Trial Trench Evaluation on Land at Chequerhouse Farm, Ranby, Nottinghamshire

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Report Number: 177/2019

TPA Project Code: RCF

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Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Chequerhouse Farm, Ranby, Nottinghamshire (NGR SK 64126 81702) (Figure 1). The work was undertaken in November 2019 in order to inform an application for the construction of poultry sheds at the site.

- The development site lies within a rural location off Thievesdale Lane on the Osberton Estate, approximately 1.25km north-west of the village of Ranby, Nottinghamshire (Figure 1). The surrounding area consists of agricultural fields, pasture and woodland within a bend of the River Ryton, which lies 433m to the east and 951m south of the site.

- The scheme of archaeological fieldwork can be summarised as the excavation of four trenches measuring at least 25 x 1.8m. The trenches were designed to assess the site's archaeological potential by targeting geophysical anomalies identified in a previous phase of work.

- A geophysical survey of the development area detected possible archaeological features in the form of linear anomalies in the north of the site (Magnitude Surveys 2019).

- A total of four trenches were excavated to assess a number of anomalies revealed by geophysical survey. Archaeological features were identified in three trenches, but only two of these features can be said to corroborate the geophysical survey findings. The nature of the natural sand and gravel is likely to have had an impact on the geophysical findings, with natural gravel fills within the undulating natural horizon.

- Five linear features were observed and excavated within trenches 02, 03 and 04. The results of the investigation were inconclusive and the features remain largely enigmatic, with the potential for at least two to be naturally formed. No finds or other datable material was encountered during the course of the investigation.

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Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd for commissioning the work, and aiding facilitation of archaeological groundworks. The project was managed by Steve Malone (TPA), and undertaken in the field by Project Supervisor Tristan Cousins and Project Archaeologist Charlotte Bishop. Thanks are further extended to the Historic Places Manager for Lincolnshire Council (NLC), who advises Bassetlaw District Council, for advice and guidance during this phase of mitigation.

The illustrations were compiled by Michael Hughes, and thanks are extended to Magnitude Surveys LTD for facilitating the reproduction of geophysical imaging within this report.

1 Introduction

1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Chequerhouse Farm, Ranby, Nottinghamshire (centred on National Grid Reference SK 64126 81702) (Figure 1). The work was undertaken in November 2019 in order to inform an application for the construction of four poultry sheds at the site.

1.2 An approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Malone 2019) was prepared by TPA, and all work was undertaken in accordance with appropriate professional standards, as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014b); and *Code of Conduct* (2014a).

1.3 The overall study has employed the methodology developed by TPA for use on similar projects in the region. This methodology conforms to the standard requirements of planning authorities where consent applications are made for development. These follow guidelines presented in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

2 Site Background

2.1 No previous archaeological excavation has been undertaken on the proposed development area. A previous phase of geophysical survey undertaken by Magnitude Surveys (2019) identified potential archaeological anomalies comprising of rectilinear features possibly pertaining to an earlier land division, possibly elements of Iron Age and Romano-British brickwork-plan field systems (Fig. 5).

2.2 There is no evidence for activity pre-dating the Iron Age within the surrounding landscape, however Prehistoric activity has been recorded at Worksop, for example at Gateford North approximately 6.2km to the west of the Site (Boyer and Streatfield-James 2016). The renowned Cresswell Crags, with evidence of human occupation up to 10,000 years ago, lies approximately 12.8km to the south-west on the border with Derbyshire.

2.3 Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity within the immediate environs is better represented in the archaeological record. The north of Nottinghamshire, between Retford and Worksop encompassing the site has revealed a large concentration of brickwork-plan fields and farmsteads via aerial archaeology (Riley 1980). A number of cropmark sites related to this organised landscape are recorded in the near vicinity including a series of rectangular enclosures attributed to Romano-British settlement (MNT15427), centred on SK641811, some 570m south of the site. Additionally, a chance find of a Roman coin occurred during the construction of a greenhouse in the grounds of Ranby House, 1.6km to the south-west, in 1936 (MNT5505).

2.4 The villages of Scofton and Ranby within the environs of the site are both pre-conquest foundations (as was Worksop), listed in the Domesday Book as being on crown lands laid to waste in 1086 (Williams and Martin 2003, 758-759). The suffix '-by' indicates that Ranby was of Scandinavian origin. A known deserted medieval settlement at Rayton lies approximately 3.2km to the south-west (Beresford and Hurst 1972). Desk-based assessment identified a single heritage asset within the Site environs related to the early Medieval and Medieval periods, a chance find of a medieval comb at Scofton Hall, (since demolished) 1.9km to the south-west, at some time prior to 1901 (MNT8706). Historic mapping indicates that the site remained open fields until the mid-twentieth century.

