

---

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT THE OLD HALL,  
COTTESMORE ROAD,  
ASHWELL,  
RUTLAND  
(ATOH 10)**

---

**Work Undertaken For  
Midland HR**

July 2010

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: FUL/2009/1331  
National Grid Reference: SK 8671 1292  
Rutland Museum Accession No: OAKRM: 2010.10  
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-80275

APS Report No. **66/10**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**





## Table of Contents

### List of Figures

### List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY .....	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF.....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING .....	1
3.	AIMS .....	2
4.	METHODS .....	2
5.	RESULTS .....	2
6.	DISCUSSION .....	3
7.	CONCLUSION .....	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	3
9.	PERSONNEL .....	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS .....	4

### Appendices

1. Specification for archaeological watching brief
2. Context descriptions
3. The Finds *by Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor*
4. Glossary
5. The Archive

## **List of Figures**

- Figure 1      General location plan
- Figure 2      Site location plan
- Figure 3      Plan showing location of watching brief areas
- Figure 4      Plan of the greenhouse area showing section locations and principal features
- Figure 5      Sections 1 to 3

## **List of Plates**

- Plate 1      View of the greenhouse area
- Plate 2      Section 1 with pit (004)
- Plate 3      Section 2 with pits (004) and (007)
- Plate 4      View looking north towards the summerhouse area
- Plate 5      Section 3

## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at The Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new greenhouse and a summerhouse.*

*The monitoring was required as the site lay alongside an area of a scheduled monument comprising the remains of a medieval settlement, watermill, millponds and gardens. Previous investigations close by have revealed Late Saxon and medieval occupation remains.*

*The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, undated, medieval and recent deposits. Undated deposits comprise a large pit that was probably used for the extraction of stone. This had in turn been cut by a refuse pit containing mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century locally produced pottery. The pit also produced a small number of animal bones.*

## 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

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Midland HR to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on land at The Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new greenhouse

and a summerhouse as detailed in planning application FUL/2009/1331. The work was undertaken between the 10<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010 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 site lies 230m northeast of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St Mary at National Grid Reference SK 8671 1292 (Fig. 2). The site is on the north side of Cottesmore Road at a height of c. 105m OD on the north facing slope of a minor valley.

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 (Pevsner 1992, 452).

The watching brief lies within an area of earthwork remains comprising medieval

settlement, water mill, mill ponds and gardens at the Old Hall, this area being designated a scheduled monument (No 30263). The remains also include house platforms, hollow ways and trackways and agricultural enclosures. 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 cut features and variable depths of subsoil that probably relate to archaeological remains. In particular, one of these remains may be garden terracing or similar earthworks (Mellor 2007; Cope-Faulkner 2007; Cope-Faulkner 2009a and b). Recent investigations monitoring the construction of a garage to the west of the site revealed medieval ditches and possible pits (Parker 2008). Further investigation suggested that one of these pits was probably a well which had been backfilled in the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century (Taylor 2008). Medieval pottery was moderately abundant within the ditches suggesting the proximity of settlement of the period. Recent excavations 60m to the northwest of the current work identified Late Saxon pits, postholes, gullies and ditches and retrieved a Neolithic flint flake (Taylor 2010, 4).

### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by

machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. 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 and plans at a scale of 1:50. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and 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.

### Greenhouse (Fig. 4)

The earliest deposit encountered within the greenhouse foundations was a layer of orange brown shale with clayey sand (002). This measured in excess of 0.67m thick.

Cut into this was a large feature (004) identified as a quarry pit. This was over 8.6m long, was wider than 4.6m and was 0.67m deep (Fig. 5, Sections 1 and 2; Plates 2 and 3). A single fill of orange grey stone and clayey sand (003) was recorded.

This had been cut by an oval pit (007), measuring 4.45m long, over 1.6m wide and deeper than 0.6m (Fig. 5, Section 2;

Plate 3). Two fills were recorded, a lower of greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal (006) and an upper of greyish brown clay with burnt stone and charcoal (005). Pottery of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date was retrieved from the lower fill along with animal bone.

Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil comprising dark brown silty sand (001) that was 0.6m thick. This had been imported to the site.

#### Summerhouse

Natural deposits encountered in this trench consisted of yellowish grey to yellowish brown silty sand and stone (012). This was over 0.21m thick and was overlain by yellowish brown silty clay (011) that was 0.25m thick (Fig. 5, Section 3; Plate 5).

