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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ON LAND AT THE OLD HALL,  
COTTESMORE ROAD,  
ASHWELL,  
RUTLAND  
(ASCR 09)**

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**Work Undertaken For**  
Midland HR

December 2009

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA(Hons) AIFA

Planning Application No: FUL/2009/0758  
National Grid Reference: SK 8654 1292  
Museum Accession No: OAKRM: 2009.16  
OASIS ID No: archaeol1-69802

APS Report No: **132/09**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**





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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of a new implement shed and machine store at The Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.*

*The evaluation was required as the site lies within an area of medieval settlement, including earthwork remains of a watermill, millponds and gardens, some of which are protected as a Scheduled Monument. Previous investigations were in an area of the earthworks thought to be the remains of garden terraces.*

*The evaluation revealed a sequence of natural, Late Saxon, medieval and recent deposits. Late Saxon and medieval deposits comprise ditches and gullies serving a drainage and boundary function as well as a single posthole. These had been sealed beneath a former topsoil that was overlain by levelling deposits for a modern yard.*

*Finds retrieved include locally and regionally produced pottery of 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century date. No later finds were recorded. A small collection of animal bone was also retrieved.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as, ‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (IfA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Midland HR to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a proposed tractor store and workshop at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland as detailed in Planning Application FUL/2009/0758. The evaluation was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

### 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 proposed building is a short distance to the northwest of the hall at National Grid Reference SK 8654 1292 (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of 105m OD on land that slopes down to the northwest, towards a minor watercourse.

Soils at 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).

### 2.4 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, though most is of 14<sup>th</sup> century date (Pevsner 1992, 452).

Old Hall is in an area of earthworks comprising medieval settlement, a 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 Monument (No. 30263).

Previous investigations, some 30m to the south, revealed settlement remains comprising boundary ditches, refuse pits and a well, dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Parker 2008; Taylor 2008). Additionally, investigations undertaken during tree planting directly to the west have recorded possible evidence of garden terraces and an infilled large feature (Cope-Faulkner 2009a and b).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

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

A single trench measuring 15m x 1.8m and located on the long axis of the proposed new building (Fig. 3) was excavated by

machine under archaeological supervision. Following excavation, the base and sides of the trench were cleaned and the sides rendered vertical. The location of the trench was surveyed in relation to boundaries and buildings at the site.

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.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them supplemented by artefact dating.

## 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 at the base of the trench was layer of brownish red platy limestone within clayey silt (009). This measured in excess of 0.2m thick.

Toward the northeast end (Fig. 4) of the trench was a northwest-southeast aligned gully (005). This was 0.44m wide, 0.16m deep and over 0.85m long (Fig. 5, Sections 1 and 2; Plate 4). A single fill of greyish brown clayey silt (004) was recorded that contained a single sherd of 11<sup>th</sup> century Stamford ware.

Approximately 3m to the south was a posthole (003) that was sub-circular in

shape with an irregular elongation on the south side. This posthole was 0.22m across and 0.18m deep (Fig. 5, Section 3; Plate 3) and was filled with greyish brown clayey silt (002) that yielded a single 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century Stamford ware sherd and animal bone.

Terminating immediately adjacent to the posthole was an east-west aligned gully (011). This was 0.52m wide and 0.1m deep (Fig. 5, Section 7; Plate 9) and over 1.4m long. It was filled with stony grey-brown clayey silt (010) from which medieval pottery was recovered.

Directly to the south of gully (011) was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (013/018), measuring 0.8m wide, 0.25m deep (Fig. 5, Sections 6 and 9; Plates 5, 7 and 8) and over 5m long. This contained brown silty clay (012, 019) with pottery comprising 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century Stamford wares along with unidentified types.

Toward its eastern end, this ditch was cut by an east-west aligned gully (015) which was 0.6m wide and 0.37m deep (Fig. 5, Sections 8, 9 and 10; Plate 8). Greyish brown clayey silt (014) filled the feature from which 12<sup>th</sup> century Stamford ware pottery was retrieved.

Parallel and 2m to the southwest of gully (015) was a further gully (016) that truncated the western end of ditch (013, 018). Gully (016) was 0.44m wide and 0.17m deep (Fig. 5, Sections 4 and 5; Plate 6) and was filled with brown silty clay (017) that produced 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Sealing the aforementioned features was a layer of olive-brown clayey silt (008). This was 0.18m thick and is considered to be a former soil layer. Unstratified artefacts (001) recovered during machine excavation and comprising 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery are thought mostly to derive from this deposit.

Overlying the soil was a levelling deposit of brown clayey silt with stones (007), measuring up to 0.3m thick. Upon this was a layer of modern granite chippings (006), which provided hardstanding for the present yard.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise limestone and clayey silts representing the upper weathered surface of the underlying solid geology.

Features comprising ditches, gullies and a single posthole fall within a 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century (Late Saxon to early medieval) date range. A single gully was dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century. These features are likely to have served boundary and drainage functions, similar to those previously recorded from the area. These features were sealed by a former topsoil layer which also contained significant quantities of medieval pottery.

No post-medieval or later finds were recorded, suggesting a hiatus in occupation or refuse disposal during this period.

Pottery was the largest category of material retrieved from the investigation and is dominated by locally produced Stamford wares. Other regional types of pottery include Stanion/Lyveden and Bourne wares. The pottery is domestic in character and suggests that settlement of the period is to be found in close proximity to the site. A small quantity of animal bone was also retrieved.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of a new implement shed and machine store at The Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland, as the site lay within an area of medieval and later earthworks which are partly scheduled.

