

Land to the North of Ulceby, North Lincolnshire Report on the Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation



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Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Anglian Water to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the north of Ulceby, North Lincolnshire (TA 1050 1557) between 29th and 30th April 2019 (Figure 1).
- The site lies approximately 500m north of the village of Ulceby in North Lincolnshire. The site is enclosed on all sides by mature hedgerows, and is bounded to the west and north by arable fields. The eastern and southern edges of the site are adjacent to Thornton Lane which encompasses the south-east corner of the site. On the opposite side of Thornton Lane to the east is arable fields and on its opposite side to the south is a residential area.
- The evaluation comprised the excavation of one trench, measuring c.30m x 2m (Figure 1). This trench was positioned within the confines of the proposed site of a pipe storage area.
- No archaeological features were identified within the trench, although two modern field drains were encountered.

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Figure 1: Site location map including plan of trench.

Figure 2: Trench 001 Representative Section.

Figure 3: Trench 001 Representative Section.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of the village of Ulceby, North Lincolnshire (TA 1050 1557) ahead of the excavation of a pipe storage area. This report concerns the results of the trial trench evaluation.
- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in April 2018, and involved the excavation, monitoring and recording of one trench c. 30m x 2m (Figure 1).
- 1.3 The evaluation was conducted in line with the methodology proscribed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Trent & Peak Archaeology (Owen 2019) with the guidance of the Historic Environment Officers for Lincolnshire County Council, Louise Jennings and Ian Marshman.

2 Site Background

2.1 Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 The site is located approximately 500m north of the village of Ulceby, North Lincolnshire. The site consists of a large field under arable agriculture. Such fields dominate the surrounding landscape with dispersed residential development consisting of hamlets and villages to the east, west and south. The site is located approximately 8km south of the Humber, which formed part of a major trade route in antiquity.
- 2.1.2 The site is located on a level plateau of approximately 27m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum).
- 2.1.3 The bedrock geology beneath the site consists of Burnham Chalk Formation. This chalk is sedimentary and was formed between 84 and 94 million years ago during the Cretaceous period.
- 2.1.4 The superficial deposits beneath the site consist of Till and Devensian Diamicton. These sedimentary deposits were formed during the Quaternary period up to 2 million years ago (British Geological Survey 2019).
- 2.1.5 The soils within the site consist of freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Soilscapes 2019).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The archaeological potential of the site is not well understood.
- 2.2.2 Little is known about the area surrounding the site during the prehistoric period. The only known prehistoric heritage asset within the locality is an Iron Age chariot or cart burial (Monument No. 80428). This burial was excavated in 1847 and its exact location is unknown.
- 2.2.3 Several features and artefacts of Romano-British date have been identified within the area surrounding the site. These include: a small shrine approximately 800m south of the site, a Romano-British road approximately 1km to the west of the site, and some Romano-British pottery which was recovered within the northern outskirts of Ulceby.
- 2.2.4 An area of Anglo-Saxon occupation was identified approximately 1.8km south-west of the site. An archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services (PCAS) revealed evidence of small scale Anglo-Saxon occupation and probably contemporaneous ditched enclosure (HER 24740).
- 2.2.5 A possible medieval shrunken village has been recorded to the south-west of the site (HER 2283). A series of aerial and geophysical surveys was carried out by the Humberside Joint Archaeological Committee. These surveys have identified several possible features of this

medieval settlement: ridge and furrow field systems, toft and croft land division and potential building foundations.

- 2.2.6 The site is likely to have been utilised as agricultural land throughout the post-medieval and modern periods.

2.3 Proposed Development

- 2.3.1 The proposed development within the site forms part of a scheme of works related to a new sewage pipeline being installed by Anglian Water. This trial trenching evaluation was targeted within an area which will be impacted upon by the excavation of a pipe storage area.
- 2.3.2 No heritage assets are directly impacted by the redevelopment.
- 2.3.3 This Trial Trenching Evaluation followed a methodology of excavation and recording in accordance with best practice and guidance and the requirements of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012), now superseded by the *Updated National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019).

3 Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological works was to identify any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the development and to achieve an appropriate level of *preservation by record* in accordance with *NPPF paragraph 186* (2018).
- 3.2 General objectives were
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
 - To assess the vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
 - To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
 - To assess the potential for the survival of environmental evidence

4 Research Questions

- 4.1 The programme of archaeological works was conducted within the research parameters and objectives defined by Knight *et al.* (2012) as part of the east Midlands Research Framework, specifically:
- 5.4.3 *How did rural settlements relate to each other and to towns and military sites, and how may this have varied regionally and over time?*
 - 5.4.5 *What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?*
 - 7.2.4 *Can we clarify further the process of settlement desertion and shrinkage, especially within zones of dispersed settlement?*

5 Methodology

Excavation

- 5.1 The excavations were conducted in accordance with the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014b) and *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a).
- 5.2 One trench measuring 30m x 2m was excavated within the proposed development area but at a safe distance from known buried services (Figure 2).
- 5.3 The trench was located using a GPS. Prior to investigation the excavation area was scanned using a CAT scan.
- 5.4 All machine excavation was done with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision, to a depth of no greater than 1.2m, complying with H&S regulations.
- 5.5 Topsoil and subsoil deposits were stacked at a safe distance from the trench.
- 5.6 Spoil was visually inspected for artefacts.

Recording

- 5.7 The trench was hand cleaned and two representative sections were photographed, and drawn at 1:20. The position of each trench is located with reference to the OS grid.
- 5.8 Written records were maintained as laid down in the TPA recording manual.

6 Results

- 6.1 The trench, measuring c.30m x 2m, was excavated within the pipe storage area. (Plates 1, 2 & 3; Figures 1 & 2) The trench comprised a total area of 60m².
- 6.2 Geological substratum (103) consisting of compact orange clay with bands of grey, and patches of orange sand (deposits of diamicton) was identified at a depth of c. 0.35 - 0.6m. This was overlain by a layer of subsoil (102) comprised of friable orange-brown sandy clay between 0.05 - 0.30m thick. Overlying this was a dark brown organic silty topsoil (101) between 0.30 – 0.35m thick.
- 6.3 Two modern field drains were identified but were not recorded. The most westerly of these was formed of sections of ceramic pipe, only the cut and gravel fill of the eastern drain were revealed.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 Other than modern drainage features associated with agricultural land use, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the course of the evaluation.
- 7.2 The evaluation suggests that the site has been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period and appears to have been outside of any foci of settlement activity.

8 References

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Appendix 1: Trench Logs

Trench 1					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	30 x 2m	Trench Alignment	NW-SE	Trench Depth	0.63m
Context	Type	Description			Thickness
(1001)	Layer	Topsoil: loose dark brown organic silt			0.30-0.35m
(1002)	Layer	Subsoil: friable, orange-brown sandy clay			0.05-0.30m
(1003)	Layer	Natural: compact orange clay with bands of grey, and patches of orange sand			N/A

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 1: Trench 001. Plan view looking north-west with both of the field drains visible in the centre of the photograph. Scale: 2 x 1m.

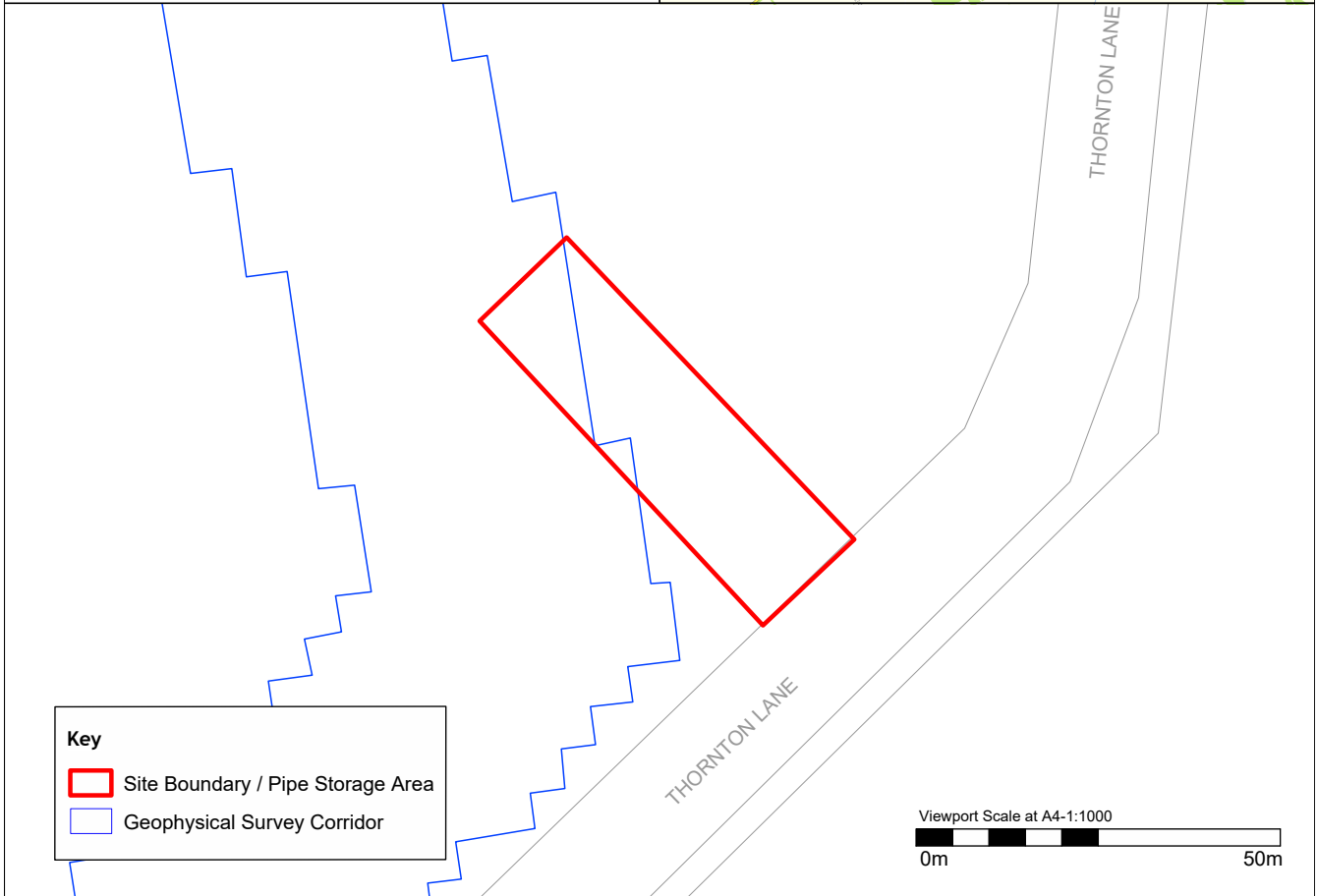


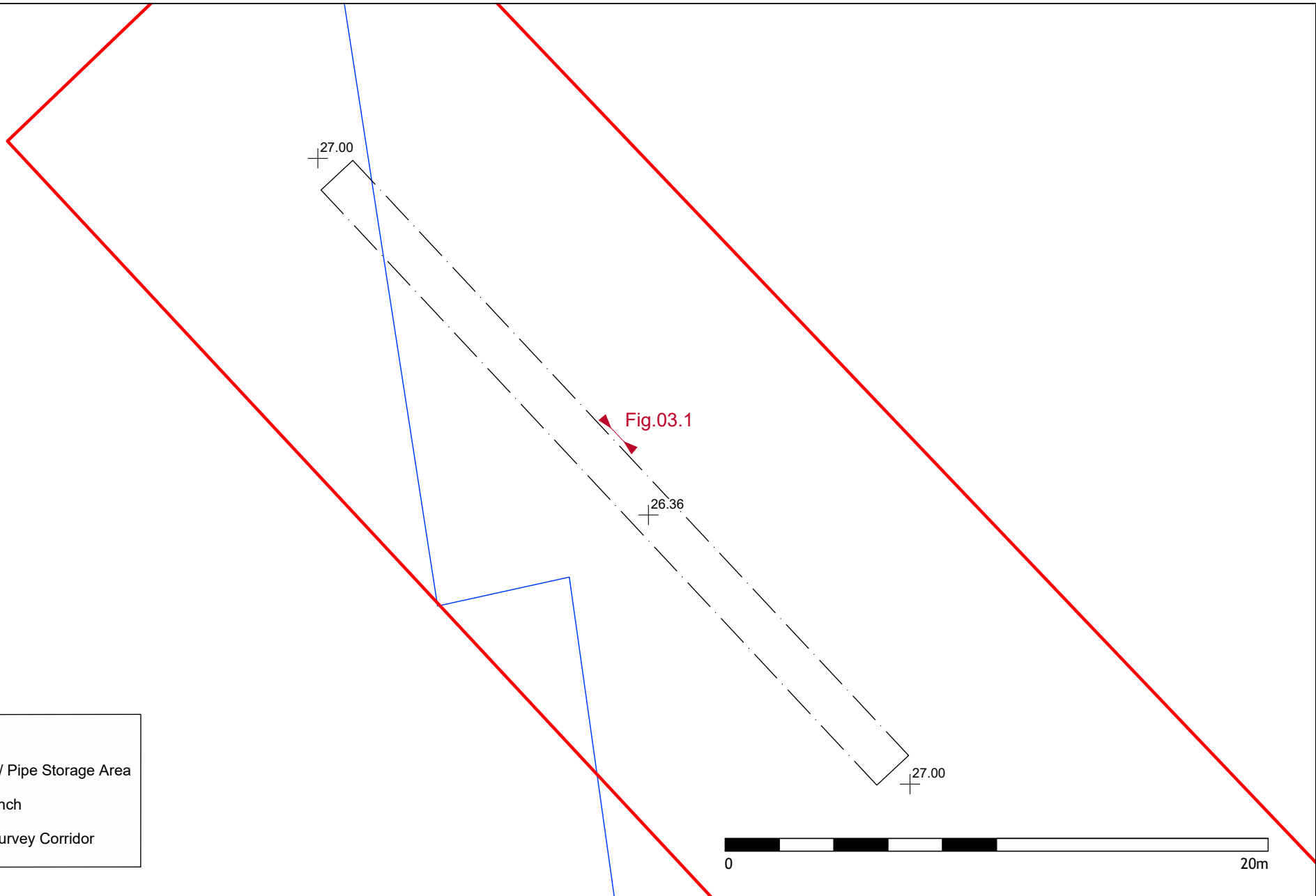
Plate 2: Trench 001. Plan view looking south-east. Scale: 2 x 1m.



Plate 3: Trench 001. Representative section showing the topsoil (1001), subsoil (1002) and natural (1003).

Appendix 3: Figures



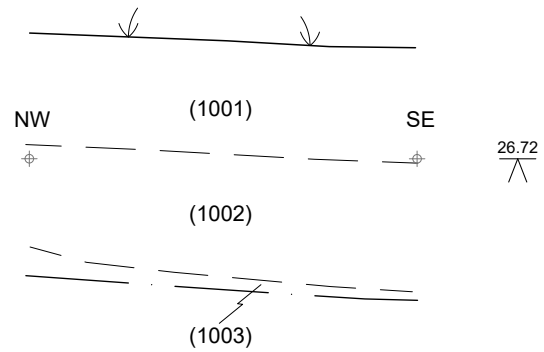


Key

- Site Boundary / Pipe Storage Area
- Evaluation Trench
- Geophysical Survey Corridor



Fig03.1
South West Facing Representative Section



Appendix 4: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Trench record sheets	Register of context numbers and descriptions	1
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	3
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	42
Site drawings	Representative sections	2
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment.	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the trial trenching evaluation.	1

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. It will be deposited with North Lincolnshire Museum Services within 6 months of the completion of the report under Entry Form No:7103.