Two recent foundation trenches (009) and (013) were recorded, each containing a limestone wall (008) and (014) with one backfill deposit observed (015).

Topsoil comprised brown/black sand silt (010) that was 0.31m thick. This may also have been imported to the site.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of stone, shale, clayey sand, silty clay and silty sand relate to the underlying solid geology.

A large feature, probably a quarry pit, remains undated due to a lack of artefactual material. It was probably excavated to extract the stone of the underlying geology. This was in turn cut by a pit that contained a substantial amount of locally produced medieval pottery, representing 31 vessels, along with a small collection of animal bone.

The remaining deposits encountered during the watching brief relate to recent work at the Old Hall.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at The Old Hall, Ashwell, as the site lay within an area of earthworks relating to a medieval settlement and post-medieval garden.

The watching brief revealed an undated quarry pit that was cut by a medieval refuse pit. Recent and natural deposits were also recorded.

Locally produced pottery of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date was retrieved from the investigation along with a small collection of animal bone.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S Bocoock 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 Supervisors: Andrew Failes, Vicky Mellor  
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1978 *Stamford: Solid and drift geology*, 1:50 000 map sheet **157**

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2007 *Archaeological watching brief on land at the Old Hall*,

*Ashwell, Rutland (ATOH07) Phase 2*, unpublished APS report **134/07**

Book **29**

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2009a *Archaeological Watching Brief at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland (ATOH07), Phase 7*, unpublished APS report **3/09**

## **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2009b *Archaeological Watching Brief at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland (ATOH07), Phase 9*, unpublished APS report **61/09**

Ekwall, E, 1989 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (4<sup>th</sup> edition)

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**

IfA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Mellor, V, 2007 *Archaeological watching brief on land at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland (ATOH07) Phase 1*, unpublished APS report **80/07**

Parker, N, 2008 *Archaeological Evaluation on the site of a proposed garage at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland (ATOH08)*, unpublished APS report **80/08**

Pevsner, N, 1992 *Leicestershire and Rutland*, The Buildings of England (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, revised E Williamson)

Taylor, G. 2008 *Archaeological strip, map and sample investigation at The Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland (ATOH 08)*, unpublished APS report **102/08**

Taylor, G, 2010 *Archaeological strip map and sample excavation on the site of a new tractor store at The Old Hall, Cottesmore Road, Ashwell, Rutland (ASCR 10)*, unpublished APS report **18/10**