The evaluation revealed ditches, gullies and a posthole of Late Saxon and medieval date sealed beneath a former topsoil deposit.

Finds retrieved included a range of locally produced domestic pottery of 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century date along with a small assemblage of animal bone.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S Bocock 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 Staff: Chris Moulis, Jon Smith  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Jon Smith  
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Peachey, Gary Taylor

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
BGS British Geological Survey  
IfA Institute for Archaeologists

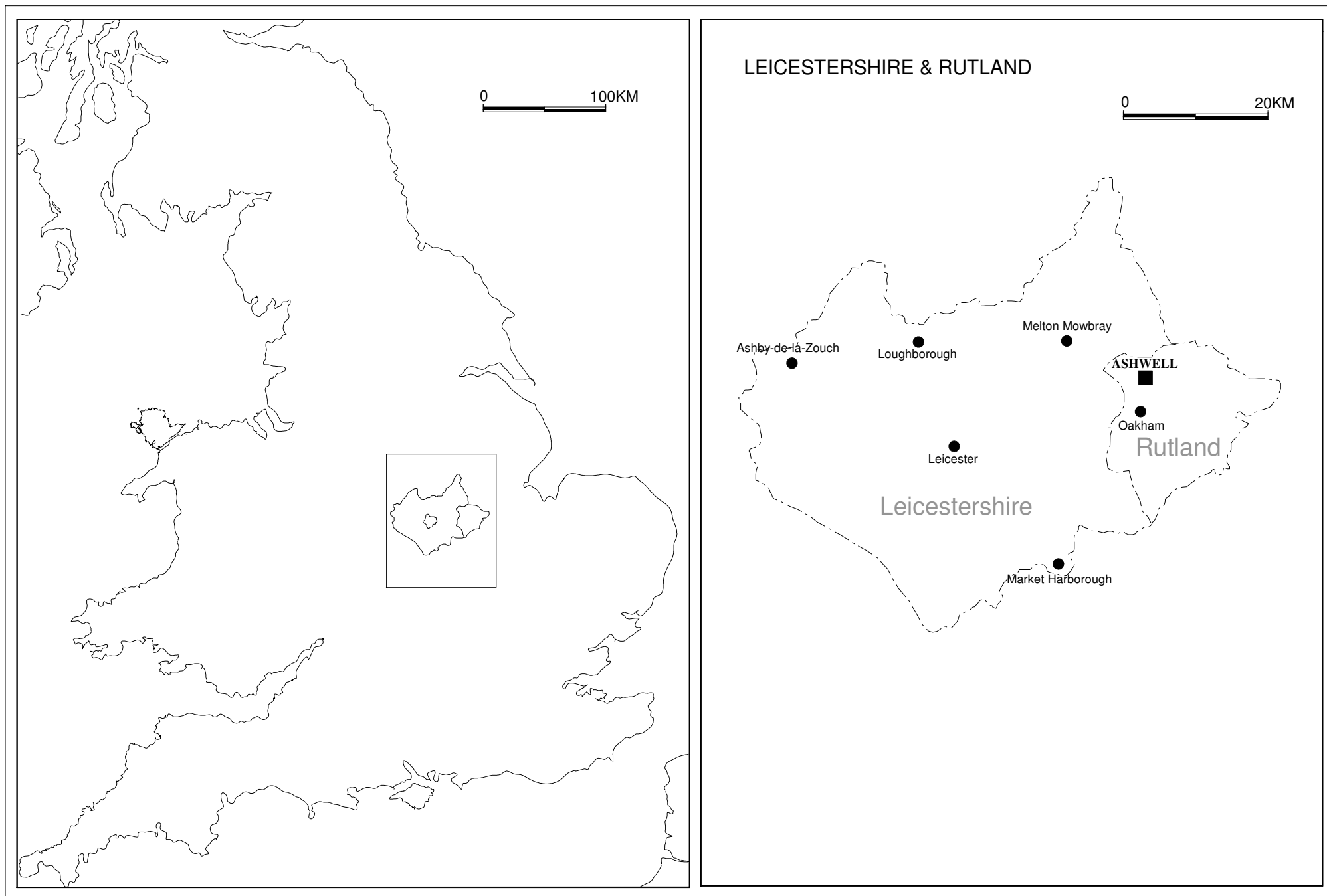


