

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Tangham Water Mains Supply Scheme Rendlesham Forest CSA 027

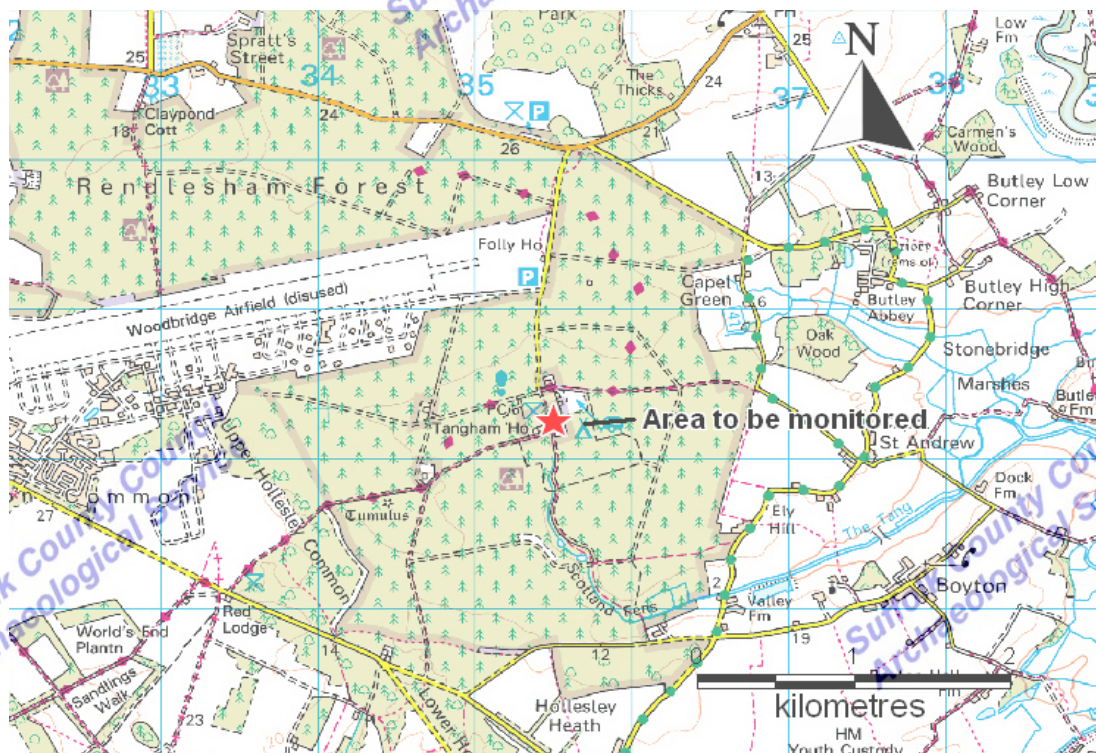
A report on the Archaeological monitoring of ground works associated with the upgrading of water supply to Tangham, Rendlesham Forest.

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Funded by Anglia Water

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the installation of a new mains water pipeline, supplying the hamlet of Tangham in Rendlesham Forest. A total of four site visits were made by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team during February 2008, to monitor the excavation of the pipe trench as it passed through an area of potential archaeological interest. No archaeological finds or features were observed within the trench.