Thorn, F (ed), 1980 *Rutland*, Domesday



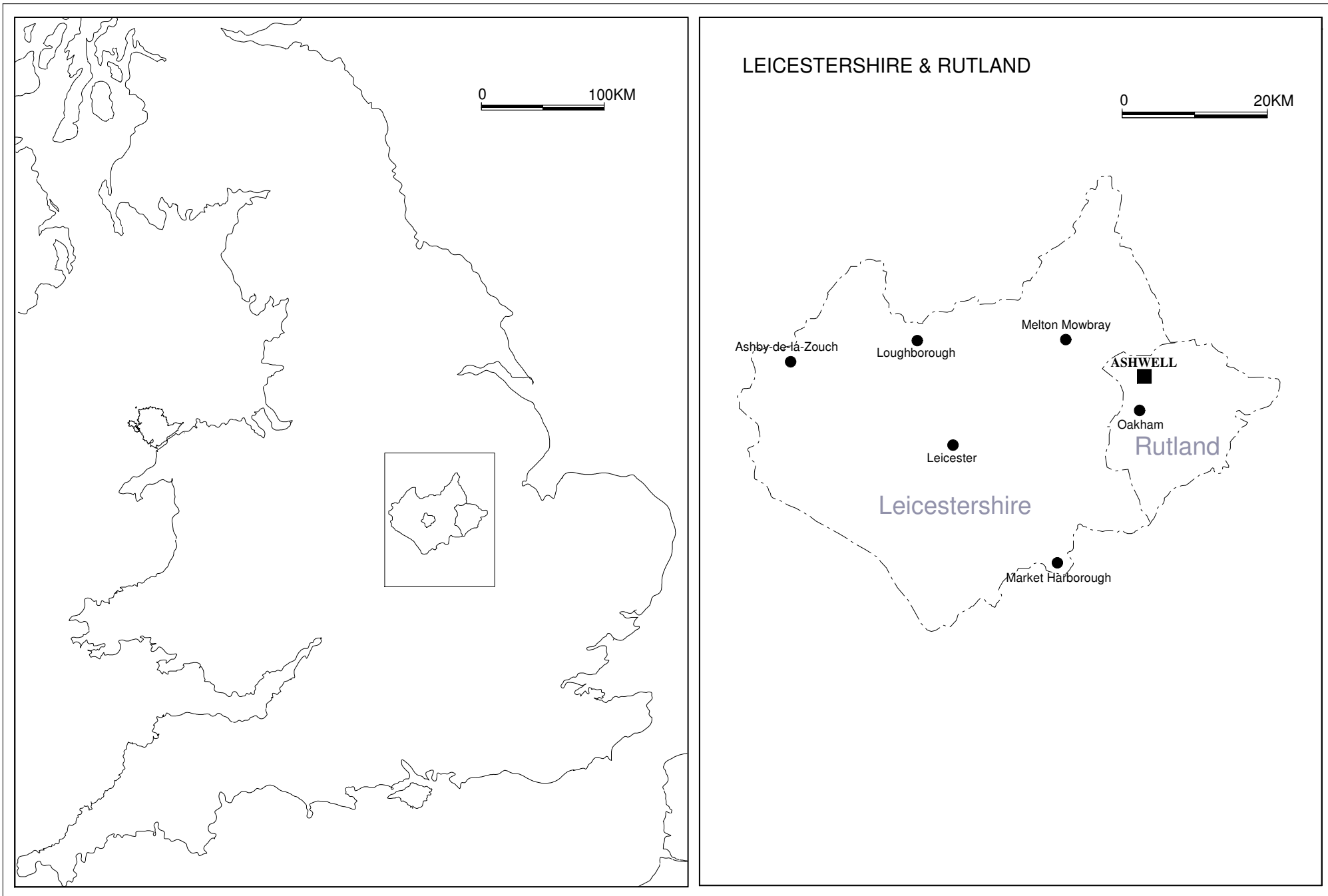
