



Aynhoe Park

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording Report

August 2021

Client: Savills

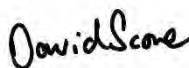
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Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Savills on behalf of James Perkins to undertake an archaeological watching brief for a kitchen extension and gas service connection at Aynhoe Park House, Aynho, Northamptonshire. The watching brief was undertaken between March and May 2021.

The watching brief recorded a stone surface extending beneath the current driveway and former stable yard. The surface is probably associated with Soane's remodeling works in the early-19th century and repositioning of the main entrance. Drainage related to a later post-medieval water collection system were observed beneath this surface. Other earlier features include a possible wall, a pit feature, and a probable trampled surface which are considered likely to relate to later post-medieval activity. Evidence of 18th century garden soils was recorded within the northern part of the site.

Apart from a small assemblage of finds retrieved from later deposits, no evidence of the 17th century house or associated features was observed during monitoring works.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Savills to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a kitchen extension and new gas supply at the site of Aynhoe Park, Aynho, Northamptonshire .

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. S/2020/2001/FUL)/ and Listed Building Consent (ref: S/2020/2110/LBC). A specification was set by Liz Mordue, Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council, and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (OA 2021b).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Aynhoe Park is a Grade I listed building and is situated within a Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden at the south-western edge of the village of Aynho, Northamptonshire, c 10km south-east of Banbury (Fig. 1). The house stands a short distance west of the parish church of St Michael, on a ridge overlooking the park to the south. The building has a U-shaped plan; the main block being flanked by a pair of wings that project forward to enclose a courtyard. The kitchen is located at the east end of the main block and the development involves its extension to the north. The new gas main extends from a meter housing beside Roundtown (B4100) and runs across an area of raised lawns and the gravel driveway and courtyard before dividing to supply the basement plant room and the kitchen.

1.2.2 The site lies at c 140.5m above Ordnance Datum.

1.2.3 The British Geological Survey website maps the underlying geology as comprising bedrock of oolitic limestone and sandstone, laid down 165 to 176 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS online).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a Desk-based Assessment (OA 2021a), the results of which are summarized below.

1.3.2 The small quantity of prehistoric and Roman finds recovered suggests that there is little potential for archaeological remains to be present predating the medieval period, although this may reflect the limited amount of work undertaken in the immediate area.

1.3.3 The likely presence of a medieval manor house before the construction of the first Aynhoe Park House in the 17th century suggests that there is a potential for such remains, although none have hitherto been found.

1.3.4 The area now occupied by the commercial kitchen was previously part of the stable yard and had been so since at least 1800. The arrangement before this is unknown, but there is some potential for buried remains related to the 17th century house.

1.3.5 The area crossed by the new gas supply has always lain exterior to the house, and has the potential to contain post-medieval garden features or subsidiary structures. It is possible that former surfaces are preserved beneath the gravel of the driveway and courtyard.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive,
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains,
- iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means,
- iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains,
- v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy,
- vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape,
- vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive,
- viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status utility and social activity, and
- ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.1.2 The specific project aims were:

- i. To determine the survival of evidence for any pre-17th century building remains.
- ii. To determine the survival of remains associated with the original garden design of the 17th century house.
- iii. To determine the survival of any earlier surfaces or structures beneath the current drive and yard surfaces.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A watching brief was undertaken during all intrusive groundworks with the potential to disturb archaeological remains. The specific works comprised two areas:

- i. An area of excavation for the construction of the kitchen extension, and
- ii. trench excavation for a new gas supply to the kitchen and main house.

2.2.2 The watching brief areas were machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket with an archaeologist in attendance. All archaeological remains encountered were investigated and recorded in accordance with the standard OA guidance detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; OA 2021b).

2.2.3 Ground was reduced to the construction formation level of between 0.7–1.2m below current ground level (bgl; see Appendix A).

2.2.4 The route of the gas pipe trenching differed slightly from that illustrated in the WSI (OA 2021b) due to vehicular access considerations. Figure 1 shows the course of the gas pipe trench as it was excavated.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the areas that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B, and environmental results in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 There was a fairly consistent sequence of modern levelling deposits beneath the current gravel driveway and courtyard, which directly overlay stratified archaeological remains of post-medieval date. The sequence below current lawned areas was also uniform and comprised garden soils overlying made ground.

3.2.2 There were frequent heavy rain showers throughout the duration of the watching brief. Although the ground across the site is relatively free draining, the rain destabilized the looser deposits, particularly beneath the driveway/courtyard and caused collapse of the already loose sections. However, the northern extent of the gas pipe trench which cut through the lawns was less affected and remained more stable throughout.

3.2.3 The underlying natural geology was intermittently identified along the course of the development and varied slightly in colour and composition. The level of the natural geology varies greatly across the site, reflecting previous truncations. The highest observed level of the natural geology was c 0.42m bgl, but it was more consistently encountered between 0.7m to 0.85m bgl. The higher relative levels of natural geology were consistently encountered in closer proximity to Aynhoe Park house.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological deposits were identified across the development and, for clarity, the watching brief results have been grouped into Areas A and B according to location. The majority of the features identified were located in close proximity to the house beneath the driveway/courtyard and comprised predominantly surface and/or structural remains (Area A). Fewer features were identified in the northern extent of the gas pipe trench away from the house, (Area B), and all appear to relate to garden development. The location of features and area divisions are shown on Figure 2.

3.4 Area A (Figures 2–4, plates 1–5)

3.4.1 Area A comprises three parts: A.1 the southern half of the main gas connection trench, A.2 the kitchen gas connection trench, and A.3 the kitchen extension foundation trenches (Fig.2).

3.4.2 Area A.1 extended north along the curve of the driveway from the cellar light-well located to the east of the principal house entrance, up to the lawn edge north of the western courtyard wall. This part of the trench measured c 53m long by up to 0.5m wide and was excavated to between 0.9m to 1m bgl. The level of the natural geology varied in this area and the highest level was recorded at c 0.45m bgl.

3.4.3 Area A.2, the kitchen connection trench, extended east beneath an archway from c 2.8m north of the light-well, to join the north-eastern corner of kitchen foundation trenches. This section measured 18m long by 0.5m wide and was excavated to between 0.7m to 0.85m bgl. The natural geology was identified at c 0.8m bgl in this area.