2.5 During WWII the western part of the site was used as a camp, probably associated with the nearby RAF Worksop. The base, on land requisitioned from the Osberton Estate, had two main periods of operation, from 1942-1948, and reactivated at the time of the Korean War in

1951 until the land was returned to the Osberton estate in 1960. The site first appears on OS mapping in 1963 labelled 'Camp (disused)'. Chequerhouse Farm was established on the southern part of the site in the 1970s.

3 Topography and Geology

3.1 The development area lies within a rural location surrounded by agricultural fields, pasture and woodland and the site is flat, lying at approximately 25m AOD.

3.2 The overlying soils are lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Cranfield Soil and Agrifoods Institute 2019).

3.3 The 1:50,000 British Geological Mapping shows the site to be situated on Chester Formation – Sandstone, Pebbly (gravelly); a sedimentary sandstone bedrock formed approximately 547-250 million years ago during the Triassic Period, in local environment previously dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2019).

4 Aims and Objectives

4.1.1 The trial trench evaluation aimed to rapidly clarify and characterise the levels of truncation/preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. In compliance with the approved WSI (Malone 2019) an appropriate level of excavation of archaeological features/deposits was undertaken, sufficient to demonstrate character, extent, and where possible, recover dating evidence. The location of the trenches was determined by the results of the geophysical survey (Magnitude 2019) so as to provide a sample of all main areas of the site in order to rapidly inform on the distribution of surviving archaeological remains and their potential to inform decisions as to whether and what further mitigation would be required.

4.1.2 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

1. To characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development. This will provide the basis for an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource.

2. To establish the depth at which the sensitive archaeological horizon lies.

3. To investigate the archaeological and possible archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey and to test apparent 'blank' areas.

4. To recover and retain artefacts and samples of geoarchaeological/ palaeoenvironmental interest if present, as these may contribute to an understanding of the nature of the landscape and the uses to which it was put.

5. To maintain an appropriate level of *preservation by record* in line with CIfA *standards* (2014).

6. Any buried archaeological remains identified during the evaluation, provides an opportunity to address the research priorities of the region as highlighted in the East Midlands Updated Research Agenda and Strategy (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012). These were detailed as follows:

6.5 ROMANO-BRITISH (AD 43-c.410)
5.4 Rural settlement patterns and landscapes
1. How did the Conquest impact upon rural settlements and landscapes?
4. How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundaries develop over time?
5.5 The agricultural economy
2. How did integration into the Roman Empire impact upon the agrarian economy, including the introduction of new crops, herbs, and fruits?
4. Can we chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems?

5 Methodology

5.1.1 All work was undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists in accordance with accepted archaeological practice and the *Standard & Guidance* produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

5.1.2 Four trial trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, all measuring at 25m x 1.8m and excavated to depths of between 0.66m and 1.2m.

5.1.3 All trenches were excavated using a 180° tractor fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

5.1.4 Trenches were excavated to a level at which archaeological deposits were present, or in their absence, to the natural geological substrate. Subsoil was excavated in spits no greater than 100mm. The trenches and any archaeological features were located by GPS, Leica CS15/GS15 RTKDifferential GNSS.

5.1.5 Trenches were hand cleaned and a minimum of one long section of each trench was photographed and drawn at a scale of 1:20.

5.1.6 All exposed surfaces were inspected by a suitably qualified archaeologist and any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and recorded where appropriate. Features were characterised through excavation where necessary to obtain datable material and understand the levels of preservation. All contexts were given an individual context number. Plans and sections of all features were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20, and showed at least context numbers, all colour and textural changes and principal slopes represented as hachures. Digital colour photographs of each context were taken using a DSLR at 7 megapixel minimum resolution. Written records were maintained as laid down in the TPA recording manual.

5.1.7 All works were carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Trent & Peak Archaeology (Taylor 2017) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

6 Results

6.1.1 A total of four trenches were excavated on land at Chequerhouse Farm, Ranby, Nottinghamshire. Of these, three were found to contain archaeological features and deposits (Figure 02).

Stratigraphy

6.1.2 Machine removal of the topsoil and grass (averaging c.0.41m in thickness across the site), exposed an upper subsoil which varied in its detailed composition across the site, but can be broadly characterised as a layer of loose dark orangey-brown sand and sub-rounded and rounded stones. This varied in depth between c.0.30m and c.0.56m, which overlay the natural geological substratum of Chester Formation, Sandstone / Pebbly (gravely) (hereafter referred to as the 'natural').