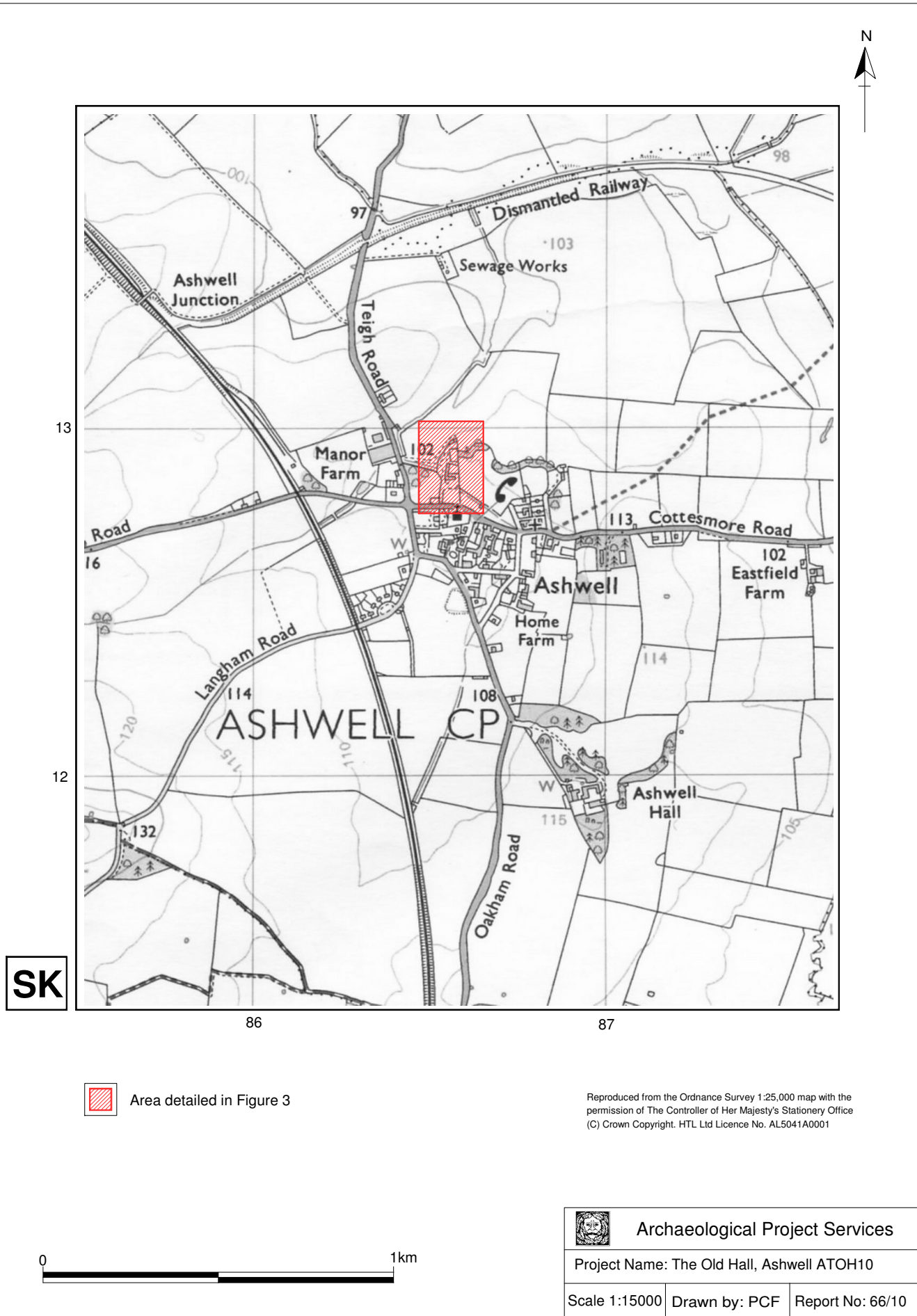



Figure 1 - General location plan



**SK**

 Area detailed in Figure 3

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: The Old Hall, Ashwell ATOH10		
Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 66/10

Figure 2 - Site location plan

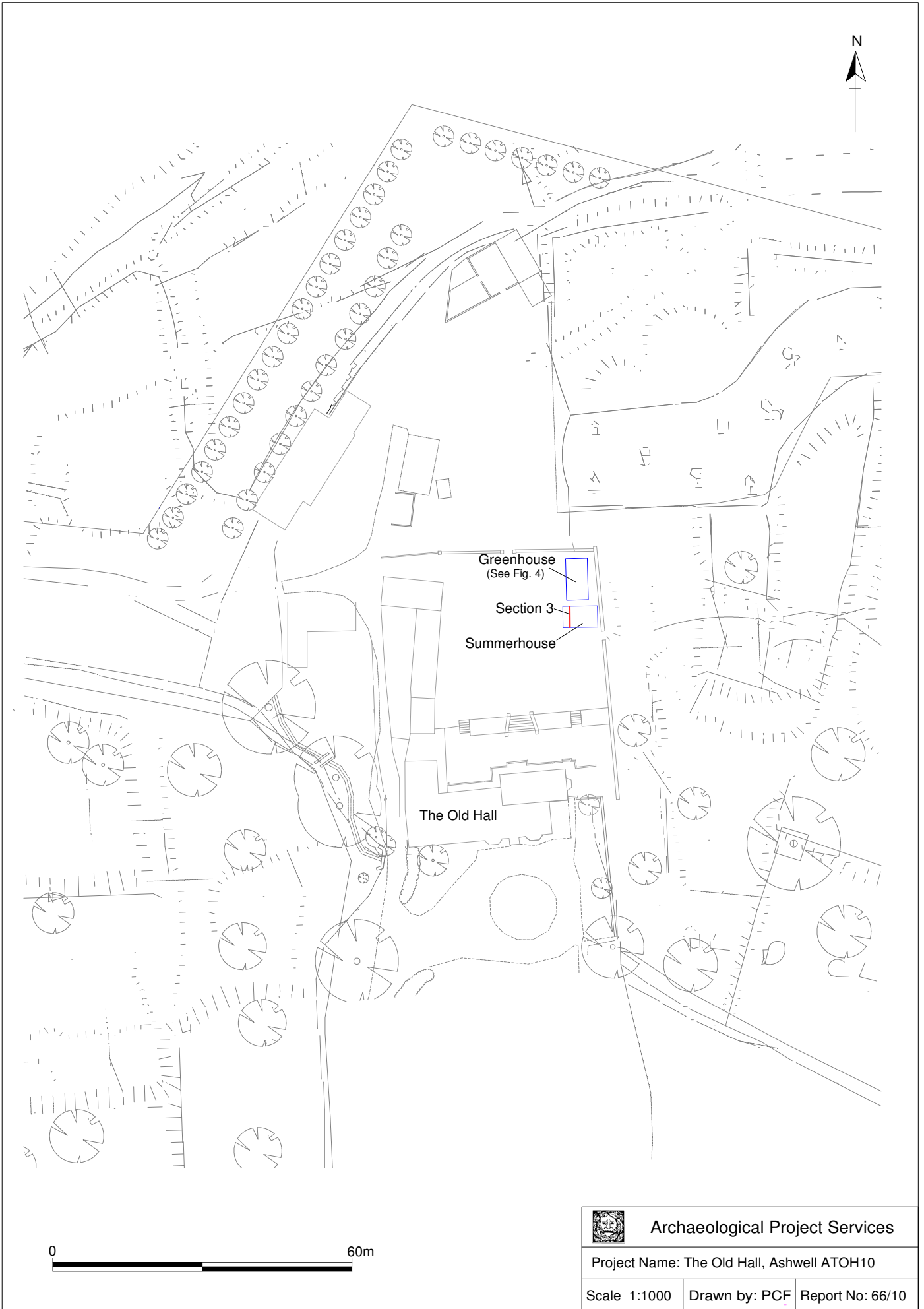
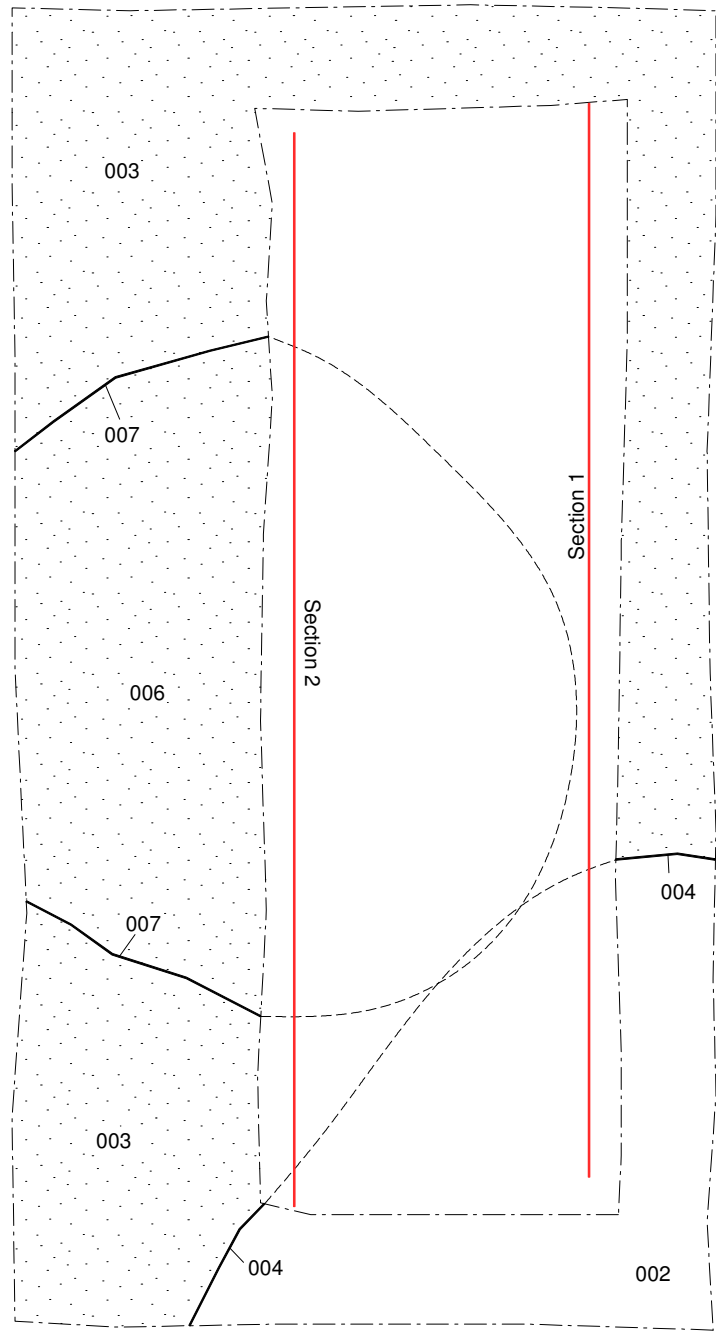


Figure 3 - Plan showing location of watching brief areas




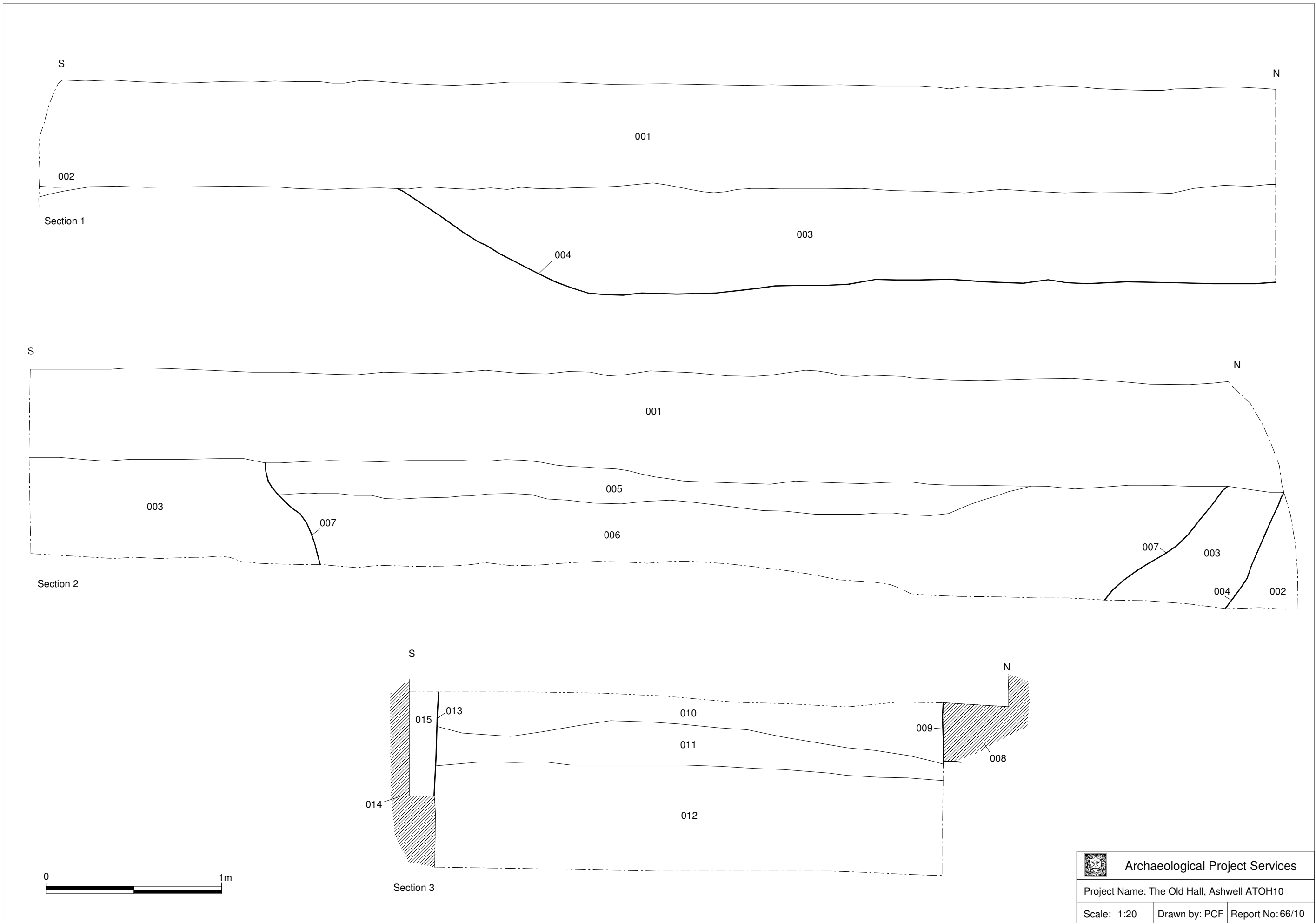
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: The Old Hall, Ashwell ATOH10		
Scale 1:50	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 66/10

Figure 4 - Plan of the greenhouse area showing section locations and principal features




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: The Old Hall, Ashwell ATOH10		
Scale: 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 66/10

Figure 5 - Sections 1 to 3



Plate 1 – View of the greenhouse area, looking southeast



Plate 2 – Section 1 with pit (004), looking northwest



Plate 3 – Section 2 with pits (004) and (007),  
looking southeast



Plate 4 – View looking north towards the summerhouse area



Plate 5 – Section 3, looking west

## **Appendix 1**

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

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *An archaeological watching brief is required during development on land at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland.*
- 1.2 *The site is in an area of earthwork remains of medieval settlement and agriculture, and post-medieval formal gardening. Previous investigations in the immediately proximity revealed medieval pits, ditches and a well backfilled in the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries*
- 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, Cottesmore 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 to the north of the hall at national grid reference SK 8658 1389.

