



**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
on land at Stamford Road
Geddington, Northamptonshire
May 2014**

Planning reference: KET/2013/0787

Report No. 14/96

Author: James Ladocha

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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Author: James Ladocha

Illustrator: James Ladocha

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MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Liz Muldowney MA

Text: James Ladocha BA

Fieldwork: James Ladocha
Laura Cogley BA

Illustrations: James Ladocha

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No: molanort1 – 178359	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Stamford Road, Geddington, Northamptonshire, May 2014		
Short description	In May 2014, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA, commissioned by Mrs R. Morgan, on land at Stamford Road, Geddington, Northamptonshire. An undisturbed stratigraphy of natural cornbrash substrate overlain by subsoil and topsoil was identified with no evidence of archaeological features or deposits.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Garden		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	None		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Stamford Road, Geddington		
Easting Northing	489326 283469		
Area (sq m/ha)	556sq m		
Height aOD	c84-85.5m above Ordnance Datum		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	James Ladocha (MOLA)		
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Mrs R. Morgan		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	02/05/2014		
End date	06/05/2014		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical			
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF, Photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Stamford Road, Geddington, Northamptonshire, May 2014		
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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	BACKGROUND	1
	2.1 Location and geology	1
	2.2 Historical and archaeological background	3
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY	3
	3.1 Objectives	3
	3.2 Methodology	6
4	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE	6
5	DISCUSSION	7
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	
	APPENDIX 1: Selected Historic Environment Record references	
	APPENDIX 2: Context Index	

Figures

Front cover: The site, looking north-west

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Selected Historic Environment Record references

Fig 3: The excavated trenches

Fig 4: Trenches 1 & 2, looking south-west

Fig 5: Trench 1 section, looking south-east

Back cover: Backfilled trenches, looking north-east

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation on land at Stamford Road, Geddington Northamptonshire May 2014

Abstract

In May 2014, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA, commissioned by Mrs R Morgan, on land at Stamford Road, Geddington, Northamptonshire. An undisturbed stratigraphy of natural cornbrash substrate overlain by subsoil and topsoil was identified with no evidence of archaeological features or deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by Mrs R Morgan to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land adjacent to 39 Stamford Road, Geddington, Northamptonshire (NGR: 489326 283469, Fig 1). Outline planning permission (KET/2013/0787) has been granted by Kettering Borough Council for the construction of a single dwelling within the development area. The works were undertaken in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and in response to Condition 10 of the planning approval notice.

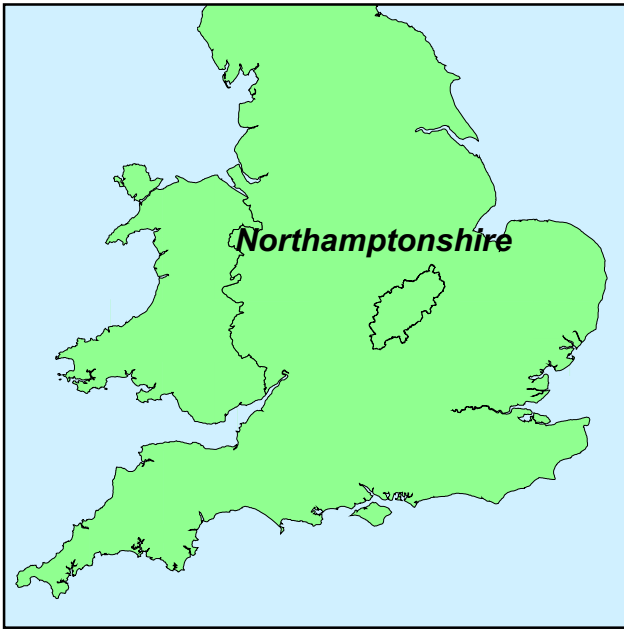
The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2014). MOLA is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Registered Organisation and all works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents of English Heritage (EH 2006; 2008) and the appropriate standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008a-b).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The proposed development site comprises a portion of garden centred on NGR SP 89326 83469. The site is bounded to the east by the A43 Stamford Road, by residential properties to the north and south and by pasture to the west.

The site is partially tree-covered and lies on a west facing slope between 84m and 85.5m above Ordnance Datum. The bedrock geology below the development area is recorded as being a narrow band of Grantham Formation – Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone, between Northamptonshire Sand Formation – Ooidal Ironstone to the south and Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member – Limestone to the north. No overlying drift geology is recorded for the area (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk> accessed 15/04/14).



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) contains numerous references to areas of historical and archaeological interest in the vicinity of the site. The following summarizes selected references in vicinity of the development area by period. The details are presented in Appendix 1 and their location is shown on Figure 2.

Iron Age and Romano-British – There are several potential sites and/or assets of this date within the vicinity of the development area. 100m to the east is the location of a potential Iron Age iron working site (17174); 400m to the south-east is the line of a suspected Romano-British road (13974) surviving in places as access roads and trackways. 750m to the west is the site of a possible Romano-British settlement (2573).

Anglo-Saxon – Collocated with the Iron Age iron working site is a potential similar site dated to the Anglo-Saxon period (17173). The core of the village of Geddington dates from the Anglo-Saxon period (4247) as shown by the surviving masonry in the parish church. The Romano-British settlement site (2573) is believed to continue in use till the Anglo-Saxon period (7111).

Medieval – The deserted medieval village of Little Newtown is located 700m to the west of the development area (4252). Remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation survive as earthworks to the south of the site (133613) and the open fields associated with the villages were probably quite extensive although are likely to have been adversely affected by subsequent agricultural activity.

Post-medieval – The Kettering to Stamford turnpike is now the A43 and runs past the east side of the development area (135329). A post-medieval corn mill (136189) was sited 600m to the south-west of the site on the northern bank of the River Ise.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