6.1.3 Within **TR04** the stratigraphy was seen to significantly differ as a result of the construction of the farm in the 1970s (*pers. comm.* Osberton Estate staff), this had involved stripping the site of the present farm structures with the spoil being discarded in the area of TR04, resulting in additional layers of top and subsoils. This is described in more detail within the trench narrative below.

Dimensions

6.1.4 Dimensions given below take into account observations and measurements from recorded sections whereby some truncation of features occurred. Hence, dimensions derived from the recorded hand drawn sections are likely to appear greater and reflect a more accurate record of the feature dimensions than those depicted in trench plans.

Blank Trench

6.1.5 **TR01** (Plates 1 and 2; Figures 02 and 03) at the east of the site was observed to contain no features, layers or finds of archaeological significance. This trench was subject to standardised TPA recording methods (TPA, 2015) for sterile trenches, but does not form part of the stratigraphic narrative detailed below. A full log of this trench is supplied in Appendix 1.

Trench Narrative

6.1.6 **Trench 02 (25m x 1.8m).** Linear trench oriented north-west by south-east and situated in the centre-north of the site. Trench 02 was located to characterise potential anomalies observed in the earlier geophysical survey. Removal of the upper subsoil (0202) and cultivated topsoil (0201) to a combined depth of c.0.80m revealed two rectilinear ditch features [0204] and [0206] (Plates 3 – 6; Figures 02 and 03).

Ditch [0206]

6.1.7 [0206] (Plate 6, Figure 03) comprised a rectilinear ditch aligned north-south, corresponding with a linear feature identified by the geophysical survey, that continued beyond the limits of the excavated area. Excavation of a c.0.50m slot along the south-west facing section of the trench revealed a shallow sloping edge along its south-eastern side culminating in a shallow concave base with a total measurable depth of 0.50m and width of approximately 2.40m. The north-west edge of the feature was seen to have been truncated by a smaller ditch aligned east-west [0204], but what remained of the original edge of the feature suggested that it could have had a symmetrical, shallow 'V' - shaped profile.

6.1.8 [0206] contained a single homogeneous fill, (0207) that had a merging interface with the subsoil (0202), and with (0205), the fill of the truncating ditch [0204]. (0207) was comprised of a mid-brown sand and gravelly/pebbly fill. The fill was quite sterile in nature with no observable organic, burnt or other material evidence.

6.1.9 Gravel lenses within the natural were common across this area, an example of which is shown in Plate 16. Towards the north end of the trench a c. 1.2m sondage was machine excavated through what appeared to be a natural hollow or depression, which revealed steadily more refined and compacted natural gravel below the subsoil (0202) (Plate 4; Figure 03). It is probable that such naturally occurring features have caused some of the observed variation in the geophysical survey, given the impression of potential archaeological features.

Ditch [0204]

6.1.10 As stated in 6.1.6, [0204] was a rectilinear ditch aligned east-west that was seen to cut the north-west edge of [0206] (Plates 5 and 6; Figures 02 and 03). [0204] was significantly narrower than [0206], measuring approximately 1.2m, and shallower with a maximum depth of 0.42m. The sides were more steeply sloping; presenting a slightly asymmetrical 'U' shaped profile.

6.1.11 [0204] contained a single fill, (0205) that was essentially the same as (0207) but much less stoney. As with (0207), this context contained no material evidence to better characterise the nature and origin of the feature.

6.1.12 **Trench 03 (25m x 1.8m).** Linear trench oriented north by south situated in the centre of the site. Trench 03 was positioned to locate and characterise potential anomalies observed in the earlier geophysical survey. Removal of upper subsoil (0302) and topsoil (0301) to a combined depth of c.0.8 – 0.9m revealed two ditch features, [0304] and [0306] (Plates 7 – 11; Figures 02 and 03).

Ditch [0304]

6.1.13 [0304] (Plate 9; Figure 03) was seen in plan to be a curvilinear ditch aligned east-west, with an alteration towards a more north-west to south-east alignment where the feature continued into the east and north facing sections of the trench. Further investigation showed that the feature was cut through the subsoil, having been truncated during machining, and to have average sloping sides with essentially a flat base and symmetrical profile. It is possible that the ditch corresponds with potential anomalies highlighted in the geophysics report, but this is conjectural only.

6.1.14 [0304] was 1.8m in width and 0.5m in depth, filled by (0305) consisting of alternating bands of sand and pebbles, with the uppermost bands merging with the subsoil. The nature of the deposition suggests that (0305) was formed naturally and is perhaps alluvial in origin, but there were no finds or other material evidence to better elucidate the feature.

