

GTPU20/TT



GAYTON TOP PIG UNIT, GAYTON LE WOLD, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

PLANNING REF. REF: N/059/01862/19

commissioned by R E Needham and Son

April 2020

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PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **GTPU20/TT** / NGR **TF 2520 8644** / Parish **Gayton le Wold** / Local Authority
Lincolnshire County Council / OASIS Ref: **headland5-390837** / Archive Repository **The Lincolnshire
Museum** (Museum Accession No: GTPU20)

PROJECT TEAM:

Project Manager **David Harrison** / Author **Philip Roberts** / Fieldwork **Richard McGregor Edwards, Philip
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Approved by **David Harrison**



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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by R E Needham and Son to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, prior to the determination of planning permission for the creation of a pig rearing and finishing unit at Gayton Top Farm, Lincolnshire. The application site is considered to be in a landscape of high archaeological potential for prehistoric activity. A single ditch was identified by the evaluation within which a single sherd of abraded Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a secondary fill and does not, therefore, provide a secure date for the ditch. The origin and function of the ditch remain unknown.

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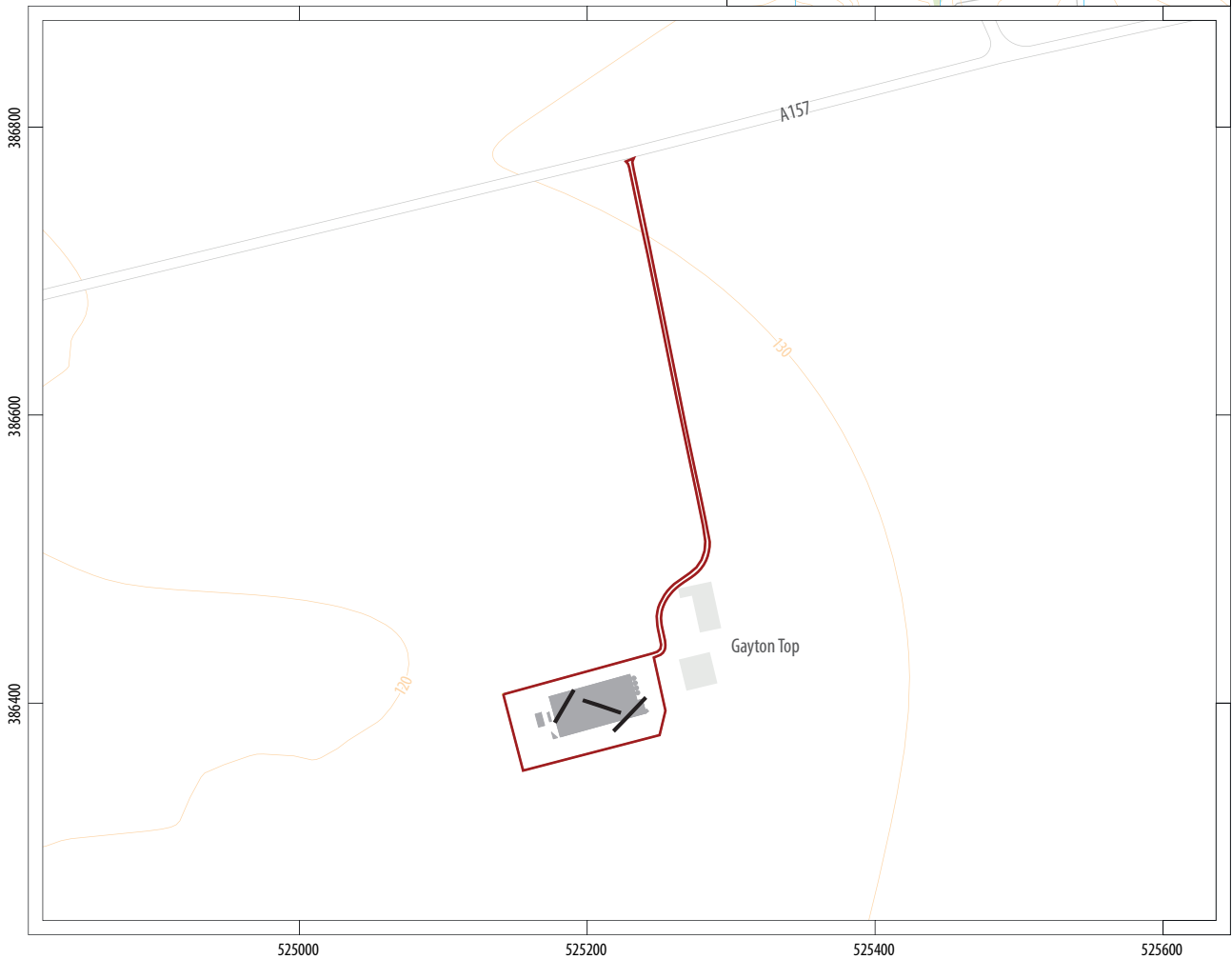
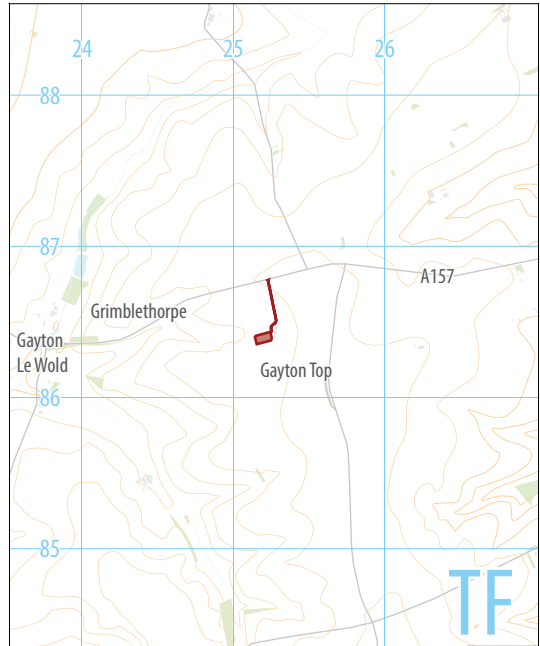
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Gayton Top Pig Unit
Gayton le Wold
Lincolnshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 100m
1:5,000 @ A4

