

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 3 Days 8 & 9 - Wednesday 22nd and Sunday 26th October 2025

THE WEATHER - Tuesday was a good digging day, Thursday was a wash-out and Sunday, by the end of the day, was a sticky, sludgy mess, which I think was fabulous.

HOW MANY OF THEM WHERE THERE THIS WEEK?

Richard, Jill, John, Roger W, Jane, Aileen, Brian, Malcolm, Carrie, Margot, Roger H and Tara. That was 6 Detectives, 6 Volunteers, and they had 7 visitors. They've been digging for 43.5 hours.

WHAT DID THEY DO?

Well, they haven't been as busy as me digging this week. They only turned up twice!

Not like me, I love the rain. It's easier to dig, and those yummy earthworms are easier to catch; it's brilliant.

There were quite a few of them here on Sunday, but there weren't so many of them once it started to drizzle in the afternoon. It was funny watching them get all sludgy and wet. Some of them were talking about clocks going backwards, which seemed an odd thing to talk about.

What did surprise me was this other wall they have found, which sort of like makes some kind of sense because I've never been able to dig for worms in there.

What I couldn't understand was how they described their progress at the end of the day:

Fred's wall is very close to being joined by Bernie Rubble, and Wilma isn't as alone as we originally believed her to be, so are they related?

They must be talking some kind of gibberish, silly people.

Anyway, must get back to some digging.



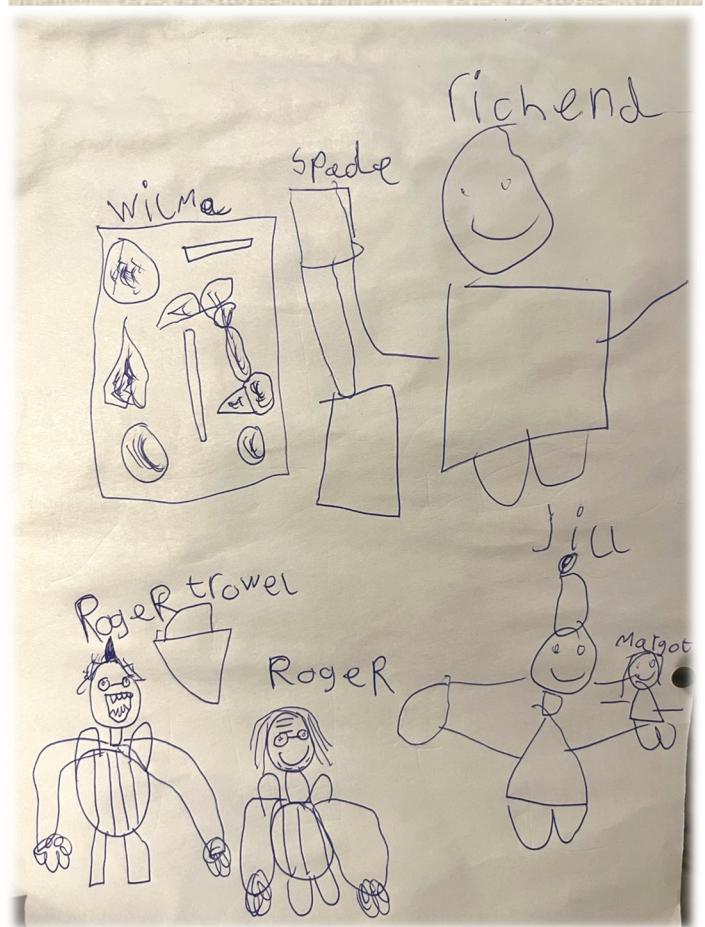
WHAT DID THEY FIND & ARE THEY LEARNING ANYTHING NEW ABOUT THE LOST HALL?

Despite the wet end to their two days of digging, there were lots of happy, smiley faces leaving the field. Using my Moley superpower, I could hear people saying things like, 'we know more than what we did this morning', 'Wilma could be a trackway', 'that wall is going somewhere', 'what happened to my burnt stones' and 'I suggested that the staff at the Golden Lion should greet guests with a roar'.

I still think that they talk gibberish.



Margot's dig notes 26.10.2025



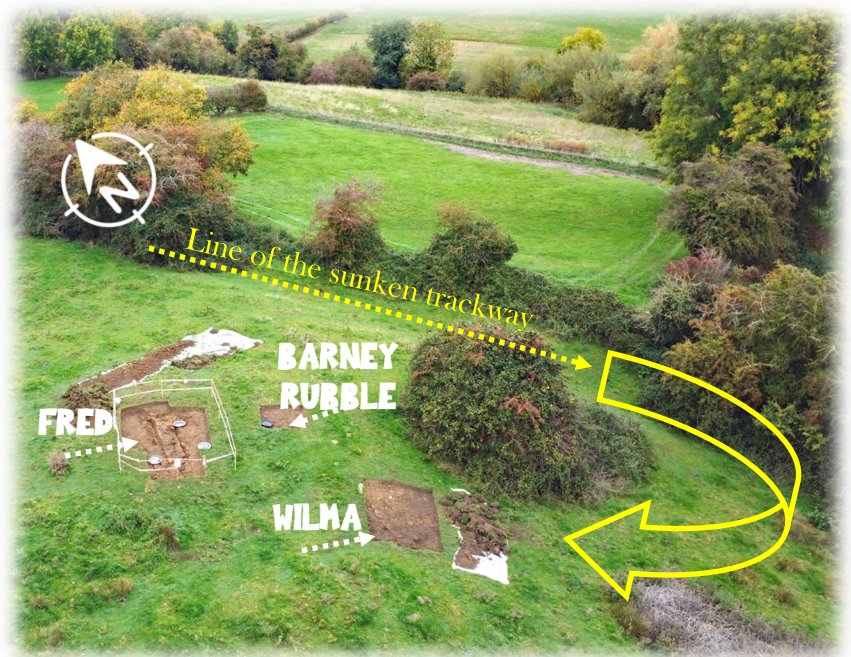
Reflection Notes, taken from the compilation of previous excavations at Stathern by the FLAG team (The Search for Stathern Hall Report - October 2023).

- Little is known of Colonel Hacker's residence. Despite recent resistivity and dowsing surveys carried out on the suspected site on 14 November 1999, (which served to highlight areas containing interesting anomalies), no physical proof exists to determine if these features relate to a lost hall
- The reference to Hacker, 'upon his marriage to Isabel Bruns of East Bridgford, the couple chose to live at Stathern Hall' suggests the hall was an established building and may date partly to the medieval period; a fact possibly reinforced by the documents referring to a second manor (Fahy 2000)
- In 1240 Simon de Borard, who at the time, held the manor. He gave some of the lands to the Priory of Haversholm in Lincolnshire and the rest to the Abbot and Convent at Croxton Kerrial
- Following the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1541 Henry VIII granted the lands, formerly belonging to the Abbey of Croxton, the Prioress of Belvoir and Haversholm, to Thomas Earl of Rutland
- The Hacker connection with Stathern began during the 1630s



Are Fred, Barney Rubble and Wilma related?

The wall in Fred, the rubble in Barney 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?



That Was a Surprise!

What looked like 'just rubble' in Barney, turned out to be a wall. By the end of the day on Sunday the wall that we didn't know was there, was creeping ever closer to Fred.

But what about Wilma?