Ditch terminus? [0306]

6.1.15 Feature [0306] (Plates 10 and 11; Figure 03) was presumed to be the terminus of a large east-west ditch, seen to continue into the west-facing section of the trench. However, this does not preclude the possibility that [0306] might be a large elongated / ovoid pit. The feature does correspond with anomalies highlighted during the geophysics survey, but as with [0304] the relationship is not exact. Investigation of the feature showed it to have steep straight edges suggesting a symmetrical profile, but the base of the feature was not revealed as the maximum permitted depth of 1.2m from the top of the trench was reached. The feature was recorded as having a maximum width of 1.5m at the top of the feature, narrowing to 0.7m at the depth of 0.69m attained. As with other features on the site, the fill (0307) was seen to merge with the upper subsoil.

6.1.16 (0307) was the single homogenous fill of the ditch [0306] and was essentially the same in composition as the subsoil, but was slightly lighter and a more greyish than orangey brown. No material evidence was recovered, and fill can be described as sterile in nature.

6.1.17 **Trench 04 (25m x 1.8m).** Linear trench oriented north-south situated at the western limit of the site primarily to establish if any physical remains exist pertaining to RAF Worksop and its satellite camps. As discussed in 6.1.3, the stratigraphy was seen to be significantly different in this area owing to the construction of Chequerhouse Farm c.1970. The natural (0405) was recorded at depths of between 1.0 and 1.2m; slightly deeper than recorded elsewhere on site, suggesting that the original ground level had a relatively gentle slope to the north-west. This was confirmed by the immediately overlying stratigraphy which consisted of a c.0.2 – 0.3m thick subsoil, (0404) consistent with the subsoil seen in across the site; and a buried original topsoil (0403) consisting of a fine dark brown sandy silt between 0.2 and 0.4m thick. The thickness was greater towards the southern end of the trench where it had merged with the redeposited material from the construction of the farm buildings. These layers could be seen to have a slight slope to the north/north-west suggesting that the process of redeposition levelled the area. This material consisted of a c.0.3m thick pinkish silty-sand (0402) that extended from the northern limit of the excavation, tapering out c.12.0m towards the centre of the trench. The layer was seen to contain fragments of CBM and plastic waste, with the colour and composition suggesting it was redeposited natural. An upper topsoil layer, (0401) which was between 0.2 and 0.3m thick, being thicker towards the north where it appears to have levelled the area, was immediately above (0402). Whilst differing from the remainder of the site, the original stratigraphy represented by (0405), (0404) and (0403) was consistent with that seen in the other trenches. Machining away of these upper layers revealed a single ditch feature, [0406] (Plates 12 – 15; Figures 02 and 04).

Ditch [0406]

6.1.18 [0406] (Plate 15; Figure 04) was an east-west aligned linear ditch that was seen to be immediately below the buried topsoil, having been cut through the original subsoil layer (0404) and continuing into the natural (0405). Excavation revealed steep, straight sides presenting a symmetrical, 'V'-shaped profile 0.75m in width and and 0.5m in depth. The feature contained a single fill, (0407).

6.1.19 (0407) consisted of a soft medium to dark brown silty sand, with inclusions of small rounded stones. This was hard to distinguish from the lower subsoil (0404) but could be defined by its slightly darker and less orangey brown colour and less pebbles. Given the nature of the fill and lack of material evidence, it is possible that the ditch was not maintained and left to naturally silt up over time rather than being deliberately backfilled.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1.1 The trial trench evaluation revealed a low level of archaeological activity, which identified five linear features, of which two potentially corroborate the results of the earlier geophysical survey (Fig. 5). In areas where these features were positively identified, they were hand excavated, characterised and interpreted within the limitations of the evaluation. However, the complete lack of material evidence makes definitive interpretation difficult and the features remain largely enigmatic.

Prehistoric – Medieval

7.1.2 No datable evidence for prehistoric to Romano-British activity was observed during this trial trench evaluation. This does not preclude that the ditches investigated might pertain to Iron Age to Medieval land management, but this would be purely conjectural and probably limited to ditches [0306], [0204] and [0206], which exist below the subsoil layer.

Post-Medieval – Modern

7.1.3 It is perhaps most likely that the features identified pertain to Post-Medieval and later land management. There is no evidence to suggest a link with RAF Worksop with the features presenting the appearance of field boundary / drainage ditches. As the field in which the site is situated starts to naturally slope towards the River Ryton, it does not preclude possibility of naturally formed watercourses, perhaps in particular [0304] and [0406] given the nature of the fill, but more generally due to the lack of material finds.