- development boundary
- proposed development footprint
- trench location



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GAYTON TOP PIG UNIT, GAYTON LE WOLD, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by RE Needham and Son ('the client') to carry out a programme of trial trenching at Gayton Top Farm, Lincolnshire (Illus 1), in accordance with a condition on a planning permission (Ref N/059/01862/19) for a pig rearing and finishing unit. The trial trench evaluation was required to provide information with regard to the presence or absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the footprint of the proposed development area.

The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Harrison 2020), which was submitted to and approved by Matt Adams, Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council, and with industry best practice (ClfA 2014a; 2014b; 2014c) and the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019) which states that, in circumstances where heritage assets will be damaged or lost as a result of development, Local Planning Authorities should require developers to record and advance the understanding of the asset to be lost in a manner appropriate to the significance of the asset. The evaluation was carried out on the 19th and 20th of March 2020.

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION (LOCATION AND GEOLOGY)

The Development Boundary is located at Gayton Top Farm, Lincolnshire approximately 1.5km east of Gayton le Wold and

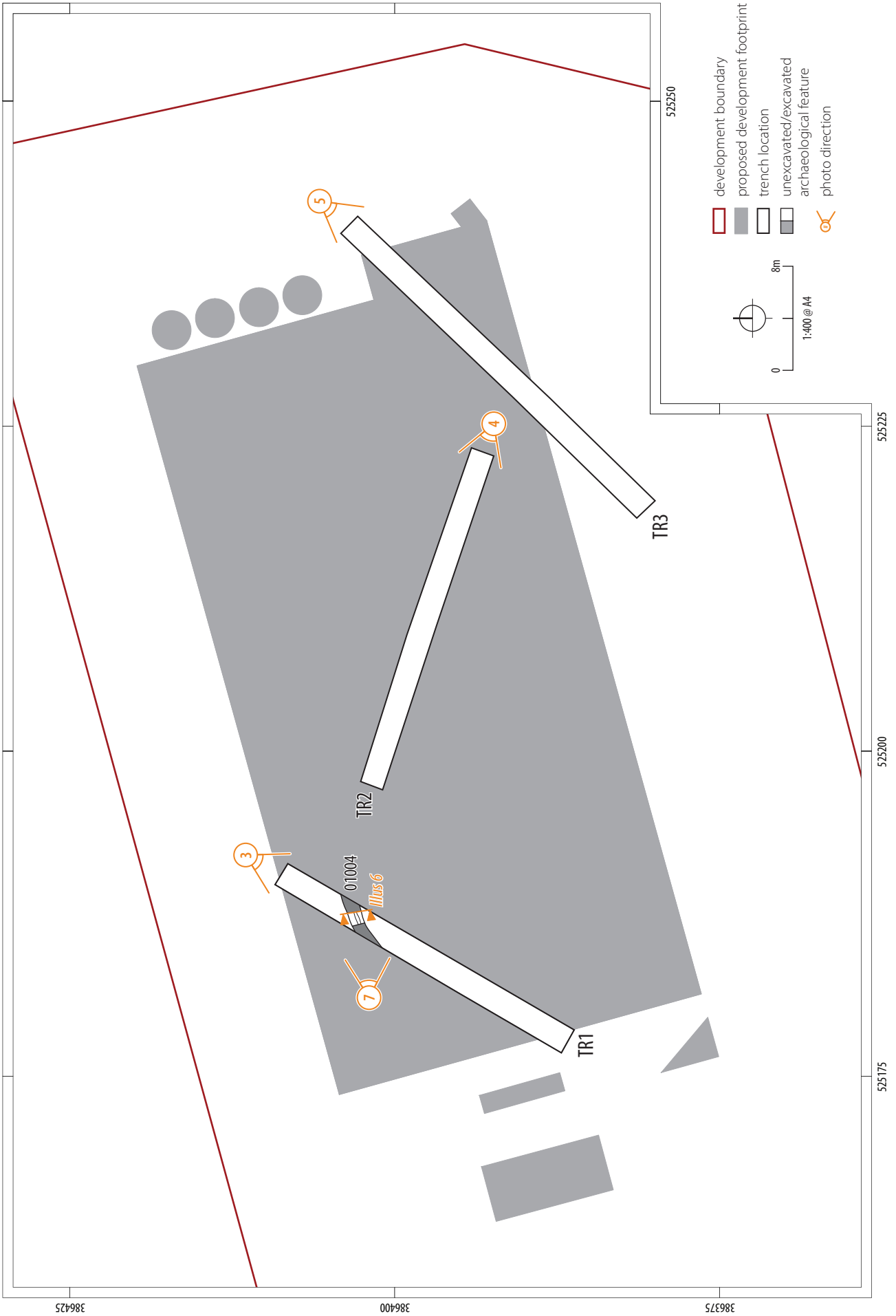
centred upon NGR TF 25204 86442. It comprises a rectangular block of land directly adjacent to Gayton Top Farm and connected to the A157 to the north by existing farm tracks.

The bedrock geology consists of Welton Chalk Formation - Chalk. A sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 90 to 101 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period within a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. No superficial deposits are recorded (NERC 2020).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located in a rich archaeological landscape which contains extensive evidence of activity from the prehistoric period onwards. The Lincolnshire Historic Environment (LHER) contains several records of archaeological remains within a 1km radius of the site including barrow cropmarks (44086; 44087; 44088; 44089), long barrows (42979; 43178), a bronze age bowl barrow (43525), prehistoric settlement (42927), prehistoric cropmark enclosures (44674; 44631) as well as other less diagnostic cropmarks (42903; 44675). The closest cropmark data on the LHER is a linear cropmark (42878) which is recorded 100m north-west of the development footprint

Gayton Top farm itself is recorded on the LHER (410799) as being within the proposed development footprint although the record is thought to refer to the site of a partially extant farmstead immediately east of the development boundary.