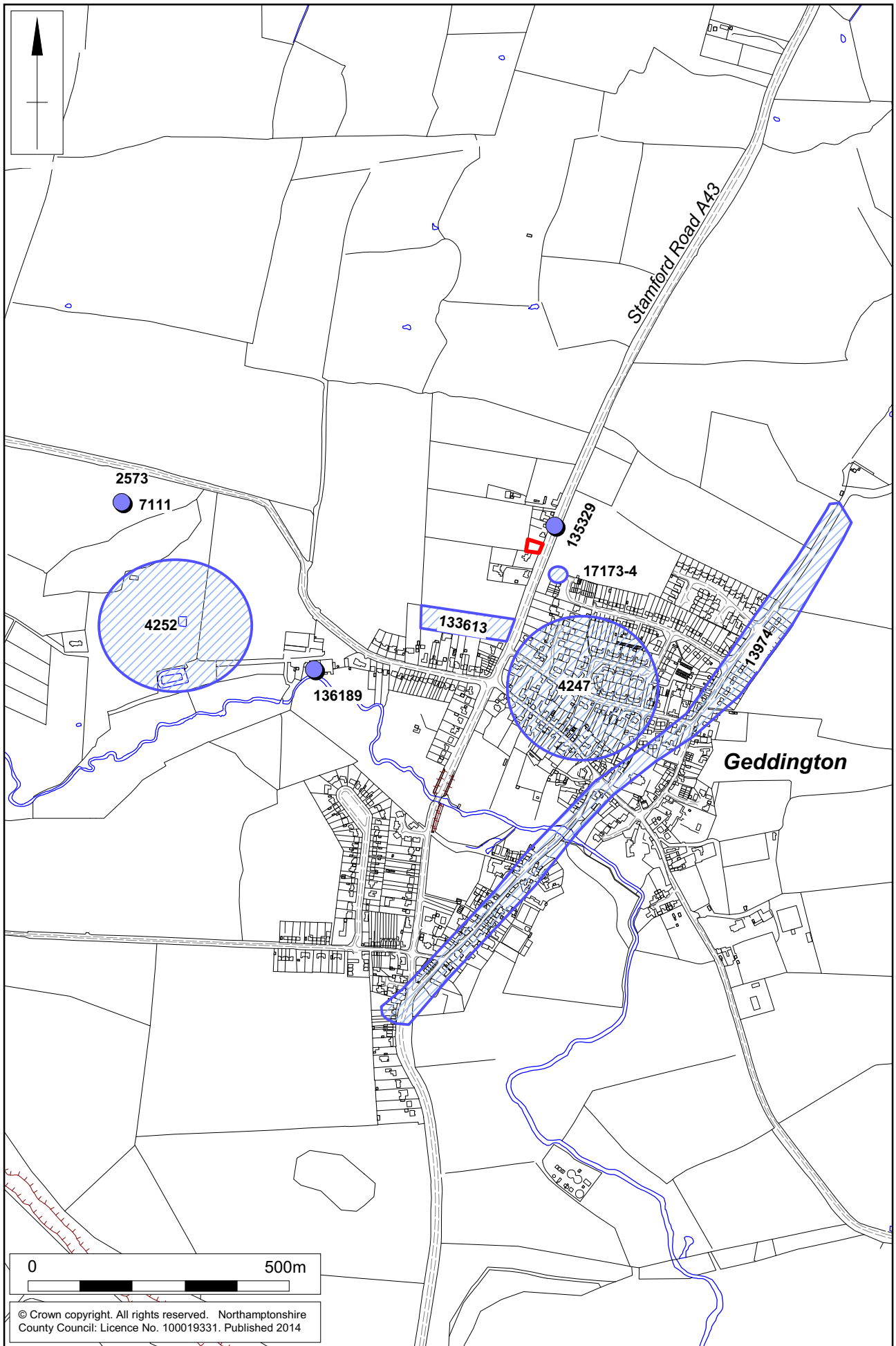
3.1 Objectives

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were present within the application area.

The specific objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation, were to provide further information on (MOLA 2014):

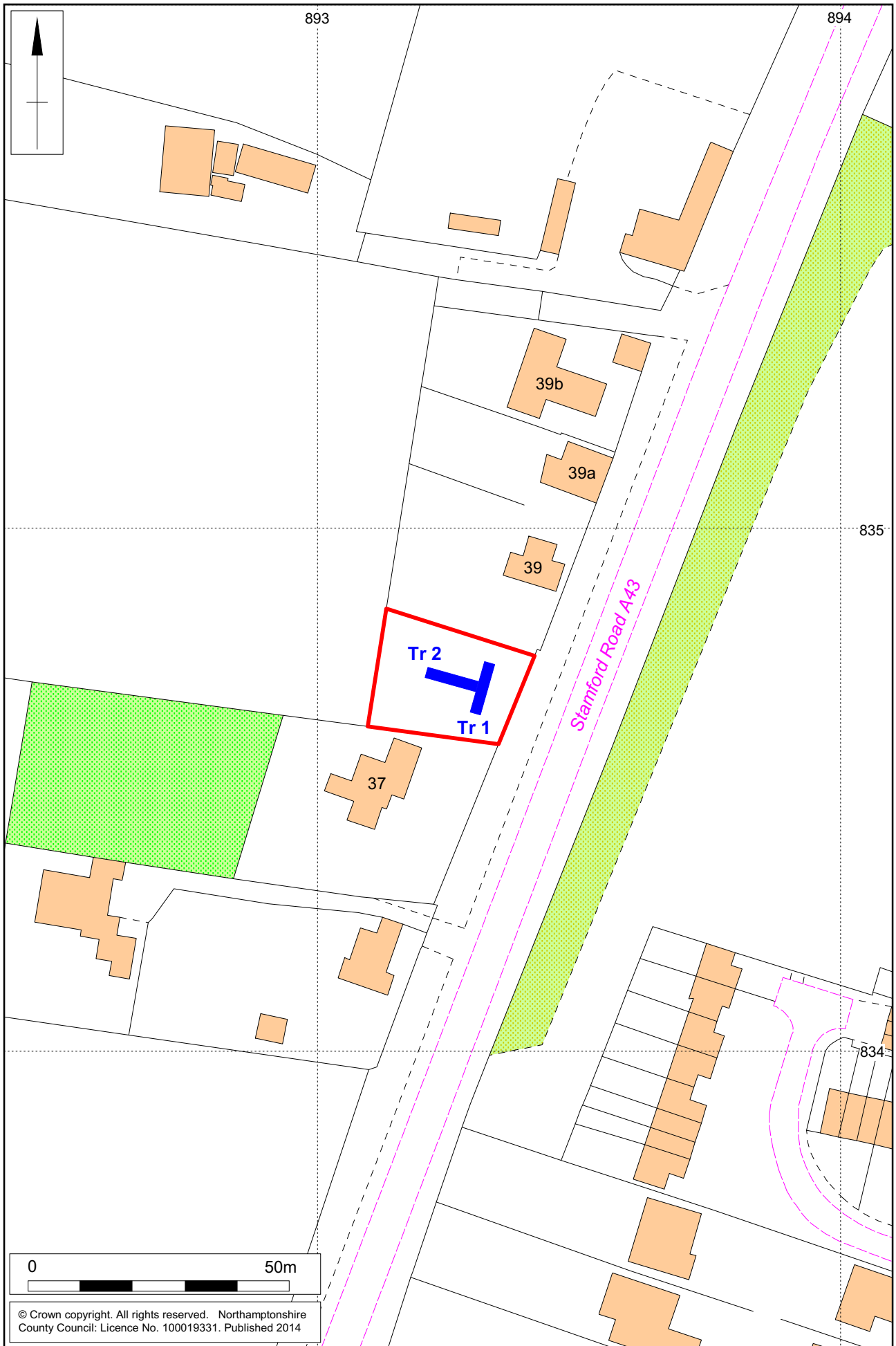
- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site.

