NY	CC HER
SNY	9551
ENY	2683
CNY	
Parish	2170
Rec'd	16/6/05

Thornborough Henges Northern Henge North Yorkshire Monument No. 36 SE 2828 7950

Archaeological Watching Brief

Authorised	by	***************************************
Date:		

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May 2005

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Thornborough Henges Northern Henge North Yorkshire Monument No. 36 SE 2828 7950

Archaeological Watching Brief

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on Monday April 4th, 2005 during the excavation of a water pipe trench located to the east and south of the Northern Henge at Thornborough.

A photographic record was made prior to, during and on completion of the excavations.

No archaeological features/deposits or finds were observed during the works other than those of a recent date.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on Monday April 4th, 2005 during the mechanical excavation of a water service pipe trench for North Stainley Estates on land located to the east and south of the Northern Henge at Thornborough (SE 2828 7950 : Figs. 1 & 2 : Pls. 1-72).
- 1.2 The northern most section of the pipe trench had been excavated approximately three months earlier, only the junction point for this and the new trench (Trench 1) were recorded during this phase of the works (Pls. 1-4).
- 1.3 Due to the differing alignments of the pipe trench, each section has been labelled as Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was located to the east of the Northern Henge and excavated in an arable field. Trench 2 located to the south of the Henge was excavated into a pasture field and Trench 3 was directly to the south of Trench 2 and along the eastern boundary of buildings associated with Camp House Farm.

1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from The Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. License No. AL 50453A.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 Prior to excavation the alignment of the pipe trench was marked out using aluminium ranging poles by the North Stainley Estate. Photographs were taken of areas to be excavated (Pls. 4-10, 15, 18-27 & 45-49), during excavation (Pls. 11-12, 14, 16-17, 29 & 32), the completed excavations (Pls. 30, 34-35, 38-44 & 50-58) and finally when the trenches had been backfilled (Pls. 59-72) on April 11th, 2005. The photographs taken are listed in Appendix 3 and included within this report in black and white format (Pls. 1-72).
- 2.2 Prior to excavation GPS readings were taken at specific points along the route of the pipe trench as designated by the aluminium markers. Aluminium tags were also placed at these points before the backfilling of the trenches (Pls. 28, 31, 33, 36-37).
- 2.3 The mechanically excavated trenches were 1m wide and varied in depth between 0.76m and 0.90m in Trenches 1 and 2. Trench 3 excavations were shallower being between 0.55m and 0.60m deep.
- 2.4 Topsoil and subsoils were kept separate and reinstated in reverse order to excavation.

3. Results

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of the excavations the pipe line corridor was walked. No surface finds of any date were observed.
- 3.2 Excavation revealed that below the topsoil, a sandy loam (7.5 YR 4/3), up to 0.25m in depth was an undisturbed subsoil of silty sands (7.5YR 4/6) and cobbles varying in depth from 0.30m to 0.40m. Below this horizon were the natural gravels and cobbles.
- 3.3 The only indication of recent activity represented by blocks of concrete and broken glass was observed in Trench 3. The material appeared to be rubble associated with the demolition of several farm buildings which stood to the east of Camp House Farm.

3.4 No finds of an earlier date were observed within any of the excavated material from Trenches 1, 2 and 3.

4. Conclusions

4.1 No archaeological features were observed during the excavation of the new water service pipe trench and no finds were recovered. The narrowness of the trench make have resulted in the lack of archaeological evidence and does not indicate no archaeological remains in the vicinity.

