



Archaeological watching brief at Stanford Hall DNRC Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire October 2014

Report No. 14/213

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Illustrator: Amir Bassir



**Archaeological watching brief
at Stanford Hall DNRC
Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire
October 2014**

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PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-194219	
Project title	Archaeological watching brief at Stanford hall, DNRC, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire October 2014		
Short description	An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Stanford Hall DNRC, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire, prior to the installation of a septic tank. No archaeological finds or features were present.		
Project type	Watching brief		
Site Status	None		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Arup 2012), Building recording (Bassir and Upson-Smith 2014)		
Current land use	Pasture		
Future work	None		
Monument type/period	Grade II* listed hall, grade II listed park and gardens		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Nottinghamshire		
Site address	Stanford Hall, Stanford-on-Soar		
Post code	LE12 5QW		
OS co-ordinates	455871 323895		
Area (sq m/ha)	2.5m x 5m (Size of excavation)		
Height aOD	70-90m above Ordnance Datum		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Rushcliffe Borough Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	B Kidd		
Project Manager	A Yates		
Sponsor or funding body	Arup on behalf of BS Stanford		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	15/10/2014		
End date	17/10/2014		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	SOSSH 14	None	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Title	Archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording at Stanford hall DNRC, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire October 2014		
Serial title & volume	14/213		
Author(s)	Ben Kidd		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT STANFORD HALL DNRC ,
STANFORD-ON-SOAR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
OCTOBER 2014**

Abstract

Archaeological monitoring, investigation, and recording were undertaken on land at Stanford Hall DNRC, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire, prior to the installation of a septic tank. No archaeological finds or features were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd (Arup), on behalf of BS Stanford Ltd, to provide archaeological monitoring, investigation, and recording on land at Stanford Hall Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC), Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire (Fig 1; NGR 455871 323895). The work was carried out in advance of the installation of a septic tank (Fig 2).

A desk-based assessment was produced in 2012 by Arup. The excavation followed an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (2014a), and adhered to the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* and *MoRPHE* (EH 2006).

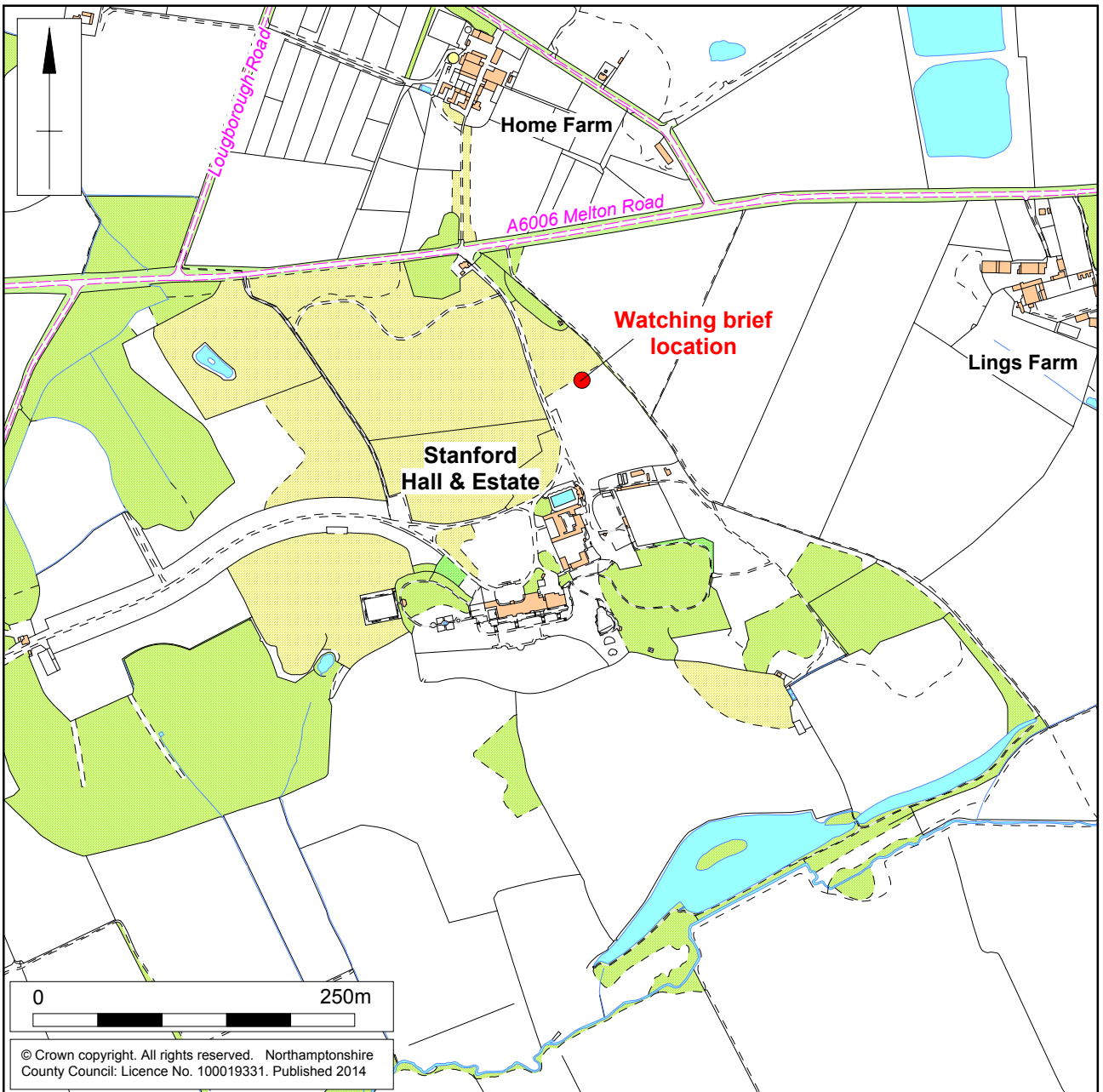
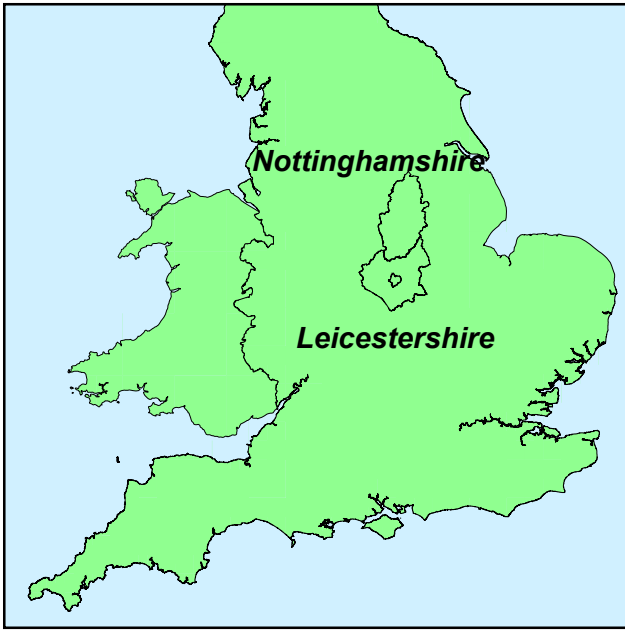
This report has been prepared in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