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Figure 1. Location of site

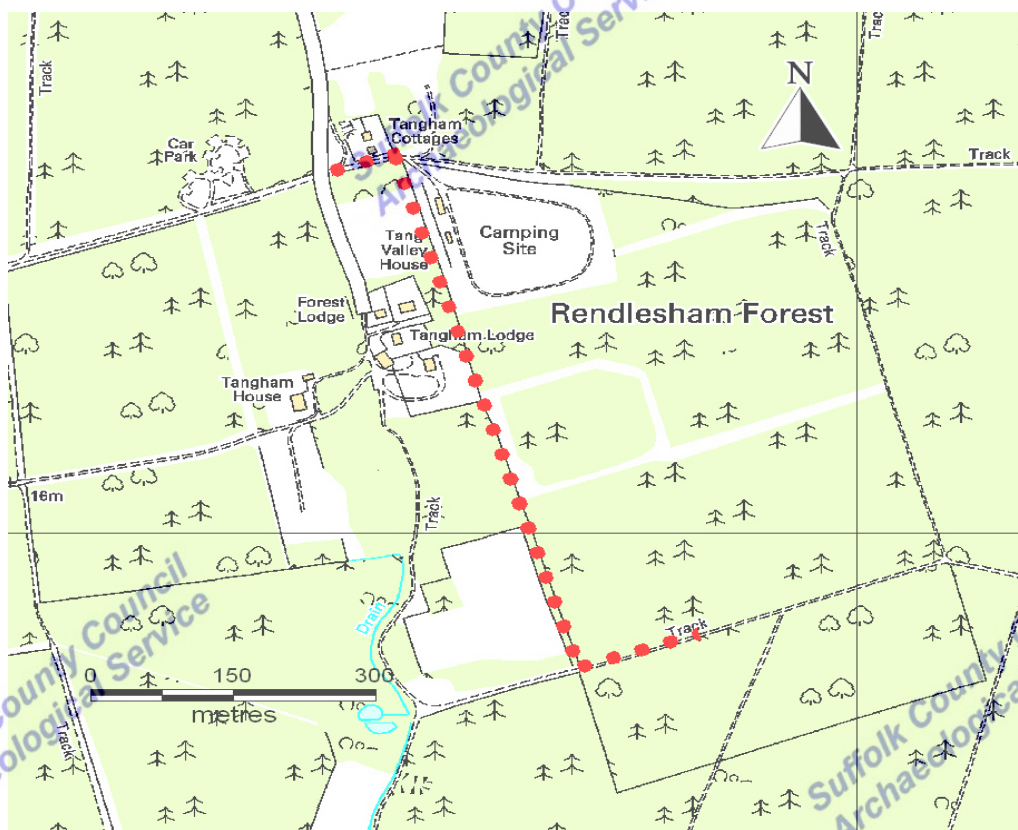
Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was carried out in February 2008, to observe the excavation of the pipe trench during the Tangham water mains supply scheme. The proposed route passed through an area of known archaeology and was identified as potentially being of high archaeological interest.

A brief and specification, Appendix 1, detailing the work to be carried out was produced by Robert Carr from Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Conservation Team, the work was commissioned and funded by Anglia Water and the monitoring was carried out by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team.

Methodology

A total of four site visits were made by a member of SCC Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, to monitor the excavation of the pipe trench during the installation of a 125mm water pipe through Rendlesham Forest to the hamlet of Tangham. The trench was excavated using a mini digger with a narrow bucket, resulting in a trench 1.2 m deep and 0.5 m wide. No easement or soil strip was carried out before excavation and the trenches were backfilled immediately following installation of the pipe. The up-cast spoil from the trench was examined for datable finds and the depths of any soil layers identified during excavation were recorded. Digital photographs were taken along the route recording examples of typical soil profiles.



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Figure 2. Route of pipeline

Results

During the initial site visit it was observed that the proposed route of the pipeline ran parallel with an earth bank. This earthwork was potentially marking a medieval

boundary or field system and can be seen in Figure 2, where it appears to continue to some lesser extent to form a large rectangle, enclosing the camp site in its top left hand corner. As the pipeline runs behind the buildings associated with the camp site it cuts across this bank and then runs north along the top of the earthwork until it reaches the road to the south of Tangham Cottages.

On further investigation of this length of the route, which initially appeared to be invasive and damaging to the earthwork, it was observed that this area had in fact already been disturbed a number of times. Underground electricity cables and numerous drains and soakaways associated with the campsite had already been excavated in this area, in fact for this new pipeline, keeping to the eastern extent of the earthwork was deemed to be the least destructive route, limiting it to previously disturbed areas.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

The narrow and shallow pipe trench was excavated through thick deposits of wind blown and former heathland sands, (Figs. 3-5), no archaeological features were observed within the extent of the trench. Along the length of the pipeline that was monitored only two areas of manmade disturbance were observed. Behind the bungalows to the north of the Forestry Commission compound, there was a small area that had obviously been used for the disposal of some of the household rubbish from the dwellings, a large quantity of roof slates along with modern 20th century domestic wares and glass bottles, (Fig. 6).