Stratigraphic Observations

7.1.4 Across the development area, it was necessary to remove layers of upper subsoil and colluvium to allow for identification of archaeological features not easily discernible within the subsoil deposits.

7.1.5 It is not clear if the redeposition of material from the construction of Chequerhouse Farm impacted the entirety of the site, but at most this would have resulted in the topsoil being thicker and the area being flatter than it might originally have been. However, the lack of any material or structural remains relating to the wartime camp suggests a phase of significant clearance and potential truncation in the west of the site at least.

7.1.6 It is likely that the indications for potential archaeology seen in the geophysical survey has been impacted by the variability of the natural evidenced by the gravel bands and hollows seen particularly towards the east and north-east of the site.

7.1.7 The enigmatic nature of the identified features does not suggest a high level of potentially significant archaeological remains within the confines of the proposed development area. It is also not certain if the proposed development would impact the archaeological horizon, particularly to the west of the site where the upper stratigraphic layers are deeper. Further details of foundation design and liaison with Bassetlaw District Council and their archaeological advisers would allow this to be taken into consideration.

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Appendix 1: Trench Logs

Trench 01					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	25.0 x 1.8m	**Trench Alignment**	N-S	**Trench Depth**	0.66
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0101)	Layer	Topsoil Soft/loose dark brown sandy silt.			0.36m
(0102)	Layer	Subsoil Loose orangey-brown course sand and pebbles.			0.28m
(0103)	Layer	Natural Friable mottled yellow / orangey-red and red sand and gravel.			-

Trench 02					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	25.0 x 1.8	**Trench Alignment**	NW-SE	**Trench Depth**	0.60 – 1.2m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0201)	Layer	Topsoil Soft/loose dark brown sandy silt.			0.44m
(0202)	Layer	Subsoil Loose orangey-brown course sand and pebbles.			0.56m
(0203)	Layer	Natural Mixed friable brownish red gravel; yellow/red sand and gravel.			-
[0204]	Cut	Cut of E-W rectilinear ditch truncating [0206]. U-shaped symmetrical profile with steeply sloping sides w: 1.2m x d: 0.42m			-
(0205)	Fill	Fill of [0204]. Mid-brown loose sandy gravel.			0.42m
[0206]	Cut	Cut of N-S aligned ditch. Shallow sloping sides, shallow concave base and asymmetrical profile – truncated by [0204]. w: c. 2.4 x d: 0.5m			-
(0207)	Fill	Fill of [0206]. Mid-brown loose sand and gravels, very similar to (0205) and merging with subsoil.			0.5m

Trench 03					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	25.0 x 1.8m	**Trench Alignment**	N-S	**Trench Depth**	0.92m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0301)	Layer	Topsoil Soft/loose dark brown sandy silt.			0.46,

(0302)	Layer	Subsoil Loose orangey-brown course sand and pebbles.	0.3 – 0.4m
(0303)	Layer	Natural Mixed friable brownish red gravel; yellow/red sand and gravel.	-
[0304]	Cut	Cut of E-W to NE-SW curvilinear ditch. Average sloping slides with a flat base and symmetrical profile. w: 1.7 x d: 0.5m.	-
(0305)	Fill	Fill of [0304] Alternating bands of pebbles and mid-light orangey-brown silty-sand.	0.5m
[0306]	Cut	Cut of probable ENE-WSW aligned ditch terminus. Steeply sloping straight sides – not fully excavated as maximum permitted depth of 1.2m reached from top of trench section. w: 1.26m x d: >0.6m.	-
(0307)	Fill	Fill of [0306]. Loose greyish-brown sandy-silt with moderate inclusions of rounded and sub-sounded pebbles and gravel. Not full excavated as maximum permitted depth of 1.2m reached from top of section.	>0.6m

Trench 04					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	25.0 x 1.8m	**Trench Alignment**	N-S	**Trench Depth**	0.9 – 1.2m
Context	**Type**	**Description**			**Thickness**
(0401)	Layer	Re-deposited topsoil. Loose dark grey-brown sandy-silt.			0.2 – 0.3m
(0402)	Layer	Upper subsoil – probably redeposited natural. Soft pinkish sand with CBM/plastic waste inclusions.			0.3m
(0403)	Layer	Buried, original topsoil layer pre-1970. Soft/loose dark brown sandy silt.			0.2 – 0.4m
(0404)	Layer	Lower original subsoil layer, same as (0102), (0202) and (0302).			0.2 – 0.3m
(0405)	Layer	Natural Friable mottled yellow / orangey-red and red sand and gravel.			-
[0406]	Cut	Cut of E-W rectilinear ditch. V-shaped, symmetrical profile. w: 0.8 x d: 0.5m.			-
(0407)	Fill	Fill of [0406]. Soft mid-dark brown silty-sand with frequent inclusions of pebbles/gravel – merges with the subsoil (0404).			0.5m

Appendix 2: Plates

Plate 1: Trench 01. Post-ex of trench, looking north. Scale: 1 x 1m / 1 x 2m.