Figure 1 - General location plan



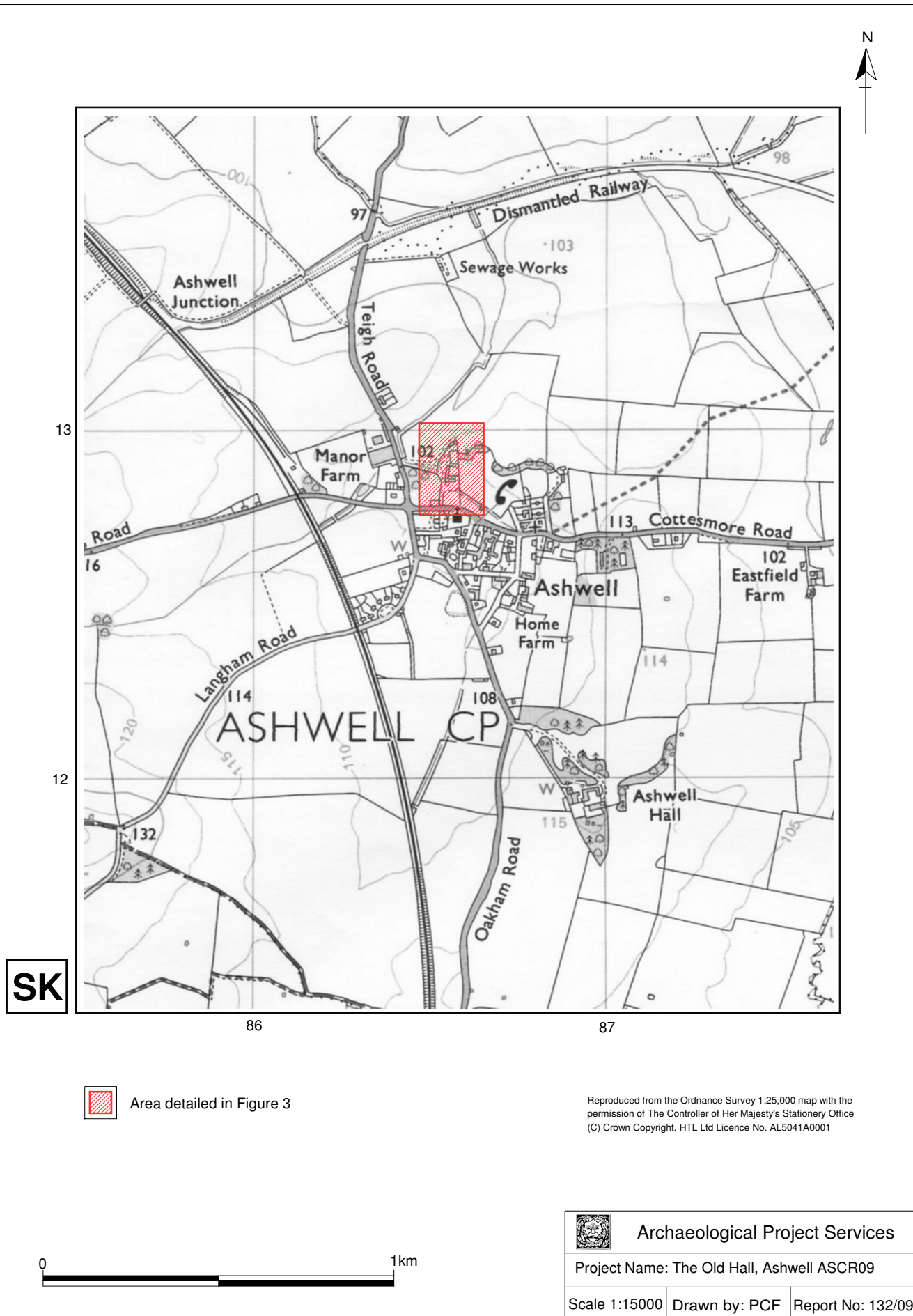


Figure 2 - Site location plan





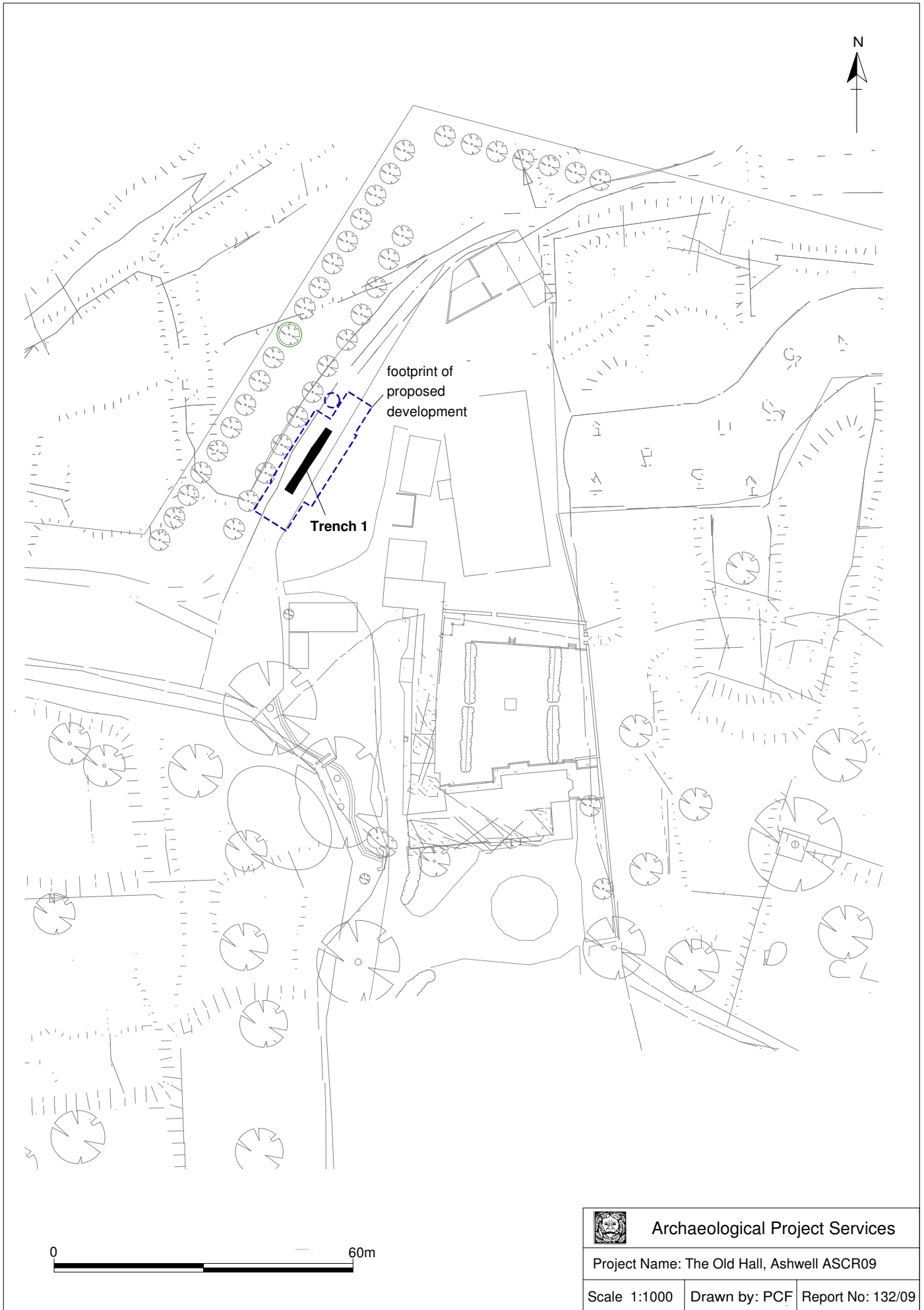


Figure 3 - Plan showing location of Trench 1



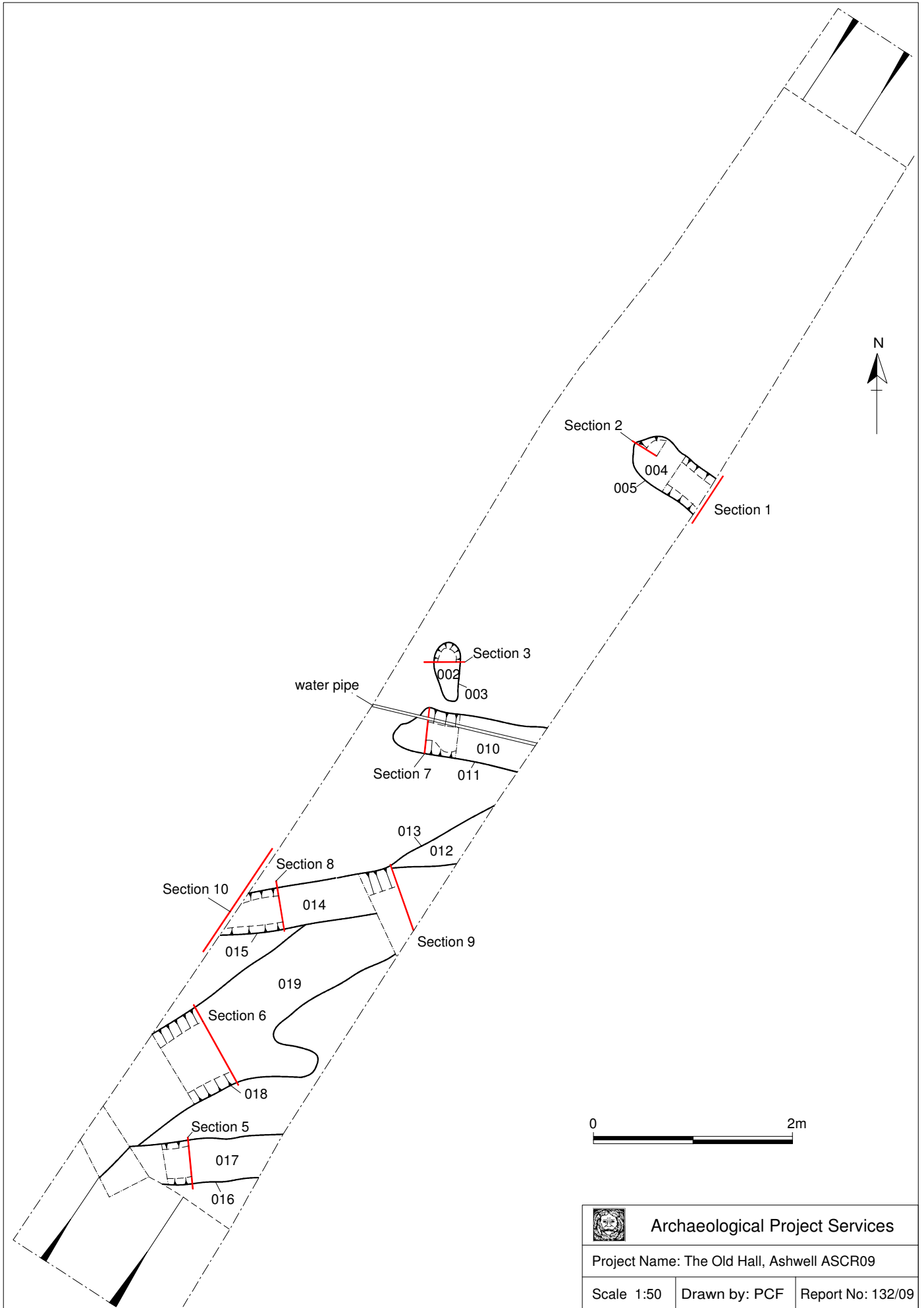


Figure 4 - Trench plan



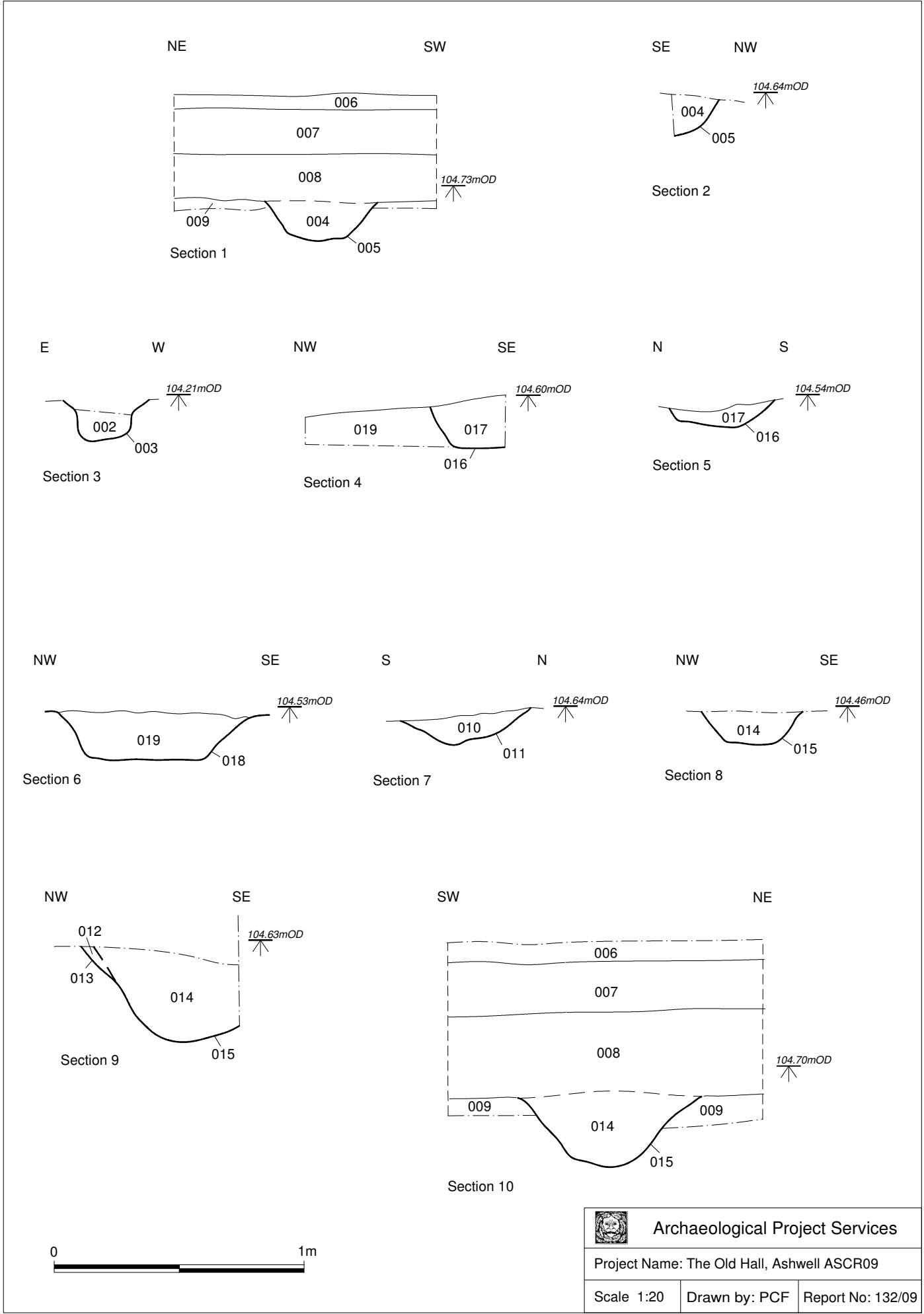


Figure 5 - Sections





Plate 1 – View over the proposed development area,  
looking southwest



Plate 2 – Trench 1 after cleaning, looking  
northeast





Plate 3 – Posthole (003), looking south



Plate 4 – Gully (005), looking southeast





Plate 5 – Section 4, showing ditch (013/018) and gully (016), looking northeast



Plate 6 – Gully (016), looking east



Plate 7 – Ditch (013/018), looking northeast





Plate 8 – Ditches (015) and (013/018), looking northeast



Plate 9 – Ditch (011), looking west

## **Appendix 1**

### **LAND AT THE OLD HALL, COTTESMORE ROAD, ASHWELL, RUTLAND - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.*
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area of earthworks of shrunken medieval settlement, part of which is protected as a nationally-important scheduled ancient monument. Previous investigation immediately to the south revealed medieval ditches, pits and a well.*
- 1.3 A programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching is required at the site. A single trench will examine the area of the proposed building.*
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

#### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview
  - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
  - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
  - 2.2.4 List of specialists
  - 2.2.5 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 proposed building is a short distance to the northwest of the hall at national grid reference SK 8654 1292.

#### **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Planning permission (Application No: FUL/2009/0758) has been granted by Rutland County Council, subject to a conditions including the undertaking of an archaeological evaluation trench on the length of the building to determine the impact of construction. Further archaeological mitigation might be required should the trenching reveal significant archaeological remains and they cannot be preserved *in situ*.

