

THE STATHERN MOLE



The Search for Stathern Hall 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 dig on Coombs Meadow Nature Reserve this year hopes to resolve that mystery. My name is Moley, and I will be writing a weekly entry in my Dig Diary to let you know what we are finding. I myself, am an avid digger!

If you are not too busy on a Sunday, please come up to the hill to see how we are getting on.

WEEK 4 - Days 10, 11 & 12

Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th, and Sunday 2nd November 2025

THE WEATHER

Drizzly Wednesday, lovely Thursday and Glorious Sunday. I just never knew which coat to put on.

HOW MANY OF THEM WERE THERE THIS WEEK?

Richard, Catherine, Jill, John, Roger W, Aileen, Peter, Carrie, Margot, Chris, Roger H, Tara, Dawn. That's 7 Detectives, 6 Volunteers and 18 visitors. They've been digging on muddy hill for 61.5 hours.

WHAT DID THEY DO?



Looking down from up on top of my little hills, I saw them coming and going all week. They seemed to be having fun in the mud and playing sticky boots, which seems like a great game. One thing I did notice is that the south side of the Barney Rubble wall is very dry compared to the north side of the wall, which is very soggy. An observation that made my mouth water in anticipation of the many worms I can find on the wet side of the wall; yummy.

The only problem is that Margot keeps finding them first!

Interestingly, one of the muddy diggers' catchphrases seems to be, 'It's another wall', which is an odd thing to be saying, isn't it? I mean, who goes around saying that all the time? Another thing they go on about a lot is, 'Where's the wheelbarrow?' and 'Can you take my bucket?'.

They do make me laugh. I mean, they've only got one wheelbarrow, so how do they keep losing it?

What I would do for a wheelbarrow to put my worms in.



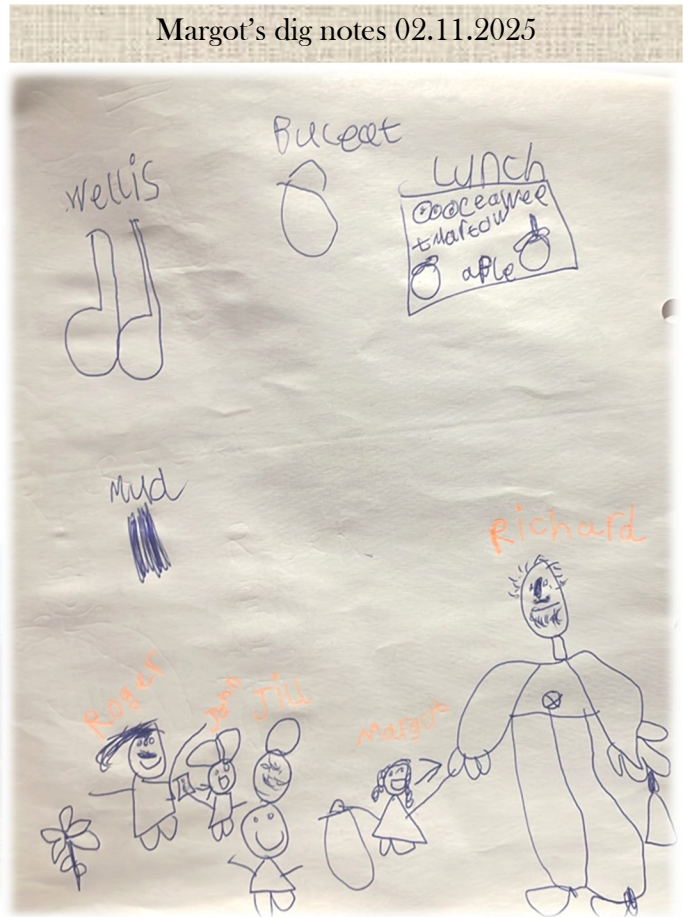
WHAT DID THEY FIND & ARE THEY LEARNING ANYTHING NEW ABOUT THE LOST HALL?

When the one they call Richard asked, 'Do we know more now than we did this morning?', there was a resounding 'yes'.

To me it's all stones and more stones, but to this merry band of hopefuls, it's something along the lines of 'walls lead somewhere', so muddy hill is beginning to tell us its story.

If it was a book, I would have put it down in search of more worms, but then again, that's what we moles do.

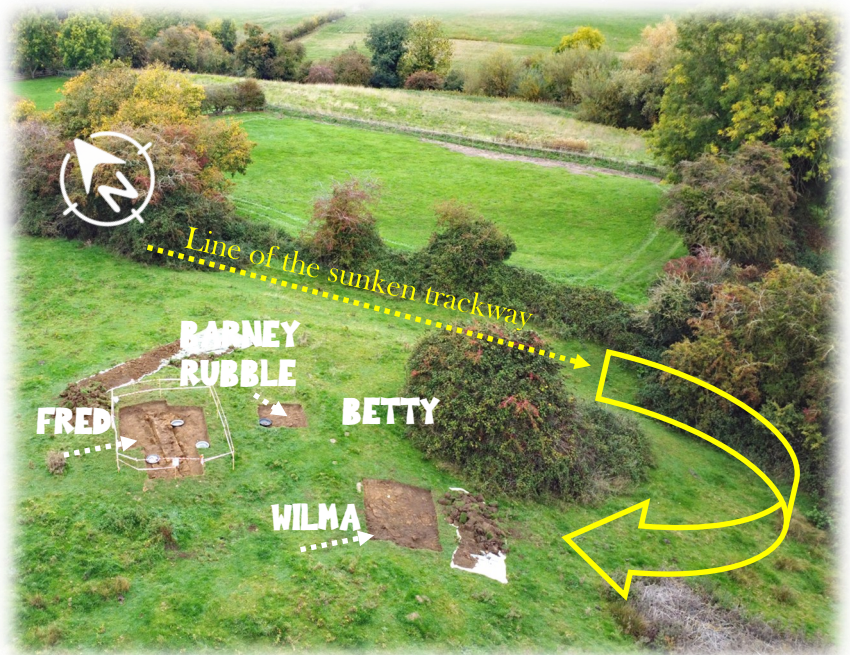
Now, how do I get that wheelbarrow into my tunnel?



THE QUESTION THEY WERE ASKING LAST WEEK

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?



BARNEY RUBBLE AND BETTY ARE SAYING HELLO TO WILMA

After many hours of digging through a solid dry layer of Barney Rubble ground, the team eventually broke through to Wilma. The next stage of the break through is to clean up the area to create a definitive image for the drone. Betty is a little further north and seemingly sitting above the Barney Rubble walls, which adds another avenue of mystery to the investigation.



Pictured left is the team after they had successfully broken through from Barney Rubble to say hello to Wilma.

Note the cobbled Betty Floor sitting above the abruptly ended Barney Rubble wall on the right and the newly emerged wall heading towards Wilma under the three orange buckets.



CONTINUING FRUSTRATION

There has been very little datable evidence recovered from the site so far.



Pictured above is the Fred wall, which was constructed over the top of the Barney Rubble wall on a north/south alignment. The robbed-out corner of the Fred wall and the Barney Rubble wall were both constructed on an east/west alignment. Interestingly, the Barney Rubble wall is much drier on the south side of the wall than it is on the north side.