

# **STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATORY WORK AT THE OLD POST OFFICE, HILL ROAD, LOWER BODDINTON**

## ***Summary***

*Two test-pits were opened at The Old Post Office, Lower Boddington, on May 7, 2013 with a view to establishing any previous impact on potential archaeology within the proposal area for a new build. Extensive ground-reduction within the proposal area indicates that the archaeological potential was nil.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location and Statement Background**

The site is located in the grounds of the The Old Post Office, Hill Road, Lower Boddington, centred on National Grid Reference SP 48258 52353 at approximately 132m AOD. The site is located on Lower Lias, a Jurassic clay and is currently in use as the access to a garage.

Planning consent (S/2013/0059/FUL) has been granted for residential development at The Old Post Office, Hill Road, Lower Boddington, Northamptonshire. A condition was attached for a programme of archaeological works for which the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) prepared a Brief. A WSI was prepared by JMHS and accepted by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor for NCC.

The applicant advised that the ground where the new build is proposed had been substantially lowered during the construction of the garage and associated driveway.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The village is a shrunken settlement, with earthworks indicating former houses, closes and fishponds around the modern settlement. To the north of Hill Road and immediately east of the development site, the earthwork remains are thought to be fishponds and water management features.

## **3 RESULTS & CONCLUSION**

### **3.1 Results of investigation**

The current use of the proposal area is for parking and the drive is shingled with small stone.

Two test-pits were excavated – one on the northwest side, the other on the southeast within the footprint of the proposed new build (Fig. 1). The investigation pits measured c. 600mm × 600mm and were excavated to the natural clay, which lay approximately 25mm to 35mm below the overlying stone.

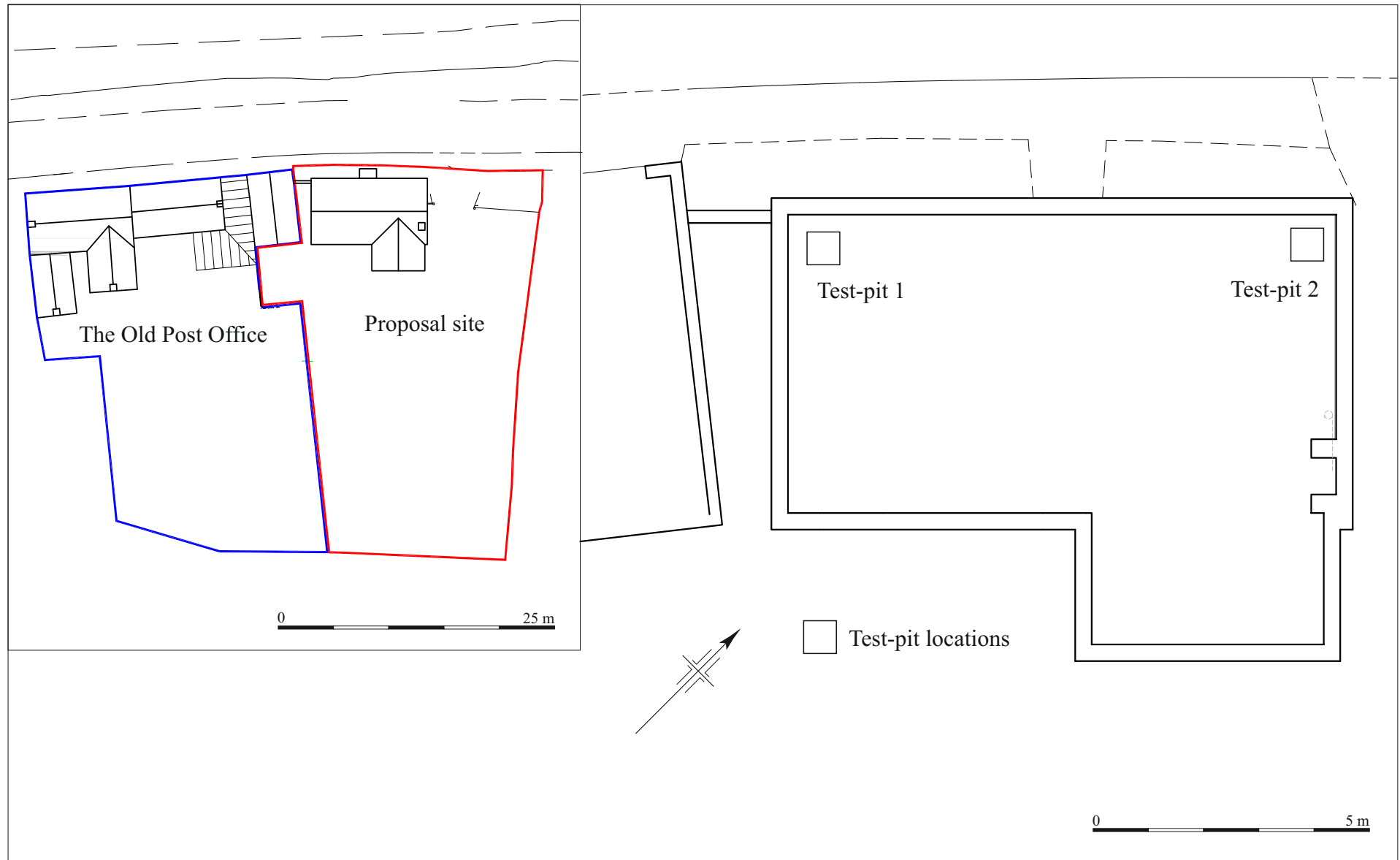


Figure 1. Site location and test-pit location.

Excavation was halted at the level of the Lower Lias clay.

### 3.2 Impact of previous work

The previous groundworks carried out in the 1980s had completely removed any potential for archaeological remains. Excavation had removed between 250mm and 800mm of overlying materials (ie clay subsoil and topsoil) within the proposal area previously (Fig 2). The test-pits excavated by JMHS demonstrated that the ground reduction had been carried out into the natural Lower Lias.



Figure 2. Extent of previous ground reduction; looking north to Hill Road.