



## **Archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording at Stanford Hall Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire**

Planning application no: 12/02070/HYBRID

Report No. 14/52

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Illustrators: Amir Bassir and Simon Markus



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<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>molanort1-214116</b>	
Project title	Archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording at Stanford hall, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire January-February 2014		
Short description	Archaeological monitoring, investigation, and recording was undertaken on land at Stanford Hall, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire. Remains of a post-medieval trackway were uncovered by works associated with the new amphibian ponds. No further archaeological finds or features were present.		
Project type	Monitoring, investigation and recording		
Site Status	None		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (Arup 2012)		
Current land use	Pasture		
Future work	None		
Monument type/period	Grade II* listed hall, grade II listed park and gardens		
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Nottinghamshire		
Site address	Stanford Hall, Stanford-on-Soar		
Post code	LE12 5QW		
OS co-ordinates	455871 323895		
Area (sq m/ha)	120ha		
Height aOD	70-90m above Ordnance Datum		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project brief originator	Rushcliffe Borough Council		
Project Design originator	Adam Yates, MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	Jonathon Elston, MOLA		
Project Manager	Adam Yates, MOLA		
Sponsor or funding body	Arup on behalf of BS Stanford		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	31/01/2014		
End date	12/02/2014		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical	MOLA offices	None	
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Title	Archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording at Stanford hall, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire January-February 2014		
Serial title & volume	14/52		
Author(s)	Simon Markus		
Page numbers	10		
Date	February 2014		

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
2.1	Topography and geology
2.2	Historical and archaeological background
<b>3</b>	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>
	<b>APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY</b>

## Figures

Front cover:	General view of site before water feed trench excavation, looking east
Fig 1:	Site location
Fig 2:	Location of amphibian ponds and bat houses
Fig 3:	Section of Bat House 1, looking west
Fig 4:	Trackway (203), looking south-west
Fig 5:	Location of amphibian ponds and trackway (203)

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING AT  
STANFORD HALL, STANFORD-ON-SOAR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014**

*Abstract*

*Archaeological monitoring, investigation, and recording was undertaken on land at Stanford Hall, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire. Remains of a post-medieval trackway were uncovered by works associated with the new amphibian ponds. No further 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, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire (Fig 1; NGR 455871 323895). The work was carried out in advance of new amphibian ponds, bat houses, and services within the grounds of Stanford Hall (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).

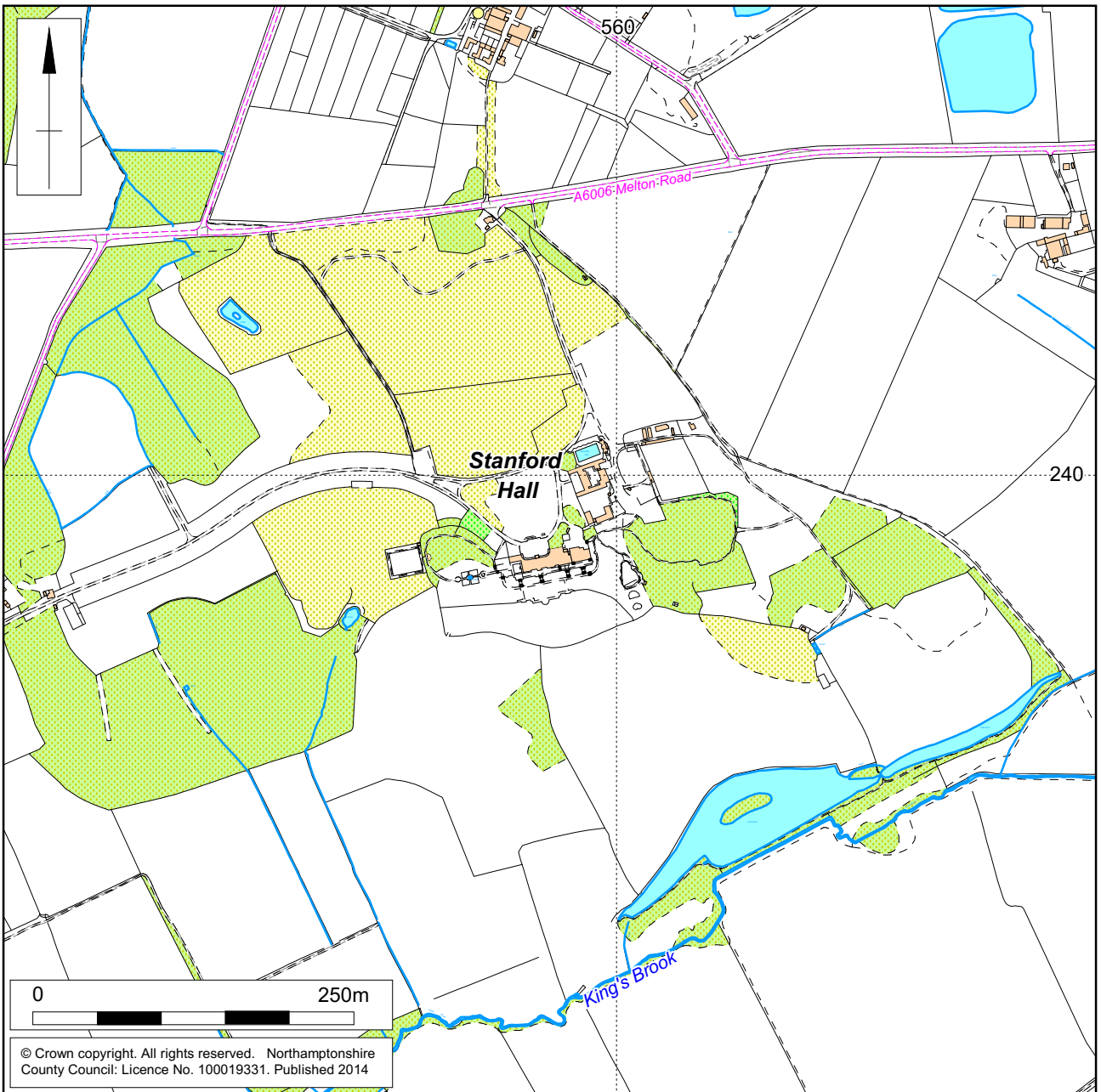
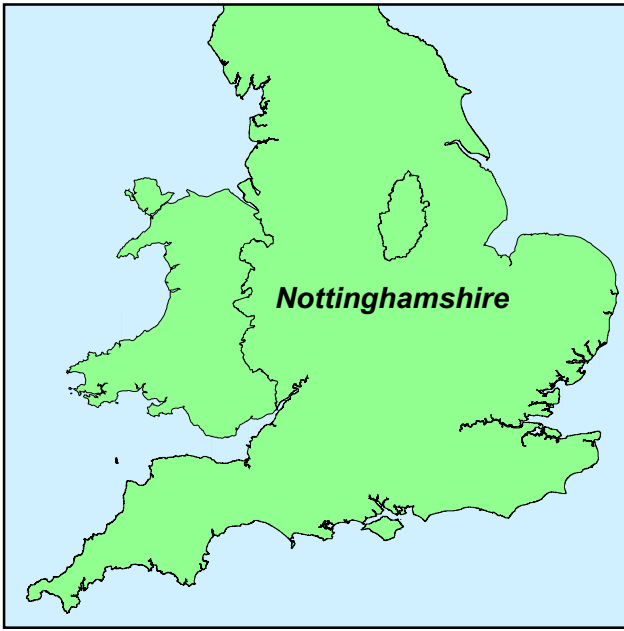
This report has been prepared in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010).

## **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](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

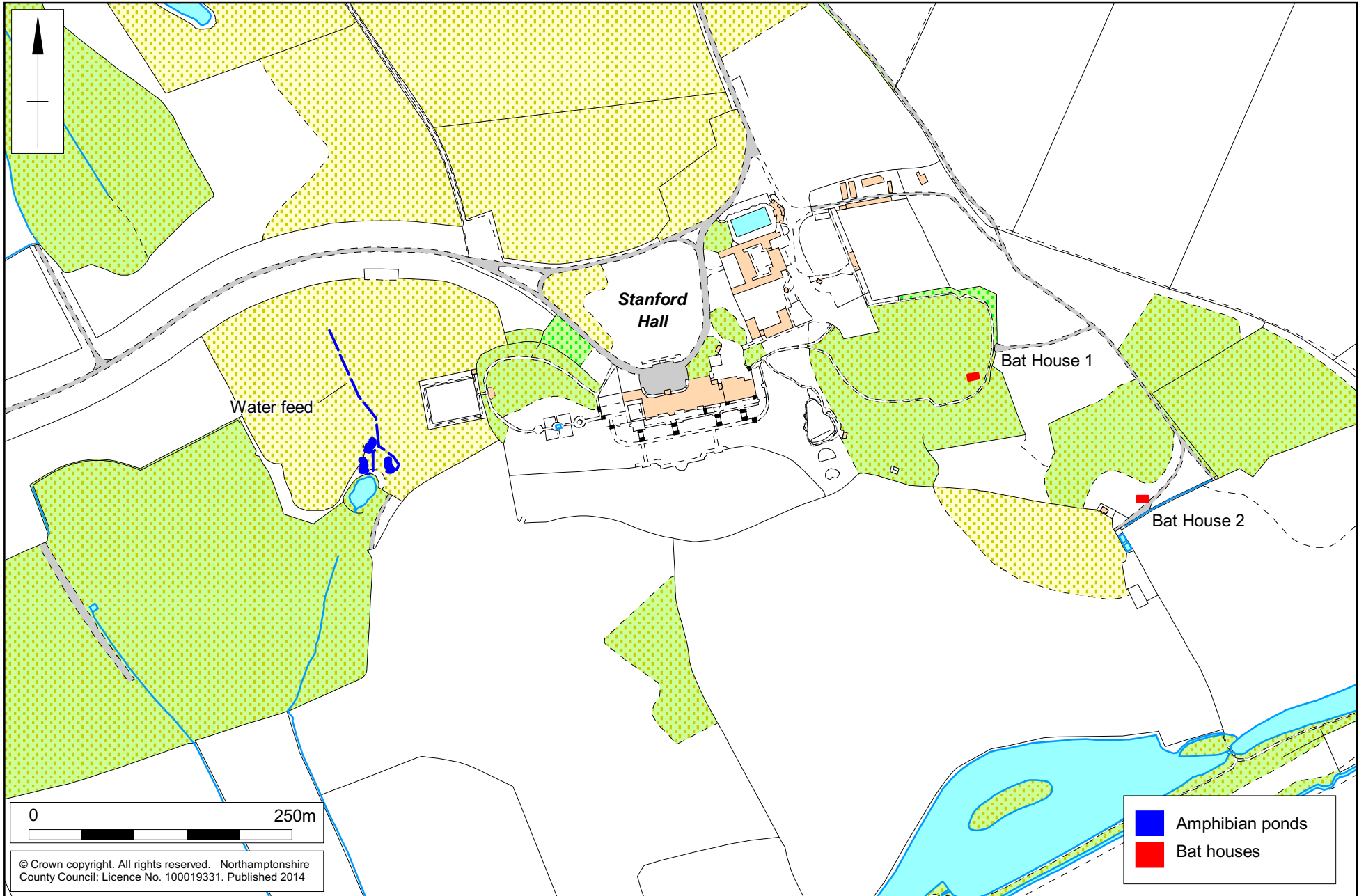


Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:5,000(A4)

Location of amphibian ponds and bat houses Fig 2



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## 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.

## 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 amphibian ponds, including the construction of the hibernation mounds and water feed, and bat houses;
- 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 natural substratum was a mixture of orange-grey sandy clays, light brown-yellow clays, mid blue-grey clays, dark red silty clays, light grey-green sandy clay, pale yellow-white fine sand, and dark grey finely laminated clays.

These were overlain by varying deposits of subsoil, consisting of mid grey-brown sandy clay and silty clay, and mid orange-brown silty sand, 0.25m-0.45m deep. The topsoil consisted of light grey-brown silty clay, dark grey-brown loam, and dark red-brown loam, 0.25m-0.35m deep (Fig 3).

The water feed trench, excavated north of the amphibian pond, contained a layer (104) of colluvial / alluvial mid grey silty clay, with 5% small pebbles, 0.40m deep.

Stripping for the amphibian pond revealed a trackway (203), aligned north-south, 4m wide, and stretching the length of the 40m stripped area (Figs 4 and 5). It consisted mostly of crushed and broken limestone, and gravels, with light brown and dark grey silts between the stones.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The trackway found while stripping the amphibian ponds appears to be of rough construction. It is possible this relates to the creation or expansion of the existing pond in the area.



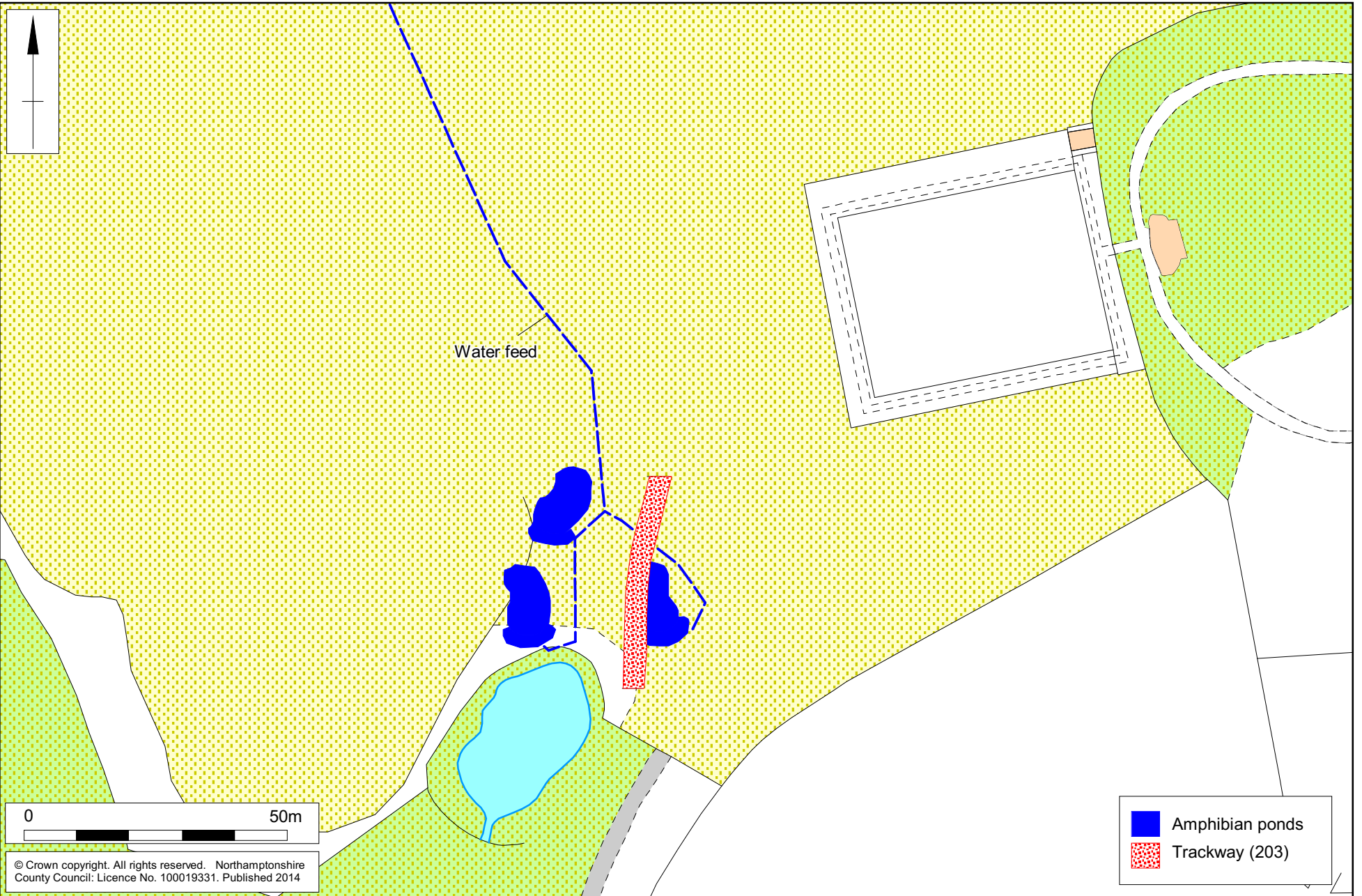
Section of Bat House 1, looking west Fig 3



Trackway (203), looking south-west Fig 4

Scale 1:1,000(A4)

Location of amphibian ponds and trackway (203) Fig 5



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## APPENDIX: CONTEXT TABLES

<b>Trench 1 Water Feed Trench</b>				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
101	Topsoil	Light grey-brown sandy silty clay, with 2-3% small angular pebbles	0.30m	--
102	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy clay, with 2-3% angular and rounded pebbles	0.25m-0.30m	--
103	Natural	Mottled orange and grey sandy clay, with 2-3% sub-rounded pebbles	--	--
104	Colluvium /alluvium	Mid grey silty clay, with 5% small pebbles	0.40m	--

<b>Trench 2 Amphibian Ponds</b>				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
201	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay, with 5% angular pebbles	0.25m	--
202	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay with 1% rounded pebbles	0.30m	--
203	Track/layer	Mixed light brown and dark grey silts around crushed/broken stone track surface (80% stone)	0.20m	--
204	Natural	Mottled light brown-yellow and blue-grey clay, with small pockets of rounded pebbles	--	--

<b>Trench 3 Bat House 1</b>				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
301	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown loam	0.30m	--
302	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty sand	0.45m	--
303	Natural	Pale yellow-white fine sand, with 1% small pebbles	0.45m	--
304	Natural	Mixed pale yellow and orange-brown sand and clay	1.00m	--
305	Natural	Dark grey clays – finely laminated (almost mudstone)	0.30m	--

<b>Trench 4      Bat House 2</b>				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/ Samples</b>
401	Topsoil	Dark red-brown loam with 1-2% small angular and rounded pebbles	0.35m	--
402	Natural	Mixed dark red silty clay and light grey-green sandy clay	--	--



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