# NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES LTD Pipeline Renewal, Collingwood SRE <br> Negative watching brief report 

Site name: Collingwood Reservoir
Parish: Cottam
Development: Water Main Renewal
Client: Yorkshire Water Services Ltd Contractor: Morrison Utility Services Ltd
Monitoring archaeologist: Kevin Collins
NAA project number: 1340
NAA report number: 17/85

Grid reference: SE 95480/66085
County: East Riding of Yorkshire

## Reasons for watching brief

Archaeological monitoring was recommended following an appraisal of the scheme (NAA 2016), which concluded that the area had seen extensive exploitation from the Neolithic period onwards, with evidence for prehistoric funerary and ritual activity, and linear boundary structures located within proximity to the works. Immediately opposite the reservoir were two possible round barrows suggested by cropmarks on aerial photography, but not visible as above-ground remains. The B1253 road between Fridaythorpe and Bridlington was possibly the route of a Roman road. Settlements at Cottam, Cowlam and Sledmere were all recorded within the Domesday Survey, although only the latter is now represented by a modern village.

It was therefore considered that the groundworks had the potential to impact upon below ground remains relating to the nearby burial mounds and possible Roman road.

## Location and Geology

The area of works was located within and immediately adjacent to the Collingwood Service Reservoir (SRE), abutting the B1253 High Street some 2 km to the north-east of Sledmere (Figures $1 \& 2$ ). The work was entirely within the parish of Cottam, and located at c. 176 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

The solid geology of the study area comprises Cretaceous chalk of the Burnham Formation, formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in a warm marine environment (BGS online). There is no superficial (drift) geology listed on the BGS Geolndex. The soils are mapped as shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk, and are associated with deeper non-calcareous, variably flinty / clayey soils (Jarvis et al. 1984, 95).

## Results

Excavations were carried out using a mini digger and $360^{\circ}$ excavator, under the supervision of the monitoring archaeologist. Excavations took place to the north and south of the B1253 adjacent to Collingwood SRE (Figure 2), and included a road crossing. On the northern side of the road, a total of $357 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ of topsoil was stripped around the eastern and northern sides of
the reservoir. The topsoil (mid reddish brown silty clay with chalk inclusions) was quite shallow, no more than 0.1 m deep. The topsoil produced a small assemblage of flint debitage but no tools; these were not retained. There was a thin layer of silty subsoil, possibly wind-blown loess, sealing the eroded surface (also known as regolith) of the natural chalk, but no features of archaeological interest were exposed. A trench measuring 0.6 m wide and 1.2 m deep was excavated into the chalk (Plate 1 ) for a distance of 90 m , along the eastern and northern sides of the reservoir.

An area of c. $250 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ to the south of the road was stripped of topsoil using a $360^{\circ}$ excavator. Topsoil was again 0.1 m deep. Within this area a pit measuring $17 \mathrm{~m} \times 7 \mathrm{~m} \times 2.5 \mathrm{~m}$ deep was excavated to the existing water main. The topsoil and sub soil contained large quantities of redeposited materials from the trench for the original water main and a recent electricity cable, and no finds or features were observed.

A road crossing (Plate 2) was cut to take a new water pipe between the reservoir and the existing main to the south. The first 3 m of trench demonstrated that the modern road surface and sub-base were immediately above the natural chalk, and there was no evidence for a Roman road.

## Conclusions

The excavations did not identify any features or finds of archaeological interest. The modern road was constructed directly atop the natural substrate, indicating either that there was no Roman road on this alignment, or that the construction of the modern road had removed all evidence of earlier activity at this location.

The site will be archived internally at NAA.

## References

## British Geological Survey viewer http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Jarvis R A, Bendelow V C, Bradley R I, Carroll D M, Furness R R, Kilgour I N L \& King S J (1984). Soils and Their Use in Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin no. 10.

Northern Archaeological Associates (2016) Collingwood SRE, Cottam, East Riding of Yorkshire: Archaeological Appraisal. NAA report 16/139

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Collingwood SRE: trenching to the
east of the reservoir


