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**Water Pipeline
Thixendale
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd
October 1999**

**Water Pipeline
Thixendale
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**Water Pipeline
Thixendale
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Introduction

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out on the excavation of a number of small trenches along a water pipeline in the parish of Thixendale, North Yorkshire (SE 8420 6095 - SE 8568 5840 : Fig. 1 A-S). The Watching Brief area was undertaken from Thixendale Village in the north to Riggs Farm in the south, a length of approximately 4km. The topography of the pipeline corridor varied from 128m AOD in the village of Thixendale to 213m AOD between Gill's Farm and Riggs Farm.

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Work was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd between the 6th and 21st September 1999; under the direction of O. C. Summers for Yorkshire Water Plc.

The underlying soils and geology along the pipeline are Icknield Soil Association, located to the east of Thixendale village, and Panholes Soil Association along the rest of the route. The Icknield association is shallow, mostly humose, well drained calcareous soils over chalk, "confined to steep parts of north and west facing chalk escarpments and to the dry valleys of the Wolds" (*Jarvis et al 1984, p. 223*). The Panholes Association is well drained calcareous fine silty soils over chalk and is "extensive on the ...Wolds on gently sloping hill tops between 50 and 240m OD" (*ibid, p. 256*).

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Historical and Archaeological Background

The Watching Brief was conducted on three specific areas of archaeological interest noted by the Sites and Monuments Record. These areas were:-

- The eastern end of Thixendale village with the potential for medieval settlement remains, and possibly earlier prehistoric features.
- The open fields between Thixendale village and Road KE 524R have the potential for the survival of prehistoric remains relating to linear dyke systems and Bronze Age burials.
- The pipeline route on Road KE 524R between Gill's and Riggs Farms passes through a Bronze Age cemetery.

Excavation Methods

The pipeline was excavated using a series of launch zones, c. 160m apart and measuring c. 2.50m long by 1.20m wide and 1.25m deep, for 'moling' using an existing water pipe. Each trench was machine excavated by a JCB with rear actor under archaeological supervision.

A drawn, written and photographic record was made of all deposits encountered during the groundworks.

Results

Area 1 - Thixendale village

A total of four excavation were observed at the eastern end of the Thixendale village. Trenches R, S & T showed only evidence of recent road make-up. Trench Q, cut into the road side bank had been previously disturbed by the existing water supply.

Area 2 - North of Gill's Farm

Eight launch zones (I - P) were located to the north of Gill's Farm. No artefacts or archaeological features were uncovered during their excavation. Observation recorded a series of undisturbed deposits; plough soil, subsoil, frost fractured chalk, as recorded in Trench A (Fig. 2).

Area 3 - Gill's Farm to Riggs Farm

In Trenches A - E and G - H no archaeological features, other than modern disturbance were observed.

In Trench F c. 700m south of Gill's Farm, a shallow, wide U- shaped feature (context 603) was noted in the east facing section only (Fig. 2). The feature was filled with a sandy clay which contained natural flint and small fragments of chalk (context 602) but no dating evidence. The exact nature and age of this feature remains unknown.

Conclusion

A single archaeological feature was noted during this Watching Brief. No other features or artefacts were uncovered, this can be explained by the excavations being confined in the main to areas of previous disturbance.

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Trench	Context No.	Description
A	100	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
A	101	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
B	102	Limestone Natural, 5YR7/1
B	200	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
B	201	Subsoil : silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
B	202	Cut of Water Main Trench
B	203	Fill of 202
C	300	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
C	301	Subsoil : silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
C	302	Limestone Natural
C	303	Cut of Water Main Trench
C	304	Fill of 303
D	400	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
D	401	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
D	402	Limestone Natural
D	403	Cut of Water Main Trench
D	404	Fill of 403
E	500	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
E	501	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
E	502	Cut of Water Main Trench
E	503	Fill of 502
F	600	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
F	601	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
F	602	7.5YR5/8 sandy clay. Fill of 602
F	603	Cut of Feature
G	700	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
G	701	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
H	800	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
H	801	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
I	900	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
J	1000	Topsoil : sandy loam, 10YR5/3
K	1100	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
K	1101	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
K	1102	Limestone Natural, 5YR7/1
L	1200	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
L	1201	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
L	1202	Limestone Natural, 5YR7/1
M	1300	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
M	1301	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
M	1302	Limestone Natural, 5YR7/1
N	1400	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
N	1401	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
N	1402	Limestone Natural, 5YR7/1
O	1500	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
O	1501	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
O	1502	Limestone Natural, 5YR7/1
P	1600	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
P	1601	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
P	1602	Limestone Natural, 5YR7/1

Q	1700	Topsoil: sandy loam, 10YR5/3
Q	1701	Subsoil: silty sandy loam, 5YR4/3
Q	1702	Limestone Natural, 5YR7/1
Q	1703	Cut for pipe trench
R	1800	Tarmac
R	1801	Limestone hardcore
S	1900	Tarmac
S	1901	Limestone hardcore
T	2000	Tarmac
T	2001	Limestone hardcore

