

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological investigation of land  
at Fishponds (Plots 2, 3 & extensions), Ketton  
Rutland  
April/May 2007

**Leicestershire Museum Accession No OAKRM 2006.7**



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May 2007

Report 07/75

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	Archaeological investigation of Land at Fishponds, Stamford Lane, Ketton, Rutland	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Archaeological investigation was undertaken of Plots two and three and extensions to the existing house on land at Fishponds, Stamford Lane, Ketton. There were no significant archaeological features found.	
Project type	Strip, map and record (evaluation)	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Desk-based assessment (CgMs Consulting) Archaeological Investigation Plot 1, (Northamptonshire Archaeology)	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Rutland	
Site address	Fishponds Ketton Rutland	
Easting	4985	
Northing	3051	
Height OD	83m above OD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Richard Clark, Leicestershire County Council	
Project Design originator	Michael Dawson (CgMs)	
Director/Supervisor	Emma Rae	
Project Manager	Iain Soden, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Landowner/developer	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	April 2007	
End date	May 2007	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical	OAKRM.2006.7	None
Paper		Context file and site registers 1 plan and section sheet
Digital		PDF of report and illustrations.
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	Archaeological Investigation of Land at Fishponds, Ketton, Rutland	
Serial title & volume	07/75	
Author(s)	Emma Rae	
Page numbers		
Date	May 2007	

## CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY	3
4	RESULTS	3
5	THE FINDS	4
6	DISCUSSION	4
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	4
	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	6

### Figures

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Fishponds (Plot 2, 3 and extensions), showing the stripped area

### Plates

Frontispiece: The existing house and fishpond at Ketton

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF LAND AT  
FISHPONDS (PLOTS 2, 3 & EXTENSIONS), KETTON  
RUTLAND  
APRIL/MAY 2007**

***ABSTRACT***

*Archaeological investigation was undertaken on Plots 2, 3 and on extensions to an existing house on land at Fishponds, Stamford Lane, Ketton. No significant archaeological remains were found with only modern features being revealed. These were a set of wheel ruts running towards the pond in plot two, a garden path in plot three and an area of laid bricks underneath the current gravel access which is likely to be a previous parking area for the existing house.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Archaeological investigation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology for CgMs Consulting in April and May 2007 on land at 'Fishponds', Stamford Road, Ketton, Rutland, (NGR: SK 985051; Fig 1).

The fieldwork was designed to meet the requirements of the project design issued by CgMs (Dawson 2006) and in response to a Project Brief from Leicestershire County Council. The site archive has been issued the accession code OAKRM 2006.7 by Leicestershire Museums.

Previous fieldwork within the same land parcel was carried out on the adjacent Plot 1 in 2006. This was reported separately (Soden and Flavell 2006).

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Topography and geology**

The land at 'Fishponds' is located on the east of Ketton, and just outside the historic core of the village. The site is on the margins of the village, part of 19th century and modern development. The development site is roughly rectangular in shape occupying a corner of the 19th century field pattern, with direct access to Stamford Road. It comprises heavily-wooded former gardens surrounding a 1950's house.

The geology is Jurassic limestone of the Great Oolite Series, lying within the limestone area of Rutland in the valley of the River Chater.

## **2.2 Archaeological background**

Ketton is at the centre of a rich archaeological landscape, much of which has been revealed by limestone (cement) quarrying, an ongoing concern with constant archaeological involvement. The parish contains concentrations of prehistoric, Romano-British and late Saxon remains, together with the built environment of medieval and post-medieval buildings forming the historic village core. Full details of the historic and archaeological history of the site are contained in the desk-based assessment containing all data pertinent to the site in its immediate context (Dawson 2006).

While the wider landscape is archaeologically rich, the assessment concluded that remains of virtually any date from prehistoric times might exist on the site. The finds of Roman coins in the immediate vicinity and evidence for a nearby possible Bronze Age burial may infer a higher potential for finds from these periods (Soden and Flavell 2006).

## **3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Objectives**

The current objectives of the evaluation were defined in the project design issued by CgMs Consulting (Dawson 2006):

- to determine the presence, date, character, integrity, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits
- to examine the potential of the site in relation to its environment, economy, land use and development from the prehistoric to post medieval period
- to examine evidence from the site for palaeoenvironmental and/or economic development.

### **3.2 Methodology**

The excavation areas were located by tapes from known points on the site. The topsoil and other overburden were removed by a JCB excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under archaeological supervision. The stripped areas were fitted to the proposed footprint of the new houses and extensions to the existing house, garages and driveways as far as nearby trees would allow. Mechanical excavation proceeded as far as the natural substrate or the first significant archaeological horizons, whereupon excavation continued by hand. All potential

archaeological features were investigated (Fig 2).