3.4.4 The kitchen foundation trenches, (Area A.3), covered an area measuring 9.5m by 9.5m and were excavated up to a maximum depth of 1.2m bgl. The kitchen extension comprised a 3m by 9.5m in the northern part of this area. The natural geology was identified at c 0.78m bgl in this area.

3.4.5 The earliest feature identified was cut feature 18, a probable pit which was excavated up to impact depth only. The feature had been truncated by a modern foul drain to the south. Pit 18 measured 1.5m north to south and contained two observable fills. The lowest fill, 17, was recorded in plan only. It comprised numerous large fragments of sandstone flagstone with occasional clay lumps and frequent voids between the stones. The upper fill, 19, comprised a soft silty sand that contained a sheep metatarsal with evidence of butchery.

3.4.6 Pit fill 19 was overlain by a mottled dark grey demolition layer 20. The demolition layer extended c 5.5m north from the light-well in Area A.1. At the southernmost extent of area A.1, a possible stone foundation wall, 14, within construction cut 15 truncated demolition layer 20. The wall comprised two sandstone block courses with loose stone fragments above this. The wall appeared to be oriented east to west but had been heavily truncated on the southern side by the brick built light-well, and to the east by a service associated with a heating system. The wall remnants measured 0.3m high by 0.2m deep and it appeared to continue to the west beyond the limit of excavation.

3.4.7 A water collection system was located within the courtyard garden. The system comprised a large brick-built reservoir situated beneath the central ornamental sculpture into which rainwater is captured via underground pipes from drains located by the east and west wings of the house. It is thought to be late-18th or early-19th century (pers. comm. Butler 2021). Three such ceramic drainpipes were identified along the route of Area A.1. The pipes were encountered at variable depths, all sloping toward the central part of the courtyard, and loosely aligned with extant metal drains adjacent to the west-facing elevation of the east wing. The pipe trenches had very steeply sloped sides, although the bases of none were observed. The trenches were filled by a greyish blue clay that surrounded the ceramic pipes with bright yellow sand defining the edges of the cut.

3.4.8 Situated c 10m from the lightwell in Area A.1 was a south-west to north-east aligned linear pipe trench, 23 (Fig.3). The trench measured 1m in width and the sides were steeply sloped. Although the base was not revealed, an *in situ* lead pipe was revealed at the impact depth. The trench contained a single light yellowish brown fill with frequent light whitish yellow lenses, 24. A small assemblage of finds was recovered from this fill, including a copper alloy scallop shell mount (SF 1), five sherds of pottery and window glass. The estimated date of deposition is late-18th to early-19th century.

3.4.9 Approximately 23m from the lightwell along Area A.1, a possible structure was identified in conjunction with a fourth potential drainage pipe trench, 27. The features are illustrated on Figure 4. Three large sandstone blocks appeared to form a structure, 26, that had been set in place with a light grey concrete-like material, 28. Overlying this was deposit 29, a blue-grey clay with yellow sand above, described and previously associated with ceramic

drainage pipes. No pipe was identified within deposit 29 but one may have been present below the impact depth. Deposit 28 was not considered to have been cut by probable pipe trench 27 and it was thought that the sandstone and concrete were fills within a single cut feature. Cut 27 was clearly identified truncating natural geology to the south of the section, however, there was no clearly identifiable cut to the north. The two smaller stones each had one roughly faced side which were laid onto natural geology to form a flat base. The third, and largest stone was broken out to impact depth but continued beyond the basal, eastern and western limit of excavation. It was not possible to establish whether the stones were associated with other blocks forming part of a larger structure.

3.4.10 A spread of dark brown compacted clayey silt, 31, extended for c 10m and overlay 26, 28 and 29 (Fig. 3). A finds assemblage recovered from this deposit comprised several tin glazed pottery sherds and a clay tobacco pipe fragment all of 18th to early-19th century date, shards of 17th century window glass and remnants of a late-17th to early-18th century onion-style wine bottle. A thin, patchy mortar-like spread, 30, directly overlay this dark spread and extended intermittently for c 8m.

3.4.11 Within Area A.3, the southern part of Area A.1 and the eastern part of Area A.2, several areas of *in situ* stone surface survived. The surface, group 57, comprised long, flat roughly pitched pieces of sandstone, laid on the long edge and packed tightly together. Changes to the direction of the surface coursing were marked by slightly raised runs of larger sandstone pieces used to create a division. Edging stones of the same shape were also identified in A.1 and A.3. Figure 4 presents a representative illustration of the stone surface as discovered within Area A.3. The sandstone pieces were set into a purplish brown silty sand, (group 58). Within Areas A.2 and A.3, the sandy bedding layer directly overlaid natural geology. However, in Area A.1 group 58 directly overlay demolition layer 20, pit fill 19, pipe trench fill 24, and layers 30 and 31 (Fig. 3). No finds were recovered from the surface or bedding layer.

3.4.12 The sandy bedding layer extended into the northern part of Area A.1 and continued for approximately 35m. However, the overlying layer within this part of the site was a layer of rubble, 25, which comprised a loose jumble of small flat fragments of sandstone with occasional dark sandy silt rubble patches similar in composition to demolition layer 20.

3.4.13 Layer 25 and group 58 were truncated by a north-east to south-west linear feature, 33, which measured 0.28m in depth and 0.7m in width. The cut had near-vertical sides and a flat base and contained a foundation wall consisting of three uneven courses of flat, roughly hewn sandstone blocks, 34. The cut was backfilled with deposit 35, a greyish brown sandy silt deposit.

3.4.14 The stratigraphic relationship between surface 43 (of group 57) in the eastern part of A.2 with other features in the western extent of the area could not be established as a modern drainage service truncated the area where any such relationships may have existed.

3.4.15 The earliest feature in the western part of A.2 was brick structure 55. The structure consisted of at least two courses of dark blue grey brick and measured 1.7m in width. Modern services truncated the structure to the north and west, but brick courses continued below impact depth. Overlying structure 55 was deposit 54, a layer of orangey yellow sand.

3.4.16 Construction cut 48 appeared to cut sand layer 54. The feature contained two stepped courses of a red brick foundation wall, 47. The wall was orientated north to south and had remnants of a hard mortar bond. The cut had been backfilled with a compact dark grey silty sand, 49. Deposit 49 was overlain to the east by a layer of redeposited natural, 56. Sand layer 54 to the west was overlain by 53, a layer of crushed slate. Both deposits were in turn overlain by a layer of mortar, 52. Linear feature 50, a steeply sloped cut orientated north to south truncated these layers and wall 47, thus removing their stratigraphic relationships.

3.4.17 The uppermost sequence of deposits across all of Area A comprised a layer of crushed brownish yellow sandstone, 9, that was overlain by tarmac, 8, which was in turn overlain with flint gravel, 7. These layers had been variously truncated by numerous service trenches and other modern intrusions, especially in close proximity to the current house.

3.5 Area B (Plate 6)

3.5.1 Area B was the continuation of the gas trench from Area A.1. The trench extended north across two lawns and an access road before continuing west along a row of shrubbery that marks the northern property boundary. The trench extended up to the garden wall where the gas meter housing will be installed adjacent to a wooden gate. This section of the trench measured approximately 50m in length by up to 0.45m in width. It was excavated to a depth between 1 and 1.3m bgl. The stratigraphy in the north-western part of the area had been heavily disturbed by dense rooting and a water service. The natural geology in this area undulated between c 0.75m to 0.95m blg.

3.5.2 A greyish brown buried garden soil, 42, was identified within the northern part of the area directly overlaying natural geology. The deposit covered a c 8m by 3.5m area and continued north and east beyond the limit of excavation. Four pieces of clay pipe, two shards of window glass and an oyster shell were recovered from the deposit and suggest a late-17th to early-18th century depositional date. Overlying this was deposit 41, an undulating layer of made ground which comprised crushed sandstone made and measured up to 0.6m thick. This in turn was overlain by a light orangey brown sub-soil that was up to 0.25m thick. Both deposits extended across the majority of Area B beneath the lawns.

3.5.3 Cut feature 36 was at the boundary between Area A.1 and Area B. The feature was cut into natural geology, had steeply sloped sides and measured 1.9m in width. The base was not observed. A soft greyish brown loam fill, 37, was recorded within the feature. A single cattle bone was retrieved from the deposit but no evidence for dating was recovered.

3.5.4 Overlying fill 37 and partly overlying the southernmost extent of subsoil 40 was a further layer of rubble made ground, 38, which measured 7m in width spanning the Area A.1 and B boundary. Within Area B a dark loam topsoil, 39, overlay layer 38. The topsoil is present across the lawns and overlies subsoil 40. Within Area A.1, this was overlain by the same modern deposit sequence described above (see 3.4.17) and abuts topsoil 40. An east to west gravel driveway divides the two lawns and comprises a sequence of disturbed natural overlain by made ground. This in turn was overlain by tarmac and gravel, deposits 7 and 8. The driveway does not appear on the 2003 Ordnance Survey (OS) map and is a recent construction (OA 2021a).

3.6 Finds summary

3.6.1 A small assemblage of finds dating from the post-medieval period were recovered during the monitoring works. The finds comprised several pottery sherds and clay tobacco pipe fragments of 18th to 19th century date. The assemblage of glass shards mainly comprised green-tinted window glass of a probable 17th century date and shards of a late-17th to early-18th century wine bottle. A 17th to 18th century copper alloy scallop shell mount (SF 1), a sign of St James commonly indicative of pilgrimage, was recovered from deposit 24. Other finds included iron nails and animal bones some of which indicates a broadly post medieval date.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Although the variable weather and ground instability were occasionally unfavourable, the presence of surviving archaeological deposits below existing ground levels has been demonstrated, and the stratigraphic sequences are reasonably well understood across this part of the Aynhoe Park site.

4.2 Watching Brief objectives and results

4.2.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify and record any archaeological remains present in order to mitigate the impact of intrusive groundworks which were required for the installation of gas service connections and a kitchen extension. The works comprised machine excavation of foundation and service trenches in the presence of an archaeologist.

4.2.2 Several archaeological features dating from the 18th to the 20th century were identified during the works. The deposits comprise several walls, a stone surface, cut features associated with a water collection system, two possible pits and a buried garden soil, as well as several layers of made ground and demolition rubble.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Monitoring of the groundworks confirmed the presence of archaeological remains which decreased in density further away from the house to the north.

4.3.2 The drainage pipe trenches that extend toward the centre of the courtyard from the east wing of the house are part of a known below-ground water collection system understood to have been constructed during the late-18th to early-19th century (pers. comm. Butler 2021). Rainwater is channelled into these drains via a stone gully which is of the same construction as surface 57 exposed across Area A. Other extant examples of this surface were noted across the site (Fig. 2). Layers 30 and 31, located directly beneath the sand bedding of the surface, 58, could indicate an earlier surface or occupation level. However, the layers overlie the fills of feature 27 which is interpreted as a drain connected to the water collection system. Thus, it is unlikely that stone surface 57 and the water collection system are contemporary.

4.3.3 It was not possible to reliably interpret structure 26 due to the small size of the service trench. The structure appeared to have been built in conjunction with the water collection drainage features. However, it is possible that the structure is an earlier, unrelated feature or possibly an earlier foundation wall.

4.3.4 Structure 55 probably represents the foundations of a stone archway linking the east wing to the main house. The archway forms a part of the extensions and reconfigurations made by Sir John Soane between 1800 to 1805. As a part of this remodelling, Soane moved the main entrance from the southern to the northern elevation of the main house (OA 2021a). Although no stratigraphic relationship between the foundations and surface 57 was identified during monitoring works, it is probable that the stone surface was laid as a part of Soane's works to create a new entrance courtyard with access to the stable yard that previously occupied the current kitchen area (*ibid.*).

4.3.5 Formal gardens are known to have been planted around the house by the 18th century. It is possible that feature 36 and layer 42 are remains of these gardens. Although the investigation of feature 18 was limited, it appeared to continue some way below impact depth following probing of the voids in fill 17. It is possible that this feature may constitute an earlier backfilled well or earlier post medieval garden feature. Wall 36 is probably the remains of a 19th century courtyard garden wall in a similar location to the current stone wall.

4.3.6 Interpretation of wall 14 is problematic due to heavy truncation and limited exposure. Stratigraphically, the wall is likely to be of a 19th century or later date and could related to Soane's remodelling works within the area.