ILLUS 2 Trench plan

2 OBJECTIVES

The scale and approach of the trial trench evaluation was designed to clarify the effects of the proposed development on any unknown heritage assets by establishing the presence/absence, extent, character and significance of any archaeological remains.

The objective was to be achieved by the excavation of three trenches measuring 25m x 2m (150sq m) located within the proposed development footprint.

The archaeological investigations were undertaken to:

- › investigate any as yet unknown archaeological evidence, features and deposits, within the evaluation trenches and establish their location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, quality and state of preservation of the potential archaeological remains;
- › assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- › inform the formulation of further measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- › produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for access to the HER.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be prepared in accordance with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Handbook and organised and deposited with the councils Heritage

Service to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

3 METHODOLOGY

Three trenches were excavated (measuring 25m x 2m) across the footprint of the proposed development. The trenches were set out using a Trimble GNSS device in order that they could be relocated in relation to existing features and located within the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Trench 3 was relocated due to the presence of existing farm infrastructure.

3.1 EXCAVATION

The trenches were set out using a Trimble GNSS device in order that they could be relocated in relation to existing features and located within the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

All trenches were excavated in spits to the archaeological horizon or natural deposits (whichever was reached first) by a tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavator operated under archaeological supervision at all times. All subsequent excavation was carried out by hand. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately to aid with the process of backfilling.

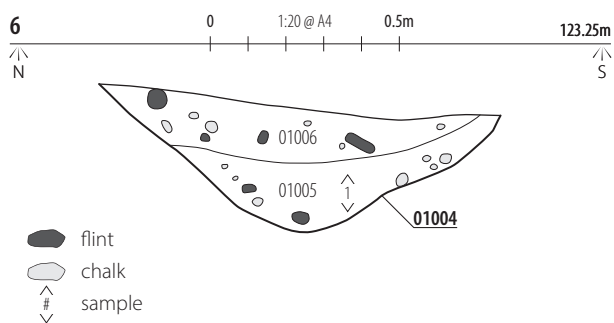
Archaeological investigation was carried out over the full area of each trench after cleaning to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits.



ILLUS 3 General post-excavation shot of Trench 1 facing south-west

ILLUS 4 General post-excavation shot of Trench 2 facing north-west

ILLUS 5 General post-excavation shot of Trench 3 facing south-west



ILLUS 6 West facing section of ditch [01004]

ILLUS 7 General shot of ditch [01004] facing east

Trowels, mattocks and shovels were used to clean collapsed soil from each trench bottom and for hand excavation and testing of possible features.

3.2 RECORDING

All recording followed the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014c) and was in line with the approved WSI (Harrison 2020). All trenches and contexts were given a unique number and all recording was undertaken on proforma recording sheets which conform to archaeological standards.

A plan of the trenches and levels across the entire site was recorded digitally using a Trimble GNSS device. Appropriately scaled sections of features were hand drawn on permatrace where required.

A written description of each trench was recorded on standard Headland Archaeology proforma sheets using an appropriate context recording system.

A full photographic record was taken using a digital camera. An appropriately sized metric scale was clearly visible within all record photographs apart from general working or post excavation shots.

