



**Archaeological trial trench evaluation
at 19 High Street, Stoke Goldington
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire
January 2016**

Report No. 16/16

Authors: Adam Reid

Illustrator: Oliver Dindol



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Event number: EMK 1266

Report No. 16/16

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Project Manager: Mo Muldowney

Author: Adam Reid
Illustrator: Oliver Dindol

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MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager	Mo Muldowney BA ACIfA
Fieldwork	Adam Reid BSc MSc Kathrin Winzer MA
Text	Adam Reid
Illustrator	Oliver Dindol BA
Clay tobacco-pipe	Tora Hylton

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-239854	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at 19 High Street, Stoke Goldington, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, January 2016		
Summary	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Gott to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 19 High Street, Stoke Goldington, prior to the proposed development of the site. Two trenches were excavated. One post-medieval pit of uncertain function was identified.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Garden		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/period	Pit, post-medieval		
Significant finds	Clay tobacco-pipe		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Buckinghamshire		
Site address	19 High Street, Stoke Goldington, Milton Keynes		
Postcode	MK16 8NH		
OS co-ordinates	SP 8381 4854		
Area (sq m/ha)	0.04ha		
Height aOD	53m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project Brief originator	Nick Crank (Milton Keynes Council)		
Project Design originator	Mo Muldowney, MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Adam Reid, MOLA Northampton		
Project Manager	Mo Muldowney, MOLA Northampton		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Gott		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	11/01/2016		
End date	14/01/2016		
ARCHIVES		Location (Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Milton Keynes HER EMK1266		Clay pipe
Paper			Site file, drawings, photographs
Digital			Mapinfo plans, Word report, photographs, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation at 19 High Street, Stoke Goldington, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. January 2016		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Reports 16/16		
Author(s)	Adam Reid		
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Archaeological trial trench evaluation at 19 High Street, Stoke Goldington Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire January 2016

Abstract

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Gott to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 19 High Street, Stoke Goldington, prior to the proposed development of the site. Two trenches were excavated. The only feature was a small pit dated to the 18th century by a single clay tobacco-pipe stem and some coke.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Gott to undertake archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 19 High Street (NGR SP 8381 4854, Fig 1). Nick Crank, Milton Keynes Council, Conservation and Archaeology Department, advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area in advance of the construction of a detached bungalow and outbuilding (Planning Application 15/00469/FUL). This is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012). The requirements and methodology were outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (MOLA 2016). The fieldwork is recorded in the Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record under the event number EMK1266.