The excavation was carried out within the parameters suggested by the published research priorities set out for the East Midlands (EH 1997; Cooper 2006; Knight *et al* 2012).



Scale 1:10,000

Selected Historic Environment Record references Fig 2



Scale 1: 1000

The excavated trenches Fig 3

3.2 Methodology

Two trial trenches, 10m long, in a T-shaped layout were excavated in reference to a trench plan prepared by MOLA and approved by Northamptonshire County Council. Due to surrounding tree cover the trial trenches could not be located using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) and were instead located with reference to fixed points on Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig 3).

A JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of possible archaeological features. Deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard MOLA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (MOLA 2014). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. A photographic record was compiled using 35mm black and white film and colour digital images.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The stratigraphy was the same across both trenches. The natural substrate was exposed at a depth of 0.43-0.49m and was light orange-brown clayey sand with frequent medium to large limestone fragment inclusions (Fig 4). This was overlain by 0.15-0.20m of light greyish orange-brown sandy loam subsoil with moderate limestone fragment inclusions. This was sealed by dark grey-brown silty loam topsoil, with occasional limestone fragments, 0.25-0.30m thick (Fig 5). No archaeological features or deposits were exposed by the evaluation.



Trenches 1 & 2, looking south-west Fig 4



Trench 1 section, looking south-east Fig 5

5 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation identified an undisturbed stratigraphy of cornbrash type natural substrate overlain by subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed by the evaluation.

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Websites

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>

APPENDIX 1: Selected Historic Environment Record references

Reference	Type	Form	Date	Description
2573	Site	Settlement	Romano-British	Possible site of settlement – same location as 7111
4247	Site	Village	Anglo-Saxon	The core of the village of Geddington is believed to date from the Anglo-Saxon period
4252	Site	Village	Medieval	Little Newtown Deserted Medieval Village
7111	Site	Settlement	Anglo-Saxon	Possible site of settlement
13974	Route	Road	Romano-British	Possible line of Romano-British road
17173	Site	Industrial	Anglo-Saxon	Iron working site – same location as 17174
17174	Site	Industrial	Iron Age	Iron working site
133613	Earthwork	Ridge and furrow	Medieval to post-medieval	Remnant ridge and furrow cultivation traces
136189	Building	Mill	Post-medieval	Site of corn mill

APPENDIX 2: Context Index

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1	10m x 1.6m NNE-SSW	489331 283469	84.85- 85.29m aOD	84.41-84.86m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty loam, occasional limestone fragment inclusions	0.25-0.28m thick	
102	Subsoil	Light greyish orange-brown sandy loam, moderate limestone fragment inclusions	0.15-0.20m thick	
103	Natural	Light orange-brown clayey sand, frequent limestone fragment inclusions		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2	10m x 1.6m WNW-ESE	489326 283471	84.15- 84.94m aOD	83.66-84.50m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty loam, occasional limestone fragment inclusions	0.26-0.30m thick	
202	Subsoil	Light greyish orange-brown sandy loam, moderate limestone fragment inclusions	0.16-0.20m thick	
203	Natural	Light orange-brown clayey sand, frequent limestone fragment inclusions		



MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk