



The Search for Stathern Hall - The FINAL Dig Diary

Sometime after the execution of Colonel Francis Hacker in October 1660, his home here at Stathern was pulled down, but we don't know where it used to be. Thanks to the kind permission of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, The Field Detectives and the people of Stathern have been provided with the opportunity to resolve that mystery. My name is Moley, and this is my final account of their adventure.

WEEK 5 - Days 13, 14 & 15
Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th, and Sunday 9th November 2025

THE WEATHER

Warm for the time of year, not raining while on site, but yucky on the boots, gloves & paws.

HOW MANY OF THEM WERE THERE THIS WEEK?

Richard, Jill, John, Roger W, Aileen, Peter and Colette. That's 7 Detectives, 5 Volunteers and 19 visitors. They've been digging on muddy hill for 79.5 hours.

WHAT DID THEY DO?



All that noise on Wednesday was rather annoying. Lots of flash bang wallop, which meant that my super-sensitive hearing was all a mess. That's a lot of missed yummy earth worms!

It also meant that I missed a lot of what was going on down the hill. Thursday was much better; I could see that the diggers were scurrying about covered in mud, which was very funny. But, because I was so hungry after the fireworks nightmare, I had to go hunting for worms, so again, I missed a lot of what was going on. It's been a bad couple of days. I'm just so pleased that they didn't decide to build a bonfire over my tunnels.

On Sunday, not only were they covered in mud again, but they were also saying things like, 'straight sides and flat bottoms', 'now we can fly the drone', 'I've found the bottom of the wall', 'has anyone seen my diamond?' and 'we're off to see Forest'. It was the mention of the drone and flying that worried me, I mean the only things up there that scare the living daylights out of me are red kites and buzzards. Now, they're talking about something up there that I've never even heard of. I mean, how scary is that!

So, not the best of weeks and yet, perhaps the very best of weeks. As the diggers were about to leave, they announced that Sunday was the last day of the dig (yahoo) and that they were soon going to be filling it all back in again. Yes, they've spent over 79 hours digging mud, and now they're going to put it all back again. I told you that they were all a little bit strange.

Still, I'm still a bit peckish, so let's see if we can find something to tide me over until morning.

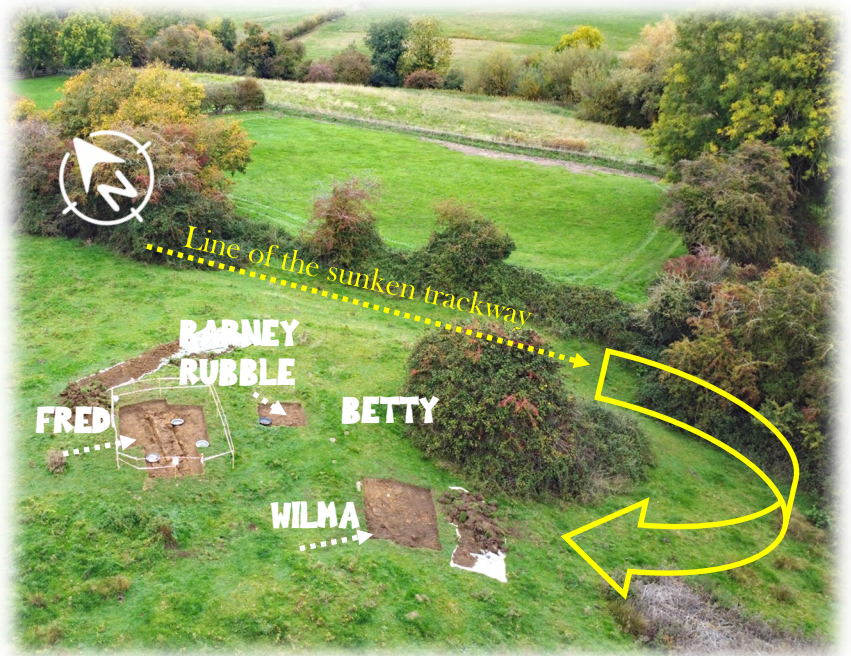
WHAT DID THEY FIND & ARE THEY LEARNING ANYTHING NEW ABOUT THE LOST HALL?

There is a very odd one called Richard, and he said that what they were doing was a small piece of a very big puzzle. That small pieces could be joined together bit by bit and that once the puzzle was complete, then you can see the bigger picture. Yes, Richard, that's what puzzles do. He is very odd, don't you think? Then, when he started to talk about stitching it together, I decided that it was time to head back down my tunnel. There's only so much a mole can take.

THE QUESTION THEY'VE BEEN ASKING FOR A WHILE NOW!

ARE FRED, BARNEY RUBBLE, BETTY AND WILMA RELATED?

The wall in Fred, the rubble in Barney, the newly discovered Betty floor and the mysterious construction in Wilma appear to have no relationship at all, but what if we could join them up to take a closer look?



Well, after lots of digging, Fred, Barney Rubble, Betty and Wilma are all re-united with each other.



Now it's time for Steve to fly the drone so that we can see the bigger picture. After that, the site will be covered back over, the report will be written and our findings presented to the broader village community at St Guthlac's church. If permission is granted, we will continue the investigation from October 2026.

For all of you from Stathern who braved the weather conditions to join us on this incredible adventure up on muddy hill, we not only salute you, but we also owe you a huge debt of gratitude - **THANK YOU**.

There is no way that we could have made it this far without you all.

WE'RE GOING TO MISS YOU ALL