Plate 2: Trench 01. Representative 1m west facing section. Scale: 1 x 1m.

Plate 3: Trench 02. Post-ex of trench, looking south. Scale: 1 x 2m / 1 x 1m.

Plate 4: Trench 02. Representative 1m section within sondage showing subsoil filled hollow/natural depression at the north-west end of the trench. Scale: 1 x 1m.

Plate 5: Trench 02. West facing section of ditch [0204]. Scale: 1 x 2m.

Plate 6: Trench 02. Oblique of west facing section of ditch [0206], showing relationship to [0204]. Scale: 1 x 2m.

Plate 7: Trench 03. Post-ex of trench, looking north-west. Scale: 1 x 1m.

Plate 8: Trench 03. Representative west facing section, south end of trench. Scale: 1 x 1m.

Plate 9: Trench 03. West facing section of ditch [0304]. Scale: 1 x 1m.

Plate 10: Trench 03. West facing section of probable ditch terminus [0306]. This feature was not fully excavated due to the maximum permitted depth of 1.2m from the top of the trench section being reached before the base of the ditch could be established. Scale: 1 x 1m.

Plate 11. Trench 03. Oblique of [0306], looking north-east. Scale: 1 x 1m.

Plate 12: Trench 04. Post-ex of trench, looking north. Scale: 1 x 1m / 1 x 2m.

Plate 13: Trench 04. Representative 1m section, north end of trench showing the natural at c. 1.2m. Scale: 1 x 1m.

Plate 14: Trench 04. Oblique 2m representative section, looking north-east. The upper layers of redeposited material from the construction of the Chequerhouse Farm buildings can be clearly seen. Scale: 1 x 2m.

Plate 15: Trench 04. West facing section of ditch [0406]. Scale: 1 x 1m.

Plate 16: Trench 02. Example of natural gravel lensing across the site. Scale: 1 x 2m.

Appendix 3: Figures

Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 01 - Site Location Plan
RCF - Ranby Chequerhouse Farm

Scale at A4 - 1:2000
Drawn by MH

N

DR.02

Trench 02

DR.03

[0204]

[0206]

Trench 01

DR.01

[0304]

DR.05

Trench 03

DR.07

Trench 04

DR.08

[0306]

DR.06

[0405]

DR.09

DR.04

0

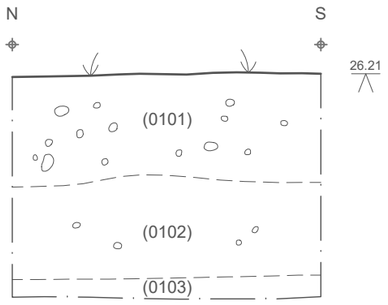
30m

Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

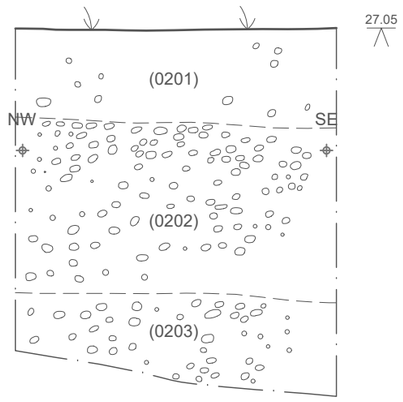
Figure 02 - Site Survey Plan
RCF - Ranby Chequerhouse Farm