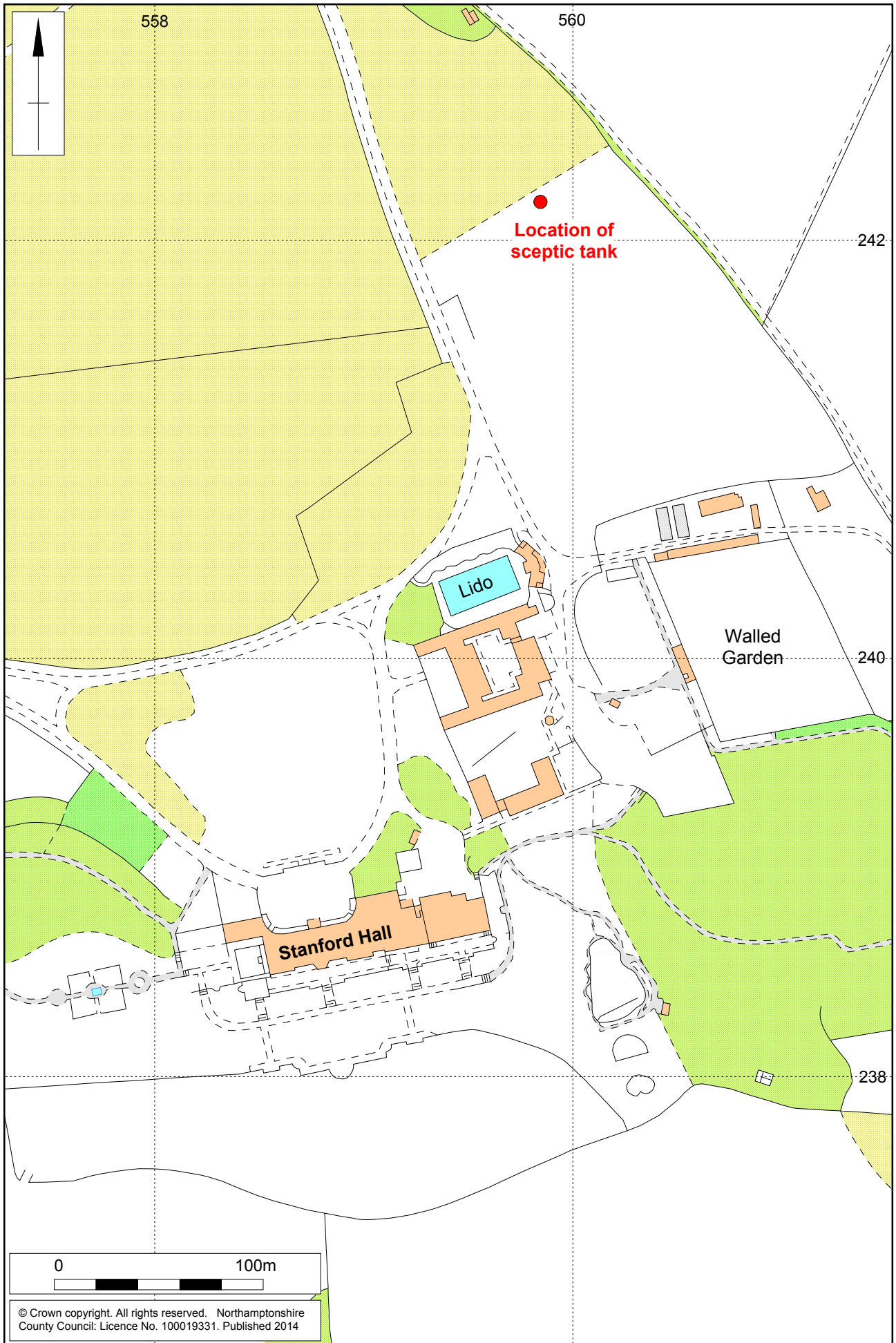
The development area is located to the north-east of the village of Stanford-on-Soar and c 5km north of Loughborough. The site comprises the grade II* listed Stanford Hall and associated buildings which lie within Stanford Hall Registered Park and Garden (grade II), the work covered an area of approximately 120 ha.

The underlying bedrock comprises outcrops of various different formations of mudstone and limestone and, where present, the superficial geology comprises glaciofluvial deposits of sand, clay and gravel (www.bgs.ac.uk).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:2500

Location of the septic tank Fig 2

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The following background information is largely derived from the desk-based assessment prepared as part of the planning application (Arup 2012).

There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the proposed development site. The closest recorded by Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was undertaken at East Leake Quarry to the north-east. A small number of prehistoric flints were recovered during fieldwalking, a possible Bronze Age burnt mound and an area of Iron Age settlement, including a roundhouse, enclosure, pits, ditches and field systems, was uncovered during topsoil stripping in 2005. Further phases of investigation have not revealed any further evidence of prehistoric activity.

No Romano-British activity has been recorded in the vicinity. Although no Anglo-Saxon activity has been recorded within the proposed development site, a number of finds have been found 300m to the north-east and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been found 430m to the north-east.

The estate at Stanford was granted by Queen Mary to her goldsmith Robert Raynes in 1558. In 1641 his grandson built a stone hall here, although by 1770 the estate had passed to the Dashwood family and this hall was demolished and a new brick mansion was commissioned. Early 18th-century drawings indicate that there were extensive walled formal gardens to the south of the old hall within an enclosed deer park.

Further extensive work to both the hall and gardens were undertaken by the Ratcliffe family at the end of the 19th century and in 1928, when the estate was sold to Sir Julien Cahn, further major works were undertaken including the construction of the theatre, sea-lion enclosure and penguin pool. From the middle of the 20th century the hall was owned by the Co-operative College.

In January 2014 a watching brief undertaken by MOLA (Markus 2014) on environmental improvements, uncovered the remains of a post medieval trackway. The hall itself has recently been the subject of a programme of building recording (Bassir and Upson-Smith 2014)

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the objectives of the archaeological work were to:

- Observe the groundworks for the installation of the septic tank;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

Further objectives included:

- Establishing the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- Recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;

- Recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

4 METHODOLOGY

All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents *The Management of Archaeological Projects* issued by English Heritage (1991), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2006), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008) and *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010). Where appropriate the research frameworks were borne in mind (Knight *et al* 2012).

The topsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator to reveal significant archaeological remains or, where these were absent, the natural substrate. The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification was recorded on *pro-forma* sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the MOLA Northampton *Archaeological fieldwork manual* (2014b).

A photographic record comprising black and white negatives and digital images was maintained.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (1991).

5 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The area of the septic tank installation pit measured 2.5m wide by 5m long by 3.5m deep, the natural substratum was a mid orange-brown sandy clay with moderate small to large stones and was 0.90m deep from the surface, with a total depth of 2.6m to the limit of excavation. This was overlain by varying deposits of subsoil, consisting of light yellow-brown sandy clay and mid orange-brown silty sand, 0.40m-0.60m deep. The topsoil consisted of dark brown sandy silt, 0.30m deep (Fig 3).



Section of septic tank installation pit , looking north

Fig 3

6 DISCUSSION

No archaeological artefacts or remains were uncovered during the septic tank installation ground works.

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