4.3.7 Similarly, the function of wall 47 is unclear. The adjacent layers 53 and 54 were cut by the construction cut of the wall, 48, and with other stratigraphically later features in this part of Area A, are thought to be related to relatively modern intrusive works and services.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The monitoring works, although limited, have revealed evidence of surviving archaeological features dating to at least the later post-medieval period. The earliest datable features are limited to evidence of 18th century garden activity in the northern part of the site.

4.4.2 A stone surface which appears to have covered most of the southern extent of the monitoring works is thought to relate to Soane's redevelopment of Aynhoe Park in the early 1800's. The remains are of minor significance, but they do contribute toward the overall understanding of the extent of Soane's remodelling.

4.4.3 Other surviving archaeological features were discovered beneath the stone surface which could relate to a well and also the late post-medieval water collection system beneath the courtyard garden. The features are likely to be of minor significance, however, limited exposure of these features hinders full interpretation.

4.4.4 Evidence of earlier activity on the site is limited to a small assemblage of finds comprising 17th century window glass shards and a 1600–1800 copper alloy scallop shell mount, all of which were residual within features of a later date. This suggests that any remains associated with the earlier house are either located elsewhere within the site or have been entirely removed by later activity.

APPENDIX A DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Area		
Area	Location	Maximum depth (m)
A.1	Main gas pipe route along drive	1
A.2	Kitchen connection service trench	0.85
A.3	Kitchen extension foundations	1.2
B	Main gas pipe route through lawns	1.3

Contexts							
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Area	Finds	Date
1	Surface	-	0.04	Current concrete and loose single surface	A.3	-	Modern
2	Surface	-	0.1	Limestone slab surface	A.3	-	Modern
3	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground for 2. Compact, dark brown clayey silt	A.3	-	Modern
4	Surface	-	0.2	Stone surface. Roughly coursed, tightly packed sandstones. Partition stones dividing east-west coursing from north-south coursing. Earthen bond. Group 57	A.3	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.14	Bedding layer for 4. Compact grey silty sand. Group 58	A.3	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Natural. Soft and loose sand with soft sandy clay variation. Bright yellow with brown and orange lenses to mottled pale grey, yellow and blue.	All areas	-	-
7	Layer	-	0.05	Flint gravel. Current driveway surface. Similar to 1	A.1, A.2	-	Modern
8	Layer	-	0.04–0.22	Tarmac below 7	A.1, A.2	-	Modern
9	Layer	-	0.4	Made ground. Orangey yellow stone crush	A.1	-	Modern
10	Surface	-	0.15	Stone surface. East to west coursed sandstone. Same as 4. Group 57	A.1	-	-
11	Layer	-	0.34	Bedding layer. Purplish/brownish grey silty sand. Group 58	A.1	-	-
12	Surface	-	0.15	Stone surface. Same as 4. Dividing stones between east-west and north-west-	A.1	-	-

				south-east coursing. Group 57			
13	Layer	-	0.25	Bedding layer. Same as 11. Group 58	A.1	-	-
14	Wall	-	0.3	Possible stone foundation wall. Two courses of roughly hewn, unfinished sandstone blocks. Heavily truncated. Mortar remnants. Fill of 15	A.1	-	-
15	Cut	-	0.3	Construction cut for possible foundation wall 14. Near vertical sides. Base not seen. Heavily truncated	A.1	-	-
16	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of 15. Construction cut backfill. Dark brownish grey sandy silt.	A.1	-	-
17	Fill	1.3	-	Lowermost observed fill of 18. Broken sandstone flagstones and bluish grey clay patches. Observed in plan at impact depth only. Not investigated further.	A.1	-	-
18	Cut	1.5	-	Partially exposed cut. Probable pit. Single steep side and two fills observed. Truncated to south by modern services.	A.1	-	-
19	Fill	1.5	0.18	Uppermost fill of 18. Soft, bright orangey yellow silty sand	A.1	Bone	-
20	Layer	5.5	0.5	Demolition layer. Mixed rubble inclusions in dark, brownish grey silty sand matrix.	A.1	-	-
21	Surface	-	0.15	Stone surface. Same as 4. North-east to south-west aligned edging stones to north. Surface coursing aligned north-west to south-east. Group 57	A.1	-	-
22	Layer	-	0.18	Bedding layer. Same as 11. Group 58	A.1	-	-
23	Cut	1	-	Linear pipe trench aligned north-east to south-west. Steeply sloped sides. Base not seen, not excavated beyond impact depth. 0.3m depth exposed.	A.1	-	-
24	Fill	1	-	Sole observed fill of pipe trench 23. Light yellowish	A.1	Pottery, SF 1,	Late-18th to

				brown silty sand with light whiteish yellow patches. In situ lead pipe in center at impact depth.		metal, glass, bone.	early-19th century
25	Layer	40	0.2	Rubble layer. Jumbled fragments of flat sandstone pieces in a mixed greyish brown matrix. Patches of darker brown sandy silt with CBM similar to 20.	A.1	-	-
26	Structure	1.8	-	Possible structure comprising 3 large sandstone blocks. Appear to be associated with drainage trench cut 27. Sandy earthen bond. Single roughly faced side on two stones. Unclear continuation beyond LOE.	A.1	-	-
27	Cut	3.8	-	Possible drainage pipe and construction cut. Unclear relationship with 26. One edge identified, very steep. Base not seen.	A.1	-	-
28	Fill	0.94	-	Fill of 27. Concrete. Solid, sandy, pale whitish grey with yellow patches. Infrequent quartz pebbles. Associated with structure 26.	A.1	-	-
29	Fill	0.6	-	Fill of 27. Firm greyish blue clay with bright orangey yellow sand to edges of deposit. Same as fill surrounding other ceramic drainage pipes. No pipe seen in this fill.	A.1	-	-
30	Layer	8	0.03	Thin and patchy spread of friable, powdery off-white sandy mortar. Surface or construction related.	A.1	-	-
31	Layer	10	0.12	Compact, dark blackish brown clayey silt. Possible trample layer.	A.1	Pottery, clay pipe, glass	Late-18th to early-19th century
32	Layer	40	0.2	Bedding layer. Same as 11. Group 58	A.1	-	-
33	Cut	0.7	0.28	Construction cut. Linear cut aligned north-east to south-west. Near vertical sides, flat base.	A.1	-	-