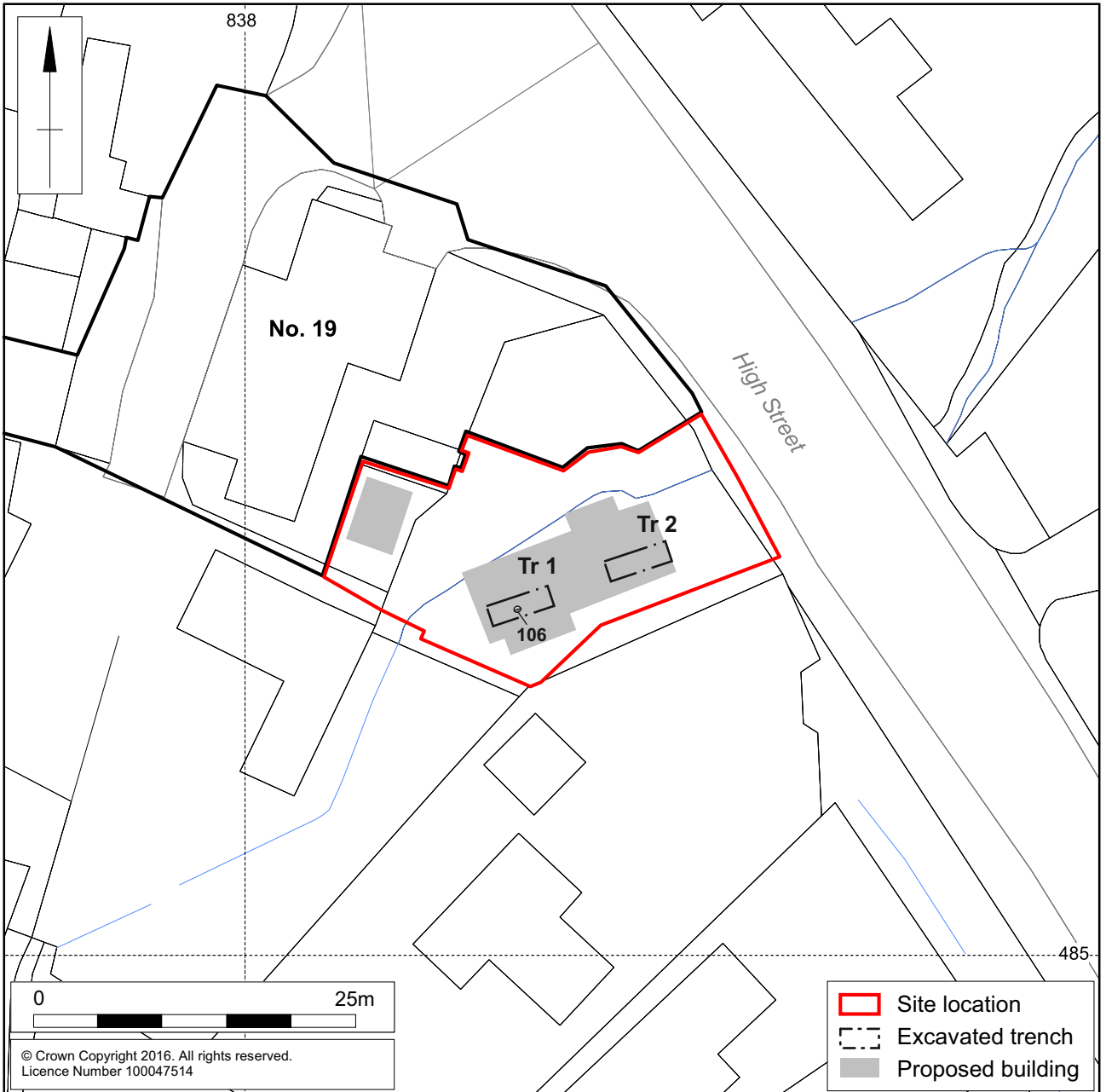
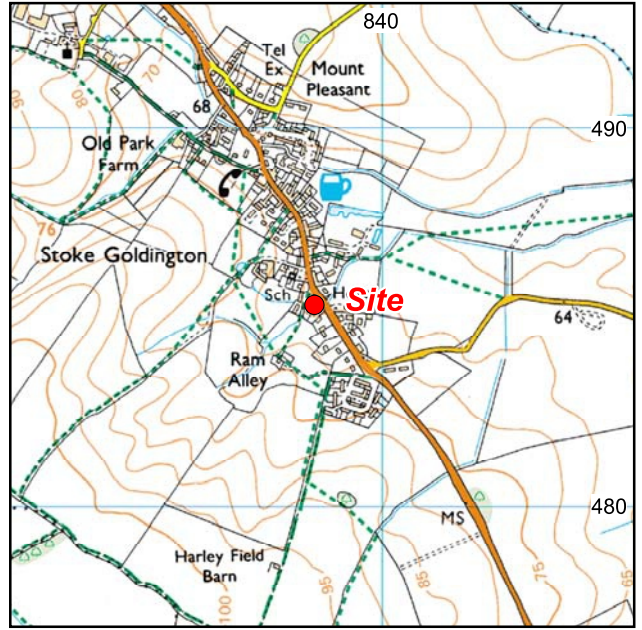
The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation* (2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (2014b). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England procedural documents (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

Stoke Goldington is located on the northernmost border of Buckinghamshire, within the Borough of Milton Keynes. It is situated 6km north-north-west of Newport Pagnell and 16km from the centre of Milton Keynes. The proposed development area comprises a sub-rectangular parcel of land, just over 0.04ha in size. To the north-east it is bounded by the High Street B526, and to the south by the curtilage of no. 17 High Street.