As all features uncovered were interpreted as modern none showed any potential for preservation of environmental data. Root disturbance was widespread and tree-boles suggest that previous generations of trees had occupied the site. A list of recorded contexts is given in Appendix 1. Three test pits were also excavated on behalf of Purslow Consultancy Ltd, the landowner's civil engineer, in order to conduct test the structural integrity of the natural geology (Fig 2). At the close of all fieldwork the stripped areas of Plots 2 and 3 were left open and were not backfilled at the request of the landowner. The stripped area relating to the extensions on the existing house was mechanically backfilled in part (at the front of the house) in order to allow for continued ease of parking on site, however, the stripped area to the side of the house was left open, also at the landowner's request.

Standard Northamptonshire Archaeology recording procedures were employed (NA 2004). All works were conducted in accordance with the *IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1985, revised 2000)

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 General stratigraphic sequence**

The natural geology of the site was laminated Oolitic limestone (3). There was a slight change in the natural geology in plot three towards its western edge. This change, although subtle, consisted of a slightly higher clay content. However, the laminated Oolitic limestone remains the dominant material. This was sealed below a layer of orange/brown clay subsoil (2). This was covered in a layer of grey/brown sandy clay loam topsoil (1), rich in leaf mould. The topsoil and sub soil together constituted an overburden approximately 450mm thick. The few modern features which were found were predominantly cut into the natural geology.

### **4.2 Archaeological features**

Within the stripped Plot 2 area (Fig 2), there were no pre-modern features. However, two land- or field-drains were uncovered. One of these (running on an approximate east-west alignment) is likely to have been disturbed and broken when the other (running approximately north-south) was installed and has been patched with an assortment of nineteenth and twentieth century bricks as well as other general rubble and is capped by a large limestone slab. A modern set of wheel ruts was also revealed within Plot 2, running approximately north-south and curving towards the west

on approach to the pond. These wheel ruts cut into the limestone packing of the drain running east-west across the site, implying the land drain predates the wheel ruts.

Prior to stripping the area of Plot 3 a garden path was visible on the surface. This remained the only feature of this plot and was modern in date. The path was made from nineteenth- and twentieth-century bricks of various origins, was five layers deep and rested on, but did not cut into, the natural geology.

Stripping the area for extension on the western side of the existing house revealed no archaeological features. A modern service trench was cut into the natural geology and ran approximately east-west through the area.

In the area of extension to the north of the existing house the natural geology remained laminated Oolitic limestone, however, there was no subsoil or topsoil present, due to this area consisting of made up ground beneath a gravel driveway. Above the natural geology there was a layer of general brick rubble, which in some places (towards the north of the extension area) was overlain by a single layer of bricks consistent with those found in the other areas of the site (garden path in Plot 3 and land drain packing in Plot 2). These were laid in a fashion that would suggest they formed part of a previous driveway or parking area. This was sealed by a layer of limestone packing which was overlain by a thin layer of gravel.

## **5 THE FINDS**

There were no artefacts recovered from the investigation into either Plot 2 or 3 or the extensions to the existing house.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

Archaeological investigation of Plots 2 and 3 and the extensions to the existing house at Fishponds, Ketton has revealed no significant archaeology. This is in contrast to the investigation of Plot 1 of the same land-parcel in November 2006 (Soden and Flavell 2006) which revealed, a small number of features, including undated linear features and a section of curving ditch. The curving ditch might be part of a complete ring-ditch, approximately 10m in diameter, which might be of Bronze Age date, although the ditch fills contained both flints and medieval pottery.

All of the features revealed during the current investigations are modern and likely to be associated with the existing 1950's house and the subsequent use of the land in a modern domestic setting (garden paths, modern drainage, modern wheel rutts and modern paved driveway/parking area).



It is concluded that if any wider concentration of archaeological features survives in the area, it lies to the west, towards the adjacent property, 'The Grange'. It would appear that the foregoing investigation of Plot 1 just impinged upon its eastern edge.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dawson, M, 2006 *Archaeology desk based assessment: Land at Fishponds, Ketton, Rutland*, CgMs Consulting

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

English Heritage 2002 *Environmental archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

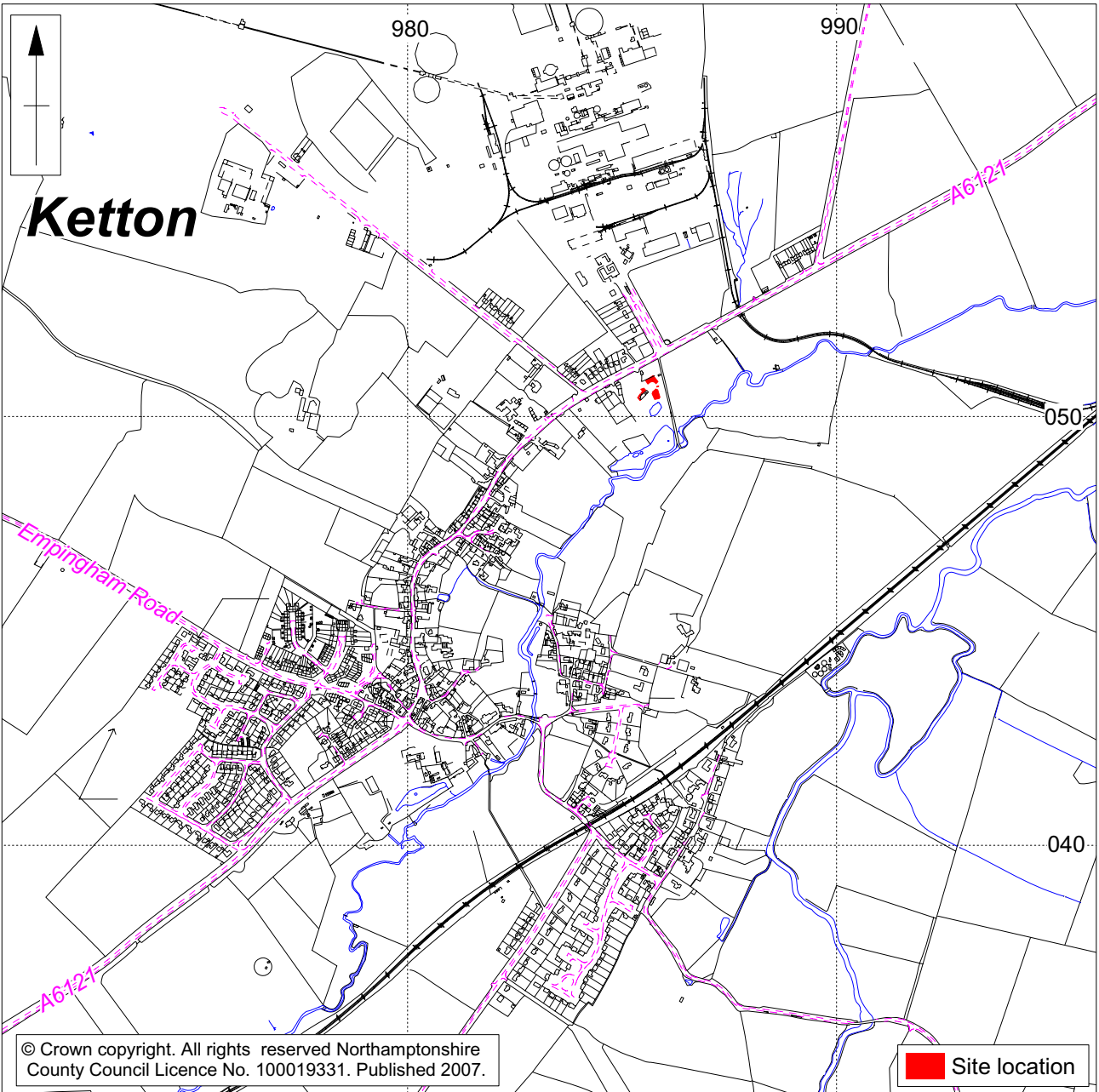
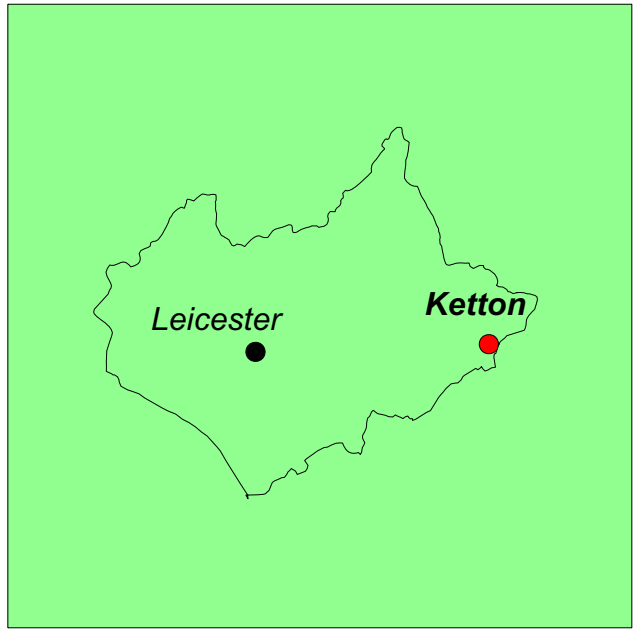
IFA 1999 (revised 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

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Soden, I, and Flavell, N, 2006 *Archaeological investigation of land at Fishponds (Plot 1), Ketton, Rutland, November 2006*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 06/171

## 8 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

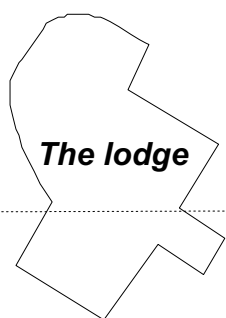
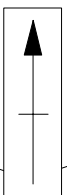
Context Number	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	Topsoil	Loose, grey-brown silty loam with clay			0.15
2	Subsoil	Firm orangey-brown clay loam with limestone fragments			0.20
3	Natural	80% limestone fragments with clay			
4	Cut of rutt	Steep sides, undulating base	18.0+	0.50	0.14
5	Fill Of rutt (of 4)	Dark Brown silty clay			0.14
6	Cut of drain	Steep sides, undulating base	14.0 +	0.80	0.4
7	Fill (of 6)	Grey brown silty clay with limestone pieces and modern drain			0.4
8	Natural	70% limestone fragments with clay	4.5+	1.3	0.3



Scale 1:15,000

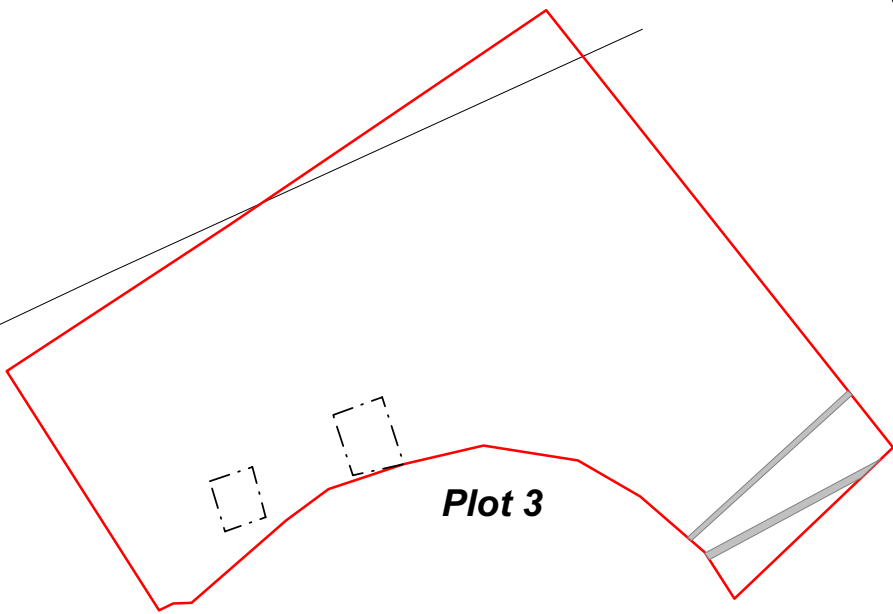
Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:250

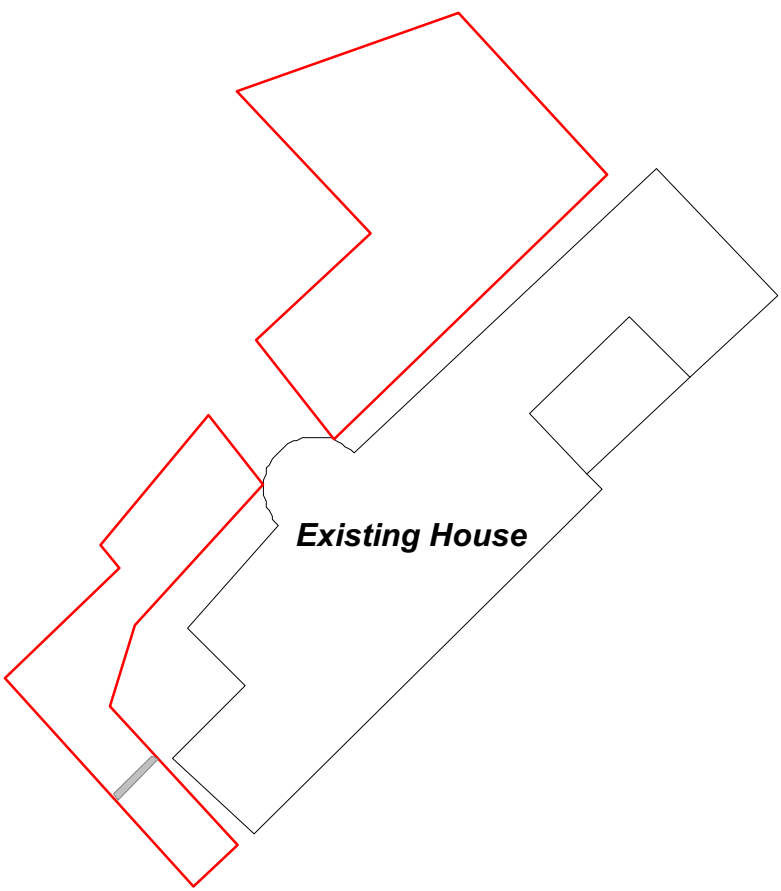
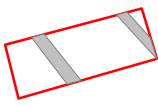