34	Wall	0.55	0.24	Likely garden wall foundation. Three uneven stone courses. Disturbance to top. Patches of pale sandy mortar. Constructed within 33	A.1	-	-
35	Fill	0.7	0.28	Backfill of 33. Soft, coarse greyish brown sandy silt	A.1	-	-
36	Cut	1.9	-	Pit or possible garden feature. Steep sloped sides, base not seen	A.1 and B	-	-
37	Fill	1.9	-	Sole observed fill of 36. Very soft, sticky greyish brown silty clay loam	A.1 and B	Bone	-
38	Layer	7	0.4	Loose, dark brownish yellow silty sand matrix around crushed sandstone rubble	A.1 and B	-	-
39	Layer	33	0.6	Topsoil. Soft dark greyish brown clayey silt loam	B	-	Late post-medieval to modern
40	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil. Light orangey brown clayey silt	B	-	Late post-medieval
41	Layer	-	0.6	Made ground. Firm light brownish silty sand matrix around crushed sandstone. Variable depth, average 0.4m	B	-	Late post-medieval
42	Layer	-	-	Buried garden soil. Firm md greyish sandy silt. Undulating	B	Glass, clay pipe, shell	18th century
43	Surface	6.2	0.25	Stone surface. Same as 4. Two north-south dividing rows. Surface courses aligned east-west across remnants. Truncated to west by modern services. Group 57	A.2	-	-
44	Layer	6.2	0.15	Bedding layer. Same as 11. Group 58	A.2	-	-
45	Cut	0.92	0.32	Probable modern north-south aligned linear feature. Moderately sloped sides, concave base	A.2	-	Modern
46	Fill	0.92	0.32	Fill of 45. Soft dark yellow silty sand with greyish	A.2	-	Modern

				patches. Likely intentional backfill			
47	Wall	0.34	-	Red brick foundation wall aligned north to south. Two visible stepped courses of likely English bond. Mortar remnants. Brick size: 220mm x 110mm x 70mm	A.2	-	-
48	Cut	0.7	-	Construction cut of wall 47. Near vertical sides. Base not seen. Truncated by 50	A.2	-	-
49	Fill	-	-	Backfill of 48. Compact, mixed dark grey, white and yellow silty sand	A.2	-	-
50	Cut	0.6	0.28	Probable robber cut of wall 47. Linear feature aligned north to south. Steep to near vertical sides, flat base. Truncates 47 and 48	A.2	-	-
51	Fill	0.6	0.28	Fill of 50. Single fill of likely robber cut. Loose, orangish brown sandy silt. Intentional backfill	A.2	-	-
52	Layer	4.5	0.1	Loose, powdery greyish white sandy mortar spread.	A.2	-	-
53	Layer	3.8	0.12	Loose, crushed dark bluish grey slate	A.2	-	-
54	Layer	4	-	Soft, loose dark orangey yellow sand	A.2	-	-
55	Wall	1.7	-	Bluish grey brick foundation wall. Possibly for archway. Two visible courses of uncertain bond. Brick size: 240mm x 120mm x 0.1mm. In base of service trench and not excavated further. Appears to be truncated to top as well as to north by modern foul pipe.	A.2	-	-
56	Layer	3	-	Disturbed or redeposited natural. Very mixed grey, yellow and blue silty sand with brown patches and clay lumps.	A.2	-	-
57	Group	-	-	Stone surface. Comprises 4, 10, 12, 21 and 43	A	-	-
58	Group	-	-	Sand bedding layer for stone surface group 57. Comprises 5, 11, 13, 22, 44 and 32	A	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Post-medieval pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- A.1.1 A total of 16 sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 42g were recovered from two contexts. Ordinary domestic wares are represented. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.
- A.1.2 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014).

Description

- A.1.3 **Context (24) Spot-date: c 1780-1840.** Description: 5 sherds (weight 18g). All fresh. All tablewares. 1x footring from a teabowl in Pearlware (PEAR, c 1780-1840). 3x body sherds in Developed Creamware (CREA DEV, c 1760-1830), possibly from shallow bowls or dishes. 1x rim from a cylindrical tankard in dipped white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSL, c 1710-1760), this example decorated with a dark brown band at the rim.
- A.1.4 **Context (31) Spot-date: c 1700-1800/25?** Description: 11 sherds (weight 24g). Crushed sherds from a single medium-sized jar or small chamberpot in English tin-glazed ware (TGW, c 1570-1840). Plain everted rim present. Late-looking pale yellow fabric with a white tin glaze inside and out. Glaze very flaky.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- A.1.5 The pottery here has little potential for further analysis and could be discarded, if so desired.

B.2 Clay tobacco pipes

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 A total of 5 pieces of clay pipe weighing 8g were recovered from two contexts. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

Description

B.2.2 **Context (31) Spot-date:** Late 18th to 19th century. Description: 1 piece (weight 2g). A plain mouthpiece from a slender late-looking pipe with a narrow stem bore. Fresh condition.

B.2.3 **Context (42) Spot-date: 18th century.** Description: 4 pieces (weight 6g). Short but fresh pieces of stem from three separate pipes.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.2.4 The pipes here have little potential for further study and could be discarded, if so desired.

B.3 Metals

By Anni Byard

Introduction

- B.3.1 A total of five metal objects were recovered during the evaluation. The metalwork was scanned during the present assessment and where possible century, or broad period dates were assigned. Objects were quantified by type and weight by context and recorded on a spreadsheet.
- B.3.2 Four iron nails and one copper alloy mount were recovered from a single context (context 24). All objects are of post medieval, probably later 17th or 18th century date.

Description

Context	SF no.	Material	Count	Weight	Object	Date	Description
24	1	CU alloy	1	11.9	Mount	17–18th C	Scallop shell mount with single integral mount-point (broken)
24		Fe	4	17.8	Nail	PM	Heavily encrusted fragmentary nails, one with T-shaped head. Probably later post-medieval

Table 1. Description of metalwork by context

- B.3.3 The iron nails are heavily encrusted, but all appear to have flat sections rather than circular sections. One retains a T-shaped head. These are later post-medieval in date.
- B.3.4 The copper alloy object is a scallop shell mount. The scallop shell is a symbol of St. James and has been used as a sign of pilgrimage for several hundred years. This example has a single broken rivet or mount on the reverse. The thickness of the metal indicates that this is a post-medieval example, probably c. AD 1600-1800.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard, and retention of material

- B.3.5 No further work is suggested for this small assemblage. While the nails can be discarded, the scallop shell mount is a nice example and should be retained as part of the site archive.