#### **5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 The investigation site is on a north-facing slope of a minor valley at c. 101m 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 scheduled area. Previous investigations close by have revealed medieval settlement remains including ditches, pits and a well (APS 2008). Additionally, investigations directly to the west have recorded possible evidence of garden terraces (APS 2009).

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curators to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
  - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
  - 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
  - 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
  - 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
  - 7.2.8 Assess the impact of the development on archaeological deposits.

## 8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

- 8.1 Close contact will be maintained with the archaeological curators throughout the investigation to ensure that the scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

## 9 TRIAL TRENCHING

### 9.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 9.1.2 The trial trenching arrangement has been specified as a single trench about 15m long and 1.6m wide down the long axis of the proposed vehicle and storage sheds.

### 9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 9.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 9.2.3 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.
- 9.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.

- 9.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by orange mesh fencing attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

### 9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services 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.
- 9.3.4 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 a larger scale.
- 9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- 9.3.5.1 the site before the commencement of field operations.
  - 9.3.5.2 the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
  - 9.3.5.3 individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
  - 9.3.5.4 groups of features where their relationship is important.
  - 9.3.5.5 the site on completion of fieldwork
- 9.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.
- 9.3.7 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 9.3.8 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the topsoil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by a GPS and/or EDM survey.

## 10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages

of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report

## 11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

### 11.1 Stage 1

11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting 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: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual 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.

### 11.2 Stage 2

11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### 11.3 Stage 3

11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:

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

11.3.1.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the site.

11.3.1.3 Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.

11.3.1.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results.

11.3.1.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.

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

11.3.1.7 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

11.3.1.8 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.

11.3.1.9 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

11.3.1.10 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.

11.3.1.11 A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

11.3.1.12 A consideration of the potential impact of the development on archaeological remains, and measures to mitigate that impact, if necessary.

## 12 ARCHIVE

- 12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the appropriate local 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.

## 13 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 13.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client; English Heritage; and the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record.

## 14 PUBLICATION

- 14.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 14.2 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.

## 15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

- 15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments (English Heritage) and the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire and Rutland. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

## 16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curators and the client.
- 16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

## 17 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 17.1 The work will be directed by Tom Lane MIFA, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological evaluations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.
- 17.2 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 Roman-Post-Roman: A Beeby/A Boyle, APS
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist/G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	J Kitch, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	P Cope-Faulkner, APS

Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy, or Val Fryer, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

## 18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by appropriate staff, including supervisors and assistants, and to take about 2 days.
- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production will take about 5 days. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor, CAD illustrator and external specialists.

## 19 INSURANCES

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation are enclosed.

## 20 COPYRIGHT

- 20.1 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.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
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## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Unstratified finds retrieval	
002	Firm mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (003)
003	Sub-circular feature, 0.22m in diameter by 0.18m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Possible posthole
004	Firm mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (005)
005	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >0.85m long by 0.44m wide by 0.16m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Small ditch/gully
006	Granite chippings	Modern dump for yard surface
007	Compact mid brown clayey silt and sub-rounded stones, , 0.30m thick	Levelling deposit
008	Firm mid greenish brown clayey silt with frequent limestone fragments, 0.18m thick	Former soil deposit
009	Compact mid brownish red clayey silt and limestone fragments, >0.2m thick	Natural deposit
010	Firm mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (011)
011	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >1.40m long by 0.52m wide by 0.1m deep, gentle sides and slightly rounded base	Gully
012	Firm mid brown silty clay	Fill of (013)
013	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >5.00m long by 0.75m wide by 0.23m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
014	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (015)
015	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >2.00m long by 0.6m wide by 0.37m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
016	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >1.80m long by 0.44m wide by 0.17m deep, gradual sides and flattish base	Gully
017	Soft mid brown silty clay	Fill of (016)
018	Same as ditch (013)	Ditch
019	Same as fill (012)	Fill of (018)

## Appendix 3

### THE FINDS

#### 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). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005) which also covers surrounding counties. Equivalent codenames for Leicestershire and Rutland are included in Table 1 (Sawday 2008). A total of 86 sherds from 41 vessels, weighing 669 grams was 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 information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary in Table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the Late Saxon to the medieval period.

##### Condition

Most of the sherds are in fresh condition and several multi-sherd vessels are present, as is a single cross- context vessel (V01). A low average sherd weight of seven grams is due to the high proportion of smashed fine walled Stamford ware vessels. Soot and carbonised deposits on 29 vessels indicates their use on a hearth or fire, possibly for cooking and other domestic tasks.

##### Results

Table 1, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery

Cname	Full name	Leics Cname	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W (g)
BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B, C, E, F and G	BO2/3/4	1150	1400	3	1	33
EST	Early Stamford ware	ST3	870	1010	6	6	73
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	-	1150	1450	2	2	12
MISC	Unidentified types	-	-	-	4	4	9
ST	Stamford Ware	ST2/3	970	1200	59	19	364
STANLY	Stanion/Lyveden ware	LY4	1150	1250	12	9	178
TOTAL					86	41	669

##### Provenance

Most of the pottery is unstratified (001) but its condition suggests most of the pottery comes from a disturbed dump of medieval material. Small amounts of pottery came from possible post hole [003], ditch/gully [005], gully [011] and [016] and ditches [013], [015], [016] and [019].