The second area was behind Tang Valley House and the buildings associated with the campsite. It consisted of large quantities of stones forming the soakaways in this area, confirming that the trench was excavating previously disturbed ground and was not causing any further damage to the medieval earthwork in this area, (Fig. 7). These areas were noted and discounted as being modern and of no archaeological interest.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

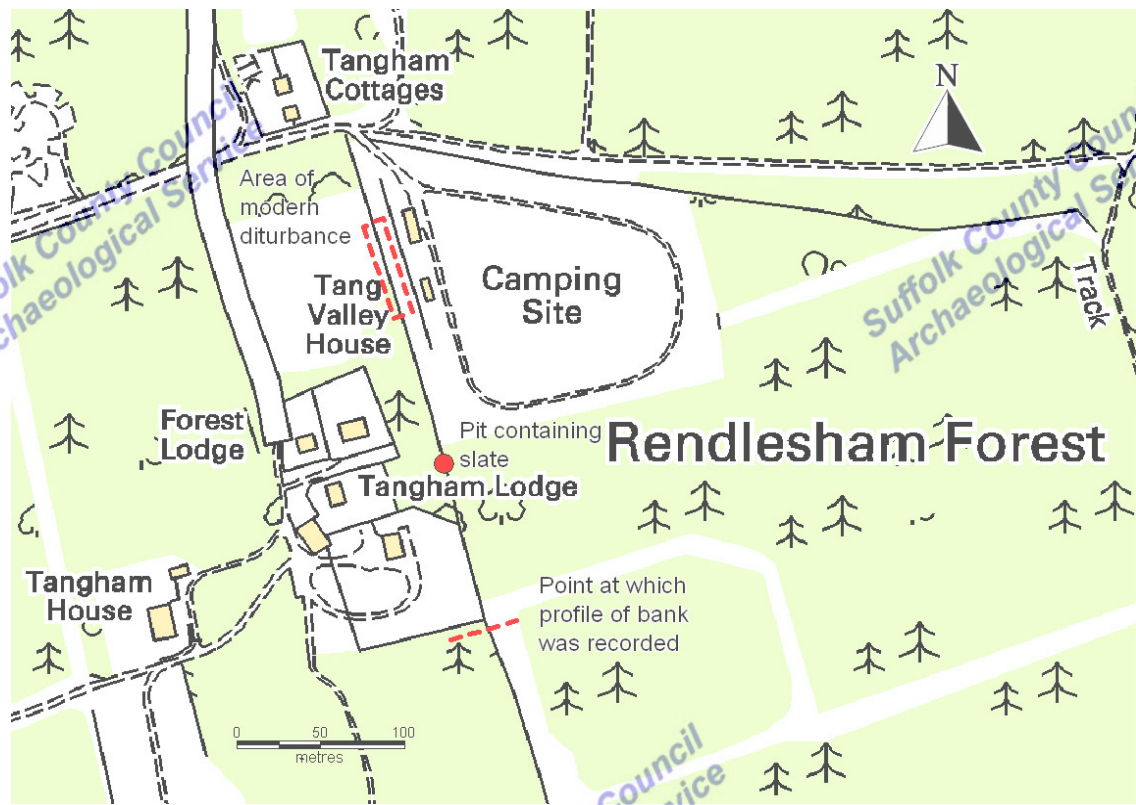


Figure 8. Location of recorded features

During the visits to monitor the trench, a profile of the earth bank was recorded. Due to the amount of undergrowth in the area behind Tang Valley House, restricting access to the earthwork, the profile was recorded to the south of the Forestry Commission compound, where the profile of the bank was easily defined. Digital photographs were also taken at intervals along its length, (Figs. 8-16).