B.4 Glass

By Anni Byard

Introduction

B.4.1 A total of 17 shards of glass weighing 226 g was recovered from three contexts during the evaluation. The glass was quantified by type and weight by context and recorded on a spreadsheet. Where possible broad period or century dates were assigned.

Context	Material	Count	Weight	Object	Date	Description
24	glass	4	7.9	Window	PM	Flat, slightly opaque green glass
24	glass	1	7.8	Vessel	PM	Curved vessel or bottle shard, opaque green-brown tinted glass
31	glass	4	6.9	Window	PM	Flat, opaque light green glass
31	glass	6	200.6	Wine bottle	late 17th C	Olive green-brown glass. Base of an onion type wine bottle, refitting shards, high kick-up and pontil. C. 1680-1700
42	glass	1	2	Window	PM	Flat, slightly opaque light green glass
42	glass	1	0.8	Window	PM	Flat, mostly transparent, very slight green tint

Table 2. Description of glass by context

B.4.2 The glass assemblage consists mainly of small shards of green-tinted window glass, possibly a forest glass and likely of 17th century date. The use of wood ash as a flux was banned in the early 17th century. Iron was used as a flux after this date and can also produce a green tint.

B.4.3 Six shards from an onion style wine bottle were recovered from context 31, which also produced a small quantity of green window glass. Some of the wine bottle shards refit to form the base of the bottle, which has a high kick-up and pontil mark. This bottle is likely to date from c. AD 1680 – 1700 / 1720. After this date wine bottles become taller and thinner with reduced kick-ups.

B.4.4 In conclusion, the glass assemblage indicates a depositional date of late 17th or early 18th century. The window glass may be expected on a high-status building such as Aynho Park.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard, and retention of material

B.4.5 While the glass could be retained as part of the site archive, no further work is suggested for this small assemblage.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Adrienne Powell

C.1.1 Seven fragments of animal bone, weighing a total of 189g, were recovered from four contexts during archaeological monitoring at Aynhoe Park (ENN110139). The material was in very good condition overall (on a scale of 1 = excellent, little or no damage, to 5 = very poor), although there was a small amount of root etching and superficial cracking present. Measurements follow Driesch (1976).

Context	Weight (g)	Condition	Description
19	23	2	A right sheep metatarsal, unmeasurable but size suggests post-medieval date likely, bears transverse knife cuts on the midshaft plantar surface
24	5	1	a spinous process from a thoracic vertebra of a sheep-sized mammal, exhibits rodent gnawmarks; a rib shaft fragment from a sheep-sized mammal, shows both carnivore and rodent gnawmarks; a right proximal ulna shaft fragment from a small galliform bird, carnivore gnawmarks are present; an unidentifiable long bone splinter
37	158	1	A right cattle proximal radius, fused, proximal breadth = 84.7mm, very small amount of carnivore gnawing
42	3	1	A possible rib from a pig, showing what seem to be fusion with the sternum? CHECK

Table 3. Description of Animal Bone by context

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.1.2 No further information can be gained from these bones and retention in the archive is not recommended.

C.2 Shell

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
42	A single fragment of oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) shell, 4g

C.2.1 A single fragment of oyster shell was recovered from context 42, having been recorded the shell may be discarded.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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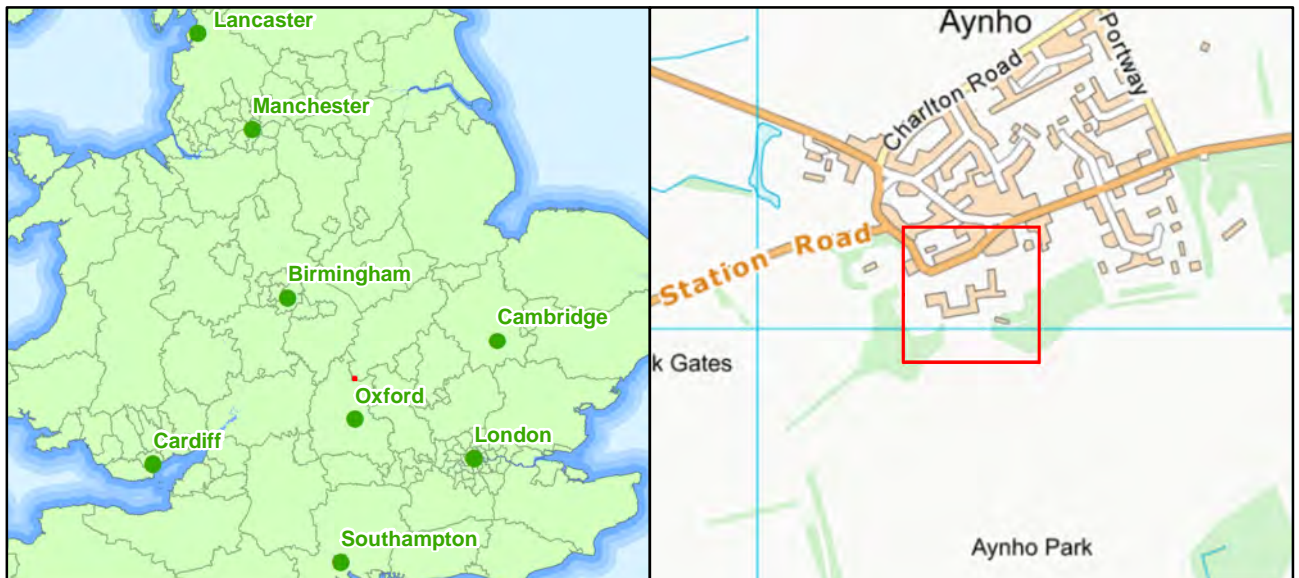
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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Aynhoe Park
Site code:	ENN110139
Grid Reference	SP 514 330
Type:	Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording
Date and duration:	Visits between March and May 2021
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA and will be deposited with Northamptonshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: ENN110139
Summary of Results:	<p>The watching brief recorded a stone surface extending beneath the current driveway and former stable yard. The surface is probably associated with Soane's remodeling works in the early-19th century and repositioning of the main entrance. Drainage related to a later post-medieval water collection system were observed beneath this surface. Other earlier features include a possible wall, a pit feature, and a probable trampled surface which are considered likely to relate to later post-medieval activity. Evidence of 18th century garden soils was recorded within the northern part of the site.</p>