##### Range

Although the range of wares is small, the assemblage represents a largely contemporary group of 11th to 12th century pottery: earlier Late Saxon types comprise a range of Early Stamford ware fabrics (EST) and these fragments appear to be largely redeposited as they show a greater degree of abrasion than the 11th to 12th century pottery. Whilst some of the medieval types present in the assemblage can extend into the 13th century, the absence of splashed wares suggests this collection does not post-date the late 12th century.

Forms include jars, jugs and bowls: a shallow straight sided Stanion/Lyveden ware dish (STANLY, DR01) and a Stamford ware jug with pressed inner rim edge (ST, V01, DR02) are recommended for illustration. Stanion/Lyveden wares in the oolitic fabric (B) are most common and mainly comprise jars; rim forms are flaring 'early medieval type' rims which are a common feature on jars of the 12th to early 13th century. The presence of a single Bourne vessel, along with the high amount of Stamford ware indicates links with southern Lincolnshire; however, the dominance of Stanion/Lyveden products shows a definite trade link with Northamptonshire to the south.

### Potential

None of the pottery poses any problems for long-term storage and should be retained. Two vessels are recommended for illustration at the next stage of work. The condition, range and amount of pottery recovered indicate there is high potential for the site to yield a large amount of 10th to 12th century pottery which would be worthy of in-depth analysis and illustration. It is notable most of this is unstratified although a single cross-join indicates stratified groups of similar material may well be present in unexcavated features. Earlier investigations also revealed fresh groups of medieval pottery (ATOH07 and ATOH08) although the assemblage from this part of the site suggests a concentration may be present in this area. This assemblage may require reassessment in light of further work at the site.

### Summary

A large group of 10th to 12th century pottery, most representing disturbed material from primary dumping of smashed domestic pottery, was recovered from the site. This assemblage is interesting as it contains a chronologically limited range of vessels which appear to represent a coherent domestic group. However, most of the pottery was unstratified although further excavation may well produce substantial stratified groups.

## FAUNAL REMAINS

*By Paul Cope-Faulkner*

### Introduction

A total of 2 (9g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

### Provenance

The bone was collected from the fill of a posthole (002) and the fill of a ditch (019).

### Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

### Results

*Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
002	?dog	humerus	1	9	
019	bird	metatarsus	1	2	Poss chicken

### Summary

Surprisingly, the hand collected animal bone is limited in number and species represented. Bones from the sampling (see below) include cattle (molar and humerus fragment) and large mammal (either cattle or horse). Samples provided bone retrieved from ditch fill (019) and also recovered from the fill (017) of a gully.

As a small assemblage, this collection of animal bone has limited potential. However, it should be retained as part of the site archive.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

*By Gary Taylor*

### Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Ashwell revealed ditches and postholes of medieval and uncertain but probable medieval date. Samples for the retrieval of the palaeo-environmental material and artefacts were taken and were submitted for assessment.

The sample was bulk floated and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. There was no evidence of waterlogged plant remains so the flots were dried. The dried flots were examined under a hand lens at magnifications up to x8, and the remains noted are listed in Table 3.

*Table 3*

Context	Sample	Vol. (Ltrs)	Date	Feature Type	Comments
017	1	10	medieval	Gully	Snails- <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> ? x1; charcoal; charred –

Context	Sample	Vol. (Ltrs)	Date	Feature Type	Comments
					occasional seeds/cereal grains (c.7).; 1 piece of medieval pot; uncharred – 1 seed (intrusive?); 2x silver birch seeds (intrusive); rare large mammal bones; rare amphibian bones, rare small mammal bone
019	2	10	medieval	Ditch	Snails – rare unidentifiable fragments; charcoal; charred – occasional seeds/grains (c.4); 2x medieval pot; rare large mammal bone

*Sample 1.*

The flot contains small amounts of charcoal and a number of charred seeds/grains. There are also a few intrusive uncharred seeds. Snail shells are rare with just one probable *Vallonia excentrica*, an open grassland type, present. The magnetic fraction contains no hammer scale. There are also a few mammal and amphibian bones and a single piece of medieval pottery.

*Sample 2.*

Ditch fill 019 produced very little material. There are a few fragmentary and unidentifiable mollusc shells, a little charcoal and some charred seeds/grains. A few animal bone fragments and two pieces of medieval pottery were also recovered.

**Recommendations**

Neither of the samples justifies any further analysis. The quantity of charred grains/seeds from both samples is low, and hence unlikely to represent grain processing on site but more probably wind-blown detritus, but if further work is undertaken they could be identified.

**SPOT DATING**

The dating in Table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

*Table 4, Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	Unstratified	
002	11th to 12th	Date on a single sherd
004	11th to 12th	Date on a single sherd
010	Mid 12th to 15th	Date on single sherd
012	12th	
014	11th to 12th	
017	10th to 11th?	
019	10th to 11th?	

**ABBREVIATIONS**

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

**REFERENCES**

Sawday, D, 2008 *Pottery codenames for Leicestershire*, unpublished.

Slowikowski, AM, Nenck, 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, AG and Nailor, V, 2005 *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

## ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

## Archive catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery

Cxt	Samp.	Leics Cname	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Decoration	Part	Ref.	Description	Date
001		BO2/3/4	BOUA	B	Bowl	3	1	33		Base + BS		All same vessel?; abraded	Mid 12th to 13th
001		ST3	EST	A/D	Small jar	1	1	7		Base		Burnt; soot and carbonised deposit; ?ID; no glaze	10th to 11th
001		ST3	EST	A	Jar	1	1	7	Rectangular roller stamping on rim	Rim		Long everted rim; abraded; no glaze	Late 9th to 10th
001		ST3	EST	D	Jar	1	1	26	Diamond roller stamping on rim top	Rim		Long everted rim; fe concretion; soot; burnt; no glaze	Late 9th to 10th
001		-	MEDLOC	OX/R; fine sandy	Jar	1	1	3		BS		Abundant fine quartz 0.1 to 0.3mm + occasional fe + sparse organics; internal soot and carbonised deposit	Mid 12th to 15th
001		-	MISC	Reduced; medium shell	?	1	1	5		BS		Leached; possible wipe marks; soot; prehistoric??	?
001		ST2/3	ST	A/D	Jar/ bowl	1	1	4		BS		Burnt; soot; no glaze	11th to 12th
001		ST2/3	ST	A/G	Jar	3	1	15		BS		Soot; no glaze	11th to 12th
001		ST2/3	ST	A/D	Jar/ bowl	1	1	9		Base		Soot and carbonised deposit; no glaze	11th to 12th
001		ST2/3	ST	B	Pug/ pitcher	1	1	6		LHJ		Thin patchy yellow glaze	11th to 12th
001		ST2/3	ST	A/D	?	1	1	1		BS		No glaze	11th to 12th
001		ST2/3	ST	A/G	?	1	1	2		BS		No glaze; ?ID	11th to 12th
001		ST2/3	ST	B	Jug	4	1	60	Pressed inner rim edge	Rim + BS	V01; DR02	Rounded rim; soot; no glaze; Stamford product?	12th?
001		ST2/3	ST	A/D	Jar	1	1	7		Rim		Long everted rim; soot; no glaze	11th to 12th
001		LY4	STANLY	A	Jar/ bowl	1	1	5		Base		Burnt	11th to 12th
001		LY4	STANLY	B	Jar/ bowl	3	1	12		Base		Soot and carbonised deposit	Mid 12th to mid 13th
001		LY4	STANLY	B	?	1	1	1		BS		Flake; abraded	Mid 12th to mid 13th
001		LY4	STANLY	B	Jar	1	1	4		Rim		Flared rim; soot; abraded	12th to mid 13th
001		LY4	STANLY	B	Jar	1	1	64	Wavy line on internal rim	Rim		Flared rim; soot and carbonised deposit	Mid 12th to mid 13th
001		LY4	STANLY	B	Jar	2	1	19		Rim + BS		Flared rim; internal soot;	Mid 12th to mid

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												abraded	13th
001		LY4	STANLY	B	Bowl	1	1	66		Profile	DR01	Square rim; soot; possible lug?	Mid 12th to mid 13th
001		LY4	STANLY	B	Jar/ bowl	1	1	1		BS		Soot	Mid 12th to mid 13th
001		LY4	STANLY	B	Jar/ bowl	1	1	6		Base		Soot	Mid 12th to mid 13th
002		ST2/3	ST	B	Jar	1	1	1		BS		Soot; no glaze	11th to 12th
004		ST2/3	ST	B	Jar/ pitcher	1	1	6		BS		Thin greeny yellow glaze	11th to 12th
010		-	MEDLOC	OX/R; coarse sandy	Jar/ bowl	1	1	9		Base		Soot; common round to subround quartz 0.3 to 1mm including red tinged and possible greensand + occasional ca + occasional rounded fe	Mid 12th to 15th
012		ST3	EST	A/D	Jar/ bowl	1	1	3		BS		Soot/ burnt; spalled; ?ID; no glaze	10th
012		ST2/3	ST	A/G	Jar	8	1	57		Rim + BS		Heavy external soot and carbonised deposit; intumed everted rim; no glaze	12th
014		ST2/3	ST	B	Jar/ jug	1	1	5		BS		Thin yellow glaze	
014		ST2/3	ST	A/D	Small jar	1	1	8		Rim		Long everted rim; soot; no glaze	
014		ST2/3	ST	A	Jar/ bowl	1	1	15		Base		Burnt; no glaze	
014		ST2/3	ST	B/G	Jar	12	1	58		BS		Soot; abraded; no glaze	
014		ST2/3	ST	B	Jug	18	1	107		Rim + BS	V01; DR02	Rounded rim; soot; no glaze; Stamford product?	12th?
017		ST3	EST	A	Jar	1	1	28	Incised horizontal lines; pressed rim top?	Rim		Soot; hollow round everted rim; no glaze	10th
017		-	MISC	Reduced; fine shelly	?	1	1	1		BS		Flake; handmade	?
017	1	ST2/3	ST	A/G	Pitcher	1	1	1		BS		Flake; yellow glaze	
017		ST2/3	ST	A/D	Jar	1	1	1		BS		Soot and carbonised deposit; no glaze	10th to 11th
017		ST2/3	ST	B	Jar	1	1	1		BS		Soot; no glaze	11th
019		-	MISC	Dull oxidised; medium shelly	?	1	1	2		BS		Leached; soot	?
019	2	ST3	EST	A/D	Jar/ bowl	1	1	2		BS		Soot; ?ID; no glaze	10th to 11th
019	2	-	MISC	Oxidised; fine shelly	Jar/ bowl	1	1	1	Burnished?	BS		Soot; no glaze	?

## Appendix 4

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Fill</b>	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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Saxon</b>	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:

19	Context Record Sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
2	Daily record sheets
6	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds 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: 2009.16

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

ASCR 09

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