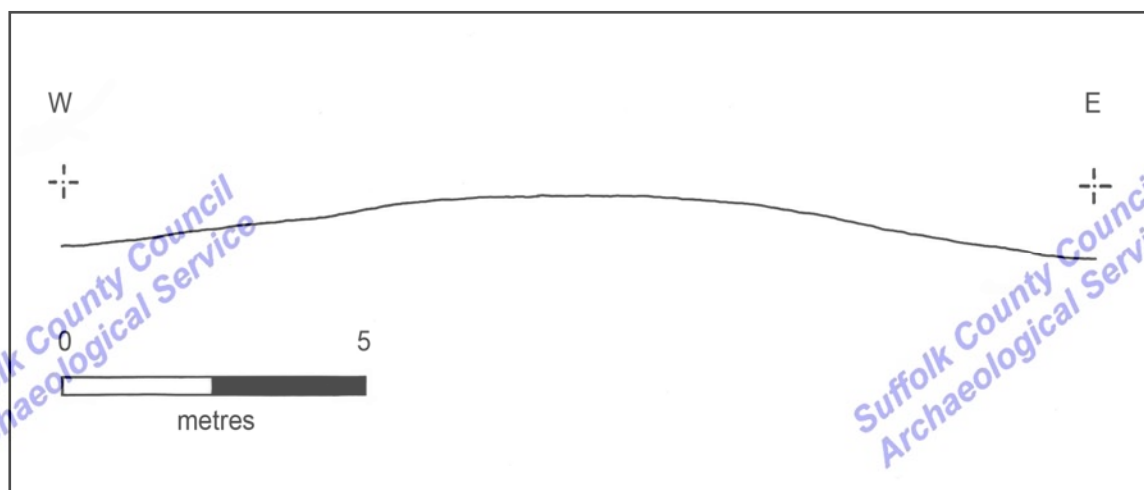


Figure 9. Profile of Tangham earthwork 1:100



Figure 10. Bank running parallel with track



Figure 11. Bank behind Forestry Commission compound



Figure 12. Bank south of campsite



Figure 13. Behind Tang Valley House



Figure 14. Behind Tang Valley House



Figure 15. Trench dug through bank

Discussion

The majority of the length of the pipeline that was monitored cut through natural deposits and contained no archaeological features. The areas that were actually cutting through the only archaeological feature observed, the possible medieval earthwork, were too disturbed by modern activity for any archaeological information to be observed.



Figure 16.

No archaeological datable finds were recovered during this monitoring.

Appendix 1:

Archaeological Brief

SYSTEMATIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUND WORKS

Tangham water mains supply scheme

1. This proposal passes through an area of known archaeology or an area with identified high archaeological potential. See length 'A' in figure 1 for the scope of the area.
2. Topsoil stripping within the working width is to be subject to archaeological monitoring whilst stripping is undertaken. Monitoring may not need to be constant, frequency of visit will be determined by the method of working; the requirement is to see the route as stripped, before any traffic (including the excavator) passes over it or any other activity disturbs or obscures the cleaned surface. This work must take place before the pipe trench is cut.
3. The cutting of the pipe trench and upcast soil within the marked areas is to be monitored as it takes place. Monitoring may not need to be constant, frequency of visit will be determined by the method of working; the requirement is to see the trench and upcast before the pipe is inserted and before any backfilling.
4. Contingency provision for financial cost and time delays must be allowed for any detailed archaeological recording of any significant archaeological deposits encountered during both phases of work. All excavation and recording is to be to Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) standards.
5. An archive record must be prepared and submitted to SCCAS of all archaeological works and observations for the route (whether positive or negative) to SCCAS standards.
6. The remainder of the route (marked 'B' on figure 1) has not been the subject of systematic survey and there is no archaeological information available. However, it is in an area which has some archaeological potential and I believe some mitigation is justified. I would advise that the pipeline route is monitored at intervals by an archaeologist following topsoil stripping.
I advise that a contingency be allowed for archaeological work to record any archaeological deposit recognised during monitoring. Recording procedures and standards used should be equivalent to those for areas of known archaeological sites or high potential.

R D Carr

8 August 2006

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If you require SCCAS Field Projects Division to undertake this monitoring, Mr J Newman (Environment and Transport Department, St Edmund House, Rope Walk, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1LZ ; Tel: 01473 583290) would be pleased to supply an estimate of cost for the archaeological work, including an estimate for contingencies to be allowed.

In order to provide a reliable estimate it is likely that some additional information may be required on the method of working (see paras. 2 & 3 above).

Mr Newman is also the officer with whom arrangements to undertake the monitoring should be made in the first instance (including for example, liaison with engineers, contractors and start dates).

Figure 1