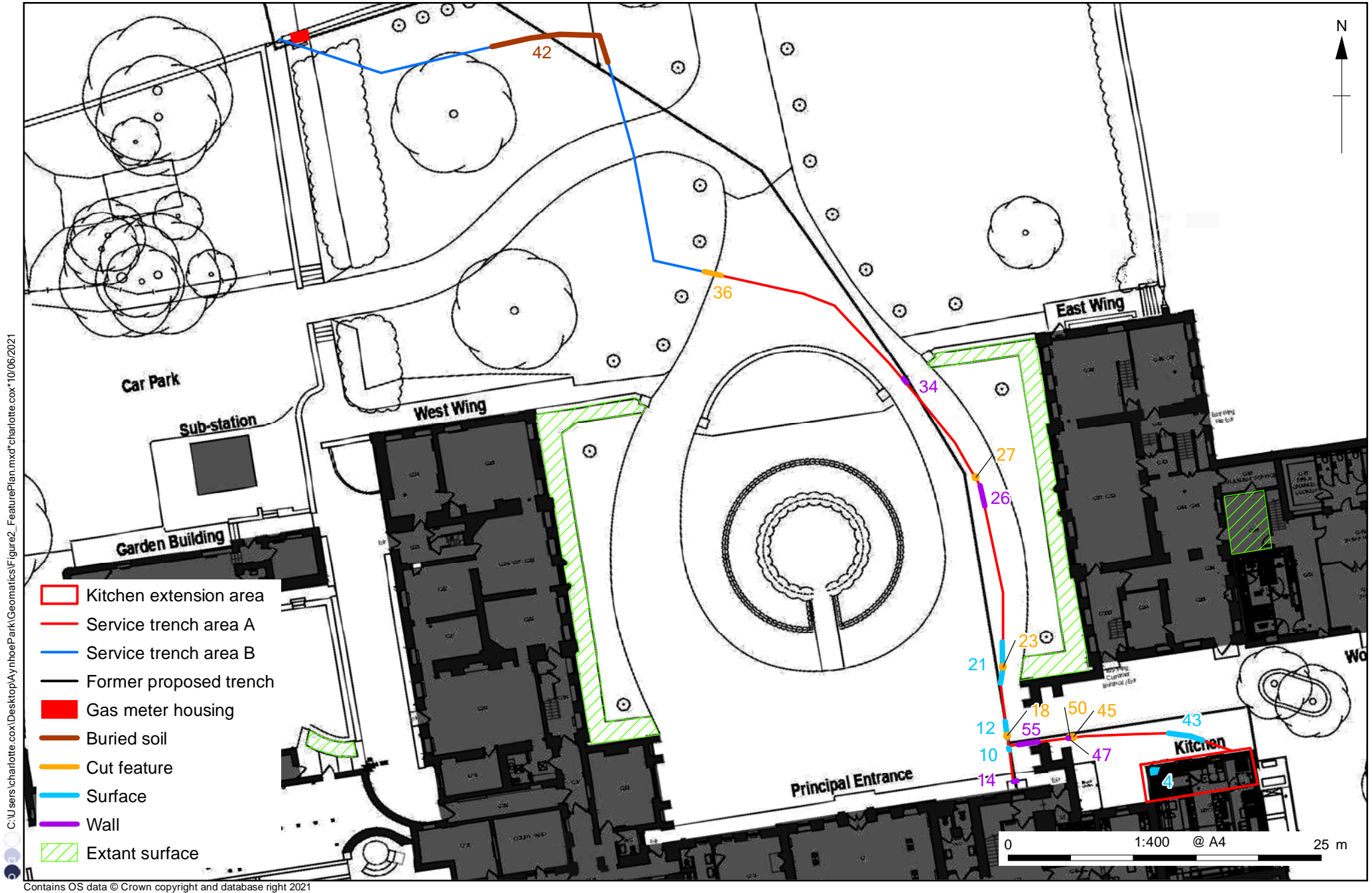
Apart from a small assemblage of finds retrieved from later deposits, no evidence of the 17th century house or associated features was observed during monitoring works.



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Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Feature location plan