**The lodge**

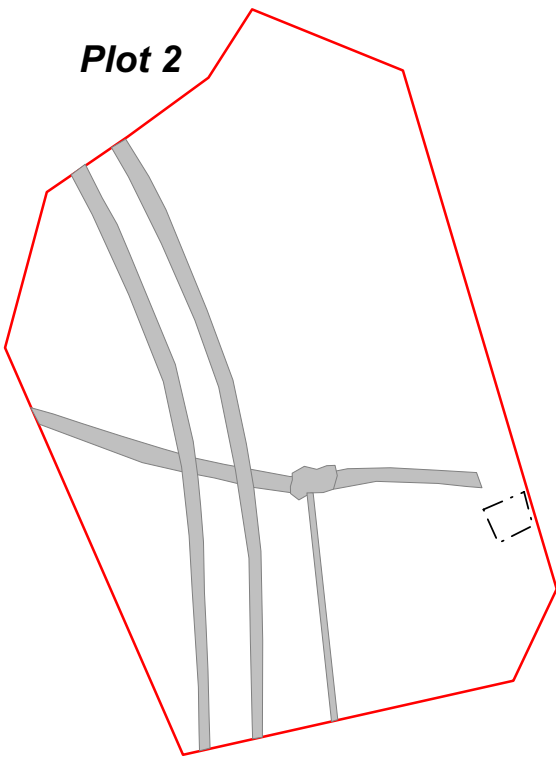
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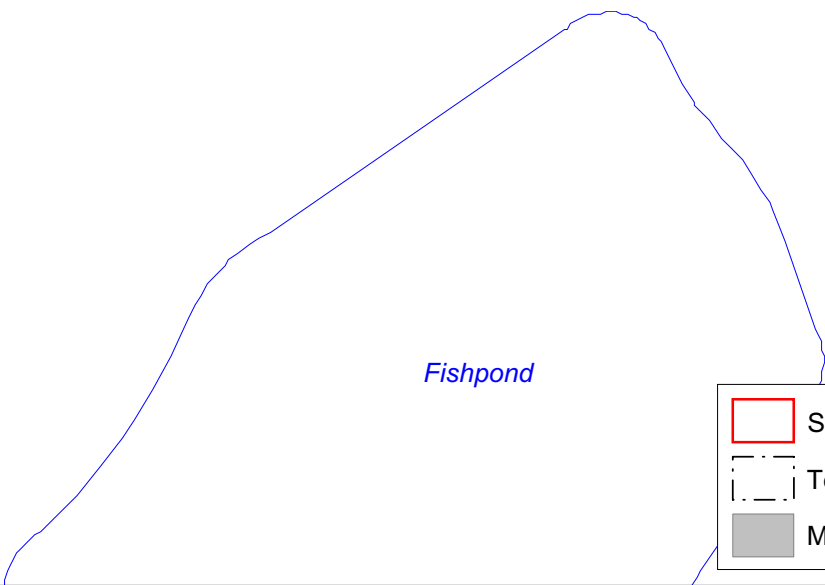
**Plot 3**



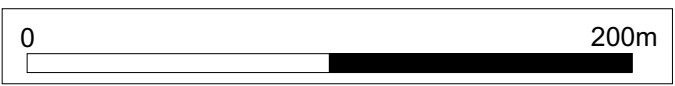
**Existing House**



**Plot 2**



*Fishpond*



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	Stripped area
	Test pit
	Modern features

Fishponds (Plot 2,3 and extensions), showing the stripped area Fig 2