APPENDIX 2

Archive Listing

1. Trench A. Plan. Scale 1:20.
2. Trench A. West Facing Section. Scale 1:20.
3. Trench B. Plan. Scale 1:20.
4. Trench B. South Facing Section. Scale 1:20.
5. Trench C. Plan. Scale 1:20.
6. Trench C. South Facing Section. Scale 1:20.
7. Trench D. Plan. Scale 1:20.
8. Trench D. South Facing Section. Scale 1:20.
9. Trench E. Plan. Scale 1:20.
10. Trench E. West Facing Section. Scale 1:20.
11. Trench F. Plan. Scale 1:20.
12. Trench F. East Facing Section. Scale 1:20.
13. Trench G. Plan. Scale 1:20.
14. Trench G. East Facing Section. Scale 1:20.
15. Trench H. Plan. Scale 1:20.
16. Trench H. East Facing Section. Scale 1:20.
17. Trench I. Plan. Scale 1:20.
18. Trench I. South Facing Section. Scale 1:20.
19. Trench J. Plan. Scale 1:20.
20. Trench J. South Facing Section. Scale 1:20.

APPENDIX 3

Photographic Archive

1. Trench C. East facing section.
2. Trench D. East facing section.
3. Trench D. East facing section.
4. Trench E. East facing section.
5. Trench E. East facing section.
6. Trench F. ?Pit. East facing section.
7. Trench F. ?Pit. East facing section.
8. Trench G. East facing section.
9. Trench G. East facing section.
10. Trench H. East facing section.
11. Trench H. East facing section.
12. Trench I. East facing section.
13. Trench I. East facing section.