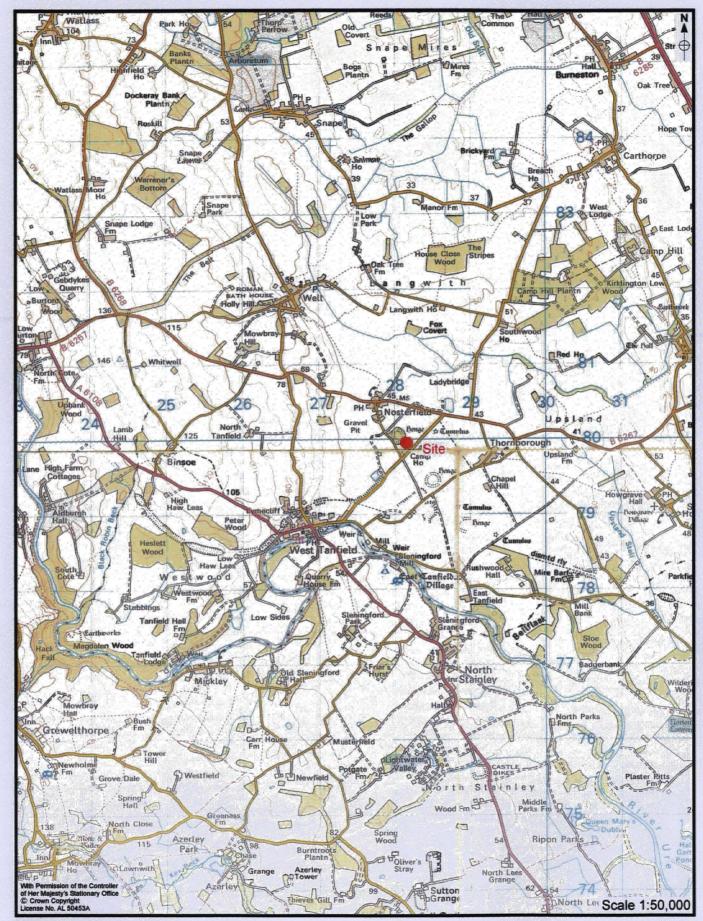


Figure 1. Site Location

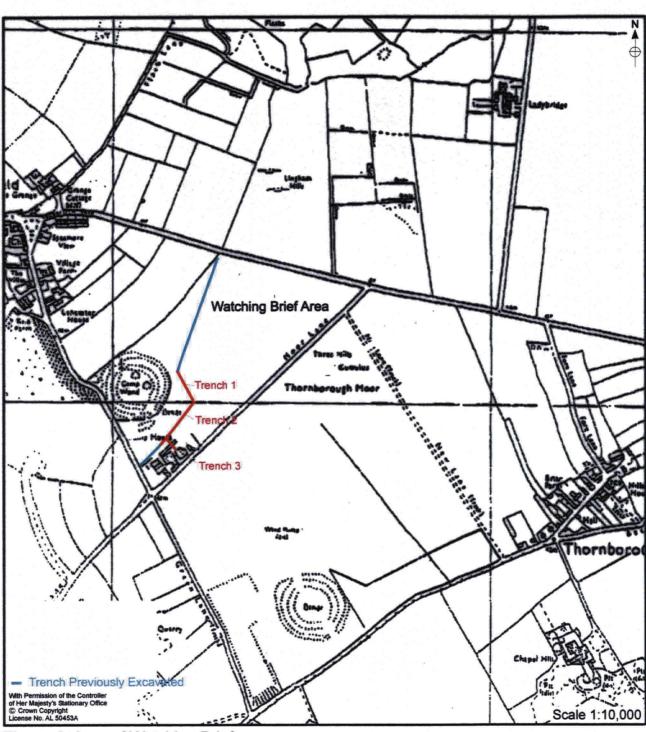


Figure 2. Area of Watching Brief



Plate 1. Location of junction with previous pipe trench excavation. Facing north-east.



Plate 2. Open junction trench with water pipes in situ. Facing north-east.



Plate 3. Open junction trench with water pipes in situ. Facing South-west.



Plate 4. Alignment of Trench 1 pipe trench, prior to excavation. Facing south-east.



Plate 5. Alignment of Trench 1 pipe trench prior to excavation. Facing north-west.



Plate 6. Alignment of Trench 1 pipe trench, prior to excavation. Facing north.



Plate 7. Alignment of Trench 1 pipe trench, prior to excavation. Facing north-west.



Plate 8. Alignment of Trench 1 pipe trench, prior to excavation. Facing west.



Plate 9. Alignment of Trench 1 pipe trench, prior to excavation. Facing north-west.



Plate 10. Alignment of Trench 1 pipe trench, prior to excavation. Facing south-west.



Plate 11. Trench 1 under excavation, removal of the subsoil. Facing south-east.



Plate 12. Trench 1 under excavation. Facing north-east.

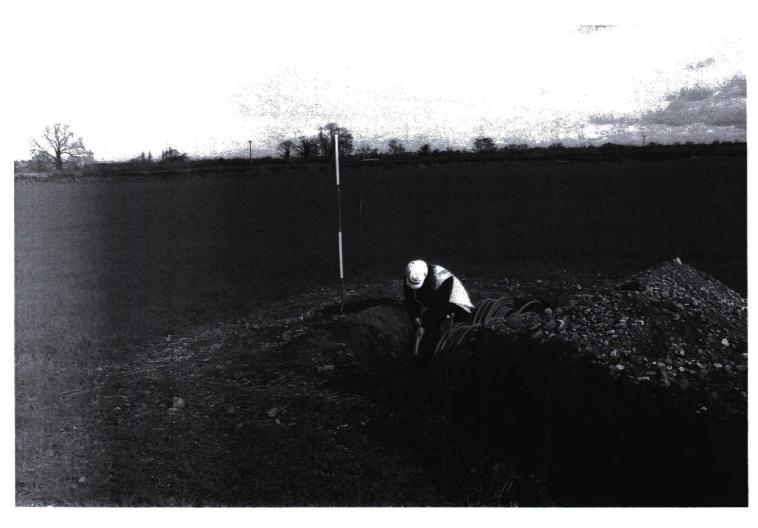


Plate 13. Placing of aluminium marker at junction of Trench 1 and previous excavated pipe trench. Facing north.