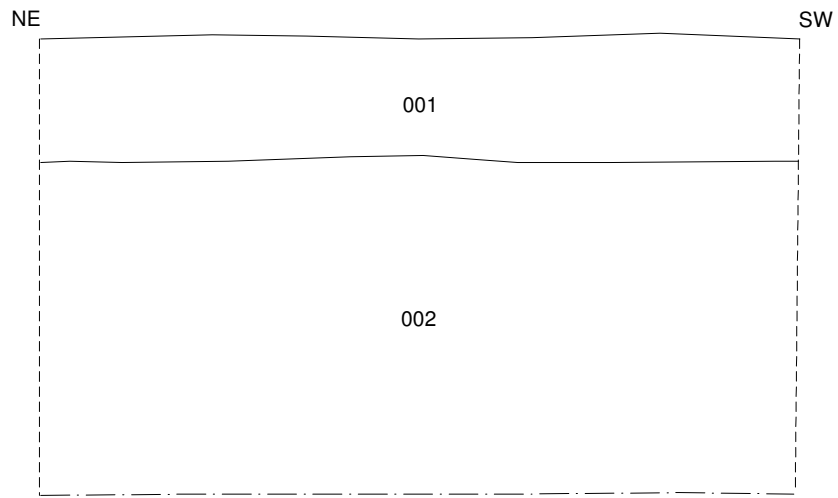
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Ashwell Teigh Road (The Old Hall)		
Scale 1:75	Drawn by: MJP	Report No: 77/09

Figure 4. Trench Plan



Section 1




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Ashwell Teigh Rd (The Old Hall)		
Scale 1:10	Drawn by: MJP	Report No: 77/09

Figure 5. Section 1



Plate 1. Topsoil stripping in progress looking south



Plate 2. Section 1



Plate 3. Completed strip for access looking northeast

Appendix 1: SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

LAND AT TEIGH ROAD, THE OLD HALL, ASHWELL, RUTLAND

PREPARED FOR MIDLAND HR

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *An archaeological watching brief is required during development on land at the Old Hall, Teigh Road, Ashwell, Rutland.*
- 1.2 *The site is on the edge of an area of earthwork remains of medieval settlement and agriculture, and post-medieval formal gardening.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will comprise a watching brief during development groundwork.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during development on land at the Old Hall, Teigh Road, 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. The development area is on the west side of the hall, on Teigh Road, at national grid reference SK 8642 1395.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (Application No. FUL/2009/0084) for a new agricultural access to Teigh Road, at the Old Hall, Ashwell, is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological works, in this instance comprising a watching brief during development groundwork.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The investigation site is on a north-facing slope of a minor stream valley at c. 102m 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 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 on the western border of these remains. Previous investigations with the Old Hall grounds have found evidence of medieval occupation and agriculture, as well as post-medieval garden terracing (APS 2008).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

- 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

- 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

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 watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute for 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 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and will comprise a watching brief of all groundworks.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief

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 field work 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 watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
 - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - 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; and to the 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 project will be entered into the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database.
- 12.2 A report of the findings of the evaluation will be submitted to the journals: *Rutland Record* and the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.
- 12.3 If appropriate notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council. 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 monitoring will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs 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. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post- excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

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	G Taylor, APS/J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	P Cope-Faulkner, APS/ J Kitch, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	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 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
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19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 2008 *Archaeological Watching Brief at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland (ATOH07) Phase 6*, APS Report **129/08**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	Loose very dark brown silt with frequent root action and small to medium angular and sub-angular stones, 0.15m thick	Topsoil	
002	Friable slightly reddish medium brown clay silt with occasional root action and moderate small rounded and ovoid stones 0.4m+ thick	Subsoil	

Appendix 3

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].
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
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
Old English	The language used by the Saxon occupants of Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Context register sheet
- 2 Context record sheets
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Daily record sheet
- 1 Sheets of scale drawings

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:2009.9

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ASTR 09

OASIS Record No: archaeol1-62895

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.

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.