4 RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions are presented in Appendix 1 and a full photographic register is presented in Appendix 2. Contexts are identified numerically by trench; ie Trench 1 (01001), Trench 2 (02001). Cuts are indicated by squared brackets and deposits by rounded brackets. Selected technical detail is utilised below in order to describe the remains found and to inform the interpretation and dating completed and presented in this report. This structure reflects adherence to the CIfA guidance on report production, which states that 'descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements' (CIfA 2014c, 14). Drawing upon the same document it is imperative to create a narrative which uses the evidence gathered to assign significance to heritage assets (remains) encountered:

If archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate. (CIfA 2014c, 14)

4.2 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY

Appendix 1 outlines in greater detail the stratigraphy of each trench. The majority of the trenches featured a similar stratigraphy comprising a firm mid brown silty clay with frequent cereal crop roots and frequent small to medium sized flint fragments. This was

excavated to a depth below ground level (bgl) of 0.32m. Beneath the topsoil a plastic mid reddish-brown sandy clay subsoil was observed in all three trenches up to a depth (bgl) of 0.42m. The natural bedrock geology comprised chalk.

4.3 TRENCHES CONTAINING NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

No features were observed in Trench 2 (Illus 4) or Trench 3 (Illus 5).

4.4 TRENCHES CONTAINING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

A single ditch was identified and investigated in Trench 1 (Illus 3). The ditch was orientated east-west and was slightly curved in plan. It measured 1.1m in width and 0.45m in depth and contained two soil-fills (Illus 6 and Illus 7). A single abraded sherd of pottery was recovered from the secondary fill [01006]. The origin and function of the ditch remain unknown.

5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

by Julie Franklin & Sarah Percival

The finds assemblage numbered one sherd (5g) of pottery. It is of prehistoric date. It was recovered from the secondary fill (01006) of ditch [01004]. It underwent specialist examination by photograph (due to COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time). It is similar in appearance to Bronze Age wares in the area and is most likely to be of early or middle Bronze Age date. Since it was found alone and abraded in the secondary fill of a ditch it does not provide secure dating evidence for this feature.

Recommendations for further work

No further work is recommended for this find. If more fieldwork is undertaken, the sherd might be re-evaluated in the light of any further finds.

Recommendations for archive

The sherd is of very little archaeological value and it is recommended it be discarded. Again, this situation might be reviewed if further fieldwork is undertaken.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

One bulk sample was taken from the primary fill [01005] of the ditch (see Appendix 1.3). However, due to COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time of the evaluation, environmental assessment was not possible. Further analysis can be undertaken at a later date, if required.

7 CONCLUSION

The trial trenching evaluation has identified a single ditch within which a single sherd of abraded Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a secondary fill and does not, therefore, provide a secure date for the ditch. No further archaeological work is anticipated.

8 REFERENCES

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http.www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed 31 March 2020
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- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2020 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk> Accessed 31 March 2020

9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench and context register

* DBGL = Depth Below Ground Level

TR01	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)	ORIENTATION
	25.00	1.97	0.36	0.58	SW-NE
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)			
01001	Topsoil: Mid brown silty clay. Firm. Frequent roots (cereal crop), frequent small to medium size flint fragments.	0–0.32			
01002	Subsoil: Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Plastic. Occasional small chalk fragments, occasional small flint fragments.	0.32–0.40			
01003	Natural: Chalk bedrock.	0.40+ (NFE)			
01004	Cut of ditch	0.40–0.77			
01005	Primary fill of ditch [01004]	0.58–0.77			
01006	Secondary fill of ditch [01004]	0.40–0.54			
Summary: Probable drainage ditch.					
TR02	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)	ORIENTATION
	25.00	1.95	0.32	0.48	NW-SE
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)			
02001	Topsoil: Mid brown silty clay. Firm. Frequent roots (cereal crop), frequent small to medium size flint fragments.	0–0.30			
02002	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy clay. Plastic. Occasional small chalk fragments, occasional small flint fragments.	0–0.42			
02003	Natural: Chalk bedrock	0.42+ (NFE)			
Summary: Sterile of features.					
TR03	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)	ORIENTATION
	25.00	1.97	0.28	0.60	SW-NE
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)			
03001	Topsoil: Mid brown silty clay. Firm. Frequent roots (cereal crop). Frequent small to medium size flint fragments.	0–0.30			
03002	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown sandy clay. Plastic. Occasional small chalk fragments.	0.30–0.39			
03003	Natural: Chalk bedrock.	0.39+ (NFE)			
Summary: Sterile of features					

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

PHOTO	DIGITAL	FILM	FRAME	CONTEXTS/ TRENCH SHOWN	FACING	DESCRIPTION
0001	100–0001	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	ID SHOT
0002	100–0002	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Pre-excavation general shot of field
0003	100–0003	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Pre-excavation general shot of field
0004	100–0004	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Pre-excavation general shot of field
0005	100–0005	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Pre-excavation general shot of field
0006	100–0006	N/A	N/A	TR01	SW	Overall shot
0007	100–0007	N/A	N/A	TR01	NE	Overall shot
0008	100–0008	N/A	N/A	TR01	NW	Representative section
0009	100–0009	N/A	N/A	TR02	SE	Overall shot
0010	100–0010	N/A	N/A	TR02	NW	Overall shot
0011	100–0011	N/A	N/A	TR02	SW	Representative section
0012	100–0012	N/A	N/A	TR03	NE	Overall shot
0013	100–0013	N/A	N/A	TR03	SW	Overall shot
0014	100–0014	N/A	N/A	TR03	NW	Representative section
0015	100–0015	N/A	N/A	[01004]	NE	General shot of ditch
0016	100–0016	N/A	N/A	[01004]	E	West facing section of ditch
0017	100–0017	N/A	N/A	[01004]	E	West facing section of ditch
0018	100–0018	N/A	N/A	TR02	NE	Possible burrowing/ bioturbation
0019	100–0019	N/A	N/A	TR02	NE	Possible burrowing/ bioturbation
0020	100–0020	N/A	N/A	TR03	SW	Possible feature – likely natural depression
0021	100–0021	N/A	N/A	TR03	SW	Possible feature – likely natural depression

Appendix 1.3 Sample register

SAMPLE	CONTEXT	SAMPLE TYPE	VOLUME (LTR)	% OF CONTEXT	QTY	SHORT DESCRIPTION/REASON FOR SAMPLING
001	(01005)	Bulk	40L	50%	4 buckets	Primary fill of possible prehistoric ditch [01004]. Animal bone retrieved.

Appendix 1.4 Drawing register

DRAWING	SCALE	PLAN OR SECTION	DESCRIPTION
001	01:10	Section	West facing section of Ditch [01004].

APPENDIX 2 FINDS CATALOGUE

TRENCH	CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	CUT	QTY	WEIGHT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE
TR01	01006	ditch	1004	1	5	Pottery (PH)	Coarseware	Small abraded body sherd, 5mm thick, Grey interior, buff exterior. Undecorated	E/MBA

APPENDIX 3 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: *headland5-390837*

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	Gayton Top Pig Farm, Gayton le Wold, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by R E Needham and Son to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, prior to the determination of planning permission for the creation of a pig rearing and finishing unit at Gayton Top Farm, Lincolnshire. The application site is considered to be in a landscape of high archaeological potential for prehistoric activity. A single ditch was identified by the evaluation within which a single sherd of abraded Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a secondary fill and does not, therefore, provide a secure date for the ditch. The origin and function of the ditch remain unknown.
Project dates	Start: 19-03-2020 End: 20-03-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GTPU20 - Contracting Unit No; GTPU20 - Museum accession ID; N/059/01862/19 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
PROJECT LOCATION	
Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY GAYTON LE WOLD Gayton Top Pig Farm, Gayton le Wold, Lincolnshire
Study area	150 sq m
Site coordinates	TF 2520 8644 53.359707326998-0.118464483192 53 21 34 N 000 07 06 W Point
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Headland Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Headland Archaeology
Project director/manager	Harrison, D
Project supervisor	Roberts, P
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Lincolnshire Museum
Digital Contents	"Survey"; "none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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