The bedrock geology at the site is recorded as Jurassic period sedimentary Rutland Formation Argillaceous rocks, with subordinate sandstone and limestone (BGS 2015). Superficial deposits are described as Head clay, silt, sand and gravel. The site is situated at 53m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).



Scale 1:500

Site location and excavated trenches Fig 1

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2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The village originated as an Anglo-Saxon settlement. Before 1066 Countess Gytha (of Hereford) was the Lord, and after the Conquest in 1086 it belonged to William Peverel, a noble Norman knight allegedly the illegitimate son of William the Conqueror. Between 1163 and 1177 it was held by Peter de Goldington and it was from here that the modern name of the village was formed (MK Heritage 2015).

Using the Heritage Gateway and Historic England's PastScape resources, it can be determined that fourteen heritage records can be identified within a 250m radius of the site. Eleven of these refer to Grade II Listed standing buildings on and around the High Street. Two records identify spot finds of a Roman coin and worked flint. One record refers to the archaeological monitoring of groundworks for a water main to the north of the site, during which no archaeological activity was recorded (HG 2015, PastScape 2015).

Prehistoric

No prehistoric sites are known from the immediate vicinity of the site, although some spot finds may indicate some prehistoric activity in the area. The closest, a worked flint (MNo.344944) was located around 180m north-east of the development site. Further south-west around 900m from the site, a Neolithic polished stone axe was found in the early 20th century (MNo. 344926).

Iron Age and Roman

Roman sites are present in the area of Stoke Goldington, but none are currently known within a 250m radius of the development. An Iron Age and Romano British enclosure was discovered in a gravel pit 900m east of the site in 1959 (MNo. 344936) (PastScape 2015). Roman and Iron Age pottery was found in 1960 and 1965 in two ditches. To the north of this, a second area of enclosure and ring ditches dated c2nd-1st centuries BC was identified (MNo. 344916). A Roman coin was also found 100m south-east of the site (MNo. 344941).

Anglo-Saxon

Although the village is thought to originate as an Anglo-Saxon settlement there is no known archaeological evidence of this period within the vicinity of the site.

Medieval

The Parish Church of St. Peter is built of stone rubble on a small hill around 800m from the middle of the village. The nave was built early in the 12th century and the church has been developed over the centuries with a major renovation programme conducted during the 19th century and commissioned by James Carlile, when the upper part of the north wall of the chancel and the whole of the south wall of the chapel were re-built (MK Heritage 2015). Sherds of medieval pottery including Potterspury and Great Brickhill wares were discovered c.30m to the south and west of the site (MMK8, MMK9 & MMK10).

Post-medieval to modern

At the end of the 18th century the Carlile family bought the village and in 1882 commissioned the building of the Stoke Goldington Water Works. Underground reservoirs built near St Peter's Church and on the hill at the back of Mount Pleasant enabled running water to be piped into the village. The system is still extant. Major refurbishment or construction was undertaken of the village's key buildings; St Peter's Parish Church, the Village Reading Rooms, the Village Green and Recreation Ground. In 1912 Sir Walter Carlile authorised the sale of the freeholds of all the village properties, to allow existing tenants to purchase their own properties (MK Heritage 2015).

In the 1970s, the County Council issued a “Village plan” aimed at preserving the inherent character of the village. This aimed to restrain modern development, and to save the picturesque architecture of the village.

There are eleven Grade II Listed Buildings within the 250m search area. Number 2 Ram Alley, a small 17th-century cottage, bounds the development site to the west. At a distance of 55m on the opposite side of High Street, a small two-storey thatched cottage, The Bakehouse, dates to early 18th century.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the evaluation was to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. The trenching specifically aimed to examine:

- the date, nature, significance and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- the potential for palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- the impact of the proposed works upon any surviving archaeological remains.