#### **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Planning permission (Application No. FUL/2009/1331) for the construction of a greenhouse and summerhouse 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 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 on a garage a little to the west found evidence of medieval occupation, including ditches, pits and a well that was backfilled in the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries (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 Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment 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 fieldwork 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* 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 Beeby, 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
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.
- 18.3 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

## **19 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Archaeological Project Services, 2008 *Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation on land at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland (ATOH08)*, APS Report **102/08**

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**

Specification: Version 1, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010

## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	G/house	Friable dark brown silty sand, 0.6m thick	Topsoil
002	G/house	Hard mid orange brown shale with clayey sand	Natural deposit
003	G/house	Loose mid orange grey stone and clayey sand	Fill of (004)
004	G/house	Feature, >8.6m long by >4.6m wide by 0.67m deep, steep sides and flattish base	Quarry
005	G/house	Firm mid greyish brown clay with frequent burnt stone and charcoal	Fill of (007)
006	G/house	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal	Fill of (007)
007	G/house	?Oval feature, 4.45m long by >1.6m wide by >0.6m deep, near vertical sides, not fully excavated	Pit
008	S/house	Limestone wall	Recent wall
009	S/house	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >0.35m wide by 0.4m deep, near vertical sides and flat base	Foundation trench for (008)
010	S/house	Soft dark brown/black sandy silt, 0.31m thick	Topsoil
011	S/house	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay, 0.25m thick	Natural deposit
012	S/house	Firm light yellowish grey to yellowish brown silty sand and stone, >0.21m thick	Natural deposit
013	S/house	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >0.15m wide by 0.6m deep, near vertical sides and flat base	Foundation trench for (014)
014	S/house	Limestone wall	Recent wall
015	S/house	Soft to firm mid brown silty clay	Fill of (013)

## Appendix 3

### THE FINDS

#### POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby and 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). Equivalencies to the type series for Leicestershire (Sawday, unpublished) are highlighted in Table 1 below. A total of 31 sherds from 16 vessels, weighing 319 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 below. All of the pottery is medieval in date.

#### Condition

The material is fragmentary though there is little sign of abrasion. The overall average sherd weight is quite low at just 10 grams, although most of the vessels here are fine walled Stamford ware types, so this is not surprising. A very high proportion of the vessels (75%) are sooted, suggesting use, most likely of a domestic nature, over a hearth or fire. Two sherds are also burnt, probably during rubbish disposal activities carried out after the vessels were broken. A single piece of the Oolitic tempered Stanion/Lyveden ware (STANLY), has leached out calcareous inclusions, while sherds from a Stamford ware (ST) jug have a pitted interior. These effects may have been caused by acidic or abrasive contents contained within them during use.

#### Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Period	Cname	Leics Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Saxo- Norman – Medieval	ST	ST 2/3, ST 2, ST3	Stamford Ware	1000	1200	22	11	204
Early Medieval- Medieval	STANLY	LY 1-4	Stanion/Lyveden ware	1150	1400	8	4	103
	MEDLOC	MS	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1400	1	1	12
<b>Total</b>						<b>31</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>319</b>

#### Provenance

All of the pottery was recovered from fill (006), within oval pit feature [007], in the greenhouse area.

#### Range

There is a restricted range of fabrics and forms represented, all of which date to between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Most of this is Stamford type ware (ST), although there are also four vessels in Stanion/Lyveden (STANLY) and a single sherd in an unknown local fabric type (MEDLOC). Given the presence of these types, on balance, a mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date can be suggested for the context.

There is a mix of Stamford fabrics, including seven vessels in type B, six in A/D, and a single example in type A/G.

All of these vessels are probably jars with the exception of that in A/G, which could be a pitcher. The presence of such a large number of vessels in Stamford ware here is of no surprise, as this industry was a dominant one locally in terms of ceramic distribution, during this period.

The single piece of unknown local type pottery (MEDLOC) is probably from a jar and is almost certainly a local copy of the Stamford type.

All four of the Stanion/Lyveden ware vessels are in the Oolitic fabric variant type B. One of these is a bowl whilst the remainder are jars. Stanion/Lyveden wares are common in this region and are known to have been produced close by in Northamptonshire. Kilns producing this product having been excavated at several sites, including Stanion and Lyveden, to the east of Corby (Young *et al* 2005, 174).