Scale at A3 - 1:300
Drawn by MH

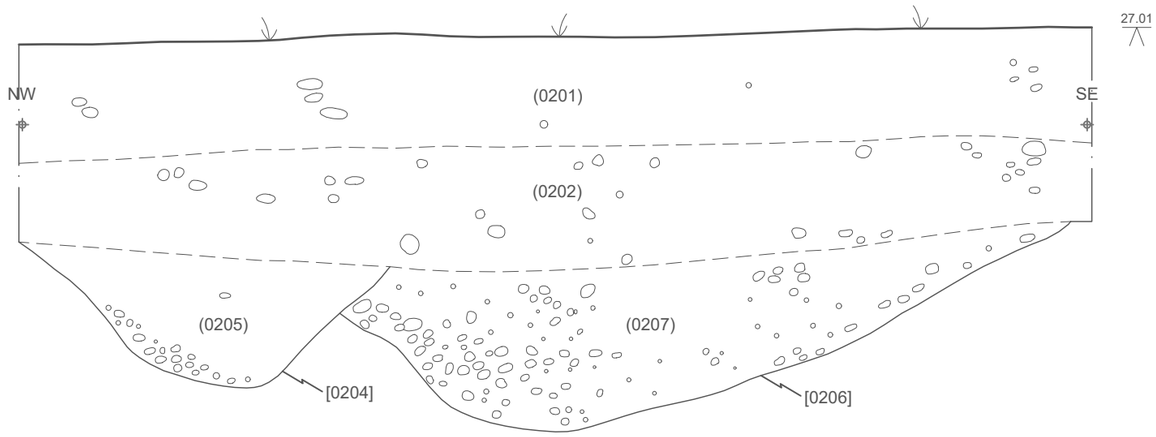
DR.01
Trench 01 West Facing Representative Section



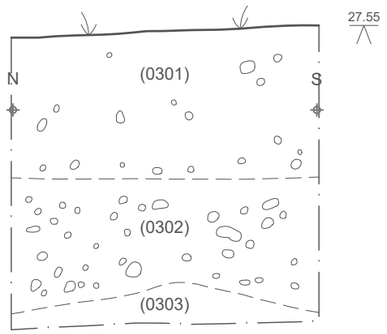
DR.02
Trench 02 South-West Facing Representative Section



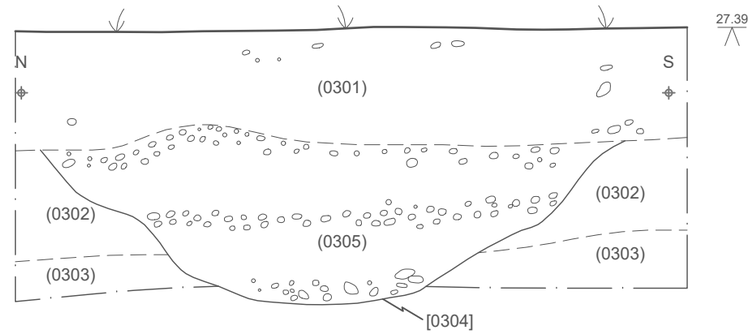
DR.03
South West Facing Section of [0204] and [0206]



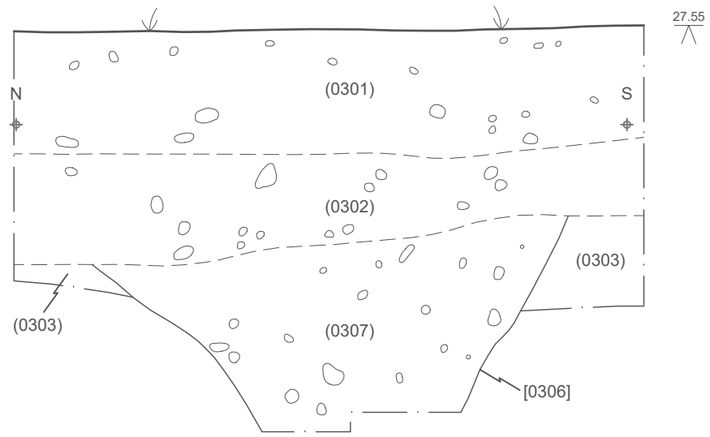
DR.04
Trench 03 West Facing Representative Section



DR.05
West Facing Section of [0304]



DR.06
West Facing Section of [0306]

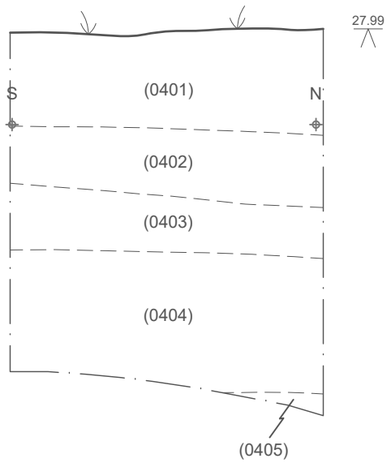


Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

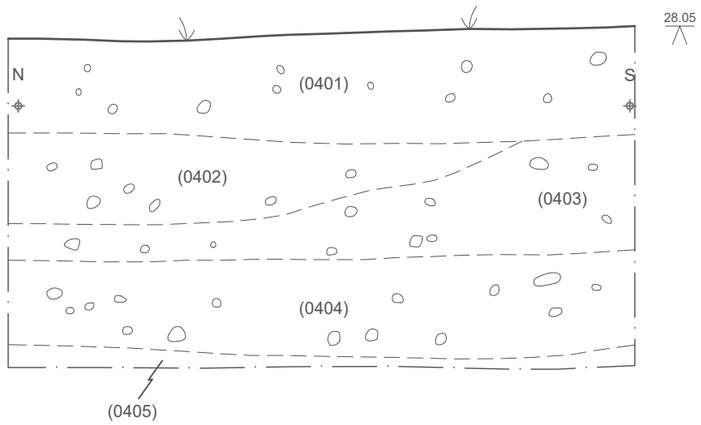
Figure 03 - Sections, Trenches 01 - 03
RCF - Ranby Chequerhouse Farm

Scale at A3 - 1:20
Drawn by MH

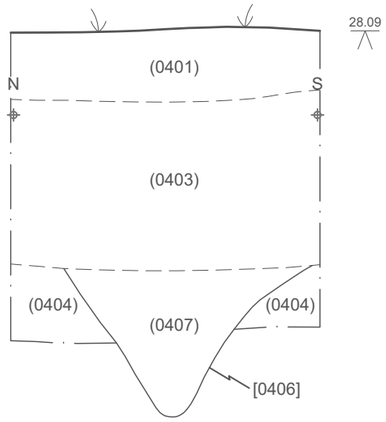
DR.07
Trench 04, West Facing Representative Section



DR.08
Trench 04,West Facing Representative Section



DR.09
Trench 04 West Facing Section of [0406]



Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 04 - Sections, Trench 04
RCF - Ranby Chequerhouse Farm

Scale at A3 - 1:20
Drawn by MH

Area 2

N

Trench 01

Trench 02

Trench 03

Trench 04

DR.01

DR.02

DR.03

DR.04

DR.05

DR.06

DR.07

DR.08

[0204]

[0206]

[0304]

[0306]

[0405]

0 30m

Figure 05 - Trench Plan overlain on geophysical survey
RCF - Ranby Chequerhouse Farm

Scale at A3 - 1:500
Drawn by MH/SM

Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Appendix 4: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

Field Records	***Description***	***Number***
Trench Registers	Register of trenches excavated with photograph and drawing numbers, context numbers and descriptions	4
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	24
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	87
Site drawings	Plan of site	9
Documents	*Description*	*Number*
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 evaluation.	1

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. As no significant archaeological deposits or artefactual remains were recovered from the site, the archive will remain in the offices of Trent and Peak Archaeology, and a copy of the report will be lodged with the Nottinghamshire HER.

Appendix 5: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: trentpea1-377820

Project details

Project name	Ranby Chequerhouse Farm
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Chequerhouse Farm, Ranby, Nottinghamshire (NGR SK 64126 81702) (Figure 1). The work was undertaken in November 2019 in order to inform an application for the construction of poultry sheds at the site. The development site lies within a rural location off Thievesdale Lane on the Osberton Estate, approximately 1.25km north-west of the village of Ranby, Nottinghamshire (Figure 1). The surrounding area consists of agricultural fields, pasture and woodland within a bend of the River Ryton, which lies 433m to the east and 951m south of the site. The scheme of archaeological fieldwork can be summarised as the excavation of four trenches measuring at least 25 x 1.8m. The trenches were designed to assess the site's archaeological potential by targeting geophysical anomalies identified in a previous phase of work. A geophysical survey of the development area detected possible archaeological features in the form of linear anomalies in the north of the site (Magnitude Surveys 2019). A total of four trenches were excavated to assess a number of anomalies revealed by geophysical survey. Archaeological features were identified in three trenches, but only two of these features can be said to corroborate the geophysical survey findings. The nature of the natural sand and gravel is likely to have had an impact on the geophysical findings, with natural gravel fills within the undulating natural horizon. Five linear features were observed and excavated within trenches 02, 03 and 04. The results of the investigation were inconclusive and the features remain largely enigmatic, with the potential for at least two to be naturally formed watercourses. No finds or other datable material was encountered during the course of the investigation.
Project dates	Start: 18-11-2019 End: 22-11-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RCF - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BASSETLAW WORKSOP Ranby Chequerhouse Farm
Postcode	DN22 8HZ
Study area	0 Square metres

Site coordinates	SK 64126 81702 53.328073756526 -1.03704938289 53 19 41 N 001 02 13 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.36m Max: 1.2m

Entered by	Tristan Cousins (tcousins@yorkat.co.uk)
Entered on	13 December 2019

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page