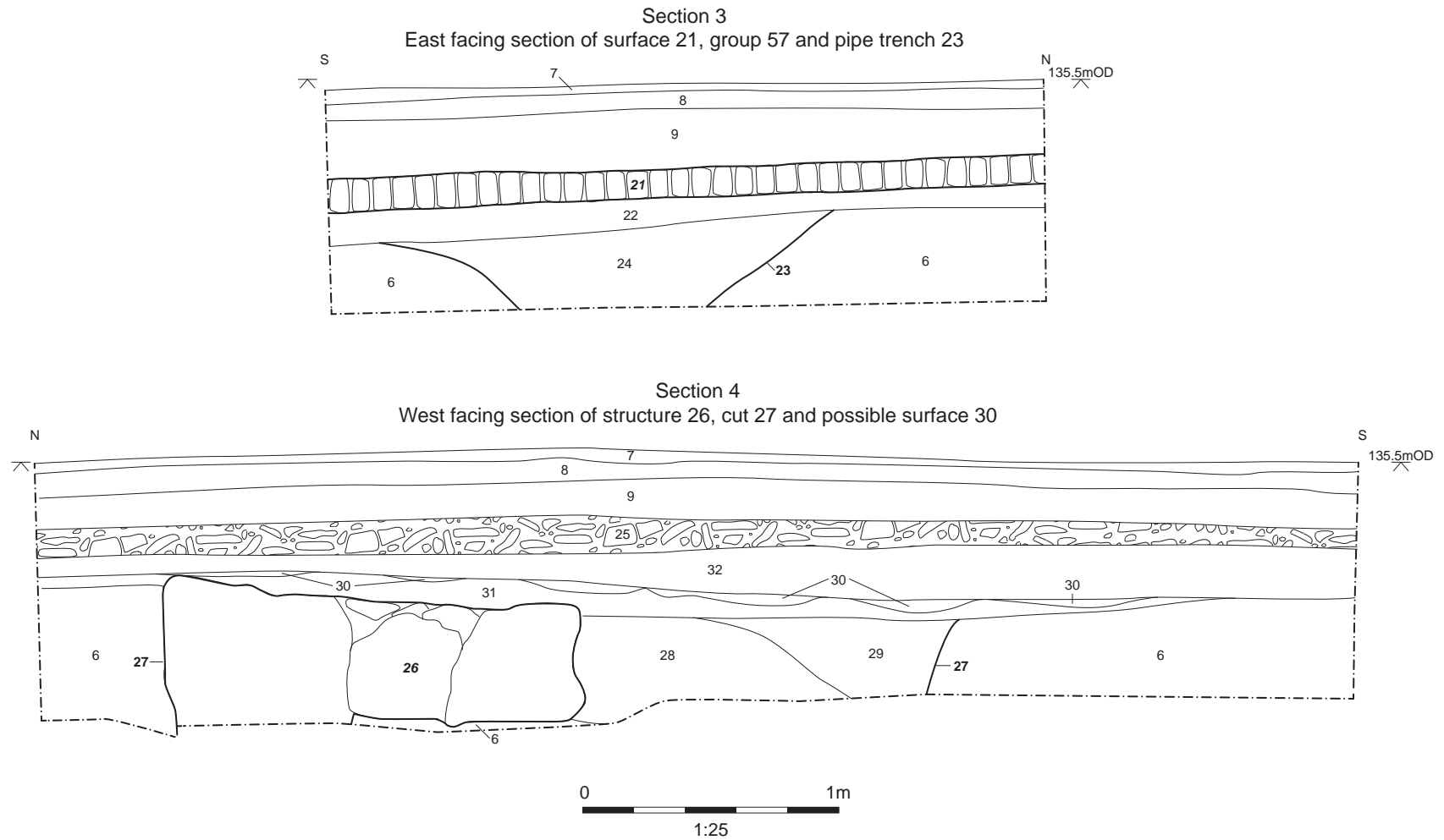


Figure 3: Section 3 and section 4

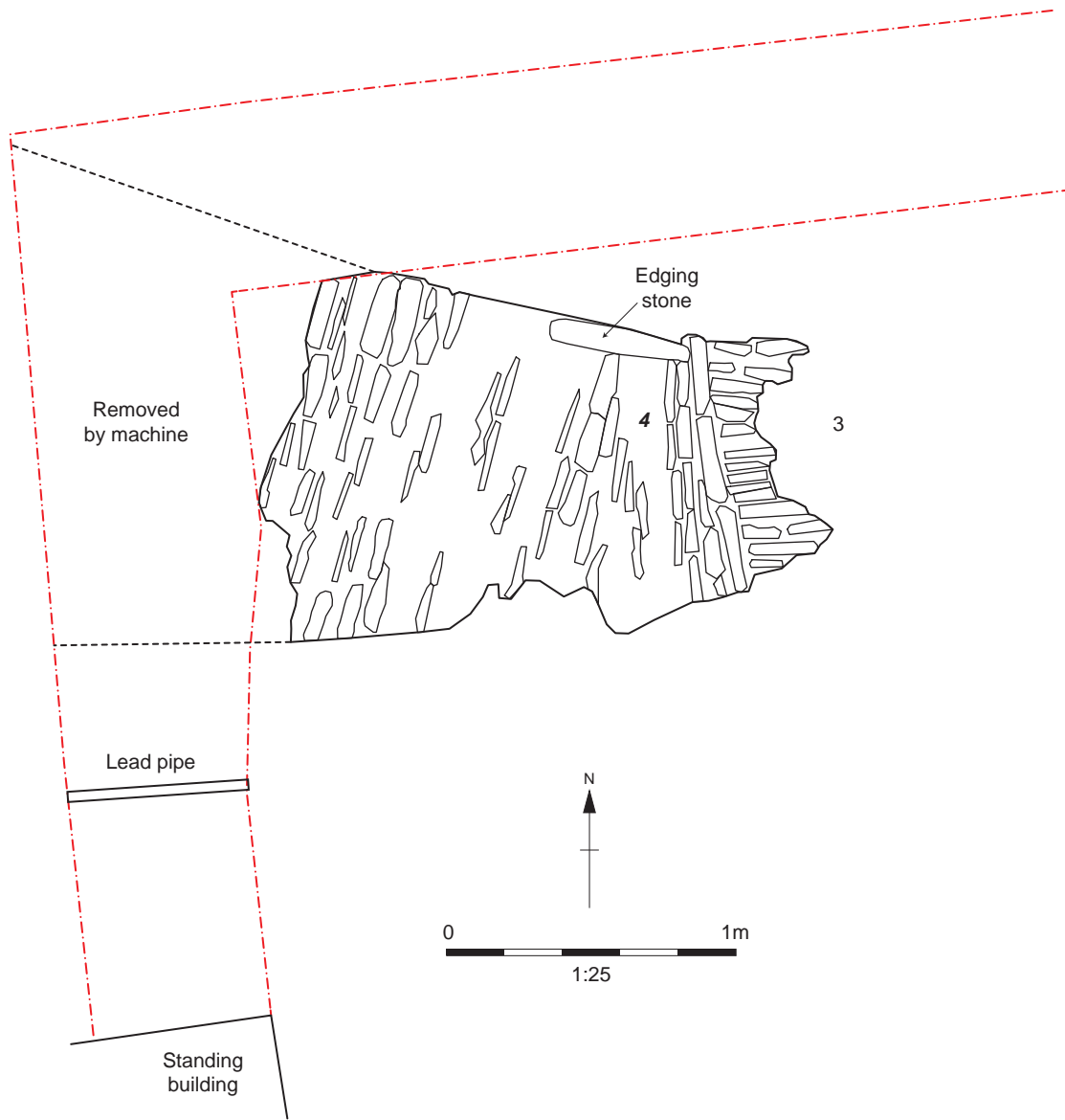


Figure 4: Plan of stone surface 4, group 57



Plate 1: View south-east along area A.1



Plate 2: View north along area A.1



Plate 3: View east along area A.2



Plate 4: East-north-east plan view of surface 43



Plate 5: View east across area A.3



Plate 6: View south-east across area B



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