The material from this watching brief is very similar to that recovered during previous investigation carried out at the site (see Boyle 2008 & 2009 and Beeby and Boyle 2010).

### Potential

The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

### Summary

A small group of pottery, probably dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> centuries, was recovered during the watching brief. All of the material came from one feature within the greenhouse area, pit [007]. The pottery is fairly fresh but derives from a large number of vessels (16).

### FAUNAL REMAINS

*By Paul Cope-Faulkner*

#### Introduction

A total of 9 (162g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

#### Provenance

The animal bone was retrieved from the fill of a pit (006).

#### Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good.

#### Results

*Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
006	large mammal	humerus	1	41	all join; chop marks
	horse	astragalus	1	51	
	horse	scapula	3	34	
	cattle	rib	1	12	
	pig	canine	1	3	
	medium mammal	femur	1	18	
	medium mammal	unidentified	1	3	

#### Summary

The assemblage is dominated by large mammals with both horse and cattle present. Pig was also identified. The collection has limited potential, though should be retained as part of the site archive.

#### SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

*Table 3, Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
006	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> century	

#### ABBREVIATIONS

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



## REFERENCES

- ~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>
- Beeby, A and Boyle, A, 2010 'the Post Roman Pottery' in pottery' in: Taylor, G, *Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on the Site of a New Tractor Store at the Old Hall, Cottesmore road, Ashwell, Rutland, (ASCR10)*, report no 18/10, Archaeological Project Services.
- Boyle, A, 2008 the Post Roman pottery in: Taylor. G, *Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation on Land at the Old Hall, Ashwell, Rutland (ATOH08)*, report number 108/08, Archaeological Project Services.
- Boyle, A, 2009 'the post Roman pottery' in: Cope-Faulkner. P, *Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Old Hall, Cottesmore Road, Ashwell, Rutland, (ASCR09)*, report no 132/09, Archaeological Project Services.
- 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	Cname	Leics Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Part	description	Date
006	ST	ST3	Fabric A/D	Jar	1	1	11	BS	Sooted exterior; fresh; no glaze	11th-12th
006	ST	ST3	Fabric A/D	Jar	4	1	35	BASE; BS	Sooted; burnt; thin green glaze	11th-12th
006	ST	ST3	Fabric A/D	Jar	2	1	24	BASE; BS	Sooted exterior; no glaze	11th-12th
006	ST	ST3	Fabric A/D	Jar	3	1	24	BASE; BSS	Sooted exterior; base slightly reoxidised; no glaze	11th-12th
006	ST	ST3	Fabric A/D	Jar	1	1	5	BASE	Sooted exterior; thin greenish yellow glaze; roughly finished under base	11th-12th
006	ST	ST3	Fabric A/D	Jar	1	1	16	BSS	Thin green glaze; sooted exterior	11th-12th
006	ST	ST2	Fabric B	Jug	4	1	45	RIM; BSS	Sooted exterior; pitted interior; joining sherds; rounded cuff rim; unglazed	12th
006	ST	ST 2/3	Fabric A/G	Jar/ Pitcher	2	1	17	RIM; BS	Thin yellow glaze; round hollow everted rim	11th - 12th
006	MEDLOC	MS	Oxidised; medium coarse sandy; mod well sorted angular to well rounded q up to 0.5mm; includes roseate and poss greensand?; freq fine mica	Jug or Jar	1	1	12	BASE	Sooted exterior; no glaze	M12th+
006	ST	ST2	Fabric B	Jar	1	1	5	BS	Fresh; ID?; no glaze	11th - 12th

006	ST	ST2	Fabric B	Jar	2	1	18	BSS	Thumb impression on outer surface of one sherd; sooted exterior; 1 sherd also internally sooted; ID?; no glaze	11th - 12th
006	STANLY	LY 1-4	Fabric B	Bowl	2	1	47	RIMS	Joining sherds; soot on rim	12th-14th
006	STANLY	LY 1-4	Fabric B	Jar	4	1	29	BSS	External sooting	12th-14th
006	STANLY	LY 1-4	Fabric B	Jar	1	1	12	BASE	Leached	12th-14th
006	STANLY	LY 1-4	Fabric B	Jar	1	1	15	BASE	Olive green glaze; external sooting; oxidised surfaces	12th-14th
006	ST	ST2	Fabric B	Jug or Jar	1	1	4	BS	Olive green glaze?; burnt	11th-12th

## 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>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
<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:

15	Context Records
6	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
2	Daily record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
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: 2010.10

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

ATOH 10

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.