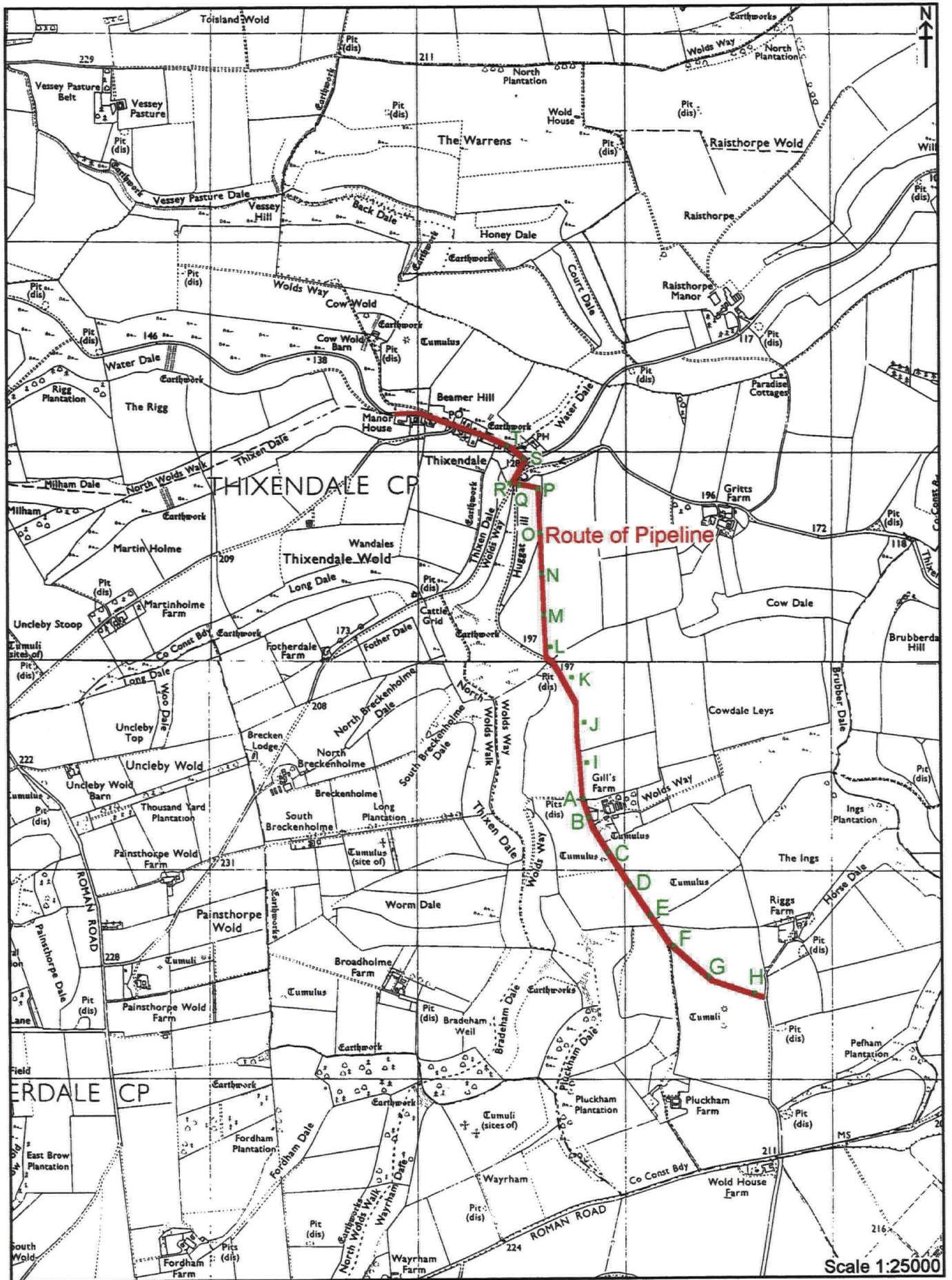


Figure 1. Site Location.

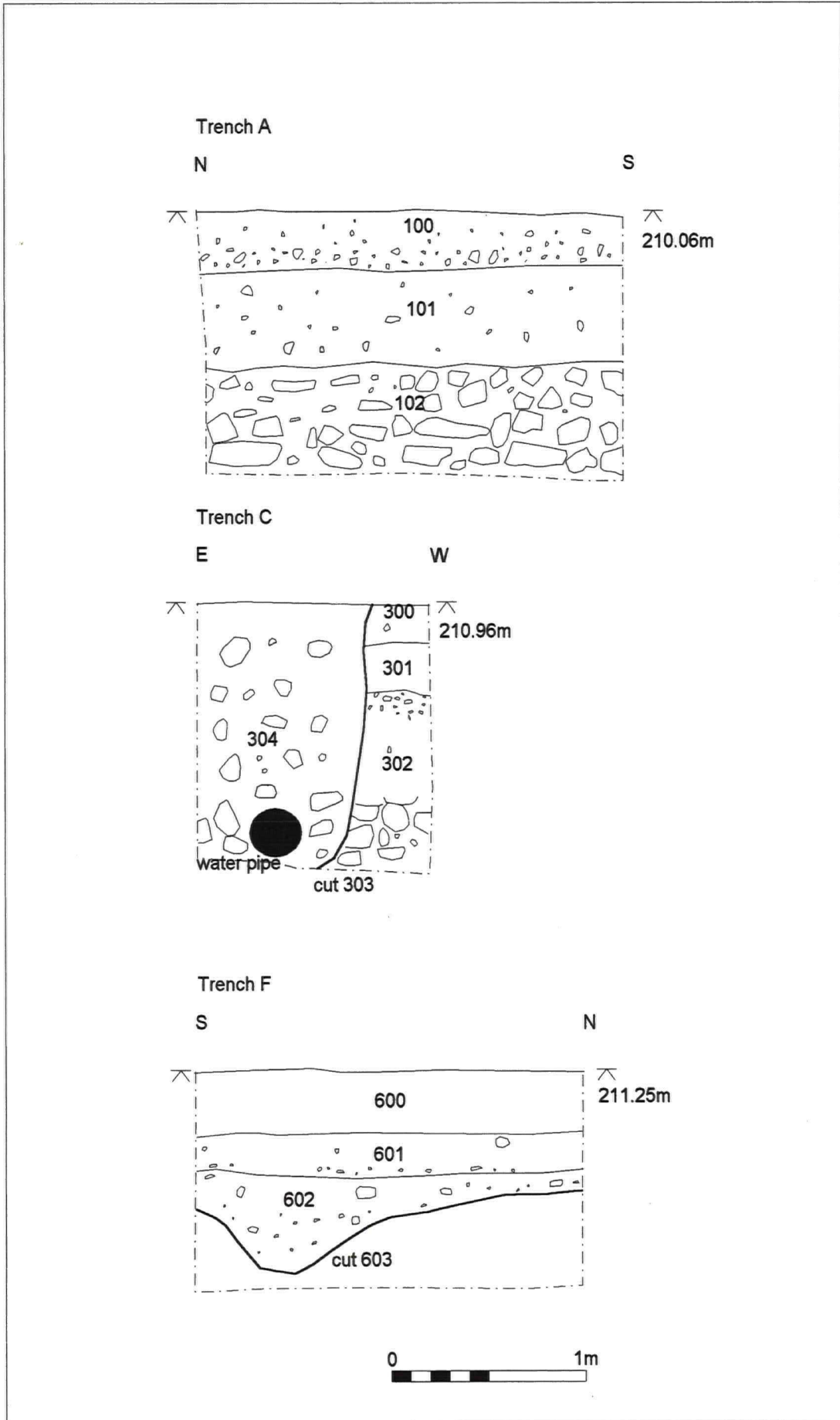


Figure 2. Trenches A, C and F Sections.