4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Two trenches, each measuring 5m long, were excavated in the area of the proposed new building (Fig 1). Trenches were excavated using a rubber-tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.9m-wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal archaeological features or natural substrate. All procedures complied with MOLA Health and Safety provisions and MOLA Health and Safety at Work Guidelines (MOLA 2014).

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). All deposits were given a separate context number in a sequence assigned to each trench. They were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation.

All trench locations were recorded using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. A full digital photographic record was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (HE 2015) and the WSI (MOLA 2015).

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The general stratigraphy was consistent in both trenches. The natural substrate comprised mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular limestone, between 0.35m and 0.54m below the present ground surface. This was overlain by dark grey-brown clayey silt subsoil, 0.11m thick. The topsoil comprised dark grey-brown silty sandy clay, 0.24 to 0.34m thick (Fig 2).

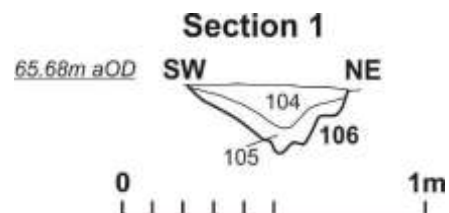
The feature was cut into the natural and was overlain by the subsoil.



The stratigraphic sequence, looking south-east Fig 2

5.2 The pit

A sub-circular pit [106] (Fig 3) was identified in the centre of Trench 1. It was 0.55m wide and 0.24m deep with an asymmetrical profile and irregular concave base. The lower fill (105) was mid greyish-brown silty clay that contained no finds. This was overlain by fill (106), which was dark brownish-grey clayey silt that contained charcoal, coke and a fragment of clay tobacco-pipe stem.



Pit [106] in Trench 1, looking north-west, Fig 3

6 CLAY TOBACCO-PIPE by Tora Hylton

A single clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment was recovered from pit 106 (fill 104) in Trench 1. The pipe stem measures 43mm in length and it does not display signs of abrasion. Changes in manufacturing technique and the use of finer wire to make the bores ensured that there was a regular reduction in the bore diameter between c.1620 and 1800. The bore size of this example is 6/64's of an inch, suggesting a c.18th century date for the stem.

7 DISCUSSION

The evaluation identified a single post-medieval pit. No other features or finds were present.

The pit contained a single stem fragment of clay tobacco-pipe, but no pottery or animal bone. The presence of vitrified, cokey material in the same fill together with the pipe stem, strongly suggest the pit was backfilled in the 18th century and may have been associated with backyard activity of one of the nearby listed buildings of similar date.

Although the evidence is limited, due to the small-scale nature of the archaeological intervention, it seems reasonable to suppose that the site lay beyond the limit of medieval Stoke Goldington, but at the edge of the post-medieval village. Nearby finds of medieval pottery may have derived from the manuring of the village's medieval open-field system.

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MOLA Northampton
25 January 2016

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (E end)	Surface height, E end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	5m x 1.6m E-W	483819, 248526	65.19m	64.84m 0.35m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown silty sand clay garden soil.	0.24m deep	-
102	Subsoil	Friable dark grey-brown clayey silt.	0.11m deep	-
103	Natural	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub angular limestone.	-	-
104	Fill of 106	Friable dark brown-grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal and coke.	0.55m wide, 0.14m deep	Clay tobacco-pipe
105	Fill of 106	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and angular limestone.	0.53m wide, 0.09m deep	-
106	Pit	Circular cut with slightly asymmetrical profile. Western edge slopes more steeply than eastern edge. Concave base.	0.55m wide 0.24m deep	-



Trench No.	Length, width & alignment	Grid Reference (E end)	Surface height, E end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	5m x 1.6m E-W	483828, 248530	64.82m	64.28m 0.54m deep
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Loose dark grey-brown loamy garden soil.	0.31m deep	-
202	Subsoil	Friable dark grey-brown clayey silt.	0.23m deep	-
203	Natural	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional medium sub-angular limestone.	-	-





MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk