

Land to the South of Langworth Road, Scothern, Lincolnshire

Report on the Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief



Produced for: Anglian Water

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Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Anglian Water to conduct an archaeological watching brief on land to the south of Langworth Road, Scothern, Lincolnshire (TF 04026 77379) between 22nd and 23rd October 2019.
- The site lies immediately south of Langworth Road, Scothern, Lincolnshire, and is the northernmost 750m of a 3100m pipeline excavation which runs from Scothern to the village of Nettleham approximately 1km to the south west. The section of the excavation subject to archaeological monitoring ran adjacent to a roughly north-south hedgerow which forms the boundary between a large arable field to the east and a farm and two smaller arable fields containing ridge and furrow earthworks to the west, then turned approximately 45° to the west and extended across the width of a large arable field, terminating at the IGAS Welton Site off Sudbrooke Road to the south of Scothern.
- The watching brief observed the topsoil strip of the full 750m of the northernmost section of the work over a period of two days. The strip extended a maximum of 0.4m in depth and largely did not reach the base of the topsoil deposit. In several places patches of a sandy deposit were exposed, which may represent the subsoil.
- No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within the trench.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land south of Langworth Road, Scothern, Lincolnshire (TF 04026 77379) during excavations for water replacement works. This report concerns the results of the watching brief.
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted on the 22nd and 23rd October 2019, and involved the monitoring and recording of a 750m length of pipe trench (Figure 1). This length of trench was the northernmost section of a 3100m pipeline excavation which runs from Scothern to the village of Nettleham approximately 1km to the south west.
- 1.3 The watching brief was conducted in line with standard methodology prescribed in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) document *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014b). All work also adhered to the CIfA *Code of Conduct* (2014a).

2 Site Background

2.1 Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 The site lies immediately south of Langworth Road, Scothern, Lincolnshire. The section of the excavation subject to archaeological monitoring ran adjacent to a roughly north-south hedgerow which forms the boundary between a large arable field to the east and a farm and two smaller arable fields containing ridge and furrow earthworks to the west, then turned approximately 45° to the west and extended across the width of a large arable field, terminating at the IGAS Welton Site off Sudbrooke Road to the south of Scothern.
- 2.1.2 The site is situated over a change in the bedrock geology; the northernmost c.100m is situated over bedrock of the Kellaways Formation: sandstone, siltstone and mudstone formed approximately 164 to 166 million years ago, while the remainder of the site is situated over bedrock of the Oxford Clay Formation: mudstone formed 157 to 166 million years ago. Both deposits were formed in the Jurassic Period. Both formations indicate environments of shallow seas.
- 2.1.3 No superficial deposits are recorded for the northernmost portion of the site; however, in the remainder the superficial deposits are recorded as mid Pleistocene Till – Diamicton. These were formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period, indicating ice age conditions.
- 2.1.4 The soils within the site consist of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Soilscapes 2019).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 No records relating to the site itself are included within the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER). Several records from the wider area (within a 500m radius of the site) are present, and indicate some level of activity in the area of Scothern from the prehistoric period onwards.
- 2.2.2 Prehistoric activity within the area is limited, and is represented by several findspots: a Neolithic stone axe found during the creation of a new garden in Scothern village (LHER No. 53105), a Bronze Age bronze gouge found on land to the north-east of Scothern (LHER No. 53129), and an Iron Age/Romano-British beehive quern in the front garden of Craypool Cottage LHER No. 53121)

- 2.2.3 Evidence of Romano-British activity within a 500km radius of the site is represented by various finds of pottery from around the village (LHER No. 58146), coins of Constantine (LHER No. 53134) and Trajan (LHER No. 53125), along with an unidentified coin from the garden of the School House (LHER No 53108). The aforementioned beehive quern may also be Roman in date.
- 2.2.4 The Domesday survey of 1086 lists Scothern as *Sco(l)torne/Scotstorne*, a name probably derived from Scott, meaning a Scot, and þorn, meaning a hawthorn tree (The Institute for Name-Studies 2019). It had 5 landowners: the Abbey of St Peter, Peterborough, Ilbert of Lacy, Kolsveinn of Lincoln, Norman of Arcy, and Ranulf of St Valery. The settlement had a church and a mill, and had a priest, 10 villagers, 5 smallholders and 43 freemen. The settlement also had 14 ploughlands (Powell-Smith and Palmer 2011).
- 2.2.5 The line of the northernmost 350m of pipeline is directly to the east of several adjacent areas of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks (LHER No. 58146). The earthworks in the fields directly to the west of the northernmost section of pipeline were recorded during a programme of earthwork survey in November 2016 to advise proposed residential development (Johnson 2017). Aerial photography shows remnants of ridge and furrow earthworks in the form of cropmarks in both of the fields that the trench passes through (maps.google.com). The east-west cropmarks in the northernmost field line up with extant ridge and furrow in the field immediately to the west, suggesting that the field boundary was shifted approximately 20m eastwards at some point before modern ploughing began. Both fields that the trench passes through have now been ploughed flat.
- 2.2.6 An east to west aligned linear feature was recorded during archaeological monitoring of the construction of new classrooms at the Ellison Boulter CE Primary School. This was believed to be medieval in date, possibly representing a field boundary or drainage ditch relating to the ridge and furrow (Tann 2000).
- 2.2.7 The only medieval building still remaining in the village is the Church of St Germain, which has a chancel arch dating to the 12th century, along with a perpendicular tower dating to 1590 (LHER No. 53113). Several small fragments of decorated stonework are built into a house and outbuilding in the village, which likely originated from this church during renovation (LHER No. 53111).
- 2.2.8 Post-medieval occupation of the village is represented mainly by standing buildings: the Methodist Church, Manor House, 43 Main Street, The Old Barn, the Sycamores, Beck House and Manor Farm (LHER Nos 55115, 58268, 56735, 56497, 57889, 57890 and 58149 respectively). Historic parkland at Manor House Park is also noted (LHER 58268), as is a pit containing pottery of late 18th century date found within a garden in the village (LHER No. 53132).

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:

7.2.1 How can we elucidate further the development of nucleated villages, and in particular the contribution of the Danelaw to changes in village morphology?

7.7.1 Can we shed further light upon the origins and development of the open-field system and its impact upon agricultural practices?

7.7.3 What can we deduce about changes in woodland management and animal or crop husbandry (including new crops, crop rotation, field systems, more intensive cultivation of clay soils and larger animals, particularly sheep)?

5 Methodology

- 5.1 The excavations were conducted in accordance with the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014b) and *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a).
- 5.2 One continuous trench 750m in length was monitored down to a maximum depth of 0.4m. All machine excavation was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The archaeologist was given the opportunity to enter the trench for hand cleaning and recording, where necessary.
- 5.3 Excavated topsoil was stored at a safe distance from the edge of a trench, and was visually inspected for artefacts.
- 5.4 Two representative sections of the trench were photographed using a DSLR camera and hand drawn at 1:20. Pro-forma Context Recording Sheets were completed for each context.
- 5.5 Written records were maintained as laid down in the TPA recording manual.

6 Results

- 6.1 The trench was excavated to a fairly consistent depth of between 0.30 and 0.40m, and was approximately 4.0m wide.
- 6.2 The earliest deposit identified was a mid brownish-yellow clayey-sand (0002), which was present in linear patches at the base of the trench in various places along the line of excavation (Plate 2). These linear patches are likely to represent plough scrapes from modern ploughing, which has churned up the underlying subsoil deposit.
- 6.3 The topsoil (0001) was situated immediately above (0002). It consisted of mid yellowish-brown clay loam. The excavations did not extend below the base of the topsoil in most places.
- 6.4 Other than the remnants of modern ploughing, no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 Due to the shallow depth of the excavations which did not fully penetrate the topsoil, it was not possible to discern the presence of any archaeological deposits or features. However, the presence of ridge and furrow cropmarks on the aerial photography suggest that the area of excavation has been subject to arable farming since the medieval or post-medieval period, and therefore it is likely that this area was outside the core of the village of Scothern at this time.
- 7.2 Due to the limited results of the excavation it was not possible to contribute to the research questions posed in Section 4.

8 References

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Appendix 1: Plates

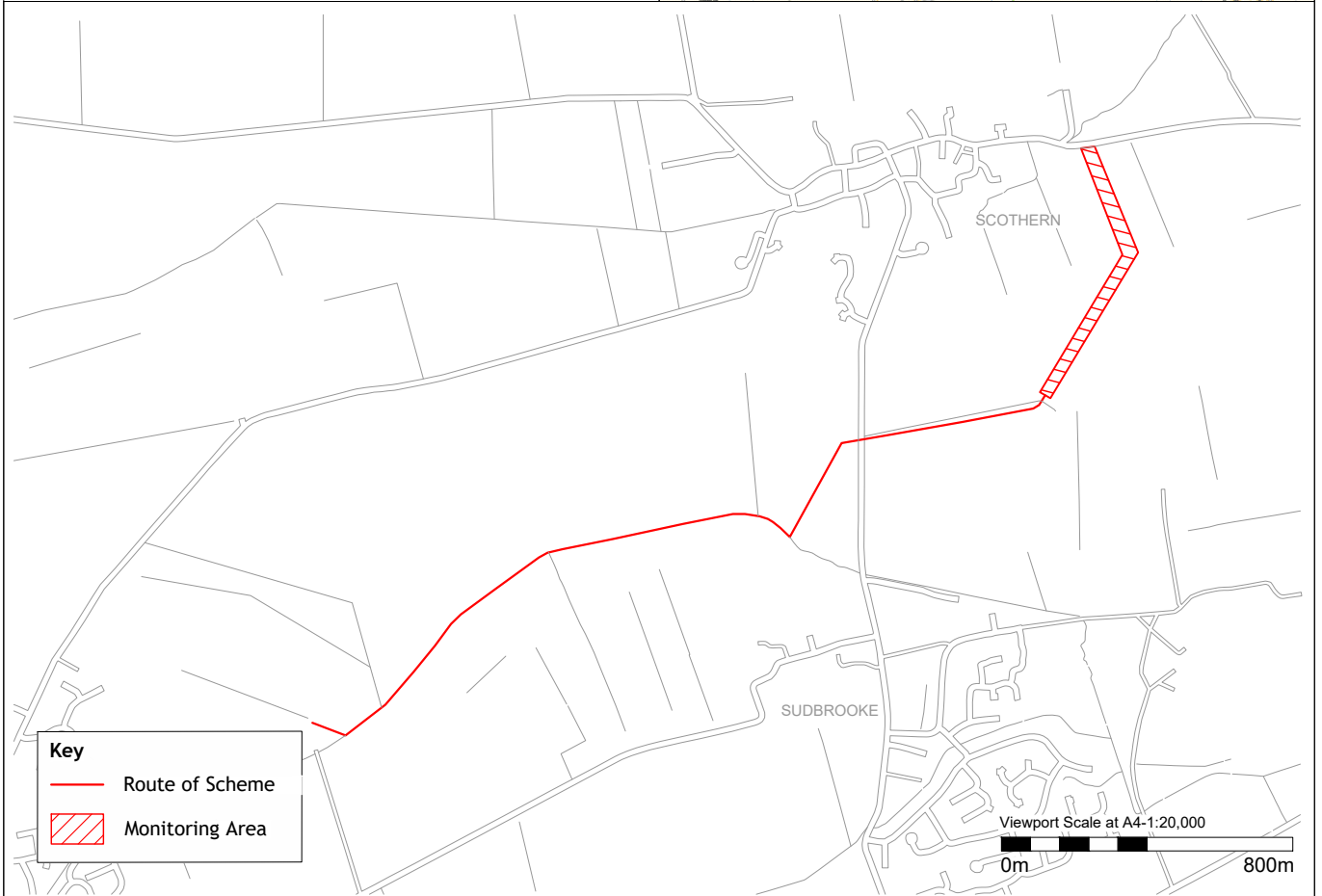
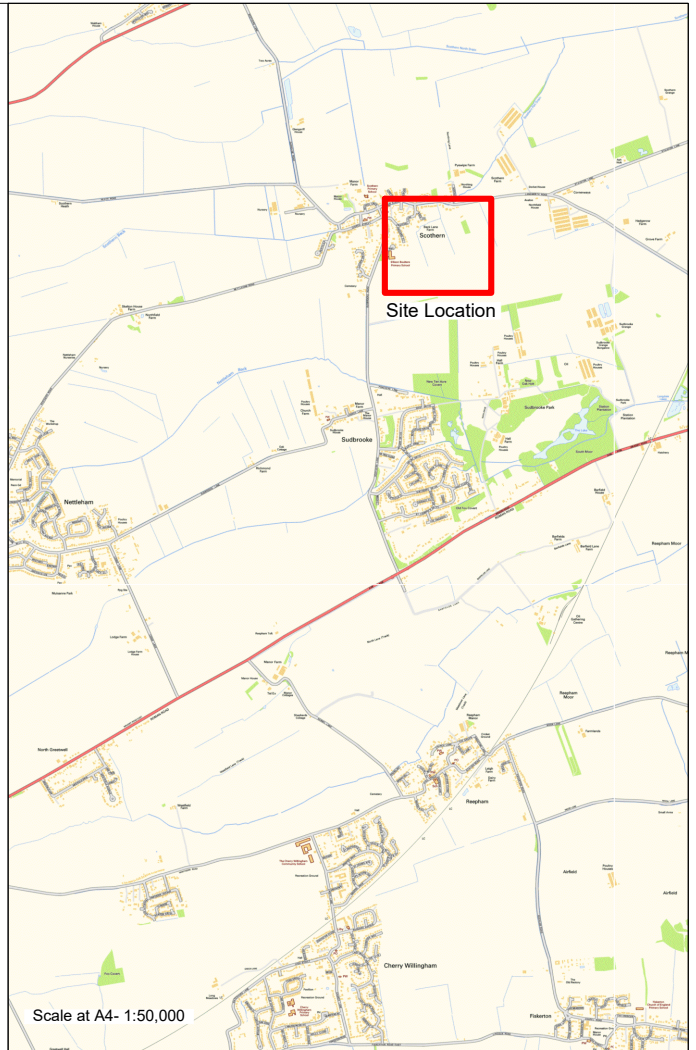


Plate 1: General view of pipe trench, showing topsoil, looking north-east. Scales = 1m



Plate 2: The trench looking north-east, showing plough scrapes from modern ploughing. Scales = 1m.

Appendix 2: Figures





Appendix 3: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: trentpea1-376112

Project details

Project name	Land to the South of Langworth Road, Scothern, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Anglian Water to conduct an archaeological watching brief on land to the south of Langworth Road, Scothern, Lincolnshire (TF 04026 77379). The site lies immediately south of Langworth Road, Scothern, Lincolnshire, and is the northernmost 750m of a 3100m pipeline excavation which runs from Scothern to the village of Nettleham approximately 1km to the south west. The watching brief observed the topsoil strip of the full 750m of the northernmost section of the work over a period of two days. The strip extended a maximum of 0.4m in depth and largely did not reach the base of the topsoil deposit. In several places patches of a sandy deposit were exposed, which may represent the subsoil. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within the trench.
Project dates	Start: 22-10-2019 End: 23-10-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LSA - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY SCOTHERN Land to the South of Langworth Road, Scothern, Lincolnshire
Study area	3000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 04026 77379 53.282881003566 -0.439503715831 53 16 58 N 000 26 22 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	Anglian Water

Project design originator	Tom Hooley
Project director/manager	Tom Hooley
Project supervisor	Megan Hughes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Lincolnshire HER
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No

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